



NASFM NEWS

April 2008

In This Issue

NASFM Annual Conference
Maine Bans Toy-Like Lighters
Hydrogen Workshop
Upcoming Events

Join us for the 2008 NASFM Annual Conference!



Quick Links

[NASFM](#)
[Safer Buildings](#)
[Pipeline Safety](#)
[HELP](#)

Dear Member,

NASFM has been very busy over the past couple of months on several fronts - from the Model Code Committee working in full force during the ICC Code Development Hearings to the successful execution of a Hydrogen Workshop for building and fire code officials in Buellton, CA.

Most important, we are fully launched into preparations for the **2008 NASFM Annual Conference** at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, CO, June 30-July 2. General information about the conference, including a link to the registration page, is at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>.

In keeping with our commitment to ensure safer communities, this year's program addresses the critical issues of code enforcement and emergency responder safety related to alternative fuels and safer buildings. Additionally, it is a valuable professional opportunity to gain knowledge and share experience among fellow State Fire Marshals. The program agenda will be available on the NASFM website shortly.

Please contact Linda Ware at (202)-737-1226 or by email at lware@firemarshals.org with any questions regarding this year's conference.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver this summer!

Sincerely,
NASFM Staff

2008 NASFM Annual Conference

Members are encouraged to register for the **2008 NASFM Annual Conference** prior to May 15 in order to avoid an additional \$100 fee. On-line registration with secure processing of credit card payments is now available at <https://www.firemarshals.org/events/registration>. For hotel accommodations, please contact the Grand Hyatt Denver toll free at 1-800-633-7313 by May 23, 2008, and inform the hotel to book your room under the group "National Association of State Fire Marshals" to ensure that you receive the special room rate.

The Program Agenda and Sponsorship Guide are also available at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>.

Results from the 2008 ICC Code Development Hearings

During the last two weeks of February, NASFM's Model Codes Committee was in Palm Springs, California, attending the International Code Council's Code Development Hearing (CDH) to testify on proposals submitted to the ICC technical committees of the Residential, Building, and Fire Code. The decisions of the code committees at this hearing can be reversed by a 2/3 vote at the Final Action Hearing that takes place in September in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The results of NASFM's submitted proposals are as follows:

- **IBC 504.2 Automatic sprinkler system increase (height); IBC 506.3 Automatic sprinkler system increase (area)** - Action: Denied
- **IBC 506.4 Area determination** - Action: Denied
- **IRC R313.1 General fire protection systems** - Action: Denied
- **IBC 1505.2 Class A roof assemblies. IRC R902.1 Roof covering materials** - Action: Approved as submitted
- **IFC 107.2 Testing and operation. IFC 703.1 Maintenance** - Action: Approved as modified

For more information about the proposals visit <http://www.firemarshals.org/mission/catastrophic/code-council/> or contact Allison Crowley by phone: (202)-737-1226 email: Allison@firemarshals.org.

CPSC Proposes Upholstered Furniture Flammability Rule

NASFM is preparing a response for the public record to the recent proposal by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for a smoldering (cigarette) ignition requirement for upholstered furniture. NASFM petitioned the CPSC back in 1993 to adopt standards for both smoldering and open flame ignitions of furniture. NASFM's Science Advisory Committee is helping NASFM to develop its comments, which will raise questions that NASFM hopes will be addressed by the CPSC before a final rule is issued. For more information, contact Karen Suhr at 202-737-1226 or kfernico@aol.com.

Maine Bans Sale of Toy-Like Lighters



On March 24, the state of Maine made history by becoming the first state in the nation to ban the sale of toy-like lighters, also known as novelty lighters. Because the legislation was passed by the legislature with an emergency provision, the law went into effect immediately upon signing by the Governor. At the request of Maine State Fire Marshal John Dean, the Dead River Co., which owns a chain of convenience stores in the state, had already removed toy-like lighters from its shelves voluntarily earlier this year. Marshal Dean, who is President of NASFM, challenges other states to follow Maine's lead in prohibiting the sale of toy-like lighters, since their attractiveness to children can result in tragedy. For more information, contact Karen Suhr at 202-737-1226 or kfernico@aol.com.

National 811 "Call Before You Dig" Number

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA), through the support of its membership, continues to

promote the new national 811 "Call Before You Dig" number to help prevent professional excavators and do-it-yourself homeowners from damaging underground utility lines while digging and causing injury or service outages.

811 is a new FCC-designated national N-11 number created to eliminate confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers across the country. This quick and efficient service connects callers with local One Call Centers that notify the appropriate local utilities, who then send crews to the requested site to mark the approximate location of underground lines for free.

For more information visit the 'Call 811 - Know What Is Below' website at www.call811.com.

Hydrogen Workshop a Success!

On March 12 and 13 NASFM and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with the California Fire Prevention Institute (CFPI), held a two-day workshop in Buellton, CA, titled "Hydrogen Motor Fueling Stations and the use of Stationary Hydrogen Fuel Cells as Back-up Power for Telecommunications Antenna Sites Workshop". The workshop focused on the code review and permitting associated with hydrogen motor fueling stations and the use of stationary hydrogen fuel cells as back-up power for telecommunications antenna sites. Workshop participants included 25 building code and fire officials from the Southern California area along with industry experts from Sprint Nextel, General Motors, IdaTech, ReliOn, Black & Veatch and Plug Power. The workshop included presentations from General Motors on the challenges they face in trying to permit new hydrogen fueling stations. Presentations were also given by Plug Power and ReliOn on streamlining the permitting of remote telecommunications towers with a hydrogen backup power system.

On the second day, the building and fire officials were separated into 5 breakout groups. The groups were asked to review "case studies" of permitting hydrogen fueling stations (HFS) and hydrogen fuel cells for back-up power at wireless telecommunication sites (WTS) that have been, or were likely, to be proposed. The case studies included layouts of HFS that incorporate different hydrogen delivery, production, storage options and a case study for WTS that included a site plan showing the location of a hydrogen fuel cell and other major subsystems and components. Based upon these "case studies," code and fire officials undertook a thorough review and made recommendations for additional information needed, determined potential code changes and identified deficiencies in the submitted plans. With the help of workshop participants, DOE and industry leaders have gained valuable insight on the major/potential "choke points" in the permitting processes for HFS and hydrogen fuel cells for WTS.

Additional workshops will be held in New Jersey; Sacramento, CA; and Detroit, MI. Stay tuned for more information on these upcoming opportunities.

Propane Emergencies Third Edition Textbook and Facilitator's Guide

The Propane Emergencies program has grown significantly since its inception in 1998, from a single textbook to a comprehensive training program adopted by 27 state firefighter training agencies and propane marketers. It continues to be the benchmark by which many other hazardous materials training programs are measured. The third edition Propane Emergencies textbook and Facilitator's Guide are now available.

Written by Michael S. Hildebrand and Gregory G. Noll, this textbook describes how to safely respond to propane emergencies and covers standards, codes, and regulations; physical properties and characteristics of propane; non-bulk and bulk container design and construction features; bulk transportation design and construction features; bulk plants and bulk storage tanks; general emergency response procedures; tactical response guidelines for propane

emergencies; product removal; and transfer and recovery operations.

Order the Propane Emergencies Third Edition Textbook (PRC007222) through the Propane Industry Resource Catalog at (866) 905-1075 or www.propanecatalog.com.

You can also download more information about the Propane Emergencies Program at www.propanesafety.com.

State Pipeline Safety Meetings Held in NY and PA

On February 27, NASFM, in conjunction with the New York State Fire Administrator's Office and the Frederick L. Warder New York State Academy of Fire Science, held a state pipeline and hazardous materials safety meeting. The meeting was hosted by Hazardous Materials Bureau Chief Ronald Dunn, and was attended by emergency responders, pipeline industry representatives, and pipeline and hazardous materials safety stakeholders from the federal, state and local levels.

On March 20, NASFM -- in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's Office and the Montgomery County Fire Academy -- conducted the latest in our series of state pipeline and hazardous materials safety meetings. The meeting was hosted by Paul Reichenbach, Public Education Specialist from the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's Office.

At both meetings presentations were given by the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the state Public Service Commissions and other hazardous materials and safety programs aimed at bringing together emergency responders, hazardous materials carriers and pipeline operators to encourage cooperation, safe incident response procedures and safe incident reporting methods. Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer sessions will be scheduled in each state as a follow up to the state meetings.

For more information on NASFM's Pipeline Safety Program visit <http://www.safepipelines.org>.

Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendars!

April

- April 1:** Hazardous Materials Response Committee Meeting - Washington, DC
- April 2:** NASFM Board Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 3:** 20th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner - Wash, DC
- April 4-6:** Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, Reno, NV - Visit www.powerlinewildlandfires.com for more information
- April 21:** Montana Train-the-Trainer Session - Billings, MT
- April 22:** Washington State Pipeline Meeting
- April 23:** Washington Train-the-Trainer Session

June/July

June 29-July 3: NASFM 2008 Annual Conference at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, CO
- Register Today! <https://www.firemarshals.org/events/registration>