



October 2008

Michigan FIRE Service Connection

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Dear Friend:

A potholder too close to a lit burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

That's why the Bureau of Fire Services is teaming up with NFPA from October 5-11 to urge Michigan residents to "Prevent Home Fires" during Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign focuses on preventing all the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating and electrical equipment, and smoking materials. Additionally, fire safety educators across the state will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

According to the latest research from NFPA, more than 2,500 people died in home fires in the United States in 2006, and 12,500 were injured. Fire departments responded to 396,000 home fires, which accounted for 80 percent of civilian deaths and 76 percent of injuries that year.

"While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire," said Tony Sanfilippo, Deputy State Fire Marshal. "Whether it's smoking outside the home, keeping space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, or staying in the kitchen when you are using the stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire."

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

For more information on "It's Fire Prevention Week – Prevent Home Fires!" visit www.firepreventionweek.org

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.

Table of Contents

October 2008

NFPA Fire Prevention Week 2008 – “Prevent Home Fires”

NFPA – Smoking and Home Fires	3
NFPA – Prevent Dryer Fires	4
NFPA – Fires in the U.S. Killed One Person Every Two and a Half Hours	5
Residential Sprinklers by Mike O’Brian	6
Fire Extinguishers	8

NFIRS by Rhonda Howard

Residential Fire Statistics.....	11
----------------------------------	----

Staffing at the Bureau

Karen Towne’s Departure	12
Staff Spotlight: M. Charles Willis	12
Training Coordinator: Robert Hill.....	13

Office of Firefighter Training

Charlevoix and Beaver Island Fire Departments Ramp Up Pilot FF I and II Course	13
29 th Annual Michigan State Firemen’s Memorial	15
What Firefighter Memorials Have You Visited?	16
Kalamazoo Regional Police and Fire Training Campus Opens	17

Office of Fire Safety

59 th Annual MFIS Fall Educational Seminar	19
Bureau of Fire Services Jurisdiction.....	21

Michigan State Police - EMHSD

Summit 2008 – Emergency Management Conference	22
---	----

Other News

Silent Night Parade	23
USFA – The USFA Announces the 2007 Firefighter Fatalities Report	25
NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund Helps First Responders in Need	26
NIOSH – First Responders: Protect Your Employees with an Exposure Control Plan.....	28
USFA – Fire Hydrant Marking Schemes	29
National School Bus Safety Week	29
Amtrak Announces Passenger Train Emergency Response Training Program .	31
DEQ – Encourage Home Owners to Rake Responsibly	32
Concerns over Temporary Gas Storage and Transportation Product, ItzaGasCan.....	33
Bureau of Fire Services – Lansing Office Will be Moving!	34



Your home should be a safe haven. But do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger. Fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. That's why the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2008 is "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!"

From October 5-11, 2008, fire safety advocates will spread the word to their communities that, with a little extra caution, preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical and smoking-materials – is within their power.

Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2008 NFPA.



Smoking and Home Fires

How you can prevent home fires caused by smoking

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths across the country. If you smoke or live with someone who smokes, learn the facts.

IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME

Every year, smokers are killed in home fires caused by smoking materials like cigarettes, cigars and pipes. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed can cause a large fire in seconds.

MY FAMILY COMES FIRST

Home fires caused by smoking materials have killed others living in the same home who were not smoking. If you live with a smoker, learn how you can help prevent fires caused by smoking materials.

IT ONLY TAKES SECONDS

Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds. It is up to you to make sure your cigarette is put out, all the way, every time.



**National Fire
Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

Prevent Dryer Fires

Dryers and washing machines were involved in one out of every 21 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2002-2005

Facts and figures

- Dryers and washing machines were involved in an average of 18,280 home structure fires per year between 2002 and 2005. These fires caused an average of 26 deaths, 468 injuries and \$198 million in direct property damage per year.
- Clothes dryers and washing machines were involved in 5% of the home structure fires reported between 2002 and 2005.
- Clothes dryers accounted for 92% of the fires; washing machines 5%, and washer and dryer combinations accounted for 3%.
- The leading cause of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean (29%), followed by unclassified mechanical failure or malfunction (23%). Thirteen percent were caused by some type of electrical failure or short circuit.
- Over half of these fires started with either clothing (28%) or dust, fiber or lint (27%).



[NFPA Fact Sheet](#)

Source: NFPA's "Home Fires Involving Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines," report by John R. Hall Jr., May 2008.



**National Fire
Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

Fires in the United States Killed One Person Every Two and a Half Hours

NFPA Journal publishes statistics on fire loss nationwide during 2007

Findings from the newly released report on the [U.S. fire loss for 2007](#) are available in the latest issue of NFPA Journal, the official magazine of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). According to this overview of the U.S. fire experience, fires killed one person every two and half hours last year.

Fire departments responded to 1.6 million fires, the lowest total since 2004. Although the number of fires declined, fire deaths and injuries increased. Home fire deaths accounted for more than eight in 10 of all fire deaths, yet even with an 11 percent increase from the previous year, the number of home fire deaths was the third lowest since 1977. In 2007, fires caused an estimated \$14 billion in property damage, a nearly 30 percent increase from the previous year.

Other key findings from the report:

Fires – number/frequency

1. 1,557,500 fires were attended by public fire departments, a decrease of 5.2 percent from the year before.
2. 530,500 fires occurred in structures, an increase of 1.2 percent.
3. 414,000 fires or 78 percent of all structure fires occurred in residential properties.
4. Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 59 seconds, and in particular, a residential fire occurs every 76 seconds. Fires occur in vehicles at the rate of 1 every 122 seconds, and there's a fire in an outside property every 41 seconds.

Fire deaths

1. 3,430 civilian fire deaths occurred in 2007, an increase of 5.7 percent.
2. About 84 per cent of all fire deaths (2,865) occurred in the home, an increase of 11 percent.
3. 365 civilians died in highway vehicle fires, a decrease of 18 percent.
4. 105 civilians died in nonresidential structure fires.

Fire injuries

1. 17,675 civilian fire injuries occurred, an increase of 7.8 percent.
2. 14,000 injuries occurred in residential properties, an increase of 8.3 percent.
3. 1,350 injuries occurred in nonresidential structure fires.
4. Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every 30 minutes.

Property damage

1. An estimated \$14,639,000,000 in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2007, a highly significant increase of 29.5 percent from last year. This total figure includes the California Fire Storm 2007 with an estimated property damage of \$1,800,000,000. Excluding the California Fire Storm, total property loss still increased a significant 13.5 percent.
2. \$10,638,000,000 of property damage occurred in structure fires, excluding structures associated with the California Fire Storm.
3. \$7,546,000,000 of property loss occurred in residential properties, an increase of 8 per cent.

[Subscribe to NFPA RSS News Feeds](#)

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Residential Sprinklers

By Michael D. O'Brian, Fire Marshal
Brighton Area Fire Authority

As we head into fire prevention week, I would ask that you become educated on residential sprinklers. Residential sprinklers have been a hot topic as the International Code Council acted to require residential sprinklers in homes and representatives from Michigan took part to save many future lives by voting in favor of residential sprinklers.



On September 21, 2008 the governmental members present at the Final Action Hearings for the 2009 International Code series voted with 73 percent majority in favor of requiring residential sprinklers in one and two family homes. The actions that took place in Minneapolis, MN during September 17-23, are known as the final action hearings. The governmental members listen to debate on code proposals which in turn modify the 2006 ICC codes to make the 2009 version.

The code series is part of the International Code Council (ICC) which was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The founders of the ICC are Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress

International, Inc. (SBCCI). The ICC through the code development process develops codes and standards that are used by many communities. These include the International Building Code, International Fire Code, International Residential Code, or the International Plumbing Code, to name a few. The ICC is similar to the National Fire Protection Association.

The code change known as RB 64 07/08 would require residential sprinklers in one and two family dwellings beginning in January 1, 2011 if the code is adopted by the enforcing agency. Residential sprinklers are not new technology and have been successfully installed in homes in Michigan and throughout the U.S. for many years. Residential sprinklers are specifically designed to only operate when there is heat from a fire. The water which discharges from a single residential sprinkler is approximately 13 gallons a minute and is commonly installed on the same piping as your bathroom fixtures.

In Michigan, the Construction Code Commission provides oversight on the Single Statewide Construction Code Act. Currently Michigan utilizes an amended version of the 2006 edition of International Building and residential codes titled the Michigan Building Code or Michigan Residential Code. For those of us in Michigan, the Construction Code Commission established a code review committee which submits changes to the document through the rulemaking process which is governed by the polices of SOHAR.

The requirements found in the 2009 IRC are not enforceable by communities until they are formally adopted through the various processes by the Construction Code Commission. These requirements are a vital requirement in reducing deaths, injuries, and fire loss in our communities across Michigan. As our economy is weakening and cuts are happening to our building and fire departments, this code change will help insure fire safety in the future housing stock.

I am certain that over the next year, various code groups will be working to make this code change a reality in Michigan. This will include various aspects of training for plan review and inspection staff as well as public education campaigns for elected officials and residents alike. We will need your help in advocating for homes the Michigan Codes to include this change. Right now you can start by making sure all of your firefighters know about residential sprinklers and are prepared to answer questions about these systems. Setup a residential sprinkler display at your open house, or talk about them during fire prevention week.

Municipalities will hear many different sides to this code change. I hope that enforcing communities look at residential sprinklers as a means to helping limit deaths and injuries from a fire. Elected officials should work with their local building and fire departments and look at how this change will be implemented in the upcoming years.

The following departments were present at the hearings:

- Brighton Area Fire Authority
- Burton Fire
- Hartland Area Fire Authority
- Kentwood Fire Department
- Howell Fire Department

- Novi Fire Department
- Independence Township Fire Department
- Soaring Eagle, Chippewa
- Cold Water Fire Department
- Taylor Fire Department
- Kalamazoo Township Fire Department
- Norton Shores Fire Department

Additional information is available at www.inspector911.com .

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on <http://ircfiresprinkler.org/>.



Fire Extinguishers

Types, Location and Use

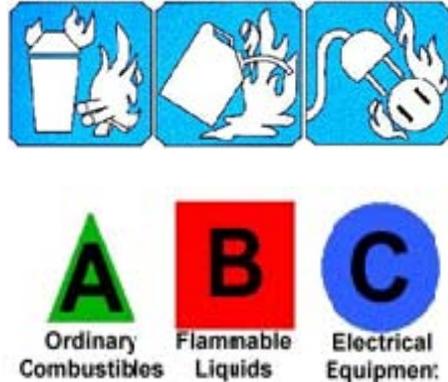
Types of Fires: Fires are classified as follows:

HAZARD CLASS	DESCRIPTION
Class "A" Fire	Combustible Material (Paper, Wood)
Class "B" Fire	Flammable Liquids and Gases (Grease, Paint, Solvents)
Class "C" Fire	Electrical Equipment
Class "D" Fire	Combustible Metals (Potassium, Sodium, Aluminum, Magnesium)
Class "K" Fire	Cooking Oils and Greases

Fire hazards are also classified as Low, Ordinary, or High depending on the amount of combustibles or flammable liquids and the potential intensity of a fire if one were to begin.

Types of Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are labeled for the type of fire they work on. Many extinguishers are labeled A, or A B, even A B C. Class A or B extinguishers will also have a numeric rating, which stands for the relative effectiveness depending on 2A is good for protecting 3000 square feet for an ordinary hazard and one rated 4A is good for protecting 6000 square feet. For Class B extinguishers, the number stands for the square foot coverage capacity. Newer fire extinguishers will have the picture type labels and older ones will likely have the letters and shapes (see examples at right).



Location of Fire Extinguishers in Offices



Normal office environments should have at least one fire extinguisher every 75 feet (for Class A extinguishers) depending on the type of hazard. However, the number, types, distance, and size of extinguishers needed must be based on the type of area, the severity of the hazard, and the anticipated classes of fire. Fire extinguishers must be visible and accessible.

Per MIOSHA General Industry rules, “An extinguisher...shall be inspected monthly or at more frequent intervals when circumstances require to ensure that the extinguisher...is at its designated place, has not been actuated or tampered with, (and) does not have obvious damage. An extinguisher shall receive a thorough inspection at least once a year to ensure operability.” (See example at left of an extinguisher with monthly inspection dates and initials.)

Location of Fire Extinguishers in Vehicles

Per the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Title 49, Section 393.95, Emergency equipment on all power units (commercial motor vehicles), must be equipped (with a) fire extinguisher that is properly filled and located so that it is **readily accessible** for use. The fire extinguisher must be **securely mounted** (with the handle pin in place) on the vehicle. The fire extinguisher must be designed, constructed, and maintained to permit visual determination of whether it is fully charged.



Just like the MIOSHA General Industry rules on inspection given above, there is also a MIOSHA construction rule on fire extinguisher inspection, which states...extinguishers, “shall be inspected monthly...(and) an extinguisher shall receive a thorough inspection at least once a year to ensure operability”. (See example at right of an extinguisher missing monthly inspection dates and initials.)

While there are no specific requirements for labeling the location of fire extinguishers in vehicles, labeling is recommended for quick access in the event of an emergency. Remember, the fire extinguisher must be readily accessible and securely mounted to prevent accidental discharge.



Please see your fleet equipment manager for assistance with these labels.

References:

Brownstown Fire Department, Prevention Bureau, 10 Tips on How & When to use a Fire Extinguisher, 1996.

National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, 2007 Edition.

Fire Extinguisher Safety, www.fireextinguisher.com

MIOSHA, General Industry Safety Standards, Part 8 Portable Fire Extinguishers

MIOSHA, Construction Safety Standards, Part 18, Fire Protection and Prevention 6/2008

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact:

Jim Gaus, Occupational Safety Specialist, MDOT Safety and Security Administration at 517-241-4188 or email: gausj@michigan.gov or MDOT Safety and Security Administration at 517-241-1697 or email: MDOT-SafetyAdmin@michigan.gov.

For other Safety Topics, please visit the [Connect MDOT Safety and Security Administration Website: Organization>>Executive>>Safety & Security Administration.](#)

As with any training, please be sure to take attendance. Fax a copy of MDOT form 0037 attendance sheet to Safety and Security Administration at 517-335-2787 and file the original in your training files for future reference.

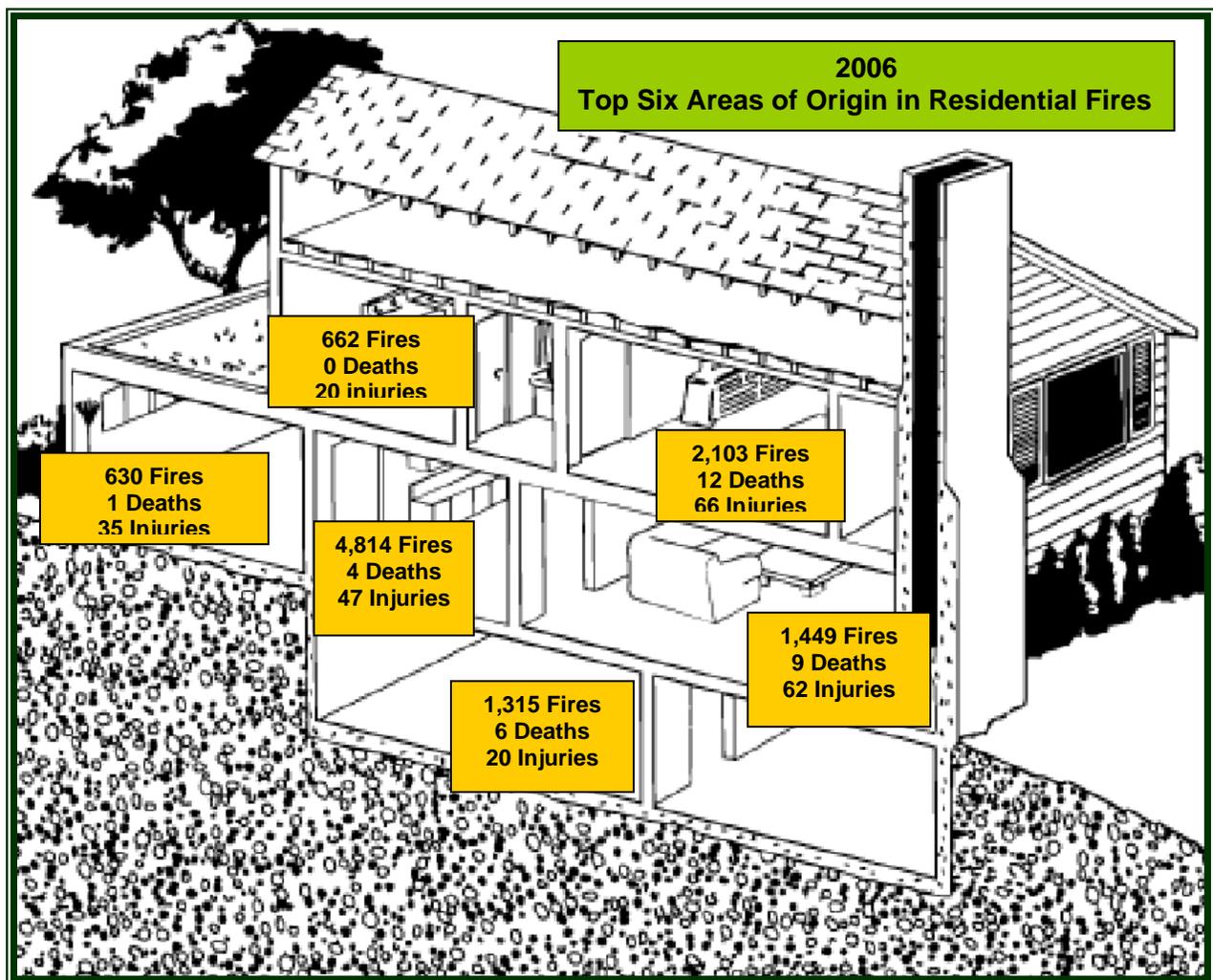
NFIRS

By Rhonda Howard

Fire reporting plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities and economic losses from fire. Complete and accurate data is essential to effective solutions to many of our fire problems. Below is the information relating to residential fires in Michigan for 2006.



2006
One structure fire
every
43 minutes, 38 seconds



Staffing at the Bureau

Karen Towne's Departure

Karen Towne began serving as senior executive assistant to Deputy Director/Chief of Staff Susan Corbin on August 11. Karen has had a long career in state government, including stints in the appointment offices of both Governors Blanchard and Granholm, on the staff of the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House with Rep. Jim Agee, and in the Department of State Police. Most recently, Karen served as director of special projects in the Fire Marshal division of the Bureau of Fire Services. Karen has studied human resources, business administration and photography at Lansing Community College and has completed specialized training in public fire education and fire investigation. Karen has been a long-time volunteer with the Michigan Firemen's Memorial, served on the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee, and worked with a variety of law enforcement and fire organizations in development of specialized training in child fire setting and juvenile arson. She lives in Haslett and has a son, Charles and a daughter, Malin.



Staff Spotlight

M. Charles Willis

M. Charles (Chuck) Willis is the Region 2 supervisor for the Bureau of Fire Services. As Region 2 supervisor, he oversees 15 counties and two field offices located in Saginaw and Jackson. Chuck leads a staff of four inspectors and one secretary. The staff is responsible for inspections of schools, homes for the aged (HFA), hospitals, nursing homes, adult foster care homes (AFC), and penal institutions located within the region. Chuck has 28 years of fire service experience. He started working with the Bureau of Fire Services in 2005.

Training Coordinator, Robert Hill

By Gary Crum, Office of Firefighter Training

Bob Hill is a training coordinator for the Office of Firefighter Training and has held this position for over 11 years, covering Oakland and Lapeer Counties. Bob began his firefighting career in the military with one tour of duty in Southeast Asia as an air crew member in search and rescue. He was hired as a firefighter in the City of Detroit where he worked as a firefighter driver, fire engine operator, fire investigator, training officer and retired as the Chief of Training. Currently he teaches fire investigations for company officers NFA. This year he taught classes in Anchorage, Alaska and Vancouver, Washington. He teaches fire officer classes for company officers at a variety of community colleges. He hunts, fishes and plays golf. He's hunted elk in Colorado, bear in Maine, caribou in Quebec and moose in Newfoundland. He claims that he's just winding down a "mediocre" career. Bob's humility belies his true contributions to the fire service across our nation and to the Bureau of Fire Services.

Office of Firefighter Training

Charlevoix and Beaver Island Fire Departments Ramp Up Pilot FF I and II Course

By Joe Grutza, Director, Office of Firefighter Training

On September 18, 2008, the Office of Fire Fighter Training met with the fire chiefs from the Charlevoix Fire Department and the Beaver Island Fire Department. The staff was given an update on a new Firefighter (FF) I and II pilot program which, for the first time, will include audio/visual conferencing for selected sections. During the September 18th meeting, Director Joe Grutza of the Office of Fire Fighter Training and Training Coordinator Dick Barnett were given an up close and personal run through by Course Manager Jesse Silva.

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council gave approval to the pilot program after reviewing the request by the two departments. The FF I and II course is scheduled to begin on October 6, 2008. With beautiful Beaver Island being a full two-hour ferry ride from the ports of Charlevoix, training has been a long term problem for the island's long-time chief. "Without certified trainers on the island, keeping our member's firefighter skills proficient is a very difficult and expensive

task,” said Beaver Island Fire Chief, Tim McDonough. “We have been looking for an opportunity like this for a long time.”

The opportunity for Beaver Island became a reality after many discussions with the Charlevoix Fire Department. Charlevoix agreed to invest over \$17,500 on new state of the art equipment, opening the door to a long-distance learning plan. “That amount is on top of the substantial dollars invested in the civic building’s communication infrastructure,” said Charlevoix Fire Chief, Paul Ivan. “We also worked with our cable company to obtain an exclusive T-1 line at \$79.98 per month.”



On September 18, Charlevoix firefighter / course manager Jesse Silva introduced the instructors to the OFFT staff and gave a demonstration of the systems capabilities. The equipment provides two-way camera and viewing capacity that responds to the voices of instructors and students. A version of the old overhead projector called ELMO, can be used to show overheads, slides and written documents while sharing the screen with the instructor. “Basically what we have is the old style grease board that can be seen at both locations,” said Mr. Silva. Other items discussed at the briefing including a phone system backup in case of any technological breakdowns and an early weather cancellation system.

Although the pilot course has proven to be quite a challenge, the rewards are immense. Once completed, as many as 60 firefighters will achieve new certifications. And on Beaver Island, it couldn’t have come at a better time. “I have about 10 firefighters that need this training now” said B.I. Fire Chief McDonough. And once the word got out that this training was available, I had 10 more volunteers step up.” This will nearly double the number of firefighters on the island department which also must cover five nearby satellite islands.



29th Annual Michigan State Firemen's Memorial Festival

By Joe Grutza, Director, Office of Firefighter Training

In what has become a don't miss event for thousands of firefighters, their families and supporters, the 29th Annual Michigan State Firemen's Memorial Festival was held in Roscommon September 18-21. The festival held at this beautifully wooded mid- Michigan area was greeted by fantastic weather and enthusiastic crowds. As always, the ceremony on Saturday morning was the feature when nearly two thousand guests gathered at the Firemen's Memorial to pay their respects to our fallen heroes.



Pictured L to R: Jim Bush, Karen Towne, Dale Hardy

As they arrived, they were greeted by three former MSP/FMD staffers Karen Towne, Dale Hardy and Jim Bush, serving hot coffee and doughnuts, and donating the proceeds to the memorial upkeep. At 9:00 a.m. sharp, the master of ceremony, Michigan State Firemen's Association Past President Cliff Messing, brought the crowd to attention.



Pictured: Master of Ceremony, Cliff Messing

He moved the proceedings along in a respectful manner with several dignitaries addressing the crowd. He followed that by reverently calling the names of those added to the memorial wall. As each line of duty death was announced, members of the Almont Fire Department rang a fire bell three times, the traditional sign of a fallen hero. Chaplain Michael Carr gave a moving invocation and his words during the prayer had the audience silent with their heads bowed. Following that, Cliff Thurlow from the Flint Fire department wowed the audience with his rendition of the Firefighters Hymn.

The highlight of the memorial event was the presentation of the wreaths by firefighters and families. One after another, wives, husbands, sons and daughters, firefighters, friends and families approached the podium, presenting a wreath or a donation in memory of a fallen hero. The fusion of loved ones expressing the pain of losing someone so close to them, and the smiles initiated by memories of good times spent together, provided a surreal scene. In the crowd, many sat and stood in reverent silence, some holding signs expressing their thanks to the firefighters. And after everyone had a chance to come to the stage, and the ceremonies were closed with a benediction, the attendees slowly began their

stroll back to their cars. Some lingered by the memorial, many making plans to return next year.

The Saturday Memorial was just one of the many events of the weekend. The Training Grounds was host to many happenings including activities for the whole family, firefighter team competitions, food, games, music and hundreds of vendors hawking their wares. Two parades, The Bright Light Silent Parade Friday night and the Grand Parade on Saturday morning had hundreds of



people lining the streets of Roscommon. And of course, the Red Barn was host to music, dancing and good times each night.

If you missed it this year, be sure to plan on attending next year. It is a great way to celebrate the love, unity and common purpose that all firefighters share. Congratulations to the Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival Committee for a job well done.

For more information, visit them at their website, www.firemensmemorial.org

What Firefighter Memorials Have You Visited?

While attending the Michigan State Firemen's Memorial ceremony in Roscommon, we



couldn't help but notice how impressive the statue is that stands in front of the wall. It also made us think of how many wonderful memorials there are to firefighters not only throughout Michigan but all over the United States and the world.

We have had the pleasure of visiting many wonderful memorials including the one you see pictured here to the left. This is the recently updated Cleveland Firefighters Memorial that stands in downtown Cleveland, Ohio between the football

stadium and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The flames flicking over the firefighter's helmets as they work to extinguish the fire makes this statue unique and its urban location off Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland is in stark contrast to the peaceful woods surrounding the Roscommon Memorial.

As a new item to our newsletter, we are asking that you, our readers, submit to us any pictures of firefighter memorials you have visited over the years. If you would like to share them with us, please send them along with a brief description of the memorial to our editor. We will try to run at least one a month. Be sure to include to us: the date you visited it, who you were with and if possible, a little bit of its history. Don't be shy. If you, your family or friends are in the picture, it will be even better.

Please send those pictures to Joe Grutza at grutzaj@michigan.gov.

Kalamazoo Regional Police and Fire Training Campus Opens

By Joe Grutza, Director, Office of Firefighter Training

On August 28, 2008, the new Kalamazoo Regional Police and Fire Training Campus officially opened.

retired Kalamazoo Fire Marshal Marty Myers emceed the event which was attended by many dignitaries and contributors including Deputy State Fire Marshal Tony Sanfilippo. The campus is located at 911 Training Center Boulevard in Kalamazoo. Included in the opening ceremonies was a live fire presentation in the training tower. Fire Marshal Myers led his team of instructors and local firefighters in a fictional multi-set fire. The training tower is part of the first phase of the 22-acre campus which will include an ice/water rescue pond, a car and tanker fire area, a modular classroom, an indoor training building and a police, fire, and K-9 agility course.

The second phase of the campus will have a driving track for police, fire, medical and school/metro bus training. The final phase will include an indoor fire arms range.

The Kalamazoo Regional Police and Fire Training Campus was put together by a coalition of 18 governmental agencies, numerous educational institutions and multiple private agencies (website



Picture taken by: Technician David Thomas

address). During the opening ceremonies, Project Coordinator Marty Myers talked about what it took to bring the project to where it is today. “This is an example of how public and private entities can work together and solve a need in our area,” said Myers. “The financial support as well as the manpower received from all our supporters was needed to make this dream come true. We are very grateful.” Even the opening ceremonies itself didn’t stop Project Coordinator Myers from raising money as he accepted a large donation from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

In order to keep the dollars coming in, Fire Marshal Myers gave details on the campus’ “Buy a Brick” program which allows a supporter, for a small donation, to be part of a pathway of honor. Pamphlets were distributed with the hows and whys of the project. You can get more information on the campus or how to make a donation by writing to:

Marty Myers
Retired Fire Marshal
Attn: Training Campus Donations
150 East Crosstown Parkway
Suite A
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 998-2562

Stan McDonald
Kalamazoo Public Safety Training Division
Attn: Training Campus Donations
150 East Crosstown Parkway
Suite A
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 337-8346



Picture taken by Technician Tyler Fall

Office of Fire Safety



59th Annual Michigan Fire Inspectors Society Fall Educational Seminar

By BreeAnn Hooker,
Office of Firefighter Training

Several members of the Bureau of Fire Services attended the 59th Annual Michigan Fire Inspectors Society Fall Educational Seminar September 9-12. The seminar was again a great success, with one of the highest number in attendance to date!

With a total of 21 continuing education credits being offered (if you attended the business meeting), a wide range of information was presented. The first two days covered opening ceremonies, updates, and the keynote address. Workshops such as *Handling the Media; Politics and the Fire Inspector* and *Legal Aspects for the Fire Inspector* were presented on the third day and kept everyone on their toes! Review of U.L. design, high piled storage, time management, “green” buildings and battery calculations were just a few of the topics covered. The banquet was held the evening of September 11, with the installation of officers and awards. Below are some names and recipients of awards at this year’s conference as well as the list of new officers.

Fire Inspector of the Year 2008

The Michigan Fire Inspector honors one of their members every year with the Fire Inspector of the Year award. Nominations are taken every year for members who have represented the qualities of a fire inspector and have aided the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. Art Shaw was named the 2008 recipient, honored for his continued commitment to MFIS and dedication to the organization practices and mission. Art has been dedicated in assisting with code development at the state level including the adult foster care rules, LPG rules, and many others.

Public Educator of the Year, Fireman Larry Award

In 2007, the MFIS honored Cary Thompson with the first Public Educator of the Year award. The award has been developed in honor of Fire Marshal Larry Zimmerman. Larry served as fire inspector and fire marshal with the City of Royal Oak. Larry was diagnosed with amyloidosis and lost his life to the terrible disease.

Known to the children of the area as Fireman Larry his efforts in educating children about fire safety helped prevent hundreds of accidental fire and injuries. This award is given in honor of “Fireman Larry’s” service and commitment to fire prevention.

Tom Kiurski with Livonia Fire & Rescue was named the 2008 recipient of this award.

Presidents Award

Created in 2006 to honor those who have aided the Michigan Fire Inspector Society in meeting their goals, this award may be given annually and is selected by the current MFIS president. Recipients have included elected officials. Major Metcalf chose Mr. Ron Farr as the 2008 recipient.

Below are the officers for 2008-2009:

Norm Hosko, President
Michael O’Brian, Vice President
Ronald Farr, Secretary Treasurer
Kevin Abbasse, 1-year Trustee
Brian Batten, 2-year Trustee
John Hager, 3-year Trustee
Paul Dove, 4-year Trustee
Past President, Major Metcalf



Picture L to R: Art Shaw, Tom Kiurski, Major Metcalf, and Ronald Farr.

For more information on the Michigan Fire Inspector’s Society, visit them at www.mfis.org

Bureau of Fire Services Jurisdiction

By Brian Williams, BFS Plan Review Division

The Bureau of Fire Services has jurisdiction over various types of public facilities. Health care facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, homes for aged, adult foster cares, county medical care facilities and freestanding surgical outpatient facilities are all subject to plan review by the plan review division and inspections by the fire marshal division. The Bureau also has jurisdiction over all K-12 schools (with the exception of the City of Detroit Public Schools), college/university classroom buildings, dormitories; state-owned and leased buildings, and penal institutions. These buildings are also subject to plan review and inspection.

The Bureau is granted this authority by Public Act 207 of 1941, known as the Michigan Fire Prevention Code. The code creates the State Fire Safety Board which assists in development of fire safety rules covering the construction, operation and maintenance of schools, health care facilities, penal facilities; state owned and leased facilities. Located on our website at www.michigan.gov/bfs, under 'Administrative Rules' are a list of the rules that the State Fire Safety Board has promulgated. Each rule set adopts the 1997 Life Safety Code as the base document and provides amendments to it.

The State Fire Safety Board also promulgates rules for fire prevention. The rules adopt NFPA 1, the 1997 edition. These rules apply to both of the following: fire safety requirements for the construction, operation, or maintenance of places of public assemblage; and fire safety requirements for the operation and maintenance of commercial buildings, industrial buildings, and residential buildings. This requirement excludes one- and two-family dwellings and mobile homes. These rules do not apply in a local jurisdiction with a legally adopted, nationally recognized fire prevention code.

In most cases, the Bureau of Fire Service is not the only authority having jurisdiction since many of these facilities are also subject to the authority of the Bureau of Construction Codes and the Single State Construction Code Act 230 of 1972.

If you have further questions regarding this issue, please contact this office at (517) 241-8847.

2008 Summit Emergency Management Conference

The Michigan State Police/Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is hosting the 2008 Summit in partnership with the Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA). The 2008 Summit will be held October 6-8 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI.

The Summit provides an opportunity for emergency management and homeland security professionals to expand and refresh their expertise, as well as join colleagues to discuss projects, challenges, and new initiatives.

This year's agenda provides insight into lessons learned from disasters both in Michigan and nationwide, updates and refreshers on essential services, as well as proactive planning ideas. This gathering offers each of the attendees a tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, observe, and become enriched with greater knowledge and perspective in the many aspects of emergency management.



For additional information, please visit www.michigan.gov/emhsd.

Silent Night Parade

By Robert C. Austin, Fire Chief / Wyoming Fire Department

Background

Below is a history of the Silent Night Parade. Please take the time to read it. We hope this will give you more of an idea of what we hope to accomplish in West Michigan by making this ceremony an annual tradition.

The Silent Night Parade has its origin in the Chicago suburbs. Beginning in the early 90's, Thursday of Fire Prevention Week was dedicated as Firefighters Memorial Day. Retired Fire Chief Jim Gignac from Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department learned of this ceremony and introduced it to the Wisconsin Fire Service. In 2002, Western Michigan Fire Chiefs heard about the ceremony and brought it here. Initially Grand Rapids Fire Department hosted the ceremony but it was intended for all west Michigan Fire Departments.

The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize and remember any firefighter, active or retired, that has answered the Last Alarm in the past 12 months no matter whether it was line of duty or not. One representative of each fire department present comes to the speakers stand and announces their department name. Each department representative announces the name of any deceased fire service personnel. The bell is rung once for each name. After the roll call of Fire Departments is completed the bell is tolled 5-5-5. The bagpiper(s) play Amazing Grace. The ceremony is concluded and all fire department personnel are dismissed to go to their apparatus.

The Silent Night Parade begins with the blessing of any fire apparatus that is less than 12 months old. These vehicles are staged at the front of the parade line and will lead the parade. When the parade begins all emergency lights are turned on but no sirens or air horns are activated. It is truly a "silent parade". The apparatus follows a designated route and concludes at a location where the apparatus can be on display for the public to view. The public is encouraged to line the parade route. This is strictly a fire service (paid, paid-on call, volunteer, federal, forest and military) ceremony.

**Silent Night Parade
October 9, 2008
(Rain Date October 16, 2008)**

This year's ceremony will again be held at the City of Walker Public Safety Memorial site located at Wilson and Remembrance. Line up of apparatus will be on Wilson Ave. north of Remembrance. The North bound curb lane will be closed off and apparatus will line up facing south in this lane. Please arrive via 3 mile to Wilson.

There is no set order in the parade except the new apparatus will be first. Apparatus with 12 months or less in service will stage at the front of the line. It will be first-

come, first-serve for the line-up. If you have more than one vehicle in the parade, please keep them together (unless new).

After staging your machine, have your group report to the Walker Fire Station. Personnel will be available to direct you. Have one person from your department check-in at the table in the station.

Please be advised that we would like to have one person from your group go up to a microphone and give the name of your Department and the names of any deceased (active or retired) from the past 12 months. You may want to inform the families of the deceased that their loved one's name will be mentioned and a bell will be tolled in their honor. They are welcome to be present for their remembrance.

Staging will begin at 18:00 hrs. The ceremonies will begin at 19:00 hrs with the parade starting at about 19:30hrs.

The parade will leave the memorial site and travel east on Remembrance Road to Kinney. It will continue south on Kinney to the Walker Fire Station #2 (on Lake Michigan Drive) with all apparatus on public display until 9:00pm. Please have at least one member of your department stay with the apparatus at all times to answer any questions the viewing public may have.

If you have anything you would like to hand out, we encourage you to do so.

Please be in your department uniform. Cap and tie are recommended.

One final note: The public is welcome and encouraged to join us at the ceremonies at the memorial site as well as the parade route and the activities at Walker Station 2. Please help us publicize these events by informing family and friends. Local media have already been notified.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the committee members, and please feel free to share this information with other Departments in your area.

Alpine Fire Dept
616.784.5750

Wyoming Fire Dept
616.530.7252

Walker Fire Dept
616.791.6840

Grand Rapids Fire Dept
616.456.3900

Questions regarding registration forms should be addressed to:

Wyoming Fire Department
Attn: Bob Austin
1250 36th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
Fax: (616) 249-3435
Phone: (616) 530-7250
E-Mail: AustinB@ci.wyoming.mi.us

The United States Fire Administration Announces the 2007 Firefighter Fatalities Report

On August 11, 2008 the United States Fire Administration (USFA) released its report [*Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2007*](#). The report continues a series of annual studies by the USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States. The USFA is the single public agency source of information for all on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States each year.

"One of the greatest challenges we face as a fire service is to stop the needless deaths of firefighters while in service to their communities," United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade said. "Every day and across this nation, firefighters are responding to emergencies that threaten the lives of their residents. These same threats also threaten the lives of firefighters. Unfortunately, we all lost far too many firefighters in 2007."

During calendar year 2007, there were 118 firefighters who lost their lives while on duty across the United States.

The unique and specific objective of *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States* is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the United States and its protectorates, and to present in summary narrative form the circumstances surrounding each occurrence. In addition to the 2007 overall findings, this study includes information on the hazards to firefighters presented by the lack of seatbelt use. In 2007, 27 firefighter fatalities resulted from vehicle-related incidents. In 19 of the 27 incidents where seatbelt status was known, 11 firefighters were confirmed as not wearing seatbelts at the time of the event.

An overview of the 118 firefighters that died while on duty in 2007:

- 68 volunteer firefighters and 50 career firefighters died while on duty.
- There were 7 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 or more firefighters were killed, claiming a total of 21 firefighters' lives.
- 11 firefighters were killed during activities involving brush, grass, or wildland firefighting, the lowest in over a decade.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 76 firefighters.
- 38 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 26 firefighters died while responding to or returning from emergency incidents.
- 11 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.

- 15 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.
- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death for 2007, with 52 firefighter deaths.

For the past 22 years, the USFA has tracked all firefighter fatalities and conducted the necessary analysis for the benefit of the fire service. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct future efforts towards finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used by many organizations to measure the effectiveness of their current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety.

The [National Fallen Firefighter Foundation](#) maintains the list of firefighters who die in the line-of-duty and are honored during the annual [National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend](#) held each October in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund Helps First Responders in Need

On Labor Day (September 1, 2008), Hurricane Gustav ripped through the Gulf Coast, leaving more than 800,000 households without power and causing flooding and destruction in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Tropical Storm Hanna struck the East Coast on September 6, 2008, while Hurricane Ike and Tropical Storm Josephine are still turning in the Atlantic. When large-scale disasters strike, our nation relies on first responders to protect our communities. Yet these same firefighters and emergency personnel are also among the victims, suffering damage to their homes and property while putting their lives on the line to serve their communities. The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund helps these first responders in need.

The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund provides a stipend of \$250 to volunteer first responders whose homes have been impacted by a state- or federally-declared disaster. The stipend helps these firefighters and emergency personnel meet their basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster. The NVFC donates all administrative costs associated with managing the fund, so all donations go directly to helping volunteer first responders in need.

“We created the Fund in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and have since also been able to help first responders across the country affected by a number of large-scale disasters, including floods, tornadoes, and others,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Fund, we have been able to distribute close to a half million dollars to volunteer first responders in need.”

“In order to keep the Fund going, we need support,” Stittleburg continued. “I ask that all individuals and organizations consider making a contribution to help us in our efforts to assist volunteer first responders impacted by a disaster.”

To receive a stipend through the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be from an NVFC member state as an individual or department member of the state association
- Be an active volunteer firefighter, rescue worker, or EMS provider
- Have incurred an uninsurable loss in excess of \$5,000
- Live (or have housing) in a state- or federally-declared disaster area

All applications are reviewed by the NVFC Director from the applicant’s state fire association and also require approval (by signature) of the chief of the department.

Learn more about the NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund, make a contribution to the Fund, or download an application to receive support through the Fund at www.nvfc.org/supportfund.



First Responders: Protect Your Employees with an Exposure Control Plan

First responders face unique scenarios due to uncontrolled settings and the possible presence of large volumes of blood at the scene. Exposure risk is heightened in chaotic work situations with uncooperative patients or suspects.

These workers can be easily exposed to blood and other potentially infectious body fluids in their jobs. Emergency responders may perform urgent, invasive procedures on unstable patients, treat open wounds, and stop bleeding. Law enforcement officers may encounter used needles or be assaulted. These events put them at increased risk for contracting bloodborne pathogen infections, including hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections.



A comprehensive bloodborne pathogens exposure prevention program will help protect your employees. One component of a bloodborne pathogens exposure prevention program is a written *Exposure Control Plan*.

These plans are required by the *Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)* Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. In addition, local regulations, employer policy, or collective bargaining agreements may call for such a program.

For more information and to view this entire article, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-115/default.html>.



Fire Hydrant Marking Schemes

What color are the fire hydrants in your community? What does the color tell you? USFA's Coffee Break Training for the week of August 11, 2008 was "Fire Hydrant Marking Schemes". In it, it described one national standard for marking fire hydrants to indicate the available fire flow.

You can download the article at http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_2008_33.pdf. Always refer to nationally recognized design and installation standards, the product manufacturer or listing details for specific information.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For a municipal guide to maintenance, testing and marking of private fire hydrants:
http://www.springsgov.com/units/fire/packets/Hyd_test.pdf
- For one municipality's policy on marking hydrants:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/fire/businessinfo/standard9.PDF>
- For a state standard for marking fire hydrants along major arterials and highways:
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CUTS/itsdm/chap16.pdf>

National School Bus Safety Week

This Year's Theme is:

"Stop on Red, Kids Ahead"

The dates are:

October 20-24, 2008

(National School Bus Safety Week is always held the third full week of October.)

Traffic Safety Facts

2006 Data

www.nhtsa.gov

NHTSA

DOT HS 810 813

School Transportation-Related Crashes

A school transportation-related crash is a crash which involves, either directly or indirectly, a school bus body vehicle, or a non-school bus functioning as a school bus, transporting children to or from school or school-related activities.

Since 1996 there have been about 417,705 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of those, 0.33 percent (1,387) were classified as school transportation-related.

Since 1996, 1,536 people have died in school transportation-related crashes — an average of 140 fatalities per year. Most of the people who lost their lives in those crashes (72%) were occupants of other vehicles involved. Non occupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 20 percent of the deaths, and occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 7 percent.

“An average of 20 school-age children die in school transportation-related traffic crashes each year — five occupants of school transportation vehicles and 14 pedestrians.”

Since 1996, 159 school-age pedestrians (younger than 19) have died in school transportation-related crashes. Over two-thirds (67 percent) were killed by school buses, six percent by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 28 percent by other vehicles involved in the crashes. One-half (50 percent) of all school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between the ages of 5 and 7.

“From 1996 to 2006, one-half of the school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.”

On average, ten school-age pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school bus vehicles used as school buses) each year, and four are killed by other vehicles involved in school bus-related crashes.

More school-age pedestrians are killed in the afternoon than in the morning, with 32 percent of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3 and 4 p.m.

Between 1996 and 2006, 96 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (57 percent) involved at least one other vehicle. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, 48 occupants — 14 drivers and 34 passengers — were killed. In the 55 multiple-vehicle crashes, 34 drivers and 32 passengers died. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (23 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (six crashes), the vehicle overturning (four crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (two crashes), other non-collision (2 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (two crashes). In 53 percent of all crashes involving fatalities to occupants of a school transportation vehicle, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle.

Since 1996, six drivers and seven passengers have died in school bus body vehicles providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.). In 1987, one such multi-vehicle crash resulted in the deaths of 27 occupants, including the driver.

“Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occur in 53 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes.”



Amtrak Announces Passenger Train Emergency Response Training Program

In the wake of the recent Los Angeles, California Metrolink commuter train wreck we, as members of the fire service and public safety agencies, should be prepared for emergencies such as this. The Bureau of Fire Services was recently notified of a passenger train emergency response-training program that Amtrak conducts at **no cost** to public safety agencies to emergency response agencies where Amtrak operates passenger trains. In the interest of public safety, Amtrak, in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration, and the freight railroads operating in Michigan, offers this training initiative to agencies likely to respond to a passenger train incident. This training program consists of a four-hour classroom orientation, and depending upon the availability of Amtrak passenger equipment, the classroom orientation can be augmented by a hands-on familiarization; these in turn can be integrated with a practical exercise, depending upon needs and resources.

The training can be scheduled at your convenience, and is available to all shifts on any day of the week.

For more information on this training or to discuss and coordinate the training program and your requirements, please contact Josie Harper, Manager, Emergency Preparedness Department at (312) 880-5355.



Encourage Homeowners to Rake Responsibly

Autumn is here. Help remind residents to dispose of leaves and yard waste in an environmentally responsible way. Families can still enjoy raking and jumping in piles of leaves on brisk autumn days; but, encourage them to avoid leaf burning because it creates a fire hazard, is unhealthy for the environment, and is illegal in many Michigan cities and communities. Mulching and composting are much better options.

Smoke/ash creates significant air pollution. It's unhealthy for adults to breathe and downright dangerous for children, older adults, and people with medical conditions such as allergies, asthma, or heart disease.



Leaves and yard waste cannot be sent to a landfill, so mulching and composting are easiest and environmentally sound ways to manage most waste. Simply mow over leaves with a lawnmower to chop them into fine mulch. When left on a lawn, the mulch provides a number of needed nutrients for the grass that will keep it looking healthy.

Many communities have municipal composting programs. Be aware how your local city, township, or

county Department of Public Works disposes of leaves and other yard waste. And in rural areas where burning yard waste is allowed, remind homeowners that they need to obtain a permit before burning; they must tend the fire at all times; and they are responsible for any damage caused by a fire they start.

Burning regulations information is available at www.michigan.gov/deqair and select 'Open Burning Information' under Spotlight. You can also check out "Woodburning and Air Quality". The DEQ Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 can provide information as well.

Concerns over Temporary Gas Storage and Transportation Product, ItzaGasCan



ItzaGasCan is a cardboard box with a plastic lining used as a gasoline container that the parent company L&W Innovations, LLC is marketing and selling as a one time use emergency portable gas can. L&W Innovations, LLC describes, at great length, on their website the issues they believe make this portable gas can concept safe and reliable for anyone in the general public.

State Fire Marshals in several states have already begun taking action regarding this product. The concern is that the product is not

listed by a recognized testing laboratory and has not been proven compliant with existing applicable safety standards as well as state or local laws that require approval of the AHJ.

The State of Michigan has not been contacted by L&W Innovations, LLC for approvals of any kind including to sell or offer to sell their container in the state of Michigan.

R 29.5324 of the Michigan Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids Rules, Section 9.2.3.1 of NFPA 30A states:

"Class I or Class II liquids shall not be dispensed into portable containers unless the container is constructed of metal or approved by the department....."



The State of Michigan, Fire Marshall Division and Department of Environmental Quality are currently in the process of conducting more research on this product. Stay tuned for more information.

For more information on this product you may click [here](#) to access their website.

Please follow the link below to access a letter written by New Hampshire State Fire Marshal, J. William Degnan to L&W Innovations, LLC owner/president Jon Lips: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/bulletins/documents/ItzagascanLetter.pdf>.

For more information about what actions state fire marshals across the country are taking on this product click [here](#).



Bureau of Fire Services – Lansing Office
Will be Moving to a New Location
Effective October 27, 2008

Please note our new physical address:

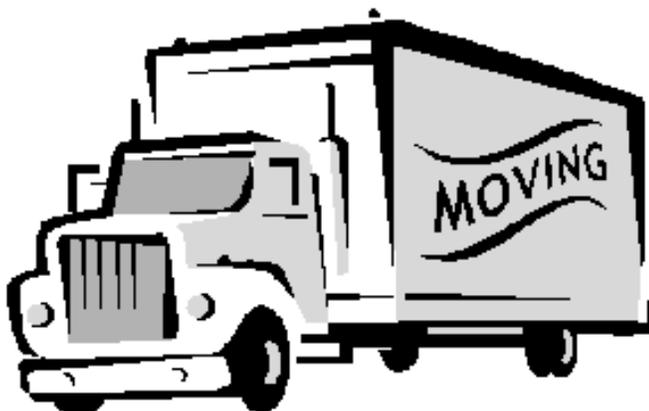
State of Michigan
DLEG – Bureau of Fire Services
525 W. Allegan
4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913

Our mailing address will stay the same:

State of Michigan
DLEG – Bureau of Fire Services
P.O. Box 30700
Lansing, MI 48909

We can be found online at www.michigan.gov/bfs

Any questions, please contact us at (517) 241-8847.



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 Joseph Grutza at 517-335-3496 or grutzaj@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



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

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