



NASFM News

September 2011

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Energy Emergencies
Roundtable Conf.
Houston, TX](#)

[July 12-14, 2012
NASFM 2012
Annual Conference
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State Fire Marshal Profile: Allen Lorenz, Montana



Q. When were you appointed State Fire Marshal, and What did you do before you became State Fire Marshal?

A. 2003 - Interviewed and hired as State Fire Marshal

2002 - Appointed Acting State Fire Marshal

1998 - Deputy State Fire Marshal/Accelerant Detection K-9 handler

1994 - Hired by State Fire Marshal's Office

1985 - Hired as first full-time city/county fire marshal/building code official in eastern Montana

1977 - Volunteer firefighter/building contractor

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

A. The TV show that comes to mind is "The Jeffersons". Like George Jefferson, I started at the bottom and through many hours (with the of support from my family) of self study and attending many fire classes, I worked my way up to city/county fire marshal, then hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal and ended up as the top fire official within the state.

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

A. The SFMO has a staff of 6 (compared to 14 in 2001) with a budget of \$480,000.

Q. What program(s) are you most proud of?

A. I got the 2007 legislature to pass the Safer Cigarette law. This has increased my budget by \$410,000 in four years. With this money I have obtained raises for employees, leased 6 new trucks, and this year purchased laptop computers and an inspection program so we can inspect in the field and print a report on site. This has streamlined our inspection program considerably, and increased production as well.

Q. What are the goals for your office for the coming year?

A. My future goal is to work with the Attorney General to gain his support to allow me two more deputy positions.

Q. What is your biggest frustration as State Fire Marshal?

A. My frustrations are with the state government and the politician's way of putting you in the middle of a funding issue in order to get whatever their bill is. Lack of funding and being in the eye of politicians is a very frustrating part of this job.

Q. What would you like to know from your fellow State Fire Marshals, and what benefits would you like to receive from your membership in NASFM?

A. I would like to get to know the other State Fire Marshals on an individual basis so when I have a question I can call them and they know who they are talking to. The annual conference provides a great opportunity for networking.

NASFM is a great organization to be a member of, by supplying some up to the latest

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actions on certain topics. The annual NASFM Conference has numerous vendors available so we can see new products or to discuss issues with them about their products. It is also an opportunity to mingle and to have a more relaxed atmosphere for discussions with other fire marshals on relative topics.

NASFM Partners with Pipeline Industry to Present Energy Emergencies Roundtable Conference

NASFM is partnering with the pipeline industry to bring an important stakeholder conference to Houston on September 26 - 27, 2011, to address responding to energy emergencies in the United States.

"Energy Emergencies: What's Next In Response Planning?" is a one-and-a-half-day invitation-only conference dedicated to building relationships and learning from past experiences so emergency responders and the pipeline industry can be better equipped if a pipeline emergency occurs.

Keynote Speakers include Tim Butters, Deputy Administrator for DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and John Bresland of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. A panel discussion will be moderated by Stacey Gerard, former Assistant Administrator and Chief Safety Officer for PHMSA.

Conference sponsors include the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the American Gas Association, the American Petroleum Institute, and the National Tank Truck Carriers.

Among the conference participants will be Spectra Energy, El Paso Corporation, Williams Energy, PHMSA, Dixie Pipeline, CenterPoint Energy, and Plains All American Pipeline. Shell, PLC, will be a special guest.

Nine Manufacturers, Distributors Announce Consumer Recall of Pourable Gel Fuel Due to Burn and Flash Fire Hazards



On September 1, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with nine manufacturers and distributors, announced a voluntary recall of all pourable gel fuels made or sold by nine companies. Due to the serious risks of flash fire and burns when consumers add pourable gel to an already burning fire pot, consumers should immediately stop using the pourable gel fuel.

The recall involves an estimated 2 million units of various pourable gel fuels packaged in one-quart plastic bottles and one-gallon plastic jugs and sold in scented and non-scented formulations, which were sold since 2008 for between \$5 and \$20 by the companies listed below. Consumers can contact these firms to obtain instructions for a refund of the product and for returning unused bottles and jugs:

Bird Brain Inc., of Ypsilanti, Mich.
Bond Manufacturing of Antioch, Calif.
Sunjel Company (2 Burn Inc.) of Milwaukee
Fuel Barons Inc. of Lake Tahoe, Nev.
Lamplight Farms Inc of Menomonee Falls, Wis.
Luminosities Inc. (Windflame) of St. Paul, Minn.
Pacific Décor Ltd. of Woodinville, Wash.
Real Flame of Racine, Wis.
Smart Solar Inc. of Oldsmar, Fla.

The pourable gel fuel can ignite unexpectedly and splatter onto people and objects nearby when it is poured into a firepot that is still burning. CPSC is aware of 65 incidents resulting in two deaths and 34 victims who were hospitalized with second and third degree burns of the face, chest, hands, arms or legs.

Of the 65 incidents, 28 of them, including 37 burn injuries and two fatalities, occurred with fuel gel products made by Napa Home & Garden, which conducted a recall of its products in June 2011, in cooperation with CPSC. Also in June, CPSC issued a press statement alerting consumers to the hazards of pourable gel fuels. All pourable gel fuel, regardless of manufacturer, poses flash fire hazards.

Consumers should not attempt to use or fix pourable gel fuel bottles with homemade remedies, or replace the fuel with other flammable materials.

Retailers should stop sale of existing inventory and immediately remove all stock of pourable gel fuel from shelves. Some firms are working on a design for caps that may prevent flash fire hazards.

The CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product.

Iowans Set World Record for Simultaneous "Stop, Drop & Roll"



With 1,519 participants, the Iowa State Fire Marshal Division and hundreds of Iowans successfully broke the world record for the most people simultaneously participating in the fire safety drill "Stop, Drop, & Roll."

The event was held Sunday, August 21st at the 2011 Iowa State Fair. Fair-goers crowded the Grand Concourse on the fairgrounds to help break the previous record of 602 participants, held by the Bedford, Indiana, Fire Department.

In celebration of the State Fire Marshal Division's 100th year of operation, the anniversary event was designed to promote fire safety. Fire Inspector Dan Wood helped coordinate the event, "It was incredible to witness so many people all focused on practicing fire safety at the same time. I hope the Iowans who participated enjoyed the event as much as we were honored to put it on."

Young and old came out to witness the event, which was billed as one of the top 11 things to do at the 2011 Iowa State Fair. On the Iowa State Fair's Extreme Sunday, the State Fire Marshal Division set an extremely impressive stage for "Stop, Drop & Roll." Cardboard lined the Grand Concourse for participants to roll on and, the Des Moines Fire Department's ladder truck was center of the event with the American flag waving over participants. Well-known Iowa sports broadcaster, Gary Dolphin, emceed the event.

The Division of the State Fire Marshal is now sending proof of the record breaking "Stop, Drop & Roll" event to Guinness World Records™. It will take several weeks before the new record is approved and certified by the global organization.

New Tools for CO Poisoning Prevention!



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have used years of research and developed a suite of video and print educational materials to combat carbon monoxide poisoning. The toolkit features downloadable Web banner ads, flyers and posters, print PSAs, b-roll video and bill inserts that are designed to be co-branded by your organization. The toolkit also suggests ways to use and distribute these tools.

These materials are available free of charge by following these

steps:

Go to: <ftp://sftp.cdc.gov/>

User name = co-ed

Password = 2011Kit#

Please download and use these materials to reduce chances of CO poisoning in your community.