

National Association of State Fire Marshals News Release

Elizabeth Gardner
for NASFM
804-761-5440
ebg.gsr@gmail.com

NASFM
202-737-1226
info@firemarshals.org
www.firemarshals.org

National Association of State Fire Marshals Present Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Award to Firefighter / Trainer Mike Callan at Annual Conference

Washington, DC, July 26, 2010 -- As part of their ongoing commitment to firefighter safety, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) presented Michael Callan with the prestigious Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Award at their Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on Saturday, July 24, 2010. This is the fourth time this award has been bestowed by NASFM and the first to a fire trainer. NASFM president and Georgia Fire Marshal Alan Shuman presented the award on behalf of the nation's fire marshals at the President's Reception in front of members and their guests.

The Mineta Award is given annually by the NASFM to an individual or team that made a significant and lasting contribution to the safety of people, products and materials in transit. NASFM is especially interested in recognizing the achievements of individuals and teams that have encouraged transportation safety standards above what is required, and have worked to ensure the safety of emergency responders.

"Mr. Callan is a natural choice for this award," Shuman said during the presentation. "His work on the Pipeline Emergencies program and tireless hours in Train the Trainer classes across the country has made our communities safer. I just couldn't think of anyone else who has been so committed, year after year, to the safety of our nation's first responders," he added.

Callan, a 38-year veteran of the fire service served as a captain with the Wallingford (CT) Fire Department for 20 of those years. This is not Callan's first training award as he was selected in 2001 as the California Hazardous Materials Instructor of the Year and received the George D. Post Instructor of the Year at the Fire Department Instructors Conference in 1989.

Working with a development team of hazardous materials subject matter experts, Callan created the Instructor's Guide for the award-winning Pipeline Emergencies (PE) program, a comprehensive training curriculum for emergency responders and pipeline industry safety personnel. The program was built for NASFM with a cooperative agreement from the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Callan also conducted PE Train the Trainer classes for certified fire trainers and pipeline industry safety personnel in all 50 states. Currently Callan is working on the second edition of the Pipeline Emergencies program for NASFM in addition to other firefighter training projects.

"I can't say we are surprised. Mike Callan is not only a great trainer in all classroom settings, he is always a pleasure to work with in any capacity," said Karen Rigenbach-Vaughn of Xcel Energy. "We are pleased his dedication and service are being recognized. I know NASFM wants to train every firefighter in the country. Mike Callan is surely the guy to do it."

NASFM hosts the annual conference to bring together leading fire safety officials from across the country. The 2010 theme, Fire Prevention at the Interface of Technology, Education, Investigation and Enforcement, emphasized the need for continued education on every level in response to a constantly changing fire safety environment. The Excellence in Transportation Award is presented to those persons who exhibit a continued commitment to safety and training and therefore protect the nation's vast transportation infrastructure.

About NASFM

NASFM principal members are the most senior fire officials of the United States. NASFM's mission is to protect lives, property, resources and the environment from fire with the primary focus on preventing fires from occurring in the first place. To do this, NASFM encourages manufacturers to make consumer products as fire-safe as they can be, and work to educate citizens and first responders. For learn more about NASFM, the Excellence in Transportation Award, and other initiatives aimed at protecting human life, property, resources, and the environment from fire, please visit www.firemarshals.org.

About The Pipeline Emergencies program

Pipeline Emergencies is a comprehensive training curriculum with a textbook covering everything from pipeline identification to incident command and response techniques. The program includes an Instructor's Guide to help certified fire trainers educate rank and file firefighters on the curriculum. There is also a training DVD and dedicated program website, www.pipelineemergencies.com. The PE program has trained thousands of firefighters across the country.

About Mike Callan

Mike Callan, an author and trainer, conducts safety, chemical and emergency response training around the country for industrial and municipal hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) teams. He has been training emergency responders for 37 years throughout the United States and Canada. For additional information, please visit www.mikecallan.com.