

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner
Richard Mikutsky, Director and State Fire Marshal
Summer 2020

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 16 Issue 3

POSTER CONTEST PREVAILS

The onset of the COVID-19 Crisis caused a major disruption of state operations, including those of the **New Jersey Division of Fire Safety**.

The nearly 100 day lockdown saw the shut down of the Division's **Kean Fire Safety Training** classes, the annual **New Jersey Weekend**, the annual **Homeland Security Conference**, the **Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E.) Bowl**, an annual outreach for fire safety instruction in the form of a scholastic competition involving middle school age children and school administrators, owing to the state wide closures of schools.

The Division also was forced to temporarily suspend its **Operation 7 Save a Life Smoke Alarm** giveaway until such time as local fire and emergency service personnel can manage local distribution, due to the overwhelming impact

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POSTER CONTEST PREVAILS

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of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Governor Murphy charts the return to normalization, the Division will follow suit and work toward setting up a distribution plan with local fire officials.

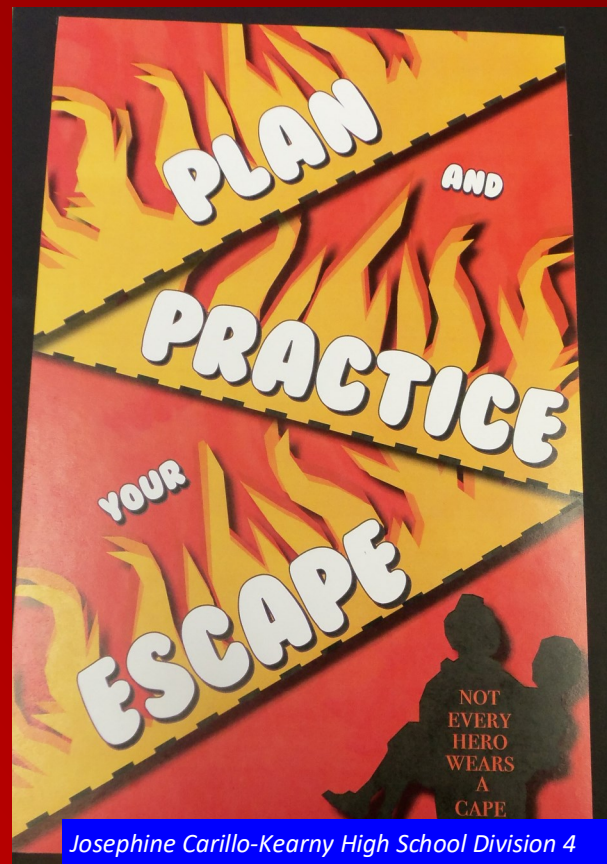
However, one bright spot on an otherwise terrible landscape was the annual **NJFPPA-NJDFS Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest**.

The onset of the crisis occurred in the midst of early judging. The activity was compliant with social distancing guidelines and the schools were operating at the time so a decision was made by Contest officials to proceed.

The thought that the notion of promoting fire safety “safely” among children was worth pursuing.

Governor Murphy ultimately opted to close schools and as a result not enough entrants were received by contest officials to warrant a fair competition, also complicated by the ongoing operational effects COVID-19 had on fire departments state wide.

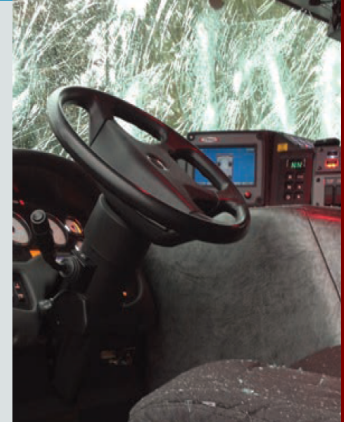
However each Contest participant received an individualized **“Participation Award”** and each of the submissions received will be reviewed for inclusion in the annual **Fire Safety Poster Contest Calendar** to be produced later this year.



Josephine Carillo-Kearny High School Division 4

FIREFIGHTER CIVIL UNREST PROTOCOLS

Fire and Emergency Medical Services Response to Civil Unrest



Civil unrest may occur as a period of social upheaval, following sporting events or during periods of heightened community tension. Fire and emergency medical services (EMS) personnel will be called to respond to these incidents, placing themselves at higher than anticipated levels of risk. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEM) worked together to compile these best practices to assist you as you respond to civil unrest incidents in your community.

GOAL: Prepare personnel, the station, apparatus and the community for emergency response in a challenging environment.

Personnel

- 🔗 Review civil unrest-specific organizational and jurisdictional protocols and guidelines.
- 🔗 Wear civilian clothes when reporting to and returning from duty.
- 🔗 If issued by department, wear ballistic protection in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 3000, *Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program*.
- 🔗 Establish a family communication plan to share information with responder families.
- 🔗 Provide emotional support for personnel and their families.
- 🔗 Per NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program*, fire and EMS personnel should not be used for crowd control operations.
- 🔗 Work in pairs or teams.
- 🔗 Carry a radio and lights.
- 🔗 Secure items such as scissors and stethoscopes on your person.
- 🔗 Remove badges from uniforms and consider wearing casual uniforms.
- 🔗 Keep personnel IDs, keys, wallet, etc., on your person or otherwise secured.
- 🔗 Minimize carried equipment, such as harnesses, extra tools, pocket contents, etc.
- 🔗 Always carry a radio (be sure to regularly charge/swap batteries).
- 🔗 Chief and company officers shall maintain accountability of apparatus and staff.
- 🔗 Develop communications code words for secure communications of emergency actions (building or area evacuation, apparatus/station abandonment, etc.).
- 🔗 Develop rally points should apparatus or stations need to be abandoned and pass on to members. These may change due to situational changes.

[Click for more guidelines](#)

STUDY SEEKS EMS COVID-19 INPUT

New Jersey firefighter EMTs were stretched to their limits during the pandemic. The experience was telling for many.

Please share your experiences with researchers now looking to improve the working conditions of fellow EMTs nationwide.

The University of Pittsburgh is recruiting EMS personnel from around the country to take part in a federally funded study to determine the impact of a sleep health and fatigue education program designed especially for EMS clinician shift workers.

Sleep deprivation and fatigue is a constant issue for anyone working shift work. Because they often hold the lives of other people in their hands, being sleep deprived while working has greater consequences for EMS and fire personnel.

University of Pittsburgh Find People Pitt Home

EMS SLEEP HEALTH HOME

Read Below for More Information About This Study

- Study Aims
- Target Population
- What is Required to Participate?
- Renumeration for Participation

More Information for Agencies

(click graphic above to link to study application page)

If your EMS agency is interested in participating, please contact the principal investigator, Daniel Patterson, PhD, NRP at pdp3@pitt.edu.

BACKYARD FLAMETHROWERS

Flame jetting happens when a container of flammable liquid meets an ignition source, causing flames to shoot out 15 feet, or even more. Extremely dangerous, this unexpected, blowtorch effect can engulf bystanders in flames, leading to serious injury or death. Flame jetting has been known to happen in classrooms, teenage hangouts, and backyard barbecues. In other words, this isn't something that just happens in tests.

What Causes Flame Jetting?

The Fire Research Laboratory at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has conducted extensive research on flame jetting to figure out how it happens. This research has uncovered the following common denominators behind flame jetting:

Almost any necked, portable, flammable liquid container with a flammable liquid can potentially jet.

Common flammable liquids include gasoline, methanol, ethanol, acetone, and liquor above 150 proof. Containers with large openings, such as buckets, cannot jet.

Typically, the container is tilted and vapors are pouring from its mouth.

This allows air to enter the container's headspace, which dilutes the flammable liquid vapors within their flammable limits.



If the container has a nozzle installed when combustion occurs, flames can travel back into the container.

The nozzle restricts expanding gases from venting, resulting in rupture along the container seam. Flames are expelled where the container fails, injuring the person holding the container.

If no nozzle is installed, typically the person pouring the container is uninjured and injuries will occur to victims located opposite the container. The longest flame jets occur when a container is about one-third full of liquid.

This allows for sufficient vapors to accumulate in the headspace of the container and for sufficient flammable liquid to be expelled when jetting occurs.

In cases involving gasoline jetting, older (weathered) gasoline that has undergone evaporation is more prone to jetting.

Older gasoline releases vapors more slowly than fresh gasoline. This means it can support flame propagation inside the portable flammable liquid container.

Flame arrestors are highly effective.

In ATF testing, no flame jetting was observed in portable flammable liquid containers equipped with flame arrestors, which typically cost about 50 cents.

Fireworks Injuries

243 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.



Fireworks Safety Tips

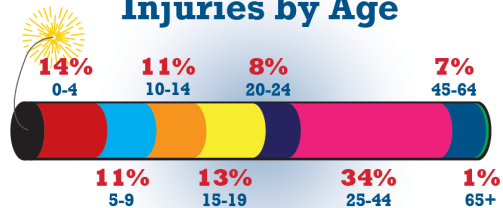
- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips – www.cpsc.gov/fireworks

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2019 Fireworks Annual Report
 *ED treated injuries during the Special Study period June 21 - July 21, 2019

Injuries by Fireworks Type*



Injuries by Age



NSN 15-06/2020

CLICK POSTER ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD AND SHARE



AT ISSUE: HEROS ACT



COVID-19 continues to command much of the attention on Capitol Hill and in the agencies.

The House passed its proposal for a fourth stimulus measure. Called the **HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)**, the bill, which passed the House by a vote of 208-199, would provide an additional \$3 trillion to address the economic impact of COVID-19. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said she hopes to use the bill as a basis for negotiations with the Republican-controlled Senate and President Trump.

Called the **HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)**, the bill, which passed the House by a vote of 208-199, would provide an additional \$3 trillion to address the economic impact of COVID-19. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said she hopes to use the bill as a basis for negotiations with the Republican-controlled Senate and President Trump. The House-passed **HEROES Act** contains several important provisions that would stand to benefit the fire service, including:

- \$500 million in additional funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program;
- Certain waivers to allow the grant programs to be used more effectively, including waiving cost-sharing requirements and allowing SAFER to be used for retention and rehiring;

- A repeal of the T-Band auction requirement;
- An extension of tax incentives that benefit volunteer firefighters; and certain changes to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program that address eligibility related to COVID-19 exposure.

While it is a positive sign that the House package has included these provisions, passage of this bill in the House is the first foray into negotiations between the House and the Senate on the next COVID-19 package. Additionally, Senate leadership has not released its own version and appears to have a much slower timeline for taking action on another stimulus measure. CFSI continues to work with Hill staff to ensure they are aware of the Fire Service's priorities as they consider legislation.

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf had waived the cost-share, position cost limit, supplanting requirement, and minimum budget requirements for fiscal year (FY) 2019 SAFER grants. He is also expected to provide waivers for the FY2020 SAFER grants, though details are not yet available. At the end of April, CFSI and several partner organizations sent a letter to Acting Secretary Wolf and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Peter Gaynor requesting that they use their waiver authorities for the AFG and SAFER grant programs.



AT ISSUE:



NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATION



Click NJ Assembly photo for pending legislation affecting fire service interests keyword "fire" or actual Bill number.





**WE SERVE
...TO SAVE**

Photo : Keith Mitchell NJDFS

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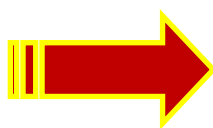
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