



NASFM NEWS

January 2008

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Reminder!

If you haven't already, be sure to take the *2007 Annual Conference Survey* - just [Click Here](#)



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Dear Member,

Looking back on 2007, NASFM and its members have made a number of accomplishments that further our common mission to protect human life, property and the environment from fire. Below is an overview of our year in numbers.

- **225** - Number of voting code officials at the ICC Final Action Hearings brought by NASFM
- **249** - Total number of participants at the 2007 NASFM Annual Conference
- **38** - Number of State Fire Marshals' offices represented at the 2007 NASFM Annual Conference
- **17** - Number of State meetings held for public officials and emergency responders for NASFM's Interoperable Communications program
- **230** - Number of fire departments in Maine and New York that are beneficiaries of federal grants for NASFM's Interoperable Communications program
- **229** - Number of leaders who participated in a State Pipeline Safety meeting hosted by NASFM and the respective State Fire Marshal
- **196** - Total number of leaders who participated in Pipeline Safety Train-the-Trainer sessions in collaboration with NASFM
- **22** - Number of states with cigarette fire safety laws in place
- Being an active member of NASFM - **priceless!**

These numbers represent just a few of NASFM's and its members' accomplishments in 2007. We will need the help of all our members in 2008 to make these figures even more robust. *Let's work together in 2008* to find ways that you can contribute whether it is through hosting a Pipeline Safety Meeting; inviting NASFM to your state for interoperable communications; participating in the ICC code development hearings; joining a committee; and sharing ideas and articles for this newsletter.

Thank you for all your contributions in 2007!

Happy New Year from the NASFM Staff

Request for Information from State Fire Marshals!

Recently we received an important request from the Florida State Fire Marshal, Les Hallman. He requests information from the entire membership regarding the regulation of fire protection industries in each state. The survey questions are:

- *Does your agency regulate through licensing any fire protection industries? (such as fire equipment dealers, fire sprinkler contractors, etc)*
- *Does your agency allow the applicant for licensure to apply for initial licensure online via the Internet?*
- *Does your agency allow the applicant to pay fees online?*
- *Please provide a point of contact that is familiar with your state's licensing software, includename, phone, and email.*

Please respond directly to Florida State Fire Marshal's Office Safety Program Manager **Casia Sinco** at Casia.Sinco@fldfs.com.

Once compiled, results will be made available to NASFM members on the members' only section of the NASFM website. Both Fire Marshal Hallman and NASFM thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to the request. This type of communication among State Fire Marshals is invaluable and something we are trying hard to facilitate.

NASFM Collaborates with Maine Fire Chiefs on Interoperable Communications



In 2006, NASFM was invited by Maine State Fire Marshal John Dean to develop a partnership with the Maine Fire Chiefs Association on a project to improve incident-level interoperable communications for their fire service. The Maine project is part of NASFM's Regional Interoperable Communications Initiative (RICI) launched in early 2006 with various states on the East Coast. The efforts resulted in two Assistance to Firefighters Grant awards totaling \$1.6 million for Maine's fire service to leverage advanced

communications technology.

The RICI program was developed to seek technology alternatives to avoid the problem of replacing all communications equipment so that they are on the same system, which could run into the millions of dollars for a single community. The technology selected for the program is BAE Systems' First InterComm system, which was originally developed for the defense industry and carefully adapted to serve the specific needs of emergency responders. The First InterComm technology is installed in first-responder vehicles and allows radios on different frequencies to communicate with each other at the incident scene without requiring major communications equipment replacements or investments.

The NASFM, MFCA, and BAE Systems engineers met recently to discuss how to most effectively use the grant resources and technology. Implementation will be based on specific fire service needs throughout the state. The project will use all existing equipment and infrastructure, and will maintain current standard operating procedures for communications. A task force within MFCA has been established to manage planning and coordination throughout the process.

NASFM is available to provide support to other State Fire Marshals interested in coordinating a similar interoperable communications initiative in your state. **For more information**, including opportunities to participate, contact **Rebecca Harned** of NASFM by phone at 202-737-1226 or by email at rharned@firemarshals.org.

Oklahoma SFM Leads Effort to Improve Fire Data Collection and Firefighter

Training Opportunities

The Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office is mandated by statute to collect data from all fire departments in our state. There is slow response in retrieving NFIRS/OFIRS from our volunteer fire departments. A partnership between the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office (OSFM), Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) and Chesapeake Energy was formed to provide an incentive for volunteer fire departments to report electronically. When Chesapeake Energy replaces their company computers they donate the old computers (still high quality) to OSFM & OFCA. In turn, the OSFM and OFCA identify departments that report by hard copy and prioritize the donation to the neediest departments. Not only is it desirable for these departments to use the computers to report monthly but the OSFM and OFCA encourage them to use the computers for training.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals provides **free** pipeline safety training material to our State Fire Marshals and all emergency responders; in turn, the training material is sent to the fire departments with the computers. The pipeline safety training material was developed for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. The training material is composed of: a 200-page color manual, student DVD, instructor DVD; student VCR tapes are available for students who do not have a DVD player. A similar model for improving fire data collection and increasing valuable training opportunities can be replicated in other states.

Copies of the training materials can be obtained by contacting Chrishawn Morgan-Price of NASFM at 202-737-1226 or by email at cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org. You can also place an order online at www.pipelineemergencies.com or by calling 877-627-3605.

NASFM Board Approves Plan to Ban Toy-Like Lighters in U.S.



In December, your NASFM Board approved a strategic plan, developed by NASFM's staff with invaluable input from Oregon SFM Nancy Orr and her staff, to end the sale of toy-like lighters in the U.S., and to improve safety standards for all other lighters.

The plan includes the following action items:

- Petition the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to ban toy-like lighters in the U.S.;
- Meet with the CPSC staff and the lighter industry to discuss improving the enforcement and effectiveness of the existing child resistance standard for lighters;
- Encourage state and local bans of toy-like lighters in absence of federal action;
- Encourage the CPSC to issue a proposed rule to make the ASTM F400 safety standard for all cigarette lighters a national mandatory standard;
- Petition the International Codes Council to determine if the ASTM F400 standard could be included as part of the fire code.
- Assist in development of a statistical database on fire incidents involving all lighters, to supplement anecdotal data;
- Build a coalition of allies to develop awareness of the problems surrounding lighters and to promote the activities described above; and
- Educate major retailers of their legal liability exposure and potential harm to corporate reputation if they choose to sell toy-like lighters or lighters that do not meet applicable safety standards.

The Board also authorized NASFM staff to seek resources from industry to help implement the plan. **For more information**, contact **Karen Suhro** of the NASFM Government Relations Staff by phone at 202-737-1226 or by email at kfernico@aol.com.

Alaska State Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety

On November 14th, NASFM, in conjunction with the Alaska State Fire Marshal's Office and the Alaska Joint Pipeline Office, conducted the latest in our series of state pipeline and hazardous materials safety meetings. The meeting was hosted by Alaska Assistant State Fire Marshal Rusty Belanger and was attended by emergency responders, pipeline industry representatives, and pipeline and hazardous materials safety stakeholders from the federal, state and local levels.

Presentations were given by the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Alaska Joint Pipeline Office, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' Petroleum Systems Integrity Office, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and **Alaska One-Call Digline**. A *Pipeline Emergencies* Train-the-Trainer session will be scheduled as a follow up to the state meeting.

For more information on NASFM's Pipeline Safety Program [Click Here](#) or visit <http://www.safepipelines.org>

Alabama Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer Session

On November 19, a *Pipeline Emergencies* Train-the-Trainer session was held at the Alabama State Fire College. The session was taught by Mike Callan and attended by 50 local emergency response and pipeline representatives.

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendars!

January

- January 10-12:** Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs President's Forum, Chattanooga, TN - Visit www.seafc.org for more information ****Please note - the State Fire Marshals for this region will also be meeting as group to discuss NASFM issues****
- January 12-13:** NASFM's Model Codes Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- January 30-31:** Safe Buildings Coordinating Council Meeting, Denver, CO

February

- February 18-March 1:** ICC Code Development Hearing, Palm Springs, CA

March

- March 28:** Pennsylvania State Pipeline Meeting

April

- April 1:** Hazardous Materials Response Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 2:** Board Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 3:** Congressional Fire Caucus Dinner, Washington, DC
- April 4-6:** Wildland Fire Litigation Conference, Reno, NV - ****Visit www.powerlinewildlandfires.com for more information**
- April 21:** Montana Train-the-Trainer Session in Billings, MT, delivered by Safety Instructor Mile Callan
- April 21:** Washington State Pipeline Meeting
- April 22:** Washington Train-the-Trainer Session

June/July

- June 28-July 3:** NASFM 2008 Annual Conference at the Hyatt in Denver, CO