



NASFM News

November 2011

In This Issue

[NASFM Chosen as New Host for Juvenile Firesetter Resource Guide...](#)

[After the Fire: The Teachable Moment...](#)

[Learning Made Easy for First Responders...](#)

[NASFM to Help Craft Survey on Consumer Awareness...](#)

[Hoebel Retires from NASFM SAC....](#)

[New Report Details Home Fire Sprinkler Use in Bucks County, PA...](#)

["High Altitude" Pellet Stove Installations...ness Month Coalition...](#)

[Hal Bruno, Dies at 83...](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



[July 10 - 12, 2012](#)
NASFM 2012
Annual Conference
Meredith, NH

Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[Fire Safety and Green Buildings](#)

[Pipeline Emergencies](#)

[Residential Fire Safety Institute](#)



NASFM Chosen as New Host for Juvenile Firesetter Resource Guide

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has offered to provide a home for the online Juvenile Firesetter Resource Guide when The Idea Bank (www.theideabank.com) shuts down its website at end of December. The Guide is a free online resource to programs, speakers and events. NASFM was chosen as the organization to host this set of resources from among a number of applicants after an appeal was sent out by Idea Bank President Richard Lambert.

NASFM President Jerry Rosendahl said, "We believe The Idea Bank's Resource Guide will be an excellent complement to the resources and services NASFM already provides on the topic of youth firesetting."

The two organizations are coordinating to make the hosting change seamless. Lambert said, "Our main concern is that the 740 U.S. and Canadian contacts in the guide remain accessible to anyone seeking help with juvenile firesetting."

Other NASFM resources on the topic of juvenile firesetting can be found on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/juvenile-firesetters-program/>.

After the Fire: The Teachable Moment



A fire isn't over just because the flames are put out. Children especially are vulnerable to the aftermath of fire, including the fear created by the event itself, temporarily or permanently being forced from their homes, the loss of beloved personal possessions, and sometimes the grief of

losing a family member.

Prevention 1st, a non-profit dedicated to reducing preventable injuries, created *After the Fire: The Teachable Moment* to help not only children who have experienced a fire, but their classmates and peers who are in turn affected by the concerns raised by the event, their teachers, and their families.

The free program provides prevention education that relieves anxiety and answers questions that arise from children and families about how to protect themselves from fire, and move beyond the incident to teach life-saving fire safety and fire prevention. The program includes:

- 3 teaching modules with age-appropriate activities. The first module addresses Processing the Event when a child has experienced a fire. Modules 2 and 3-Fire Survival, and Fire Prevention-can be used at any time to teach fire safety and prevention skills.
- Reading lists of books for several age levels, to facilitate discussion of a fire incident, fire safety or fire prevention.
- Materials children can take home to parents and family, household safety checklists, and at-home activities.



NASFM has entered the social media world of Twitter!

Follow us @NAofSFM for regular updates.

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

- Online resources available at www.homefiredrill.org including the interactive teaching game [Help Mikey Make It Out](#) and a video for parents [Home Fire Drill: Does Your Family Know What to Do?](#)
- Online fire safety learning activities available at www.playsafebesafe.com, available in English, Spanish and French. These activities plus a DVD and more are also available as part of the award-winning play safe! be safe! classroom kit developed by BIC with Fireproof Children and others, also available in English, Spanish or French. Kits are underwritten by BIC and available for the cost of shipping and handling only from www.fireproofchildren.com.

For more information about After the Fire, go to <http://www.prevention1st.org>.

Learning Made Easy for First Responders: A NASFM-Shell Project on Pipeline Safety

Note: This article is from the first issue of the NASFM-Shell Portal Project newsletter. The entire newsletter can be accessed from the site www.pipelineemergencies.com.



Shell Pipeline Company LP operates our assets responsibly, and we work hard to keep them safe, reliable and environmentally sound. However, if a pipeline incident does occur, we want emergency responders to be prepared!

That's why the National Association of State Fire Marshalls (NASFM) and the Louisiana State Fire Marshall's Office have collaborated with Shell Pipeline Company LP to create the next generation of training and communications for emergency responders - The NASFM-Shell Pipeline Safety Training and Communication Portal. This interactive, web-

based curriculum gives emergency responders, as well as public officials and Shell instant easy access to Pipeline Emergencies, NASFM's best-in-class responder training program. Responders can take this free course on their own schedule, at their fire stations or in the comfort of their own home, without having to hassle with training manuals that could be bulky and difficult to keep up to date!

The portal provides other benefits as well. Through "bulletin boards," email capabilities, course discussion groups, access to experts and other communications mechanisms users can interact with NASFM experts and Shell as well as other responders in their area. In addition, its convenient notification system enables Shell to provide timely pipeline safety and public awareness information to portal users in a matter of minutes via email, voicemail and text messaging.

To test the portal's effectiveness, we're piloting this new portal in 27 Louisiana parishes. Fire fighters in these communities will be the first in the nation to have access to this innovative, state-of-the-art training and communications tool. In December, NASFM and Shell will analyze the portal's effectiveness jointly to determine if it should be continued and implemented in other states. The findings will be shared with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the NASFM membership, the pipeline industry and other stakeholders.

At Shell, we acknowledge and applaud the critical role emergency responders play in keeping our communities safe. We're committed to helping you receive the training, materials and information you need to reach our common goal - safety!

For more information, contact Philip Oakes at 202-737-1226 or poakes@narvaassociates.com.

NASFM to Help Craft Survey on Consumer Awareness about Clothing Flammability

NASFM will assist the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in developing and disseminating the results of a questionnaire on consumer knowledge and awareness of the flammability of wearing apparel. The project is part of a grant awarded to the Bloomberg School in the most recent cycle of FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants that will also look at perceptions and attitudes of people who live in homes that are sprinklered. NASFM will solicit input from its Science Advisory Committee on questionnaire development. Shannon Frattaroli, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, is the newest member of the NASFM Science Advisory Committee and will be directing the project.

Hoebel Retires from NASFM Science Advisory Committee after 14 Years

Jim Hoebel, one of the original members of the NASFM Science Advisory Committee (SAC) dating back to 1997, recently retired from the group. In a letter to SAC Chairperson Dr. Margaret McNamee, Hoebel said, "An English proverb says that, 'All good things must come to an end.' For me, my time with the Science Advisory Committee was a very good thing....It has been one of the most stimulating and rewarding experiences of my life."

Hoebel served for 26 years with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). At the time of his retirement in 1999, he was the CPSC's Chief Engineer for Fire Hazards. As such, he was the agency's primary internal consultant on fire safety associated with consumer products. Products included home furnishings, ignition sources, apparel, and protective devices. Hoebel provided expert advice during development of performance standards and during engineering evaluation of fire safety issues. He also developed long-range program requirements regarding fire hazards in support of the CPSC planning effort. A native of Michigan, Hoebel graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Chemical Engineering, and held a variety of technical positions with industry and government before joining CPSC.

While on the SAC, Hoebel served as NASFM's representative on the ASTM Candle Fire Safety Working Group that developed voluntary standards for candles, candle holders and candle accessories. He also authored a peer-reviewed paper with other SAC members on deaths and injuries associated with wearing apparel fires that was published in *Fire Technology* journal, and contributed substantially to numerous position papers and guidance documents produced by the SAC on a variety of issues.

In a letter expressing NASFM's gratitude to Hoebel for his service on the SAC, NASFM President Jerry Rosendahl stated, "Your work with the SAC, particularly in the areas of upholstered furniture flammability, wearing apparel flammability and candle fire safety, have set the stage for NASFM's advocacy of more stringent fire safety standards for consumer products. Your vast experience in the development of safety standards and regulations, including your esteemed career with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, has contributed to the SAC's effectiveness on all issues it has addressed. You have been a strong and valued contributor of both your time and your talents to help the SAC in advancing NASFM's mission to protect life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards."



James Hoebel wearing a flame retardant camouflage biker's scarf

"It has been truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of NASFM's Science Advisory Committee," said Hoebel. "The public's fire safety benefits from your efforts. Keep it up."

New Report Details Home Fire Sprinkler Use in Bucks County, PA and Compares Fire Experience to Non-Sprinklered Homes

Frankfort, IL - A report that sheds new light on the lifesaving value of installing home fire sprinkler systems has been prepared for the nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) by Fire Planning Associates, Inc., a comprehensive preplanning organization in Washington Crossing, PA in collaboration with the Bucks Country Fire Marshals Association.

The group studied life safety and property protection in homes with and without fire sprinkler systems and reviewed fire experience in nearly 7,000 sprinklered homes in Buckingham, New Britain, Warrington, Warwick and Wrightstown Townships as well as Ivyland Borough.

In Bucks County, there were 90 home fire fatalities in non-sprinklered one- and two-family homes during 1988-2010. Those deaths made up 88% of all County fire deaths during that time. There were zero fire fatalities in homes protected by fire sprinkler systems. The report details five reported fires in sprinklered homes documented as saving at least five lives.

The average property loss in sprinklered-home fire incidents in Bucks County was \$14,000, compared to \$179,896 in damages to homes that experienced fires without fire sprinklers. The report found that fires in sprinklered homes required an average of 340 gallons of water to extinguish the fires. Homes without sprinklers required an average of 5,974 gallons (or nearly 25 tons) of water.

"HFSC initiates partnerships to capture and share useful data about widespread local experience with home fire sprinkler systems," explains HFSC Chair Gary Keith. "This new data from central Pennsylvania adds to our collection of educational materials that help improve and increase the public's knowledge about the extreme danger of home fires and the lifesaving value of installing fire sprinkler systems."

To view the full Press Release from the Home Sprinkler Coalition, [click here](#).

To download the complete "Communities with Fire Sprinklers", Bucks County Report, [click here](#).

"High Altitude" Pellet Stove Installations

By Philip Oakes, NASFM National Program Manager/Trainer



Having recently responded to a few pellet stove fires, I found it prudent to put together some notes on this issue.

Most pellet stove manufacturers indicate that any pellet stove installation done at an altitude above 2,500 feet may require special venting options. In addition, in areas of high wind (such as the prairie, or panhandle or any large open area) it may also be necessary for the chase or chimney pipe to be all the way above the pitch of the roof. Problems occur when these instructions, or

at least the warning posted in the materials that come with the stove, are not read and heeded.

Recently, I have twice responded to a structure fire involving a pellet stove where a faulty installation by the homeowner resulted in the fire. Both were stubbed out through the wall, and neither had a pipe chase extended above the roof line, whereas the instructions included with the stove clearly indicated this needed to be done for the altitude and the anticipated weather in the area.

For more on this I suggest going to: www.pelletstove.com or www.ehow.com.

I also recommend having your stove fully inspected by a licensed professional or your local inspection agency (like your fire marshal's office) prior to using it.

Hal Bruno, Political Reporter and Fire Service Advocate, Dies at 83

The following is excerpted from a statement from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, of which Mr. Bruno was Chairman Emeritus. The full statement can be found on <http://www.firehero.org/>, and a tribute page has been set up on <http://firehero.org/brunotribute/>.



It is with deep sadness that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation announces that Chairman Emeritus, Hal Bruno, died on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. He was 83.

For more than 60 years, Hal Bruno served as an active member of the fire service community, giving selflessly as a dedicated volunteer firefighter, advocate, commentator and leader. He is renowned for his commitment to fire safety initiatives and his compassion for the members of the fire service and their families.

Bruno was appointed chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1999, a distinction he held until his retirement in 2008.

On Capitol Hill and at the White House, Bruno was admired and respected for his integrity and ability to work with Democrats and Republicans alike to address important issues impacting our nation's firefighters and rescue personnel. He was a staunch advocate for passing the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act which provides federal death benefits to the families of firefighters who die in the line of duty from heart attack or stroke.

A native of Chicago, Bruno enjoyed an illustrious 60-year career in journalism, retiring in 1999 from ABC News where he was Political Director and host of the weekly talk show, Hal Bruno's Washington. He frequently appeared on debate panels and served as moderator of the vice-presidential debate in, among others, the 1992 campaign. He covered every national election since 1960, most recently as the senior political analyst for Politics.com and as a guest commentator on CNN and other television programs.

He was one of the first journalists on the scene of the tragic Our Lady of the Angels elementary school fire in Chicago on December 1, 1958 in which 92 students and 3 nuns died. His report that the fire spread so quickly because of the open stairwell led to significant changes in fire safety and building standards and codes.

Hal is survived by his loving wife Meg, his sister Barbara and his sons Harold and Daniel, and their wives, Brenda and Susan and four grandchildren.