



Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

Ronald Farr
State Fire Marshal

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October 2010

Fire Prevention Week – October 3-9, 2010 BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!

Each year in October the Fire Service uses one week to promote their fire departments and deliver life safety and fire prevention messages. Starting with this year's "special week," let's pledge to deliver a fire safety message each month in an effort to prevent injuries and losses to fire. Partner with your local media, print, radio, or TV to deliver these valuable messages. I suggest the following themes for the next 12 months.

- October:** Smoke Alarms
- November:** Heating Safety - Furnace and Alternative Heaters
- December:** Holiday Safety to include Christmas Lights and Candle Safety
- January:** Senior Safety
- February:** Home Escape Planning – make sure everyone knows what to do
- March:** Emergency Planning for Weather Related Issues
- April:** Outdoor Safety to include Campfires/Bonfires, Grilling Safety, Fuel Powered Lawn Equipment
- May:** General Summer Safety, Water Safety, and Vacation/Travel Safety
- June:** Unintentional Injury Prevention – Playground, Pool, and Boating Safety
- July:** Fireworks Safety
- August:** Back to School Safety Messages for Returning Students
- September:** Fall Cleanup

Let us do all we can to deliver a positive fire safety message with the end result being the saving of lives and property.

Be Safe – Stay Safe....

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Farr
State Fire Marshal

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Fire Services is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire safe environment through inspections, plan review, enforcement, regulation, fire fighter training, data collection and public fire education.

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The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) recommends smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside all sleeping areas, and on every level of the home, including the basement. According to the NFPA, which develops [NFPA 72, National Smoke Alarm Code®](#), many homes still don't have that level of protection. Unfortunately, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths per year result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms at all or no working smoke alarms.

In an effort to better educate the public about smoke alarm recommendations, NFPA is promoting "[Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with!](#)" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2010, October 3-9. NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 88 years.

"Many U.S. homes may still only have one smoke alarm," says Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of communications. "That is simply not enough." Carli emphasizes that smoke alarms must be installed in all bedrooms, not just near them, to ensure that everyone is alerted in time to escape safely.

Smoke alarms can cut the chance of dying in a fire in half, but they must be working properly to do so. NFPA's data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren't working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

"This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign works to motivate the public to actively determine whether they have proper smoke alarm protection throughout their homes," says Carli. "It also encourages people to explore newer, more comprehensive options for smoke alarms."

According to NFPA, interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals. Interconnected smoke alarms can be hard-wired or wireless battery-operated interconnected alarms are now available.

NFPA offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows their sound.

- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they’re 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.

Fire departments throughout the country will be hosting activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote the campaign locally. These educational, family-oriented activities can help everyone learn more about the power of smoke alarms, newer options for installing and maintaining them properly, and ultimately, how to better protect themselves and loved ones from fire.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week, smoke alarms and this year’s campaign, “Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with!” visit NFPA’s Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org

Michigan News...

DELEG’s Bureau of Fire Services Kicks Off Risk Watch® Training *Fire Professionals and Teachers Rolling Out Nationwide Safety Program in Schools*

Fire professionals from around the state gathered September 27-28, 2010 at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing to learn more about rolling out Risk Watch®, a nationwide safety awareness and education program, in schools within their communities.

The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth’s Bureau of Fire Services and State Farm Insurance have partnered to provide the National Fire Protection Agency’s (NFPA) Risk Watch® program to 18 fire departments across Michigan who will be sharing safety lessons with more than 89,000 Michigan children. The two-day training concluded Tuesday, September 28.

“Risk Watch® is an important program because preventable injuries are the number one health risk to children 14 and younger,” said Michigan State Fire Marshal Ronald R. Farr. According to the NFPA, unintentional injuries kill more than 5,000 children annually.

State Farm provided a \$10,000 grant to bring the program to the state that will give children and their families the skills and knowledge they need to create safer homes and communities.

Risk Watch® is the first comprehensive injury prevention program available for use in schools and the first time it will be shared with Michigan schoolchildren. The cost-effective, school-based curriculum for students in preschool through the eighth grade, links teachers with community safety experts and parents. The Bureau of Fire Services is using the grant to roll out training between fire and emergency personnel and educators.

“We’re really proud we can impact so many kids and families in a positive way by providing the means to bring awareness and education to so many preventable safety issues,” said State Farm Vice President-Operations Dianne Lerman.

Risk Watch® lessons are age-appropriate learning modules that are presented to students in about an hour a month and cover eight injury risk areas: motor vehicle safety, fire and burn prevention, choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention, poisoning prevention, falls prevention, firearms injury prevention, bike and pedestrian safety, and water safety. Risk Watch® complements different learning styles and can consist of role-playing, games, demonstrations, storytelling, and letters to parents (to enable parents and caregivers to improve safety at home).

Training participants learned more about forming coalitions between parents, teachers and community partners, implementing Risk Watch® in schools, conducting teacher workshops, and evaluating the overall effectiveness of the program.

Speakers included Terrence Campbell, Central States Public Education advisor, National Fire Protection Association; Meredith Hawes, fire and life safety educator, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department; Jodi Scott, teacher, Traverse City Area Public Schools; and Dr. Terry Fobbs, assistant to the state fire marshal.

State Fire Marshal Urges Safety While Using Generators ***Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in every home***

State Fire Marshal Ronald R. Farr encourages consumers to take extra safety precautions while using generators when the power is out -- especially to reduce risk of injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning – a silent killer that builds up quickly without any warning signs or odors.

“Although using a generator can help restore life to normal during power outages and emergencies, the primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire,” said Farr. “Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that is invisible and odorless. I urge consumers to buy at least one battery operated carbon monoxide detector and install it near the furnace and utility room. It works like a smoke alarm, sounding an alert if carbon-monoxide levels become dangerous.”

The U.S. Fire Administration in the Federal Emergency Management Agency reports that carbon monoxide poisoning claims approximately 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment every year. In many cases, these reported deaths and nonfatal poisonings were as a result of using a generator within the home or garage, operating equipment in enclosed places, or having unattended fires in a fireplace.

A common mistake is that homeowners believe that opening windows or running fans will prevent carbon monoxide buildup which is inaccurate. While you cannot smell carbon monoxide, it can cause symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, and weakness. If you experience these symptoms, get fresh air and seek help immediately at a local hospital emergency room where they will conduct a simple blood test for possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth offers an informative consumer alert that covers tips on how to determine the proper size of a generator to purchase, and how to install and use a generator safely. The consumer alert is available on the MPSC website: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/mpsc-ca_portablegenerator_211961_7.pdf or by calling 1-800-292-9555.

Some tips include:

- Never operate a generator indoors or in an unventilated area. The exhaust contains deadly carbon monoxide fumes.
- Do not store gasoline for a generator indoors. Gasoline should be stored in an approved, non-glass safety container. Extinguish all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline or the generator. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator.
- Make sure you have enough fuel to run a generator for an extended period of time – during a power outage, gas stations may be closed.
- Never refuel a generator while it is running. Shut it off and let it cool for 10 minutes before refueling to minimize the danger of fire.
- Parts of the generator are very hot during operation. Avoid contact – especially with the muffler area. Keep children away at all times.
- Protect the generator from rain and other moisture sources to prevent electrocution.
- When not in use, store the generator in a dry location such as a garage or shed.



The MPSC also recommends that homeowners put together an emergency use kit for their home to prepare for power outages. The kit should include:

- Flashlights
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Candles
- Blankets
- First aid kit
- Nonperishable food
- Battery operated lantern
- Drinking water (one gallon per person per day)
- Some emergency cash

The MPSC recommends that you keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone – including the number to the local electric company. Unless telephone lines are down, landline telephone service should remain available during an electrical power outage. Cellular service may not work if power to the cell tower system is disrupted.

It's also important to protect electrical items like TVs, VCRs, microwave ovens, or a home computer with voltage surge suppressors. If these items are not protected, unplug them before a storm begins to prevent damage.

For more tips on surviving a power outage, check out the MPSC alert at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/mpsc-ca_survivingelectricoutages_211962_7.pdf
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/mpsc-ca_survivingelectricoutages_211962_7.pdf

NFIRS News

Fire Prevention Week — Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With

Quick Fact:

In 2009 there were 9,235 residential fires reported to NFIRS. In two-thirds of these fires there were no smoke alarms present. If smoke alarms had been present it may have prevented the 30 civilian deaths, 78 civilians injured and 72 fire fighters injured.

Using the NFIRS Data Entry Tool (DET) with Windows 7

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) shares ways other users have found to get the NFIRS Data Entry Tool to work with Windows 7. The following workaround has proven to work:

Disable Aero for Windows 7 and use Windows Classic instead.

1. Right-click on the desktop and choose Personalize from the menu.
2. Scroll the themes down until the Basic and High Contrast themes are seen.
3. Click Windows Classic, and OK. The desktop should change to Windows Classic that will apparently allow the Client Tool to run.
4. When the session is over, change back to the default.

Michigan Fire Service Directory

PLEASE check your department's E-MAIL address in the directory. The Bureau has noticed that a lot of the email addresses are not up to date. The online directory can be found at: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/fire_directory/. **Please note that the directory is updated quarterly. Changes to department contact information may not be reflected in the directory immediately.**

Below is a link to update your department's information in the directory. You may submit the form by fax to (517) 335-4061, e-mail to howardr2@michigan.gov, or mail to Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help to keep the most accurate information in the directory.

Fire Service Directory Update Form:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Fire_Service_Directory_Information_Updated_ESIGN_rev.1.31.09_270867_7.pdf

You may also locate the form on our website at www.michigan.gov/bfs, click on Forms and Publications.

Reminder to Submit NFIRS Reports Online

As of January 1, 2008, the Bureau of Fire Services no longer accepts paper reports. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is available online and the Bureau of Fire Services requests that all fire departments enter these reports using this online system. If you need assistance in setting up this program please contact Rhonda Howard.

Fatal Fire Reporting

UPDATED FATAL FIRE REPORT FORM NOW AVAILABLE

In addition to the basic NFIRS report, the Bureau of Fire Services also tracks all fire-related deaths. These statistics are used for program development, legislation, and prevention programs. Fire departments responding to a fatal fire are required to submit

the “Michigan Fatal Fire Report” within 24 to 48 hours of the death. The report form is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg_bccfs_fatalrep_94417_7.pdf

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2009 and 2010

2009 – Reported as of 7/30/10

January	9
February	12
March	17
April	16
May	16
June	13
July	13
August	10
September	7
October	14
November	16
December	16
Total	161

2010 – Reported as of 9/28/10

January	19
February	18
March	15
April	13
May	5
June	3
July	3
August	3

Questions?

If you have questions regarding your department, NFIRS reporting functions or fatal fire reporting, please contact Rhonda Howard at (517) 241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

Office of Fire Fighter Training



News and Notes from the OFFT

By Joseph A. Grutza, Director, Office of Fire Fighter Training



As we approach the end of the 2010 fiscal year, the staff of the Office of Fire Fighter Training would like to extend thanks to everyone in the fire service who has made this year one of our most successful. Under the direction of State Fire Marshal Ronald Farr, the OFFT has made great strides in supporting the fire fighters training needs in our state. We realize that our success is due to the efforts of hundreds of people out in the trenches that make this system work. First of all, thanks to:

- Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council members – Thank you for your time and effort representing your organizations. Developing effective training policies during tough economic times can be difficult. The MFFTC continues to push forward,

safeguarding our training standards, while providing additional training opportunities for the entire state.

- Training Coordinators – Our contract coordinators continue to carry out the mission of the MFFTC. They demonstrate integrity and professionalism as they administer our fire fighter examinations and evaluate our instructors. We could not do without them.
- County Training Committee Chairpersons – The 83 individuals and their committees provide the communication link between the MFFTC and the individual fire fighters and their departments. Their efforts in surveying the training needs, organizing classes and providing funding recommendations are vital to the operations of the Office of Fire Fighter Training.
- Fire Service Instructors – A special thanks to our course managers and the hundreds of instructors who have stepped up and provided the training. We realize the hard work required to put together these programs in your departments. The importance of your labor cannot be overestimated. Your work saves lives.

Finally, thanks to all the individual fire fighters. Your heroic effort that you bring to the table everyday is recognized and appreciated. Your desire for quality training inspires us to work harder for you. And your acceptance and usage of our new Information Management System (IMS) has allowed us to serve you better.

Here in the Office, we know there is a lot of work left to do. We welcome the challenge and depend on your feedback to make sure we are doing it right. Please let us know how we can make 2011 even better.

Good luck and be safe!

BFS/OFFT Information Management System (IMS) Tip Sheet

The office receives inquiries everyday on the use of the BFS/OFFT Information Management System. The following are answers to some commonly asked questions regarding the IMS.

PROCEDURE TO BE LISTED AS FIRE CHIEF IN IMS

A letter needs to be drafted by the township board or city council (supervisor, clerk, mayor, city manager, etc.) indicating that you have been appointed fire chief of your district and indicating who the previous fire chief was. This letter needs to be on city or township letterhead and mailed or faxed to the Office of Fire Fighter Training, Lansing Office at: PO Box 30700, Lansing, MI 48909 or faxed to (517) 335-4061. Within a day or two the fire chief designation will appear in your personal profile in IMS.

PROCEDURE TO CHANGE FIRE CHIEF IN THE FIRE SERVICE DIRECTORY

You can find the required form at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Fire_Service_Directory_Information_UpdateDE_SIGN_rev.1.31.09_270867_7.pdf.

Please fill in the required information and mail, fax, or email the form to the contact information at the top of the form.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM LOG-IN STEPS

To assist all fire fighters when they make their initial entry into the Office of Fire Fighter Training's new Information Management System (IMS), the following steps must be followed:

1. Go to the BFS/OFFT website at www.michigan.gov/bfs and click on "Office of Fire Fighter Training" in the left column. The next screen will have "BFS/OFFT Information Management System" in the center, towards the top in a red font. Click on this and you will be taken to the IMS login screen.
2. Click on "First Time User?" which is found just under the LOGIN button.
3. Enter your last name, first name, and then your social security number WITHOUT the hyphens.
4. Click on **QUERY** – not the LOGIN button. (Note: At this point you may receive a message stating that you need to contact us due to a problem. The problem may revolve around your entering (or not entering) a "Jr" or "Sr" after the last name. Try step 3 again with or without using them. Do not use hyphens or apostrophes in your last name. If it again sends you an error message, contact your Region Supervisor (contact information is below).
5. The next screen will display your "user name" which is actually a six-digit PIN number. Write this number down for your records! Enter your SSN in the third box on this page, again using no hyphens and then click "login".
6. The next screen will display your new number and asks for your password. Enter your SSN (no hyphens) and click on "login".
7. The next screen is the "Change Password" screen. Your old password is your SSN.
8. Your new password is created by using at least six letters, one number and one control key. The control key is created by holding down your shift key and then selecting one of the number keys. An example would be to hold down the shift key and then press number 2. This will create the "@" symbol. The letter, number and control key will not need to be in any particular order. Enter the new password into the password box, confirm password boxes, and click on "confirm".
9. You will now be returned to the main screen. Login using your user name number you were assigned and your password.

If you cannot get into the system using these steps, please contact your region supervisor.

- Region 1: Dan Hammerberg – (906) 226-4170
- Region 2: Gary Crum – (616) 447-2689
- Alternate Number: Mike Greis – (517) 241-0695

ADDING NEW FIRE FIGHTERS TO THE SYSTEM

New Fire Fighter — no previous training

Once logged into the system, go to “Forms” and “Add New Web User”. This will only work for a fire fighter who is new, has never been on a department and who does not have any fire fighter training through the MFFTC/OFFT. The information you will need to enter is the fire fighter’s social security number, name, and date of birth. Select your department and the fire fighter’s status (paid, part paid, or not paid) and insert a start date. You will leave the end date blank and then click on “OK” at the bottom of the page. You can then add another fire fighter if you need to and repeat the above process for the next fire fighter.

Fire Fighter — already in IMS

If you have hired a fire fighter from another department or who is still in another department, please call your OFFT Region Supervisor to add the fire fighter to your department roster. You can also have the fire chief who has the fire fighter on his roster add your department to the fire fighter’s profile, essentially adding the fire fighter to your roster.

VIEWING YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER RECORDS

Go to “Forms” and “Personnel Profile”, click on the magnifying glass to the right of your personal ID number and a wild card search should pop up in a new window. Listed here on usually more than one page should be the fire fighters the OFFT has listed on your department. To view the fire fighter, click on “Select” just to the left of the fire fighter’s name. The line should turn green, you will then click “OK” at the bottom and the fire fighter should now appear where your name and information did before you clicked on the magnifying glass. From here you can view the fire fighter’s phone numbers (if entered), personnel profile, instructor certifications, training activity, and notes by clicking on one of those buttons above his/her personal ID number. You can also print the fire fighter’s certifications and certify the practical portion of the driver training course.

REMOVING FIRE FIGHTERS NO LONGER IN YOUR DEPARTMENT

While you are in the fire fighter’s personnel record as mentioned in “Viewing Your Fire Department Member Records” you can remove a fire fighter from your department’s roster by looking in Personnel Profile and viewing which record of your department does not show an end date. Click on “Edit” on the left of the line that shows no end date, insert an end date, and click on “Update” (the edit button changes to “update” or “cancel” after you click on it). This will remove the fire fighter from your department’s roster. Be sure that all open statuses (your department listed without an end date) have an end date listed or the fire fighter will remain on your roster. **PLEASE DO NOT put an end**

date on any certified instructor status. If the fire fighter has a certified instructor status with your department listed as the department, please call the region supervisor for assistance.

PRINTING YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING REPORT

Click on Reports > Personnel Related Reports > Fire Department Training Report. Insert your 4 digit FDID number and click "OK". This will generate your report. Click on the printer icon on the gray bar within the report, select print all in the next window and click "OK", in the next window, use the printer icon for the PDF file and the report will print. Fire fighters who do not have training activity in their profiles will not show in this report.

Other News...

22nd Annual Michigan Arson Prevention Committee Juvenile Firesetter Seminar

SAVE THE DATE:

**March 1 - 2, 2011
Mount Pleasant, MI**

We are pleased to announce the 22nd Annual Michigan Arson Prevention Committee Juvenile Firesetter Seminar, which will be held in Mount Pleasant, MI on March 1-2, 2011.

The seminar will feature a rich educational program, covering various aspects of multi-disciplinary juvenile firesetting intervention. Key topics to be addressed include: navigating the intake and interview process with children; impact of social media on risky fire use; strategies to address the "experimental" juvenile bomb maker; associated juvenile legal issues; working with youth who have learning disabilities or mental health issues; and collaborating with school personnel on JFSI. This seminar encompasses the complex and challenging issue of juvenile firesetting, and provides methods to keep youth, families, schools, and communities safe.

The seminar is designed for a multi-disciplinary audience, including: fire service, police, juvenile legal and court personnel, educators, juvenile intervention specialists, injury prevention clinicians and educators, social workers, case workers, probation officers, arson investigators, school personnel (teachers, nurses, counselors, administration, and resource officers), youth assistance, social service agencies, mental health clinicians, community health educators, first responders, and healthcare personnel.

Additional information will be posted on the MAPC website: www.miarsonprevention.org

Michigan State Police Training Academy



Training Announcement

Responding to Death Investigations A Multi-Disciplinary Training

The Michigan State Police Training Academy is hosting a one-day course on responding to death investigations presented by law enforcement emergency service providers and medical examiners. This course is open to law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel and will provide a multi-disciplinary perspective on responding to scenes where a death has occurred and cover the following topics:

- Importance of preserving evidence and how to protect the scene
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protocols
- Medical examiner protocols and procedures
- How to effectively provide death notifications

Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Time: 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Place: Michigan State Police Training Academy
7426 North Canal Road
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Cost: \$25.00 (Includes lunch and materials)

Fax the completed [enrollment form](#) to [Ms. Marilu Anglebrandt](#) at (517) 322-6363. For more information, contact [Ms. Marilu Anglebrandt](#) at (517) 636-0464.

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information, photos and comments – your input is important. Any questions regarding the Bureau of Fire Services newsletter may be directed to Terry Fobbs at (517) 373-8331 or fobbst@michigan.gov.

For additional information about the Bureau of Fire Services and to subscribe or unsubscribe to the “Michigan Fire Service Connection” go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271---,00.html



<http://www.michigan.gov/dleg>



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