

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  
Winter 2020

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety  
Volume 16 Issue 5

## 2021 NJ Fire Safety Calendar

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety / New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association



## IN THIS POSTING...

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association sponsored **Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest** suffered from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis had on all state operations.

Contest officials decided *not* to cancel the contest entirely as the crisis deepened, as the notion of conducting fire safety messaging especially for school age children confined at home for the most part was deemed as vital.

**POSTER CONTEST CALENDAR**

**JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER LAW**

**HOME SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES!**

**POST ESCAPE 'THE FIRE PSA' RIGHT NOW**

**SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER**

**FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR COVID**

# 2021 POSTER CONTEST CALENDAR

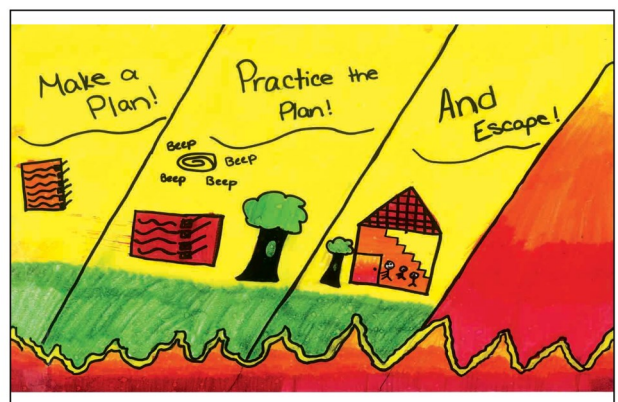
Weighing in on the decision to proceed was the annual **Fire Safety Poster Contest Calendar** which is produced from the entries submitted, typically featuring Contest division winners and runners up.

This year the calendar features a selection of *all* student artists who received participation certificates and its special acknowledgement of important fire safety dates.

The theme for this year's contest is the theme for **National Fire Prevention Week** "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen."

Students will be asked to create their own poster on that theme for the competition. Full Rules and Entry Forms as well as all 21 County Poster Coordinator contacts are located on the Division's homepage:

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dfs/>



Art by Addison Ortega  
Hannah Caldwell Elementary  
Union, New Jersey



Art by Brianna Poe  
Central Regional High School  
Bayville, New Jersey



Art by Rebecca Panchesino  
Cumberland County Tech.  
Vineland, New Jersey

**Fire Safety Program**  
Courtesy of the following Sponsors:



An Exelon Company



# LIVE TREE BURN EVENT 2020



New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Director and State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky, joins with National Fire Sprinkler Association New Jersey Chapter Executive Director Dave Kurasz, and New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Chairman Emeritus and newly confirmed Commissioner John Wisniewski, at the Monmouth Fire Academy recently, to demonstrate for the media and their viewers, the effectiveness of home sprinklers.

The pre holiday event accentuates the annual tragedy of home fires that can coincidentally result from an unattended Christmas tree. Failure to keep the tree watered and to examine both outlets and light strings can result in fire. Home fire experts agree the presence of sprinklers in the home is the most effective risk reduction strategy a homeowner can take.

View additional photos on the DCA Flickr photo bank below

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmSxJEMY>

# **JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER BILL PASSES**

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2899**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **PARKER SPACE**  
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)  
Assemblyman **CLINTON CALABRESE**  
District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **Wirths** and Assemblywoman **Dunn**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises law governing training and duties of Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary members.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

*(From New Jersey Dispatch)*

Assemblyman Parker Space (R-Sussex, Warren, Morris), along with his colleagues Senator Steve Oroho and Assemblyman Hal Wirths, announced Friday that bill S238, which revises the law governing the training and duties of Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary members, was enacted.

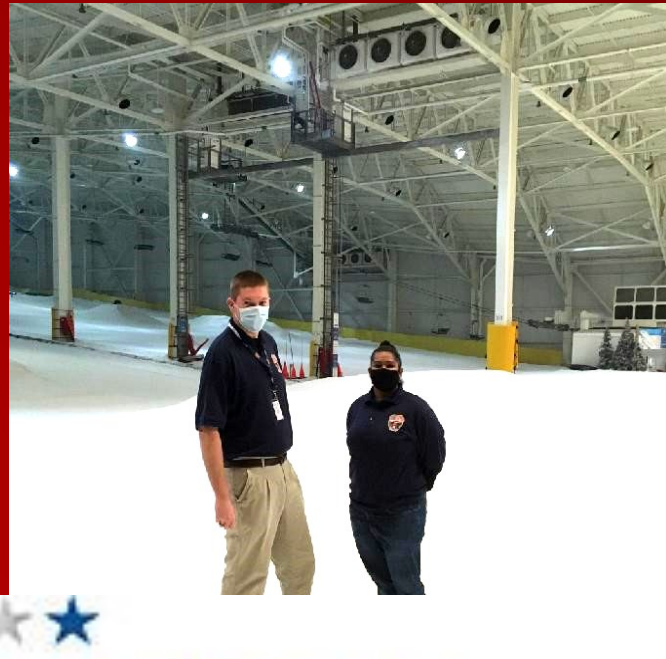
"Junior firefighters provide key support for the volunteer fire departments in our region," said Space, a third generation volunteer firefighter and former fire chief. "After meeting with constituents and fire professionals, Steve, Hal, and I realized the current law needed to be updated in order to continue to allow junior firefighters to be able to do the on-scene support and specific training they have done for many years. Fortunately our colleagues in the legislature were supportive as well."

# INTERNS GET NJDFS TOUR



The Division in cooperation with the Governor's office offers young people who may be interested in a career in fire code enforcement to "learn the ropes" by way of an internship program. The scope of the NJDFS Fire Code Enforcement effort includes all state facilities and a number of jurisdictions who cannot support full time code enforcement.

Recently, as part of the program Director and State Fire Marshal Rich Mikutsky joined Meadowlands Fire Department Fire Chief Kevin Meehan in welcoming NJDFS Intern Subanie Jaikaran and John Kemp all of whom briefly dropped their COVID masks for the commemorative photo.



NJDFS interns John and Subanie (above) pause briefly in the American Dream mall indoor ski slope during a tour of the American Dream Mall last fall.

**MORE INFO**

**[GOVERNOR MURPHY'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.](#)**

# **CLOSE YOUR DOOR PSA**

United Laboratories' (UL) "Close Your Door" campaign is one of the most effective home fire safety campaigns ever created. The premise is simple and can have a profound effect in the event of a fire in the home. Check out the website and for sure post-paste-promote the :30 second PSA below. (click image to view)



**YOU HAVE 3 MINUTES OR LESS  
TO ESCAPE A FIRE**

**CL**  **ISE**®  
**BEFORE YOU DOZE**

# **FIRESTAT VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

## **FIRESTAT**

[CLICK HERE](#)

### **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.



# **SLOW DOWN MOVE OVER**

**PROTECT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS.**

When you see lights flashing,  
move over or slow down.  
**IT'S THE LAW.**



NJDFS Office of Fire Department Preparedness is assisting fire departments with “driving” the average motorist to a greater awareness of the New Jersey “Slow Down Move Over” law. Statute 39:4-92-2, which will be what the ticket will read.

More Info: [Timothy.Weiss@dca.nj.gov](mailto:Timothy.Weiss@dca.nj.gov)





# NEW FF CANCER STUDY

*(from Rutgers Today)*

The Rutgers School of Public Health received a \$1.5 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to support cancer research for volunteer firefighters.

The funding will enhance research already being done in collaboration with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey as part of the Cancer Assessment and Prevention Study. The assessment and prevention study works with fire departments across the state to assess how to understand and prevent exposure to cancer-causing agents in New Jersey firefighters.



"With this Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, the Cancer Assessment and Prevention Study will engage with volunteer firefighters and stakeholders in New Jersey and nationally to address the knowledge gap in cancer causing exposures and risk factors among volunteer firefighters and inform cancer prevention strategies," said Judith Graber, an associate professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health and associate member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

The collaborative effort will try to better understand cancer risk factors and develop cancer prevention and risk reduction strategies for New Jersey volunteer firefighters.

Cancer – which causes illness, disability and premature death -- is a growing concern among firefighters who are routinely exposed to cancer causing agents in the line of duty.

Volunteer firefighters – who make up over 80 percent of New Jersey's 37,500 active duty firefighters – experience unique challenges and exposure, however most of the previous research on cancer in firefighters has been conducted among career firefighters.

The Cancer Assessment and Prevention Study will also provide firefighters with the opportunity to be part of the national Firefighters Cancer Cohort Study, which works with state and national partners to engage volunteer fire departments in research and disseminate their findings.



**RUTGERS** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

# **NJDFS GETS THE WORD OUT**

Under the guidance of Director and State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky the Division keeps the issue of fire safety in the forefront by pursuing a robust public information campaign to support its operational and regulatory goals.

July 16, 2020 - Division of Fire Safety Poster Contest Awards  
Congratulatory Certificates to New Jersey Students

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, July 16, 2020**



October 06, 2020 - New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Recognizes  
National Fire Prevention Week

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, October 06, 2020**



October 30, 2020 - New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Issues  
Reminder to Check Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Batteries  
During Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, November 1, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 30, 2020**



October 30, 2020 - NJ Division of Fire Safety Warns of Flooding  
Hazards Resulting from Tropical Storm Zeta

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 30, 2020**



# ANNUAL IMLR NOTICE

Department of Community Affairs



Office of the Director

**TO:** All Fire Departments  
**FROM:** Richard Mikutsky-Director / State Fire Marshal  
**DATE:** November 10,2020 Incident Management Level Requirements

As in year's past, the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety is notifying all fire departments of the minimum, mandatory incident management requirements for fire officers.

N.J.A.C. 5:73-1.6 states, that no person shall be promoted, assume or assigned (including elected) any fire service position, the duties of which include the management of emergency operations. Unless, that person has obtained, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.

In order to qualify for Incident Management Level 1 Certification, a person must meet the following requirements:

- Obtained Firefighter 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety;
- Have three years of documented experience in the fire service. (This means three years as a firefighter and does not include time spent in an Explorer or Junior Firefighter Program);
- Attended a 12 hour classroom based Basic Incident Management Course (I-200) offered or approved by the Division of Fire Safety.

A certification application must be submitted to receive the Incident Management Certification. This means that every fire officer, career and volunteer MUST have, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety. We have heard numerous times that some volunteer fire departments believe that these requirements do not apply to them. This is incorrect. Failure to comply may result in violations being issued to the fire company, municipality and the individual holding the office.

*Currently, ICS courses presented by NJDFS Instructors, (certified by NJDFS only) will only be acceptable within the fire service.*

*ICS courses presented by NJOEM Instructors, (certified by NJOEM) and registered with NJDFS will be acceptable within the fire service and the emergency management service.*

# ANNUAL IMLR NOTICE

## NIMS Requirements

In order to ensure compliance with NIMS, which may be required to receive Federal and/or State Homeland Security Grants, the Division of Fire Safety recommends the following:

### Fire Officer Requirements

- Entry Level First Responders, including but not limited to, firefighters, engineers, driver operators, fire police and support personnel; I-100 and IS-700.
- First Line Supervisors, including but not limited to, Lieutenants and Captains, Acting Lieutenants and Captains, Lead Dispatchers; I-200 and IS-700.
- Middle Managers, including but not limited to, Battalion Chiefs, Acting Battalion Chiefs; I-300 and IS-700. It is also recommended that IS-800, Introduction to the National Response Plan be completed. Completion of these courses and holding the prerequisite of Incident Management Level 1 Certification will qualify the individual for Incident Management Level 2 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.
- Command and General Staff, including but not limited to, the Chief of Department or Acting Chief of Department, the second in command such as Deputy Chiefs, Acting Deputy Chiefs or Assistant Chiefs and Acting Assistant Chiefs; I-400. It is also recommended that both the IS-800 and IS-701, Introduction to Multi-Agency Coordination Systems be completed. Completion of these courses and holding the prerequisite of Incident Management Level 2 Certification will qualify the individual for Incident Management Level 3 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.

Combination and volunteer departments need to determine how to comply with ICS when their certified officers are not available. This can be accomplished by determining what other members of your department may be asked to assume a command position and ensure that they have the proper level of training. Another way is to adopt SOG's or mutual aid agreements that address utilizing certified officers from other departments or county/regional Incident Management Teams.

However, simply attending the above listed courses does not qualify someone for all ICS positions. There are many position specific training programs that are available through the Division of Fire Safety or the Emergency Management Institute including, "Staging Area Manager", "Strike Team Leader", "Resource Unit Leader" and "Division/Group Supervisor" that provide detailed training in these areas leading to a better understanding of how ICS is designed to work.

In addition, the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) program has several safety and health standards that employers, (municipalities and fire districts) must comply with regardless of whether they are volunteers or career. These are contained in the Safety and Health Standards for Public Employers in N.J.A.C 12:100 and include the Standards for Firefighters at

# ANNUAL IMLR NOTICE

N.J.A.C 12:100 Subchapter 10. All PEOSH Standards including the PEOSH Act can be found at: [http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lsse/laws/peosha\\_law.html](http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lsse/laws/peosha_law.html).

Examples include the adoption of a respiratory protection program that stipulates how the employer will ensure compliance with an individual's ability to be medically cleared to wear a respirator; an annual respirator face piece fit test and a policy regarding facial hair when wearing a respirator. Another example includes the requirement that anyone who will be supervising an incident involving a hazardous substance above the awareness level needs to meet the requirements of On-Scene Incident Commander; and annual refresher training for blood borne pathogens, confined space and hazardous materials; as well as biannual Right-to-Know (RTK) training.

It is imperative that fire chiefs and municipal officials realize the responsibility they have to ensure compliance. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your regional fire coordinator directly or through the office at 609-292-4109. He will be happy to assist you in understanding how to ensure compliance. You may also contact Justin Baker, Assistant Chief of the PEOSH On-Site Consultation Unit at 609-292-2832 or at [Justin.baker@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:Justin.baker@dol.state.nj.us).

Lastly, the Division of Fire Safety offers various levels of Fire Officer Certification that not only meet current NFPA standards but have also been accredited by IFSAC and Pro-board. Fire Departments, Fire Districts and Municipalities should consider requiring these comprehensive certifications based on the specific officer levels within their department.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact the Office of Fire Department Preparedness at 609-633-6106.



# NFPA SEEKS CRR DATA

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) is seeking U.S.-based fire departments for the second phase of their Community Risk Assessment (CRA) dashboard project.

Much like Phase I, participating departments in Phase II will receive free access to a personalized NFPA CRA digital dashboard for three months in addition to professional networking and development opportunities surrounding Community Risk Reduction (CRR) in return for feedback about the tool. With user-friendly maps, graphs, and other tools that can assist leaders in recognizing the people, places, and conditions that impact safety and risk, the CRA Digital Dashboard can be used to:

- Assist teams in developing data informed CRR plans
- Communicate findings with stakeholders, grantors, and partners.

Drive effective and impactful program development in the prevention space. This new generation of customized dashboards has been updated to reflect the comments gained from current participants, and now feature two unique options that can better serve the needs of different communities. The new dashboard options will make it easier for even more communities to engage in the CRR process.



To support participation in the project, each applying fire department should be prepared to appoint a 3-person liaison team that comprises a CRR leader, the fire chief, and a third member who represents a community agency or provides additional fire department support and:

- Has basic knowledge about fire department data
- Is connected to the CRR efforts in the department and community
- Is willing to use the tool as part of a larger CRR plan
- Will provide feedback to the NFPA CRR team to assist in tool improvement
- Can meet additional data requirements, if interested in Dashboard B

Can be granted authority to serve in this role  
CRR is a data-driven process that helps leaders identify high risks to their communities, as well as strategic ways to prioritize and alleviate them.

[NFPA 1300, Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development](#) is the foundation for these customized dashboards, which are powered by mySidewalk, a creative Community Intelligence Platform specializing in digital data visualization. During this phase 250 fire departments will be accepted on a rolling basis until December 16, 2020.

Selections to fill the 250 slots will take place at three points during the application period, which closes on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The pilot will run through June 2021. More information and a link to apply is available at [nfpa.org/CRR](https://nfpa.org/CRR). For questions, email [CRR@nfpa.org](mailto:CRR@nfpa.org).



**NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE  
FEDERAL LEGISLATION**



**CFSI OFFERS FIREFIGHTERS FEDERAL HELP**

[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.*





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**Excellence in Public Safety**

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<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  
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<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>

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**Vincent Campagna** NFIRS Data  
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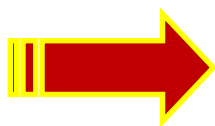
**COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION UNIT**

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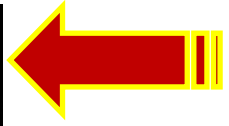
**Jerry Clark** Coordinator  
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**NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION**

**CHARLES LAVIN** 609-633-9722



**NEED VOLUNTEERS?** **CLICK GRAPHIC**  
**CLICK HERE FOR FREE RECRUITMENT TOOLS!** **NVFC** NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL



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

## BUREAU OF FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

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