



NASFM News

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NASFM Celebrates 20 Years of Fire Prevention Leadership



Celebrating 20 years of fire prevention leadership

June 19-21, 2009, the National Association of State Fire Marshals celebrated 20 years of fire prevention leadership during our 20th anniversary annual conference held in Redmond, WA. Twenty-four State Fire Marshal offices were represented, along with 21 organizations exhibiting and numerous sponsors at the event.

Each morning started off with a Principal and Associate members-only breakfast, where topics such as novelty lighters, National Incident Management System Directives, residential sprinkler ordinances, budget impacts, 2009 fire fatality rates and carbon monoxide legislation were discussed. These meetings were effective brainstorming and peer-networking sessions for issues the State Fire Marshals believe are important.

Among the topics covered in the general sessions were "Where Will the Next Big Improvement in Fire Safety Come From?"; "Code Compliance Effectiveness Measures"; "Going Green in Fire Protection"; "The Future of Sprinkler System Designs at FM Global"; "Combustible Dust Explosion Hazards and Mitigation Techniques"; "Fighting State Anti-Sprinkler Legislation"; "GIS Tools for SFM Operations and Enhanced Public Safety"; and "Marriott and Marioff: A Partnership of Key Importance to State Fire Marshals." Some conference presentations are available for downloading on the members-only section of the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/members/documents/>. Additionally, NASFM staff is still adding conference presentations as we receive them from presenters. Please contact Chrishawn Morgan-Price at cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org for assistance finding a particular presentation.

NASFM members also were addressed by special guests Glenn Gaines, Acting US Fire Administrator; David Spangler, National Community Assistance and Technical Services Coordinator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; William Wark, a member of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board; and Adolf Zubia, President of the International Code Council and Fire Chief of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

NASFM would not have been able to provide the fire prevention leadership and education over the past 20 years without its member State Fire Marshals and the many supporters, sponsors and friends of our organization. We look forward to the next 20 years of partnership with each of you!

See you at the 2010 NASFM Annual Conference in Chicago!

NASFM Presents Awards During 20th Anniversary Conference

During our 20th Anniversary Conference held in Redmond, Washington, last month, NASFM honored three individuals for their dedication and work. The **2009 Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award** was presented to Vice Admiral Thomas J. Barrett, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.). The **Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award** is a lifetime achievement award that was presented to John G. Reich, South Carolina State Fire Marshal. The **NASFM President's Hall of Fame Award** was presented to retired New York State Fire Administrator James A. Burns.

To view the full press release regarding the awards and honorees, please [click here](#).

Update on Fire Assistance Grants in FY 2010 Homeland Security Bills

At press time, the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security includes funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program at \$420 million and the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant program at \$390 million [an extra \$10 million is included in this total thanks to a successful amendment authored by Senators Dodd (CT), Lieberman (CT) and Carper (DE)]. Unfortunately this represents a 33% reduction in funding to the FIRE Grant program (the Obama Administration has proposed cutting the FIRE Grant program by as much as 70%). The FIRE Act gives local fire departments the ability to purchase new equipment and initiate education, fire prevention and training programs, while the SAFER Act gives local fire departments the ability to alleviate shortfalls in professional and volunteer personnel.

Later this year, the US House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, will be preparing legislation to reauthorize both the FIRE and the SAFER grant programs, which expire after FY 2009 and FY 2010, respectively.

For more information, contact Karen Suhr at 202-737-1226, ext. 13, or kfernico@aol.com.

NASFM President Shuman Featured in CFSI Webinar

On July 1, NASFM President Alan Shuman was the featured guest on the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) webinar sponsored by *Fire Engineering* magazine and hosted by CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb. Chief Shuman spoke about NASFM's initiatives in the areas of fire safe cigarettes and novelty toylike lighters, and shared information about the fireworks safety in anticipation of

Independence Day. Chief Shuman then addressed questions from the audience. The webinar was recorded in two parts and is available on YouTube for those who missed it the first time around:

1) Presentation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_PoV9i_-Cw

2) Q&A: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xU7SJiZvbc>

NASFM extends its appreciation to CFSI for providing the opportunity to participate in its webinar series!

NASFM 2009 ICC Code Change Submittals

In June, the NASFM Model Codes Committee submitted NASFM's 2009 code change proposals to the International Code Council. Committee representatives will present these proposed changes at the 2009 Code Development Hearing being held in Baltimore, MD, October 24 -31 and November 4 - 11. Please [click here](#) to view the full report of code change proposals submitted by NASFM.

Survey Results on Funding of SFM Offices

New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan had requested your assistance in gathering information from each state regarding funding for the various offices and the possibility of fire insurance premium tax. Marshal Degnan's office has compiled all the information and complete results are located on NASFM's website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/data/FinalFireStudy1.pdf>.

Free Safety DVD Targets Fire Fighters and Hazmat Responders



The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board (CSB) has released a [new safety video](#) showing the need for emergency response agencies, companies, and communities to work closely together to prevent and respond to chemical accidents such as those investigated by the CSB over the past decade.

The video, entitled "Emergency Preparedness: Findings from CSB Accident Investigations," uses computer animations, interviews, and news footage to depict a series of chemical accidents that illustrate the need for effective training, communications, and community planning to prevent injuries and loss of life from chemical accidents. The video is available online at www.csb.gov and on [YouTube](#). It can be ordered free of charge on a new two-DVD set of all CSB safety videos by filling out the request form in the Video Room of www.csb.gov.

Residential Fire Safety Institute To Promote Fire Safe Homes From Its New Home



Back in 1982, the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI), then known as *Operation Life Safety*, began its efforts to reduce fire related deaths in our country's homes in support of its mission *"to significantly reduce residential fire deaths, injuries and property losses through the use of public awareness and education programs and the promotion of early-warning detection, alarm, fast-response sprinkler and fire suppression technology."*

In January 2009, the RFSI Steering Committee voted to move the assets and RFSI

services under the umbrella of the newly established National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (NASFM Foundation). The NASFM Foundation has been entrusted with continuing and updating RFSI's educational and information efforts, as well as expanding on the technical assistance that RFSI provides. This new relationship will result in substantial positive changes and considerable enhancements in how RFSI carries out its mission.

For information: Jim Narva, jnarva@narvaassociates.com, 307-433-8078.

Consumer Fireworks Advisory Bulletin - Please Distribute!

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a June 24, 2009, bulletin regarding the transportation and storage of consumer fireworks by nonprofit organizations. PHMSA is requesting NASFM's assistance and that of the nation's State Fire Marshals in providing for wide dissemination of this information. Please distribute this letter to your respective constituents - especially to the volunteer fire department organizations, as well as inspectors and any others in your office who have interaction with the fireworks industry. [Click here](#) to link to PHMSA's letter.

NASFM to Distribute CGA Newsletter as Member Service



The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is a member-driven association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices with the goal of protecting underground facilities and infrastructure. In recent years, the association has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to all underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders. NASFM and several individual State Fire Marshals are members of CGA through our Cooperative Agreement with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

As a member service to State Fire Marshals, NASFM will begin disseminating CGA's Monthly Update to our members, beginning with the July 2009 issue. 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.

To download a copy of the July 2009 issue of CGA's Monthly Update [click here](#).