



NASFM News

National Association of State Fire Marshals

April 2013

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



May 5-11, 2013

Arson Awareness Week

May 8, 2013

NASFM Evening at Nationals Park Washington, DC
(Note: This event replaces the Legislative Reception previously planned)

August 7-9, 2013

NASFM 2013 Annual Conference
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Indianapolis, IN



**One Strong, United Voice
for Fire Prevention**

Now Is the Time to Sign Up for the NASFM 2013 Annual Conference!



To get the best deals, register now for the NASFM Annual Conference, August 7-9, 2013, at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis, IN.

Take advantage of Early Bird rates: Registration fees will rise by \$100 after June 28, and July 17th

is the last day to make hotel reservations at the negotiated rate of \$159.

Members, nonmembers, sponsors, exhibitors and spouses/companions can all register at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/events.html>. We will update the website with new information as it becomes available, but rest assured that host State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and his staff are working diligently with the NASFM staff to put together a relevant and exceptional conference that highlights the best of the city known as the "Crossroads of America." See you soon in Indy!

Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[NASFM Training Portal](#)

[Fire Safety and Green Buildings](#)

[Pipeline Emergencies](#)

[Residential Fire Safety Institute](#)

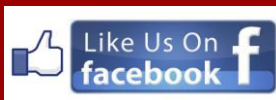
[Common Ground Alliance Monthly Update Newsletter](#)

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[Yellow CSST Safety Campaign](#)

[Fire is Everyone's Fight™](#)

[Arson Awareness Week Materials](#)



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NASFM has entered the social

Send in Your Nominations for Two NASFM Safety Awards

NASFM is seeking nominations for two important safety awards that will be presented at the NASFM Annual Banquet in Indianapolis on August 9, 2013.



- The Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award was established by NASFM in 2005 and is given annually to an individual or team that has made a significant and lasting contribution to the safety of people, products and materials in transit. The first recipient of this award was Norman Y. Mineta, the 14th U.S. Secretary of Transportation, who served from 2001-2006. We are especially interested in recognizing the achievements of individuals and teams that have encouraged transportation safety standards above what is required, and have worked to ensure the safety of emergency responders.
- The Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award is a lifetime achievement award that was established by NASFM in 2008. The first recipient of this award was Olin Greene, former U.S. Fire Administrator, a former State Fire Marshal and one of NASFM's founders. It is awarded to those who have dedicated their career to fire prevention and public safety, and have achieved substantial accomplishments.

Please submit your nominations, stating which award, the individual(s) being nominated, and an explanation of their accomplishments and/or reason you believe the award is deserved, to NASFM Executive Director Jim Narva, at jnarva@narvaassociates.com. The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2013.

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NASFM Proudly Supports Building Safety Month in May

Code Officials Keep You Safe



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH
— INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL —
MAY 2013

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is once again a proud supporter of Building Safety Month. Sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign offered each year in May to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create and sustain safe and sustainable structures. Founded by the International Code Council thirty-three years ago, the campaign reinforces the need for adoption of modern, model building codes, a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and a well-trained, professional workforce to maintain the system.

Corporations, government agencies, professional associations, nonprofits and more come together to support Building Safety Month because they understand the need for safe and sustainable structures. The ongoing support of Building Safety Month and the important role code officials play in public safety in the built environment comes from the President of the United States, governors, mayors, county executives and other government officials and construction industry professionals. The Building Safety Month campaign helps to improve public safety by increasing awareness about how building codes and code officials improve and protect the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play.

This year's theme is **Building Safety Month: Code Officials Keep You Safe**. Each week of Building Safety Month spotlights a specific area of building safety:

- Week One - May 6-12, 2013: Fire Safety and Awareness
- Week Two - May 13-19, 2013: Disaster Safety and Mitigation
- Week Three - May 20-26, 2013: Backyard and Pool Safety
- Week Four - May 27-31, 2013: Energy and Green Building

Take part in Building Safety Month by using the free, downloadable tools available on the ICC website or by purchasing the printed campaign materials through the ICC Store. Using these tools, you can participate in many ways.

- * Host community outreach events
- * Secure official proclamations
- * Share consumer education tips
- * Download the campaign toolkit
- * Purchase printed campaign materials from the ICC Store.

A NASFM Proclamation designating May as Building Safety Month

can be found on our website, www.firemarshals.org.

For more information about Building Safety Month, visit www.buildingsafetymonth.org.

NASFM Past President Bliss Joins NFPA as VP

Former NASFM President Donald P. Bliss has been appointed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as vice president of Field Operations effective April 1, 2013. In this position, he oversees NFPA's Field Operations, International Division and Government Affairs Division.



Bliss's career began with the Durham-UNH Fire Department in 1970 and he has been a part of the fire service in some way since then, holding such titles as director of the University of Connecticut Fire Department, and both Fire Chief and town emergency management director for Salem, NH. Bliss served as both the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal and state homeland security director. He chaired the Governor's Commission on Preparedness and Security, and transitioned the Governor's Office of Emergency Management to the newly formed Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management within the New Hampshire Department of Safety.

Bliss has held leadership roles in numerous professional organizations, including NASFM and NFPA. He previously served on the NFPA Standards Council, served as president and chief operating officer of the not-for-profit National Infrastructure Institute in Portsmouth, NH, and was a senior public safety consultant with Municipal Resources, Inc.

Bliss holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire and has taught as an adjunct professor in the UNH graduate public administration program for the past five years. He has also completed numerous courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

NASFM President Bill Degnan, who is New Hampshire State Fire Marshal and a former co-worker of Bliss's in New Hampshire, said, "I wish to congratulate Don Bliss on joining the dedicated

fire prevention professionals at NFPA. Don has and continues to be an advocate for saving lives through prevention and education. I look forward to working with Don to enhance fire safety."

DHS Report Facilitates Purchase of the Right Technology for Bio-Threat Incidents



First responders know that white powder scenarios - or suspected biological threats - require quick and decisive action. Having the right field-deployable equipment available to determine what the suspicious substance is can be

complicated, challenging and expensive.

The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate and Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has issued an informative report that summarizes an extensive list of commercially available, hand-portable biodetection technologies. The report - [Biodetection Technologies for First Responders](#) - helps end-users such as firefighters, police officers and HazMat workers make informed decisions about procuring the right technology for their particular need and circumstance.

"The report serves as a product buying guide for end-users as well as procurement specialists," says Cindy Bruckner-Lea, PNNL project manager. "It provides specifics and details on dozens of commercially available technologies. This free report will be an important and useful resource for first response teams everywhere."

The release of the report is one part of a larger effort at PNNL to create partnerships with first responders that provide value to all parties. Early on in the process, PNNL conducted dozens of interviews and surveys, and held a workshop at Seattle's Joint Training Facility to better understand first responder biodetection and information needs, gaps and priorities. The exchanges helped researchers have a better grasp of the context by which first responders perform their duties. This leads to better results and the ability to get the best solution faster and more efficiently.

PNNL is also conducting biodetection assay and instrument performance tests for both anthrax and ricin bio-threats and is investigating the impact of commonly encountered "hoax" white

powders. PNNL plans to facilitate performance and ergonomic testing of the most promising technology by first responders.

PNNL is also working with other agencies to help refine detection system performance requirements, standardized test plans and conditions, create guidelines for use and limitations of biodetection technology, and establish training and proficiency testing procedures.

According to law enforcement statistics, HazMat teams across the country respond to hundreds of white powder calls each year in large cities where quick decision-making is critical.

"Rapid biodetection is extremely important to the first responder community. In white powder response incidents where the health and safety of individuals may be in jeopardy, accurate and reliable results are needed promptly," says Seattle Fire Department, Assistant Chief, A.D. Vickery.

The information listed in the report is primarily provided by the vendor. However, when possible the report has been supplemented with additional information obtained from peer-reviewed publications, reports and websites that evaluate the performance of the technologies. Other findings and results will be published as the information becomes available.

PNNL has significant expertise in studying the biodetection process and in evaluating biodetection assays. It also has established an ongoing relationship with first responders in the Pacific Northwest. In coming months, PNNL will conduct third-party testing of biodetection assay systems and instruments. Researchers will publish a report outlining performance testing in working with anthrax, ricin and commonly encountered white powders.

PNNL will attend the International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference on June 6-9 in Baltimore, MD, and will be available to discuss the report and the next phase of testing that is just getting underway.

This release and the report mentioned above are also available at <http://www.pnnl.gov/news/release.aspx?id=978>