



NASFM News

June 2009

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Meet the State Fire Marshal - Ronald R. Farr



On behalf of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), we want to extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Michigan State Fire Marshal Ronald R. Farr.

A former Fire Chief of the Kalamazoo Township Fire Department in Kalamazoo, MI, Mr. Farr was appointed to his new position on April 16, 2009, by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. He is a 33-year veteran of the

Plainwell/Gun Plain Township Fire Department in Michigan. In 1972 he was hired by The Charter Township of Kalamazoo, where he served as police officer until his appointment as Fire Marshal in 1978. In 2003 he was promoted to fire chief, where he served until his retirement in May 2009 when he was appointed Michigan State Fire Marshal.

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**Upcoming 2009 Events...
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

As Director of The Bureau of Fire Services, State Fire Marshal Farr is charged with carrying out numerous duties including serving as policy advisor to the governor on the development and administration of fire service policies, program and procedures; delivery of fire suppression or related fire services or emergency response services; and overseeing and directing fire service programs in the state that are vested in the bureau.

Mr. Farr holds memberships in numerous fire service organizations and is very active on both the state and national levels. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards



Upcoming Events to
Mark Your Calendar

June 14-20
2009 Fire/EMS
Safety, Health and
Survival Week

June 17
NASFM Board
Meeting
Redmond, WA

June 17
SAC Meeting
Redmond, WA

June 19-21
NASFM Annual
Conference
Redmond, WA

Council, Michigan Fire Safety Board and the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Council.

In 2006, Mr. Farr was presented with the Percey Bugbee Award for notable, significant and enduring contributions to fire safety by the International Fire Marshals Association and in 2008 was awarded The President's Award by the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society.

You may contact State Fire Marshal Farr at FarrR@Michigan.gov. To learn more about Michigan's State Fire Marshal Division, please access the website: http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html.

Sneak Peek at Annual Conference Topics

We are planning a relevant and information-packed program for members and attendees at our Annual Conference. Here is a preview of some of the topics we will be covering:

- Where Will the Next Big Improvement in Fire Safety Come From?
- Code Compliance Effectiveness Measures
- FM Global's New Data Sheet 2-0 and the Future of Sprinkler System Designs at FM Global
- Going Green in Fire Protection
- Combustible Dust Explosion Hazards and Mitigation Techniques
- GIS Tools for State Fire Marshal Operations and Enhanced Public Safety
- Fighting State Anti-Sprinkler Legislation
- Annual Update from NASFM's Science Advisory Committee
- Addresses and Updates from Special Guests, including the U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Chemical Safety Board, U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, International Code Council and Western Fire Chiefs Association

In addition, the afternoon of Friday, June 19, will provide attendees with the opportunity to interact with exhibitors during the three-hour exhibit review beginning at 3 pm, which will be followed by a cocktail reception.

Each morning, State Fire Marshals will participate in a members-only breakfast in which they will have a chance to raise topics of relevance to them and their colleagues. Over the years our members have found the opportunity to interact with their peers in this forum to be one of the most valuable features of the annual conference.

Our President's Annual Banquet on Sunday, June 21, will feature a special NASFM 20th Anniversary Celebration with a retrospective view

of the people and issues that helped to shape NASFM over the past two decades.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Redmond!

For information: Linda Ware, 202-737-1226 or lware@firemarshals.org.

NIST Recovery Plan to Fund National Structural Fire Resistance Lab



The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has received Congressional approval on its recovery plan to create jobs, strengthen the economy and encourage innovation. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), NIST was granted \$580 million in direct appropriations, along with an additional \$30 million transferred to NIST from other federal agencies, to invest in construction projects, grants, scientific equipment and research fellowships.

Among the projects that will be funded through this Act are the design and construction of a National Structural Fire Resistance Laboratory (NSFRL), a unique resource that studies how fires start and propagate in various structures, and how those fires can be prevented and suppressed - research that could save thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property damage.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Model

In 2008, NASFM was asked by the US Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) data model for the fire service. Particular attention was to be paid to hazardous materials incident data. As previously reported, the data model was completed in 2008 and is being deployed by fire departments around the country. The data model is intended to serve as a common platform for the fire service (and other agencies) to develop and deploy a GIS system that is compatible with other GIS users, but also is flexible enough to meet the unique needs of individual fire stations.

As NASFM rolled out the data model in late 2008, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) asked to review the work. The DHS Office of Geospatial Management studied the model and recommended that it be integrated in its entirety into the Federal government GIS data model - an effort by several Federal agencies and spearheaded by DHS. In the first quarter of 2009, DHS officially

announced that this integration has taken place. This is an important step toward ensuring the state and local data priorities are considered and integrated in Federal geospatial activities.

You can visit the DHS website to see the press release regarding DHS and the NASFM data model at <http://www.fgdc.gov/participation/working-groups-subcommittees/hswg/dhs-gdm/>

Administration Releases 2010 Budget Proposal; Proposes Cutting Funds to FIRE Grant Program

On May 7, 2009, the White House released the appendix for the Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal, detailing requested funding levels for programs and offices in the federal budget.

Funding has been proposed for critical programs including the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, The United States Fire Administration (USFA), The State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UAS).

Unfortunately, the Administration proposes funding the popular FIRE grant program at only \$170 million - a cut of nearly 70% from Fiscal Year 2009. The program, which received \$3.2 billion in requests in Fiscal Year 2008, provides funding for critical equipment, training, and apparatus directly to local fire departments. The program also provides grants for fire prevention and safety programs and firefighter health and safety research.

NASFM Members are encouraged to contact their Congressional representatives requesting they preserve funding for this important program.

2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week



The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) have announced the 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (also known as Safety Week) to be held the week of June 14-20, 2009.

The message this year is: Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility. The campaign encourages chiefs and fire/EMS personnel to focus on what they personally can do to manage risk and

enhance their health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

Information is available on the Safety Week website at www.iafc.org/safetyweek.

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