



NASFM News

National Association of State Fire Marshals
June 2013

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

**Register NOW for NASFM Annual Conference to
Get Best Rates!**

Friday, June 28, is your last chance to get Early Bird rates when you register for the NASFM Annual Conference, August 7-9, 2013, at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown in Indianapolis, IN. Registration fees for all categories will rise by \$100 after June 28. Register on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/events.html>.

If you are a Principal or Associate member, don't forget to specify your shirt size on the registration form.

All registered attendees are invited to come to the Indianapolis Indians ballgame on the evening of Thursday, August 8, after the NASFM Exhibitors Reception, for a sponsored picnic dinner. If you intend to come to the game, please indicate this in your online registration so we can get accurate numbers.

Even if you have registered online for the conference, you still need to make a reservation at the conference hotel. You can get to the conference hotel registration page at this link to get the special negotiated rate of \$159: <https://firemarshals.org/register/>.

July 17th is the last day to make hotel reservations at the conference rate, so reserve your room as soon as possible.

An updated agenda for the conference is also posted on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/events.html>. This agenda is subject to change as necessary.

Looking forward to seeing you in Indianapolis!



July 17: Deadline for making hotel reservations for NASFM Annual Conference at \$159 rate

POSTPONED:
Fire Is Everyone's FightTM Webinar for fire and life safety participants

August 7-9, 2013
NASFM 2013 Annual Conference
*Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Indianapolis, IN*

August 9, 2013
Deadline for Applications for 2012 Life Safety Achievement Award

Quick Links

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[Common Ground Alliance Monthly Update Newsletter](#)

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NASFM Urges CPSC to "Get It Right" on Upholstered Furniture Flammability Regulation

The National Association of State Fire Marshals, in a public comment to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), urged the agency to develop an effective standard for upholstered furniture flammability that addresses both smoldering and open flame ignitions, serves to both prevent ignitions and limit the growth of the fire should ignition occur, and eliminates the use of flame retardants that have been identified as causing harmful human health and environmental effects.

Since the agency has been analyzing residential fire data, upholstered furniture has been the product under the jurisdiction of the CPSC that is involved in the greatest number of fire deaths by item first ignited. NASFM petitioned the CPSC in 1993 to establish a mandatory upholstered furniture flammability regulation, and the rulemaking has been ongoing ever since. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was issued by the agency in 2008 that addressed only cigarette ignitions of upholstered furniture, and research has continued in an attempt to test and validate the proposed standard. The CPSC recently requested public comment on, among other things, the question of technologies currently available to address open flame ignitions of upholstered furniture, such as those that are used in the stringent federal open flame mattress flammability standard.

NASFM's statement makes four key points:

-- The available fire data indicate that the CPSC's rulemaking on upholstered furniture flammability should be broadened to include open-flame ignition as well as cigarette/smoldering ignition.

-- A range of options exists to address open flame ignition of upholstered furniture in ways that are effective as well as economically feasible.

-- "Chemicals of concern" can be eliminated from upholstered furniture without sacrificing fire safety.

-- Do not underestimate the ability of the furniture industry and its suppliers to meet an effective standard.

The NASFM statement goes on to recommend a path forward consisting of a performance standard that addresses both smoldering and open flame ignitions while explicitly eliminating "chemicals of concern."

NASFM's statement concludes. "Not at all to minimize the amount of

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work that remains, but defining the scope of the regulation and establishing that technically and economically feasible solutions can be adapted to upholstered furniture are big steps in the right direction. The need to address both smoldering and open flame ignitions is clear, and the technologies to address both are available and economically feasible. The CPSC has the opportunity to be a leader in this challenge and 'get it right.' You should move forward with confidence that you can, indeed, get it right this time."

The complete statement is posted on NASFM's website at www.firemarshals.org.

NASFM Joins Other National Fire Service Organizations in Applauding Introduction of Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act in the U.S. Senate

On June 13, Senators Thomas Carper (DE) and Susan Collins (ME) introduced S. 1163, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. The legislation was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. Senators Carper and Collins both serve as co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

The original measure was introduced in 2004 following the tragic nightclub fire in West Warwick, RI, that claimed the lives of 100 victims. Since then, the legislation has been reintroduced in subsequent Congresses with various changes made to address concerns raised by members of Congress regarding cost estimates.

Under the current legislation, automatic sprinklers could be treated as Section 179 property under the tax code. Section 179 allows small and medium-sized businesses to write off the full cost of equipment purchases, up to \$125,000, in a single year. While automatic fire sprinklers are not currently classified as a Section 179 property, passage of the legislation would allow property owners to retrofit a large majority of high fire risk properties, such as certain off campus housing, night clubs, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

The legislation would also create a financial incentive for high-rise building owners to install sprinkler systems by reducing the depreciation schedule to 15 years. Currently the depreciation schedule is 39 years for commercial properties and 27.5 years for residential properties. This reduction will also put sprinkler improvements more in line with the current



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tax code that allows 15-year depreciation for leasehold improvements.

NASFM Participates in National Stakeholders Meeting Focusing on Data Collection for Juvenile Firesetting

NASFM joined three dozen national experts on the issue of juvenile fire setting and data collection who gathered June 26-27 to work towards developing a consensus-based approach to collecting data on this serious problem. Funded by a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Charitable Burn Foundation, this is the second phase of this project that is addressing a significant gap in the nation's fire data collection system.

The first phase of the project, also funded by a DHS grant, worked towards bringing together the stakeholders, identifying the issues and problems, and developing a framework for further development. The second phase of the project has been focusing on reviewing existing data systems and developing common nomenclature that can be used by the nation's fire service in this data collection effort.

"Without reliable data, we really don't have a good handle on the full scope of the problem," said Phil Tammaro, 3rd District Burn Coordinator for the IAFF Charitable Foundation Burn Fund, who is managing the project. "Without data, we can't develop evidence-based intervention strategies and measure their effectiveness. By bringing together all of these experts, we have been able to significantly advance the cause of effectively treating juvenile fire setting. Getting all of the existing data collection systems sharing information and a national platform for the nation's fire service to contribute their data into will have a tremendous impact."

Participants in the summit include representatives from the federal and state government, local fire departments, national fire safety organizations (including NASFM) and the private sector. The first summit, held in April 2012, had a similar representation and was a major step in developing agreement on how to best address this issue.

NASFM Contributes 10 NFFF Sarbanes Scholarships to Survivors of Fallen Firefighters

When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the family faces many unexpected challenges as they begin to rebuild their lives. All too often, survivors may be forced to postpone or abandon their educational goals because of limited financial resources. Since 1997, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Sarbanes Scholarship Programs has offered the loved ones of the fallen financial assistance to help them fulfill their educational dreams.

Recently, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and its partners awarded \$246,468 in scholarship money to 78 children, two step-children and two spouses of fallen firefighters for the 2013-2014 academic year. Of the 82 recipients, 55 previously received scholarships and 27 are new awardees. They represent 29 different states and will attend institutions in 35 states to prepare for careers ranging from Nursing to Aerospace Engineering as well as Fire Science.

"Because the firefighter who died in the line of duty was often the primary earner, many families are grappling with significant financial hurdles," explained Chief Ron Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. "The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and our generous partners are very pleased to be able to provide this important financial assistance to these deserving men and women so that they can pursue their educational dreams and achieve their career goals."

The Motorola Foundation generously awarded \$213,468 to the 82 recipients. In addition, ICMA-RC awarded \$15,000 to 13 individuals, Global Health & Safety awarded four \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$8,000 and the National Association of State Fire Marshals awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 recipients.

The Sarbanes Scholarship Program is named in honor of U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland, who was a strong supporter of education and America's fire service family. Senator Sarbanes authored the legislation that created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1992.

Since the program began in 1997, the NFFF has awarded over \$2,205,000 to applicants while the Foundation's partners have awarded \$618,390 since 2001. The scholarship program provides assistance to spouses, life partners, children, and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate and graduate studies, vocational-technical training, and certification and job training programs. They may be used for study at in-state or out-of-state

public and private schools.

To be eligible, children must be under age 30 presently and have been under age 22 at the time of their firefighter's death. All applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalency, or must be in their final year of high school.

For more information about the 2011-2012 Sarbanes Scholarship and previous recipients, go to www.firehero.org.

Help PHMSA Get The Word Out About Recall of Hazardous Cylinders

On May 24, 2013, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) mandated a recall of cylinders manufactured by Lite Cylinder Company. These cylinders may leak flammable gas or suddenly rupture.

PHMSA has been notified by The Lite Cylinder Company it is no longer in business and the company's facility is now closed and unable to receive cylinders returned per the Recall Order.

PHMSA is seeking the assistance of the National Association of State Fire Marshals and its members in getting the word out about these cylinders.

PHMSA asks that State Fire Marshals consider taking any or all of the following actions:

*Disseminate this information to the local fire marshals in your respective states.

*Inform the public about disposal requirements/guidelines
Advise any facility that fills propane tanks that these cylinders must not be filled *

Ask that serial numbers of cylinders that are condemned and disposed of, according to 49 CFR 180.205, be sent to PHMSA. Serial numbers help PHMSA track the effectiveness of the recall. *

PHMSA has developed a web page to aid in reporting at http://opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov/cylinder_recall/. Updates about the recall are being posted to PHMSA's website, <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/home>, and on Twitter(@PHMSA_DOT).

New York Senate Passes Novelty Lighter Ban; Bill Moves to Assembly Next

On June 13, the New York State Senate passed a bill to promote fire safety by prohibiting the sale and distribution of novelty lighters. The bill (S933A), sponsored by Senator Jack Martins would remove novelty lighters - which have features like music, lights, and toy-like designs - from store shelves and prevent them from getting into the hands of children who may not understand the fire risk.

"Fires set by children are the fastest-growing fire threat in New York State and across the country," said Senator Martins. "Annually, more than 300 people nationwide are killed, 30 percent of whom are children. I am pleased that the Senate has passed this bill. It will protect children and their families and ultimately save lives."

Novelty lighters are designed to appeal to children since they often feature musical sounds, flashing lights, and toy-like designs such as cartoon characters, animals, cars, spaceships, cell phones, ice cream cones or sports equipment. The Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled thousands of novelty lighters since 1996 due to their danger to public safety.

James A. Burns, President of the Firemen's Association of New York State and a past president of NASFM, said, "Presently, novelty lighters are easily accessible and sold in many convenience stores, gas stations, hardware stores and at other stores across New York State. But despite their bright colors and stylish designs, novelty lighters are extremely dangerous items that too often land in kids' hands and, ultimately, lead to tragic, often fatal results. We thank the Senate for passing this important bill today and we thank them for their support in preventing senseless tragedies."

The legislation prohibits the retail sale and distribution of these lighters and requires a toll-free telephone number to be set up for receiving information from the public about possible violations by retail stores. In addition, it gives law enforcement the authorization to seize any novelty lighters from those establishments.

The European Union and at least fourteen states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Carolina, have also banned the sale of novelty lighters.

"It is important that New York State do the same to protect our families from these totally preventable fires," concluded Senator Martins.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.

To look up the status of state efforts to ban or limit the sale of novelty lighters, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/noveltylighters>

The next NASFM News will be a joint July-August issue that contains a recap of the NASFM 2013 Annual Conference.