

Contact:

Jim Narva, Executive Director
202-470-4258
jnarva@narvaassociates.com

**National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Supports
New Video Stressing Importance of Securing Classrooms without Compromising Life Safety**

School safety concerns have led to the installation of non-code compliant and possibly dangerous classroom door barricade devices

Door barricade devices in schools are intended to keep dangerous individuals out of classrooms; but what if that person is already in the room? To highlight the dangers of these devices and to provide assistance in better understanding secure and safe classroom door openings, the Door Security & Safety Foundation has created a short educational [video](#) and NASFM has partnered with the Foundation to support their campaign.

In response to school shootings, several states have or are considering changes to their building codes to allow for the installation of classroom door barricade devices. While these devices are perceived to provide additional security, they have the significant potential to facilitate unintended consequences when incidents of bullying, harassment, or physical violence take place.

The Foundation has launched this campaign, “Opening the Door to School Safety,” to raise awareness and to educate school administrators about the importance of safely securing classroom doors with code compliant methods.

“These devices prevent access by school staff and first responders and they delay egress in the case of emergencies such as a fire, which is statistically much more likely to happen.” said Jim Narva, Executive Director, NASFM. “There are existing solutions that are code compliant and therefore allow first responders access to a classroom in case of an emergency. Classroom doors must be able to be closed for safety and security, as well as opened when needed.”

School shootings, although widely publicized, are rare. Cases of school bullying and harassment are not. According to the National Center for Education, in 2012, students ages 12–18 were victims of more than 1.37 million nonfatal victimizations at school, including 615,600 thefts and 749,200 violent acts; 89,000 of which were serious violent victimizations.

“While the Foundation and its supporters are all very concerned and devastated by the active shooting tragedies and agree that schools must be safe havens for students, faculty and visitors alike, we believe that a safe solution can be achieved within the proven building code process,” said Jerry Heppes, CAE, CEO of the Door Security & Safety Foundation.

There are numerous traditional locking products manufactured today by a variety of companies that provide specifically designed classroom security locking functions that meet the code requirements for providing life safety in addition to security. These products allow the door to be locked from the inside of a classroom without requiring the door to be opened, yet allow authorized access by staff and emergency responders in the case of someone inside the room intends to cause harm or injury.

To learn more about classroom security locks or the dangers of door barricade devices, visit the Foundation's website at www.doorsecuritysafety.org.

About NASFM

The principal membership of NASFM comprises the senior fire officials in the United States and their top deputies. The primary mission of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is to protect human life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. A secondary mission of NASFM is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State Fire Marshals' operations. In addition to its principal membership, NASFM has several categories of membership to allow companies, associations, academic and research institutions, and individuals who support NASFM's mission to contribute in meaningful ways. Learn more about NASFM and its issues at www.firemarshals.org.