



June/July 2009

Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

Ronald Farr
State Fire Marshal

Bureau of Fire Services
525 W. Allegan, 4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913

(517) 241-8847
www.michigan.gov/bfs

The American traditions of parades, cookouts, and fireworks help us celebrate the summer season, especially our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July. However, fireworks can turn a joyful celebration into a painful memory when children and adults are injured while using fireworks. Although legal consumer fireworks that comply with the CPSC regulations can be relatively safe, all fireworks are hazardous and can cause injury. I remind you to stay safe when celebrating this July 4th.

June 14-20 held the 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week. There is no better time to remind the fire service about the importance of personal health and safety. It could be argued that firefighting is the most dangerous job in the world. Entering burning buildings, exposure to noxious fumes and smoke, risk of building collapse, and maneuvering emergency vehicles through congested traffic are huge risks that fire and EMS responders may face daily. Emergency response personnel are often exposed to these risks as well as a host of others. In the moment of an emergency, personal safety is often forgotten and/or put to the side. Please keep your safety in mind. Included in this newsletter are several articles related to personal health and safety. I hope you read them and put the ideas to good use!

On another note, the spring and summer months are often when Michigan sees an increase in wildfires. According to the Michigan DNR, April, May and June tend to be the worse months where most of the wildfires occur. Most wildfires are preventable. With the start of camping season brings the start of recreation fires. Recreation fires or bonfires can pose a risk for wildfires if not taken care of properly. In this issue we offer some tips to help prevent wildfires. Please take a look and use them the next time you enjoy a campfire.

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, firefighter training, data collection and public fire education.

Table of Contents

June/July 2009

IAFC - 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival	3
EMR-ISAC - USFA Urges Continued Vigilance by Firefighters to Avoid Exposure to Carcinogens and Other Toxins	4
EMR-ISAC – Staying Safe in Confrontations	5
EMR-ISAC – ESS Response, Safety & Survival	6
5 Ways to Improve Firefighter Fitness	7
DNR – Wildfire Safety Tips	9
Bureau of Fire Services Reminds You to Keep Fire Safety in Mind This Summer	11
NFIRS – Fatal Fire Reporting	12
Fireworks in Michigan	12
NFPA – Fireworks Special Report	14
<u>Staffing at the Bureau</u>	
Staff Spotlight – Jason Hordos	16
<u>Office of Firefighter Training</u>	
Firefighter Health and Safety	17
• National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation’ “Everyone Goes Home”	
• IAFC National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System	
MFFTC Service Adjustments	19
News and Notes from OFFT	20
• Getting That Certificate...	
• New Firefighter I and II Curriculum in 2009...Contact your CTC	
Course Summaries Now to be Emailed	21
Electronic Correspondence	21
Information Needed – Fire Prevention Week 2009 Activities	21
<u>Fire Legislation</u>	
2009 Proposed Legislation	22
<u>Additional Training Opportunities</u>	
MAFC – 2009 Summer Leadership Conference	23



2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival

Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility

Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility encourages chiefs and fire/EMS personnel to focus on what they personally can do to manage risk and enhance their health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

Recommended activities and materials will incorporate four key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives—along with the training and enforcement that support them—can limit fire/EMS personnel's risk of injury or death:

Safety: *Emergency Driving (enough is enough—end senseless deaths)*

1. Lower speeds—stop racing to the scene. Drive safely and arrive alive to help others.
2. Utilize seat belts—never drive or ride without them.
3. Stop at every intersection—look in all directions and then proceed in a safe manner.

Health: *Fire Fighter Heart Disease and Cancer Education and Prevention*

1. Don't smoke or use tobacco products.
2. Get active.
3. Eat a heart-healthy diet.
4. Maintain a healthy weight.
5. Get regular health screenings.

Survival: *Structural Size-Up and Situational Awareness*

1. Keep apprised of different types of building materials and construction used in your community.
2. Develop a comprehensive size-up checklist.
3. Always complete a 360° walk of the structure to collect valuable, operational decision-making information.
4. Learn the practice of reading smoke.
5. Be familiar with the accepted rules of engagement.
6. Learn your accountability system and use it.
7. Master your tools and equipment.
8. Remain calm and concentrate.

Chiefs: *Be the Leader in Safety*

1. Become personally engaged in safety and make it part of your strategic vision for the department.
2. Be willing to make the tough decisions regarding safety policies and practices and their implementation.
3. Hold members of the organization accountable for their safety and the safety of those with whom they work.
4. Ensure that resources are available to accomplish activities safely and effectively.

We encourage all fire/EMS departments to continually review safety policies, evaluate the progress of existing initiatives and discuss health and fitness. Fire/EMS departments should continue to make a concerted effort to correct safety deficiencies and to provide training as needed. Ensure that each shift and duty crew can spend at least one day focusing on fire fighter safety, health, and survival.

Re-Published with permission from the International Association of Fire Chiefs:

<http://www.iafc.org/>

USFA Urges Continued Vigilance by Firefighters to Avoid Exposure to Carcinogens and Other Toxins BY: EMR-ISAC

The United States Fire Administration has completed its review of a recently released study conducted by the TriData Division of the System Planning Corporation, analyzing firefighter presumptive cancer legislation and attempting to prove or disprove a correlation between firefighting activities and the occurrence of cancer. While this study is considered thoughtful and well-presented, its results are scientifically inconclusive, and indicate that more expansive study is in order.

Acting United States Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines noted, "The results of this report clearly indicate that more study and analysis is necessary. It is much too early to abandon presumptive laws and benefits for firefighters who present with cancers. To make such a quantum leap at this point in time may be premature."

Added Administrator Gaines, "What is appropriate at this time is continued vigilance on the part of all firefighters to limit their exposure to toxins and known carcinogens by use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), by proper decontamination of PPE and other equipment, and by use of diesel exhaust removal strategies in fire stations throughout our nation."

As a long time partner of all of the nation's firefighters and fire service organizations, USFA has regularly and continually supported research efforts, specific training, and other initiatives focusing on firefighter wellness and safety issues.

"As with all truly professional disciplines, the fire service must be willing to support independent third party research and reviews of our profession as well as its actions and approaches," said Administrator Gaines. "Just as importantly, and like other professions, we must also focus on prevention and mitigation strategies limiting exposure to toxins and carcinogens by firefighters, be they career or volunteer."

Such strategies can include public education efforts to reduce the occurrence of fires, and mitigation strategies that include adequate enforcement of fire and life safety codes. Additional mitigation strategies include the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all types of occupancies, including residences, throughout our nation.


Future research efforts in the area of firefighter cancer must recognize the myriad dangers faced by firefighters throughout our country, be it asbestos in the older factories of the east, chemical and plating plants in the Midwest, or wildland fires that occur each year throughout the country.

Any future studies must include methodologies to adequately recognize those firefighters who have already experienced legacy exposures, and must include definitive measures of the effectiveness of the improved PPE, decontamination equipment, and diesel exhaust systems placed in service over the past decade.

Those fire departments lacking appropriate equipment to avoid and limit such exposures are encouraged to seek assistance and funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program which presently is accepting applications for funds. The AFG Program has already and dramatically improved the safety of firefighters since the program came into existence by valuing such safety initiatives and providing federal funds direct to local fire departments to assist them in such efforts.

USFA stands ready and willing to assist with any new research efforts that can positively impact on firefighter safety and wellness in our nation.

For more information on all USFA programs and activities, visit the USFA at: www.usfa.dhs.gov

 [Fire and Emergency Medical Services Ergonomics - A Guide for Understanding and Implementing An Ergonomics Program in Your Department \(PDF, 1.9 Mb\)](#)

 [Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire Service \(PDF, 2.1 Mb\)](#)

Staying Safe in Confrontations

By: EMR-ISAC

In an article posted online at FireRescue1 News, “Confrontations with the Public: How to Stay Safe,” Linda Willing discussed how first responders can deal with confrontational, unstable people when both on and off the incident scene. The author, a 20-year veteran of the emergency services, indicates that something must be done to maintain control of the situation and keep yourself and others safe from angry and possibly dangerous individuals. She offers the following guidelines, which were abridged by the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) for the convenience of Emergency Services Sector departments and agencies:

- Immediately acquire backup of another uniformed official. Never try to resolve such situations alone.
- Remain calm and avoid speech or mannerisms that could aggravate the interaction.
- Offer your name, obtain the person's name, and use the individual's name in the conversation.
- Use active listening techniques to clarify the angry person's grievance and to stabilize the situation.
- Assume that the person may be physically or mentally ill, armed, and potentially dangerous.
- Observe the physical characteristics of the individual and any vehicle he/she is driving.
- Contact the local police department if the situation is not quickly settled.
- Report the confrontation to higher authorities regardless of the outcome.

To read the entire article at FireRescue1 containing greater details, see the following link:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Linda-Willing/articles/497591-Confrontations-with-the-Public-How-to-Stay-Safe>.

ESS Response, Safety and Survival

BY: EMR-ISAC

Incident responses can expose Emergency Services Sector (ESS) personnel to unanticipated hazards associated with structures, access, contents, and systems (e.g., stored chemicals, building access, and utility shut-offs). The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) examined resources that offer suggestions to improve safety and survival for responders confronted by the unknown or unexpected.

Among the resources is the FacilitiesNet web site that includes an emergency preparedness section of downloadable articles, guides, and podcasts. In one of the site's recent articles, "Prepare for Emergencies by Networking with First Responders," a chief of emergency services for a commercial facility, who also serves as a municipal fire chief, offers suggestions about how facility managers can prepare to assist responders and improve outcomes:

- Meet with local emergency response agencies periodically to update them on facility systems and hazards.
- Educate yourself about the operations, equipment, and expected level of support from responder organizations in terms of your facility.
- Consider offering training time so local emergency agencies can practice at your facility, and/or host a regional drill.

- Know how to locate and operate building system controls, locations of utility shut-offs, etc., and ensure that someone knowledgeable about the facility is prepared to meet arriving responders.
- Make sure responders have important information (e.g., aerial maps of building with hydrant locations labeled) in case of after-hours/weekend incidents.
- Ask what information in what format would help responders if they have mobile display terminals.
- Mount a key vault for responders on the outside of the facility that holds all necessary keys, building plans, MSDS sheets, and information on shutting off systems.
- Realize that facility managers answer to the incident commander. Leave rescue or suppression operations to the experts. FacilitiesNet resources are seen at <http://www.facilitiesnet.com/emergencypreparedness/default.asp>.

The EMR-ISAC also explored “Emergency Responders Guide for Emergencies Involving Electricity and Gas,” written by PECO Energy (22 pp., 2.3 MB). The guide reviews information helpful when responders are on scene at emergencies where natural gas or electric utilities are involved before utility company workers arrive. The PDF document can be downloaded at <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?85809>.

A number of utilities-based courses for the ESS (such as Public Works/WMD, Disaster Management/Electric Power) are available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Training and Exercise Integration/Training Operations (TEI/TO) at <https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/TEI/tei.do?a=home>.

Firefighter

Health and Wellness

5 Ways to Improve Firefighter Fitness

By Elliott Cross, Battalion Commander, City of Florence Fire/EMS (Florence, KY)

As we all know, heart disease and heart attacks are the number one killer of firefighters in the United States today. If you have certain other risks factors, it is critical that you take measures to improve and maintain good cardio health. Firefighting is a stressful job, that’s nothing new. However there are a few steps that you can take to help prevent heart attacks and heart disease.

Keep reading to discover what you can do to naturally improve your heart function for a long and healthy life.

Lose weight

This should be at the top of your list to get into good physical health overall, but it is especially important to your cardio health. Overweight people are at a higher risk for developing diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and even certain types of

cancer. Obesity will also cause your heart to pump harder which can lead to long term damage.

Due to the extreme temperatures that we are exposed to as firefighters, the more weight you are carrying, the more your heart and body have to work. The heavier you are, the more your body has to work to cool down also. This puts you at a higher risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Imagine carrying the weight of two SCBA's or more all the time...

Stop smoking

I know, you smokers are saying "But I tried and I can't" or "I don't want to." It's your life, do what you want. As a former smoker of more than 20 years, I can honestly say that I don't miss it like I thought I would. I feel better and am performing better on the job.

This habit can put you at a much higher risk for heart attack and stroke. Smoking is one of the most preventable causes of heart disease there is. So if you smoke, stop. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you live with a smoker, insist that they not smoke around you. Second hand smoke can do just as much, if not more, damage to your lungs.

The latest cancer reports can verify the toxic atmospheres that we work in are dangerous and are killing firefighters at an increasing rate. Why would you breath smoke anymore?

Exercise

Your heart is a muscle. The best way to develop any muscle is through exercise. This includes your heart muscle. Exercise gets your blood pumping and makes your heart stronger. It also reduces cholesterol levels and helps to reduce stress.

You don't have to prepare to go and compete in the Firefighter Combat Challenge or anything like that. Even 2 or 3 days of moderate exercise a week can make a difference in your life.

Eat heart healthy foods

Foods that are rich in potassium are good for your heart. You should also try to avoid foods that are high in sodium because sodium will make you retain excess water and put a strain on your heart muscle. Studies have shown that foods that are rich in omega 3 fatty acids are good for your heart. Stop eating the high calorie, high fat junk foods and start eating a diet rich in fiber, fruit and vegetables.

It's hard to eat healthy all the time. Depending on how busy your department is and what your schedule is like, it can be next to impossible. Find the healthiest alternative at the restaurant you are eating at. You will want to pay special attention to the fat content and sodium.

Lower your stress levels

Yeah right! But the Chief...!!!

This can be easier said than done. We all lead busy, stressful lives. If you feel that you are under too much stress, investigate ways to decrease these stress levels. There may be some things you cannot change, but some things you can. If you are trying to be perfect in everything you do, stop.

Nobody is perfect and trying to achieve perfection will cause unneeded stress in your life. Find something that you can do that will de-stress you. Some people like to exercise while others engage in their favorite hobby. Whatever you, do try to lower your stress level to protect your heart from the damage that ongoing stress can cause.

The topics are five of the most common ways you can improve your cardiac health and improve your life. Going quickly are the days where firefighters don't need to be fit. With all of the studies about firefighter deaths and fitness resources that are available to us today, there is no excuse to not be exercising or getting into some type of shape other than round!

This article was re-printed with permission from Elliott Cross (www.firefighterhealthandwellness.com).

Wildfire Safety Tips

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers these great safety tips for wildfire prevention.

1. Contact your local fire official before burning to obtain information about the burning regulations in your area. Some communities forbid burning debris, such as leaves, grass, brush, and trash--others allow burning only during specified hours.
2. Obtain a burning permit (free) from your local fire agency. State law (Part 515, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 451 PA 1994) requires a permit for open burning whenever the ground is not snow-covered--even on your own property. On dry, windy days, burning restrictions may be in effect. State law prohibits burning anything other than yard debris, brush, or household trash.
3. All burn barrels must be covered with a weighted metal cover, with holes no larger than 3/4 inch--it's the law!
4. Consider alternatives to burning--leaves and grass make a fine mulch for gardens, or they can be composted; newspapers and many other every-day household items may be recycled. Recycling and composting eliminates the risk of wildfire and the smoke that comes with burning of trash and yard wastes.

5. Always use the ashtray when smoking in your vehicle. Matches tossed from a car window, farm vehicle, or off-road vehicle (ORV) can ignite leaves or grass, causing a wildfire. Never grind a cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco out on a stump or log.
6. Use a spark-arresting screen on your fireplace or woodstove chimney. Use a wire mesh grating, with holes no larger than 1/2 inch. Make it a practice of keeping your roof clear of leaves and other debris. This will prevent sparks from falling on your roof and igniting leaves and pine needles trapped in roof valleys and gutters.
7. Maintain a ring of safety around your home to protect it from wildfires. Keep grass mowed within 30' of all buildings--a mowed lawn will help protect your home from wildfires. Thin out trees within 30 feet of any building so that their crowns don't touch, and trim the bottom branches of all evergreen trees to six feet above the ground.
8. Make sure your house number is visible from the street, so fire fighters can locate your home quickly. Keep your driveway wide, accessible, and in good condition for fire trucks to get to your home. Plan safe evacuation routes in case of a large wildfire. Have more than one means of getting to your home.
9. Extinguish all outdoor fires properly. Drown fires with plenty of water, then stir. Continue adding water and stirring until everything is cold to the touch. Dunk charcoal in water until cold. Do not throw live charcoal on the ground and leave it; it will smolder and could start a wildfire.
10. Always build your campfire in a metal or masonry fire ring. If none are available, scrape away any burnable material until you get to mineral soil, which will not burn. Keep your fire small and have an adequate water supply to extinguish it properly. Make sure every unburned piece is cold to the touch before you leave.
11. Never leave a fire unattended. Sparks can blow into leaves or grass and quickly spread. Keep a shovel and charged garden hose nearby while burning so that they can be quickly used to extinguish a fire in an emergency. Maintain a 10-foot diameter circle around your debris pile or burn barrel clear of tall grass and other burnable material.
12. Always store ashes in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Do not place them in a paper bag, cardboard box, or plastic bucket. When dumping ashes outdoors, place them on snow or dispose of them on a rainy day. Wet them thoroughly with water to be sure all coals are out completely

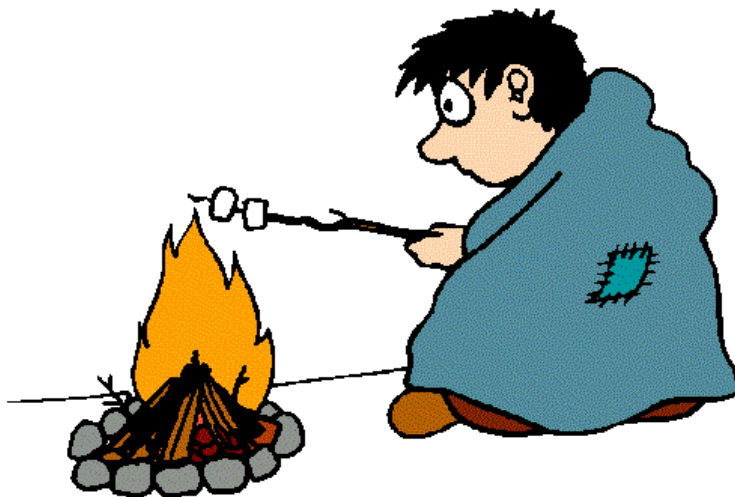


13. Be careful with matches. Keep all matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children. In only 10% of the child-caused fires do children have to work to obtain matches or a lighter.
14. Parents, caution your children about playing with matches or lighters. Teach them that fire is a useful tool, not a plaything. Also teach them to report any fire they see, or any child playing with fire, to an adult.
15. Keep all internal combustion engines used outdoors properly tuned. Such engines must also have a properly functioning spark arrestor. Poorly tuned engines without spark arresting mufflers can emit carbon sparks, causing a wildfire.

Click [here](#) for campfire tips.

Bureau of Fire Services Reminds You to Keep Fire Safety in Mind This Summer

The lure of sunshine and warm weekends will bring many of us to Michigan's numerous campgrounds and forests. To prevent the danger of wildfires, campers are reminded to check with the forest ranger, campground operators, and local and state laws relating to lighting and maintaining open fires. When leaving your camping area, ensure all trash and combustible material is properly disposed of and open fires are properly extinguished. Extinguished meaning all hot spots are eliminated to prevent later combustion. The Uniform Fire Code requires that permitted open fires cannot be less than 50 feet from any structure and recreational fires cannot be less than 25 feet from any structure. Remember, only YOU can prevent wildfires.



NFIRS News

FATAL FIRE REPORTING

In addition to the basic NFIRS report, the Bureau of Fire Services 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 hours of the death. The report form is available at http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html.

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

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2008 reported as of 12/1/08*

January	12
February	31
March	22
April	10
May	13
June	7
July	2
August	1
September	7
October	13
November	3
December	15

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2009 reported as of 5/28/2009*

January	8
February	11
March	10

*Statistics do not include City of Detroit's fire reporting.

Fireworks in Michigan



Michigan Law, 1931 PA 328, as amended, MCL 750.243; MSA 28.440, regulates the sale, possession, transportation, and use of fireworks devices within the state.

Legal Devices - Class C Fireworks:

- Toy smoke devices
- Toy caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive content per cap
- Toy propellant devices, toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers, and toy guns in which paper caps are used

- Sparklers containing no more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler
- Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter
- Cone and cylinder fountains (emits showers of sparks)
- Toy snakes not containing mercury and packed no more than 12 per box

Michigan does not carry age restrictions for purchase or use of Class C fireworks. The above legal devices can be sold without a permit.

Permit Process

- Permits are required for Class B fireworks and fireworks displays. Class B fireworks as defined in the Michigan Penal Code, Act 328 of 1931, as amended, section 750.243a(b) are:
 - “...toy torpedoes, railway torpedoes, firecrackers or salutes that do not qualify as class C fireworks, exhibition display pieces, aeroplane flares, illuminating projectiles, incendiary projectiles, incendiary grenades, smoke projectiles or bombs containing expelling charges but without bursting charges, flash powders in inner units not exceeding 2 ounces each, flash sheets in interior packages, flash powder or spreader cartridges containing not more than 72 grains of flash powder each, and other similar devices.”*
- Individuals interested in conducting a fireworks display using regulated devices must contact the local governing body of the jurisdiction where the proposed display will be conducted to obtain the required permit.
- Permits are issued by local units of government on forms provided by the Bureau of Fire Services.

Applicants should be prepared to do the following:

- Submit application to local governing body
- Submit proof of training and qualifications to conduct a pyrotechnic display
- Submit proof of financial responsibility (insurance or bond)
- Submit general plan to local governing body outlining how the display will be conducted.
- Demonstrate knowledge of recommended safety requirements as outlined in National Fire Protection Association pamphlets #1123, 1124, and 1126.

Local governing body should:

- Examine application thoroughly
- Examine proof of training and qualifications, rule on competency
- Examine proof of financial responsibility (local governing body determines the required amount of insurance or bond)
- Examine applicant's knowledge of recommended safety standards as outlined in National Fire Protection Association pamphlets #1123, 1124, and 1126.
- Consult with your attorney for advice on legal issues related to fireworks displays.

Transportation and storage of fireworks

Permits are required to transport or store any device other than those listed as not requiring a permit. Generally, a one-story, non-combustible building is required. See 1931 PA 328, as amended, for specific storage requirements.

Fireworks must be transported in compliance with rules promulgated by the Michigan State Police, Motor Carrier Division. Contact the Hazardous Materials Section for specific transportation issues.

Information:

Forms are distributed by the Bureau of Fire Services to local units of government only. A local unit of government is defined as a council or commission for a city or village and a township board for a township.

For additional information contact the Bureau of Fire Services at (517) 241-8847.

Fireworks

National Fire Analysis and Research Division

National Fire Protection Association

Special Report by John R. Hall, Jr.

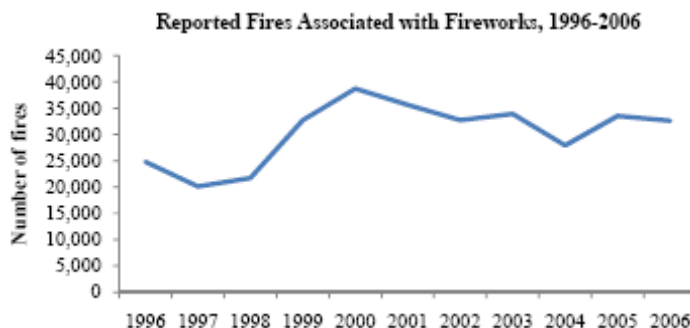
Reproduced from NFPA's Web site, © NFPA (2009)



Size of the Fireworks Problem

On Independence Day in a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

- In 2006, fireworks caused an estimated **32,600** reported fires, including **1,700** total structure fires, **600** vehicle fires, and **30,300** outside and other fires.
- These fires resulted in an estimated **6** civilian deaths, **70** civilian injuries and **\$34 million** in direct property damage.



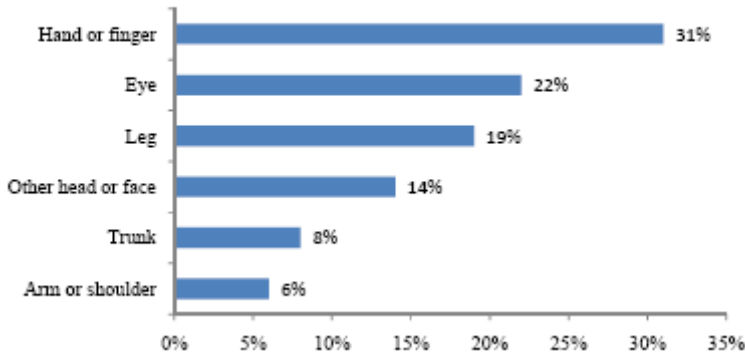
FACT: 900 home structure fires were caused by fireworks in 2006.

Characteristics of Fireworks Injuries

In 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated **9,800** people for fireworks-related injuries.

- **56%** of 2007 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and **36%** were to the head.

2007 Fireworks-Related Injuries, by Part of Body



FACT: Males accounted for 70% of fireworks injuries in 2007

- **49%** of the 2007 fireworks injuries were burns, while **29%** were contusions and lacerations.
- **Two of five (42%)** people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.
- The risk of fireworks injury was **two-and-a-half** times as high for children ages 5-9 or 10-14 as for the general population.
- Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for **36%** of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2007.



2007 Fire

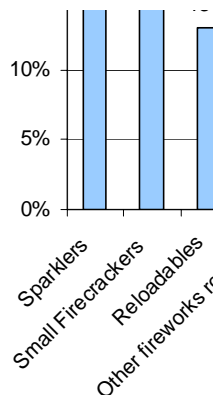


Risk

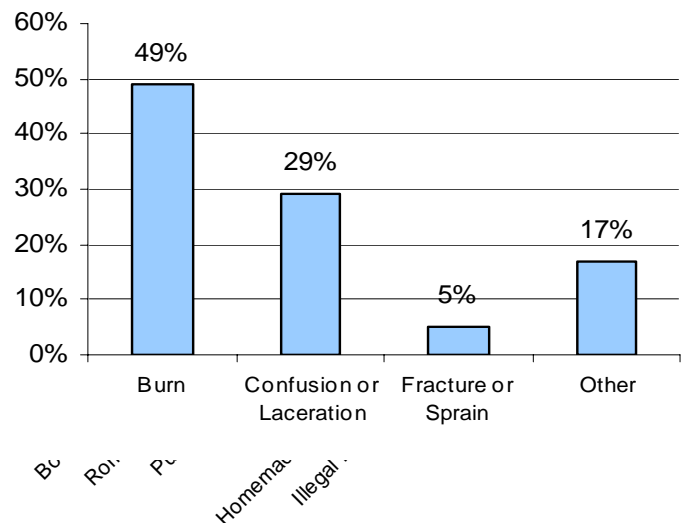
FACT: 92% of the fireworks injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms involved fireworks that federal regulations permit consumers to use.

The risk of fire death relative to time used shows fireworks as the riskiest consumer product.

- The risk that someone will die from fire when fireworks are being used is higher relative to exposure time than the risk of fire death when a cigarette is being smoked.



2007 Fireworks-Related Injuries by Type of Injury



- The risks with fireworks are **not** limited to displays, public or private. Risks also exist wherever fireworks are **manufactured, transported, or stored.**

- “Safe and sane” fireworks are neither. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F.



FACT: The following five states have banned access by the public to all fireworks: Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

NFPA encourages people to enjoy public displays of fireworks that comply with NFPA 1123. NFPA is strongly opposed to any consumer use of fireworks.

Staffing at the Bureau

Staff Spotlight

Jason Hordos, Detroit Region Fire Safety Inspector

Jason began working as a fire safety inspector with the State of Michigan, Bureau of Fire Services in 2005. He works out of the BFS' Detroit field office under the supervision of Mick Dingman. His current job duties include conducting annual inspections at homes for the aged, nursing homes (federal), adult foster care homes, hospitals and surgical centers; conducting inspections for building projects listed previously and schools (grade schools and colleges). His current assigned inspection area includes the west half of Oakland County.

In addition to his position with the BFS, Jason is a lieutenant with the Brighton Area Fire Department where he's worked for the last 12 years. He also teaches at the fire department and Firefighter I & II academies. Jason currently holds the following certifications:

- Certified State of Michigan Fire Inspector I
- Certified NFPA Fire Inspector I
- Certified CMS Inspector
- Certified State of Michigan Firefighter 1 & 2 Instructor
- State of Michigan Firefighter 1 & 2
- State of Michigan Fire Officer 1 & 2
- State of Michigan Hazardous Materials Operations Level
- State of Michigan Medical First Responder
- Certified open water diver

He has attended Michigan State University, Lansing Community College, and Saginaw Valley State University. He resides in Brighton with his wife and step-son.

Office of Firefighter Training

Firefighter Health and Safety

By Joe Grutza, Director, OFFT

With June being Firefighter Health and Safety Month, it is a great opportunity to acknowledge two excellent programs that have been developed to help firefighters survive while performing one of the most dangerous occupations in the world. They are the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "Everyone Goes Home" program and the International Association of Fire Chief's "National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System." Following is a brief summary of the two programs.

National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation' "Everyone Goes Home"

In April of 2004, fire service leaders from across the United States gathered in Tampa, Florida. At this summit meeting, they began to design a new fire service culture. This new culture would be built on 16 firefighter initiatives to assure that every firefighter goes home safely.

Since 1984, 3175 fire fighters have died in the line of duty. Many thousands more have been injured. We accept 100 deaths every year as normal. The goal of *Everyone Goes Home* is to reduce that number by 50% by 2014.

The initiatives address six focus areas:

- Prevention
- Structural fire fighting
- Wild land operations
- Health, wellness and fitness
- Vehicles
- Training

The initiatives address six root causes for Line of Duty Deaths (LODD)

- Ineffective policies and procedures
- Ineffective decision making
- Lack of preparedness
- Ineffective leadership
- Lack of personal responsibility
- Extraordinary and unpredictable circumstances

The *Everyone Goes Home* program uses the 16 initiatives to promote firefighters to develop a courage to be safe. That means standing up and saying, “I am not going to accept the number of fatalities and injuries we suffer. I am going to be strong and change the culture that we work in.” The success of this program will be determined by the number of firefighters that will take responsibility for their safety and the safety of their fellow firefighters. For more information on how you and your department can participate in this program, go to their website, www.everyonegoeshome.com

IAFC National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

In 2004, the International Association of Fire Chiefs received a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to develop the National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System (www.firefighternearmiss.com). Modeled after the 30-year old Aviation Safety Reporting System, the goal of this program is to provide data and case studies for efforts related to the prevention and reduction of injuries and fatalities in the fire and emergency service. Near-miss incidents are considered to be any event that could have caused an injury, fatality, or property damage if not for a fortunate break in the chain of events. It is believed that there are 300 near misses for every serious accident; thus, there are 300 opportunities to prevent a more serious injury or fatality by studying near misses.

Firefighters visit www.firefighternearmiss.com to voluntarily, anonymously, and confidentially submit their stories so that others can learn from their experiences. Reports are stripped of all identifying information and analyzed prior to being posted on the website. Report submitters state that the reason they submit reports is to help another firefighter. Since the website launched in August 2005, firefighters from the largest metropolitan departments to one-station rural departments have submitted more than 2600 reports creating a virtual firehouse kitchen table.

The need for a near-miss reporting system is supported by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Life Safety Initiative #9 which states: “Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries and near misses.” Many fire departments have integrated near-miss reporting into their training and safety programs. The easiest way to participate in the program is to subscribe to the weekly training e-mail “Report of the Week.” To do so, visit www.firefighternearmiss.com and subscribe using the link on the top right-hand side of the homepage.

The program is governed by an Advisory Board, led by Mr. Dennis Smith, and includes leaders in the fire fighter safety community, including Chief Alan Brunacini, Chief David Daniels, and Chief Billy Goldfeder. The program’s success is due in large part to the partnerships with the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and other industry organizations. This program continues to be funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Michigan’s own chief Jim Harmes says it best: “As president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (2006-2007) I was involved in the early stages of the Near-Miss Program. It is exciting to see that the fire and emergency service has embraced

this program as a tool to help prevent firefighter injuries and fatalities. I have used the Near-Miss Program in the development of my officers in the Grand Blanc Fire Department. When there was a promotion Oral Board, they were to research a "Near-Miss" incident, explain it and then they were to discuss how they would handle the situation. It worked great, plus it got them used to using the Near-Miss Program. I also used the Near-Miss Program for my new recruits. They researched an incident and explain what happened and how they would see it not happening to them. Again, it got them interested in what was going on and how to use the Near-Miss Program. I encourage all members of Michigan's fire and emergency departments to be proactive in seeking out this type of free training information by visiting www.firefighternearmiss.com."

The Bureau of Fire Services is dedicated to the vision of these two fine programs. Through our office and through this newsletter, we will continue to provide support and encouragement.

MFFTC Service Adjustments

Effective May 6, 2009, the following adjustments have been made in the operations of the Office of Firefighter Training. These changes are being made to reflect the reduction in general funding to the Office of Firefighter Training and are in effect until further notice.

- MFFTC certificates will be produced for the following classes only: FF1, FF2, FF1 and 2, Drivers Training (BFS 123), Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Material Operations. The OFFT will process all courses and the results will be entered into the student's electronic training record within OFFT's information management system. Course managers will receive a course summary sheet by e-mail, with copies going to the appropriate region supervisor, training coordinator and instructor. It will be the course managers' responsibility to inform the students of their results. The OFFT is working on alternative certificate production for non-qualifying courses in the future.
- Examination booklets will be sent for courses that are statutorily required or federally funded: FF 1, FF 2, FF 1 and 2, Drivers Training, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations. Courses will be sent an appropriate ship list and test scan sheets. Evaluation Sheets will no longer be provided. Concerns about MFFTC courses should be forwarded to the appropriate region supervisor for review. All other required materials will be sent on a disc or e-mailed. The course manager will be responsible for printing required class materials and can either charge students or have county training committee pay for printing costs.
- All county training chairpersons and course managers and instructors are required to keep and maintain a current e-mail address. It is the county training committee chairperson's, course manager's and instructor's responsibility to notify the OFFT of their e-mail addresses and keeping it current. The OFFT will not be responsible for e-mails found to be undeliverable. To assure that your e-

mail address is correctly recorded at the OFFT, please send an e-mail to Mary Egnor at egnerm@michigan.gov



News and Notes from the OFFT

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



Getting That Certificate...

With the recent service adjustments by the Office of Firefighter Training, requests for certificates of non-statutorily required courses continue to come in. As a temporary solution, if a student would like to receive a certificate for a class other than Firefighter I and II, drivers training, or hazmat awareness and operations, they must provide their course manager with a large, self-addressed envelope and sufficient postage. The course manager then will submit the envelopes to our office with their final course material. We hope this will fill the void as we work toward a more efficient and economical process. We are sorry but the Office of Firefighter Training cannot accept individual requests.

New Firefighter I and II Curriculum in 2009... Contact your CTC

Beginning in October 2009, the OFFT will be using the three new curriculums that were adopted by the Michigan Firefighters Training Council. IFSTA, Jones and Bartlett and Cengage/Delmar can be used for your FF I, FF II, FF I and II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations courses. The OFFT will provide only one of the three instructor packets to each county. Your county training chairperson will be receiving a letter from our office asking which of the publications you would like to receive. The CTC is responsible to survey the fire departments in their county to determine their choice. Now is the time to contact your CTC and let them know which one your county prefers. Remember, although the OFFT will provide a single instructor packet to each county, you are still able to use any of the three. A single state examination which covers NFPA 1001 – 2008 will support all publications.

Course Summaries Now To Be E-mailed

In an effort to keep our expenses within budget for the Office of Firefighter Training, we are now e-mailing the course summaries to the course managers, training coordinators, and instructor of record. We have found that several e-mail addresses are outdated making it impossible to send the course summaries to all instructors.

We are asking that you update your contact information with your region supervisor. This can be done by sending your information to your region supervisor. Please contact them by e-mail:

Region 1 Supervisor – Dan Hammerberg
Region 2 Supervisor – Gary Crum

hammerbergd@michigan.gov
crumg@michigan.gov



Electronic Correspondence

The Bureau of Fire Services began using electronic correspondence as a way of communicating rather than the traditional hard copy, “snail-mail” way, about two years ago. More and more correspondence from the bureau is going electronic. It has been brought to our attention that several BFS customers were not receiving correspondence from us. After some research, it was determined that those with a YAHOO! e-mail account are not compatible with the State of Michigan e-mail server. We recommend those that use Yahoo as their primary server for email to use a different account such as Google, or hotmail when corresponding with us.

INFORMATION NEEDED

Fire Prevention Week 2009 will be observed October 4-10. What are your plans for Fire Prevention Week 2009? Please e-mail Terry Fobbs at fobbst@michigan.gov with your program. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has created a National Public Education group with representatives from each state. The focus of this group is to share ideas, programs, and events – our goal is to provide resources and use this opportunity to “brag about you”!!!

Terry can be reached at 517-241-6858 or at the e-mail provided above.

Fire Legislation

Current status of 2009 proposed fire legislation.

2009 Proposed Legislation

Bill No.	Subject	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Status
HB 4026	Creates the ability for the Bureau of Fire Services to set fees for services required under PA 207.	1/22/2009	Rep. Rick Hammel	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations
HB 4029	Provides for per capita distribution of revenue sharing for cities, villages, and townships.	1/22/2009	Rep. Tim Moore (R)	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations
HB 4062	Repeals public service employment residency requirement.	1/22/2009	Rep. Lamar Lemmons (D)	Referred to the Committee on Urban Policy
HB 4081	Permits Right-to-Work Zones.	1/23/2009	Rep. Marty Knollenbery (R)	Referred to the Committee on Labor
HB 4320	Permits millage levy assessed for police and fire districts on a per parcel or ad valorem basis.	2/17/2009	Rep. Geoff Hansen (R)	Referred to the Committee on Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs
HB 4473	Provides for presumption for certain firefighters regarding occupational cancer.	2/27/2009	Rep. Jennifer Haase	Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism
SB 20	Requirement for bars installed on windows to have an escape latch attached.	1/27/09	Sen. John Gleason	Referred to Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform
SB 85	Regulates sale of novelty lighters.	1/27/2009		Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism
SB 109	Provides a cancer presumption for certain forms of cancer for firefighters.	1/28/2009	Sen. Valde Garcia (R)	Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism
SB 205	Clarifies standards for university fire safety inspections.	2/10/2009	Sen. Deb Cherry (D)	Referred to the Committee on Education
SB 264	Requires fire safe cigarettes.	2/19/09	Sen. Tupac Hunter (D)	Passed and sent to governor for signing
SB 265	Empowers Dept. of Treasury to investigate and enforce fire safe cigarette statute.	2/19/2009	Sen. Tupac Hunter (D)	Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Additional Training Opportunities



2009 Summer Leadership Conference

What's on the horizon for the Fire Service?

- At the National level?
- At the State Level?
- At the Association Level?

July 29-31, 2009

Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City

For more information and registration:

<http://www.michiefs.org/>

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 Joseph Grutza at 517-335-3496 or grutzaj@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>



DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.