



# NASFM News

National Association of  
State Fire Marshals

May 2014

## In This Issue

Register Now for the 2014  
NASFM Annual Conference

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**NASFM Annual  
Conference**  
July 28-30, 2014  
St. Pete Beach,  
Florida

**NFPA State Fire  
Marshal Forum**  
September 24-25,  
2014  
Quincy, Massachusetts

## Quick Links

## One Strong, United Voice for Fire Prevention

### Deadlines Are Approaching for the 2014 NASFM Annual Conference & 25th Anniversary Celebration



Deadlines are fast approaching to sign up to attend the NASFM Annual Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration, to be held July 28-30, 2014, at the TradeWinds Island Resorts in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Don't let this one pass you by!

The link to register for the Annual Conference can be found here: <http://firemarshals.org/register/>. This address also has a link to the hotel registration page.

Please make note of the following deadlines:

*June 25:* Last day to make hotel reservations at the special conference rate.

*June 28:* Last day for "early bird" registration rates. After this, the registration fees for all categories go up by \$100.

*Please also be aware of our need to have Sponsor and Exhibitor information by the end of June so that we can create signage and other recognition.*

A list of Sponsorship opportunities can be downloaded here: <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/sponsorshipopportunities.html>

[NASFM](#)

[NASFM Training Portal](#)

[Fire Safety and Green Buildings](#)

[Pipeline Emergencies](#)

[Implementing a Residential Sprinkler Requirement](#)

[Common Ground Alliance Monthly Update Newsletter](#)

[Crowd Manager Training](#)

[Yellow CSST Safety Campaign](#)

[Fire is Everyone's Fight™](#)

[Partnering For Prevention™ Multicultural Training](#)

[Fire Is... Fire Safety and Survival Program](#)



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Exhibitor information can be found here:

<http://www.firemarshals.org/events/exhibitors.html>.

The draft agenda can be found on this page:

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

Any questions about the Conference, please contact: Peggy Beiling, NASFM Director of Internal Operations, (202) 393-1129; [pbeiling@narvaassociates.com](mailto:pbeiling@narvaassociates.com).

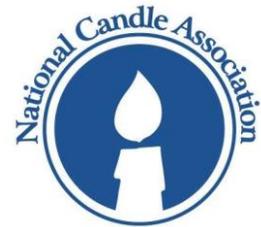
Register now for a conference to remember! Looking forward to seeing you in July!

## **As Summer Months Approach, Be Careful With Candles During Power Outages: Tips for Fire Safety When the Lights Go Out**



WASHINGTON, DC-

Summer is approaching, and with it, the chance for severe weather and the temporary loss of electric power. The U.S. candle industry and state fire marshals are urging consumers to exercise caution if using candles during a power outage.



An estimated 20 percent of candle fires involving fatalities occur during the loss of electrical power. Although flashlights and battery-powered lamps are safe sources of light during a power failure, candles are often a reliable back-up source of light during lengthy power outages.

To protect your family and home, the National Candle Association and National Association of State Fire Marshals recommend the following precautions if you choose to use candles when the lights go out:

- Pillar candles and container candles are a better choice during a power outage than taper candles. Broader based candles are less likely to be accidentally knocked over. When possible, candles should be enclosed within glass globes for added protection from burns or fire.
- Place candles on a stable surface in a fire resistant holder that is at least 12 inches away from anything flammable, including upholstered furniture and window drapes. For added safety when the lights go out, a candle in its holder may be placed on a stable, nonflammable surface, such as a metal cookie sheet, frying pan or ceramic dinner plate.

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- Avoid moving a burning candle during a power outage if possible. It is easy to trip in the dark or brush against something flammable. Container candles may be too hot to handle, causing you to drop the container, which could start a fire.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Try to restrict people and candles to one room in the house so the location of family members and candle flames always can be accounted for. Extinguish candles upon leaving a room.
- Make sure the candles are well out of the reach of children and pets. Young children are especially apt to bump into things when a room is unfamiliarly dark.
- Don't use candles to search for something in a closet or small confined space where clothes, papers or other combustibles could accidentally ignite.
- Extinguish all candles before going to bed. Never use a candle as a nightlight.
- Extinguish candles safely. Extinguish the candle by cupping your hand behind the candle flame before blowing it out - or, better yet, snuff out the flame with a metal candle snuffer. A spark or ember, if blown from the candle, could ignite combustibles nearby.

To learn more about candle fire-safety, visit  
[www.candles.org/safety\\_rules.html](http://www.candles.org/safety_rules.html).

###

National Candle Association (NCA) is the major trade association representing U.S. candle manufacturers and their suppliers. It is widely recognized as the leading technical authority on candle manufacturing, science and safety. Visit [www.candles.org](http://www.candles.org).

National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) members are the senior state-level fire safety officials in the U.S., including the District of Columbia. NASFM's primary mission is to protect human life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. Visit [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org).

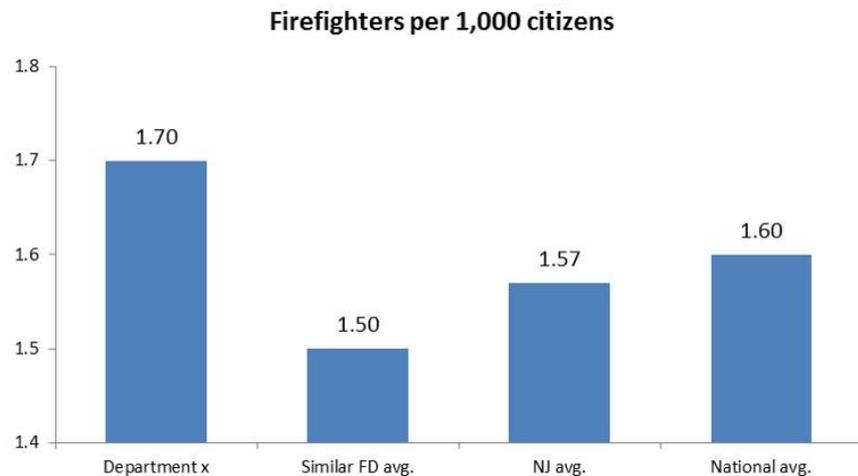
## Helping Fire Departments and State Fire Marshals Achieve Their Mission with Analytics

*By Rick Stoll, Director of Business Development, ISO Community Analytic Services*

ISO is proud to have been evaluating and grading individual fire protection districts around the country to assist property insurers for decades. Although we share the grading and community report with the fire services at no charge, many chiefs have asked us for more information to assist them in achieving their mission.

We recently formed ISO Community Analytic Services to meet those needs. And, our first product is unlike anything the fire service has seen. It's a comprehensive study, the Fire Service Performance Review - Structural Fire Protection, that helps fire departments reduce fire injury and fatality rates, decrease property damage, and ultimately improve community quality - all for an affordable price.

Currently, most fire departments measure performance and identify areas of strength and opportunity by comparing themselves to nearby departments or NFPA standards. While directionally useful, this does not account for the fact that every department is unique. To solve this challenge, we've designed an algorithm and a set of community-defining criteria to identify a custom peer group of 20 fire departments chosen from the universe of departments across the country. This innovative approach empowers fire jurisdictions with fair and actionable benchmarks. Using eight data sources to generate analytics, we evaluate and benchmark against three constituents: fire jurisdictions from the selected peer group of 20 fire departments, jurisdictions across the state, and those from around the nation.



Each Fire Service Performance Review includes a tailored assessment and specific recommendations that can help fire departments:

- Analyze your community's fire service investment. Examine your relative fire investment as it pertains to the protection of your community. Robust analytics help when developing budgets and other sources of funding. (Investment analyses apply only for communities and peer groups with statistically significant budget information available to us.)
- Review key performance indicators. Evaluate your fire department's performance as it relates to its community Public Protection Classification (PPC™) grading, property loss, and fire-related injuries and fatalities; track where your

fire department ranks; and assess its strengths and weaknesses compared with your peers.

- Assess fire station coverage. A jurisdiction map that includes population density and ladder coverage can help determine the need for new fire stations or mutual-aid agreements.
- Enhance the grant application process. Use the actionable information to identify areas of need more accurately, giving you a competitive advantage in obtaining the grant.
- Determine prevention effectiveness. Review critical analyses associated with fire incidents, smoke alarm and sprinkler adoption, and preplan coverage; use the information to plan any improvements.
- Quantify benefits to the community. Evaluate metrics and useful techniques to estimate the financial benefit of your structural fire protection and other ways your firefighting services help the community.
- Evaluate building codes. Determine how your local building department's code stacks up on key code adoption and enforcement criteria. That vital information aids you in developing a proactive fire prevention and firefighting plan.
- Prioritize commercial property plans. Identify commercial properties with the greatest risk of property damage and loss of life due to fire. That enables you to use your resources where the community needs them the most.

While our initial offering is designed for individual fire departments, we have also begun working with counties and states to position larger regions for success.

Note: Purchasing or following the recommendations of the Fire Service Performance Review doesn't guarantee a fire protection area's PPC rating will improve.

For more information on ISO's Community Analytic Services program, please visit [www.isomitigation.com/analytics](http://www.isomitigation.com/analytics), call us at 1-844-773-FIRE (3473), or send e-mail to [fireanalytics@iso.com](mailto:fireanalytics@iso.com).

## **May Is...**

### **A Good Month for Fire/Safety-Related Themes!**

#### **May is Electrical Fire Safety Month**

To help spread the importance of electrical fire safety in communities nationwide, the US Fire Administration (USFA) site [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/electrical.shhtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/electrical.shhtm) provides access to a public service announcement, stock photography, social media messages, links to other organizations' resources, and more.

Facts about home electrical fires:

- U.S. fire departments respond each year to an estimated 25,900 home electrical fires. These fires cause an estimated 280 deaths, 1,125 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss.
- Home electrical fires result in greater dollar loss per fire than nonelectrical fires.
- In 79 percent of home electrical fires, the fire spreads beyond the object where the fire starts.
- Most home electrical fires involve electrical distribution, lighting or power transfer equipment.
- Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, electrical branch circuits (for example, interior house wiring), and other electrical wiring.

### **May is Building Safety Month**

Founded by the International Code Council (ICC), Building Safety Month (BSM) is celebrated by jurisdictions worldwide during the month of May. Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign offered each year to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create and sustain safe and sustainable structures. 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.

The campaign is presented by the ICC and its 57,000 members worldwide along with a diverse partnership of professionals from the building construction, design and safety community. 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 where we live, work and play.

This year's theme is BUILDING SAFETY: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks. Each week of Building Safety Month spotlights a specific area of building safety:

- Week One -- Code Officials: Keeping Fire in its Place
- Week Two -- Code Officials: Helping Homeowners Weather the Storm
- Week Three -- Code Officials: Surround Your Building with Safety

- Week Four -- Code Officials: Building A Brighter, More Efficient Tomorrow

Check out the website

<http://www.iccsafe.org/BSM/Pages/default.aspx> for more information about Building Safety Month and access to promotional materials.

### **May Is Older Americans Month**

Older Americans play an important role in disaster preparedness in families and communities across the nation and can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of hazards before they strike. "Safe today, healthy tomorrow" is the theme for May 2014's Older Americans Month.

As part of this theme, the US Fire Administration offers the following advice for older Americans and those who have a family member or neighbor who fits this category inside or outside of their home:

Be sure to develop an emergency preparedness plan that takes into account their requirements before, during and after a disaster.

Part of this emergency plan should include building an emergency supply kit. In addition to the usual emergency kit supplies like water, non-perishable food and a first aid kit, older Americans should consider:

- \* Medications and medical supplies;
- \* Eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, wheelchair battery, or oxygen; and
- \* Food and supplies for service animals.

Other preparedness suggestions for older Americans include:

- \* Create a network of friends, neighbors and relatives to aid them in case of an emergency and ensure their contact information is current;
- \* Keep a list of medical devices and equipment, including model numbers and instructions; and
- \* Have a transportation plan in the event of evacuation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) partner to provide disaster resources and services for older adults. For more information check out <http://www.ready.gov/> and

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org). AARP also provides an opportunity for older adults with free time after retirement to find volunteer opportunities in the community to share life experience, skills and passions through Create the Good. As it is often the tradition to look to our elders for guidance, this is the perfect time for older Americans to lead future generations in emergency preparedness.

## National Campus Fire Safety Campaign Launches in Boston

The Clery Center, Campus Firewatch and the Michael H. Minger Foundation are launching The Alarming Truth ([www.alarmingtruth.com](http://www.alarmingtruth.com)), a national campaign to promote off-campus fire safety at college campuses. The first stop in a six-region tour will be a free seminar June 4th at Boston University, followed by seminars in North Carolina, Ohio, Colorado, California and New Jersey.



The Alarming Truth is a project to help teach college students the importance of fire safety with a focus on three key messages:

- Smoking, which is the leading cause of all fatal fires
- Smoke alarms, which are frequently disabled or missing in fires
- Exits, which can make the difference between life and death

The centerpiece of this project is a video that tells the story of a fictional, but based-in-reality, fire in an off-campus house that has a tragic outcome. It was written, filmed and produced by students from the Rowan University College of Communications Department of Radio, Television and Film, which gives the film the real-world perspective needed to reach today's students.

Attendees will receive tools that they can use in their outreach programs this fall, including a copy of The Alarming Truth and educational strategies to reach out to the students they serve. The program is for anyone involved in educating students about fire safety, including campus safety officials, housing officers, community liaisons, fire chiefs and fire prevention specialists.

The Alarming Truth project is funded under a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to the Clery

Center for Security On Campus and is produced in partnership with Campus Firewatch, the Michael H. Minger Foundation, Philadelphia Fire Department, Rowan University and the University of Pennsylvania.

To learn more about The Alarming Truth, register for any of the free seminars, and to see a trailer of the film, visit [www.alarmingtruth.org](http://www.alarmingtruth.org). For more information, please contact Ed Comeau, Campus Firewatch, at 413-296-1982 or [ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com](mailto:ecomeau@campus-firewatch.com).

On Twitter, you can follow [@CleryCenter](https://twitter.com/CleryCenter) and [@AlarmingTruth](https://twitter.com/AlarmingTruth) or #AlarmingTruth for campaign updates.

We invite you to contribute articles and other content for this newsletter! Contact Karen Deppa at [kdeppa@narvaassociates.com](mailto:kdeppa@narvaassociates.com) for more information.

The NASFM staff wishes everyone a safe  
Memorial Day weekend!