



NASFM News

June 2010

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Upcoming Events...

June 20-26, 2010
2010 Fire/EMS Safety,
Health and Survival Week

July 21, 2010
NASFM Board of Directors
Meeting



NASFM 2010 Annual Conference!



Thank you to those NASFM members who have registered for the 21st NASFM Annual Conference, July 22-24, 2010, at the InterContinental Hotel in Downtown Chicago. For those members who would like to attend the conference, there is still time to save \$100 by registering on or before June 18, 2010, at the following website:
www.firemarshals.org/events.

Travel arrangements for all State Fire Marshals may be made through Nancy Martin at Central Travel at 800.282.9945 or by e-mail at nancy_martin@centralbank.net. Please indicate that you are a State Fire Marshal attending the 2010 Annual Conference.

For more information about the conference, contact Erin Friel at 202-737-1226 ext. 78 or efriel@firemarshals.org.

Breaking News: Cochran to Leave USFA Post and Return to Atlanta as Chief

US Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran will be leaving his current position at the US Fire Administration (USFA) as of June 19 to return to his previous position as Fire Chief of the Atlanta, Georgia, Fire Rescue Department. Cochran had been Fire Chief in Atlanta from 2008 - 2009, before being appointed by President Barack Obama to the USFA in August 2009. Deputy US Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines will serve as Acting US Fire Administrator until a successor is named.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate issued the following statement about Cochran's departure: "As U.S. Fire Administrator, Kelvin Cochran brought not only extensive expertise in fire prevention and response, but also a dedication to public service, to the job. Although I'm sad to see him go, I understand his desire to return to Atlanta and congratulate him on his appointment as Chief for the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. I thank him for his service as U.S. Fire Administrator and look forward to working with him in his new position."

Four Steps to Building a Better Relationship with Your AHJ

By Tamara Matthews
Firewatch!, the quarterly magazine of the National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors

When you are doing work in the fire safety business, it helps to have public safety officials on

Chicago, IL

July 22-24, 2010
2010 NASFM
Annual Conference
InterContinental Chicago
Hotel
Chicago, IL

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your side. Interactions with authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) are a necessary part of business. Are you making the best of the relationships you have? Do you sometimes wish for less conflict and more common ground?

Firewatch! spoke with Jim Narva, senior policy director for the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), and Alan Shuman, president of NASFM and the state fire marshal of Georgia, to get some feedback on how our two industries can better communicate with each other. As a result of the discussion, some ideas evolved that are pretty straightforward and easy to implement.

If your relationship with your AHJ could use some improvement, these four steps can help set you on the right track. [Click here](#) to see full article.

NASFM Foundation Receives Grant to Help Communities Implement Sprinkler Requirements

The National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (NASFM Foundation) has received a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security's Fire Prevention & Safety Grants Program to conduct a project entitled "After Adopting a Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirement: A Process for Assuring Successful Implementation."

The goal of the project, which will be conducted through the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI), is to assist communities that have adopted residential sprinkler ordinances in successfully managing the plans review, inspection, installation and approval processes that are critical to ensuring that properly operating fire sprinkler systems are in place. In order to address the question of "We adopted an ordinance; now what?" the NASFM Foundation will establish best practices guidance and model documents that will help to ensure consistent implementation and administration of sprinkler code requirements at the local level. Rural, understaffed areas are a particular focus of this project, though the guidance will be applicable to any jurisdiction.

The materials will be posted in downloadable form via the RFSI website and also will be delivered and refined through a series of 12 workshops to the fire service and building officials over the course of the grant period. Periodic project updates will be posted on the RFSI website at <http://www.firesafehome.org/>.

Bridging the Gap to Address Green Building Fire Safety



The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has launched a site that brings together the worlds of fire safety and environmental sustainability. The website www.GreenBuildingFireSafety.org is part of the project entitled "Fire Safety and Green Buildings: Bridging the Gap," funded by a US Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. The primary goal of this project is to raise awareness and share information within the fire service community about how they can facilitate the move toward increased energy efficiency in buildings while preserving the safety of the public and emergency responders. The project is guided by an Advisory Working Group of experts from a cross-section of industry and organizations that is providing a multi-disciplinary approach to the project and content.

"The number of green building projects in this country is increasing at an incredible pace," according to NASFM President Alan Shuman. "Much of the fire service is working to come to grips with new designs, materials and practices that are being incorporated into buildings, and the significant impact they have on the plan review process, inspections and fire ground operations. This project serves as the focal point where fire safety professionals, building

design professionals and other stakeholders can turn for information."

The site includes a growing body of articles and links collected from a wide range of sources on topics such as air quality, alternative fuels, building materials, fire retardants, lightweight building construction, solar power, sprinkler systems, vegetative roofs and wind power. Along with these topics are discussion forums where visitors can post inquiries and share information with their peers.

"The real power of the site lies in the contributions from the community," said NASFM Project Manager Karen Deppa. "www.GreenBuildingFireSafety.org provides an opportunity not only to find information, but also to share information and raise questions based on experience. We welcome any contributions or ideas that people might have."

If you are interested in contributing content to the "Bridging the Gap" site, contact Karen Deppa at info@greenbuildingfiresafety.org or 202-737-1226, ext. 15.

Safety Week 2010 June 20-26



The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has partnered once again with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to promote the 2010 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (also known as Safety Week) to be held the week of June 20-26, 2010.

In addition to all of the resources on the [Safety Week website](#), both the print and electronic versions of the May 15 On Scene newsletter have numerous articles relating to the topics that will be highlighted during Safety Week. Check out the current issue of [On Scene now](#).


Numerous health and wellness-related web links are listed on the [Resources](#) page. And on the Planning page, you'll find FAQs, a sample daily schedule and a press release template with recommendations on how to maximize local media coverage of fire department Safety Week activities.

Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign

The US Fire Administration continues to encourage all Americans to properly install and maintain smoke alarm as well as emphasize that "Smoke Alarms Save Lives." As you know, more than 3,000 people die in home fires each year, and the majority of them have no working smoke alarms. The USFA wants all residents to know that smoke alarms have a lifespan of 10 years. **After 10 years have passed, the alarm is no longer reliable and needs to be replaced.**

An important part of maintaining a smoke alarm includes replacing it after 10 years of service. It's a fact: all hardwired or battery-operated smoke alarms installed before May 2000 should be replaced now! The few minutes it takes to replace a smoke alarm can save the lives of roommates, family members, neighbors and firefighters.

A FREE smoke alarm installation widget is available to post on your website. The widget is a convenient, automatic and effortless way to remind your colleagues and members to change smoke alarms that are older than 10 years old. Go to <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/notices/ads.shtm> to download the widget, which is available in both English and Spanish.



Homeowners, landlords and renters should check to verify exactly when each smoke alarm in the home was installed. If any smoke alarm was **installed before May 2000**, now is the time to have it replaced. Feel free to also add the tips below to your website and/or other forms of communication.

The USFA offers additional helpful tips on smoke alarms:

- Every residence, and place where people sleep, should be equipped with both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed by the manufacturer. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.
- Write the installation date on the inside cover of the smoke alarm for future reference.
- Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.