



Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection



Andrew W. Neumann
State Fire Marshal

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Dear Friend:

Welcome to Michigan Fire Service Connection – the official e-newsletter of the Bureau of Fire Services. Each month we will be providing information to you including key program updates, issues, and articles of interest via email and our website.

To provide a comprehensive newsletter, this communication will encompass a team effort. Our goal is to focus on what we can do together, sharing information, resources, and energy to achieve our vision of a Fire Safe Michigan!

We encourage you to share your information by way of submitting short articles for this newsletter. We will rely on you to provide suggestions, photos of interest or information that will be useful to all of us involved in the fire service.

Please send all suggestions, article ideas, and feedback to Karen E. Towne at townek2@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Neumann
State Fire Marshal

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Fire Services is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire safe environment through inspections, plan review, enforcement, regulation, fire fighter training, data collection and public fire education.

Smoking, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Relates to Elevated Fire Deaths

All evidence points to the fact that people who abuse alcohol and other drugs are a growing high-risk fire group. Alcohol-impaired fire fatalities exhibit an age pattern that is quite the opposite of other fire fatality patterns in that the very young and old are not the higher risk. It is also noted that smoking combined with alcohol use, creates an even greater risk for fire injuries and fatalities. Studies have shown that more than half of all alcohol-impaired fire deaths were the result of fires caused by careless smoking. The United States Fire Administration reports that smokers consume more alcohol than do non-smokers, heavy drinking tends to be associated with heavy smoking, and a large majority of alcoholics are smokers.

The Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes is working to save lives and prevent injuries and devastation from cigarette-ignited fires. The Coalition is calling for manufacturers to **immediately** produce and market only cigarettes that adhere to an established fire safety performance standard, and is working to see that this standard is required in every state in the country. For more information, concerning legislation and this initiative, please visit www.firesafecigarettes.org



The National Fire Protection Association reports that cigarette-ignited fires are the leading cause of residential fire deaths. Each year in this country, 700 to 900 people die in cigarette-ignited fires.

One quarter of those people killed – often including children and the elderly – are not the smoker. So called "fire-safe" cigarettes are designed to self-extinguish if dropped or left unattended. They are less likely to ignite clothing, bedding, or other material.

Absent action by tobacco companies, NFPA and the Coalition coordinated a state-by-state campaign to encourage passage of fire-safe cigarette mandates. To date, 22 states have passed fire-safe cigarette mandates. In 2007 alone, 16 governors from all across the country signed legislation into law. Even states in the heart of tobacco country, such as Kentucky and North Carolina, have passed "fire-safe" cigarette laws. Legislators in many more states are poised to introduce similar bills in the next legislative session.

"Most people are aware that smoking is bad for the health of the smoker and for the health of people around the smoker, but one of the dangers that people often forget is the relationship between smoking and the potential for fire, especially when combined with alcohol," says Andrew W. Neumann, Michigan State Fire Marshal. "Careless smoking accounted for over 1,400 fires with 43 civilian injuries, 7 firefighter's injured and 5 deaths in Michigan during 2006".

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) supports the establishment of state ignition standards for cigarettes. To learn more about cigarette safety and ignition standards visit their web page at: www.firemarshals.org

"With today's technology many people are also looking towards taking advantage of residential sprinkler systems. These systems are designed to put the fire out before it can become a problem and is a relatively inexpensive way to provide an even greater safety environment for your family", adds Sate Fire Marshal Neumann.

Fire Safe Cigarettes in Michigan

Michigan is taking steps toward fire-safe cigarettes with the introduction of House Bills 5110 and 5111. In August of 2007, Representative Michael Sak introduced House Bill 5110 to create the Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act, which would restrict sales of cigarettes to only those meeting the standard for self-extinguishing cigarettes. House Bill 5111 would apply provisions of the Tobacco Tax Act specifically relating to inspections by Treasury officials, seizure of tobacco products and personal property connection to any violation of the Act. The bills are tie-barred, meaning neither would take effect unless both are enacted. Additional information regarding this or other pending legislation go to www.michiganlegislature.org.



NORTON SHORES (MI) FIRE DEPARTMENT AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ASSOCIATION TO BE HONORED AT NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DINNER:



Named Recipients of the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Safety Leadership Award

The Congressional Fire Services Institute and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have selected the City of Norton Shores (MI) Fire Department and the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association for the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Safety Leadership Award.

The awards will be presented at the 20th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner on April 3rd, in Washington DC. Named after retired-Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland, a strong advocate of our nation's firefighters and rescue personnel during his 36-year career in Congress, the award recognizes outstanding organizations for their contributions to firefighter health and safety. Both State Farm Insurance and VFIS serve as the corporate supporters of the award program.

With four stations and 13 full-time and 20 part-time firefighters, the Norton Shores Fire Department developed a fitness and wellness program to improve the fitness and wellbeing of its firefighters. It will require firefighters to pass an annual medical examination and physical-ability test in order to maintain their jobs. The program was developed by management and the local union and became part of the collective bargaining agreement. "The thing that stands out in this effort is the fact that these groups, which could easily have an adversarial relationship, pulled together to not only to solve a problem, but go far beyond that to create a program that has helped the entire Department achieve better health and fitness," said Representative Mary Valentine in her letter of support.

CFSI President Bill Jenaway and NFFF Chairman Dennis Compton issued a joint statement recognizing the two recipients for their achievements. "We are proud to be presenting this award to City of Norton Shores (MI) Fire Department and the Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association. Both distinguished themselves worthy of this honor through their total collaborative efforts, working closely with their counterparts from management and labor to create healthier environments for their firefighters. Changing cultures and attitudes is never an easy task, but these two organizations certainly serve as models as to how the fire service can bring about positive changes to daunting challenges. We would also like to acknowledge the many organizations

that sent to us outstanding nominations, demonstrating the progress being made on this important front."

For additional information about the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Award, please visit the CFSI and NFFF websites (www.cfsi.org and www.firehero.org).

For more information about the dinner and other events scheduled in conjunction with the dinner, visit the CFSI website at www.cfsi.org. The annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner benefits the mission of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, a nonprofit policy organization designed to educate members of Congress about fire and life safety issues

NFIRS NEWS

By Rhonda Howard
NFIRS Program Administrator



The National Fire Incident Reporting System enables participants to promote, support, and manage NFIRS data collection successfully. The collection, processing, analysis, and presentation of useful, timely, and accurate information about fire department activities is very important.

The Fire Incident Reports collected in Michigan are transferred to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). At the national level Michigan NFIRS data is used to compile the U.S. Fire Administration's annual publication "Fire In The United States," the most comprehensive reference on the nature and scope of the fire problem in the United States. Fire reporting plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities and economic losses from fire and related emergencies. Fire codes, public education and legislative actions are all driven by fire loss statistics. Complete and accurate data is essential to effective solutions to many of our fire problems.

In addition, reporting ensures Michigan fire departments continue to qualify for United States Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighter grants. Fire Departments that do not report are NOT eligible for Federal Grants and are in violation of the Michigan Fire Prevention Code 1941 PA 207, as amended.

For assistance or additional information regarding NFIRS contact Rhonda via email at howardr2@michigan.gov or call 517-241-0691



AFG APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS

The Department of Homeland Security Grant Programs Directorate is accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) until **5:00 p.m. EDT on April 4, 2008**. The AFG awards will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2008, ultimately totaling approximately \$500 million.

Eligible to apply are Emergency Services Sector (ESS) fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations operating in the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) notes that organizations may submit two separate applications for consideration under each of two programs, both of which enhance critical infrastructure assets. The Operations and Safety Program awards to fire departments and EMS organizations can be used for training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to facilities. Under the Vehicle Acquisition Program, eligible apparatus available to fire departments include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.

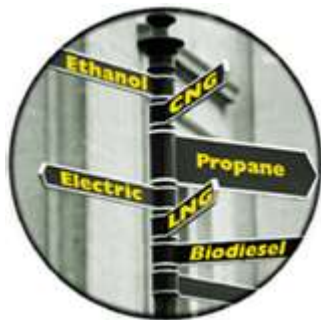
The FY 2008 AFG will also allow eligible applicants to submit an additional application for a regional project through which multiple organizations, serving more than one local jurisdiction, may benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

Interested applicants can access the current AFG application at (<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>). The AFG web site AFG includes FY 2008 funding priorities and program guidance, a web-based application process tutorial, frequently asked questions, and other materials. ESS personnel who have questions regarding the AFG program can call the Help Desk (1-866-274-0960) or e-mail firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, Help Desk hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST on Saturdays.

*Additional information is
available at Grants.gov
(<http://www.grants.gov>).*

Resources for Ethanol Fuel Incident Responses

By: EMR-ISAC



The increasing use of alternative fuels, such as ethanol blends, have the following consequences: tanker trucks and railcars that carry enormous quantities of the fuels are transporting them to areas of the U.S. not familiar with the products; tank farms that hold the products are appearing in many jurisdictions; and Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations are challenged to become aware of the hazards and behavior of the products and understand the training, equipment, and extinguishing agents necessary for safe and effective responses to alternative fuel incidents.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) examined a variety of resources that can aid departments in planning and preparedness to enhance response-ability and personnel protection. One is the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) formed in 2006 to address challenges first responders face in handling ethanol fires and spills. Last year, the EERC conducted live fire tests using differing types of foams on ethanol fuel fires with the objective of documenting which foams were most capable of controlling these fires.

(Response to Alternative Fuels – continued)

(Traditional non-alcohol resistant foams are not effective on ethanol or ethanol-blend fuel fires.) A description of the tests is available at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/e95_08_07.php, and an Executive Summary of the test results can be seen at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/eftr.php.

Experts who appear in a 19-minute video on responding to ethanol incidents urge ESS departments to assess the risks posed by storage and transport of the fuels at the community level. This is consistent with Step 4 of the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Process seen in the EMR-ISAC CIP Job Aid (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/cipc_jobaid.shtm). Experts stressed the need to inform personnel about appropriate equipment, extinguishing agents, and training. A training article is available at http://www.fireworld.com/ifw_articles/ethanol.php and video can be viewed at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6670886108506696117&hl=en>. Another resource is Missouri's Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin on Response to Ethanol and Gasoline Fuel Blend Releases, which explains the fuels and their properties, and offers measures for potential firefighting hazards, and spill or leak prevention guidelines (<https://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2206.pdf>).

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE RULES

By Michael Pachulski
Fire Bureau Supervisor, Grand Rapids

The ad hoc committee that was formed to develop recommendations for Health Care rules has completed its work. The next step is to follow the formal rulemaking process in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. The rules will be certified for legality and format following a public hearing with the State Fire Safety Board. They must then be presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules before they become final.

The National Fire Protection (NFPA) 101- Life Safety Code is a nationally recognized fire safety standard that is revised and published every 3 years. The new health care fire safety rules propose to adopt the 2006 LSC. This is a change from the current state rules that reference the 1997 LSC and the 2000 LSC used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Besides the obvious change that will require existing nursing homes to be provided with an automatic sprinkler system, many changes will be less stringent than prior editions.

Both the 2000 and 2006 LSC allow the use of Performance Based Options. Instead of requiring strict compliance with the code requirements, this option allows alternatives for life safety compliance. The proposed new rules also repeal a prior state amendment that prohibited the use of the Fire Safety Equivalency System (FSSES) in new construction. This revision allows latitude regarding strict code compliance when an equivalency can be documented. New for the 2006 LSC is Chapter 43 – Building Rehabilitation. This new chapter addresses rehabilitation in existing buildings and also allows latitude when projects deal with repair, renovation, modification and reconstruction. This chapter parallels the "Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings" and eliminates potential conflict between the codes.

The proposed new rules also eliminate many current state amendments that are more stringent than the adopted national standard. There was no documentation to verify that these more stringent

requirements provided a safer environment. These changes allow more options for business for daily operation and building design. By limiting the number of state amendments the enforcement of the code is more readily understood by business and also easier for the bureau to regulate.

Some of these changes include:

- Eliminate the requirement for new hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged to be provided with open able exterior windows. The elimination of this requirement will also assist architects during the design process as it interfered with creative design with proposals for atriums.
- New and existing facilities will be allowed the more liberal use of code exceptions as they apply to door louvers and door width.
- Eliminates the requirements for security key stations and security rounds in homes for the aged. The maintenance of these systems has always been problematic for these facilities.
- Staffing requirements for homes for the aged have been removed. The requirement which had only been applicable to this occupancy is a licensing requirement and does not belong in the fire safety rules.

These proposed rules will in some respects also be more restrictive than the current fire safety rules.

- Eliminates a MI amendment which in addition to permitted monitoring systems, allowed a designated staff member to be responsible to call the fire department to report an emergency. The current state amendment has been eliminated in order to meet the adopted national standard. For facilities that do not already have a monitoring system as allowed in the code, off site monitoring could add a monthly charge of up \$30.00.
- Fire reporting requirements have been clarified and the necessity for the applicable facility to also report the fire to the bureau has been added. Many small fires were never reported to the local fire department or to the bureau. The cause and origin investigation by the fire department can prevent future fires from occurring. The reporting of these fires to the bureau will provide statistical information for fire prevention as well as the bureau being able to guarantee that fire safety systems have been restored and are operable. This requirement should not cause any additional costs to the facility other than the time required to make the notification to the bureau. This reporting can be via telephone, email or other available resource. There is no required format that is necessary for the facility to complete.
- Existing nursing homes will be required to meet the national standard and be provided with a complete automatic sprinkler system. While this is a substantial change from the current fire safety rules, it is also less stringent than the national standard as these rules will allow a phase-in for sprinkler protection within 10 years of the adoption of these rules. This requirement is under advisement by CMS. The Federal Register has also proposed this same sprinkler requirement with a possible phase-in of 3, 5 or 10 years. It is expected that the federal requirement will occur prior to the 10-year phase-in addressed by the state rules. The American Health Care Association figures that it will cost the average size non sprinklered nursing home between \$205,000 and \$307,5000 depending on the cost per square feet. It is estimated that there is 1-non-sprinklered, 206 partial sprinklered and 222 fully sprinklered nursing homes in the state. It may be asked why this sprinkler requirement is only applicable to existing nursing homes and not also applicable to existing homes for the aged. Homes for the aged are considered limited care facilities and for the most part have a mobile population that is capable of self-preservation. All new health care facilities are required to be provided with complete sprinkler protection.
- Existing health care occupancies that are not provided with a complete automatic sprinkler system, or meet the code exceptions, are required to have smoke dampers in the ducts that penetrate a smoke barrier partition. The current state amendment has been eliminated to

meet the adopted national standard. A typical retrofit project that consisted of 2 dampers and the applicable fire alarm system work was estimated at approximately \$6,000.

- Existing facilities that have corridor doors without metal, labeled frames, and are not in a sprinklered smoke compartment, may have to replace existing door frames. An estimate to replace a typical door frame is estimated at \$700-\$750. This condition is believed to be very limited in existing health care occupancies.
- New Freestanding Surgical Outpatient Facilities (FSOF) may be required to be provided with an approved fire alarm system. The current state amendment has been eliminated to meet the adopted national standard. A fire alarm would only be required in FSOF where the building is 2 or more stories in height above the level of exit discharge, the occupancy is 50 or more occupants above or below the level of exit discharge, or the occupancy is subject to 300 or more total occupancy. If a fire alarm system is required it is estimated at \$5,000-\$6,000.

Currently there are no promulgated rules for hospice facilities. These new rules will fill a void as state licensing rules require a fire safety inspection and approval. Facilities that apply for state licensure also apply for entry into the CMS program. These rules are substantially the same and should not cause any hardship for hospice facilities.

Outside of homes for the aged, the remaining state licensed health care occupancies also participate in the CMS program and are subject to regular or random inspection to the 2000 LSC. CMS is also reviewing the 2006 LSC for possible adoption. With the elimination of more stringent state amendments, the proposed state health care fire safety rules are more in line with CMS. This should eliminate many of the current conflicts between the agencies and their respective rules.

STAFFING AT THE BUREAU

Each edition of the Fire Service Connection will include an overview of individual Bureau staff responsibilities and contact information.

BreeAnn Hooker of the Office of Fire Fighter Training handles several responsibilities within the Bureau including shipping and handling of training materials our instructors and course managers need to provide training and testing of Michigan's Fire Fighters. Bree is also responsible for processing Michigan's Certified Fire Inspector program.



This certification program utilizes the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Inspector I certification process to certify fire inspectors in Michigan. It is designed to certify those individuals to conduct fire safety inspections on behalf of the Bureau of Fire Services, in state regulated facilities pursuant to Public Act 207 of 1941, as amended, the Michigan Fire Prevention Code. Please note that this program does not prohibit a city, village or township from employing persons who are not state certified as fire inspectors to conduct fire inspections under the locally adopted code.



Click on the following link to obtain a State Certified Fire Inspector Application (BFS-997). http://www.michigan.gov/documents/BFS_dleg_bccfs_scfirein_165676_7.pdf
Requirements are outlined on the application.

Certified Fire Inspectors Continuing Education Program Approval Application (BFS-1054) can be obtained by visiting http://www.michigan.gov/documents/BFS_dleg_bccfs_cfi_cont_ed_progapp_165675_7.pdf. Instructions are outlined on the application.

To find out more information on the Fire Inspector I programs taking place around the State, if you have questions regarding either application process, or would like information regarding your Continuing Education Credits status, BreeAnn Hooker can be reached at 517.241.0686 or via email at hookerb@michigan.gov.

RETIREMENT AT THE BUREAU

Region Supervisor Deward Beeler retired February 8, 2008. Deward decided to hang up his boots to spend more time with his wife Rica and their wonderful family. Although we are happy for Deward, his retirement will leave a big hole at the Office of Fire Fighter Training. Those who had the pleasure of working with Deward recognized his true dedication to the fire service. He taught courses that range from the Firefighter I program to the Fire Officer courses. Deward particularly enjoyed instructing the Educational Methodology and Instructor Orientation courses because he had a direct influence on future instructors.

Deward was recognized as the Fire Instructor of the Year by the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association a few years back. His unfaltering desire to improve the training of firefighters statewide will always be part of his legacy. Deward has worn many hats over his fire career, everything from fire apparatus salesman to firefighter on the Tri Township Fire Department in Saginaw County.

Deward was called upon on numerous occasions to give a historical perspective and a suggestion for common sense solutions. His knowledge of past policies and practices was a resource that was unequaled in value to our operation. Staff members will miss his unwavering desire to help them through problems and issues unique to our operation. Although Deward has retired, he has been informed that we will keep his phone number close and consult with him often. If you would like to express your thanks and wish him the best contact him at taylorlake@sbcglobal.net

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

By Brigadier General Mike McDaniel
Michigan Homeland Security Advisor
Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security
Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



The FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) guidance and application kit was released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Friday, February 1. The guidance details how states and qualified urban areas can apply for funds under the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), Citizen Corps Program (CCP), and Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). The HSGP is a competitive grant program that invites states and territories to apply for funding by submitting detailed investment justifications describing plans for funding, if received. The goal of the grant is to strengthen homeland security capabilities in states and urban areas, preparing them to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks.

The grant contains some significant changes from the FY07 HSGP due to requirements laid out in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enacted in August 2007. Some of these important changes include: the elimination of the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) grant; a requirement to spend 25% of SHSP and UASI funding on law enforcement terrorism prevention activities; and a requirement to spend 25% of all grant funding (SHSP, UASI, CCP, and MMRS) on preparedness planning and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) deterrence, prevention, and protection capabilities. These are just a few of the changes encountered with the new grant guidance.

Homeland Security Grant Update (continued)

In FY08, a total of \$1,698,959,000 is available for states and urban areas through the four grant programs. The State of Michigan will be competing for \$862,925,000 under SHSP to benefit homeland security programs statewide. The Southeast Michigan Urban Area will be competing against 52 other Tier II urban areas for \$351,733,500 of UASI funds. While this UASI amount represents approximately a \$15.6 million increase in the funding available for Tier II UASI, there are also fourteen more eligible urban areas for FY08 over FY07, making the process more competitive. The CCP and MMRS in Michigan have a set allocation of \$399,492 and \$963,663 respectively.

Currently, Michigan is in the process of developing its investment justification. States are allowed to submit between one and 15 investments. The State has formed an Investment Justification Committee that worked to develop the investment areas. Now, a team of technical writers, in conjunction with various subject matter experts, are working to develop investment justifications in a variety of subject areas, such as interoperable communications and the international border security. The Southeast Michigan urban area is also currently working to develop the UASI Investment Justification application. All Investment Justifications within the state will be submitted to DHS prior to the May 1, 2008 deadline. DHS will then conduct a peer review session to review the applications and determine effectiveness scores for each application. Each state and urban area also receives a risk score based on the threat, vulnerability, and consequence of terrorist attacks to the region. Each states' and urban areas' effectiveness score is combined with their respective risk score to determine the allocations. Allocations are expected to be released this summer.

Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Update

In July 2007, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant. The approximately \$1 billion of grant funding comes from the auction of the reallocated public safety spectrum. The goals of the PSIC grant are to achieve improvements in public safety interoperable communications capabilities and fill interoperability gaps identified in the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Additionally, applications were required to demonstrate spectrum efficiency, cost-effectiveness, advanced technological solutions, and improving communication in areas of high risk for natural disasters and urban areas at high risk for threats of terrorism. In addition to these priorities, all states needed to dedicate a specified amount of funding towards establishing a strategic technology reserve (STR), which consisted of pre-positioning or securing interoperable communications in advance for immediate deployment in an emergency.

Each state was provided a predetermined allocation amount for which they developed investment justifications. Michigan's allocation was \$25,039,781 of which approximately \$1.9 million was required to be used towards the STR. Of the roughly \$23 million remaining, 80% is required to be passed on to local jurisdictions to fund multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional projects. The PSIC grant requires state and local agencies to provide a \$1 non-federal match for each \$4 of federal funding requested, with the exception of training and planning costs. Michigan submitted an investment justification application containing six investments by the December 3, 2007 deadline. Of the six investments, three were regional in scope, two were state level, and one (per requirements of the grant) was dedicated to the establishment of the STR. Investment projects included, but were not limited to: an upgrade to the state Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), additions of users to the MPSCS, various voice and data interoperability enhancements, and consolidation of dispatch centers. All investments involved increasing interoperability between public safety agencies within the State, including fire.

Following submission of the grant application, all applications were reviewed by peer reviewers from around the nation to ensure adherence to grant guidelines and that gaps outlined in the SCIP were addressed. Peer review panels completed their review in mid-February, and grant results are expected to be released at the end of March. The results will determine whether the State will need to provide additional information regarding the projects detailed within the investment or regarding information provided in the SCIP. If additional information is required, the state will have 30 days from the date of notification to respond. Upon final approval of the application, the state will be able to proceed with completion of the grant projects.

Michigan's Training Coordinators

By Joe Grutza

Director, Office of Fire Fighter Training

Michigan is able to offer 19 Training Coordinators through the Office of Fire Fighter Training who are critical to our statewide team. As our representatives in the field, they conduct instructor evaluations and proctor our fire fighter exams. We have recently undergone changes in our regions and have three new Training Coordinators.

Regional coordinators (continued)

Genesee County has been moved to Region 2. It will be covered by Raymond Wlosinski from Garden City. Ray is a Captain/Shift Commander with the Garden City Fire Department and serves as the department's training officer. He is also an academic instructor at the fire academy at Schoolcraft Community College. Ray brings more than 20 years of fire service experience and 10 years of teaching to our training coordinator team.

Allegan, Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties in the northwestern part of Region 2 will be covered by Lieutenant Rick VanHorn of the Plainfield Township Fire Department. Lt. VanHorn is a 24-year veteran of the fire service and is currently a member of the executive board of the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association. Along with his position with Plainfield Township, he has served as interim fire chief in Rockford and has been an OFFT instructor for 11 years.

Roger L. Davis, a retired career paramedic lieutenant from the Waterford Township Fire Department, will cover Bay, Huron, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. Roger currently works part-time as a paramedic and fire inspector for the Groveland Township Fire Department in addition to being a paid on-call fire fighter for Atlas Township. He is an active instructor in the Genesee County Fire Academies as well as the Fire Fighter 1 and 2 program in Groveland Township.

TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING!

Training Coordinator Dick Barnett has served as a Training Coordinator for the BFS/OFFT for 20 years in a seven county area, stretching from Frankfort to north of the Mackinac Bridge. He served with the East Jordan Fire department for 29 years, the last 15 as chief. Dick has been a fire instructor for over 30 years and was a founding member of the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, of which he is past president. Dick's commitment to training has been demonstrated by his being an instructor in over 150 courses over his career. He is a shining example of the high standards our Training Coordinators possess, and he is a great asset to Michigan's Fire Service.

WILDLAND FIRE SEASON APPROACHING

By Paul Kollmeyer
Forest and Mineral Fire Management Program Coordinator for
Law Enforcement & Fire Prevention
Cadillac Operations Service Center
Department of Natural Resources

While preparing for the 2008 wildfire season it is worth a look back at an active and memorable 2007 wildfire season that saw more than 20,000 acres burn in Michigan. The Department of Natural Resources logged 401 wildland fires last season including the Sleeper Lake Fire in Luce County, which was the largest wildfire in Michigan since 1980.

The 18,185-acre Sleeper Lake Fire began with a lightning strike on Aug. 2 and spread rapidly resulting in evacuations and mobilization of firefighting resources from across Michigan and the eastern United States. At its peak, there were 340 people assigned from the DNR and other agencies to fight the blaze in a swampy, remote area of Luce County seven miles north of the town of

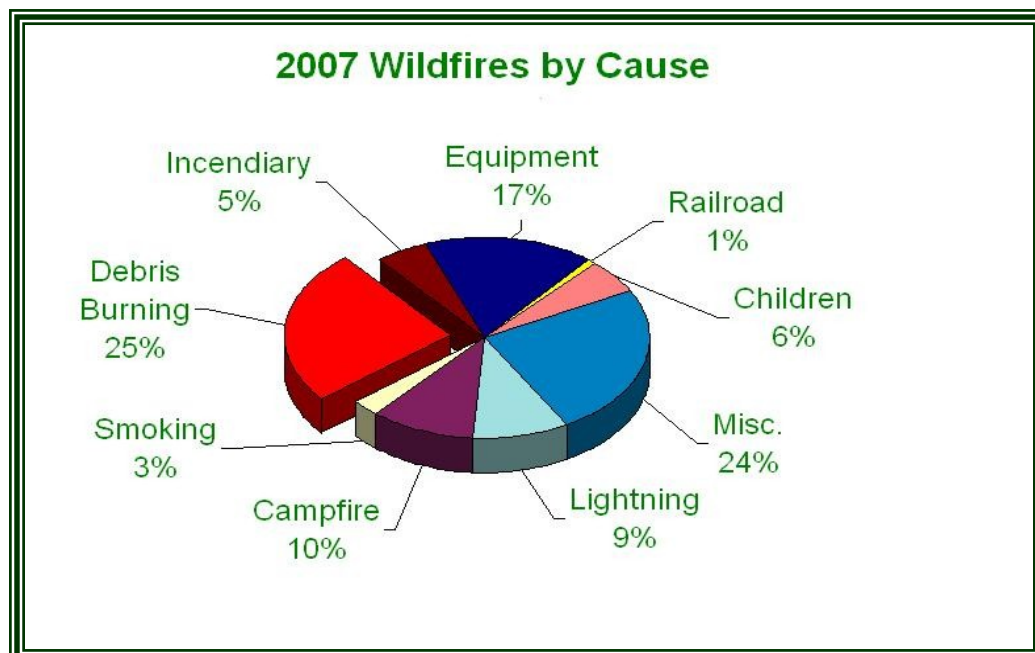
Newberry. Agencies responding to the fire included the DNR, Michigan National Guard, Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Corrections and the State Fire Marshal. Natural resource agencies from several states included Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Connecticut and Illinois. Federal cooperators responded from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and National Weather Service. Local responders and volunteer groups included the Nature Conservancy, Eastern U.P. Search and Rescue, Salvation Army, Michigan Red Cross and 21 Michigan fire departments,

Air suppression resources included six Camp Grayling National Guard helicopters with buckets, one U.S. Forest Service helicopter with a bucket, two water scooping air tankers from Minnesota and one helicopter outfitted for aerial ignition from Ontario. The total cost for suppressing the Sleeper Lake Fire was close to \$7.5 million.

Persistent drought conditions throughout the state during the summer along with numerous resources being committed to the Sleeper Lake Fire created a threat that other fires could become large and complex. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm responded to this threat by issuing a proclamation to prohibit outdoor fires and smoking in forested areas. Her actions, combined with a media campaign regarding safe burning and restrictions on burn permits during hazardous times of the season, helped to greatly reduce the number of negligently caused fires.

Unlike the lightning caused Sleeper Lake Fire, 91 % of the 2007 fires could possibly have been prevented by taking proper precautionary measures, When you consider the price tag for combating a fire, preventing them is far safer, cheaper and easier than fighting them. Everyone can help reduce costs for local, state and federal units of government by simply being more cautious with fire. Statistics reveal that a quarter of last seasons fires were escaped debris burning fires. This has been the number one cause of wildfires in Michigan for the past several decades. It is hoped that increased awareness this year will reduce negligently caused wildfires making for a safe 2008 fire season.

For additional information about Wildland Fires go to: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_30816---,00.html



CIGARETTES AND FIRE SAFETY

Fires are predictable, preventable occurrences. Michigan citizens have control of their fire safety by:

- Making sure their homes are equipped with working smoke alarms and testing those alarms at least monthly
- Providing a deep-dish ashtray with a solid base, never allowing it to rest on the arm of upholstered furniture
- Dousing cigarettes or ashtray contents with water before disposing of them in the trash
- Being especially careful if alcohol or other drugs are also being used while smoking
- Never smoking in bed or allowing other family members or guests in your home to smoke in bed

For additional information about the Bureau of Fire Services go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271---,00.html

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