

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner Richard Mikutsky, Director and State Fire Marshal Summer 2021 New Jersey Department of Community Affairs New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Volume 16 Issue 7

2021 SMOKE ALARM GIVEAWAY





The 2021 WABC7 Operation Save A Life/Kiddie smoke alarm giveaway in New Jersey continues during the vaccination phase of the COVID-19 pandemic as alarms are delivered by vaccinated NJDFS personnel throughout the state.

One stop at the Bloomfield Fire Department headquarters featured masked and vaccinated Director Richard Mikutsky with Chief of



IN THIS POSTING...

OPERATION SAVE A LIFE 2021

NJDFS JOINS SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER

TOWNSQUARE MEDIA KUDOS

FEDS HELP SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER

SKYSCRAPERS MADE OF STICKS?

JCU NJDFS MOU

2021 SMOKE ALARM GIVEAWAY



Bloomfield firefighter Ron Fusaro (left) and Fire Official Vince Colavitti (right) join New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Director and State Fire Marshal Rich Mikutsky and Chief of Department Lou Venezia in front of a Bloomfield Fire Department apparatus to mark 2021 Operation Save a Life/Kidde in New Jersey

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The COVID-19 pandemic hit New Jersey especially hard, however, a more enduring hazard will remain long after restrictions are lifted and herd immunity is achieved.

Sadly, the toll taken by fire in the state, though thankfully not on the scale seen decades ago, continues to plague the state. Working and maintained smoke alarms remain our first line of defense against fire.

NJDFS SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER

NJDFS Director and New Jersey State
Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky joins
Timothy Weiss, NJDFS Office of Fire
Department Preparedness, at the
formal unveiling of the NJ Slow Down
Move Over Campaign. All DOT vehicles
and all state emergency response
vehicles will receive the traffic
advisory sign stickers.





Members of the newly unified
Hamilton Fire Division (HFD) join
Director Mikutsky and Coordinator
Weiss at the launch of the *NJ Slow Down Move Over Campaign*. HFD along with many other fire companies who respond to NJ Interstate Highway and Toll Road incidents receive NJDFS training in Traffic Incident Management from the NJDFS Office of Fire Department Preparedness training program.

All Division vehicles will display the stickers as a reminder to yield to emergency response vehicles on all state roads.

The reminders are timely.

(Please see Page 6 of NJDFS Fire Focus)



LOCAL RADIO SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

A SALUTE TO TOWNSQUARE MEDIA AND WOBM-FM'S SHAWN MICHAELS FOR THEIR CONTINUING SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN SOUTH JERSEY.





EFFORTS SUCH AS TOWNSQUARE MEDIA'S HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR ONGOING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CHALLENGE.

THERE IS ADDITIONAL HELP FROM THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL.

GO TO NVFC.ORG TO OBTAIN MORE INFO.

JCU NJDFS MOU

The Fire Science Department at New Jersey City University (NJCU) and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety (NJDFS) have announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). NJCU now formally recognizes the level of training and education that firefighters receive while obtaining specific certifications issued by the NJDFS and will offer college credits for these certifications when firefighters pursue a degree in Fire Science at the university.

"NJCU is proud to partner with the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and provide a valuable opportunity for firefighting professionals to transfer in academic credits when they apply to NJCU's exceptional Fire Science program. Ranked #8 in the nation by BestColleges.com in 2020, NJCU's Fire Science Department has a long history of helping graduates advance in their career to officer and chief positions in the fire service."

"This MOU with New Jersey City University provides new opportunities for firefighting professionals across the state to earn their undergraduate degrees more quickly," says NJDFS Director Richard Mikutsky.

Firefighters who have completed one or more of several professional certifications, including but not

limited to Firefighter 1 or Fire Officer 2, may be eligible to transfer up to 15 credits when they enroll in the Bachelor of Science in Fire Science program at NJCU.

"Firefighting professionals across New Jersey working towards a Fire Science degree can now count on NJCU to help them achieve their dreams," said <u>Dr. Michael Edmondson</u>, Dean of NJCU's College of Professional Studies.



NJDFS Director and State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky joins JCU Dean Dr. Michael Edmondson (left) and staff at the formal MOU signing.

NJCU offers the only bachelor's degree in Fire Science in the state of New Jersey and is ranked as one of the top Fire Science programs in the nation by Best Colleges and Affordable Schools. Firefighting professionals interested in the program should clink the link below.

"We're also changing the game for our city, our communities, and

our state. As the educational anchor institution in Jersey City, we've established partnerships to ensure the area's growth directly benefits our students and community members. We seek to improve the lives of everyone in the Garden State, whether creating a home for the arts, bringing educational programs to K-12 students, offering bachelor's degrees in partnership with community colleges, or providing professional development opportunities for adults," said Dr. Edmondson.

SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER STUDY



The NHTSA is taking these actions to help states improve emergency responder roadside safety:

- Promote public awareness through marketing materials that states can use for their own traffic safety campaigns.
- Provide funding for public awareness activities related to emergency responder safety.
- Conduct research to enhance emergency responder safety, including studies on motorist behaviors that contribute to roadside incidents and technologies that protect first responders.
 - In addition, the Federal Highway Administration is working with a coordinated network of stakeholders to provide roadside safety training programs for emergency responders.



Click graphic for more local funding information.

STICKS AND STICKS?

High-rise construction is polarizing in U.S. cities, and faces several barriers. The cost of building towers is higher per square foot than for low-rise buildings; the carbon emissions from concrete- or steel-frame construction are environmentally hazardous; and a lot of urban dwellers just plain don't like towers. But tall buildings bring all kinds of benefits to cities, and a new construction style — vertical timber frame — could reduce at least some of their liabilities.



The International Code Council (ICC), a trade group which sets a "model" building code followed by many cities, now lauds wood-frame buildings of up to 18 stories constructed with cross-laminated timber (CLT). That stance may surprise some people since wood has traditionally been a less sturdy and more fire-prone material, seemingly unfit for verticality. But the cross-lamination process, in which wood pieces are compressed together and treated with chemicals, makes large wooden beams and columns structurally firm and fire-resistant.

(Editors note: This article originally appeared in "Governing Daily" an online publication delivered to regulators nationwide.)

Cross-lamination also provides several cost and environmental benefits over steel frame construction. Materials are preassembled at plants, rather than onsite. That drastically cuts labor costs and carrying costs, as buildings go up faster. And because wood releases less carbon, and can capture it, the buildings are more likely to be carbon-neutral.

CLT buildings, which have long been allowed in Asia, Europe and Canada, vary widely in height. One proposed project in Japan would rise 70 stories.

The <u>tallest</u> in America is now Portland's eightstory Carbon12 project, although it may soon be eclipsed by a 10-story tower in Cleveland. A project in Charlottesville, Va., at eight stories, will house the headquarters of the renewable energy



On June 14 2017, a fire broke out in the 24-story Grenfell Tower block of flats in North Kensington, West London. It caused 72 deaths, including those of two victims who later died in hospital

firm Apex Global Energy. More of these projects will surely arise as CLT production, which is now more common in Canada, becomes a staple offering of U.S. wood product firms.

But this scalability also depends on how amenable government regulators are to CLT. When the ICC voted to approve 18-story CLT construction, opposition came from the National Association of State Fire Marshals, who believe that there is not enough data to support the conclusion that CLT is safe.

The New York Times reported in 2019 that Carbon12 took two years to be approved, and CLT projects in New York City have been few, because the city has a 7-story height limit on wood buildings. The Apex tower in Charlottesville required a code amendment to proceed.



California's 2020 statewide building code approved wood high-rises, following the lead of the ICC. Interestingly, the state fire marshal praised the change, saying that the measure could help with forest management challenges by spurring the harvesting of some trees to build CLT. However, the state only authorized CLT buildings of up to 12 stories.

But the main barrier to CLT in most cities isn't any underlying debate about the safety of timber high-rises. It's the fact that height itself is restricted. Most U.S. cities cap building heights even in their downtowns, not to mention the many residential neighborhoods where only single-family housing is allowed. Washington, D.C., has forbidden high-rise buildings of more than about 14 stories in its downtown since the late 1890s, no matter what they are made of.

San Diego caps building heights at just three stories along much of its coastline; while its downtown area is height-restricted by the Federal Aviation Administration due to the nearby airport.

Numerous cities, including Boston and Madison, Wis., forbid construction that risks shadowing landmarks, while Philadelphia sticks a **38-foot** limit on many row houses.

So the first step to making high-rise timber construction more common is to remove the stigma — and the regulations against tall buildings overall. (Editor's italics)

The second is to recognize, as the ICC has, that timber-frame towers are no more perilous than concrete or steel ones. That way maybe crosslaminated timber can become popular, and cities can enjoy the benefits of high-rise urbanism in a more environmentally friendly way.

Further reading:

https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Dataresearch-and-tools/Building-and-Life-Safety/Fire-Safety-Challenges-of-Tall-Wood-Buildings-Phase-2

COVID STOPS POSTER CONTEST...AGAIN







June 1, 2021

Dear Poster Contest Participant:

First, upon the behalf of the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Service we wish to thank you for your participation in the 2019-2020 NJFPPA-NJDFS Fire Safety Poster Contest.

Unfortunately, due to the continuing effects of the pandemic, we were not able to conduct a fair competition among all 21 participating counties.

However, please know that your entry may be used in the production of the *NJFPPA-NJDFS Fire Safety Calendar* which will be published later this year, please contact your county coordinator should you wish to obtain a copy.

If you remain eligible, please consider submitting an entry to the 2020-2021 NJFPPA-NJDFS Fire Safety Poster Contest which will be open for entry in the fall.

Again, thank you for your time and effort, your contribution will go to raise awareness of fire safety and help us protect you, your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Rud Irlino

Rich Silvia President NJFPPA

Rul Meg

Richard Mikutsky Director New Jersey Division of Fire Safety State Fire Marshal The 2020-2021 NJFPPA-NJDFS Scholastic Fire Safety
Poster Contest has again been impacted by the Covid-19
pandemic. Officials hope that the 2021-2022 competition
will return to pre-pandemic levels of participation.

The few entries that were received may be featured in the NJFPPA-NJDFS Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest Calendar to be published later this year.





AI COMES TO FIREFIGHTING

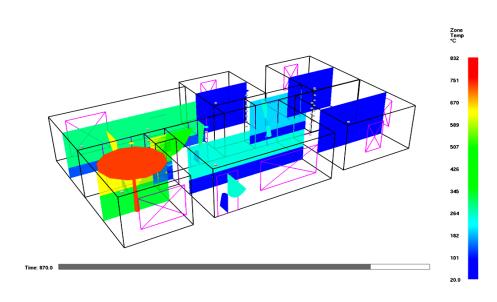
(From National Institute of Standards and Technology)



'Seeking to remove a major blind spot, researchers at the *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)* have developed P-Flash, or the Prediction Model for Flashover. The artificial-intelligence-powered tool was designed to predict and warn of a deadly phenomenon in burning buildings known as flashover, when flammable materials in a room ignite almost simultaneously, producing a blaze only limited in size by available oxygen. The tool's predictions are based on

temperature data from a building's heat detectors, and, remarkably, it is designed to operate even after heat detectors begin to fail, making do with the remaining devices."

READ MORE HERE



USFA RESIDENTIAL FIRE REPORT

If you are a career or volunteer chief, a county or local fire official the one report you should always have ready to share with the organization who funds your operations is the *USFA Residential Fire Report*.

In addition, you need to join *NJDFS FireStats* each week for important updates.
-SEE LINK BELOW-



CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT

These topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or firerelated topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

Findings

- Each year, an estimated 368,500 residential building fires were reported to fire departments within the United States from 2017 to 2019. These fires caused an estimated 2,770 deaths, 11,650 injuries and \$8.1 billion in property loss. From 2017 to 2019, 77% of all fire deaths and 75% of all fire injuries occurred in residential buildings.
- At 51%, cooking was the leading cause of residential building fires. Nearly all (93%) residential building cooking fires were small, confined fires.
- Residential building fire incidence was higher in the cooler months, peaking in lanuary at 10%.
- Residential building fires occurred most frequently in the early evening, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 to 8 p.m., when cooking fire incidence is high.
- Nonconfined residential building fires most often started in cooking areas and kitchens (21%).
- In 50% of nonconfined residential building fires, the fire extended beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires were unintentional or careless actions (21%), electrical malfunctions (14%), open flames (10%) and intentional actions (9%).
- The leading reported factor contributing to ignition category in nonconfined residential building fires was misuse of material or product (37%).
- Smoke alarms were not present in 21% of nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.
- Automatic extinguishing systems (AESs), including residential sprinklers, were present in only 5% of nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.

Adobe Connect Login (dhs.gov)

RETURN? SOME NEVER LEFT

New Jersey is opening back up and the firefighters, EMTs, and dispatchers of the NJFMBA could not be happier. While protecting our communities is our job, building the community is our passion, and that has been difficult over the past 15 months.

Like everyone, we were struck by the uncertainty that COVID-19 brought to the municipalities we serve. This was an uncertainty that extended across the state, nation, and around the globe.

Where would the next positive case

be, how would it impact that patient, what could we do to slow the spread? These were all realities our members faced on a daily basis.

While our job is synonymous with danger, the spread of a global pandemic, one that for a time seemed unstoppable, was different. There is never a routine call in our careers, and this became even more pronounced in the midst of mitigating through this hidden enemy.

Fire is Everyone's Fight "

We are trained to be the front line of defense to our great state and our members never waiver in that calling While New Jersey rightfully shut down, your firehouses, ambulance squads and dispatch centers did not.



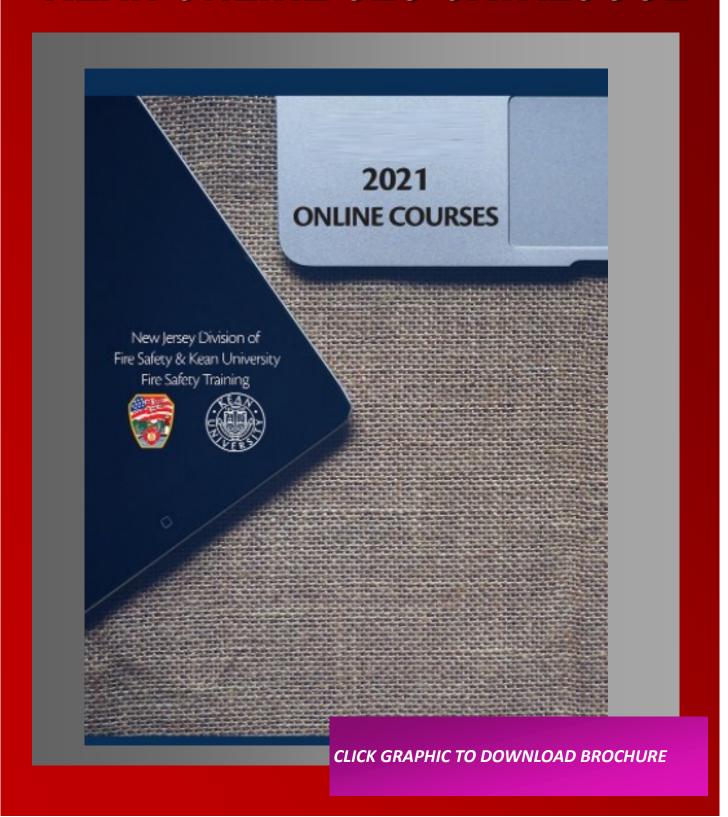
Our members reported to work each day, and responded to every alarm. In a strange way, I'll never forget the eerie sense of responding to emergencies on empty roads with only essential employees permitted out of their house. The members of the NJ FMBA thank all those who provided so much during the pandemic.

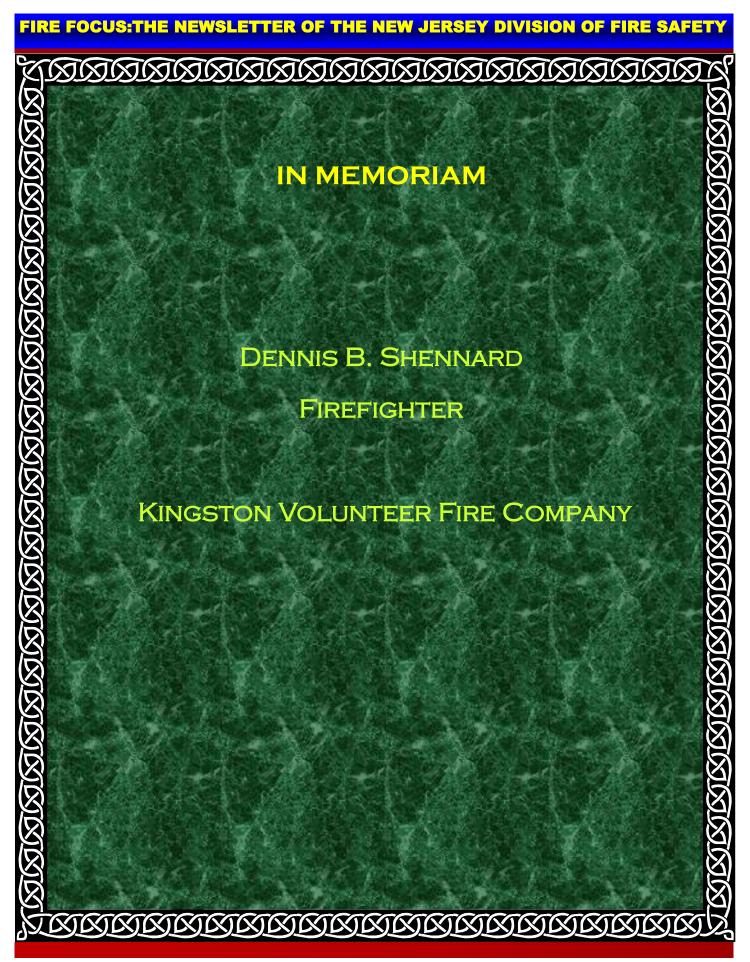
I am proud of all that New Jersey has done in one of the most challenging times of our existence. We have truly exemplified our resolve and tenacity and let us all continue to do our part as we open up our great State. Your first responders welcome it!

On behalf of the over 5,000 members of the NJ FMBA we say thank you for continuing to trust us to provide the service and protections you deserve.

(The preceding was written by Eddie Donnelly, President, Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) and appeared in **TAP into Union, Kathy Cryan, Editor).**

KEAN ONLINE CEU CATALOGUE







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

<u>Coronavirus: Make infection control a priority – U.S. Fire Administration</u> 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

<u>Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering</u>
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







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