



NASFM News

December 2009

In This Issue

[A Message from President Shuman...](#)

[NASFM and NCA Convey Candle Safety Message...](#)

[Family Circle Magazine Correction...](#)

[NASFM Exploring Appropriate Message with Imported Drywall...](#)

[2010 Public Comment Deadlines...](#)

Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[National Candle Association \(NCA\)](#)

[CPSC](#)

[USFA](#)

[Common Ground Alliance Newsletter](#)



A Message from President Shuman

NASFM's Youth Fire Prevention Program

In 2010, NASFM 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 of 2010. In addition, NASFM 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 www.firemarshals.org. 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. I would hope that State Fire Marshals could use this handout to broadcast the availability of the sessions throughout your 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. My thanks to all of the State Fire Marshals that offered to host the training session in their Region.

We have 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 \$20.00 for meals.

Our goal is to meet as fully as possible the training needs of those working to reduce the incident of juvenile fire setting and fire play. We believe our training sessions will contribute much to meeting this goal and we need your help to make everyone 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 307-433-8078.

Sincerely,
Alan Shuman
NASFM President



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

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

NASFM and NCA Convey Candle Safety Message

NASFM and the National Candle Association (NCA), the major trade association representing U.S. candle manufacturers and their suppliers, have teamed up to issue a joint press release on Candle Safety Tips for the Holiday Season. State Fire Marshals should feel free to customize the introduction as appropriate, and disseminate this information in their states:

The holiday season is a joyful time for celebrations, family gatherings and decorating the home. It's also the most popular time for burning candles and, unfortunately, the peak season for accidental candle fires.

The National Candle Association and the National Association of State Fire Marshals are urging consumers to take special care when using candles this holiday season, and to follow these important fire-safety rules:

- Always keep a burning candle within your sight.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep burning candles away from combustible items. Be careful not to place candles near flammable decorations or Christmas greenery.
- Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. The holder should be sturdy, heat resistant and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Trim candlewicks to 1/4 inch before lighting or re-lighting. Keep the wax-pool free of wick trimmings, dust, matches and debris at all times.
- Keep burning candles out of drafts and away from air vents.
- Never move a candle when it is burning.

NASFM participates in NCA's Safety Committee. To learn more about candle fire safety, visit http://www.candles.org/safety_rules.html.

NASFM and National Candle Association Correct Family Circle Magazine

In early December, NASFM President Alan Shuman and National Candle Association President Anton Katrus sent the following letter to the Editor of Family Circle magazine:

"In the November 2009 issue, Family Circle published a craft recommendation within a seasonal picture entitled 'GOOD TO GLOW.' This picture featured 'Bark Wrapped Candles' and included a caption that reads, 'adds just the right amount of Forest Flair to your table.'

The National Candle Association (NCA) and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) would like your readers to know that adding potentially flammable bark to a candle is very dangerous from a fire safety perspective. If combustible bark material gets too close to the candle flame during burning, it could create a dangerous 'candle flare' that could result in fire, injury, death and property damage.

Family Circle's website does an excellent job of promoting candle safety by including an article that states 'place candles ... at least one foot away from Christmas Trees, curtains, wreaths and holiday decorations.' NCA and NASFM are very concerned about recommendations that diminish fire safety in light of the long-term efforts of both organizations in developing and promoting candle fire safety standards. Reducing fires

involving candles in the home is one of the primary goals of both organizations.

We encourage you to publish this letter and a warning that decorating candles with bark (or any other combustible material) is not a good practice from a fire safety perspective."

NASFM Exploring Appropriate Message to Homeowners with Imported Drywall

Over the past year, state and government officials have been looking into health and safety issues related to imported Chinese drywall that has been installed in homes in recent years, particularly in Florida and other southern U.S. states that rebuilt residences damaged in hurricanes. To date, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC, the lead federal agency investigating the problem) has received nearly 2,300 reports from residents in 32 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico who believe their health symptoms or the corrosion of certain metal components in their homes are related to the presence of drywall produced in China.

The CPSC is coordinating with other federal government agencies and officials from states that are affected to determine the causes of the problems and the risks to health and safety related to this product. Research is ongoing, and all reports and updates are being posted to the CPSC site www.drywallresponse.gov. Studies conducted to date have confirmed that substances within the drywall are causing corrosion of metal surfaces. Homeowners in affected homes have reported failures of electrical appliances, but so far no fires have been connected to the presence of corrosion from drywall. The concern is that continued corrosion could lead to fires in the electrical systems of a home, or to leaks in natural gas pipes, as well as to failures or reduced sensitivity of smoke alarms and sprinklers.

These safety issues are currently the subject of ongoing research by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Sandia National Laboratories through contracts with the CPSC. So far there is not enough science to say that there is a definite fire safety hazard from imported drywall. However, while waiting for the research to be completed, NASFM has been asked by its membership to help raise awareness of the fire safety aspects of the issue based on what is known, and help to coordinate the right message to homeowners about what they can do to minimize any potential fire hazard if they notice corrosion. NASFM will be consulting with its Science Advisory Committee and its member State Fire Marshals, as well as government officials and others with knowledge of the situation to determine the most appropriate response. We will continue to provide updates as we proceed.

NASFM also encourages its members to notify the CPSC at 1-800-638-2772 if they learn of any safety related incident that may involve imported drywall.

For information: Karen Deppa, 202-737-1226, ext. 15, or kfernico@aol.com.

2010 Public Comment Deadlines

The deadlines for public comment for the 2009/2010 Code Cycle have been announced. Please [click here](#) for further information and schedule.