



NASFM News

October 2011

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State Fire Marshal Profile: David Tyler, Alaska



Q: When were you appointed State Fire Marshal?

I was appointed to be the Director of the Fire Prevention Bureau / State Fire Marshal in April 2007. This position is appointed by the Commission of Public Safety and approved by the Governor

Q: What did you do before you became State Fire Marshal?

I served in the US Navy from 1976 until 1982. I moved to Alaska in 1983 to attend College at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. While in college I started volunteering as a firefighter with one of the area departments. That eventually led to my first Fire Chief's job in 1991. I worked as a Fire Chief in a few departments over the years. In 2004 I was hired as the Emergency Operations Director for the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I worked there until I was hired to be the State Fire Marshal

Q: If you could describe your career to this point as a TV show, what would the TV show be, and why?

Live coverage of the Indianapolis 500. It has been fast and exciting, with several spectacular crashes.

Q: What is the size of your staff (and your budget)?

I have a staff of 30 with a \$6 million budget.

Q: Brag a little: What program(s) are you most proud of?

With Project Code Red we have put firefighting equipment in 138 rural communities across the state. In my first budget as the SFM we were able to get funding for the Office of Rural Fire Protection to put on continuing training for these communities. In that budget year we also got funding for the Alaska Fire Standards Council. Initially the councils staff reported to my office. Within the first year we were able to cut them loose. They are now a stand-alone organization that reports directly to the Commissioner. We have also developed a fire prevention i-Phone application that has been quite successful. We are currently in the process of developing an application for firefighters to share lessons

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NASFM 2012
Annual Conference
Meredith, NH



learned across the US. We have also developed an aggressive public education program based on individual responsibility which has been very well received and successful.

Quick Links

NASFM

Fire Safety and Green Buildings

Pipeline Emergencies

Residential Fire Safety Institute

CGA Newsletter

Q: What are the goals for your office for the coming year?
 We are working towards getting our Deputy Fire Marshal's certified by the Alaska Police Standards Council. We have developed a field training program to accomplish this. We are now working on getting everything cleared through a legal review and then implantation. The end result will be that our officers will be able to do case management for property crimes that are the result of fire or explosion. Currently we assist the Alaska Bureau of Investigation by doing cause determinations. As you can imagine the current workload doesn't allow for much investigation of property crimes.

Q: What is your biggest frustration as State Fire Marshal?
 Other than the standard personnel issues which can really tire you out I don't have any frustrations. I get to interact with fire departments from all across the state. I have the opportunity to work with other like-minded professionals from across the United States. I am in a position to actually make a positive difference in the lives of my fellow Alaskans. If it can get any better than this I can't wait.

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NASFM has entered the social media world of Twitter!

Follow us @NAofSFM for regular updates.

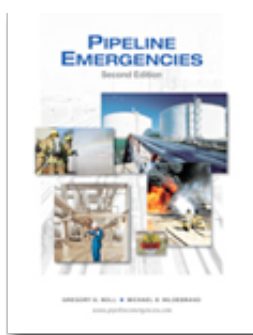
Q: What would you like to know from your fellow State Fire Marshals?
 I like reading about the ideas that other folks come up with. It is an honor to steal ideas from the best.

Q: What benefits would you like to receive from your membership in NASFM?
 Continued networking and friendships.

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NASFM/Shell Online Portal for Pipeline Safety Training, Communications in Pilot Test Phase

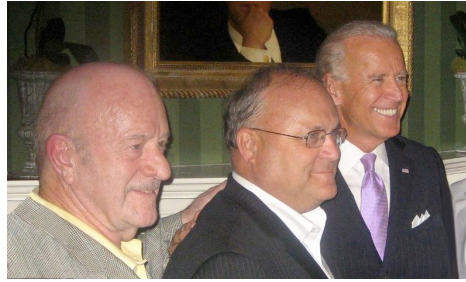


The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and Shell Pipeline Company LP (Shell) have developed an online, web-based portal to provide 24/7 access to "best in class" pipeline safety training and communications. Working with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, NASFM and Shell are currently pilot testing the portal in various Louisiana parishes to determine the effectiveness of this technology for training and communicating with fire fighters. In December, NASFM and Shell will jointly analyze the portal's effectiveness to determine if it

should be continued and implemented in other states. Our findings will be shared with other stakeholders periodically via a project newsletter that can be accessed on the NASFM Pipeline Emergencies Website at www.pipelineemergencies.com.

If you have questions, call Jim Narva 202-737-1226 ext 1, or Phil Oakes 202-737-1226 ext 6.

NASFM President Rosendahl Commemorates 9-11 Anniversary in Washington, D.C.



Jerry Rosendahl, NASFM President and Minnesota State Fire Marshal, attended an event on September 8, 2011, at Vice President Joe Biden's residence in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by the Vice President for First Responder leaders from around the country commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9-11.

Pictured from left are U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines, President Rosendahl, and Vice President Biden.

Acting New York State Fire Administrator John Mueller Retires



After more than 34 years, John Mueller retired effective September 29 from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OPFC), where he most recently served as Acting State Fire Administrator.

"My career with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control has been immensely satisfying and professionally rewarding," said Mueller. "I will miss the job dearly." He adds, "I have had the good fortune to have worked with so many great people from across the U.S and Canada in fire service and standards organizations over the years."

Mueller has been an active member of NASFM for many years, particularly as a member of the NASFM Model Codes Committee. Mueller also chaired and served on the ICC's International Fire Code Committee and spent many hours at code hearings in the service of greater safety of the built environment. He also served on the Hydrogen Industry Panel on Codes and many other safety-related committees and panels over the years.

"John Mueller is one-of-a-kind in his passion, his dedication to safety and his ability to achieve results," said NASFM President Jerry Rosendahl. "Because of John, many lives have been saved from fire across the United States - not just in New York. NASFM has been extremely fortunate to have John in our corner in so many initiatives, including cigarette fire safety and the development of model codes. John has earned his retirement, but we will miss him a great deal, and hope he stays involved in these issues one way or another."

While with OFPC, Mueller was responsible for the investigation of fatal and large loss fires; the management of firefighter training conducted at the New York State Academy of Fire Science and at local training sites; coordination of the New York State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan, coordination of fire service responses under the New York State disaster preparedness plan, the operation of the Capital Region Urban Search and Rescue Team, and the conduct of fire inspections and enforcement of the fire code at college and universities, state office buildings, electric power generation plants and other facilities operated or regulated by state government. He operated in incident management positions for statewide fire mobilization and mutual aid operations for dozens of incidents statewide, including the World Trade Center Disaster in 2001. He also participated in fire protection planning and operations for mass gathering events including the 1980 Olympic Winter Games; Woodstock music concert anniversary events in 1994 and 1999; and the 2001 U.S. Open golf tournament.

Mueller's crowning achievement is the implementation of the safe-cigarette law in New York. The law, which went into effect in 2004, provided for OFPC to develop and enforce ignition propensity standards for all cigarettes sold in the state. The statute was the first in the world and led to the same standard for fire-safe cigarettes across the United States and Canada.

Mueller is the recipient of the 2010 Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award, presented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Code Council (ICC). The award honors those who have dedicated themselves to saving lives and property through the development of codes, fire-prevention practices and leadership techniques. He also is the recipient of the 2008 Fire Service Award presented by the International Code Council; the 2006 John Joseph Moakley Award presented by the Harvard University School of Public Health, and the 2006 Golden Trumpet Award presented by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

National Fire Heritage Center Dedication Set for October 14



The Board of Directors of the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC) will be dedicating the organizations exhibit at the National Fire Heritage Center, housed at the Frederick County Fire/Rescue Museum and Preservation Society, Incorporated, located at 300 B South Seton Avenue in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Dedication Ceremony will be conducted at 1300 on Friday, October 14, 2011. The event will be over by 1430.

Access to the building will begin at 1200.

The dedication is being conducted on the same day as the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. This is an annual event that attracts thousands of individuals. If you are currently considering being a participant, be aware that the NFHC dedication ceremony will be right

down the street from this important event.

The development of this NFHC has been a life-long dream for its Principal Founding Member, Doctor Harry E. Hickey. The Board of Directors worked for several years to get this facility created and implemented. It is now time to put forth the exhibits and the contributions that have already accumulated to "Preserve the Perishable".

Ideas and offers of assistance to help grow the NFHC are welcome, as are memberships to all who share a common desire to help "Preserve the Perishable".

RSVP's to the ceremony and requests for more information about the NFHC can be directed to NFHC Executive Director Wayne Powell at wayne.powell@marriott.com. The NFHC website is at <http://nationalfireheritagecenter.org/index.htm>.

Join the National Preparedness Month Coalition and Be Ready for the 2012 Campaign



National Preparedness Month (NPM) is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) annual campaign (always in September) to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, school, organizations, businesses, and communities. As the first wave of response to every emergency, and disasters of all kinds, the U.S. Fire and EMS community plays a key role in National Preparedness Month.

NASFM joins FEMA encouraging fire and EMS departments/agencies across the country to sign up to be a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member. Coalition Membership is easy, free, and most important, is open to all individuals, businesses and organizations. As a member, your office will have access to information and ready-to-use templates and messaging, including the ability to connect with thousands of other members across the country.

NASFM would like to see all 50 State Fire Marshals' Offices signed up and participating in this effort. Get a head start on next year's National Preparedness Month and sign up today at this link: <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

For more information, contact Becky Ryan, FEMA Fire Program Specialist, at becky.ryan@dhs.gov.

CPSC Completes Final Studies to Help Affected Homeowners Remediate Problem Drywall

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released updated remediation guidance for homeowners with problem drywall. The guidance calls for the replacement of all: problem drywall; smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms; electrical distribution components, including receptacles, switches and circuit breakers, but not necessarily wiring; and fusible-type fire sprinkler heads.

The updated remediation guidance is based on studies completed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on potential long term corrosion effects of problem drywall on select gas components, fire sprinkler heads and smoke alarms.

The key finding is that none of the studies performed at NIST on smoke alarms, fire sprinkler heads, or gas service piping found corrosion associated with problem drywall that provided evidence of a substantial product safety hazard, as defined by the Consumer Product Safety Act. Corrosion of gas service piping was uniform and minimal compared to the thickness of pipes. Some smoke alarms and fire sprinkler heads showed small changes in performance due to accelerated corrosion, but these changes were generally within accepted industry standards. As a result, CPSC and HUD no longer recommend the removal of gas service piping in homes with problem drywall. This change may reduce the cost of remediation for many homes. In addition, the agencies no longer recommend that glass bulb fire sprinkler heads be replaced in homes. However, the agencies recommend that both glass bulb sprinkler heads and gas distribution piping in affected homes be inspected and tested as part of the remediation to make sure they are working properly; any test failures should be corrected according to all applicable building codes.

The agencies do recommend the replacement of all fusible-type fire sprinkler heads, because one fusible-type sprinkler head sample that had been exposed to accelerated corrosion did not activate when tested. The agencies note that this type of sprinkler head is generally found in commercial, rather than residential, applications and that the sole failure could not be causally linked to the problem drywall.

In addition, CPSC staff continues to recommend that homeowners replace smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms as part of remediation.

CPSC staff continues to work with voluntary standards organizations to develop improved standards for drywall to prevent this type of problem from reemerging. For additional findings from the Interagency Drywall Task Force's investigation, visit www.DrywallResponse.gov.

California Smoke Alarm Technologies Report Available



The California Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) recently issued a report on Understanding, Utilization, and Effectiveness of Smoke Detection Technology including Ionization, Photoelectric, and other Technologies. A Task Force was convened by



the OSFM to provide recommendations, which address regulation and legislation, codes and standards, education and messaging, and interaction with stakeholders. The final report can be obtained on the OSFM website at this [link](http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/fire-protection-technologies/) and on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/fire-protection-technologies/>.

USFA Releases Residential Building Fires Topical Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in residential buildings. The report, [Residential Building Fires](#), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. Residential buildings include what are commonly referred to as homes, whether they are one- or two-family dwellings or multifamily buildings. It also includes manufactured housing, hotels and motels, residential hotels, dormitories, assisted living facilities, and halfway houses.

According to the report:

- An estimated 374,900 residential building fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 2,630 deaths, 13,075 injuries, and \$7.6 billion in property loss.
- Cooking is the leading cause of residential building fires (44 percent). Nearly all residential building cooking fires are small, confined fires (94 percent).
- Residential building fire incidence is higher in the cooler months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Residential building fires occur most frequently in the early evening hours, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.
- Forty-six percent of nonconfined residential building fires extend beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires are electrical malfunctions (16 percent), unintentional or careless actions (15 percent), intentional (12 percent), and open flame (11 percent).
- Smoke alarms were not present in 21 percent of the larger, nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.

Residential Building Fires is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2007 through 2009 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

ASTM International Offers Flammability Courses in October



ASTM International offers the following three flammability-related courses in October:

- "Regulatory Compliance for the Flammability of Wearing Apparel" (October 25, Chicago, IL) covers the Federal Flammable Fabrics Act 16 CFR 1610, which applies to all general wearing apparel manufactured and distributed in the United States. For more information, use this [link](#).
- "Regulatory Compliance for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear" (October 26, Chicago, IL) covers the Federal Flammable Fabrics Acts 16 CFR 1615 and 16 CFR 1616, which apply to all children's sleepwear manufactured and distributed in the United States. For more information, use this [link](#). **Added bonus:** Anyone attending this course gets a FREE 1-year membership in ASTM and [Committee D13 on Textiles](#). *This applies to new memberships only and may not be used to renew existing memberships.*
- "Flammability Standards for Upholstered Furniture, Mattresses and Bedding in the U.S." (October 26-27, Greensboro, NC). This course provides a basic understanding of mandatory and voluntary flammability performance and quality control test standards for upholstered furniture, mattresses, mattress/box spring sets, and bedding (bed clothing) offered for sale in the United States. Both open flame and smoldering tests will be covered. For more information, use this [link](#).

For a full description of all ASTM courses, use this [link](#). Professional Engineers: If your state has a continuing education requirement for license renewal, ASTM training courses should count towards your Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) Professional Development Hour (PDH) requirement. ASTM is an approved sponsor of PDH activities in some states. For more information, use this link and click on [PE Continuing Education](#) for more information. Use ASTM Account Number: 1426032 and Promo Code: BEZTPTFLAM.

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