



# NASFM News

April 2009

## In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Message from President Shuman](#)

[Pallet Meeting](#)

[Novelty Lighters](#)

[CGA](#)

[USFA PARADE Conference](#)

[The Results are in!](#)

## Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[CGA](#)

[USFA](#)

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**Upcoming  
2009  
Events...  
MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



**April 1  
NASFM Board  
Meeting  
Washington, DC**



## Message from President Shuman

As usual, during our annual conference in Redmond, Washington, we will be holding a series of members-only breakfast roundtables to give State Fire Marshals and their chief deputies a chance to share information on topics of mutual interest. What is on your radar screen these days? What subjects would you like to get feedback and input on from your peers? We are asking that you provide the NASFM staff with these topics now, so that we can make the most efficient use of our time in Redmond. We will provide you with a preliminary list of topics before the meeting so that you can be thinking about them and be prepared for the discussions in Redmond.

Please email Jim Narva at [jnarva@narvaassociates.com](mailto:jnarva@narvaassociates.com) with your topic suggestions for the Annual Meeting Members-Only Breakfast Roundtables.

Thank you,  
Alan R. Shuman  
President

## NASFM Holds Stakeholder Meeting on Pallet Sprinkler Requirements

On March 12 the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) held a stakeholder workshop at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Northbrook, IL. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pallets and fire safety with the goal of providing accurate technical guidance to code officials in jurisdiction that adopted a model fire code, and to verify that the installed automatic fire sprinkler system has been maintained as originally installed per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13: Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

April 7

Train-the-Trainer  
Ames, IA

The meeting was extremely well attended by over 65 stakeholders representing various interests including pallet manufacturers, Underwriters Laboratories, Factory Mutual Approvals, loss control/risk managers, end users, and trade associations. Attending on behalf of NASFM were President Alan Shuman (GA), Vice President Dave Foreman (IL), Chief Project Manager Jim Narva, Code Consultant Bob Davidson (Davidson Code Concepts) and NASFM Counsel George Keeley.

May 13-14  
Dust Explosion  
Symposium  
Baltimore, MD

The meeting provided the opportunity to dispel a great deal of misinformation about what NASFM was and was not attempting to do. President Shuman emphasized that NASFM is not proposing to change any language in NFPA 13; NASFM is not proposing any "new certification requirements"; and NASFM is not suggesting any reinterpretation of existing model codes and standards. NASFM is, however, seeking consensus on current code language and the intent of the language, as adopted by the model codes and standards organizations, to enable fire code officials to verify that the automatic sprinkler system has been designed and installed to protect the hazard that currently exists in the area protected.

May 14-16  
USFA's PARADE  
Conference  
Emmitsburg,  
MD

Interested parties were invited to submit additional written comments to NASFM through March 31. The NASFM Board of Directors discussed next steps at its April 1 meeting. There was general agreement at the stakeholders workshop that it would be beneficial to establish a small NASFM Working Group, with representation from the various interest groups (including FM, UL and NFPA), to develop a training and education program for use by code enforcement personnel when inspecting the adequacy of fire protection of pallets. Attendees expressed support for this approach and a willingness to participate. A roll-out of the training and education program (or a progress report on its development) is planned for the 2009 NASFM Annual Conference to be held June 19-21, 2009 at the Redmond Marriott Town Center in Redmond, WA.

June 19-21  
NASFM Annual  
Conference  
Redmond, WA

Check out the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/code-enforcement-training-and-support/> for all updates regarding this issue.

For information: Jim Narva, [jnarva@narvaassociates.com](mailto:jnarva@narvaassociates.com) or 307-433-8078.

## Arkansas and Oregon Pass Novelty Lighter Bans as State Activity Increases; Federal Bill Introduced in Senate



Congratulations to Arkansas and Oregon, which have recently joined Maine and Tennessee as the only states to ban the sale of novelty, or toylike, lighters. At press time, more than 20 additional states are considering legislation in one form or another, to ban the sale of novelty lighters, which contribute all too often to deadly childplay. NASFM has promoted a model state bill, based on Maine's law, that can be found on the NASFM website at

[www.firemarshals.org/data/nasfmmodelstatebillNoveltylightersREVJan09.pdf](http://www.firemarshals.org/data/nasfmmodelstatebillNoveltylightersREVJan09.pdf).

Meanwhile, in the U.S. Congress, Sen. Ron Wyden (OR), along with Senators Collins (ME),

Dodd (CT) and Carper (DE), have introduced S. 723, the Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009, which would ban the sale of novelty lighters by declaring them a banned hazardous substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. NASFM also supports this bill, while recognizing that because most federal bills never get voted out of committee, state activity is probably the quickest way to protect children from the hazard of toylike lighters. Therefore, we encourage State Fire Marshals and fire service organizations to continue seeking state-level novelty lighter bans at the same time that we are also advocating federal action.

For information: Karen Suhr, [kfernico@aol.com](mailto:kfernico@aol.com) or 202-737-1226, ext.13.

### CGA Conference Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Study

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) held its 2009 CGA Excavation Safety Conference & Expo on February 18, 2009, at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, Florida. The theme for this year's conference was "A Decade of Damage Prevention." This year's meeting marked the 10th anniversary of the Original Common Ground Study and CGA took the opportunity to honor the 162 participants involved in the study.

NASFM continues to serve as a Bronze Sponsor for CGA (<http://www.commongroundalliance.com/>). Under NASFM's sponsorship, we have nine members who represent NASFM with CGA.

They are Ed Paulk (AL), Alan Shuman (GA), John Dean (ME), Elizabeth Skalnek (MN), Dan Munthe (MN), Randy Cole (MO), Robert Doke (OK), JoAnne Sellars (OK) and Mark Larson (ID).

If you would like more information on the CGA or would like to be a member under NASFM's Sponsorship, please contact Courtney Clyatt at [ccylatt@firemarshals.org](mailto:ccylatt@firemarshals.org) or 202-737-1226, ext. 18.

### USFA's PARADE Conference Scheduled For May 14-16



The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) Prevention Advocacy Resources and Data Exchange (PARADE) organization comprises all 50 State Fire Marshals as well as fire marshals from the nation's largest fire departments, and fire marshals appointed by the International Fire Marshals Association's leadership to represent smaller jurisdictions. The conference provides structured opportunities for the exchange of fire prevention materials, as well as peer networking. Additional information about PARADE is available at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/fireprev/parade.shtm>.

PARADE's 5th National Conference will be held May 14-16, 2009, in Emmitsburg, MD. USFA sent information and registration packets to all State Fire Marshals.

To register and obtain additional information, contact Rebecca Ryan, USFA Fire Program Specialist, by phone at 301-447-1128 or by email at [becky.ryan@dhs.gov](mailto:becky.ryan@dhs.gov).

## State Fire Marshal's Survey Results Available Online

The results are in! Thank you to all of you who responded back to our survey question regarding the duties that your office is responsible for in your state. As you can see, there can be quite a range from one state to another. The results have been posted at <http://www.firemarshals.org/members/contact-information/principal-members-list/sfm-office-duties/>.

We appreciate your time and assistance and look forward to providing you with the results of future surveys.