

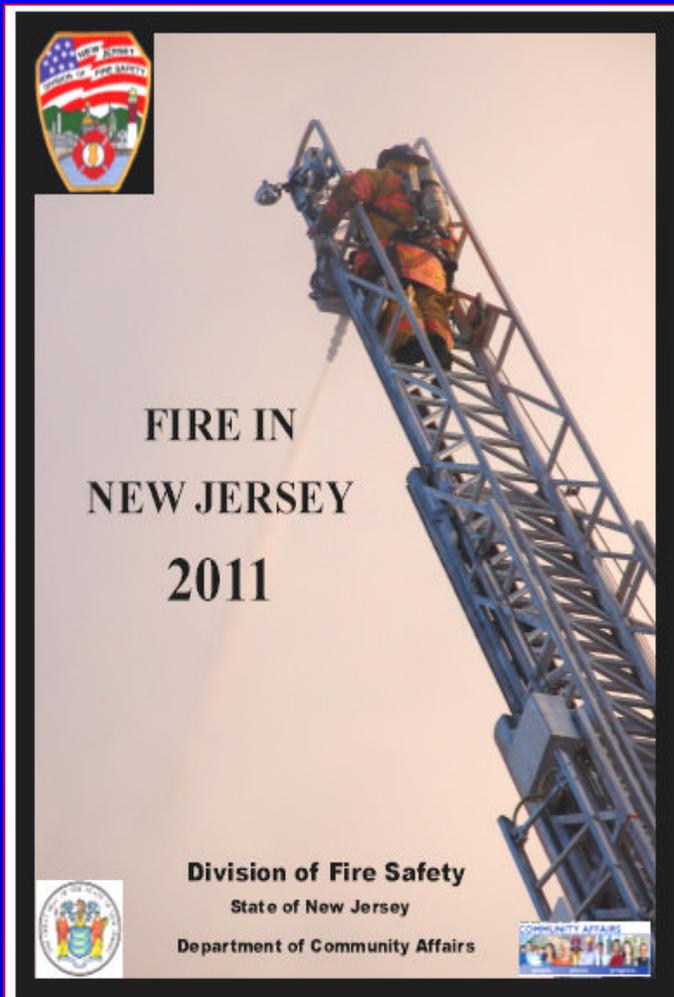
The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

# FIRE FOCUS

**Excellence in Public Safety**

**Richard E. Constable III, Commissioner**  
**William E. Kramer Jr., Acting Director**  
**FALL/WINTER 2013 Posting**

**New Jersey Department of Community Affairs**  
**New Jersey Division of Fire Safety**  
**Volume 8 Issue 1**



A fire occurred every 20 minutes, 34 seconds in the state in 2011, according to the latest report issued by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal.

"Fire in New Jersey 2011" is an annual statistical analysis report, which provides fire and emergency incident data for the previous calendar year. *(continued on page 2)*



## **IN THIS POSTING...**

**NJDFS "FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2011"**

**COMMISSIONER KUDOS**

**FM GLOBAL GRANT AWARD**

**NJDFS-KEAN FALL COURSES**

**NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**CONGRATULATIONS CHARLIE LUXTON**

**OUT IN FRONT OF  
SUPERSTORM SANDY**

[THE FULL REPORT](#)

## ***NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK SEES NJDFS 'FIRE IN NEW JERSEY REPORT' RELEASE***

"Timely information is critical to helping fire officials and households make the best decisions about fire prevention. Yet again, our Division of Fire Safety has done great work in providing the public with pertinent data," said DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III.

"We commend the 93 percent of fire departments that submitted data about fire incidents and urge those departments that did not participate to do so next year. We also take a moment to remember the three firefighters who died in 2011 in the line of duty, making the supreme sacrifice in service to their fellow citizens."

Thomas Shields, 41, of the Flanders Fire Department, Andrew K. Boyt, 45, of the Cape May Fire Department, and Jonathan Young,

49, of the Roselle Fire Department died from heart attacks while responding to fires. Since 1998, 49 firefighters in New Jersey have died in the line of duty. Of those, 27 firefighters (55 percent) have succumbed to heart attacks.

Fire department personnel also revived 261 civilians using an automatic external defibrillator (AED), according to data.

"While any civilian or firefighter fatality is one too many, progress is being made. As a veteran firefighter, I can recall when our civilian fire deaths sadly reached 70 within one month," said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of

Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Jr.

"The state's commitment to establishing the most stringent fire code in the nation and aggressive enforcement of it has helped prevent fire-related deaths.

The comprehensive effort to train and certify every member of our local fire-fighting corps and to provide ongoing re-training has also had a positive impact."

"Fire in New Jersey 2011" is a statistical analysis of fire and emergency incidents in New Jersey, which the Division of Fire Safety is required to

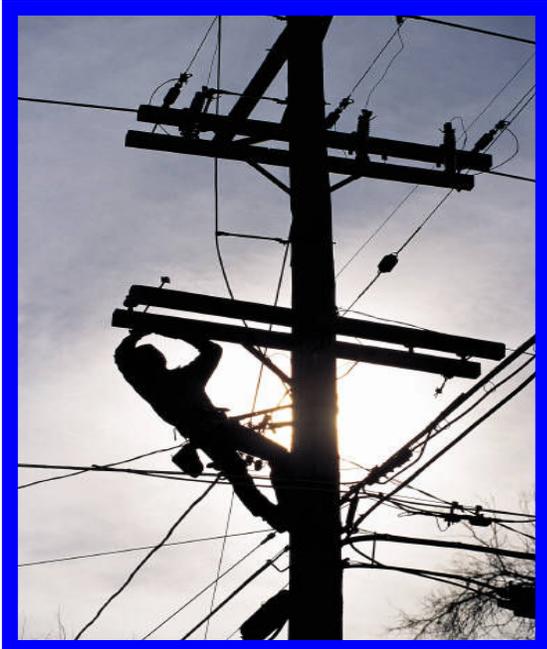
collect by law.

The data collected and used in the formulation of this report comes from fire departments throughout New Jersey that participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

- ▶ **458,698 responses were made by fire departments.**
- ▶ **25,548 fires were reported.**
- ▶ **82 percent of all reported structure fires involved residential properties, 57 percent of those being 1 or 2 family dwellings.**
- ▶ **79 percent of all civilian fire fatalities occurred in residential properties.**
- ▶ **299 civilians were reported injured as a result of fire and 61 civilians lost their lives.**
- ▶ **516 firefighters were reported injured.**
- ▶ **282 fires were reported intentionally set in residential properties.**

***(Fire in New Jersey 2011)***

## **SANDY WOULD BRING INCREASED THREAT OF FIRE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY OFFICIALS WARNED**



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III issued a warning to residents regarding potential dangers as a result of the effects of Hurricane Sandy. New Jerseyans should be prepared for the possibility of the loss of electric power, in some cases for extended periods of time.

"In similar situations, there have been a number of tragedies from the use of portable generators, candles and people coming into contact with downed power lines," said Commissioner Constable. "It is imperative that people pay attention to these warnings to ensure they do not become a victim of a preventable Accident."

Acting Division of Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Jr., warns that gasoline and diesel powered generators release a large amount of carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas.

"Running generators within a basement, garage or any enclosed or partially enclosed structure will lead to a dangerous and often fatal accumulation of carbon monoxide," said Acting Director Kramer. "Because the gas is odorless and colorless, the effects are not recognized and people can fall asleep. When this happens, it is usually too late for them to survive."

The Division of Fire Safety recommends that generators only be used outdoors and well away from any structure. Also, never refill a generator with fuel while it is running or hot.

When electric power is out, many people turn to candles for light, which is dangerous. Candles are meant for effect and smell, not for lighting. They should never be left unattended, placed in areas where children or pets could knock them over, placed near combustible materials such as curtains, or kept burning while people are sleeping. If candles are used, make sure they are on a surface where they cannot slip or be knocked over.

It is not unusual during episodes of high wind for power lines to be blown down or taken down by falling trees. The Division of Fire Safety warns that every downed wire should be considered energized. People should stay away from them and contact their electricity provider. Also, be cautious when handling downed trees as live electrical lines may be hidden in the tree.

"Even if you know that the downed line is not electric, it could be wrapped around and energized by a live wire. Stay away," Acting Director Kramer said.

# **DCA DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY ISSUES POST SUPERSTORM ALTERNATIVE HEATING ADVISORY**

*{Editor-Producer Note: The DCA Division of Fire Safety issued a series of fire safety specific state-wide media releases in support of local first responders during the entire duration of Superstorm Sandy}*

As temperatures become colder, households without electricity are turning to home heating alternatives, which can be dangerous if not properly used. As a result, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III today issued precautions on the use of heating devices such as kerosene heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. He also re-issued a warning on the carbon monoxide dangers of portable generators.

“With many households, especially those in communities affected by storm surge from Hurricane Sandy, continuing to suffer through days and nights without electricity and natural gas, people are increasingly using heating alternatives to keep warm,” said Commissioner Constable.

“We urge people to take the proper precautions when heating their home through alternative means. The last thing we want to see is more lives lost to Hurricane Sandy and the aftereffects of the storm.”



## **Kerosene Heaters:**

- Check if your local town code permits the use of kerosene heaters. Such heaters are prohibited in all but one- and two-family houses in New Jersey, and are completely banned in some municipalities.
- Make certain the heater is in proper working order by inspecting the exhaust for carbon buildup and by making sure there is an emergency knock over switch.
- Never use the heater without proper ventilation. Fossil fuels produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- Use only the recommended fuel for the unit.
- Never refill the heater while it is operating or when it is hot, and re-fuel outdoors.
- Use only approved fuel containers.
- Keep additional fuel stored away from the home and young children especially.
- Enforce a kid zone or pet zone around the heater. Make sure children and pets are not within three feet of the unit.

## **Wood Stoves and Fireplaces:**

- Be sure the wood stove or fireplace has adequate clearance (at least three feet) from combustible materials, as well as proper floor support and protection.
- Check that the wood stove is of good quality, construction, and design; and has been laboratory tested. If it doesn't meet these standards, don't use it.
- Have the chimney inspected before any use and cleaned if necessary.

## **DCA DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY ISSUES POST SUPERSTORM ALTERNATIVE HEATING ADVISORY**



- Do not use flammable liquids to start or as an accelerant on any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping and unwanted material from going in, and to help prevent the possibility of burns to people.
- Burn a wood stove at least twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Do not use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from the fireplace mantle. A spark from the fireplace can ignite these materials.
- Be sure a fireplace fire is out before going to sleep.

- Never close a damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- Follow the directions on the package when using composite logs. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Place ashes in a suitable metal container, make sure the embers are extinguished, and take them outdoors immediately. Make sure that the ashes are not placed near anything flammable.

“In Connecticut last year, the lives of a family of five were lost when bagged hot ashes from their fireplace were placed in the home’s mudroom and sparked a fire,” said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of Fire Safety Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. We understand people need to keep themselves and their loved ones warm, but we encourage residents to be smart and safe about it.”



## **2012 NJDFS-NJFPPA POSTER CONTEST WINNER RECEIVES COMMISSIONER'S PERSONAL KUDOS**

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III visited Henry E. Harris School in Bayonne to congratulate eighth grade student Alissa May Garilao on being named the grand prize winner of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest for the 2011-2012 school year.

She bested approximately 10,000 other contestants and six other division winners from across New Jersey. Her poster can be seen throughout New Jersey carrying the message of "Protect Your Family From Fire," which was the theme of the 2011-2012 contest.

"The goal of the poster contest was to encourage fire safety awareness in the home and Alissa's poster accomplishes that," said Commissioner Constable.

"Her wonderful artwork is now hanging in public buildings around New Jersey. I congratulate her on a job well done."

Alissa received a laptop computer and printer. The poster contest is cooperatively organized by the DCA's Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.

For more information on the 2012-2013 school year contest please visit:

[www.state.nj.us/dca/division/dfs/](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/division/dfs/)

Questions to:

[fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us)



**Commissioner Richard E. Constable III waits with Bayonne Mayor Mark Smith for his own autographed copy of Alissa May Garilao's winning fire safety poster.**



**Bayonne school officials had a special banner made noting Alissa's accomplishment. Alissa and her younger brother are joined left to right by Bayonne Fire Chief Gregory Rodgers, Commissioner Constable, Mayor Mark Smith, William Kramer, Jr. NJDFS Acting Director and Stanley Sickels, President NJFPPA**

## ***DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY ISSUED SAFE PORTABLE GENERATOR CAUTION IN ADVANCE OF SANDY***

Prior to the landfall of Superstorm Sandy The DCA Division of Fire Safety distributed statewide media advisories on portable generators in support of firefighters, first responders and utility workers noting portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to homeowners, utility workers and even your neighbors when used improperly. A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause 'backfeeding' along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them – even if the line seems dead.

'Backfeeding' happens when a portable generator is connected directly to the home's wiring without having a functional transfer switch. Without a transfer switch, a portable generator's electricity can be sent back into the power grid from your house. This will energize the utility's power lines on the street and poses an electrocution hazard for those who may not know that the voltage is present on the shared lines.

The general public – as well as first responders – should assume that all power lines are energized and the risk of electrocution is high if proper measures are not observed.

"Even though power may be out in your immediate area, improperly connected portable generators are capable of 'backfeeding' power lines thought to be inactive," said Commissioner Constable.

"In addition, as the utility's power is restored, your portable generator and house wiring may be severely damaged from improper usage."

Acting Division of Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Jr. also warns that although portable generators can be very helpful to during outages, "it is imperative that the public follow safety guidelines when using one."



### **Portable Generator Safety Tips:**

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

*The Division offers a pamphlet—which can be embossed with your department logo—called "Gas Generator Safety: What You Need To Know"*

Email: [fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us)

**NJDFS-KEAN FALL OFFERINGS FEATURE WIDE ARRAY OF FIRE OFFICIAL AND FIREFIGHTER COURSES**

*New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Training and Certification Unit Supervisor Kent Neiswender says training diversity is the hallmark of this year's NJDFS-Kean University course offerings this fall.*

*"We continue to enhance and improve our array of courses, and we are always looking for new areas to address for our firefighters and fire officials. I don't think there is much we missed this semester, and I invite members of the New Jersey fire service to consult our catalogue and take advantage of our second full year of streamlined online registration"*

**ADMINISTRATIVE COURSES**

**MAKING A MERGER WORK WITH RESILIENCE CE161**  
 Instructor: **Gabrielle Wanamaker, TrustWorks**

Merging workgroups and departments can be a tough job. The planners and decision makers can envision how resources can be combined for the better. But at the end of the day, the challenge lies in assisting people to learn to work together in new and different ways in order to successfully make the merger become one. The associated changes can be taxing on everyone, which can lower morale and lower one's interest in doing a job well. Doing resilient enables us to weather the changing tides of decisions that prevents us from being sidetracked or being focused. This course will cover the best practices used to successfully support the launch of newly configured work teams and capture well as enhance existing. It is a great opportunity to bring to this workshop your real life challenges and seek to encourage staff to work together in new ways.

Tuesday October 2 Burlington County ESTC  
 Wednesday October 17 Mercer County Fire Academy

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEVELOPING A FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM FOR PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CE129**  
 Instructor: **Joseph Vallo, Jersey City Fire Department**

This course is designed to provide fire personnel insight into developing a fire safety program for preschool and elementary students. Attendees will learn how to utilize personnel, apparatus, equipment and resources effectively to create a memorable and informative program.

Thursday November 8 Ocean County Fire Academy



**TECHNICAL COURSES 35**

**FIRE INVESTIGATION: CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF NATURAL GAS AND/OR ELECTRICITY CE760**  
 Instructor: **Adrian J. Cales, Asset Protection Manager, Public Service Enterprise Group, Detective Sergeant (Ret.), Arson Investigations Unit Bergen County Prosecutor's Office**

This program is designed to provide you with a thorough, comprehensive and complete understanding of the properties of both natural gas and electricity, and the steps necessary for the examination of a fire scene where there is the potential that natural gas or electricity were involved in either the origin or the cause of the fire. The emphasis of the program will be on how any and all components associated with either natural gas or electricity services must be subject to a detailed examination at every scene to either eliminate them, or attribute them, as to having any role or involvement in the origin or the cause of the fire, and what steps are necessary for this process to be completed.

Monday October 15 Somerset County ESTC  
 Wednesday October 24 Gloucester County Fire Academy



**CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES 47**

**HOT HAY C1C36 NEW**  
 Instructor: **Cari Holtmeyer, Deputy Chief, Elizabeth Fire Department**

This course is for instructors who train with non-gas, straw fires. The focus is on providing the skills necessary to produce and control a variety of fire conditions in the barn building. A review of NJ and NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training Evolutions will provide examples of control methods to ensure compliance. A hands-on live burn will allow students to observe the effect of different techniques in producing varying levels of smoke, heat and flame.

\*A Completed Student Certification Statement is required and can be downloaded at [www.keanfiresafety.com](http://www.keanfiresafety.com).

\*\* Equipment required: Full turnout gear, SCBA, PASS device and a spare cylinder.

Tuesday October 30 Middlesex County Fire Academy



**NJ INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 58**

**NEW JERSEY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**  
**NEW JERSEY FOREST FIRE SERVICE**

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the Forest Fire Service of New Jersey have joined to provide Incident Command System training to the fire service. The Incident Management System, training made in the Forest Fire Service, makes it logical that the Division of Fire Safety join the resource. The Division thanks the Forest Fire Service for providing its expertise toward this effort.

The New Jersey Forest Fire Service is an agency within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with the responsibility for the protection of life, property and natural resources from wildfire.

All training courses are Incident Management in nature, and meet current National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards that have been established for wildland firefighters across the United States. The delivery of these courses will be geared toward an all-risk perspective with knowledge gained being applicable to any type of natural or human-caused emergency or disaster. These courses also will assist agencies in becoming proficient in the acquisition and use of the United States Department of Homeland Security's National Incident Management System (NIMS).

**DIVISION/GROUP SUPERVISOR N2N20**  
 Instructor: **L. Steve King, Deputy OCM Coordinator, Burlington County**

A non-tactical course designed to familiarize the student with the roles and duties of a Division/Group Supervisor regarding incidents in New Jersey. The class is designed for the fire service and the information will be valuable to emergency responders throughout the State as it focuses on an all-hazards approach. This course will be of particular value for both chief and company officers or those aspiring to have a greater understanding of the more daily practical applications of incident management systems.

Thursday September 20 Burlington County ESTC




**FALL 2012 COURSES**

FOR FIRE OFFICIALS, FIRE INSPECTORS, FIRE INSTRUCTORS AND FIREFIGHTERS

PRESENTED BY  
 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
 IN COOPERATION WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY



## **DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY SECURES FUNDING FROM FM GLOBAL FOR 2013 F.I.R.E. BOWL**

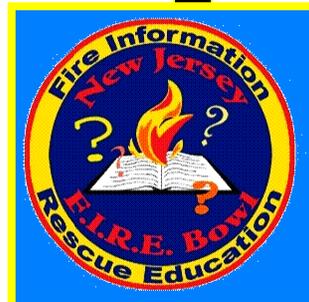


Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III on behalf of the Division of Fire Safety accepted a \$5,000 fire prevention grant from FM Global, one of the world's largest commercial property insurers.

The Division of Fire Safety will use the award to help fund the annual Fire Information and Rescue Education [F.I.R.E.] Bowl, a fire safety competition for middle school students across the state.

"The F.I.R.E. Bowl is about teaching fire safety education in a way that grabs the attention – and the competitive spirit – of seventh and eighth grade students," said Commissioner Constable. "Through their participation, middle school students become familiar with fire science and can pass along their knowledge to their peers and loved ones."

The Division of Fire Safety launched the F.I.R.E. Bowl educational program in 2006 as a unique way to get students interested in fire safety.



The competition challenge occurs first at participating middle schools and then culminates in an annual event held at Kean University.

"It is exciting to see how hard these young folks work on the competition. They become quite conversant in the very principals of fire science that we ask the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Service to know in order to obtain their state firefighter certifications," said Acting State Fire Marshal and Division of Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Jr.

"If the student contestants learn one new thing about keeping themselves, their families and their friends safe from fire, then we all win," said Kramer.

Through its Fire Prevention Grant Program, FM Global awards grants quarterly to fire departments, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations that best demonstrate a need for funding.

More information:  
[Charles.Lavin@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:Charles.Lavin@dca.state.nj.us)

# **2012-13 HOME HEATING SEASON BEGINS WITH 2010 GRIM USFA STATISTICS ON HEATING FIRES**

An estimated average of 50,100 heating fires in residential buildings occurred in the United States each year and resulted in an annual average of approximately 150 deaths, 575 injuries, and \$326 million in property loss.

Heating was the second leading cause of all residential building fires following cooking.

Residential building heating fires peaked in the early evening hours between 5 and 9 p.m. with the highest peak between 6 and 8 p.m. This 4-hour period accounted for 30 percent of all residential building heating fires.

Residential building heating fires peaked in January (21 percent) and declined to the lowest point during the summer months from June to August.

Confined fires, those fires confined to chimneys, flues, or fuel burners, accounted for 87 percent of residential building heating fires.

Thirty percent of the non confined residential building heating fires occurred because the heat source was too close to combustibles.

**Christmas Eve 2011, a fire that sadly took the lives of five people, three of them children, in Stamford, Connecticut was found to have been caused by embers cleaned from a fireplace and left in a bag inside the family mudroom.**

**To help Americans understand the nature of the heating fire problem, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report: Heating Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010). Developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center, the report is based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).**

**[HEATING FIRES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 2008-2010 FULL REPORT](#)**



# **PUBLIC EDUCATION**



*The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Public Education Unit conducts a series of public information/education outreach events each year for National Fire Prevention Week. This year attendees at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Governor's Housing Conference, the Middlesex Community College and Kean University health fairs each took advantage of Unit personnel briefings on fire safety for children and adults.*



# **EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SAFETY**

*Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Fire Code Enforcement Bureau proudly unveiled these new additions to the Division fleet complete with the Bureau's new motto: "Excellence in Public Safety." Replacements for the Division's Preparedness Unit fleet are scheduled to arrive shortly.*

# **NIST REDUCED RISK OF FIRE IN BUILDING AND COMMUNITIES STRATEGY STRESSES PREVENTION**

*The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) echoing the impetus of past national mandates such as the landmark “Fire in America” report of the Truman Administration and the more recent “Fire 20/20” series to reduce the loss of life and property loss caused by fire, has committed to create a solution that seeks to develop a measurement science that aims to see a one-third reduction in the nation’s preventable fires.*

*Called the Reduced Risk of Fire in Building and Communities the effort will address three key areas: Fire hazards in buildings, challenges faced by the fire service, and fire spread in wildland-urban interface zones. NIST officials point to the increasing burden placed upon the US economy by fire. Nearly 310 billion dollars, a startling 2 percent of the current Gross Domestic Product (GDP).*

## ***WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING FIRE PROBLEMS?***

## ***WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO ATTACK THESE PROBLEMS AND REDUCE THE OVERALL US FIRE BURDEN?***

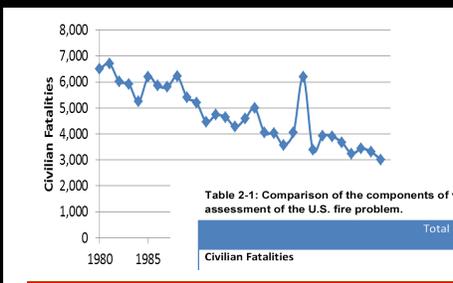
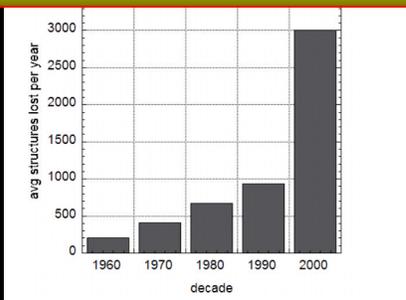


Table 2-5: Key Drivers Affecting Fire Safety Progress.

Support Progress	Inhibit Progress	Both Support and Inhibit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergence of new &amp; less expensive technologies and materials</li> <li>More powerful computing capabilities</li> <li>New building code requirements</li> <li>Safety legislation</li> <li>New fire safety standards</li> <li>Increased capability for performance-based design</li> <li>Security concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>measurement science gaps</li> <li>First cost</li> <li>Aging and insufficiently maintained infrastructure</li> <li>Reliance on prescriptive-based rules &amp; improper implementation of performance-based design</li> <li>Global climate change</li> <li>Perception of fire as a small problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand for reduced cost of construction</li> <li>Sustainability and environmental issues</li> <li>International harmonization of fire standards</li> <li>Changing financial support for local fire departments, fire service equipment, and fire research</li> <li>Changing demographics</li> <li>Changing building contents components, and</li> </ul>

## **NIST STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR FIRE RISK REDUCTION IN BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITIES**



	Death				
Stress/Overexertion	51	Heart Attack	47	Fire ground Operations	34
Vehicle Collision	18	Internal Trauma	23	Other On-Duty	20
Caught/Trapped	12	Asphyxiation	11	Responding/Returning	14
Collapse	7	Burns	7	Training	8
Struck By Object	6	Crushed	5	Non-fire Emergencies	5
Lost	3	Stroke	4	After an Incident	19
Contact/Exposure	2	Electrocution	1		
Other	1	Other	2		



# AT ISSUE:

## UPDATE: SENATE FUNDS AFG SAFER AND USFA THROUGH 2017



*(From CSFI)*

The Senate has unanimously approved an amendment to S. 3254, the National Defense Authorization Act, that reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs, as well as the United States Fire Administration. The amendment, sponsored by Senator Joseph Lieberman (CT) and co-sponsored by Senators Susan Collins (ME), Thomas Carper (DE) and Scott Brown (MA), authorizes funding for USFA and the two grant programs through the end of Fiscal Year 2017. In addition, the amendment makes several critical improvements to the AFG and SAFER grant programs, including raising current grant caps, reducing the local match under FIRE, significantly simplifying the local match under SAFER, and providing waivers for communities facing significant economic hardship.

The Senate is expected to complete work on S. 3254 by Friday, November 30th. Then the House and Senate will convene a conference to resolve difference between their respective measures. The House approved its version of the legislation on May 18th; however, their version does not contain reauthorization language for AFG, SAFER and USFA.

Therefore, Senate negotiators will need to convince their House counterparts to retain the Senate language. Additionally, the Senate approved an amendment offered by Senator Patrick Leahy (VT) on Wednesday, November 28th. The Leahy amendment makes several changes to the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program, intended to strengthen the program. The changes include:

- Providing mandatory funding for disability benefits;
- Expanding coverage to certain non-profit EMS providers; and
- Addition of vascular rupture under the causes of death covered by the Hometown Heroes provisions.

The national fire service organizations have been working closely with a number of other organizations on the recent efforts to reauthorize AFG, SAFER and USFA - namely the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Working together, this coalition has delivered a consistent and unified message that got the attention of congressional leaders.





# AT ISSUE:

## NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING



White introduced / **Yellow-Moving**

<b>A141</b> Charity Fees	A1149 5 year Plans	A2348 District EMS	A3263 Purchasing	<b>S900</b> Training Credits	S1637 FF EMT Training
A145 Voting Day	<b>A1382</b> Utility Credits	A2349 Forest Fire	A3302 Hiring	<b>S965</b> Hiring	S1639 Training
A148 Voting Day	A1503 Tax Appeals	A2399 Certification	<b>A3362</b> Tax Relief	<b>S970</b> FF Cancer	S1738 Benefit
A184 Layoffs	A1555 Forest Fire Death Benefit	A2511 Coverage	<b>ACR99</b> Unfunded Mandates	S1139 License Plates	<b>S1829</b> Home Extinguisher
<b>A266</b> Solar Panels	A1570 Sprinklers	<b>A2593</b> Command	<b>AJR24</b> Fire Safety	<b>S1255</b> Group Home	S1892 Memorials
A528 EMT Training	<b>A1843</b> Group Homes	<b>A2596</b> Home Extinguisher	<b>S263</b> Taxes	<b>S1299</b> Voting Day	S1918 Surplus Equipment
A664 Tax Relief	A1881 Vehicles	A2720 NJDFS	<b>S511</b> Survivorship	S1373 Vol. Parking	S1956 Consolidate
A824 Voting Day	A2120 Death Benefit	A2756 Benefit	S513 Fire CDL	<b>S1379</b> Command	S1975 Equipment
A1030 Regulations	A2243 Tenure	A2823 Furniture	<b>S565</b> Hotline	S1423 Elections	S2146 Propane
A1044 Home O2	A2334 Paid Chiefs	A2911 Consolidate	S870 Residency	S1505 Security	S2273 Sprinklers

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***NJDFS RESPONDS TO 'GENERAL ALARM' FOR SANDY  
AT METLIFE STADIUM SALUTE TO FIRST RESPONDERS***



***Over 100 first responders were the special invited guests before the NY Giants took on the Steelers at MetLife Stadium in Rutherford as the National Football League paused to commemorate both the military and the largely volunteer firefighter-first aid response to Hurricane Sandy at the Jersey Shore and across the state.***

***Ray Odierno, a four star general, and a member of the Joint Chiefs, as the 38th and current Chief of Staff of the US Army and former Commander of the United States Joint Forces in Iraq, joined with Division members Jim McFadden, Dave Hughes and Charlie Luxton just after they, along with players from both teams, each held a piece of the huge American flag midfield during the playing of our National Anthem.***



# **DCA DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY USES ONLINE PSAs FOR NEW AND RETURNING COLLEGE STUDENTS**

TRENTON, NJ – September was recognized as National Campus Fire Safety Month by the DCA Division of Fire Safety and to encourage increased fire safety and prevention at higher education institutions in the Garden State, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ (DCA) Division of Fire Safety issued a fire safety reminder to college campuses in the form of online PSAs which could be used by those institutions in a variety of digital forms, including on campus radio station Public Service Announcements, as audio components to university student life websites, switchboard on hold messages and as MP3 email attachments.

The public service announcements addressed escape plans, smoke alarms, matches and lighters, and Stop, Drop and Roll.



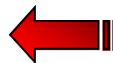
However, approximately two-thirds of the nation’s college students reside off campus, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Also, many college students had their last real session in fire safety as students in grammar school.

“Young adults are often unaware of the real risk that fire poses. Misusing cooking appliances, leaving candles unattended, and overloading electrical circuits and extension cords can all lead to fire,” said Division of Fire Safety Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. “The good news is fire safety is easy to learn. Students can begin by listening to the public service announcements and reviewing campus fire safety tips.”



“For many college students, this may be their first experience with independent living. Our Division of Fire Safety is providing general tips in the hope that students will pay attention and take the necessary precautions to avoid fire-related injury” said DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III. “We are also encouraging parents to speak directly with their college-age children about the importance of being aware at all times of potential fire dangers.”

New Jersey has one of the most stringent on-campus dormitory fire sprinkler codes in the nation as a result of the state’s Dormitory Trust Fund Safety Act.



## **USFA AND CPSC PUT HOME FIRE STATISTICS ON THE NATIONAL MAP DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**



Home heating and cooling equipment, including portable space heaters, was a top cause of fire deaths, accounting for about nine percent or 210 deaths on average, in homes each year between 2008 and 2010. Portable heaters were associated with 100 of those deaths each year.

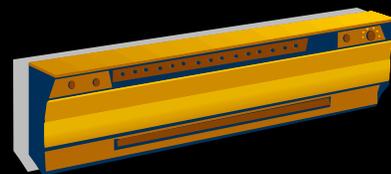
"Six people die every day in home fires," said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "The early warning provided by smoke alarms can make a big difference. Consumers who have working smoke alarms in their homes die in fires at about half the rate of those who do not have alarms."

"Every second counts when there is a fire in your home," said U.S. Fire Administrator Ernie Mitchell. "It is easy to believe that when the smoke alarm sounds, you and your family will be able to escape. A home fire drill can prepare you and others to escape a real life emergency in your home."

WASHINGTON – In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) provided new statistics on fires in American homes and urging consumers to install smoke alarms in their homes and check to make sure all smoke alarms are working properly. It is also vitally important to develop and practice a family fire escape plan.

In a CPSC estimates there were an average of 366,700 unintentional residential fires, 2,310 deaths, 12,550 injuries and more than \$7 billion in property damage each year attended by fire service between 2008 and 2010.

The top cause of fires in the home is cooking equipment, accounting for an estimated 147,400 or 40 percent of residential fires each year between 2008 and 2010. Cooking was also associated with the largest percentage of fire-related injuries, an estimated average 27.4 percent or 3,450, in the home.

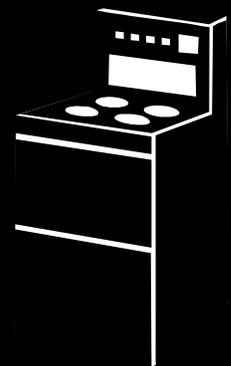


## **USFA AND CPSC PUT HOME FIRE STATISTICS ON THE NATIONAL MAP DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

CPSC and USFA recommend that every family have a working smoke alarm in their home. To provide better warning of a fire and more escape time, install more than one alarm and interconnect all smoke alarms in the home. Interconnected alarms speak to one another so if there is a fire in one part of the house, the interconnected alarms sound throughout the house and alert consumers to the fire more quickly.

For the best protection, CPSC and USFA recommend installing alarms on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas and inside each bedroom. Install both ionization and photoelectric alarms and make sure alarms are interconnected throughout the home. Alarms that are powered by house wiring should have battery backup.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the death rate per 100 reported fires was 49% less in homes with working smoke alarms than in



homes without this protection. In addition to using alarms, never leave cooking items unattended and have a professional inspect heating and cooling equipment every year, including fireplaces and chimneys. Be extra careful with cigarettes and other smoking materials. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

According to USFA, the fire death rate dropped by 20 percent over the 10-year time period 2000 through 2009 on a per capita basis for a variety of reasons. CPSC and USFA are working to further reduce fires and fire deaths through education and standards work. CPSC staff is working with other federal agencies on new smoke alarm technology to improve effectiveness and reduce nuisance alarms. CPSC is also developing rulemaking aimed at reducing upholstered furniture fires.

[CPSC RESIDENTIAL FIRE LOSS ESTIMATES](#)



# FIRE FOCUS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY



***Governor Christie fresh from his 2012 New Jersey State Fireman's Convention address and well before he donned his "Governor fleece" for Superstorm Sandy briefly met with New Jersey Division of Fire Safety staff members outside Convention Hall. Division personnel, many of whom are both volunteer firefighters and former career firefighters who now volunteer, are on hand to assist attendees relative to individual departmental operations.***

***( L to R ) Robert Vanoostendorp, Rod Meyer, Lou Kilmer, Jeff Silver, Mike Gallagher, William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director NJDFS, Rich Farletta, Supervisor, Jim McFadden, Governor Christie, Bruce Tynan, Greg Kirkham, Paul Allen, Tim Weiss, Heather Puskar, Charles Luxton and Craig Augustoni.***



*The 10th Annual New Jersey Division of Fire Safety International Association of Arson Investigators Juvenile Firesetter Conference (which will see full coverage in the next posting of NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly) was a fitting occasion for acknowledgement of Charles “Charlie “ Luxton by his peers and colleagues for his enduring dedication as both the Division’s State Coordinator for the Juvenile Firesetter and Operation 7 Save A Life Programs as well as the force behind the Juvenile Firesetter Conference for many years. Charlie retires at year’s end.*

*He previously retired from his first career with the Newark Fire Department.*

*“May the road rise up to greet you  
and may the wind be always at your back.”*

**CONGRATULATIONS CHARLIE FROM ALL OF US AT NJDFS  
AND THE KEAN UNIVERSITY FIRE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM!**





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