



NASFM News

August 2009

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A Note from the President

Dear NASFM Member:

During the "Member Only" sessions at the recent NASFM Annual Conference there was significant discussion surrounding issues with Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) inspection and enforcement. In the course of these discussions it was suggested that a NASFM committee be formed to gather input from the states and look into the issues to see what if anything needs to be done and then to approach it collectively, if possible, at the national level. Since the conference, you have seen several survey questions distributed to the membership discussing CMS issues from a couple of different perspectives, so working on this is very timely to many states.

In response to what appears to be a real need, I have appointed a CMS Ad Hoc Committee to look at the issues and offer solutions that NASFM and individual SFMO can move forward with. Karl McNorton, Kansas Assistant State Fire Marshal, has agreed to chair this committee and Kevin Klein, Colorado State Fire Marshal and Paul Martin, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, have agreed to serve on the committee to help share in the work. They will collectively be leading this effort and communicating directly with you and will keep the Board apprised of their work as well as recommending specific action from NASFM if it is needed. Please help them in this undertaking so we can make their efforts as efficient and productive as possible and have a strategy for moving forward defined and implemented as quickly as possible.

Best Regards,

Alan Shuman, President

**MARK YOUR
CALANDER!**



**2009 Upcoming
Events...**

August 25, 2009
Train-the-Trainer
Tempe, AZ

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NASFM and NASFM Foundation Awarded DHS Fire Prevention Grants

In early August, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the first cycle of Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grants for Fiscal Year 2008. Both the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation were awarded grants.

The grant to NASFM is entitled "Fire Safety and Green Buildings: Bridging the Gap." Its objective is to develop and share information for both code enforcement officials and first responders to address the fire safety gap that currently exists in the interface between established fire safety practices and the new building technologies and criteria being employed in "green" building design. Deliverables will include the formation of a Working Group to advise on the project and develop an agenda for needed educational materials; development of an interactive forum/online clearinghouse for outreach and sharing of information; and guideline publications for use by authorities having jurisdiction and first responders.

The grant to the NASFM Foundation is entitled "Youth Firesetter Prevention Program." Its objective is to build on past efforts of NASFM in preventing youth firesetting by increasing the capacity of regional and local leaders to launch education and advocacy campaigns through train-the-trainer seminars; develop a program to institutionalize juvenile firesetting prevention and intervention as a formal state and local program responsibility; and establish best practices in implementing youth firesetter prevention programs at the local and regional levels.

We will be reporting regularly on the progress of these two grants in future issues of the NASFM newsletter.

Code Officials and Hydrogen Issues



The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is partnering with the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center of US Department of Transportation (US DOT) to provide expertise in preparing code officials and emergency responders for the safe and orderly transition to hydrogen as an alternative fuel in communities, and to help provide the link between hydrogen resources and the audiences who need them. A questionnaire

regarding code officials and hydrogen issues was given to members during our annual conference in June. As follow-up, the questionnaire will be emailed out to NASFM membership again in August, and we request that you not only complete the questionnaire but forward it to other fire service code officials in your state to allow for distribution to the widest possible audience.

Your participation and information are vital for us to compile information to assess the level of awareness and readiness of code officials to deal with hydrogen-related issues. You may also link to the questionnaire by visiting <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2k0xpqtfy1l3wqq/start>.

Responses can be returned to the attention of Chrishawn Morgan-Price at cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org.

USFA Supports Novelty Lighter Bans



Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines posted a message on the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) website lending the USFA's support to bans on toylike novelty lighters. Such bans have been promoted by several fire service organizations, with NASFM taking the lead. Administrator Gaines says, "I encourage every member of the fire service to support the local, state, and Federal initiatives to ban the sale and distribution of novelty and toylike

lighters. Please stay vigilant and keep the fire service community informed of developments in your area. Only by working together can we save lives." As of June 2009, eight states have passed legislation limiting or prohibiting the sale of novelty lighters; another twelve are considering legislation. Federal legislation has been introduced with House Bill 2050 and Senate Bill 723; both are titled Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act of 2009.

For Administrator Gaines's full message, visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/about/chiefs-corner/080409.shtm>

Chief Kelvin Cochran Confirmed as U.S. Fire Administrator



On August 7 the U.S. Senate confirmed Chief Kelvin Cochran as the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Cochran has twenty-eight years of experience in the fire service including fire fighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, public education, research and development, personnel management, and administration, with a specialization in training and strategic planning.

Most recently, Cochran served as Fire Chief for the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, where he coordinated homeland security and emergency preparedness initiatives between the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Fulton County Emergency Management Agency and oversaw 35 fire stations providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services. Previously, he served in the Shreveport, Louisiana, fire department as a Firefighter, Assistant Chief Training Officer, and Fire Chief. Cochran also served as President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the 1st Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and Vice Chairman of Volunteers of America (VOA).

"Chief Cochran's wealth of experience will ensure that the U.S. Fire Administration continues its tradition of excellence," said NASFM President Alan Shuman. "NASFM looks forward to working with him. Georgia's loss is the nation's gain."

CPSC Has Full Slate of Commissioners



The U.S. Senate in June confirmed a new chairman to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and last week confirmed two new commissioners, bringing the total number of CPSC commissioners to five. Since the 1980s, the CPSC had been funded for only three commissioners, so a five-person commission has not been seen since the CPSC's earliest years. Since 2006, the CPSC had been operating with only two commissioners, Thomas Moore and Nancy Nord.

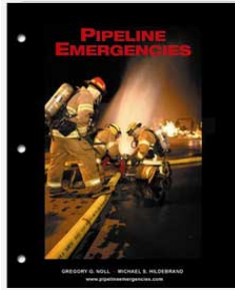
Inez Moore Tenenbaum was confirmed by the Senate in June to serve as the ninth Chairman of the CPSC, a term that expires in October 2013. Tenenbaum served as South Carolina's State Superintendent of Education from 1998 to 2007. She also practiced health, environmental, and public interest law and served as staff to a committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Anne Meagher Northup, nominated in July and confirmed August 7, served the Third Congressional District of Kentucky in the United States House of Representatives from 1997 to 2006, where she was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee and sat on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Transportation, Treasury, HUD and Independent Agencies; and Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Subcommittees. Before her tenure in Congress, Northup served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1987 to 1996.

Robert Adler, nominated in May and confirmed August 7, served on the Board of Directors for Consumers Union for the past 20 years. He is currently a professor in business and law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 1973 to 1984, Adler was an attorney-advisor to two commissioners at the CPSC.

NASFM and other fire service organizations had been encouraging the nomination of former New York State Fire Administrator Jim Burns as a CPSC commissioner candidate to help ensure that fire safety issues would get the attention they deserve at the CPSC. While none of the current commissioners or nominees has direct fire service/fire prevention experience, NASFM is committed to working with the current slate of CPSC commissioners to help advance the CPSC's public safety mission, and will continue to promote activities at the CPSC that result in safer consumer products from fire and related hazards.

Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer



Through our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, NASFM has been tasked with providing Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Sessions on NASFM's Pipeline Emergencies Program for emergency responders.

The Pipeline Emergencies training program was created in response to the immediate need for an integrated training program specific to pipeline emergencies for emergency responders and the pipeline industry. Pipeline Emergencies is an instructional program outlining the actions required of personnel responding to a pipeline emergency. The program covers both liquid and natural gas pipelines, and a range of emergencies including leaks, spills and fires.

Train-the-Trainer Sessions are offered free of charge and are held in cooperation with the state fire marshal's office under NASFM's Cooperative Agreement with USDOT. NASFM provides training materials, continental breakfast and lunch.

If you are interested in having this training opportunity offered in your state, please contact Chrishawn Morgan-Price at (202) 737-1226 or cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org, email. She will work with your office to arrange a training session.

The next TTT is scheduled for Tempe, AZ, on August 25, 2009.

Survey Results

A big thank you to all who have responded to the various requests for information and surveys that have been recently sent out to NASFM members. Be sure to log in to the Members Only section of the NASFM Website to find the compilations of the results.

Common Ground Alliance



As a member service to the State Fire Marshals, NASFM has begun to disseminate the CGA Monthly Updates to our members. Please click here to link to July 2009 update. More information about CGA, its activities and its services, can be found at

<http://www.commongroundalliance.com/>. For information about joining CGA, contact Chrishawn Morgan-Price in the NASFM Washington, DC, office at 202-737-1226 or cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org.