



NASFM News

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2009 NASFM Annual Conference

Mark Your Calendars!

June 19-21, 2009
Marriott Redmond Town
Center
Redmond, WA



More Information
Coming Soon!

Dear Member,

2009 NASFM Annual Conference
June 19 - 21, 2009
Marriott Redmond Town Center
Redmond, WA

Make your travel plans now to join us in the scenic Pacific Northwest for the 2009 NASFM annual conference to be held June 19 - 21 at the Marriott Redmond Town Center in Redmond, Washington.

Known as "the bicycle capital of the Northwest," Redmond boasts a focus on high technology industries and is home to international software companies Microsoft and Nintendo of America.

The Marriott Redmond Town Center provides an ideal venue for this year's conference. Conveniently located in the midst of an open-air shopping center, the hotel is surrounded by forested lakes and spectacular lake and mountain views. Located 24 miles northeast of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the hotel is also an easy 14-mile commute to downtown Seattle.

Seattle combines two of the city's most prized attributes - artistic expression and outdoor splendor. Attendees will enjoy visiting the premier farmers market, Pikes Place, dining at the iconic Space Needle (home to the 1962 World's Fair), taking a ferry to Puget Sound or touring Washington's award-winning wineries.

Additional information can be found on the Web sites for the [Marriott Redmond Town Center \(www.marriott.com/seamc\)](http://www.marriott.com/seamc) and [Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau \(www.visitseattle.org\)](http://www.visitseattle.org).

We enthusiastically look forward to welcoming you to this year's conference. Mark your calendars and look for registration and program information coming soon on the

NASFM Web site.

Alan Shuman

US Department of Transportation Worker Visibility Rule



On November 21, 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued an interim final rule revising the Worker Visibility rule (23 CFR 634) to create an exemption for the firefighting community. This interim final rule allows firefighters or other emergency responders working within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway and engaged in emergency operations that directly expose them to flame, fire, heat, and/or hazardous materials to wear retroreflective turnout gear that is specified and regulated by other organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association. Firefighters or other emergency responders working within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway and engaged in any other types of operations shall wear high-visibility safety apparel as defined in this rule. The FHWA decided to issue this interim final rule to address safety concerns raised by firefighting community. The interim final rule was published in the Federal Register today and went into effect on November 24, 2008. This rule can be accessed on the web, [Click Here](#) or visit: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_register&docid=E8-27671

Please share this information with others that may be interested in this matter. If you have questions, contact Ken Wood at 708-283-4340 or Ken.Wood@dot.gov.

Hazardous Materials in Returned Consumer Products



Through our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, NASFM has been charged with developing a program to prevent containers of returned consumer products that are hazardous materials themselves, or contain hazardous materials, from being improperly transported as defined by DOT regulations. The first phase of this program, currently ongoing, will involve research to determine the level of awareness of building inspectors, retailers, and warehouse distribution centers in regard to the return and storage processes of undeclared hazardous materials. For this purpose we have developed a survey to gauge the knowledge of these key audiences. Overall, NASFM and DOT are concerned about the effects that incidents involving undeclared hazardous materials may have on the Emergency Responder community.

NASFM intends to work with several communities in up to six states to develop a researched position paper that will advise USDOT of any problems with how these undeclared hazardous materials are handled that may need to be addressed to maintain public safety standards. No enforcement activities are contemplated at this time.

Former Fire Marshal Dies



Former Alabama Fire Marshal John Robison died Saturday, November 22

Robison became a national figure 13 years ago when a series of fires destroyed small black churches in Dallas, Greene and Hale counties in Alabama's Black Belt region. He spent countless hours investigating the cause of the fires and fielding questions from reporters across the country. When civil rights leaders claimed the fires were caused by racists, Robison pointed out that more than half of the churches destroyed by arsonists over the period had white congregations. Several arrests were

made in connection with the fires, but Robison found no indication that any of them had been racially motivated.

Robison served the state fire marshal's office for 32 years and led the department for 15 years. He was active in national and international fire safety programs and policy-making. Since his retirement, he was a fire and safety consultant in private practice.

To read an excerpted from an article by Alvin Benn on 11/24/08 [Click Here](#) or visit: <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20081124/NEWS01/811240313>

CPSC Gas Can FAQ Addresses New Law



The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document on the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act (Public Law 110-278, enacted July 17, 2008). The document was developed by the CPSC General Counsel's Office in response to questions received from the public. The FAQ is available on the web, [Click Here](#) or visit: <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/gascanfaq.pdf>.