



June 2008

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS FIRE/EMS SAFETY HEALTH AND SURVIVAL WEEK **June 22-28, 2008** *Committed to Long-Term Results*

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed June 22-28, 2008 Michigan Fire/EMS Safety Week. The goal of Fire/EMS Safety Health and Survival Week is to support and encourage long-term investment enhancing firefighter's health and safety.

"Michigan's firefighters put their lives on the line every day to keep citizens safe," said Governor Granholm. "The importance of investing in the health and wellness of our fire service will allow them to do their job in ways that protect them, while they are protecting us."

Three important pieces will encourage a safety culture in every Fire Department in Michigan:

- implementation of national standards related to personal protective equipment
- implementation of the International Association of Firefighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs Wellness-Fitness Initiative
- initiatives for emergency vehicle procedures

For additional information regarding the 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health, & Survival Week click on www.iafc.org/safetyweek.

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, firefighter training, data collection and public fire education.

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**FIRE/EMS HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK
CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor**

Whereas, Safety Week, formerly known as Safety Stand Down, provides an opportunity for Michigan's First Responders to focus on the health, safety and survival of first response personnel; and,

Whereas, The safety of our first responders is significant all year round, and Safety Week provides a time to focus on issues that affect fire/EMS personnel and their family and friends every day; and,

Whereas, It is necessary to review safety policies, evaluate progress of existing programs and discuss department health and fitness; and,

Whereas, It is imperative, for the life and safety of our first responders, to correct any program areas, and provide training to ensure our first responders are prepared for any type of emergency situation; and,

Whereas, the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union and the International Association of Fire Fighters work to support fire fighter health and safety each and every day; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of June 22, 2008, as Fire/EMS Health and Safety Week in Michigan.



Homeland
Security

First Responder Hot Weather Preparedness

By EMR-ISAC

Intense summer heat can diminish the effectiveness of individual Emergency First Responders. The potential for degraded organizational effectiveness caused by intense summer heat. Accepting this fact, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) acknowledges that incident scene emergency responder rehabilitation (rehab) is imperative, but never more so than during periods of hot weather.

As high temperatures and excessive humidity affect the nation, one question that challenges Emergency Services Sector (ESS) leaders is when to halt training exercises. A recent FireRescue1 article discusses how an ESS department took steps to increase safety during hot-weather training. One criterion established for future training was to monitor “humiture” (i.e., a combined measurement of temperature and humidity) to determine when to suspend training activities. The department also examined NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions seen at: http://www.nfpa.org/freecodes/free_access_agreement.asp?id=140307.

According to the article, “Firefighter Safety during Extreme Hot Weather,” the department ruled that because there are times when responders must go out into heat to perform various duties, proactive and aggressive rehabilitation policies had to be enforced. Some recommended rehab processes from various sources include the following:

- Require medical personnel with a transport unit to be on site throughout training evolutions.
- Create shaded areas with tents.
- Provide electrolyte sports drinks and bottled water.
- Set up limb immersion chairs under tents and provide cool towels.
- Monitor temperature and relative humidity continuously.
- Provide medical monitoring of participating personnel, and emergency medical treatment in accordance with local protocol.
- Ensure personnel accountability.
- Enforce work-to-rest ratios.

The article can be seen at <http://www.firerescue1.com/firerehab/articles/402316-Firefighter-Safety-During-Extreme-Hot-Weather-Part-2>. A ready-to-use rehabilitation guideline training aid (29-slide PowerPoint presentation) is available at <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/RehabShowFinal.ppt>. (It will require some download time.) The 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency/U.S. Fire Administration document, “Emergency Incident Rehabilitation,” (5.63 MB, 174 pp.) can be downloaded at https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_314.pdf.



SAVE THE DATE

***Michigan Fire Inspectors Society Fall Conference
September 9-12, 2008
Kellogg Center – Michigan State University***



SAFETY ADVISORY

Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program



Improper Set-up of Aerial Ladders with a Locking Waterway May Put Fire Fighters at Risk

NIOSH recommends that all fire departments utilizing aerial ladder trucks with locking (pin-anchored, lever actuated, clamped) waterways immediately take the following actions to reduce the risk of fire fighters being struck by unsecured waterways or parts of the waterway:

- **Ensure that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and/or Guidelines (SOGs) on setting up multi-position waterways include steps to properly position the waterway and to inspect and verify that the locking mechanism (anchoring pin(s), lever, clamps, etc.) are properly installed and functioning as designed before pressurizing the waterway.**
- **Properly train and practice the correct method of securing waterways and verifying they are secured (per manufacturer's recommendations).**

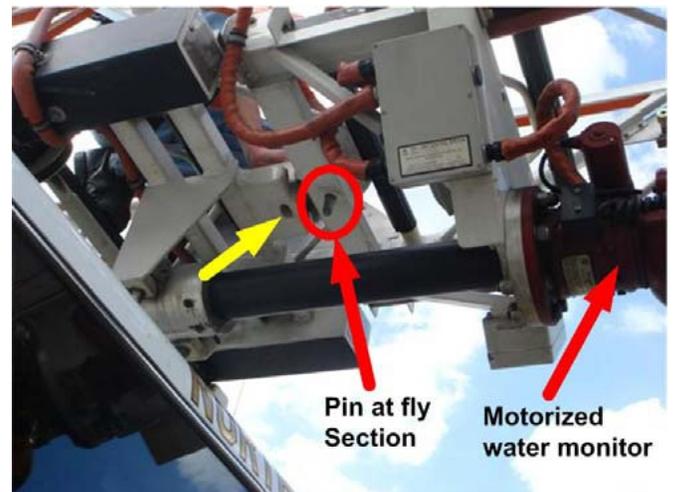


Photo 1 - A properly seated pin at the fly section for defensive water stream operations is highlighted in the red circle. The hole behind it (yellow arrow) shows the location where the pin would be inserted (from the top) to keep the monitor assembly back at the second ladder section for rescue mode. **NOTE:** Various methods are used throughout the fire apparatus industry to secure the waterway: this picture represents a pin-anchored waterway design.

NIOSH is currently investigating an April 8, 2008 fire fighter line-of-duty-death that illustrates that adhering to manufacturer recommended set-up procedures for aerial ladder operations is paramount to ensuring fire fighter safety. Preliminary findings in this investigation suggest that some equipment designs do not provide secondary stops for the waterway on aerial ladders. **Thus, failure to properly secure the waterway in the proper position can lead to catastrophic waterway failure and possible serious or fatal injury to fire fighters working in the area.** The pin-anchored waterway design involved in this particular investigation is not limited to a single model or apparatus manufacturer. NIOSH is aware of at least seven similar incidents that occurred in Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia and Ontario without serious injury. Newer aerial ladder trucks may incorporate different types of anchoring mechanisms and/or a more fail-safe design but proper set up still needs to be verified before operation.

Circumstances of incident under investigation by NIOSH

On April 8, 2008, a volunteer deputy fire chief (the incident commander), was killed when struck by a motorized water monitor and 30 feet of aluminum pipe that was “launched” off an elevated aerial ladder at a fire at an industrial manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania. The truck was normally transported in the “rescue mode” with the monitor pinned to the second section of ladder so that the waterway would not be in the way if the ladder was set up for rescue operations. At the incident scene, when the waterway was pressurized, the monitor and its support bracket, along with the last 30-foot section of pipe were “launched” off the aerial ladder by the force of the water pressure in the pipe. The monitor flew approximately 75 feet and fell, striking the incident commander on the head, killing him instantly. After the incident, the anchor pin was found on the ground, in front of the truck’s cab. The waterway did not include any secondary mechanical stops to prevent the separation of the water monitor in the event the anchoring pin was not properly seated. The NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program is currently investigating this incident and a full report will be available at a later date.

NIOSH would like to bring this information to the attention of all U.S. fire departments and fire fighters who operate or work around aerial ladder trucks with locking (pin-anchored, lever actuated, clamped) waterways so that future occurrences of waterway monitor “launches” or the unexpected movement of the waterway monitor can be prevented. If secondary mechanical stops are present, the unexpected impact of the waterway monitor against the mechanical stop could cause structural damage to the aerial ladder and jeopardize the safety of any fire fighter standing on the aerial ladder. While not a contributing factor in the fatal incident, NIOSH reminds fire departments to comply with relevant federal regulations and NFPA standards for fire apparatus inspections and certification.



Photo 2 – Aerial ladder with monitor at tip



Photo 3 – anchoring pin



Photo 4 – Monitor and pipe that “launched”



Photo 5 – The receiver assembly where the pin is inserted

The **NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program** is conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The purpose of the program is to investigate fire fighter line-of-duty-deaths and formulate recommendations for preventing future deaths and injuries. The program does not seek to determine fault or place blame on fire departments or individual fire fighters but to learn from these tragic events and prevent future similar events. For more information, visit the program website at www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**.

Fire/EMS Safety, Health, and Survival Week
Committed to Long-Term Results
June 22-28, 2008



Safety Week, formerly known as Safety Stand Down, is an opportunity for departments throughout Michigan to focus on the health, safety, and survival of first response personnel. Although these are significant issues all year, Safety Week is a time to focus on issues that affect fire/EMS personnel and their family and friends every day. It is your time to review safety policies, evaluate progress of existing programs and discuss departmental health and fitness. Michigan's First Responders should take this opportunity to adjust any problem areas and provide training.

The 2008 theme, *Committed to Long-Term Results*, encourages long-term investments by the Fire Service to enhance their health and safety ensuring a culture of health and safety. Additional information and resources, visit www.iafc.org/safetyWeek.

Safety Week is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters and coordinated by the [IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section](#).

INSTRUCTOR UPDATES

By Gary Crum
Office of Fire Fighter Training (OFFT)

Experience at Its Best

Juan "Pete" Zamora is a training coordinator with the Office of Fire Fighter Training and is responsible for covering Clinton, Ingham, Jackson, and Hillsdale counties. He accepted this position in 2002 and has been very active since conducting probationary instructor evaluations and proctoring firefighter examinations. Pete came up through the ranks of the East Lansing Fire Department and retired as its Deputy Fire Chief. Pete served as an EMT, fire inspector and fire investigator while employed with the fire department. He enjoys staying

busy both inside and outside of the fire service and has quite a track record for being active. He is a Fire Academy instructor with Lansing Community College and has an impressive list of courses he has taught since becoming a certified fire instructor. In addition to instructing students new to the fire service, Pete is committed to the development of future leaders within the fire service. He instructs the Company Officer program, along with courses that are required for future fire instructors. When not instructing or testing firefighters, Pete is the boy's freshman basketball coach at the Leslie High School and is the Mayor Pro-Tem on the Leslie City Council. He also serves as a trustee for the Leslie Area Educational Foundation. Pete is married to Leslie and has three grown children and two grandsons. Pete's philosophy is that if you take shortcuts in training you are setting up the student for failure, along with the real chance of serious injury or death. His dedication to both the OFFT and the fire service is greatly appreciated and admired.

Record Keeping

Understanding that our fire instructors are sometimes overwhelmed with work at the firehouse, things can "slip through the cracks". During the past few years we have seen this increase and remind our instructors of the following:

- Every course MUST have a *BFS-250 Instructor Activity & Payment* form submitted with the final course paperwork, whether it is funded or unfunded. This form is used for both payment processing and giving instructors CEC's, which is needed to maintain your certified instructor status. Failure to include this form will delay the processing of the course until it is received.
- ALL final course paperwork must be sent directly to Lansing and not to the region supervisor.
- Student Rosters should no longer have the students' Social Security number included. Due to security concerns, only the exam answer sheets, the Instructor Activity & Payment form and Probationary Instructor applications require the Social Security number. It is the hope of the Bureau of Fire Services that the SSN will be replaced by a new PIN system in the near future. We would like to stress that SSNs are guarded very closely and we are working diligently to protect them from identity theft.
- The majority of our Firefighter I; II; I/II courses are now nearing completion. Please remember that your Exam Request (BFS-230) must be mailed or faxed to the Lansing office six weeks prior to the scheduled exam. Timely submission is greatly appreciated by staff.

Probationary Instructors

Over the past few months there have been over 260 individuals who have attended the Instructor Orientation course throughout the state. The vast majority had already taken the Educational Methodology course, and when coupled with the Instructor Orientation course, fulfills the prerequisite courses needed to apply for probationary instructor. We are pleased to see this large turnout statewide and feel that this is a big step to insure adequate fire instructors in Michigan.

Fire Prevention 101

By: Michael O'Brian
Fire Marshal, Brighton Area Fire Authority



The fire service is determined to beat the fire problem in the United States. The public looks to us to be the expert in issues that relate to fire concerns. We have a great asset in our responding crews and can be the biggest advocate in making sure every home has working smoke alarms.

Think about all of the medical runs and services calls a fire department will go on in a given year. What if every person on the crew observed the conditions in the home and made sure to test the smoke alarms before they leave the scene. For instance, Engine-31 is dispatched to assist EMS on a medical emergency. The engine responds and assists EMS in performing medical care. The patient is loaded into the ambulance and the EMS crew transports the patient to the hospital. The engine crew works to secure their equipment and gives directions to the spouse on how to get to the hospital. This scene plays out thousands of times in a day. What if we expand the response and the driver of E-31 decides to evaluate the surroundings? After the patient has been loaded the driver of the engine decides to test the smoke alarms in the home and finds that they are missing a battery. The driver then goes back to the apparatus, grabs a spare battery, and places a new battery into the smoke alarm.

This simple, five-minute check has possibly saved the lives of that family. Think about the number of smoke alarms that can be evaluated during a given day if every fire apparatus did that simple check. Although this is only one aspect, there are many others that affect the installation of smoke alarms.

The Michigan Building Code requires smoke alarms to be installed in all new homes. The smoke alarms are required to be installed:

- On every floor,
- Outside every sleeping area, and
- In each sleeping room (bedrooms).

In new construction the smoke alarms will be hard-wired (receives power 110v wiring) with battery back-up. The smoke alarm is also interconnected which means that when one smoke alarm goes off they all do.

These are the requirements for new construction, what about existing buildings? Existing buildings have different requirements based on the adopted building and fire codes. Lets just make this simple, if there is home it must have smoke alarms. If they are not hard-wired, then a battery-powered alarm must be installed. Companies are now making available

wireless smoke alarms so older homes with battery back-up smoke alarms can now be interconnected wirelessly. Some common questions for smoke alarms include:

When should I replace my batteries?

Smoke alarms require routine maintenance. Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced every six months (hence change your clock, change your batteries). A common misconception is that if your smoke alarms are hard-wired, then you don't need to change your batteries. One consideration is that many current manufacture installation instructions allow the batteries to be replaced yearly. If you are not certain on your manufactures requirements, replace the battery every six months.

Do I have to replace my smoke alarms?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA; link to www.nfpa.org) recommends that smoke alarms are replaced every 10 years. Most model codes do not require the homeowner to upgrade their placement of alarms at this point. As a fire service we should encourage people to upgrade to the current provisions of the code. Older homes may only have one smoke alarm in the area outside the bedrooms. This is a great chance to recommend that smoke alarms be installed in all currently required areas. Another great option is to recommend interconnecting the smoke alarms either through hard-wiring or the use of wireless technology.

What type of Smoke Alarm do I need to Install?

Currently there is much debate over the type to install. We encourage you to listen to the podcast, fire marshal corner to have a better grasp on the issue. The important aspect is every home shall have a working smoke alarm

There are specific installation guidelines found in NFPA 72, and the manufacturer installation instructions. These documents discuss the proper location on a wall, ceiling, and locations when the ceiling may be pitched.

We encourage you to make a difference today and look out for your community on every run and every interaction with the public.

Additional information may be found at:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/alarms/

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/5077.html>

<http://www.ul.com/consumers/smoke.html>

<http://www.kiddewireless.com/>

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT From Our Youth's Perspective

During Spring 2008, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildland Division received a wonderful letter from Ms. Stephanie McMahan, age 13, of Millington, MI. Stephanie developed and is seeking a producer for a commercial for wildfire prevention. The following is a poem she wrote to include in the commercial.



**The forest waves a hand
From far across the land
The deer frolic by
The wind whispers "hi"**

**With the sun in the morning
The moon late at night
With the snow, with the rain
Oh, what a sight!**

GONE!

**With one flash of light
A campfire spark
The firemen must fight
A blaze of bark**

**The poor little oak tree standing alone
Oh how it wishes it could go home
With an old rock for company
And its leaves for its friends
It stands all alone
Until the day ends**

Department of Homeland Security Application Period for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Services (SAFER) Grants Now Open – Available Funds Increased

Under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2008, Congress appropriated \$190 million for SAFER Grants. The grants are competitive but the increase of funding in FY2008 provided by the Congress is more than 60 percent higher than the FY2007 level -- equally increasing the applicant's chance for success.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has several tools available on the website for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (www.firegrantsupport.com) to assist applicants in preparing a competitive application for SAFER grants. Of special note is the applicant tutorial. A user may view the entire tutorial, or access the application section it specifically needs help with. Also at the site are Frequently Asked Questions and the Program Guidance --an essential document for all applicants.

Beginning May 27, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began accepting applications for SAFER Grants.

The deadline for receipt of the SAFER Grant applications will be 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 27, 2008.

The applications are automated and accessible from www.firegrantsupport.com.

The SAFER Grants are administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.



By EMR-ISAC

Debris Management Planning

The 2008 tornado season (January – November) is already the deadliest since 1998. To make matters worse, tropical storms and hurricanes from June – November (which also produce tornadoes) will coincide with the nearly year-round wildfire season. This year's

natural disasters, like those of the past century, create resiliency challenges for Emergency Services Sector (ESS) departments and agencies and the communities they serve.

One frequently overlooked, but hugely consequential effect of these natural events is disaster debris, which can be millions of cubic yards of hazardous waste, building materials, electronics, vegetation, vehicles, boats, appliances, decomposing food, etc. Debris blocks transportation routes, deters arriving resources, and damages infrastructure, thereby degrading the ability of first responders and communities to perform mission-essential tasks.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) searched for guidance regarding debris management that would assist emergency personnel and their communities to restore normal operations as soon as possible following the catastrophe. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC examined the newly updated U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document, “Planning for Natural Disaster Debris” (March 2008).

To guide community planning, the document includes:

- ▶ recommended components of a disaster debris management plan;
- ▶ management options for various debris streams (types of debris);
- ▶ federal, state, and local resources to consult in planning for natural disasters; and
- ▶ case studies of how communities prepared for and managed debris generated by recent natural disasters.

The case studies offer a view of the enormity of disaster debris management, cleanup, and removal. Federal, state, and local environmental regulations, recycling, groundwater protection, public safety and health, strategic planning, information sharing, mutual aid, and creating and maintaining a communications plan are among issues that must be addressed. Emergency responders and community leaders who contributed to the guide agree that a plan is an essential starting point they will never be without. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC suggests that first responders and community stakeholders consider using the guide to create a debris plan as an annex to existing disaster management plans. It can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/debris-new/pubs/pnidd.pdf>. (1.90 MB, 94 pages)

CIP/CIR Planning Enables All-Hazards Response

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>) reports severe tornado activity in more than 28 states since the season began in January. Although these destructive and deadly events occur throughout the summer months, and peak again in October and November, they can occur at any time of year, and anywhere in the U.S., dependent upon prevailing weather conditions.

Incident accounts researched by the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) establish conclusively that tornadoes are among the ultimate tests of the intersection of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and Critical

Infrastructure Resilience (CIR) planning, and cooperation and synchronization by Emergency Services Sector (ESS) personnel and allied agencies and organizations.

During one of more than 242 confirmed tornadoes in May, one small city experienced 30 seconds of tornado activity that caused at least one fatality and numerous injuries, destroyed 50 homes, and damaged at least 159 others. The jurisdiction's tornado plan "scripted" immediate actions such as those seen below.

- Send instant alerts to the emergency sector, city and county officials, utility workers, public health, and designated shelters.
- Use initial damage assessment to prioritize response actions.
- Call all shoring, lifting, and heavy equipment to begin clearing roads for rescuers, and call surrounding areas for assistance.
- Dispatch pre-designated deputies and troopers to clear neighborhoods, transit buses to move evacuees, utility workers to shut off gas, electricity, and water, and nongovernmental organizations to provide food and supplies.

The EMR-ISAC believes that the community's ability to execute their immediate actions following the tornado resulted from comprehensive, pre-event, all-hazards research and planning. CIP/CIR planning was necessary not only to create the list of actions, but to lay the groundwork to execute each action (e.g., ensure multiple modes and levels of communication to issue alerts, and prepare the 24X7 contact lists of heavy equipment, operators, and other resources).

Additionally, executing these actions would not have been possible without established working relationships among all responders to the incident developed through previous joint planning, training, and exercising. Hence, when planning for tornados, the following articles may be helpful:

<http://newsok.com/mock-tornadoes-test-city-emergency-workers/article/3237429/?tm=1210194460>

http://www.startribune.com/local/east/19428444.html?location_refer=East%20Metro
(downloads slowly)

Emergency Response Guidebooks – 2008

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released the 2008 version of the Emergency Response Guidebook. A free full PDF copy can be downloaded by clicking on the link <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/guidebook.htm>

The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG2008) was developed jointly by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transport Canada, and the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation of Mexico (SCT) for use by firefighters, police, and other emergency services personnel who may be the first to arrive at the scene of a transportation incident involving a hazardous material. It is primarily a guide to aid first responders in (1) quickly

identifying the specific or generic classification of the material(s) involved in the incident, and (2) protecting themselves and the general public during this initial response phase of the incident. The ERG is updated every three to four years to accommodate new products and technology. The next version is scheduled for 2012.

DOT's goal is to place one ERG2008 in each emergency service vehicle, nationwide, through distribution to state and local public safety authorities. To date, nearly 11 million copies have been distributed without charge to the emergency response community.

Copies are made available free of charge to public emergency responders through state coordinators in the U.S: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/statecoord.htm>. In Canada, contact CANUTEC at 613-992-4624 or via email at canutec@tc.gc.ca.



Michigan's state coordinator is:

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NFIRS NEWS

By Rhonda Howard
NFIRS Program Administrator



MICHIGAN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Michigan's Fire Prevention Code mandates local fire chiefs to report any fire resulting in loss of life or property to the Bureau of Fire Services. Michigan has adopted NFIRS 5.0 as the reporting standard, a computerized reporting system. A 2007 Activity Report for all fire departments, including reporting and non-reporting is now available on our website at http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html under the statistics section. If a fire department has no activity during a given month, they are required to submit a "No Activity" report.

Fire Departments who are not participating in NFIRS 5.0 will not receive federal grant funding or training funding provided through the Federal Emergency Management Administration. In addition to jeopardizing federal dollars, fire department employees are not eligible for specialized training provided through the Michigan State Police.

Fire reporting plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities, and economic losses from fire and related emergencies. Fire codes, public fire 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.

FATAL FIRE REPORTING

In addition to the basic NFIRS report, the Bureau of Fire Services tracks all fire related deaths. These statistics are used for program development, legislation, and prevention programs. Fire departments responding to a fatal fire are required to submit the "Michigan Fatal Fire Report" within 24 hours of the death. The report form is available at http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html

Questions regarding your department, reporting functions or fatal fire reporting, please contact me at 517-241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

National Fire Incident Reporting System Self-Study Now Available

The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy recently announced the availability of the new *National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0 Self Study (Q494)* online course. Serving as an introduction to NFIRS 5.0, this self-study course provides an overview of the data collection system, its modules, and data conversion issues.

"We are pleased to make this important course available online to all USA fire departments," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "Accurate and complete NFIRS data is critical for use at the local, state, and federal levels and this course is the starting place for building the core competencies key to creating quality data and making available the quality information needed by the American fire service."

NFIRS is the comprehensive method for detailed tracking of fire, emergency, and related incident responses. The information recorded in NFIRS can be used by emergency services organizations to track current workloads, develop response metrics and statistics, and help with current asset management. More information and access to this course is available on [NFA Online](#). Additional NFIRS-related training can be found on the [USFA Web site](#).

Anhydrous ammonia and propane cylinders

SAFETY ALERT

INTRODUCTION: Readers of this bulletin should consult the law of their individual jurisdictions for codes, standards and legal requirements applicable to them. This bulletin merely suggests methods which the reader may find useful in implementing applicable codes, standards and legal requirements. This material is not intended nor should it be construed (1) to set forth procedures which are the general custom or practice in the propane industry; (2) to establish the legal standards of care owed by propane distributors to their customers; or (3) to prevent the reader from using different methods to implement applicable codes, standards or legal requirements. The National Propane Gas Association assumes no liability for reliance on the contents of this bulletin. It is offered as a guide only to assist expert and experienced teachers and managers in training in service personnel in their organizations.



Caution!

The brass valve in a propane cylinder will be damaged if it comes in contact with anhydrous ammonia. This deterioration will lead to cracking of the valve body or its components and can ultimately result in a violent, unexpected expulsion of the valve from the cylinder, causing personal injury or death.

Background and Recommended Action

It has come to the attention of the National Propane Gas Association that propane cylinders are being used in the manufacturing of **Methamphetamines**. This drug is commonly referred to as 'crank'.

Manufacturers of this illegal substance are using propane cylinders for the storage and the use of anhydrous ammonia. These cylinders have been found in many states at cylinder exchange and refilling locations as well as in hotel rooms and mobile laboratories, where the manufacturing of this illegal substance takes place. As observed in the illustrations, a blue-green stain on any brass portion of a service valve is evidence that it may have been in contact with anhydrous ammonia*. The pungent odor of ammonia on or near the cylinder is also an indication. If you suspect that a propane cylinder contains or has contained anhydrous ammonia, exercise extreme caution and restrict access to the area. It can be dangerous to move the cylinder due to the unknown integrity of the cylinder's service valve. If you determine that it must be moved, keep in mind that hazards due to valve expulsion can be reduced by pointing the end of the container in which the valve is placed away from yourself and others and towards the safest direction. Immediately contact your Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Unit or the nearest office of the United States Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for information on properly disposing of the cylinder. If these respondents are not sure what to do, for assistance call **1-800-728-2482**, which is the contact number for **PERS**, an independent hazardous materials information resource.

*Note: Sherwood valves contain a green coated valve stem. Additionally, a green thread sealing compound is used on some valves. These valves should not be confused with those that have been exposed to anhydrous ammonia.

STAFFING AT THE BUREAU

BOB BENNETT RETIRES

Gaylord Regional Supervisor **Bob Bennett** retired in early May of this year after having served the fire service at the state level since 1976. Bob began his career in the State Fire Marshal's office of the Michigan State Police. During his tenure with the State Police, he was instrumental in ensuring fire code enforcement. As Gaylord regional supervisor, Bob led a 15-member specialized task force created to inspect all rooming and boarding houses on Mackinac Island after the 1989 LaSalle Hotel fire. This task force was the first of its' kind involving inspection of not only public, but private facilities. His diligence with the task force and assistance to many businesses and local units of government over his career gained him his stellar reputation. Bob was instrumental during the transition to the Office of Fire Safety and the current Bureau of Fire Services. Bob's knowledge and expertise after more than 30 years of experience is a tremendous loss to not only the bureau, but to the fire service and Michigan as a whole. We, at the Bureau wish Bob much happiness in his retirement.

STAFF ELECTRICAL EXPERTISE

Roy Etelmaki is a member of the Bureau of Fire Services Plan Review Section serving as the electrical engineer on staff. In his role with the bureau, Roy oversees Fire Alarm Plan Review and is both internal and external electrical expert on fire alarm and detection systems. Roy received his electrical engineering degree from Michigan Technological University, served with General Electric Company as field service engineer and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as both electrical and environmental engineer. Roy began his work in the fire service with the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division, then Office of Fire Safety providing more than 24 years of professional excellence with the fire protection and electrical industry.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL RESIGNS



State Fire Marshal Andrew W. Neumann announced his resignation May 10, 2008. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Andy State Fire Marshal on July 5, 2004. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is charged with the responsibility to provide for the prevention of fires and the protection of persons and property from exposure to the dangers of fires through the implementation and enforcement of administrative rules for fire safety and explosives, public fire education efforts

throughout the state, as well as oversight responsibility for the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council, which serves the training and certification needs of the states 1,074 fire departments and more than 34,000 fire fighters and officers.

Prior to appointment as State Fire Marshal, Neumann recently served as legislative liaison for the Michigan Department of Treasury and advisor to the governor on fire related issues. SFM Neumann served as state representative for two terms with the 106th House District from 1998 to 2002. In his capacity as a state representative, Neumann focused on health care issues. He served as a professional firefighter and paramedic for the city of Alpena for 17 years before serving in the House. Mr. Neumann has filed as a candidate in the 106th District for the House of Representatives. We extend our appreciation and best wishes for success in the future.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

House Passes Legislation to Require Fire-Safe Cigarettes

Michigan retailers would have to sell cigarettes that are less likely to start fires under legislation reported from the House Regulatory Reform Committee. But the legislature will have to deal with determining who will enforce the act and how state responsibilities will be fully funded.

There was general support for HB 5110 which requires that Michigan retailers sell only fire-safe cigarettes. The smokes are designed to go out if they are dropped, rather than ignite whatever surface they fall on. Fire officials told the committee that dropped cigarettes is among the leading causes of fires and fire deaths in the state.

Supporters also noted that 27 other states had adopted similar regulations and that New York, which adopted the requirement two years ago, has seen a measurable drop in fires.

But HB 5111, also reported without opposition among committee members, drew objection from the Department of Treasury. The bill would charge the department with inspecting retailers under the Tobacco Tax Act to be sure they were complying with the requirements.

Larry Steckelberg, legislative liaison for the Department of Treasury, said the inspectors in his department were trained to look for tax stamp violations, not product design violations. And he argued it would not be cost effective to train them in the latter given the low expectation of violations. "There's not extra profit margin for bringing in non fire-safe cigarettes," he said. Mr. Steckelberg recommended the Legislature adopt the requirement on the type of cigarettes that can be sold, but not include an inspection requirement unless there is a later showing that retailers are ignoring the law.

The bills were amended to give retailers and wholesalers 18 months from the date they are enacted to make the change. The amended bills passed out of the House and were referred to the Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee.



2008 Summer Leadership Conference

What's on the horizon for the Fire Service?

- At the National level?
- At the State Level?
- At the Association Level?

July 16-18, 2008
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

For more information and registration: <http://www.michiefs.org/>

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

The United States Fire Administration recently issued a report "Emerging Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service". Firefighter injuries and fatalities are tracked at local, state and national levels. Within this special report we find:

- ▶ *Four hundred forty firefighters of 1,006 (43.7 percent) who died on the job suffered sudden cardiac arrest typically triggered by stress or exhaustion.*
- ▶ *Fifty percent of all volunteer firefighter deaths and 39 percent of career firefighter deaths resulted from a heart attack*
- ▶ *Ninety-seven percent of the victims had at least a 50 percent arterial blockage*
- ▶ *Seventy-five percent of the firefighters who died of a heart attack were working with known or detectable heart conditions or risk factors*

For the complete report go to:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/041708.shtm>

ROUTINE HEALTH SCREENING + POSITIVE LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS + A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT = REDUCED FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES



INFORMATION NEEDED

What are your plans for Fire Prevention Week 2008? Please email townek2@michigan.gov with your program – the National Fire Protection Association has created a National Public Education group with representatives from each state. The State Fire Marshal has designated Karen Towne as Michigan's representative. The focus of this group is to share ideas, programs, and events – our goal is to provide resources and use this opportunity to “brag about you”!!!

Karen can be reached at 517-241-6858 or at the email provided above.

2007 LIFE SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Life Safety Achievement award recognizes fire departments that had zero deaths in structure fires in the previous calendar year.

The cutoff date for awards for the year 2007 is July 31, 2008 so that the awards can be prepared in time to reach the recipients before Fire Prevention Week. Applications will be accepted after that date but the awards will not be delivered before Fire Prevention Week.

[To qualify for the year 2007 award](#), the fire chief must submit an application stating that the department's jurisdiction had zero structural fire deaths in the past calendar year, and must describe the department's fire prevention bureau or activities. Click here to go to the [application form](#). The detailed instructions below will help you in completing the form.

Instructions for completing the 2007 Life Safety Achievement application

The year 2007 Life Safety Achievement award campaign began on January 1, 2008. For the seventh consecutive year, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, IA will be sponsoring this prestigious award.

To apply for the award, the **chief** of the fire department must submit the application with his or her signature. If you have difficulty downloading the application, you can request one by mail, fax, telephone or e-mail. The 2007 application includes a space for describing the fire department's fire prevention bureau or fire prevention/public education activities. The form must be signed and some type of description must be included.

The description does not have to be detailed, but should be enough to show that the fire department does some type of fire prevention and/or public education each year. For example, you can list the number of persons assigned to the bureau or the typical activities (e. g, inspections, station tours, school visits, open houses, etc.). Many fire departments do not have a fire prevention bureau but have one or more firefighters who perform fire prevention tasks. A summary of the types of activity that they perform is acceptable.

Of course we like to hear about unique prevention or education programs, too. If you want to devote the space to a specific program, that's fine. We'll pass your ideas along so other fire departments can learn from your experience.

Last year, the signature of state fire marshals was added, and it was well-received. Where state fire marshals are able to distribute the awards for the RFSI, we send the awards to them for their co-signatures and distribution. If a state fire marshal is unable to participate, the president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals will co-sign the awards and the RFSI will distribute them.

Michigan applicants should provide a copy of your application to Karen Towne for state recognition. We encourage you to inform your local media of the award so your community hears about your fire prevention efforts. The Bureau of Fire Services will assist with news releases and media distribution.

If you have any questions about the LSA award or eligibility, please contact the RFSI Project Manager, Dana Bies at (763) 416-0527 or via e-mail at: rfsimgr@comcast.net

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information, photos and comments – your input is important. Any questions regarding the Bureau of Fire Services newsletter may be directed to Karen at 517-241-6858 or townek2@michigan.gov.

For additional information about the Bureau of Fire Services and to subscribe or unsubscribe to the "Michigan Fire Service Connection" go to:

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



Michigan Department of
Labor & Economic Growth

<http://www.michigan.gov/dleg>

DLEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities."