



# National Association of State Fire Marshals

Monthly Newsletter

September 2007

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## We Want to Hear from You!

*Is there a certain issue that you would like to report on?*

*Are you leading a new fire safety initiative in your state that you would like to share?*

This month State Fire Marshals Paul Maldonado and Nancy Orr contributed to the newsletter with an opening letter about member communications and an informative article about banning toy-like lighters. *We encourage you to contribute informative articles, letters, and other ideas to this newsletter in the future.*

**NASFM Contact:** If you have an idea or would like to contribute to an upcoming newsletter, **please contact** Rebecca Harned by phone at 202-737-1226 or by email at [rharned@firemarshals.org](mailto:rharned@firemarshals.org)

Dear NASFM Member,

At the recent meeting in Atlanta, the NASFM Board of Directors determined that improving member communications is a top priority. To that end, the Board asked Nancy Orr of Oregon and me to co-chair a Communications Task Force. Nancy and I, along with Jim Narva, Pete Sparber, Rebecca Harned and others, are working on better ways to exchange and distribute information among members.

Developing effective communication methods is a challenge for all organizations, regardless of their size and purpose. The most successful communication plans are *two-way*, with recipients actively sharing their ideas and expertise.

Our primary means of communication will be a monthly newsletter. The newsletter you are currently reading is the first of many to come. Future issues will contain articles from board members, members, staff, and guest columnists.

We must recognize that NASFM cannot be all things to all people. While we support the work of State Fire Marshals and advocate improvements in fire safety, we are a small organization with minimal support staff and limited resources. We rely on you to provide us with information that can be useful to your colleagues in other states.

NASFM is a great resource. Membership gives us access to a wealth of experts, scientific and technical fire protection studies, reference documents, code interpretations, model legislation and ordinances, grant opportunities, and travel funding. It also provides opportunities to participate on important committees that shape national safety policies. NASFM does not become involved in individual state issues unless requested or with the acceptance from the State

## Upcoming Events

### October

**October 2** - Alabama Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Meeting hosted by State Fire Marshal Ed Paulk

**October 3** - New Jersey Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer delivered by safety instructor Mike Callan

### November

**November 5-6** -

Board of Directors Meeting and Strategic Planning Session in Washington, DC - *dates & location are subject to change*

### June/July

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

## 2007 NASFM Annual Conference

This year's annual conference was the best attended in NASFM's history, with 38 State Fire Marshals and 249 total participants. Chief Alan Shuman, Georgia State Fire Marshal and NASFM Vice President and Treasurer, hosted the conference at the Grand Hyatt in Atlanta, GA. This year's conference was sponsored by 27 organizations, and 36 companies exhibited. Our keynote speaker, Michael W. Lowder (Director of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's Office of Intelligence, Security and Emergency Response), set the stage for a highly successful conference.

Maine State Fire Marshal and NASFM President John Dean

Fire Marshal of that state. *I urge you to get involved!* Search out information you need, ask questions, or volunteer to serve on a committee.

You are the foremost fire protection expert in your state. Your shared knowledge can help find solutions to fire protection challenges we all face. As you read this first issue, please consider ways you may be able to participate. With your involvement, we can continue to thrive as an organization powered by knowledge and an enduring commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,  
Paul Maldonado, Texas State Fire Marshal  
NASFM Board of Directors  
Co-Chair, Communications Task Force

## New NASFM Administrative Contact

Erin Friel has been hired and is available to coordinate numerous administrative activities for NASFM. She is located in Cheyenne, WY, where she works for NASFM Project Manager Jim Narva. Among her NASFM responsibilities are Board support, coordinating general membership support activities, communications, and fiscal processing. If you have any NASFM-related question, and you don't know where to find an answer, contact Erin. If she isn't directly involved or can't answer your question, she'll be able to put you in contact with the appropriate person.

### Contact:

Please contact Erin at [efriel@firemarshals.org](mailto:efriel@firemarshals.org) or by phone at 307-433-8078.

## New Funding for Public Safety Communications

### NASFM working with NTIA and 7 states on \$1billion funding opportunity

On July 18th, the Department of Commerce (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) and

hosted the President's Reception at Turner Field where attendees mingled and took a behind-the-scenes tour of the ballpark. A highlight of the conference was the Annual Banquet at the Georgia Aquarium where guests were able to tour the aquarium and enjoy the evening. The banquet featured the presentation of NASFM's Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award. This year's recipients of the award were John Eversole (posthumously), former District Chief of the Chicago Fire Department, who played a major role in helping to shape legislation and policy in areas of hazardous materials, firefighter safety and terrorism; and Garry Briese, former Executive Director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a long-standing advocate of emergency management, homeland security and disaster preparedness.

We thank all of our members, sponsors, exhibitors and staff for making this year's conference a success! Next year we will be at the Hyatt in downtown Denver, CO. Dates and registration information will be provided in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned for more details!

[Click here](#) to view some photos from the 2007 annual conference.

**NASFM Contact:**

For more information, contact Elizabeth Tucker at 202-737-1226 or email [etucker@firemarshals.org](mailto:etucker@firemarshals.org).

**Junior Fire Marshals from the Classes of**

Department of Homeland Security announced the nearly \$1 billion Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. The grant program provides funds to help state and local first responders improve public safety communications.

NASFM has worked closely with the Department of Commerce in developing language and criteria for the PSIC program requirements and application materials. NASFM is coordinating with State Fire Marshals to incorporate PSIC requirements into statewide plans and PSIC projects, focusing on cost-effective advanced technology solutions that benefit both state and local first responders.

**NASFM Contact:** For more information or to get involved, contact Rebecca Harned by phone at 202-737-1226 or email [rharned@firemarshals.org](mailto:rharned@firemarshals.org).

**NASFM Proposed 6 Changes to the ICC 2007-2008 Code Cycle**

NASFM has submitted six proposed changes to the International Code Council's 2007-2008 code cycle, which will result in the 2009 edition of the I-Codes. The Model Codes Committee has worked tirelessly in the past several months to draft proposals that address areas of concern raised by the membership:

- IBC 504.2** Automatic sprinkler system increase (height);
- IBC 506.3** Automatic sprinkler system increase (area)
- IBC 506.4** Area determination
- IBC 1505.2** Class A roof assemblies
- IRC R313.1** General fire protection systems
- IRC R902.1** Roof covering materials
- IFC 107.2** Testing and operation
- IFC 703.1** Maintenance

NASFM's proposals will be reviewed by the corresponding ICC committees in Palm Springs, CA, February 18-March 2, 2008. For more information on the proposals [click here](#) or visit: <http://www.firemarshals.org/mission/catastrophic/>.

**NASFM Contact:** For more information or to get involved, please contact Allison Crowley by phone at (202) 737-1226 or email at [allison@firemarshals.org](mailto:allison@firemarshals.org).

## 1947-1952!

The Hartford Financial Services Group's Junior Fire Marshal Program is on a nationwide search for those who were part of the early days of the program.

If you know of any original 1957-1952 members who could provide feedback and testimonials please

**contact:**

Jill Greenwood by phone at 203-378-1152 x114 or email [jgreenwood@cjpcom.com](mailto:jgreenwood@cjpcom.com)

To learn more, visit [www.thehartford.com/jfm](http://www.thehartford.com/jfm) or [click here](#)

## Important Announcement

Department of Homeland Security's Fire Prevention & Safety Grant (FP&S) Program 2007 application period is scheduled to open in September. Several State Fire Marshals' offices and state fire service organizations apply for grants through this program. Be sure to check the DHS website regularly for the release of the program guidance.

NASFM continues to support all Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs. This year NASFM is sending 24 representatives to serve as Volunteer Evaluators for the FP&S program.

For more information [click here](#) or visit: <http://firegrantsupport.com/fps/>

## Quick Links

## Updates on NASFM's Safe Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Program

NASFM's Partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has entered its sixth year and continues to grow. On August 15th, New Jersey State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo hosted a state pipeline and hazardous materials safety meeting at the Middlesex County Fire Academy that was well attended by emergency responders. Over the next year, we will continue to conduct similar meetings across the country.

This year we have expanded the *Pipeline Emergencies* training program to complement our existing activities through the development of a web-based "Pipeline 101" awareness level training module. We plan to begin offering the web-based course at [www.pipelineemergencies.com](http://www.pipelineemergencies.com) in early 2008.

The Partnership has also assembled a new Hazardous Materials Safety Advisory Committee that will advise the Partnership on our existing pipeline safety initiatives and outreach programs. In addition, the committee will help to develop and test a new model of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology for hazardous materials incident commanders. The model will include guidance for preserving evidence and a process for providing PHMSA with accurate and timely hazardous materials incident data.

**NASFM Contact:** For more information, contact Elizabeth Tucker by phone at 202-737-1226 or email [etucker@firemarshals.org](mailto:etucker@firemarshals.org)

## Action on Toy-Like Lighters Gains National Momentum

**Article by:** Nancy Orr, Oregon State Fire Marshal  
NASFM Board of Directors

[NASFM Website](#)

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[Pipeline Website](#)

[Safe Buildings Website](#)

[HELP Website](#)



The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) effort to focus attention on the serious issue of toy-like lighters and the risks they pose continues to bring endorsements from across the nation. It began in the summer of 2006 with OSFM's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program, which displayed a photo gallery of toy-like lighters and a call to action for fire departments and burn centers nationwide. SFM Orr wrote to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Acting Chair Nancy Nord requesting the commission to initiate a formal research study of this problem with the goal of banning these lighters in the US.

NASFM adopted a resolution in July 2007 that encourages the CPSC to follow the European Union in banning the sale and use of novelty lighters. NASFM joins a long list of State Fire Marshals and organizations that have written to the CPSC. Additionally, numerous cities and states have started adopting ordinances to prohibit the sale of toy-like lighters in their communities.

State Fire Marshal Orr partnered with the Idea Bank to create a video-based web page - [click here](#).

There is no good reason for lighters that resemble toys to be manufactured. The child-resistant cigarette lighter standard has been highly effective in reducing child fire deaths. Surely a national movement to ban the sale of toy-like lighters is the next step to take to protect our children from lighters that invite unintentional misuse and place them and their families at risk.

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### **Safety Advisory Guidance: Use of Mobile Acetylene Trailers**

**U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration released a safety advisory notice for mobile acetylene trailers.**

For more information [click here](#) or visit the news updates at [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org).

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