



NASFM NEWS

June 2008

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Dear Member,

We are just four weeks away from the **2008 NASFM Annual Conference** - June 30-July 2! If you haven't already, be sure to register at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>. Please contact Linda Ware at lware@firemarshals.org or by phone at 202-737-1226 for assistance or with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver!

NASFM Staff

Safety, Health & Survival Week - June 22-28



NASFM is pleased to once again

participate as a partner in the IAFC/IAFF 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008. The theme for this year is "Committed to Long Term Results," which encourages long term investments by both chiefs and fire fighters to enhance their health and safety. Recommended activities and materials will incorporate three key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives - along with the training and enforcement that support them - can limit fire/EMS personnel's risk of injury or death: an emergency vehicle policy, a wellness-fitness initiative, and full implementation of NFPA 1500. Go to www.iafc.org/safetyweek for more information on this year's program and planning resources developed by the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section.

More NASFM Comments to CPSC on Proposed Furniture Rule

As a follow up to comments submitted in April, NASFM has submitted a second set of public comments to

the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about its proposed rule on the "Standard for the Flammability of Residential Upholstered Furniture." NASFM describes a demonstration small-open-flame burn of an upholstered chair covered in microfiber fabric conducted for NASFM by New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan. The results of the demonstration and NASFM's concern about the effect of CPSC's proposed rule are summed up in this excerpt: "The CPSC does not need to dumb down its standards to appease industry. The fact that NASFM purchased an upholstered chair from a reputable retailer that was made by a reputable manufacturer, exposed it to a small open flame from a lit match and saw it ignite in 12 seconds, on its way to being totally consumed by a raging fire in a matter of minutes, means that something is wrong with the way furniture is being made today. Your currently proposed standard will not improve this situation, and has the real potential to make it worse. We appeal to your sense of duty to consumers to raise the standard for upholstered furniture flammability to a level that will truly protect against the actual and real hazards faced by consumers."

The entire letter can be found on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/data/File//docs/NASFM-CPSC-05.08.pdf>.

Contact: Karen Suhr at kfernico@aol.com or 202-737-1226.

June is Home Safety Month



The Home Safety Council dedicates the month of June - Home Safety Month - to educating and empowering families to make their homes safer. Their homes are where most Americans feel safest, but homes are also where accidents occur, resulting in nearly 21 million medical visits on average each year. There are simple things people can do to help save lives and prevent injuries. Visit the Home Safety Resource Center at www.homesafetycouncil.org or go to www.mysafehome.org to review and download free information, including posters, brochures, safety checklists and additional tips that you can disseminate to the public and emergency responders in your state. Also, if you would like to place a Home Safety

Month "websticker" on your website, visit <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/websticker/websticker.aspx>.

'Aim Higher' Article - A Call for State Fire Marshals to Respond

Firehouse.com recently published the article 'Aim Higher - An independent governmental review can do USFA a lot of good,' authored by Ozzie Mirkhah, FPE of the Las Vegas Fire Department. This article address a number of issues and key discussions raised by NASFM members and leadership over the past 10 years. The call for a "review" of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) will provide the opportunity to tell the long overdue story about the need for USFA, the value it brings to the fire service, and the critical role it plays in making significant advancements in fire safety throughout the United States.

This article merits a full read by all NASFM members and highlights the opportunity for individual State Fire Marshals to have their voices heard in the development and future of USFA. Most important, this is a great opportunity to ensure that Washington listens and positively responds to the need to secure additional resources for fire prevention and safety.

The full article can be viewed at: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=9&id=59474>

Florida in the Legislative Forefront

Florida is waiting for Governor Charlie Christ to sign into law a bill crafted to save firefighters' lives when responding to burning buildings that was unanimously passed by the Legislature earlier this year. Once

signed, the law will become effective July 1.

The bill will require certain commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential structures that have lightweight roof or floor trusses to be clearly marked. Not covered by the law are single-family homes or duplexes. It will be up to the State Fire Marshal's office to determine what the placard will look like, where it will go, and how long buildings will have to be in compliance with the new law. The signage on the buildings will allow firefighters to change their tactics for fighting fires in buildings with the lightweight truss system.

While more than 60 percent of roof systems in the United States are built using a wooden truss system, relatively few states have passed the bill to protect firefighters.

Thank you Kansas State Fire Marshal Dan McLaughlin for bringing this to our membership.

CPSC Urges Support for Nationally Updated Electrical Code



Most states currently require builders and electricians to install arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits during all new home construction. This provision has been required by the National Electric Code (NEC) since 1999. In the newly published 2008 NEC, Paragraph 210-12(B) expands the requirement for AFCIs to other areas of the home, significantly increasing the level of protection to the home's electrical system, and decreasing the risk of an electrical fire.

Andrew Trotta, Director of the Division of Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), recently issued a letter to code making authorities urging AHJs to adopt paragraph 210-12(B) of the 2008 NEC in its entirety, without exception.

NASFM has historically been a strong proponent of AFCIs. A resolution to support AFCI technology, which was adopted by the membership at the Association's Annual Conference in Greenbelt, MD, on July 8, 2001, said, "The National Association of State Fire Marshals encourages all fire service organizations and allied safety organizations to support AFCI technology to reduce the risk to life safety from arc fault initiated fires."

Contact: Carole Plato by email at cplato@firemarshals.org if you would like to receive additional information on AFCIs.

Science Advisory Committee Updated Working Priorities List

The NASFM Science Advisory Committee (SAC) has recently updated its list of working priorities based on assignments it has received from the NASFM Board over the past year. Reviewing the list offers NASFM members an opportunity to see the range of topics and ways in which the SAC provides advice and guidance to the Board and membership. The list has been posted on the "members only" portion of the NASFM website under "Documents." Check it out!

Contact: For more information about the SAC, its assignments and the working priorities list, contact Karen Suhr by phone at 202-737-1226 or by email at kfernico@aol.com.

Washington State Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Symposium

The most recent State Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Meeting was delivered as part of a two-day Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Symposium held on April 22, 2008, in Bellingham, WA. The meeting was hosted by the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, the City of Bellingham, PHMSA, and NASFM. There were 53 people in attendance, 30 of whom were first responders. The highlight of this meeting was the presentation by Ross Reineke of PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety, who shared

information on the National Pipeline Mapping Systems Website. The meeting attendees were able to view the pipelines that lie within their jurisdiction; many of the first responders from Volunteer Fire Departments were not entirely aware of this resource and are now able to apply it to their response planning and operations.

The second day of the symposium was a Train-the-Trainer session that convened over 40 participants for an in-depth training. The participant group was composed of both first responders and pipeline officials.

Upcoming Events - *Mark your Calendars!*

June 22-28: 2008 Safety, Health and Survival week

June 28-29: Science Advisory Committee Meeting, Denver, CO

June 29: NASFM Board of Director's Meeting, Denver, CO

June 30-July 3: NASFM 2008 Annual Conference at the Hyatt in Denver, CO

- Register Today! - <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>