The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

Lt. Governor Shelia Y. Oliver, Commissioner Richard Mikutsky, Director and State Fire Marshal Spring-Summer 2018 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Volume 14 Issue 2

NJDFS Director Richard Mikutsky, who previously served as a department Fire Prevention Officer, takes on an active role in this year's NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl by offering his personal thanks and a participant medallion to every student involved. Eastern Fire & Safety, Joshua Marcus Group, Hartz Mountain and the NJ FMBA sponsored this year's event.



2018 F.I.R.E. BOWL

The 13th Annual Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E.) Bowl featured a state middle school battle between the Helen A. Fort school of Pemberton Township and the long-time prevailing champs Bayonne's Nicholas Oresko School. A close contest ensued, however in the always exciting "Buzz In Round" Team Oresko prevailed not only with correct answers but a veteran hand at the all important hand to buzzer technique.



IN THIS POSTING...

NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL NORTH VERSUS SOUTH

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY SUMMIT

WASH YOUR GEAR!

HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

CANCER REGISTRY IS THE LAW

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MATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL FIRE • EMS • RESCUE



F.I.R.E. BOWL 2018



Director Mikutsky joins major sponsors with the F.I.R.E. Bowl 2018 State Champions -The Nicholas Oresko Middle School of Bayonne. Congratulations!

F.I.R.E. BOWL 2018

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety recently joined Kean University in hosting the 2018 Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E.) Bowl to promote fire safety education among middle school students.

"This annual event is a great way to keep students up-to-date on fire safety education and get them thinking about important fire prevention measures all while having fun and competing with their peers," said Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, DCA Commissioner. "Often times, students' last encounter with fire safety instruction is in the early grades of elementary school. The F.I.R.E. Bowl encourages older students to continue learning about what they can do to reduce their vulnerability to fire."

Students from Nicholas Oresko School in Bayonne, Hudson County, secured the title of 2018 state F.I.R.E. Bowl champions against a team from Helen A. Fort Middle School in Pemberton Township, Burlington County. Although Nicholas Oresko School took the title, both teams in the championship competition on May 24, 2018 at the Little Theater at Kean University went home with Kindle Fire tablets.

In earlier rounds of competition, teams from Dwight D. Eisenhower School in Freehold Township, Monmouth County, and Colonia Middle School in Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, received second place awards and teams from Woodrow Wilson School in Bayonne and Mount Olive Middle School in Mount Olive Township, Morris County, received third place awards.

"You cannot help but be awed at the way these students immerse themselves in subject matter quite familiar to myself and our state firefighters who seek certification from the Division of Fire Safety," said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of Fire Safety Director Richard Mikutsky. "The students absorb basically the same material as firefighters and then answer questions fire service members would be hard pressed to answer. It's just amazing."

The 13th annual F.I.R.E. Bowl sponsors included Eastern Fire & Safety, Hartz Mountain Industries, Joshua Marcus Group, Middlesex County Fire Academy, and the Fireman's Mutual Benefit Association of New Jersey, Inc.

2017-18 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association (NJFPPA) announced the winners of the 2017-18 NJFPPA-NJDFS Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest. The contest is among the longest running community risk reduction-public education programs in the state.

As children return to school each year, the NJFPPA asks K-12 and Special Education students to give their artistic interpretation of the theme advanced each year by the National Fire Protection Association. This year, student artists from school districts in each of the 21 counties, with instructor guidance, submitted entries supporting the theme, 'Every Second Counts: Have 2 Ways Out.'

The artwork of the overall winner will grace the cover of the yearly NJDFS and NJFP-PA Fire Safety calendar, which promotes fire prevention awareness. The calendar is distributed statewide to advance community risk reduction awareness. Winning posters from each division and runners-up are also placed throughout the calendar.

"I would like to congratulate our poster contest winners and recognize all of the students who submitted entries, said Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner of DCA. "I would also like to thank the schools, which sponsor the competition, and of course, parents and guardians. This is a worthwhile activity, which promotes and advances fire prevention awareness."

In addition to the winning artwork, the calendar includes reminders such as the annual time change to check and replace smoke alarm batteries, the dates for significant fire safety events such as National Fire Prevention Week, and seasonal cautions concerning fire safety throughout the year.

"I am impressed with the depth and breadth of entrants from across the state that I was very familiar with as a departmental fire prevention officer," said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of Fire Safety Director Richard Mikutsky. "Congratulations to all our division winners and a special thanks to the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, who under Rich Silvia's leadership, continue to make the annual contest one of the great fire prevention efforts we partner with for school age kids."

2017-18 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



DIVISION ONE

Kayla Simms Martin Luther King, Jr. School Jersey City-Hudson County



DIVISION TWO

Kelly Compos Wilson Avenue School Newark



Essex County



SPECIAL ED

Dylan Benbow The Calais School Whippany-Morris County



DIVISION 7 SPECIAL ED

Josue Giron Liberty High School Jersey City -Hudson County

OVERALL WINNER DIVISION FOUR

Devak Patel Morris Hills High School Rockaway-Morris County



DIVISION THREE

Kevin Zeferino Martin Luther King Jr. School Jersey City-Hudson County



DIVISION FIVE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL STUDENTS

Cameron Ippolito **Cumberland County** Technical Education Center Vineland **Cumberland County**



KIDDE SAFETY REGALL



Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms Due to Risk of Failure to Alert Consumers to a Fire







Recall Summary

Name of product:

Kidde dual-sensor (photoelectric and ionization) smoke alarms – models PI2010 and PI9010

Kidde toll-free at 833-551-7739 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or online at www.kidde.com and click on "Product Safety Recall" for more information.

"WIPES" YOUR TURNOUT GEAR

A new study focuses on the importance of cleaning turnout gear and developing firehouse protocols for cleaning gear after response.

(USFA)

- PPE, neck skin, and hand skin were most prone to PAH contamination during firefighting.
- The amount of contamination varied by work assignment.
- Inside Attack and Inside Search experienced the most PPE and skin contamination and hand skin was more contaminated than neck skin.
- Inside Search team had more hand skin contamination. This was possibly due to time spent crawling on contaminated floors. The exposure around gloves was likely aided by sweat or water.
- Outside Vent team had the highest frequency of detectable PAH on their necks. This was possibly due to inconsistent use of hoods by those crews.
- Wearing Nomex hoods, even while working on exterior assignments, was important to reduce neck skin exposure.
- Decontamination using dish soap, water and scrubbing was the most effective method for removing PAH from turnout gear while still in the field. It was more effective than dry or airbased decon.

- Infrequent cleaning of firefighter turnout gear allows toxic substances to accumulate.
 Contamination on turnout gear increased with each fire response if not decontaminated.
- This study showed first-ever evidence of the value of cleansing wipes. Cleansing wipes removed PAH contamination from neck skin, reducing PAH levels by about 54 percent. Not all cleansing wipes are equally effective. Firefighters should follow up with more thorough cleansing such as showering or hand washing as soon as practicable after the fire.
- Turnout gear was contaminated with VOCs and HCNs but off-gas levels largely dissipated within 24 minutes. Still, firefighters could inhale chemicals in the period immediately following a fire response. There are also other off-gassing chemicals not included in this study that could pose a longer term hazard.

NFPA RECOMMENDS A PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICE AS THE IDEAL WAY FOR DEPARTMENTS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE

"Contamination of firefighter personal protective equipment and skin and the effectiveness of decontamination procedures / Kenneth W. Fent [and 9 others]."

DIVISION ISSUES FIREWORKS GUIDELINES

Non-Aerial Fireworks Such As Hand-Held Sparklers, Ground-Based Sparklers, Poppers, and Snappers

Are Legal in the State

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety issued firework safety guidelines to help the public understand the recent change in the state's fireworks regulation. Sales and use of non-aerial fireworks such as hand-held sparklers, ground-based sparklers, and novelty fireworks like poppers and snappers are now legal in the state.

"While non-aerial fireworks are legal in New Jersey, it is important to remember that any fireworks are inherently dangerous because they can burn people, animals, and property," said Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, DCA Commissioner.

""Sparklers can be an invitation to personal injury and should not be treated as toys for children. In fact, one sparkler can reach about 1,200°F, which can cause third degree burns and serious eye injury to anyone handling it," Lt. Governor Oliver added. "We urge the public especially people with young children under their care to review the state's firework safety guidelines and to use fireworks with an abundance of caution."

The sale and use of large fireworks, namely any fuse lit or aerial explosive, is still strictly prohibited in the state.

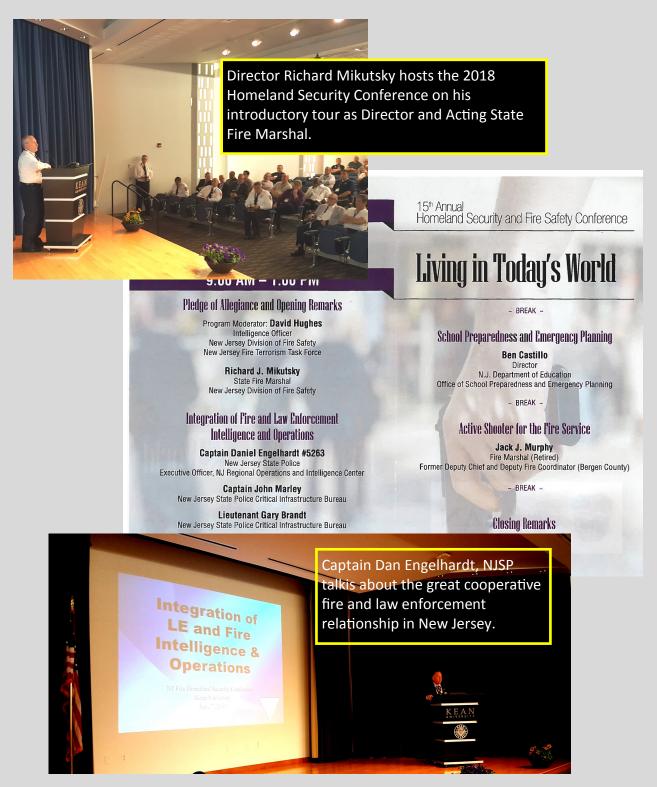
"People should call their municipality or county to find out when public fireworks displays are scheduled. These displays are conducted by professionals and are a great way to safely celebrate the holidays with the community," said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of Fire Safety Director Richard Mikutsky.

In the event people decide to use non-aerial fireworks, Acting State Fire Marshal Mikutsky urges them to follow these safely guidelines:

- Only buy from reputable places;
- Don't buy if packaging is damaged or appears tampered with;
- Don't try and "fix" broken or "dud" fireworks;
- Never use indoors;
- Don't use in very windy or dry conditions;
- Always have water handy and follow manufacturer's instructions;
- Never relight a "dud" firework;
- Never aim a firework at yourself, another person, animals, or buildings;
- Wait 20 minutes to dispose of properly.

When disposing of fireworks, completely soak used or "dud" fireworks in a bucket of water and allow them to soak overnight. Then double wrap the soaked fireworks in plastic wrap or a plastic bag to help keep them from drying out and place the wrapped fireworks in regular household garbage.

"Living in Today's World"



SHAPING UP FIRST RESPONDERS

NJ Emergency Responder Health and Fitness Symposium



Conference organizers including Tony Correia (NJFRH&FC), Jolene Steele (Kean), Karen Grant (Kean), Louis Kilmer Acting Director-NJDFS, and Greg Collier (NJFRH&C), attend the First Annual Firefighter Health and Safety Symposium recently held at Middlesex Fire Academy.

David Rainey, MD, MPH, M.Ed

Resident Physician

Harvard Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Jamie Mucciarelli, LCSW, MSW, MA

Clinical Specialist

Thomas Campbell

Cindy Ell, President

Fire Fighter Cancer Foundation, Inc.

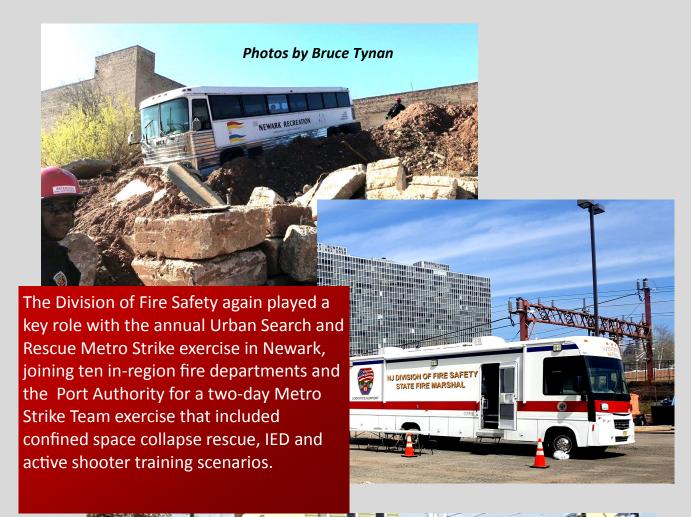
Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Deborah Heart and Lung Center

Robert Piparo

Director of 555 Fitness
Lieutenant with the City of New Brunswick Fire
Department

The first of many future symposia on the critical issue of firefighter and first responder health and safety drew over 50 attendees for a day-long informational session on this critical topic.

ANNUAL UASI EXERCISE





NJDFS-VISION 20/20

2018



Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction Symposium

NJDFS Community Risk Reduction personnel attended this year's Vision 20/20 Symposium to share the Division's cooperative efforts with state educational stakeholders, private sector partners and community groups to include: Operation 7 Save a Life, the Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E.) Bowl, "Fire Is... online "Fire Education program with the Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association of New Jersey, and the NJFPPA-NJDFS Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest.



www.strategicfire.org

April 9-11, 2018 Hyatt Regency | Reston, Virginia







ANNUAL TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY



DCA employee/parents and children alike were greeted at registration by NJDFS personnel Marylain Kemp (left) and Jean Janukowicz (right) whose professionalism and pleasant demeanor are familiar to all.



Arson Canine Investigator Rodman Meyer introduces "Ashes" his partner who has worked alongside Rod for many years.



Trenton Fire Department Company 8 responded with an engine by demonstrating one of the tools firefighters commonly call upon to save lives and also allowing for some refreshing delight.

ANNUAL NJ WEEKEND



For the last few years participants in NJDFS-USFA New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy have gathered at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial to recall those firefighters from the state who have joined their fallen comrades.

The remembrance ceremony is a clarion call for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and for those remaining to heed the call to "Stay Safe."





AT ISSUE:

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE



LATE UPDATE; The Senate approved by unanimous consent <u>H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act</u>. The amended bill now returns to the House for final passage.

(from CSFI)

Congress approved an omnibus spending bill to fund programs and activities of the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2018.

The government has been operating on a series of continuing resolutions since October 1, 2017, the beginning of the current fiscal year.

Included in the spending package is funding for several programs of significance to the nation's fire and emergency services. The Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs are funded at \$700 million, split evenly between the two programs.

This is an increase of \$10 million from the previous year's appropriation. Additionally, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) is funded at \$42.9 million, with an additional \$1.497 million for infrastructure improvements at the National Fire Academy. This is a slight increase from the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) funding level.

Several other programs received increased funding under the measure as well.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) is funded at \$630 million, an increase of \$25 million over FY17 funding.

The bill also provides \$507 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, an increase of \$40 million.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program is funded at \$16 million and the State Fire Assistance program is funded at \$80 million, increases of \$1 million and \$2 million respectively.

The Urban Area Search and Rescue System is funded at \$35.18 million -- essentially the same level of funding as past years.



Click graphic for legislative outlook



AT ISSUE:

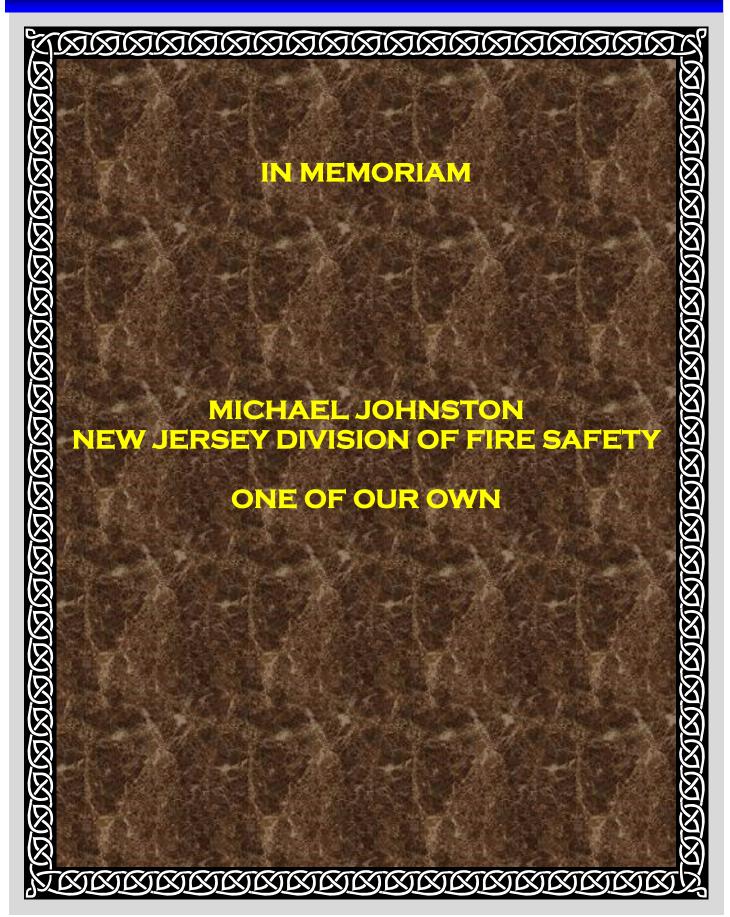


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