

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  
Spring 2020-2021

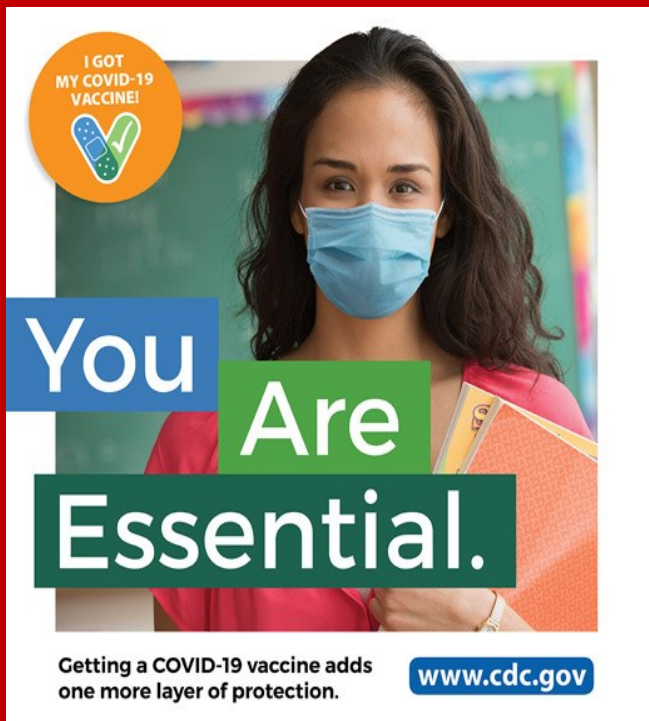
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety  
Volume 16 Issue 6

A Message from New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Director and State Fire Marshal  
Richard Mikutsky

This space is usually reserved for briefing the state fire service on issues important to them, so though we begin the new year with a similar set of challenges we confronted in the year just past, we see no weakening of the resolve shown by front line responders and Division staff.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of you.

Please continue your work in our common cause by clicking on the graphic below to assist your fellow first responders and the public you continue to selflessly serve.



I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINE!

**You Are Essential.**

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine adds one more layer of protection. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



## IN THIS POSTING...

**GUEST ARTICLE: NJ RISE FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

**NTSB ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES ADVISORY**

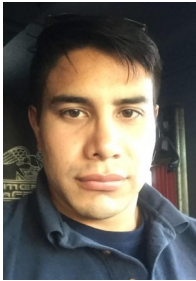
**EMS CRISIS HOTLINE BILL MOVES FORWARD**

**FIRE SERVICE STIMULUS BILL DETAILS**

**BRAIN INJURY RESPONSE TRAINING**

**IN MEMORIAM**

# NJ RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



*(Our Guest Correspondent is Firefighter Oscar Morales Peer Support Specialist III, RISE NJ First Responder COVID Hope & Healing Program at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Center)*

“Mayday, Mayday, Mayday...”

A call for help that no first responder ever wants to hear, but a call which we are ALWAYS prepared for. At any given fire scene, the Incident Commander will position a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC team) close by, ready to be deployed immediately, should a call for help be transmitted.

These RIC teams remain on stand-by with their tools ready in order to quickly aid a downed firefighter, no matter what situation they are in. It takes a lot of preparation and practice to deliver aid to anyone in need, and it is important to note, however, that helping first responders can be particularly challenging since they are usually the ones doing the “saving.”

RISE - New Jersey’s First Responder COVID Hope & Healing Program serves Police, Firefighters, EMS, Active Military, Veterans, Chaplains and their families impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Services include our RISE helpline offering COVID Crisis Counseling- staffed by peer first responders, veterans and mental health specialists, RISE virtual support groups, RISE Resilience webinars, and RISE resource and outreach support.

These pillars have been established with the goal of supporting our first responders with aid in their time of need, much like a RIC team during a MAYDAY call.

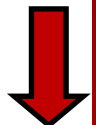
According to the Department of Defense Centers of Excellence (DCOE) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), peer support can offer the following benefits: foster social networking, improve quality of life, promote wellness, improve coping skills, support acceptance of illness/situation, improve compliance, reduce concerns, and increase satisfaction with health status.

How does this relate to first responders and the fire service industry in particular? The answer lies in a model entitled “Reciprocal Peer Support” coined by a leader in crisis intervention and behavioral healthcare for first responders and “high risk” populations, Cherie Castellano, LPC AAET.

Reciprocal Peer Support can be described in four tasks: Connection and pure presence; Information gathering and risk assessment;

Case management and goal setting; and Resilience affirmation and praise. Successful application of RPS will establish a feeling of “surviving the crisis together”, much like a RIC team helping a downed firefighter that has called out for help.

Successful crisis counseling services are founded on crucial elements identified by the DCOE which include easy access, confidentiality, structured work practices, training, and selection of peers. All of these elements have been combined in order to create the RISE Crisis Counseling helpline.



# NJ RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Serving as a firefighter has not only taught me the importance of my own health and safety, but also that of my peers. Applying Mrs. Castellano's reciprocal peer support model in my life has helped me learn to develop my team building skills and even though I struggle at times, knowing that I have the support of my peers has been the sturdy foundation on which I have learned to lean on when life's storms come our way.

As in any emergency situation we may come across, we know that we are not merely a single person working alone but rather a team of trained professionals moving in unison for the greater good.



Our RISE helpline is best summarized by Mrs. Castellano's abstract, Reciprocal Peer Support "A decade of Not So Random Acts of Kindness", recognizing moments when a peer supporter says to another "I have been where you are and I am with you now" in their moment of need.

The RISE: NJ First Responders COVID Hope & Healing Helpline for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS professionals and others can be reached at 1-833-237-4325. It offers live support from specialists and peers daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with emergency support available 24/7.



Available support also includes crisis counseling, virtual support groups, resiliency and wellness webinars. To learn more about RISE and register for online support groups and webinars, please click on the link below.

All specialists on are trained in the crisis counseling model of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The new helplines are in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care and funded by \$1.7 million in federal funds awarded to the Department of Human Services from FEMA and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to support behavioral health services and expand crisis counseling during the COVID-19 crisis.

[www.risefirstresponders.com](http://www.risefirstresponders.com)

# INSPECTIONS UPDATE



**State of New Jersey**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
PO BOX 360  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360  
[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
*Commissioner*

February 26, 2021

**TO:** Facilities Licensed by the Department of Health

**FROM:** Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Routine Inspection and Maintenance of Fire Protection Equipment

On March 26, 2020, a memorandum was issued to all facilities licensed by the Department of Health waiving routine third party inspections during the Public Health Emergency. This waiver of Department of Health regulations was put in place in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety.

All inspections required under the New Jersey Uniform Fire Safety Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq., as well as all routine inspections, testing and maintenance, including repairs, of fire protection systems as required under N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 901.6.1 are to be performed. Facilities are required to permit state and local inspectors into the facility, along with third parties required to perform testing and make necessary repairs to the fire protection system.

Fire protection systems include but are not limited to sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, carbon monoxide warning equipment, wet and dry chemical extinguishing systems and portable fire extinguishers. Facilities are required to meet all applicable requirements of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Safety Act, which includes the testing and maintenance of emergency and standby power systems and emergency lighting and exit signs found under Section 604 of the Fire Code. Additionally, commercial kitchen hoods must be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the requirements found in Section 609 of the Fire Code.

All fire protection contractors and fire inspectors visiting the facility are required to follow all CDC recommended safety precautions. These precautions include the wearing of masks, wellness checks prior to entering the facility and appropriate social distancing practices.

# INSPECTIONS UPDATE

This memorandum applies to the following facilities and services:

- Adult Day Health Services Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43F
- Ambulatory Care Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43A
- Assisted Living Programs licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:36
- Assisted Living Residences licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:36
- Community Support Services for Adults with Serious Mental Illness licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:37B
- Comprehensive Personal Care Homes licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:36
- Dementia Care Homes licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:37
- Home Health Agencies licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:42
- Hospices licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:42C
- Hospitals licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43G
- Licensed Community Residences for Adults with Mental Illness licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:37A
- Long-term Care Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39
- Outpatient Mental Health Services licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:37E
- Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161B
- Partial Care Services licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:37F
- Pediatric Medical Day Care Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43J
- Pediatric Transitional Community Homes licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43D
- Programs of Assertive Community Treatment licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:37J
- Rehabilitation Hospitals licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43H
- Residential Healthcare Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43
- Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:161A
- Surgical Practices registered pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43C

All facilities are to evaluate their Fire Code compliance and take the necessary steps to make sure all applicable fire safety requirements are met while still maintaining required COVID-19 safety precautions. If you have any specific fire safety questions or concerns regarding requirements or inspections please feel free to contact Louis Kilmer of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety by e-mail at [louis.kilmer@dca.nj.gov](mailto:louis.kilmer@dca.nj.gov) or by phone at 609.633.6131. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



---

# FIREFIGHTER SKILLS ADDENDUM



Fundamentals of  
**Fire Fighter Skills  
and Hazardous  
Materials Response**

FOURTH EDITION

January 1, 2021

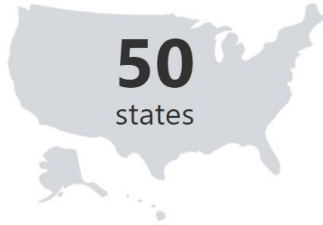


**New Jersey Firefighter  
Skills Addendum**

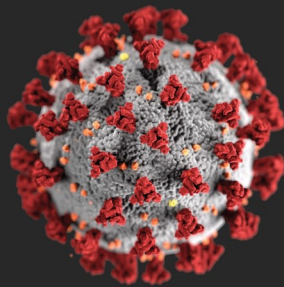
[CLICK ABOVE GRAPHIC FOR FULL PUBLICATION](#)

# NFIRS SPECIAL STUDY: COVID 19

## Participation



The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to conduct a national-level special study on fire department responses to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The goal of the study is to help fire departments consistently document fire department calls to suspected or confirmed incidents involving COVID-19.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

Have questions about the COVID-19 Special Study? Please contact the NFIRS Support Center: Monday – Friday between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET, at 888-382-3827 or by email at [fema-nfirshelp@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-nfirshelp@fema.dhs.gov).

**NJDFS NFIRS Data Assistance: Vincent Campagna**  
[vincent.campagna@dca.nj.gov](mailto:vincent.campagna@dca.nj.gov)

# **NTSB ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES**

The National Transportation Safety Board issued four safety recommendations recently based on findings contained in Safety Report 20/01 which documents the agency's investigation of four electric vehicle fires involving high-voltage, lithium-ion battery fires. Three of the lithium-ion batteries that ignited were damaged in high-speed, high-severity crashes, and the fourth lithium-ion battery fire occurred during normal vehicle operations. All three of the crash-damaged batteries reignited after firefighters extinguished the vehicle fires. The battery in the fourth investigation did not reignite. Safety Report 20/01 identified two main safety issues through its investigation:

- The inadequacy of vehicle manufacturers' emergency response guides.
- The gaps in safety standards and research related to high-voltage lithium-ion batteries involved in high-speed, high-severity crashes.

## **NTSB RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Factoring the availability of a manufacturer's emergency response guide, and its adherence to International Organization for Standardization standard 17840 and SAE International recommended practice J2990, when determining a U.S. New Car Assessment Program score.
- Continued research on ways to mitigate or deenergize stranded energy in high-voltage lithium-ion batteries.
- Continued research on ways to reduce the hazards associated with thermal runaway resulting from high-speed, high-severity crashes.
- Manufacturer emergency response guides modeled on ISO standard 17840 and SAE International recommended practice J2990.
- Incorporation of vehicle-specific information in emergency response guides for fighting high-voltage lithium-ion battery fires.

- Mitigating thermal runaway and the risk of high-voltage lithium-ion battery reignition.
- Mitigating risks associated with stranded energy in high-voltage lithium-ion batteries during emergency response and before a damaged electric vehicle is removed from the scene.
- Safely storing an electric vehicle with a damaged high-voltage lithium-ion battery.

Fires in electric vehicles powered by high-voltage lithium-ion batteries pose the risk of electric shock to emergency responders from exposure to the high-voltage components of a damaged lithium-ion battery. A further risk is that damaged cells in the battery can experience thermal runaway – uncontrolled increases in temperature and pressure – which can lead to battery reignition. The risks of electric shock and battery reignition/fire arise from the “stranded” energy that remains in a damaged battery.

## **NTSB YOU TUBE CHANNEL**

The National Transportation Safety Board has an interest in the safety of emerging technology, including alternative vehicle fuel sources such as lithium-ion batteries. Safety issues with the high-voltage, lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles first gained widespread attention when a Chevrolet Volt caught fire three weeks after a crash test in May 2011.

To highlight the lessons learned in Safety Report 20/01 the NTSB produced a short video that is available on the NTSB's YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6eS6JzBn0k>



# INJURY PREVENTION POSTERS

**Work Smarter**

Use proper body mechanics during forcible entry.

Follow these tips to improve your safety and fitness on the job.

Use these proper body mechanics methods to prevent musculoskeletal injury during forcible entry:

- 1. Flex at the ankles to maintain ankle, knee and hip alignment.
- 2. Move hips, knees and ankles at the same rate to ensure alignment.
- 3. Maintain a neutral spine, and hinge at the hips.
- 4. Power should come from the legs rather than the back and arms.
- 5. Keep your eyes on the target.

Download or order your free copy of the U.S. Fire Administration's "Emergency Services Ergonomics and Wellness" Handbook to learn more immediate strategies to help increase the safety of emergency responders, reduce the risks of on-duty emergency duties, maximize the longevity of emergency service careers, and assist with sending personnel to a healthy retirement.

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration Visit usfa.fema.gov to learn more.

The physical effort of firefighting is on the order of any heavy industrial work challenge, and can be at any time, life threatening.

FEMA's United States Fire Administration offers ongoing training on the particular ergonomic and wellness practices that go a long way in the effort to prevent firefighter injury.

A series of fire station posters has been made available for free download, which when posted in the break room can show the shift and members what they can do to avoid unnecessary injury.

[FREE USFA POSTER DOWNLOADS](#)



# PUT FIRESTAT ON YOUR CALENDAR

## FIRESTAT

<https://share.dhs.gov/njfirestat/>

### WHAT IS FIRESTAT?

The FireStat platform allows for easy weekly communication of fire leadership from across the State of New Jersey. Each week's meeting includes discussions regarding current topics, trends/patterns and the easy distribution of information in real time. Additionally, presentations regarding current/pressing topics are shared each week. Each FireStat is typically 20-30 minutes in length.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FIRESTAT?

The purpose of FireStat is to create a single, reliable, one-stop fire real-time information sharing platform for pressing issues/topics.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND FIRESTAT?

FireStat is intended for Fire Command Leadership.



To access the online platform, please click on the above link. If you do not already have Adobe Connect, please download the program to your computer prior to the meeting.





*{Editor's note: The Division Office of Fire Department Preparedness is responsible for coordinating the use of fire service mutual aid and the movement of fire service resources, particularly during a declared State of Emergency. The unit assists each County Fire Coordinator with the development of local and county Fire Mutual Aid plans. A Regional Fire Coordinator is assigned to each of New Jersey's regional response areas.}*

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas has announced the release of the funding notice for eight different types of preparedness grants worth nearly \$1.87 billion. Together, these programs provide more than \$1.8 billion in critical funding to assist our state and local partners in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other disasters. Secretary Mayorkas issued the following statement about this year's grant awards:

"In the almost 20 years since September 11, 2001, the terrorism threat landscape has changed considerably. Today the most significant terrorist threat facing the nation comes from lone offenders and small groups of individuals who commit acts of violence motivated by domestic extremist ideological beliefs. While we continue to lawfully protect against threats posed by foreign terrorist organizations, we also must ensure adequate focus and funding is provided to combat domestic terrorism, some of which is motivated by false narratives and extremist rhetoric spread through social media and other online platforms."

"This year, and for the first time, I have designated combating domestic violent extremism as a 'National Priority Area' for the FY 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant programs," said Mayorkas.

Recipients of these grants will be required to spend at least 7.5 percent of their awards on combating domestic violent extremism (DVE). Put another way, states and local governments across the nation will spend at least \$77 million in grant funding to detect

and protect against threats from DVE. This approach will help raise the nation's security baseline and prioritize activities to combat DVE, including open source analysis of threats, execution of threat assessment programs, the development and sharing of intelligence across states and between states and the federal government, and the development of training and awareness programs.

"I am also directing additional grant funding to support cybersecurity efforts. As we have seen in recent events, attacks on our cyber networks can have devastating effects. Accordingly, I have required that SHSP and UASI recipients spend at least 7.5 percent of their grant awards to enhance their cybersecurity posture. With this funding, state and local grant recipients can conduct cybersecurity risk assessments, strengthen their 'dot gov' internet domains, improve the cybersecurity of their critical infrastructure, and conduct additional cybersecurity training and planning.

"Finally, this year's grant awards will prohibit the purchase of certain equipment such as grenade launchers, bayonets, and weaponized aircraft. Other types of 'controlled' equipment will require oversight and approvals. We will continue to support the purchase of critical equipment that has a demonstrable impact on enhancing the safety of law enforcement and members of the public.

"The threats we face as a nation have evolved significantly throughout the past 20 years. Therefore, I am directing the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a systematic review of these

programs and to submit a report and recommendations to me. I will then engage – personally and extensively – with our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners across the country to inform future grant awards. It is through open and fulsome engagement that the Department can most effectively accomplish its mission. We are proud to support the brave and noble first responder community through these critical grant programs.”

The Fiscal Year 2021 grant guidance will continue to focus on the nation’s highest risk areas, including urban areas that face the most significant threats and national priorities. This year, the Urban Area Security Initiative will enhance regional preparedness and capabilities by funding 31 high-threat, high-density urban areas. This represents Congressional intent to limit these funds to those urban areas that represent up to 85% of the nationwide risk.

As the threats to our nation evolve, so too must the grant programs intended to prepare communities for those threats. To that end, DHS has identified five critical priority areas for attention in the FY 2021 grant cycle: cybersecurity, soft targets and crowded places, intelligence and information sharing, domestic violent extremism, and emerging threats.

Grant recipients under the **State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative** will be required to dedicate a minimum of 30% of awards to address these five priority areas: cybersecurity (7.5%, an increase of at least \$25 million across the country); soft target and crowded places (5%); information and intelligence sharing (5%); domestic violent extremism (7.5%); and emerging threats (5%).

As with previous years, new capabilities that are built using homeland security grant funding must be deployable if needed to support regional and national efforts. All capabilities being built or sustained must have a clear linkage to the core

capabilities articulated in the National Preparedness Goal.

Preparedness Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021. The following grants are non-competitive and awarded to recipients based on a number of factors:

**State Homeland Security Program**—provides \$415 million to support the implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based state homeland security strategies to address capability targets. Awards are based on statutory minimums and relative risk as determined by DHS/FEMA’s risk methodology.

**Urban Area Security Initiative**—provides \$615 million to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities in 31 high-threat, high-density areas. Awards are based on relative risk as determined by DHS/FEMA’s risk methodology.

For both the state homeland and urban area grants, 30% of the awards must address the five priority areas of cybersecurity, soft target and crowded places, information and intelligence sharing, domestic violent extremism, and emerging threats. Additionally, 25% of these grants must be dedicated to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities, and 80% of these grants must be obligated from the state to local or tribal governments within 45 days of receipt.

**Emergency Management Performance Grant**—provides more than \$355 million to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. Relative population is considered.

**Intercity Passenger Rail**—provides \$10 million to Amtrak to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public.

The following grants are competitive, and exact awards will be announced later this year:

**Operation Stonegarden**—provides \$90 million to enhance cooperation and coordination among state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States land and water borders.  
**Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program** —provides \$15 million to eligible tribal nations to implement preparedness initiatives to help strengthen the nation against risk associated with potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.

**Nonprofit Security Grant Program**—provides \$180 million to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. This year, \$90 million is provided to nonprofits in UASI-designated urban areas, and \$90 million is provided to nonprofits outside of UASI-designated urban areas located in any state or territory.

**Port Security Grant Program**—provides \$100 million to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or re-establish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

**Transit Security Grant Program** —provides \$88 million to owners and operators of public transit systems to protect critical surface transportation and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

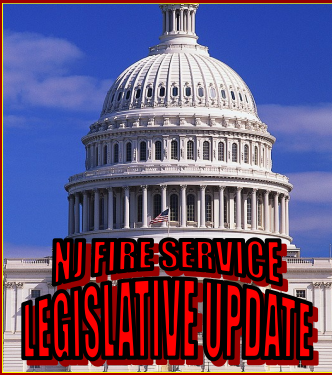
**Intercity Bus Security Grant Program** —provides \$2 million to owners and operators of intercity bus systems to protect surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

All preparedness funding notices can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Final submissions must be made through the non-disaster grants system located at <https://portal.fema.gov>.

Further information on DHS’s preparedness grant programs is available at:

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

<http://www.fema.gov/grants>.



**NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE  
FEDERAL LEGISLATION**



**COVID STIMUUS UPDATE**

The Stimulus Bill contains \$1.4 trillion in FY2021 funding for government agencies and programs, as well as a \$900 billion COVID-19 stimulus package.

Throughout the 116th Congress, CFSI and our partner organizations have advocated for the passage of a number of provisions important to the fire and emergency services. Through these efforts, many of our priorities have been included in the omnibus. Overall, provisions relevant to the fire and emergency services include:

**\$720 million for the AFG and SAFER programs (\$360 million per program).** This is an increase from \$355 million/program in FY2020. **Waiver authority was provided for the AFG and SAFER programs.** Under the bill text, the Secretary of Homeland Security may provide a number of waivers for the AFG and SAFER programs to get funds to grantees more effectively.

**\$49.3 million for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).** This is an increase from the FY2020 level of \$46.8 million. Report language accompanying the bill further directs USFA to provide full funding for State Fire Training Grants and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Additional language directs USA to collect data on suicide

**T-Band is preserved in the omnibus.** Language repealing the T-Band auction requirement was included in the omnibus.

**\$37.8 million for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.** This funding level was maintained from FY2020.

**\$19 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance program.** This is an increase from \$1 million over the FY2020 level.

**The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act is made permanent.** This tax benefit allows qualified volunteer firefighters to deduct from their income taxes a portion of benefits they may receive for volunteering.

**\$2.5 million for the National Firefighter Registry.** This funding will help to support the rollout of this registry.

**\$17.1 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund.**

**\$5.5 million for SIREN Act grants.** These awards are given to rural fire and EMS agencies.

**The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act is included in the omnibus.** This bill protects consumers by directing the Consumer Product Safety Commission to create a standard requiring certain flame mitigation devices be used on portable fuel containers.

**The Carbon Monoxide Alarms Leading Every Resident To Safety Act, or CO ALERTS Act, is part of the omnibus.** This bill will require carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in certain federally assisted housing.



**NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE  
FEDERAL LEGISLATION**



**The Safer Occupancy Furniture Flammability Act, or the SOFFA Act, is included in the omnibus.**  
This bill sets a national furniture flammability standard.

**Up to \$600 stimulus checks for qualifying individuals.**

The bill contains over \$284 billion for Paycheck Protection Program loans and also includes \$20 billion for targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan grants.

**FEDERAL COVID RESOURCES**

[Coronavirus: Make infection control a priority – U.S. Fire Administration](#)  
[COVID-19 cost recovery for fire and EMS departments – U.S. Fire Administration](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-2019\) situation reports – World Health Organization](#)

[Q&A on coronaviruses \(COVID-19\) – World Health Organization](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak – World Health Organization](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-10\): What You Need to Know – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Cases in the US – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for COVID-19 in the United States –Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

**-CLICK LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION-**





**NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE  
STATE LEGISLATION**



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



**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOHN JONKER, SR.  
FIREFIGHTER**

**ERSKINE LAKES FIRE COMPANY #1  
RINGWOOD, NJ**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**VICTOR MELILLO**

**FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT**

**IRVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
IRVINGTON, NJ**

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**  
**NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**  
**101 SOUTH BROAD STREET**  
**PO BOX 809**  
**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625**



**Excellence in Public Safety**

**Richard Mikutsky, Director**  
**New Jersey State Fire Marshal**  
**609-633-6106**  
[richard.mikutsky@dca.nj.gov](mailto:richard.mikutsky@dca.nj.gov)

**Angela Scurti** Secretarial Assistant to the Director  
[angela.scurti@dca.nj.gov](mailto:angela.scurti@dca.nj.gov) 609-633-6070

<b>Inspections</b>	<b>609-633-6132</b>
<b>Legislative Affairs</b>	<b>609-984-1947</b>
<b>Registration</b>	<b>609-633-6144</b>

**REGULATORY OFFICER**

**ANDREW J. KONDOR, ESQ.** 609-984-0039  
[andrew.kondor@dca.nj.gov](mailto:andrew.kondor@dca.nj.gov)

<b>ARSON UNIT</b>	<b>609-633-8161</b>
<b>CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT</b>	<b>609-984-7860</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS UNIT</b>	<b>609-292-4109</b>
<b>NFIRS UNIT</b>	<b>609-984-3476</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION UNIT</b>	<b>609-633-9722</b>
<b>YOUTH FIRESETTER PROGRAM</b>	<b>609-633-6432</b>
<b>TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT</b>	<b>609-777-3552</b>

**ARSON-K9 UNIT**

**JASON SPIECKER** SUPERVISOR  
[jason.spiecker@dca.nj.gov](mailto:jason.spiecker@dca.nj.gov)

**Stephen Letts** K-9 Investigator/North  
[steve.letts@dca.nj.gov](mailto:steve.letts@dca.nj.gov)

**Rod Meyer** K-9 Investigator/South  
[rodman.meyer@dca.nj.gov](mailto:rodman.meyer@dca.nj.gov)

**Walter Zieser** Investigator/North  
[walter.zieser@dca.nj.gov](mailto:walter.zieser@dca.nj.gov)

**Joseph Jackson** Investigator/South  
[joseph.jackson@dca.nj.gov](mailto:joseph.jackson@dca.nj.gov)

**CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT**

**Chris Michallis** Senior Investigator CC&E Unit  
[chris.michallis@dca.nj.gov](mailto:chris.michallis@dca.nj.gov)

**Patricia Persico** Technical Assistant  
[patricia.persico@dca.nj.gov](mailto:patricia.persico@dca.nj.gov)

**DIVISION FISCAL UNIT**

**Tracy Holmes** [Tracy.Holmes@dca.nj.gov](mailto:Tracy.Holmes@dca.nj.gov)

**FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UNIT**

**Steve Hearn** NFIRS Representative  
[steven.hearn@dca.nj.gov](mailto:steven.hearn@dca.nj.gov)

**Vincent Campagna** NFIRS Data  
[vincent.campagna@dca.nj.gov](mailto:vincent.campagna@dca.nj.gov)

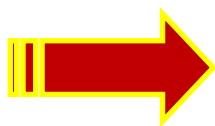
**COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION UNIT**

**CHARLES LAVIN** SUPERVISOR  
 Smoke/CO Alarm Distribution  
 Youth Firesetter Program  
 NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl  
[charles.lavin@dca.nj.gov](mailto:charles.lavin@dca.nj.gov)

**Jerry Clark** Coordinator  
 NJDFS/ NJFPPA Poster Contest  
 FD/LEA Community Risk Reduction  
 NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly  
[jerold.clark@dca.nj.gov](mailto:jerold.clark@dca.nj.gov)

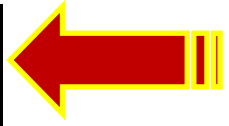
**NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION**

**CHARLES LAVIN** 609-633-9722



**NEED VOLUNTEERS?** CLICK HERE FOR FREE RECRUITMENT TOOLS!

CLICK GRAPHIC  
**NVFC** NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL



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

## BUREAU OF FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

<b>LOUIS KILMER</b> <a href="mailto:louis.kilmer@dca.nj.gov">louis.kilmer@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>BUREAU CHIEF</b> 609-633-6131
<b>Maureen Lennox</b> Secretarial Assistant to the Bureau Chief <a href="mailto:maureen.lennox@dca.nj.gov">maureen.lennox@dca.nj.gov</a>	609 633-6106
<b>PETER DAMORE</b> <a href="mailto:peter.damore@dca.nj.gov">peter.damore@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(N) SUPERVISOR</b> 609-633-2604
<b>STEPHEN SPEICHER</b> <a href="mailto:stephen.speicher@dca.nj.gov">stephen.speicher@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(S) SUPERVISOR</b> 609-633-6717
<b>Lawrence Wheeler</b> <a href="mailto:lawrence.wheeler@dca.nj.gov">lawrence.wheeler@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(NW) Inspector 3</b> 609-341-3049
<b>Tom Johnson</b> <a href="mailto:thomas.johnson@dca.nj.gov">thomas.johnson@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(NE) Inspector 3</b> 609-292-6315
<b>Robert Lenox</b> <a href="mailto:robert.lenox@dca.nj.gov">robert.lenox@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(SW) Inspector 3</b> (609)-974-7190

## OFFICE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS

<b>OFDP SUPERVISOR</b>	[Vacancy]
<b>Bruce Tynan</b> <a href="mailto:bruce.tynan@dca.nj.gov">bruce.tynan@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>ROIC/REGIONS SUPERVISOR</b> [cell] 609-475-5325
<b>Northern Region</b>	[Vacancy]
<b>Shore Region</b>	[Vacancy]
<b>Delaware River Region</b>	[cell] 609 960 5271
<b>Robert Tharp</b> <a href="mailto:robert.tharp@dca.nj.gov">robert.tharp@dca.nj.gov</a>	Planner
<b>Northwest Region</b>	[cell] 609-947-7526
<b>Timothy Weiss</b> <a href="mailto:timothy.weiss@dca.nj.gov">timothy.weiss@dca.nj.gov</a>	Regional Fire Coordinator
<b>UASI Region</b>	609-292-4109
<b>Bennet Berkman</b> <a href="mailto:bennet.berkman@dca.nj.gov">bennet.berkman@dca.nj.gov</a>	Planner
<b>Field Logistics</b>	[cell] 609-292-8134
<b>Leonard Inzerillo</b> <a href="mailto:leonard.inzerillo@dca.nj.gov">leonard.inzerillo@dca.nj.gov</a>	

## DIVISION LOGISTICS

<b>Lucille Ventres</b> <a href="mailto:lucille.ventres@dca.nj.gov">lucille.ventres@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-633-6062
--	--------------

## LOCAL ASSISTANCE UNIT

<b>FRANK CLARK</b> <a href="mailto:frank.clark@dca.nj.gov">frank.clark@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>SUPERVISOR</b> 609-633-6738 [cell ] 609-475-5320
<b>Eugene Iandolo</b> <a href="mailto:eugene.iandolo@dca.nj.gov">eugene.iandolo@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(NE) Field Representative</b> 609-777-4603 [cell] 609-462-5992
<b>Paul Elenio FCAR II</b> <a href="mailto:paul.elenio@dca.nj.gov">paul.elenio@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>State Urban Centers</b> 609-633-6147 [cell] 609-947-7524
<b>Dwayne Breeden</b> Dwayne.Breeden@dca.nj.gov	<b>( NW) Field Representative</b> [cell] 609-475-5109
<b>Anthony Doyley</b> <a href="mailto:anthony.doyley@dca.nj.gov">anthony.doyley@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(SW) Field Representative</b> [cell] 609-947-7281
<b>Timothy Paar</b> <a href="mailto:timothy.paar@dca.nj.gov">timothy.paar@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>(SE) Field Representative</b> [cell] 609-508-7620
<b>William Hendrickson</b> <a href="mailto:William.Hendrickson@dca.nj.gov">William.Hendrickson@dca.nj.gov</a>	[Rutgers University] [cell] 609-610-9451

## OFFICE OF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

<b>KENT NEISWENDER</b> <a href="mailto:kent.neiswender@dca.nj.gov">kent.neiswender@dca.nj.gov</a>	<b>SUPERVISOR</b> 609-341-3473
<b>Gregory Kirkham</b> <a href="mailto:gregory.kirkham@dca.nj.gov">gregory.kirkham@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-633-6424
<b>Teresa Lockhart</b> <a href="mailto:teresa.lockhart@dca.nj.gov">teresa.lockhart@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-633-6731
<b>Marge Jones</b> <a href="mailto:marge.jones@dca.nj.gov">marge.jones@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-777-1461

## PERSONNEL

<b>Marylain Kemp</b> <a href="mailto:marylain.kemp@dca.nj.gov">marylain.kemp@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-633-7129 Assistant to the Director-Personnel Fire Official Appointments
--	---

## PUBLICATIONS

<b>Jessica Duff</b> <a href="mailto:jessicaduff@dca.nj.gov">jessicaduff@dca.nj.gov</a>	609-633-6138
---	--------------

**COMPLIANCE UNIT**

**SUPERVISOR**

Robert Lennox

[robert.lennox@dca.nj.gov](mailto:robert.lennox@dca.nj.gov)

(609)-974-7190

**FIELD REPRESENTATIVE**

02 – Bergen 10 Hunterdon 14 Morris 16 Passaic 18

Somerset 19 Sussex 21 Warren

**Scott Janssens**

(609) 292-6315 (Office)

(609) 203-9381 (Cell)

[scott.janssens@dca.nj.gov](mailto:scott.janssens@dca.nj.gov)

**Technical Assistant**

Kim Lake

(609) 633-6111

[kimberly.lake@dca.nj.gov](mailto:kimberly.lake@dca.nj.gov)



***Excellence in Public Safety***



**~Notice and Disclaimer~**

*Fire Focus Quarterly* is posted exclusively four times a year on the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety – Office of the State Fire Marshal website ([www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/)) is the official electronic newsletter of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety— Office of the State Fire Marshal posted quarterly for the benefit of the *New Jersey Fire Service* and general public.

Any rights not expressly granted herein are reserved. Reproduction, transfer, distribution or storage of part or all of the contents in any form without the prior written permission of The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety— Office of the State Fire Marshal is prohibited. The use of this electronic newsletter and the content therein is permitted for private, noncommercial use. The use of press releases and other documents classified as public is permitted in public communications with proper source attribution.

For easy accessibility, The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety— Office of the State Fire Marshal may include links to sites on the Internet that are owned or operated by third parties. By linking to such third-party sites, you acknowledge and agree that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety— Office of the State Fire Marshal has no control over the content of that site and cannot assume any responsibility for material created or published by such third-party sites.

In addition, a link to another site not affiliated with The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety—Office of the State Fire Marshal site does not imply that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety— Office of the State Fire Marshal endorses the site or the products or services referenced in such third-party site.

*Fire Focus Quarterly* gladly accepts editorial contributions meeting its internal electronic publication standards from members and affiliates of the *New Jersey Fire Service* and the general public exclusively via email and email attachment only.

Please send material c/o Jerry Clark, Content Producer, Public Information Assistant, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Community Risk Reduction Unit to: [jerold.clark@dca.nj.gov](mailto:jerold.clark@dca.nj.gov)

**~Fair Use Statement~**

This edition of NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly believes this to constitute “fair use” of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond “fair use,” you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.