



NASFM News

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Student Interns Address Fire Protection of Historic Streetscapes

This fall, for the second year in a row, NASFM hosted a team of undergraduate student interns from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts. The student team participated in a seven-week research project at the NASFM Washington, DC, office in fulfillment of graduation requirements. The topic of this year's research project was the "Fire Protection of Historic Streetscapes." NASFM staff were assisted in guiding the students by Science Advisory Committee members Roy Deppa (who worked with WPI interns for many years when he was at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission), and Dr. Jack Watts (a fire protection engineer who specializes in historic preservation).

The students found that while a great deal of information is available about the fire protection of individual historic buildings, little has been done to address the fire protection of groups of buildings along a community's historic main street. A historic "main street" is a central feature of many communities across the country that rely on tourism. However, such buildings also may not use updated fire protection measures, and may have shared spaces and other features that would increase the risk that a fire in one building could spread quickly along an entire block. Such historic districts also can involve multiple building owners, which could complicate the process of decision-making and education.

The students were interested in creative ways to address the fire protection of historic districts as well as in the interactions among building owners and other stakeholders in the community, including fire department officials, building code inspectors, historic preservationists, and elected and appointed local officials. After speaking with subject matter experts and researching communities that had experienced fires in their historic districts and those that taken measures to prevent such fires in the future, the student team developed recommendations that NASFM and historic communities could follow to more effectively address this concern, which affects not only life safety, but also the economic and cultural viability of many communities across the United States.

The WPI students' report is posted on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/data/WPIhistoricstreetscapesfinalreport2009.doc.pdf>. Subject to additional funding, NASFM hopes to use this research as a foundation on which to collect more information and ultimately build a program for State Fire Marshals and others to assist communities in protecting historic districts from fire. For more information, contact Karen Deppa in the NASFM Washington, DC, office at kfernico@aol.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Upcoming Events...

January 12, 2010

Youth Fire Prevention
Workshop
PEPCO Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

January 19, 2010

Youth Fire Prevention
Workshop
NH Fire Academy
Concord, NH

February 3, 2010

Youth Fire Prevention
Workshop
Arvada Fire Dept. Training
Center
Arvada, CO

February 17, 2010

Youth Fire Prevention
Workshop
Veterans Memorial Building
Lafayette, CA

July 22-24, 2010

2010 NASFM
Annual Conference
InterContinental Hotel
Chicago, IL

NASFM Foundation's Youth Fire Prevention Program



In 2010, NASFM Foundation will be conducting 10 regional Train-the-Trainer sessions for juvenile intervention and fire prevention personnel across the nation as part of its Fire Prevention and Safety grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The first of the 10 sessions will begin in January 2010 and will continue at the rate of two sessions per month through May 2010. In addition, NASFM Foundation will conduct a Juvenile Fire Prevention Summit in conjunction with its Annual Conference next July in Chicago.

The sites have been chosen for each of the 10 FEMA Regions and they are posted on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/juvenile-firesetter-program/youth-fire-prevention-workshop/>. Information on the details of the sessions including an information handout is also posted, along with the opportunity to register for any of the sessions. State Fire Marshals can use this handout to broadcast the availability of the sessions throughout their state. Fire Prevention Officers, social service and mental health workers involved in juvenile fire setter intervention, juvenile law enforcement officers, prosecutors and fire investigators who work with juveniles are all excellent candidates for attending the training sessions.

NASFM Foundation has made plans for each session to accommodate 60 to 75 attendees. There is modest funding to assist attendees who will be traveling more than 100 miles to attend a session. The assistance will be one night's lodging at government rate for the area and up to \$20 for meals.

NASFM Foundation's goal is to meet as fully as possible the training needs of those working to reduce the incidence of juvenile fire setting and fire play. The planned training sessions will contribute much to meeting this goal, and NASFM Foundation is relying on State Fire Marshals to make all eligible attendees aware of the opportunities that are available. If you have any questions about the training, feel free to contact Erin Friel at efriel@firemarshals.org or (202) 737-1226 ext. 78.

Agreement Made to Phase Out DecaBDE Flame Retardant

On December 17, 2009, as the result of negotiations with EPA, the two U.S. producers of the flame retardant decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), Albemarle Corporation and Chemtura Corporation, and the largest U.S. importer, ICL Industrial Products, Inc., announced commitments to phase out decaBDE in the United States.

DecaBDE has been used as a flame retardant in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles, automobiles and airplanes, and other applications.

The companies have committed to end production, importation, and sales of decaBDE for most uses in the United States by December 31, 2012, and to end all uses by the end of 2013.

Steve Owens, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, issued the

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following statement in response to the announcement:

"Though DecaBDE has been used as a flame retardant for years, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has long been concerned about its impact on human health and the environment. Studies have shown that decaBDE persists in the environment, potentially causes cancer and may impact brain function. DecaBDE also can degrade to more toxic chemicals that are frequently found in the environment and are hazardous to wildlife.

"Today's announcement by these companies to phase out decaBDE is an appropriate and responsible step to protect human health and the environment."

EPA intends to encourage the other minor importers of decaBDE to join this initiative.

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/actionplans/deccadbe.html>. The company commitment letters and annual progress reports will be posted to the EPA website as well.

Preview: Fires In Vehicles Conference, September 2010 in Sweden



Fires in vehicles pose a significant threat to life and property. In response to the pressing need for international dialogue, SP, the Technical Research Institute of Sweden, is organizing a new conference: FIVE (Fires In Vehicles). The objective of this conference is to exchange knowledge of fires in vehicles, including both road and rail vehicles. In recognition of the fact that many of the fire problems faced by these vehicles are the same, the solutions to them can also be similar. NASFM is an honorary sponsor of the FIVE conference.

FIVE will bring together scientists, regulators, test engineers, industry, suppliers, insurance companies and other organisations from the diverse field of transportation to discuss important fire issues. This exchange of knowledge will significantly enhance economic and safe solutions - sustainable solutions - to problems in the fire area.

FIVE will be a biannual event, the first conference of which will take place September 29 - 30, 2010, in Gothenburg, Sweden. Gothenburg has been selected as the opening site for this event as it is the center of the West Coast Region, the automotive science centre of Sweden.

The conference themes will include Fire Development in Vehicles; Fire Statistics and Insurance Issues; Electrical, Hydrogen, Hybrid Vehicles and Other Alternative Fuels; Incident Management and Case Studies; Fire Detection and Fire Suppression in Vehicles; and Regulations and Standards. Further information is available at www.firesinvehicles.com.

NASFM Award Nominations Sought

Every year during our Annual Conference, NASFM likes to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty. Two awards will be presented during the conference this year in Chicago. NASFM is currently taking nominations for both the Sixth Annual Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award and the Third Annual Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award. Each nomination must be accompanied by a biography of the individual's credentials and safety-related accomplishments along with a description of why you believe the individual merits special recognition.

Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award

This award is given to an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the safety of people, products and materials in transit. We are especially interested in recognizing the achievements of individuals and teams that have encouraged transportation safety standards above what is required and have worked to ensure the safety of emergency responders.

Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award

This award is a lifetime achievement award that is given to someone who has dedicated his or her career to fire prevention and public safety, and who has achieved substantial accomplishments in fire prevention and public safety.

Please submit your nominations for either or both awards by March 31, 2010, to Erin Friel, efriel@firemarshals.org.

Children Are No Match For Fire books still available



Children Are No Match For Fire is a children's book that teaches about the dangers of matches, lighters, candles, sparklers, and grills. Do your children practice Stop, Drop, and Roll? Do you have an escape route planned from your home? What about a meeting place?

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has long been concerned with the statistics that show the large number of fires started by juveniles. In 2006, with grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice, NASFM commissioned this fire safety/prevention book for children ages 3-6 by noted children's author Carol Dean, with illustrations by Sandra Dunn.

Copies can still be ordered from NASFM. Retail price for the book is \$10 per copy, plus \$2 shipping per book. Special shipping prices on multi-copy orders and on bulk orders apply, and will be provided when placing an order. Also, a special rate applies for State Fire Marshals - so be sure to inquire!

Orders can be placed by emailing Erin Friel at efriel@firemarshals.org, or by phone at (202) 737-1226 ext. 78. For more information, see <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/juvenile-firesetter-program/children-s-book/>.