



NASFM News

September 2009

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NASFM Urges CPSC to Pay More Attention to Fire Prevention

On August 25, NASFM Secretary-Treasurer Bill Degnan of New Hampshire represented NASFM at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's annual Agenda and Priorities Hearing for Fiscal Year 2011, with comments on the CPSC's current Strategic Plan.

NASFM joined 8 other organizations in presenting testimony, and NASFM was the only organization that addressed fire-related issues in a comprehensive, policy-oriented way. The CPSC Chairman and Commissioners were interested in and appreciative of NASFM's concerns.

In summary, NASFM acknowledged that while the CPSC has had to defer many fire- and combustion-related projects because of the congressionally mandated activities under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, it is now time to renew the CPSC's commitment to its fire-related strategic goals.

Specifically, NASFM called for the CPSC to pay greater attention (and dedicate more staff and budget) to fire- and carbon monoxide-related issues, including the following:

- Completion of the upholstered furniture flammability rulemaking (while also acknowledging NASFM's disagreement with the current proposed rule);
- Completion of the rulemaking to require mandatory mechanical safety standards for lighters;
- Granting NASFM's petition to make ASTM voluntary fire safety standards for candle products into mandatory federal regulations;
- Strengthening the General Wearing Apparel Standard for clothing flammability; and
- Resuming CPSC's participation in fire-related voluntary standards development activities.

NASFM's full testimony is posted on the NASFM website at www.firemarshals.org (go to the link under "News" at the right of the page titled "NASFM Testimony to CPSC

Quick Links

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[Intertek](#)

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2009 Upcoming Events...

September 30
Fire Retardants and
Their Impact on Fire
Fighter Health
Workshop
Gaithersburg, MD

October 13
Pallet Working Group
Meeting,
Washington, DC

**October 24-
November 11**
ICC Code
Development
Hearings
Baltimore, MD

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on Agenda and Priorities for FY11, August 25, 2009"). The full set of comments submitted to the CPSC can be found on the CPSC's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia09/pubcom/pubcom.html>, and an archived webcast of the hearing can be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/webcast/previous.html>.

For information: Karen Suhr, kfernico@aol.com or 202-737-1226.

NIST to Hold One-Day Meeting on Fire Retardants and Fire Fighter Health



A one-day meeting on "Fire Retardants and their Potential Impact on Fire Fighter Health" will be held on the Gaithersburg, Maryland, campus at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on September 30, 2009. The meeting will provide the context for discussion of the following questions:

- What are fire retardants and why are they used?
- What is the fate of the fire retardants and their combustion products in the environment?
- Are there increased or decreased health risks to fire fighters created by fire retardants?

This meeting is the result of a request from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and NASFM to have NIST serve as an organizer and objective host of a scientific workshop on the potential health effects to fire fighters of flame retardants in the aftermath of a fire.

Technical experts from the government and private sector representing the fire services, health sciences, fire science, environmental sciences, and product manufacturers will explore our state of knowledge about and stimulate open discussion by the meeting participants on:

- approaches to reducing the flammability of building products and the rate of fire spread in buildings;
- the composition and nature of products formed during and after an actual building fire, and how they are affected by the presence of a fire retardant;
- quantification of the concentration of the fire products;
- routes of exposure by emergency responders and clean-up crews to hazardous fire products;
- the possible relationship between acute and chronic health affects on emergency responders exposed to fire products, and the type and amount of fire retardant involved in the fire; and
- knowledge gaps and the identification of a possible future research agenda.

Several State Fire Marshals and NASFM Science Advisory Committee members plan to participate in this meeting. Attendance is open to the public and admittance is free. However, space is limited and attendees must register in advance. For agenda and registration information, visit the NIST website at <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/info/conf/fireretardants/index.htm>.

David Purser Joins Science Advisory Committee

President Alan Shuman and the NASFM Board have approved the addition of Prof. David Purser to the NASFM Science Advisory Committee (SAC). He will attend his first meeting in October.

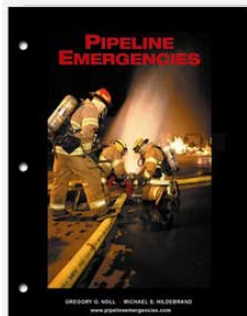
Prof. Purser has an extensive research and standards development background in toxicology, particularly the hazards to life, health and the environment from fires and the development and application of physiological fire hazard models. He also has expertise as a fire and human factors risk scientist and engineer, and has studied human behavior in fires, fire hazard development, fire behavior of contents in various occupancies, the effectiveness of fire protection systems, fire investigations, and fire incident statistics. He has published extensively on these topics.

Currently a private consultant, Prof. Purser previously worked as Technical Development Director of the U.K. Building Research Establishment, Fire Research Station, where he led a team conducting research and consultancy on all aspects of fire and fire engineering involving people. Over the past three decades, he has been an active member of a number of British and International Standards committees relating to fire hazards, fire safety engineering, fire toxicity and means of escape and has served on several U.K. government scientific advisory committees. He holds visiting professorships at several universities in the U.K., as well as at the University of Maryland in the U.S.

"Professor Purser's extensive background and wealth of experience seem tailor-made to the issues that NASFM has been addressing as an association," said NASFM President Alan Shuman. "In particular, his expertise in toxicological and human behavior issues fills a gap on the SAC that has long needed to be addressed, now more than ever. We welcome and look forward to his contributions."

For information: Karen Suhr, kfernico@aol.com or 202-737-1226.

Pipeline Emergencies Train the Trainer in Arizona a Success



On August 25, 2009, veteran firefighter Glen Rudner taught a one-day Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer session in Tempe, Arizona, on how to effectively respond to pipeline emergencies. The seminar was organized by NASFM for the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in conjunction with the Western Regional Gas Conference. The class was attended by a total of 28 emergency responders and pipeline industry representatives.

With the knowledge gained from the course and accompanying training materials, participants were charged with taking the program back to their communities to train emergency services and pipeline industry personnel in the safe handling of pipeline emergencies.

In an effort to provide all emergency responders with the contact information needed to train others in the Pipeline Emergencies curriculum, a Train-the-Trainer alumni section is being developed on www.pipelineemergencies.com. In this

section, information from recent participants of the Pipeline Emergencies Train-the-Trainer course will be collected. The information gained will be used as a resource for organizations that want a Train-the-Trainer class in-house. Stay tuned for more information about the alumni section.

To obtain information on holding a Train-the-Trainer in your area, please contact Chrishawn Morgan-Price at the DC office, (202) 737-1226 or email, cmorgan-price@firemarshals.org.

NASFM Survey Concerning Dual Codes in CMS Paid Facilities



Colorado State Fire Marshal Kevin Klein had surveyed NASFM membership concerning dual codes in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Marshal Klein has compiled the responses he received and we have the information posted to the Members Only section of the NASFM website at

<http://www.firemarshals.org/data/NASFMSurvey-DualCodesinCMSpaidFacilities.pdf>

News from Texas



The Texas State Fire Marshals Office has been awarded \$566,500 from the FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. This grant will be used to incorporate the Have an Exit Strategy program on all university campuses in Texas. To see full press release please visit http://www.firemarshals.org/data/SFMOGrant09-01-2009_update_12.pdf.

Intertek Unveils Newly Designed Family of Marks



NASFM Advocate Member Intertek, a leading product testing, inspection and certification organization, announced September 1 that it has released a redesigned family of product safety and quality certification marks. The goal of the redesign effort is to make recognition of the Intertek mark simpler and increase confidence in the products that contain it.

Products currently on the market will not require re-labeling to the new Intertek mark scheme. To avoid unnecessary costs to manufacturers, there will be a five-year transition period, ending January 1, 2015, for products already on the market to use the updated marks on products, packaging, literature and websites. The new Intertek marks are, however, available immediately for new product certifications and those manufacturers that want to transition to the new marks now.

Additional information on Intertek's new certification mark design can be found at www.intertek.com/certmarks.