



# NASFM News

November 2009

## In This Issue

[NASFM Supports MATCH Act of 2009...](#)

[USFA Launches Install. Protect. Campaign...](#)

[GAO Report...](#)

[DOT Issues Lithium Battery Safety Advisory...](#)

[Audio CDs Available...](#)

[Campus Firewatch...](#)

[ICC Code Hearing Results...](#)

## Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[ICC](#)

[GAO](#)

[USFA](#)

[PHMSA](#)

[The People's Burn Foundation](#)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



## NASFM Supports MATCH Act of 2009

NASFM has taken a position in support of the passage of the Managing Arson Through Criminal History (MATCH) Act of 2009 (H.R. 1727 and S. 1684 in the 111th Congress). This legislation would require jurisdictions to establish and maintain jurisdiction-wide criminal arsonist and bomber registries and make such registries available on the Internet through a national arsonist and bomber Internet registry for use by law enforcement only.

Currently, ATF uses an information exchange tool called the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) to share intelligence related to arsons and bombings with law enforcement at all levels of government, including State Fire Marshals' Offices that are responsible for arson investigations. However, BATS does not provide a comprehensive list of convicted arsonists because participation and reporting in BATS is voluntary for state and local jurisdictions. A web-based searchable database would enable law enforcement to track arsonists and bombers, regardless of where they live, across jurisdictions and develop leads in unsolved arson cases where leads are scarce. A single national registry would ensure consistency in reporting and expunging of records across all jurisdictions, as opposed to separate databases and websites maintained by individual jurisdictions.

The legislation also would authorize a Criminal Arsonist and Bomber Management Assistance program for awarding grants to jurisdictions to offset the costs of implementing the Act. NASFM's support of this bill is contingent on the full appropriation of the grants program; such assistance is crucial so that jurisdictions do not receive what would amount to an unfunded mandate to participate in the registry.

For more information: Karen Suhr, [kfernico@aol.com](mailto:kfernico@aol.com), 202-737-1226, ext. 15.

## USFA Launches Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign

NASFM has partnered with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) as they launch the Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign, encouraging people to install and maintain smoke alarms and sprinklers, practice fire escape plans, and perform a home safety walk-through.

The USFA recommends installing smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home; testing them monthly; changing alkaline batteries at least once a year; and installing ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms. For more information or to download a campaign toolkit and reference materials, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smokealarms) or call the USFA Publications Office at (800) 561-3356.



## Upcoming Events...

July 22-24, 2010  
2010 NASFM  
Annual  
Conference,  
InterContinental  
Hotel  
Chicago, IL

## Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

## GAO Report: Additional Actions Would Improve FEMA Grant Process

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed the application and award process for FEMA's fire grant program, which provides funding to fire departments and other organizations. This review addressed the following three questions:

1. To what extent has FEMA met statutory and program requirements for distributing the grant funds to a variety of applicants and activities?
2. What actions has FEMA taken to provide assistance to grant applicants and involve the fire service community in the grant process?
3. To what extent has FEMA taken actions to help ensure the fire grant process and related guidance are accessible, clear, and consistent with applicable statutory and program requirements?

The report can be found on the GAO website, <http://www.gao.gov/>, under "Recently Issued Products," dated October 30, 2009.

## DOT Issues Lithium Battery Safety Advisory to Increase Aviation Industry Awareness

In its continuing effort to promote the safe transportation of lithium batteries, the Department of Transportation issued a safety advisory in the Federal Register targeting shippers and carriers responsible for compliance with hazardous materials regulations covering both passenger and cargo aircraft.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, published the advisory to highlight recent aviation incidents involving lithium batteries, outline the current regulatory requirements for the safe transportation of lithium batteries, and announce that the two agencies are stepping up enforcement of the safety standards. The agencies are particularly concerned with undeclared shipments of lithium batteries and in bringing enforcement action against those responsible for offering them in transportation.

Since 1991, more than 40 air transport-related incidents involving lithium batteries and devices powered by lithium batteries have been identified. Many of these incidents were directly related to the lack of awareness of the regulations, risks and required safety measures applicable to the shipment of lithium batteries.

Recommended battery safety practices and guidance are available at <http://safetravel.dot.gov>. For more detailed information on battery shipment requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations go to: <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat>.

## Audio CDs Available

On September 30, NASFM co-sponsored a meeting with the International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on "Fire Retardants and their Potential Impact on Fire Fighter Health." Presentations and other information related to the conference can be downloaded from the NIST website at <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/info/conf/fireretardants/>. An audio CD of the presentations is available by email request from [shanille.nelson@nist.gov](mailto:shanille.nelson@nist.gov). Please be

sure to include your mailing address.

## Campus Firewatch: Campus Fire Safety Survey For Federal Grant

The [People's Burn Foundation](#) was awarded a DHS Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to continue expanding the free, online campus fire safety training program [igot2kno](#). The Foundation is looking at adding modules focusing on specific topical areas but would like to know what campus fire safety professionals are looking for. They are seeking feedback through an online survey at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NAKJHRNKOMHcOfOSjVNwRA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NAKJHRNKOMHcOfOSjVNwRA_3d_3d)

[igot2kno](#) is a free online training tool being used by a number of schools to teach students about fire safety. Schools can register with the People's Burn Foundation and get reports on how their students are doing with the training program.

For more information on igot2kno, please contact:

Jim Shaffer, Executive Director  
People's Burn Foundation  
877-814-2024  
[jshaffer@peoplesburnfoundation.org](mailto:jshaffer@peoplesburnfoundation.org)

## ICC Code Hearing Results

The International Code Council (ICC) Code Development Hearings recently concluded in Baltimore, MD. Once again NASFM showed a strong presence. In the most significant vote of the hearing for NASFM members, the requirement for sprinkler systems in all new one- and two-family homes survived a challenge from homebuilders, and will remain in the 2012 version of the International Residential Code, which influences building regulations across the country. Watch for our December Newsletter for a summary of additional hearing results.