Michigan FIRE Service Connection

Andrew W. Neumann
State Fire Marshal

Bureau of Fire Services
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-8847
www.michigan.gov/bfs

May, 2008

Dear Friend:

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm has proclaimed May 4-10, 2008, as Arson Awareness Week in Michigan. National fire organizations have adopted this year's theme as "No Novelty Lighters". This edition will provide an overview of Michigan's Arson problem and some of the prevention programs available.

To provide comprehensive information and materials, we encourage you to submit articles, photos or suggestions for future editions. Submit your material for publication to Karen Towne at townek2@michigan.gov .

During the month of May we will enjoy a variety of warm weather activities. and on the fourth Monday in May, participate in our traditional memorial of those we have lost to war. While we honor their memory, take a moment to remember those who have served our hometown with honor, dignity and pride – Michigan's First Responders.

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, firefighter training, data collection and public fire education.

Arson Awareness Week in Michigan
CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

Whereas, Arson is a serious crime that affects all of us and only can be stopped when we realize the severe damage it causes to our state and individual communities; and,

Whereas, Arson fires erode the local tax base and cause a severe loss to our cities, villages and neighborhoods, and can destroy property and the security of employment; and,

Whereas, Arson fires can disrupt our educational systems, destroy irreplaceable historical buildings and artifacts, render natural resources useless for long periods of time, and inflict countless human deaths and injuries; and,

Whereas, The direct costs of arson in 2007, estimated by the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee, reached a staggering $200 million in Michigan alone; and,

Whereas, Indirect costs associated with arson, both financial and emotional, include funerals, medical bills, legal work, lost wages, business interruptions, increased insurance premiums, firefighting and law enforcement costs; and,

Whereas, The Michigan Arson Prevention Committee works to combat the problem of arson through education and public information programs and the tip-reward program that aids in the arrest of approximately 30 arsonists each year; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of May 4, 2008, as Arson Awareness Week throughout our state, and I encourage all citizens to recognize the costly consequences of arson.

Arson is defined as any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

NOVELTY LIGHTER LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

"These lighters do not have child-resistant mechanisms, as required by federal law. Young children could ignite the lighters, posing fire and burn hazards."

Language for recall by Consumer Product Safety Council June, 2007

Senate Bill 1194, introduced March 11, 2008, will require the regulation of novelty lighters in Michigan.

State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) recently introduced legislation to regulate the sale and distribution of novelty lighters in Michigan. Sen. Whitmer along with State Fire Marshal Andrew W. Neumann and representatives of the fire service took the first step toward ensuring Michigan will be proactive in banning these lighters.

Gas stations, convenience stores, and tobacco outlets are just a few of the locations these lighters are available in Michigan. Frequently they are placed at eye level of a child and are sometimes mistaken for toys. At present, 10 European countries have banned the lighters with several states including Arkansas, Oregon, and Iowa initiating similar attempts. The State of Maine was the first state to adopt a law banning novelty lighters.

The fire service is well aware that most child-playing home fires are started with lighters or matches. Since 1994, the first year of the Consumer Product Safety Council's child-resistant lighter standard, these fires have consistently declined according to the National Fire Protection Association.

National Fire Incident Reporting for 2006 shows Michigan had 902 fires as the result of children playing. Of the fire service reports submitted, these fires caused injuries to nine citizens, two firefighters and death to three of our citizens.

"It is not enough to warn children of the dangers of these lighters. This legislation is necessary to protect children from the serious consequences of unintended misuse," said Andy Neumann.

Additional information to share in your community is available at:
http://www.theideabank.com/psa/NoveltyLightersTV.html

DETECTION OF ARSON AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES TRAINING

By Joseph A. Grutza. Director, Office of Firefighter Training

As a member of a fire department, you are the most important agent in the detection and prevention of arson. As a first responder, your observations on arrival as well as the preservation of evidence at a fire is critical to the fight against arson.

The Office of Firefighter Training offers a unique class for fire fighters to assist in the battle against arson. “Detection of Arson and Suspicious Fire” is a 12 hour, tested course. This is not a fire investigation training course, rather an awareness level course. “Detection of Arson and Suspicious Fires” will familiarize the first responder with the proper procedures and techniques used to identify arson and suspicious fires and when to request assistance.

Several DASF courses have been scheduled this year. To find one near you, go to http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42325---,00.html, Office of Firefighter Training. Scroll down to “scheduled training”.

If you are interested in sponsoring this course in your department, click on “Detection of Arson and Suspicious Fires” and follow the directions. If you need any assistance, please call our office at 517-373-7981.

NFIRS NEWS

By Rhonda Howard
NFIRS Program Administrator

ARSON MODULE: Arson is defined in NFIRS as: To unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

This optional Arson Module may be used whenever the Cause of Ignition is coded as Intentional or as Cause Under Investigation without any distinction made as to whether or not a crime has occurred or a determination of criminal intent. The Arson Module may also be used when the fire is coded as Cause Undetermined After Investigation.

The Arson Module may also be used to document juvenile-set fires, whether determined to be intentional, unintentional, or under investigation. This information will permit analysis of juvenile firesetting trends, including intervention strategies and recidivism.

Juvenile-set fires are defined to be those fires where the person involved in the ignition is under the age of 18.

The Arson Module consists of two parts: a local investigation module that permits a fire department or arson investigation unit to document certain details concerning the incident; and a juvenile firesetter section that identifies key items of information that could be used for local, state, and national intervention programs.

Many fire investigation units use an arson information management system to collect and compile information on arson incidents. This module is not intended to replace such systems; instead, it identifies those data elements that could be exported to NFIRS and included as an integral part of the U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Database and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Arson and Explosives National Repository.

U.S. Fire Administration Adds Novelty Lighter Code to NFIRS

Effective January 1, 2008, the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) began collecting information specifically about novelty and toylike lighters. This information is captured in the "Fire Module" under a new code for "Equipment Involved in Ignition."

NFIRS data indicate that lighters play a role nearly equal to matches in residential child-play fires, and some studies show that lighters tend to be the preferred ignition source. When children set fires in the home, the most common area of the fire origin is the bedroom, and the material ignited is often bedding, mattresses, or clothing

For more information on NFIRS and the Arson Module, please visit the NFIRS Web site. For additional information regarding Michigan's Fire Incident Reporting System go to http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LIGHTERS

By Karen E. Towne, Director of Special Projects, Bureau of Fire Services

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following information on their website regarding 16 C.F.R. Part 1210, the Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters.

What is a lighter? A lighter is a flame-producing product that consumers commonly use to light cigarettes, cigars, and pipes, although it may be used to light other materials.

What is a novelty lighter? In general, novelty lighters have features that make them attractive to children under five.

Novelty lighters include lighters that depict or resemble articles commonly recognized as appealing to or intended for use by children under five (5) years of age, such as cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, musical instruments, vehicles, toy animals, food or beverages. They also include lighters with features entertaining to children, such as visual effects like flashing lights or sound effects like musical notes. A novelty lighter may operate on any fuel, including butane or liquid fuel. Novelty lighters are subject to the requirements for child-resistance regardless of their Customs Value or factory price.

How do you test a cigarette lighter to make sure it is child resistant? If you need to test a lighter, we (CPSC) recommend that you find a qualified lighter-testing laboratory in the U.S. to perform the test. A list of testing sites is available from the Office of Compliance or on the Commission's website.

For additional information about this or other consumer products, go to the Consumer Product Safety Commission at: http://www.cpsc.gov.

ARSON IN MICHIGAN

By Karen E. Towne - Director of Sepcial Projects, Bureau of Fire Services

Included in this newsletter are data reports to assist in Michigan's fight against Arson. These documents show a downward trend of arson. For additional information on Michigan's Arson problem, go to the State Fire Marshal web at: http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html

2006 FIRE IN MICHIGAN	
Total All Fires	34,858
Property/Content $ Loss – All Fires	$1,661,514,089
2006 ARSON IN MICHIGAN	
Arson Fires	2,912
Suspicious Fires	7,809
Determined Arson/Suspicious	31%
Total $ Loss – Arson/Suspicious	221,920,519
Civilian Injuries/Death	-0-

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

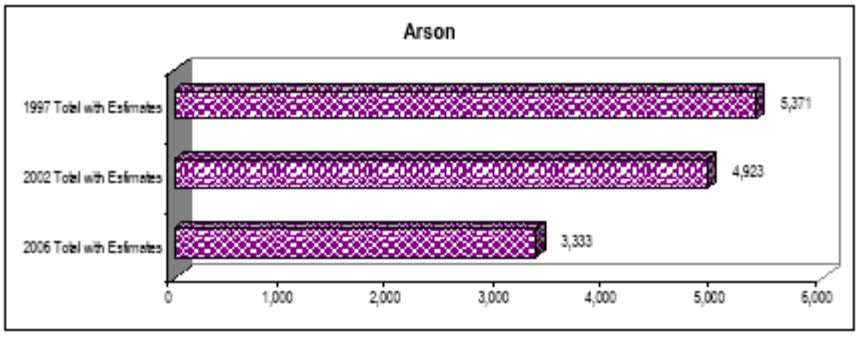
April 21, 2008

Arson Awareness

(Arson statistics taken from the 2006 "*Crime in Michigan*" Report)

In the year 2006, Michigan's law enforcement agencies reported 3,223 Arson offenses to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. This is a reported 34% decrease from the year 2002. There were 4,901 Arson offenses reported in 2002.

2006 Arson Rate = 33 per 100,000 or one crime per 3,029 Michigan residents
Arson decreased 32% in the last five years and 38% in the last ten years



The chart above displays a 10 year comparison using estimated data. The UCR program started estimating missing data using the FBI's guidelines in 1995 so a true crime trend could be produced. Some law enforcement agencies haven't always been able to submit a full 12 months worth of data.

Michigan has had a decrease of 38% over the last ten years and we hope this trend can continue.

Number

One-Stop Data Shop
Fire Analysis and Research Division
One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169
Email: osds@nfpa.org
www.nfpa.org

Intentional Fires and Arson

Fire departments responded to an estimated **323,900** intentional fires in 2005. These fires resulted in:

- 490 civilian fire deaths
- 1,500 civilian fire injuries
- $1.1 billion in property damage
- 3 on-duty firefighter fatalities
- 7,600 on-duty firefighter injuries

The numbers of intentional fires and associated losses have been on a downward trend since 1980.

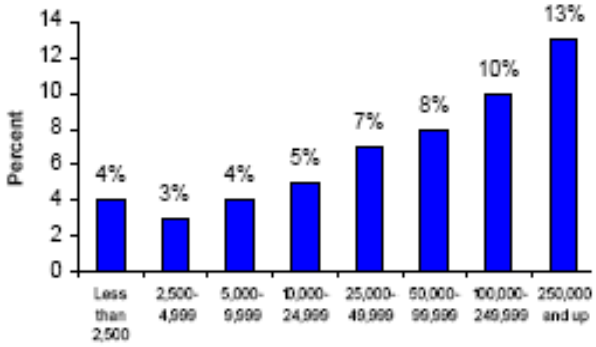
An "intentional" fire is a fire that threatens harm or is started in a manner inconsistent with the goal of a controlled fire that avoids harm.

Intentional Fires in 2005

Incident Type	Fires		Civilian Deaths		Civilian Injuries		Direct Property Damage (in Millions)	
Structures	55,500	(17%)	430	(88%)	1,200	(80%)	$917	(83%)
Vehicles	26,000	(8%)	40	(8%)	80	(5%)	$173	(16%)
Outside & Other	242,400	(75%)	20	(4%)	220	(15%)	$13	(12%)

Large cities have a larger percentage of intentional structure fires.

Intentional Fire Percentage of Structure Fires by Community Size



According to FBI statistics:

- 18% of arson offenses were cleared by arrest or exceptional means.
- In 2006, 49% of arrestees were under the age of 18.
- An estimated 5-7% of arsons offenses result in convictions.

Source: *Intentional Fires and Arson* by John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA, Quincy, MA, November 2007.

Abandoned homes rising safety concern

Potential for problems grows as number of vacant houses increases

By BEVIN PEPPARD - The Marion Star - Reprinted with Permission from the Marion Star

Firefighters work to clear the scene of a house fire at 290 Glad St. in this May 23, 2007 file photo. The number of vacant property fires has increased steadily over the past few years. The blaze completely destroyed the home.

MARION - With the economy slowing and foreclosure rates up, Ohio is seeing its fair share of abandoned homes and vacant properties.

Marion isn't isolated from that trend and local authorities say it presents a potentially dangerous situation for safety forces and residents -- fires.

"I see in driving around the community more and more empty houses," said Al Gruber, chief of the Marion City Fire Department, noting an increase in the number of fires within city limits that involve vacant properties. "They are of deteriorating conditions and I don't see the opportunity for those homes to be rehabilitated. It's a worry."

Gruber's concern is two fold -- vacant homes are not always structurally sound and vacant homes are not always vacant.

"Kids play in them, animals seek shelter in them and even the homeless squat in them," he said.

During the colder months, Gruber said fire departments traditionally see an increase in fires of vacant structures, likely started by homeless members of the community.

Neighborhood youths using vacant structures as "club houses" proves even more problematic, Gruber said.

"They're starting little fires in there and they think it's fun," he said. "It's just a worry. If we can keep them out of there, that's something we want."

He recommends parents not to allow their children to play in vacant homes and for neighbors to contact authorities if they see it or notice properties that need boarded up.

City Law Director Mark Russell said the city has been taking steps to deal with abandoned properties through a Nuisance Abatement Task Force formed in the past year. Last fall, a Community Development Block Grant funded the demolition of two such properties at 1014 Oak Grove Ave. and 290 Glad St.

Officials have applied for a $20,000 CDBG grant to fund the demolition of two additional nuisance properties, Russell said.

"We're going to take them to the ground," he said. "We're not turning our heads. I think we're a step ahead in dealing with this compared to other communities."

Recent vacant structure fires within the city of Marion, Ohio:

- 448 Van Buren St., Dec. 10, 2007, determined to be accidental.
- 198 Elk St., Nov. 27, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 565 Lee St., Nov. 23, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 281 Uncapher Ave., Oct. 27, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 520 Uncapher Ave., Sept. 13, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 720 Bennett St., June 25, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 223 Bain Ave., June 15, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 513 Scranton Ave., June 7, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 290 Glad St., May 23, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 572 Herman St., May 19, 2007, cause undetermined.
- 156 Lincoln Ave., May 8, 2007, determined to be accidental.

Source: Marion City Fire Department

Russell said the task force has worked to identity abandoned, deteriorating homes around the city and to ensure they are properly boarded up. It has also worked to contact property and lien holders to defray costs to city taxpayers.

"Property owners may start to take positive action," he said, citing as an example a home on Lee Street that is being rehabilitated. "We're looking for outside sources to deal with these issues."

Gruber said the times are reminiscent of the 1980s when the economy slowed and foreclosure rates soared. Fire officials noticed an increase of suspicious fires in vacant structures then, which they are seeing again, though on a smaller level. Gruber said he is reluctant to say those fires were the result of arson as no one was charged, but that he is concerned.

"I guess I worry about seeing those again," he said.

Chief Tim Spradlin with the Fire and Explosion Investigations Unit of the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal said he, too, remembers the high potential for arsons that occurred in the 1980s. He speculated that at least some of the fires occurring in vacant properties across the state are a result of the economy.

"People trying to get out from under a mortgage," he said, although statistics do not track the number of vacant homes where arson is suspected. "We are noticing it and are aware of it."

In 2004, there were 811 fires in vacant structures across the state, causing an estimated $10 million in damages. That increased to 1,266 fires in 2005 with $15 million in damages and again in 2006 with 1,498 fires and $23 million in damages. Data from 2007 is not available.

Spradlin said when vacant structures start to pop up throughout a community, the best thing residents can do is keep their eyes open. Report any suspicious activity, including children playing inside, to local law enforcement agencies.

Owners of vacant properties, whether they are rental properties or second homes, are also encouraged to reduce the possibility of arson by taking some simple precautions.

Make sure doors and windows are properly secured, keep trash picked up around the property and make sure flammable liquids, such as gasoline and cans, are not left out in the open.

"People who are dedicated to doing something wrong will find a way," Spradlin said. "But you don't want to make it easy for them."

Michigan Arson Prevention Committee

The Michigan Arson Prevention Committee (MAPC), serves as Michigan's task force against arson. The MAPC members provide a strong commitment to reducing the arson problem in this state. The committee consists of representatives from fire, law enforcement, private business, insurance industry, and government.

The MAPC acts as a coordinating body between state and local agencies and the insurance industry, in a unified effort to reduce loss of life and property caused by arson. Funding for the MAPC is provided through the Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association.

The Arson Control subcommittee of the MAPC provides awards of up to $5,000 for information that leads to the arrest and/or conviction of an arsonist. Since the program's inception in 1975, it has paid out more than $660,000 in awards. The program is responsible for putting 1121 arsonists where they belong...behind bars.

Information about MAPC is available at:
http://www.miarsonprevention.org/

Ecoterrorism: Leading Domestic Threat

By EMR-ISAC

For more than six years, security and intelligence echelons of the nation have been preoccupied with the probability of domestic al Qaeda sleeper cells being activated to initiate more terrorist attacks. But researchers are persuaded that domestic extremists will be responsible for future carnage and damage to the critical infrastructures of this country. The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) verified that counterterrorism specialists believe this because the decades-long war with militant environmentalists in the United States has not ended.

Since they continue to successfully conduct attacks throughout America, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) considers ecoterrorism the primary domestic threat.

The FBI defines ecoterrorism as "the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally oriented, sub-national group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature." It is exemplified by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), whose members operate alone or in small groups, and may be responsible for approximately 1,800 criminal acts and 180 ongoing FBI ecoterrorism investigations.

To make matters worse for the people, property, and emergency services of America, animal rights activists of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) also continue to target individuals and organizations associated with scientific research using animal testing to develop cures for diseases. FBI analysts forecast that ALF members will perpetuate numerous future attacks on scientists and enterprises involved with animal research.

ELF and ALF extremists have used myriad of techniques to harass and intimidate victims, and to destroy property. For example, their heinous methods have included smoke and pipe bombs as well as milk jugs and electrical ignition devices to start fires. "There are a large number of activists who are willing to risk potential repercussions in support of their movement. Trying to predict where or when they'll strike next becomes a guessing game," experts said.

Considering available information regarding ELF and ALF intentions, the EMR-ISAC perceives these extremist groups to be a possible threat to the protection and performance of first responders. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC recommends Emergency Services Sector departments and agencies implement appropriate precautions when responding to incidents involving suspected ecoterrorists.

More information about the ELF can be seen at http://www.earthliberationfront.com, and for the ALF at http://www.animalliberationfront.com.

For additional information and specialized training regarding arson and arson awareness, contact the International Association of Arson Investigators – Michigan Chapter at http://www.michiganiaai.org/.

The Michigan Chapter Annual School is scheduled for May 20-23, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City, Michigan. Registration forms are available on the IAAI website.

RETIREMENT AT THE BUREAU

Donald E. Welch has retired from the State of Michigan after 13 ½ years of service. Don began his professional career with the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes and in 1997, transferred to the newly created Office of Fire Safety as the Fire Suppression Plan Reviewer.

During his years with the Fire Service, Don became a well-liked and respected professional throughout Michigan. Don received his Fire Inspector Certification in 1997 and became known for his expertise with the intricate and specialized field of fire suppression systems.

Don has served as the bureau representative on the Board of Mechanical Rules, the Construction Code Commission and Ad-Hoc Fire Safety Administrative Rules Committees.

Don's knowledge, professionalism and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by Michigan's Fire Service as we say farewell to a real team player.

Family, friends, and co-workers participated in a special celebration Guerrazzi's in early April. Don and his wife Eileen plan travels to a variety of southern state locations.

HAPPY RETIREMENT DON!

STAFFING AT THE BUREAU

During 2006, the Bureau of Fire Services completed a total of 8,778 fire safety inspections for regulated facilities. One of the busiest areas of the state is our Southeast Michigan office where Fire Safety Inspector Larry DeWachter is assigned. Inspector DeWachter has been with the Bureau since the late 90's providing Northern Wayne County with his extensive expertise.

During 2006 – 2007, our Southeast Michigan Office has undergone staffing changes resulting in additional assignments to the inspectors with Larry handling facilities in Washtenaw and southern Wayne counties.

Larry's expertise in the area of Adult Foster Care facilities, Administrative Rule promulgation, and 22 years experience as a firefighter, fire inspector and currently Captain with the Brighton Area Fire Department ensures facilities in the southeastern part of the state are receiving the best of services.

TRAINING COORDINATOR ROGER CARIS

By Gary Crum, Office of Fire Fighter Training

In our series of profiling training coordinators, the Bureau of Fire Services would like to make the fire service familiar with each of our Training Coordinators. This month we are focusing on Chief Roger Caris of the Hastings Fire Department.

Roger joined the Hastings Fire Department in April of 1974 and became the full-time chief in September of 1981. He has served as the Secretary/Treasurer and President of the Western Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. He served as the president of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs during 1992-1993. Former Governor John Engler appointed Roger to serve on the State Fire Safety Board from 1991-1995. Roger became a Training Coordinator with the Office of Firefighter Training in October 2002. He is currently assigned to cover Ionia, Barry, Eaton, Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. Roger is one of our most active training coordinators and frequently covers examinations for other TC's when the need arises. Chief Caris is a strong advocate for fire training and typifies the professionalism required from our training coordinators.

Wildfire Prevention Week in Michigan

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

Most of Michigan's wildfires occur in the spring -- April, May and June -- and, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) which is responsible for wildland fire protection on 20 million acres of state and private land, April is the worst month of all.

Each year, the DNR, in partnership with the Michigan Interagency Wildfire Protection Association, uses the state's annual observance of Wildfire Prevention Week, April 20-26, to remind the public about the dangers of wildfires.

"More than 90 percent of Michigan's wildfires are caused by humans, and more than one-third of those fires are started by burning debris, such as yard waste or brush," said Paul Kollmeyer, the DNR's fire prevention program coordinator.

Despite the extensive public awareness campaign launched by the DNR and its firefighting partners each spring, many citizens may look around them and think the early spring storms have taken the edge off the wildfire danger. "Not so", said Kollmeyer.

“The dried matter from last year is still there, and all it will take is a couple of typical warm, breezy spring days, folks with a notion to clean up the yard after a long winter, who will want to burn,” he said. “Just one strong wind gust and suddenly, we have a wildfire.”

500 PEOPLE KILLED!
FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PROPERTY BURNED BY
FOREST FIRES!
Lower Michigan and Ontario will never fully recover from the Fire Losses of July 1911. These FIRES DESTROYED LIVES and PROPERTY; BURNED HOMES and TOWNS; Caused FEAR and PANIC; Threw THOUSANDS of WORKMEN out of WAGES and out of FOOD; Created POVERTY and DISTRESS everywhere. What caused these fires?
Carelessness! MARK THE WORD! Carelessness!
CARELESSNESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FULLY 90 PER CENT OF ALL FOREST FIRES AND FOREST FIRE LOSSES. When CARELESSNESS becomes synonymous with Forest Fire Losses, as Mrs. Bell is responsible! Should she (but be Troy) start a fire STARTED BY YOU, or Mrs. Bell, YOU had made a clean sweep of Birds and property. Should your Neighbor Friend's or Kin's carelessness, that his children were killed? We are fast CHOKE—where dangling in the path of a raging forest fire.
What Can You Do? BE CAREFUL!
What Else? PUT YOUR CAMP FIRE OUT!
What Else? HOLD THAT MATCH UNTIL IT IS OUT!
What Else? LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
If the property is NOT yours, PLAY FAIRE BE FAIRE
If the property is yours, PLAY SAFE! BE SAFE!
THE TIME TO PUT THE FIRE OUT IS WHILE YOU CAN!
THE PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRES IS EVERY MAN'S DUTY.
For help, in case of fire, call upon the wardens of the
Northern Forest Protective Association
MUNISING, — MICHIGAN
Figure 5—Early fire warning poster.

Although Smokey Bear and his simple direct forest fire message has been the symbol of forest fire prevention to generations of Americans, the first fire prevention campaigns in Michigan began around 1911, when a private corporation called the Northern Forest Protective Association, based in Munising, pioneered a series of signs and posters which warned against carelessness and preached forest protection.

The association levied fees on members based upon their enrolled acreage. This entitled them to receive fire protection services from the association costing about a penny an acre annually. Some of this money was used to create illustrated forest fire pamphlets. They even supplied lumber camps with playing cards bearing forest fire slogans.

THE ASSETS OF
The North Woods
WILL BE PERPETUAL IF
FOREST FIRES CAN BE PREVENTED
USE YOUR INFLUENCE AGAINST
CARELESSNESS
AND MAKE "CAUTION" THE BY-WORD WHEN IN THE WOODS
Preach Forest Protection
Practice it, too!
FOR HELP, IN CASE OF FIRE, CALL UPON THE WARDENS OF THE
NORTHERN FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
(HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS: MUNISING, MICH.

About this time, the state also began issuing similar warnings to make the public forest fire conscious. The state fire wardens would nail fire prevention signs, made of cloth and paper, to trees and telephone poles while on patrol, and this practice eventually developed into the wood-constructed fire danger sign that remains in use today.

Slogans have long been a part of the fire prevention campaigns. Smokey Bear’s familiar message that “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires,” remains one of the most successful slogans ever developed in any advertising campaign. But the first poster of Smokey, that appeared in 1945, carried the caption “Smokey says—Care will prevent 9 out of 10 forest fires!”

Two decades before, the widely used slogan “One Tree Makes a Million Matches; One Match Destroys a Million Trees” was printed on match books for distribution.

In 1928, the slogan “Keep Michigan Green” was created. The fact that then Gov. Fred Green was running for reelection at the time was reported to be purely coincidental.

Initially, slides of raging fires causing significant damage to forests and towns were shown in theaters across the country to publicize fire prevention. Many of these images were color tinted to be more dramatic.

In 1921, the same year the Michigan Department of Conservation was organized, the department created two motion pictures devoted to fire prevention that were shown at

schools, fairs, sportsmen's exhibitions and even on a touring fire prevention train. In 1926, a forest fire film, "The Red Poacher," was shown at a number of commercial theaters throughout the state.

1926 Fire Safety Train

But it was not until the arrival of Smokey Bear in the mid-1940s that state fire officials found their best fire prevention message.

In addition to the posters and radio announcements, Smokey began making public appearances. In the 1950s, the DNR used a mechanical statue of Smokey that was mounted on a trailer. Smokey's head slowly turned from side to side and its voice was a taped message recorded by Arthur Godfrey.

Smokey also became a frequent, and popular, visitor to elementary schools across the state. In 1966, Smokey was given a helper -- Smokey Jr. The pair worked very well together because Smokey Jr. was less intimidating to the smaller school children.

"Today, DNR forest fire officers continue to promote wildfire safety by educating the public in Firewise concepts and, of course, sending Smokey Bear's fire prevention message," said Scott Heather DNR state wildfire supervisor. "Programs at fairs and in the classroom are an important aspect of the job."

But Heather said the current challenge is elevating important fire prevention information above all the competing messages that are flowing into people's hectic lives.

"IPods, satellite television and radio and the Internet have surpassed the handbill nailed to a post warning of wildfire's potential threat," Heather said.

The best method of fire prevention is education, and the DNR is committed to doing all it can to prevent wildfires knowing that reducing carelessly caused fires will save hundreds of fire department runs and thousands of scorched acres.

"Preventing any single fire perhaps will save someone's home or possibly even a person's life," said Heather.

According to Heather, statistics remind us each year that there are thousands of negligent fires caused by people who didn't hear the message "Drown your campfire before leaving," or "Don't burn when it is windy."

But what those figures don't say is how many times the message was heard and that someone's cautious act prevented a fire.

For more information on wildfire prevention and safety, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov.dnr under the Forests, Land and Water section to locate the Forest Management menu.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FIRE OFFICER OPENING
APPLICATION DEADLINE – May 9, 2008
LOCATION: Shingleton, Alger County

Under the direction of on-site supervision, perform all forest fire control and related activities. Duties other than fire control and prevention include but are not limited to: equipment repair and upkeep, maintenance and construction of recreational lands and associated facility, assisting in the field administration of snowmobile trails, and construction of or repairs to buildings, roads and bridges. When time permits, assist in forest management and land management programs, and assist other divisions with special projects. Often works directly with the public while working in our recreational programs and on fire prevention, information and suppression activities. The employee shall regard safety as personal responsibility not only for himself but also for all personnel associated with Department facilities and grounds.

To apply for this or other positions in state government, go to:
http://web1mdcs.state.mi.us/vacancyweb/vacancying.asp

Residential Sprinklers Save Lives

"And Fire Fighters Too"

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

Residential sprinkler ordinances have come to light all across the United States. One of the most notable is the requirements in Scottsdale Arizona, which is the basis for the Scottsdale report. If you are familiar with state laws governing residential construction in Michigan, then you understand residential sprinkler ordinances or similar requirements can not be

adopted by your local community. Construction for one and two family homes is governed by the Michigan Residential Code (a modified version of the IRC 2003 and the new 2006 code will go into effect on August 1, 2008) and local ordinances can not be more restrictive than the code. The changes must be made at the State or through the code development process of the International Code Council (ICC).

The code development process for Michigan took a great step forward when the Construction Code Commission (code development committee) recommended the inclusion of Appendix P into Michigan's Residential Building Code (2006 edition). Unfortunately the code change did not appear in the recommended changes to the building code. During the code forum for the ICC, multiple code changes were heard by the residential code committee and were denied in respect to residential sprinklers.
We need your help in our war against fire. The U.S. Fire Service responds to nearly 4,000 fatal fires in a given year with an estimated fire loss of $8 billion. One small way to reduce future fires is the installation of residential sprinkler systems. We as the fire service need to continually push for the inclusion of these systems in the codes and standards which affect Michigan. There must also be continued efforts to educate the public and builders so they will install these systems voluntarily.

We can do this by partnering with installing contractors at trade shows, providing information booths at our open house, breaking down local barriers to installation, and support the ICC code development process. September 17-24, 2008, the ICC will have its final action hearings in Minnesota. The only people that can vote during this process are the governmental members. People that are employed by fire service or building departments and who have paid for their membership. We need your vote at the hearings in Minnesota. A grant is available through the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition to pay for travel and two night's hotel to assist governmental members in attending the process. If you would like more information please visit their web page at www.ircfiresprinklercoalition.org or send an email to mobrian@inspector911.com. If you can not attend do your part to support a member of your organization to attend. This may be through budgeting for additional hotel costs or giving the time away from the office. Our goal is to make Michigan's voice heard and change the codes that we use for Fire and Life Safety.

There are multiple resources available to help you as an AHJ on residential sprinklers. Just google some of these names and visit their web-pages. This includes the home fire sprinkler association, IRC Fire Sprinkler coalition, and Residential Fire Safety Institute. Residential sprinklers are one step in eliminating fire deaths. Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home and please tell a friend to check theirs.

Editorial Note:
Michael O'Brian is the Fire Marshal for the Brighton Area Fire Department in Brighton MI. He also serves as a board member of the Michigan Fire Inspector Society and is the founder of www.inspector911.com a fantastic web-site devoted to the development of inspectors across the globe. Michael can be reached at 810-225-8033 or by email at mobrian@brightonareafire.com.

"The Courage to Be Safe…so Everyone Goes Home" Training Program

Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. But a different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences That different type of courage is the subject of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "The Courage to Be Safe…so Everyone Goes Home" program. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of our firefighters as a normal occurrence.

At the heart of "The Courage to Be Safe" are the gripping, untold stories of LODD survivors, revealing how family members must live with the consequences of a fire fighter death. The program graphically underscores the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line of duty deaths and promotes the courage to do the right thing so that "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

"This outstanding program is one that the Bureau of Fire Services fully supports," said State Fire Marshal Andy Neumann. "I have asked my staff to attend a presentation by one of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation leaders, Mr. Ronald Siarnicki, at the fall Michigan Fire Inspector Society Conference."

The Bureau is ready to assist you in anyway we can to provide this most valuable training to your department. You can contact the State of Michigan's program advocate, Chief Nazih Hazime of the Dearborn Fire Department at nhazime@ci.dearborn.mi.us or you can contact the at 517-241-8847.

LODD PROTOCOL TRAINING

LINE OF DUTY DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY SEMINAR - JUNE 10, 2008
Albion Department of Public Safety
SESSIONS AT 1:00 PM AND 6:00 PM
Kellogg Community College Eastern Campus, 14055 26 Mile Rd., Albion, MI 49224

Albion Public Safety, in cooperation with the Thin Blue Line of Michigan and the Michigan State Firefighters Association will be presenting two seminars on Line of Duty Deaths and Serious Injury.

The afternoon session will be presented by Ms. Laurie Reinacher, Executive Director and founder of the Thin Blue Line of Michigan. The evening session will be presented by members of the LAST TEAM and the Michigan State Firemans Association.

Both sessions will cover LODD protocols, funeral arrangements, help to grieving families and co-workers, monetary benefits payable to families, assistance for mental health services, and benefits and provisions that may be provided for serious injury that does not result in death. In addition, many communities and organizations provide assistance and financial support that many would not think of.

The afternoon session with the Thin Blue Line will be geared towards law enforcement. Administrators, union representatives, supervisors and elected officials are encouraged to attend.

The evening session with the Michigan Firemans Association will be geared toward firefighters, both career and part paid or volunteer. Again, supervisors and administrators are encouraged to attend.

Other interested people in either session may include funeral directors, health care professionals, mental health professionals, city or village managers, township supervisors, etc.

There is no cost for the afternoon session. A $10.00 donation is requested at the door for the evening session to help cover overnight expenses of the presenters.

Reservations may be made by calling Lt. Dan Strowbridge at 517 629 7825.

MIOSHA Resumes Enforcement of Respirator Annual Fit Testing Requirements for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis (TB)

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) has resumed enforcement of the requirement for annual fit testing of respirators for occupational exposure to tuberculosis (TB). This action follows the lead of federal OSHA with the removal of the Wicker Amendment from the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act by the U.S. Congress. The MIOSHA program is part of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG).

The Wicker Amendment was an appropriations rider that prohibited OSHA, and OSHA-funded state programs, from expending appropriated funds in administering or enforcing provisions that require annual fit testing (after the initial fit testing) of respirators used for protection against occupational exposure to TB.

Employers who are covered under the MIOSHA TB requirements must comply with all requirements for annual fit testing of respirators for occupational exposure to

tuberculosis in accordance with MIOSHA Part 451, Respiratory Protection. MIOSHA will continue to extend to workers exposed to TB the same high level of respiratory protection provided to workers throughout Michigan, by enforcing all requirements of the respiratory protection standard including respiratory protection training, fit testing, and medical evaluation.

Employee exposures to TB are also addressed by MIOSHA Instruction No. GISHD-COM-05-2R-2, *Enforcement Policy and Procedures for Evaluating Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis (TB)*. This instruction is based on the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) 2006 "*Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Tuberculosis in Health-Care Facilities*." The instruction identifies health care facilities, long-term care facilities for the elderly, homeless shelters, drug treatment centers, and correctional facilities as posing a high risk of TB exposure.

MIOSHA will continue its current enforcement policy of Instruction No. GISHD-COM-05-2R-2, through the General Duty Clause, when an employer has a confirmed or suspected case of TB and is not adequately addressing the hazard.

Occupational exposure to TB is a serious and recognized hazard, and feasible abatement methods exist. Control methods required under MIOSHA Instruction No. GISHD-COM-05-2R-2 include:

- Early identification of patients/clients;
- Respiratory protection;
- Medical surveillance (including initial exams and periodic evaluations);
- Case management of infected employees;
- Work practices and engineering controls; and
- Employee education and training.

MIOSHA recognizes that some employers may need assistance to come into compliance. The philosophy of the MIOSHA program has long been to provide both compliance and outreach activities to protect Michigan workers. MIOSHA's Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division is initiating an outreach effort to provide training and information to affected employers in Michigan. Employers are urged to take advantage of the education and training outreach to assist in their efforts to protect workers from TB hazards.

Employers who have questions about TB enforcement and compliance issues may contact the MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division at 517.322.1831. Employers who have questions regarding MIOSHA outreach services are encouraged to contact the CET Division at 517.322.1809.

Thanks to all of you for the 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

2007 — Last Alarm

We honor the service and sacrifice of Michigan firefighters each and every day. In dedicating their lives to the protection of our citizens, they have distinguished themselves in the ranks of our greatest public servants.

It is with heartfelt appreciation we offer the Last Alarm to Michigan's finest lost in the Line of Duty during 2007.

Joseph Torkos	City of Detroit Fire Department	February 7
Timothy Sanborn	Clinton Area Fire and Rescue	June 22
John Lietzke	Olivet Fire Department	September 25
Ralph Cross	Charlevoix Township Fire Department	October 27
Peter G. Neilson	Kenockee Township Fire Department	December 17

For additional information go to:

http://www.firemensmemorial.org/

http://www.firehero.org/