



# NASFM News

National Association of State Fire Marshals  
January 2013

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



[August 7-9, 2013](#)  
**NASFM 2013 Annual Conference**  
*Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Indianapolis, IN*

## Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

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## One Strong, United Voice for Fire Prevention

## Preview of Topics for NASFM 2013 Annual Conference



The NASFM 2013 Annual Conference, to be held August 7-9 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis, Indiana, promises to be one of the most informative and relevant NASFM conferences ever! NASFM staff are working with our host State Fire Marshal, Jim Greeson, and his colleagues, to put together another memorable and unique event. Registration details for attendees and exhibitors will soon be posted on the NASFM

website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/events.html>.

In the meantime, here is a peek at some of the sessions being planned for State Fire Marshals and their staffs:

- \* Roundtable discussion on school safety and security: Impact of school shootings, lockdowns and increased security on efforts to enforce fire code requirements
- \* Panel discussion on state efforts to ban sky lanterns
- \* Panel discussion on current activities and issues affecting arson investigation practices
- \* Update on recent research on smoke alarms and the impact of modern furnishings and designs on egress time
- \* Updates on Fire Prevention & Safety projects of the NASFM Foundation, including online training on Implementing a Residential Fire Sprinkler Requirement, and recommendations from research into undetermined origins and unknown causes in fire incident data

[Fire Safety and Green Buildings](#)

[Pipeline Emergencies](#)

[Residential Fire Safety Institute](#)

[Common Ground Alliance Monthly Update Newsletter](#)

[Crowd Manager Training](#)

[Yellow CSST Safety Campaign](#)

[Fire is Everyone's Fight™](#)

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**NASFM has entered the social media world of Twitter!**

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**Pipeline Emergencies is now available for Android devices in addition to the iPhone and iPod.**

**Visit Pipeline Emergencies 2:**

\* State Fire Marshal-only Breakfast Forums will begin every day on topics they identify to inform, seek input and advice from, or compare notes with their peers

\* A morning devoted to presentations by State Fire Marshals for their peers, highlighting their most effective programs, campaigns or activities

\* Updates from the U.S. Fire Administration on issues of interest

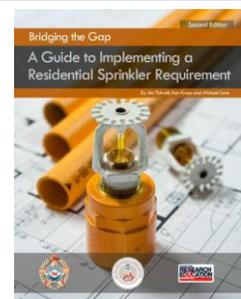
\* Educational sessions by Platinum-level Contributors to the Annual Conference on their areas of expertise

\* A Spouse/Guest program is being planned by the office of our Host, Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, and details will be posted when they are available

Make your plans now to attend the 2013 NASFM Annual Conference - and set side a few days before or after to explore all that makes Indianapolis special!

## **NASFM Releases 2nd Edition of Guide to Implementing Residential Sprinkler Requirement**

The National Association of State Fire Marshals and the NASFM Foundation proudly announce the release of the 2nd edition of its well-received "Bridging the Gap: Guide to Implementing a Residential Sprinkler Requirement." The updated guide is available for free at NASFM's new training website, <http://www.nasfm-training.org/>.



The fire problem in America is our homes. According to two NFPA studies for the year 2011, more than 90 percent of civilian structure fire deaths and 40 percent of firefighter fireground deaths occur in house fires. This is in spite of the tremendous benefit afforded by smoke alarms.

Residential sprinklers are widely recognized as the next revolution in reducing our nation's losses due to fire. While minimizing unwanted fires is a primary life safety objective, once a fire starts, the earliest intervention possible leads to the best outcome. The national regulatory community has embraced this technology by including requirements for sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings in every model code developed in the United States.

Because residential sprinkler requirements are relatively new to most jurisdictions, there is an overall lack of guidance about their



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implementation. This guide is intended to provide a roadmap for jurisdictions that have adopted residential sprinkler system requirements to help implement the regulation in a logical, business-like manner. This information is based upon successes (and failures) of other jurisdictions that have completed the adoption and initial implementation in the last few years.

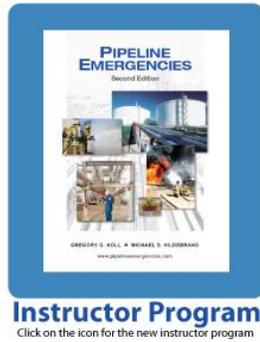
Realizing that every jurisdiction is different, we have taken into account resource allocation issues, technical barriers, and other concerns that will necessitate different approaches by various jurisdictions. In addition to the direct implementation information, we attempt to provide information and statistics to demonstrate the value of residential sprinklers.

Included in this guide are sample policies, procedures, and checklists to assist jurisdictions in formulating their own best practices. These samples are a compilation of those from successful implementations across the country, and are considered "open source" so that anyone can copy, modify, and use them as they see fit. The guide is organized into sections that provide a series of decision points that should be considered as a jurisdiction moves forward with implementation.

A new on-line course has been included as part of the update. The course soon will be available at <http://courses.nasfm-training.org/>. Additionally, a new on-line virtual help-desk has been created where individuals can go for resources and support on residential sprinklers. The web site for this "virtual help-desk" is <http://www.nasfm-training.org/>. You can also download copies of the guidebook for free at this website or at [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org). Lastly, the classroom course has been updated as well and copies of it are available for download at the help desk site.

NASFM and the NASFM Foundation are pleased to present all of these materials courtesy of the help received through an Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grant.

**Pipeline Emergencies Curriculum Added to Federal Catalog of National Training**



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has announced that NASFM's Pipeline Emergencies training curriculum has been accepted into the Federal Catalog of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Training and Education Division (NTED). This essentially means that state agencies and local jurisdictions can use DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds to cover the cost of course delivery and attendance.

Pipeline Emergencies is an instructional program outlining the actions required of personnel responding to a pipeline emergency. The program covers both liquid and natural gas pipelines and a range of emergencies including leaks, spills, and fires. The Pipeline Emergencies training program was developed in response to the immediate need for an integrated training program specific to pipeline emergencies for the emergency response and pipeline industry.

NTED provides tailored training to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prepare for, prevent, deter, respond to, and recover safely and effectively from potential manmade and natural catastrophic events, including terrorism. To date, NTED has delivered training and broadcast information to over 2 million first responders. Read more about NTED at <https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov>.

## NASFM and Kidde Partner to Spread Fire Safety Messages

NASFM Sustaining Partner Kidde arranged a radio media tour featuring NASFM Executive Director Jim Narva in January. Narva helped spread key fire safety tips and messages, such as the importance of having working smoke alarms, proper smoke alarm placement, replacing smoke alarms every 10 years and developing and practicing an escape plan for your family. Narva was interviewed by 19 radio stations in major markets such as Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle and Philadelphia. In all, the radio media tour's participating stations had listenership of approximately 3.3 million people.



An op-ed piece by NASFM President and New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan was also distributed as part of this joint

campaign:

### **Op-ED: Fire Takes No Prisoners Early in 2013**

By J. William Degnan

From my 25 plus years of experience in the fire industry, I can tell you that no one is immune from fire. Fire can happen anytime, anywhere - and can leave behind tragic outcomes, especially when it comes to house fires which take the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans each year.

2013 is not off to a good start. Just last week, four children died in a house fire outside of Atlanta; they had no batteries in their smoke alarms. A day later, a mother and daughter died in a home fire in Akron, Ohio; they had no smoke alarms in the home. And the next day, a father and his four children died in a house fire in Kentucky; they too had no smoke alarms in the home.

The loss of life will certainly continue unless we spread the message of home fire safety. Developing and practicing an escape plan in the case of fire with your family is one thing we should all do. The other is to make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes in which no smoke alarm was present or at least one was present but none operate. In addition, many smoke alarms may not work because they are too old; age-related factors such as dust, insects and airborne contaminants can all impact an alarm's efficiency.

I urge families to not only replace the batteries in their alarms, but also to think about the age of the alarm itself. All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If you're not sure how old they are, replace them today.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals recommends using a smoke alarm containing a sealed, long-life lithium battery. This type of smoke alarm offers 10 years of protection, is tamper-proof and never needs its battery replaced.

Smoke alarm placement is also important. Smoke alarms should be placed on each floor, in living areas, and inside and outside of sleeping areas. These simple steps can go a long way to help save lives in 2013.

### **NASFM Issues Call to Action After Deadly Nightclub Fire in Brazil**

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) extends its deep sympathy to the families of the more than 230 individuals who

perished in the tragic nightclub fire in Santa Maria, Brazil, in the early morning hours of Sunday, January 27. It is, unfortunately, a sad reminder that the world has not learned the lessons of similar fires in modern nightclubs over the past decade.

Nearly 10 years ago, in February 2003, our nation lost 100 souls in The Station nightclub in Rhode Island, and similar tragedies with large losses subsequently occurred in Argentina (2004), Thailand (2008), and Russia (2009). The deadly combination of factors we see again and again in these fires includes occupancy limits that were exceeded, indoor pyrotechnics, flammable finish materials and building contents, and blocked exits.

"NASFM calls on building owners and managers to work with the fire service and code enforcement officials to put an end to these worldwide losses," says NASFM President J. William Degnan, New Hampshire State Fire Marshal.

Degnan adds, "The recommendations issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) following an extensive investigation of The Station fire are still current and need to be aggressively enforced if nightclubs are to be trusted as a fire-safe place for our young people to gather." These recommendations can be seen at

[http://www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/factsheet/ri\\_recomm\\_factsheet.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/factsheet/ri_recomm_factsheet.cfm).

Among those recommendations were adoption and enforcement of the most current building and fire codes covering nightclubs. "Fire and buildings codes were shaped by tragedies such as these," said Degnan. "We don't necessarily need more codes at this point, but we do need to aggressively enforce the codes and standards that exist currently." Model codes issued by the International Code Council ([www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)) and the National Fire Protection Association ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) are available for use worldwide.

NASFM emphasizes several factors that state and local jurisdictions must consider to ensure safety in the nightclubs and other public assembly occupancies in their communities:

- \* Sprinklers should be installed in compliance with the most recent model codes for all new nightclubs and for existing nightclubs with an occupancy limit greater than 100 people.
- \* All fire protection systems - including fire sprinklers, fire alarms and emergency lighting - should be in good working order at all times.
- \* Interior finishes and contents should be constructed of flame-resistant materials. Non-fire-retarded foam plastic finish materials ignite easily and propagate flames rapidly, and should not be permitted in new or existing nightclubs.
- \* No indoor fireworks should be permitted. If it is not possible to

have a total ban, pyrotechnics should be used only after careful evaluation of the facility, the pyrotechnics, and the qualifications of the operator, in accordance with applicable standards.

- \* All exits should be continually evaluated to assure they are not obstructed, are clearly marked, and always available for emergency egress.

- \* Occupant loads should be carefully monitored to prevent overcrowding.

- \* Trained crowd managers should be on site at a rate of one crowd manager for each 250 attendees to prevent the disaster if possible, and to direct evacuations if needed. A Crowd Manager Training Program endorsed by and available through NASFM at [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org) is aimed at making public gatherings safer by teaching event staff how to comply with model codes that address safety in public assembly occupancies.

Additionally, customers who patronize nightclubs should always be aware of their surroundings, locate exits and make sure those exits are not blocked. If a building does not feel safe, do not stay. In an emergency, or at the sound of an alarm, leave immediately and do not return to the building for any reason.

"All of us -- from the owners and managers, to those who adopt and enforce the codes, to those who patronize nightclubs -- have a responsibility to aggressively pursue safety measures to avoid another nightclub tragedy," Degan said. "Fire is Everyone's Fight™, and with the right preparation and diligence, we can win this fight."