

Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Fall 1999

America Burning Recommissioned

At the President's request, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), James Lee Witt, has asked a panel from the nation's fire service community to revisit *America Burning: The Report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control*.

"As we mark the 25th anniversary of this landmark report, it is time to reexamine the evolving role of the fire services in the safety and sustainability of today's American communities," Witt said. "The original report focused attention on the nation's fire problem, the needs of the fire services and allied professions, and resulted in the creation of the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy. The new report will help us in our national effort to continue tangible reductions in our country's losses to fires."

America Burning is still recognized by many in the U.S. fire services and allied professions as the single most significant publi-

cation on the management of the fire hazard in the history of the United States. The new report will build upon the original document and provide a critical framework for the evolving role of the fire services in the safety and sustainability of today's American communities.

Witt has asked George K. Bernstein, Esq., to chair the new panel. Bernstein has extensive experience and expertise in the development of federal programs that address and manage hazards.

The other 21 panel members, listed below, were chosen because of their unique expertise and understanding of the issues facing today's fire community. They represent the broad spectrum of disciplines that combined will contribute to improving fire services into the next century. The panel will begin meeting in Washington, D.C., later this year.

Panel Members List

Mr. George Bernstein
Panel Chair
Washington, D.C.

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Phoenix Fire Department
Phoenix, Arizona

Mr. Ron Coleman
Elk Grove, California

Chief Jack McElfish
Richmond Fire Department
Richmond, Virginia

Chief John Buckman
German Township Fire
Department, Inc.
Evansville, Indiana

Chief Bill Peterson
Plano Fire Department
Plano, Texas

Mr. Al Whitehead
General President
International Association of
Fire Fighters
Washington, D.C.

Ms. Carol Shelton
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Fire & Rescue Division
Dahlgren, Virginia

Mr. Lamont Ewell
City Manager
Durham, North Carolina

Ms. Cynthia Wilk
Chair, NFA Board of Visitors
Trenton, New Jersey

Mr. Arthur J. Glatfelter
Volunteer Firemen's Insurance
Services, Inc.
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Toledo Fire Department
Toledo, Ohio

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Reedy Creek Emergency
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Chief John Eversole
Chicago Fire Department
Chicago, Illinois

Chief Herman Brice
Palm Beach County Fire
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West Palm Beach, Florida

Chief Bill Pessemier
Littleton Fire Department
Littleton, Colorado

Ms. Alvina Drennan
New York City, New York

Ms. Jane Smith
San Francisco, California

Mr. Dean Ockerbloom
Avon, Connecticut

Mr. Melvin L. Stark
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Glen Corbett
Waldwick, New Jersey

Mr. Louis T. Fiore
President, Central Station
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Sparta, New Jersey

PROVIDING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRE MARSHALS SINCE 1906

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We encourage you to send items of interest to:

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NFPA
One Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101
Quincy, MA 02269-9101

Filicide by Fire—Killing America's Children

By Dale I. Reisen, Fire Investigator, Estero Fire Rescue, Estero, FL

As fire investigators, we respond to hundreds of fires over the years. Our investigations become a basic routine in our job that we enjoy until a child perishes in a fire. While driving to the scene, we presume that the children died while playing with matches because of the high percent of fire deaths by this method. We think about interviewing the grieving parents and how shocked they will appear by this tragic loss of their child, or will they?

Did these parents deliberately kill their children? This tragic scene is growing throughout the United States. The killing of children by fire is unthinkable, and it is incomprehensible for the parents to start the fire, but this crime is increasing and is being overlooked by fire investigators. The Arson and Bombing Investigative Services Unit of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime located at the FBI Academy states that this phenomenon is known as *Filicide by Fire*. It is the method of using fire as the instrument of death, in which the murderer is a parent of the victim.

We have seen filicide take place by drowning when Susan Smith murdered her two children by strapping them in a car seat and letting her vehicle roll into a lake. Smith believed that if the children were removed, she could reconcile her difficulties in life and live happily.

The FBI Academy located in Quantico, VA, lists motives for parents who use filicide by fire as unwanted child filicide.

These murders are committed to remove a perceived obstacle, to get rid of a nuisance. Acutely psychotic filicide refers to parents who are psychotic, such as a single parent who is severely depressed, stabs his/her child to death, then sets the structure on fire to hide the crime. Spouse revenge filicide refers to an estranged wife or husband who decides to deprive the other of the thing that they treasure the most - their child; they do so by fire.

Murder for profit filicide refers to parents who take out a large life insurance policy on their children not long before they die in a fire, set by the parent. We are now seeing this act performed throughout the United States. In West Virginia, parents were charged with arson and murder for killing their five children to collect on an insurance policy. In Phoenix, a mother is accused of pouring gasoline on her three children and then lighting it. And in a recent case in Ocala, FL, a father is charged with first-degree arson and aggravated child abuse after setting his son on fire to prove to his girlfriend how much he loved her children. In these cases, during their first interview with investigators, the parents told investigators that the children were playing with matches.

This type of homicide can go undetected unless your investigator completes an in-depth investigation. By using the physical evidence approach, along with the evidence developed through interviews of witnesses and family members, the successful prosecution of the person or persons responsible for this crime can be better realized.

Interviews should be done with parents as soon as possible, along with witnesses, members of the family, neighbors, firefighters, and police officers who were first on the scene. We must not forget to cover all the bases by also interviewing child protective agencies, school officials, and insurance agencies.

Common facts that have been put together on these types of fires are:

- The children are young, of preschool age, but rarely older than eight years of age. Older children are most likely to escape and report what happened.
- Fires take place during late night or early morning hours.
- In some cases the children will have already been shot, stabbed, or strangled to death before the fire was set.
- Flammable liquid is frequently used to get the fire started and to help it spread.

- Escape routes can be blocked. Some rearrange the furniture to make it hard for the children to escape. Parents have been known to place large objects in the path of egress, like a mattress or dresser.
- Parents will state that they were in bed asleep when the fire occurred, but most parents will be fully dressed.
- Rescue attempts by the adult were faint-hearted. There is little or no sign of prolonged or dangerous exposure to heat. Stated heroic or desperate rescue attempts do not match with the appearance of the adult.
- There is inappropriate behavior, such as little or no grief exhibited by the parent. In conversations with neighbors at the scene, the guilty party speaks very little about the children and instead discusses material losses.
- Careless comments may be made hours or days later by the guilty party. Remarks such as, "Now we can get on with our lives," or "Now I am free to do as I wish." These statements can be made to friends, neighbors, and family.
- The parents are already knowledgeable to social services or child protective agencies through previous neglect or other charges.

A study was conducted in which males were shown to be predominately active in fighting the fire while females were predominately concerned with alerting others. Males were also prone to re-enter the burning structure to fight the fire or to rescue others, like children, even if causing injury to themselves.

We need to educate our fire investigators to the phenomenon of filicide by fire so that these crimes against children are not overlooked.

Captain Dale I. Reisen works in the Fire Prevention Division of Estero Fire District in Estero, FL. He has been in the fire service for the past 16 years and is a State Certified Fire/Arson Investigator.

Question and Answer

NFPA's Codes- and Standards-Making System

Q. How do you submit proposals to NFPA codes and standards?

A. Anyone may submit a proposal—you don't have to be a member of NFPA, just interested in the particular code or standard. There is a proposal form located in the back of each code and standard, and forms are available in the *NFPA Directory*. Since September 1997, you've also been able to submit proposals on the NFPA codes and standards home page.

The proposal closing date for specific documents entering the revision phase of the codes- and standards-making system is announced in many publications a minimum of 21 weeks before the proposal closing date. Proposals are accepted on codes and standards at any time, but those received after the code or standard's proposal closing date or while the code or standard is not in revision cycle are held until the next cycle, which could be up to five years.

We will walk you through each part of the proposal form:

Part 1 identifies the code or standard for which you wish to submit a proposal. You need to supply the title, number, edition of the document, and section you wish to change.

Part 2 tells the committee what you wish done to the section specified in Part 1. You check either new to add new text, revised to change existing text, or delete to remove existing text.

Part 3 gives the exact text you'd like added to, or changed in, the

document. It's best to submit the proposal in legislative text, which means you underline new text and strikeout deleted text. By showing the text in this format, you clarify to the committee exactly what you wish to change.

Part 4 tells the committee why this proposal is necessary. You should provide all appropriate information so the committee can make an informed decision.

Part 5 tells where the proposal came from, either you or somewhere else.

You must also read and sign the disclaimer if your proposal is to be placed in the process.

After you've completed the form, you can either mail or fax it to NFPA at the following address:

National Fire Protection Association
Standards Council Secretary
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 00269-9101
Fax: (617) 770-3500

To participate in NFPA's codes- and standards-making system only takes your commitment to the system, your time to fill out the proposal form, and the cost of a stamp or fax. Your input is invaluable to the improvement of NFPA codes and standards and the effect they have on protecting life and property from the adverse effects of fire.

See Proposal Form on page 5.

Electronic Quarterly

Would you like to receive the *Quarterly* before anyone else? If you would like the *Quarterly* E-mailed to you in PDF format, instead of a paper copy, please fill out the form below and send to the executive secretary or E-mail the information to IFMA@nfpa.org.

IFMA Electronic Quarterly Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

NFPA Membership Number: _____

I would like to receive the IFMA *Quarterly* by E-mail instead of a paper copy.

Signature: _____

FORM FOR PROPOSALS ON NFPA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS

NOTE: All Proposals Must Be Received By 5:00 P.M. EST/EDST On The Published Proposal Closing Date.

For further information on the standards-making process, please contact the Codes and Standards Administration at 617-984-7249

For technical assistance, please call NFPA at 617-770-3000

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Log #: _____

Date Rec'd: _____

Please indicate in which format you wish to receive your ROP/ROC [] electronic [] paper [] download (Note: In choosing the download option you intend to view the ROP/ROC from our Website, no copy will be sent to you.)

Date _____ Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Company _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please Indicate Organization Represented (if any) _____

1. a) NFPA Document Title _____ NFPA No. & Year _____

b) Section/Paragraph _____

2. Proposal recommends: (check one) [] new text [] revised text [] deleted text

3. Proposal (include proposed new or revised wording, or identification of wording to be deleted); (Note: Proposed text should be in legislative format: i.e., use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (deleted wording).) _____

4. Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Proposal: (Note: State the problem that will be resolved by your recommendation; give the specific reason for your proposal including copies of tests, research papers, fire experience, etc. If more than 200 words, it may be abstracted for publication.) _____

5. [] This Proposal is original material. (Note: Original material is considered to be the submitter's own idea based on or as a result of his/her own experience, thought, or research and, to the best of his/her knowledge, is not copied from another source.)

[] This Proposal is not original material, its source (if known) is as follows: _____

I hereby grant the NFPA all and full rights in copyright, in this proposal, and I understand that I acquire no rights in any publication of NFPA in which this proposal in this or another similar or analogous form is used.

Signature (Required) _____

PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PROPOSAL • NFPA Fax: (617) 770-3500

Mail to: Secretary, Standards Council, National Fire Protection Association 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269

Congress Introduces Roadside Emergency Safety Act **From the National Volunteer Fire Council**

On May 27, Congressman Tony Hall (D-OH) introduced legislation, H.R. 1990, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to take actions to improve the safety of persons present at roadside emergency scenes.

If passed, the bill will direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to evaluate means of improving the safety of persons present at roadside emergency scenes, including motor vehicle accident scenes. The study conducted by the Secretary must include an evaluation of the effectiveness of state laws designed to improve the safety of persons present at roadside emergency scenes; an evaluation of the feasibility of requiring drivers operating motor vehicles approaching a roadside emergency scene to take certain precautionary steps; and the collection of statistics that may be necessary to assist policy makers in addressing issues of safety at roadside emergency scenes.

No later than 180 days after the completion of the study, the Secretary of Transportation would have to establish and begin to implement a program to improve the safety of emergency personnel at roadside emergency scenes. The program will promote public awareness regarding safety at roadside emergency scenes; provide assistance for education and training to emergency personnel regarding safety at roadside emergency scenes; and provide technical assistance regarding equipment, highway design, and emergency responses that enhance the safety of emergency personnel at roadside emergency scenes.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Update on H.R. 1168—The FIRE Bill **From the National Volunteer Fire Council**

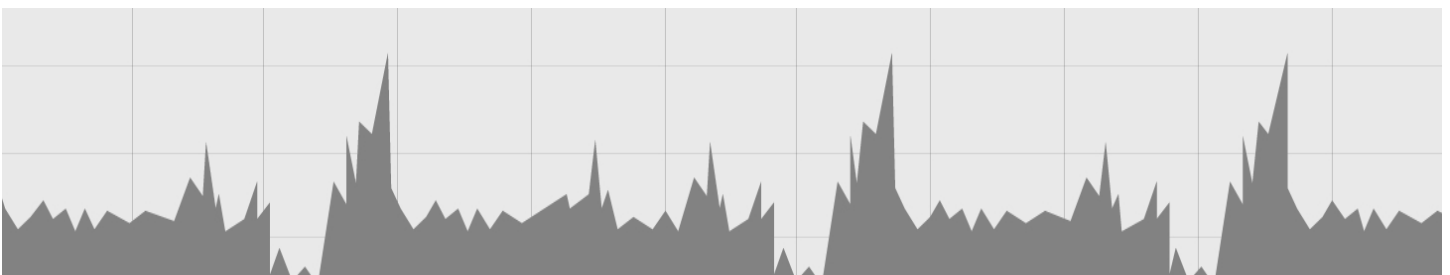
The Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act, introduced on March 17 by Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Curt Weldon (R-PA), is picking up steam. As of this writing it has 148 co-sponsors.

If passed, the bill would authorize \$5 billion in grants to fire departments over 5 years (\$1 billion each year for five years) and would attempt to give firefighters the level of funding the federal government has provided to law enforcement, educators, and other professionals. The bill is currently awaiting action in the House Committee on Science and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The legislation, which was introduced in a similar format during the last Congressional session, will provide grants to fire departments for personnel, training, RAID teams, certification

of fire inspectors, wellness/fitness programs, EMS expenses, apparatus, communications, PPE, infrastructure modification, fire code enforcement, fire prevention programs, and public education. The grants are available to volunteer, paid, and combination departments. Fire departments must match 10 percent of the grant to be eligible. In addition, local governments must keep their fire departments' budget at the same level it has been at for the two fiscal years prior to receiving the grant. This is to ensure that fire departments do not lose local funding solely because they receive a grant under this program.

Please call/write your Representative's office and urge them to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1168, the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act.



IFMA Merchandise Order Form

IFMA has a new line of merchandise to promote IFMA. They include a new 100% cotton white golf shirt with red and blue stripped collar and sleeves and a blue nylon windshirt with hand pockets, both come with the IFMA logo on the left breast.

Golf Shirt - \$30.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____

Baseball Hat - \$15.00 each, includes postage and handling

Number	Cost	Total Cost
_____	\$15.00	_____

Wind Shirt - \$40.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____

Grand Total: \$ _____

Check enclosed; *please make payable to IFMA*

Charge my credit card. MasterCard Visa American Express

Card #: _____ Card Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail or fax to:

IFMA
 Attention - Order
 1 Batterymarch Park
 Quincy, MA 02269
 Fax 617-984-7056

1st ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS CONFERENCE

The International Fire Marshals Association is proud to sponsor the 1st Annual International Fire Marshals Conference. This conference is a unique opportunity to bring together all interested fire prevention, fire inspection, fire investigation, and fire safety education personnel to provide professional development, discuss items of mutual interest, and provide guidance on the future direction of the fire prevention profession.

This conference is held in conjunction with the NFPA Fall Meeting. For one low price you can attend both the International Fire Marshals Conference and the NFPA Fall Meeting.

The International Fire Marshals Conference consists of three distinct components:

- Educational Programs
- Business Meeting
- Codes and Standards Development

The conference starts with four educational programs on Saturday, November 13, and Sunday, November 14. The educational programs consist of three four-hour sessions and a two-day course. A special session, "Developing Effective Relationships with Elected Officials," is being offered as part of the week-long Management Institute for Fire Marshals Course. The remaining part, "Evaluation of Fire Prevention Programs," will be offered at future conferences.

The educational programs consist of the following courses:

- Legal Aspects of Fire Investigation—4 hours
- Legal Aspects of Fire Prevention—4 hours
- An Overview of the IFMA Principles of Fire Protection Engineering—4 hours
- How to Deal Effectively with Elected Officials-Management Institute for Fire Marshals—16 hours

Program

Saturday, November 13

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Educational Programs

Sunday, November 14

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Educational Programs

Monday, November 15

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. - NFPA Opening General Session

1 to 4 p.m. - NFPA Fall Meeting Program

Tuesday, November 16

8:30 to 10:30 a.m. - IFMA Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. to 12 noon - IFMA Codes and Standards Update

2 p.m. to end - NFPA Codes and Standards Technical Session I

Wednesday, November 17

8:30 a.m. to 12 noon - NFPA Fall Meeting Program

1:30 p.m. to end - NFPA Codes and Standards Technical Session II

For additional information, please contact IFMA at (617) 984-7424, or download the registration form on the IFMA home page at www.nfpa.org/members/member_sections/.

See Registration Form on page 9

Past President Chuck Kime Retires

Charles H. "Chuck" Kime, FMANA president from 1991-1992, retired on August 24, 1999, after 32 years with the Phoenix Fire Department. During his tenure in Phoenix, he served in many positions, including fire marshal. We wish Chuck the best in his retirement and future endeavors. An E-mail address has been set up to wish Chuck well in his retirement, ckime@ci.phoenix.az.us.

COMING EVENTS

October

- 5-6 Northern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Philadelphia, PA
- 7 IFMA The Process of Performance-Based Fire Protection Design, Sharon, PA
- 18-20 Electrical Equipment Maintenance, Sparks, NV
- 19-20 Static Electricity, Longboat Key, FL
- 21-23 Emergency Vehicle Mechanic Technicians Professional Qualifications, Reno, NV
- 21-23 Laboratories Using Chemicals, New Orleans, LA
- 27-29 TCC Boiler Combustion System Hazards, Baltimore, MD
- 28-29 Finishing Processes, St. Simons Island, GA

November

- 8-9 Electrical Systems, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA
- 11-13 Forest and Rural Fire Protection, Kenner, LA
- 13-17 IFMA Annual Conference and NFPA 1999 Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA**
- 18-19 Automotive and Marine Service Stations, New Orleans, LA

December

- 2-4 Lightning Protection, Tampa, FL
- 6-10 **Committee Week, Doubletree Hotel San Diego-Mission Valley, San Diego, CA**
- 4-5 TG Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health
- 5 TG Flammable Liquids
- 5-6 CO Detectors
- 5-6 Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health

- 6 Manufactured Homes—Electrical
- 6 Construction and Demolition
- 6-7 Public Safety Communicator Professional Qualifications
- 6-7 Manufactured Homes—Fire Safety
- 6-7 Flammable Liquids—Storage/Warehouse
- 7 Shipbuilding, Repair, and Lay-Up
- 7 Manufactured Homes—Administration
- 7 Manufactured Homes—Mechanical
- 7 Manufactured Homes—Plumbing
- 7 Manufactured Homes—Structural
- 7-9 Cleanrooms
- 8 Marine Terminals
- 8 Flammable Liquids—Operations
- 8 Flammable Liquids—Fundamentals
- 8-10 Electrical Equipment of Industrial Machinery
- 9-10 Flammable Liquids—Tank Storage
- 9-10 Instructor Professional Qualifications
- 10-11 Fire Service Occupational Medical and Health

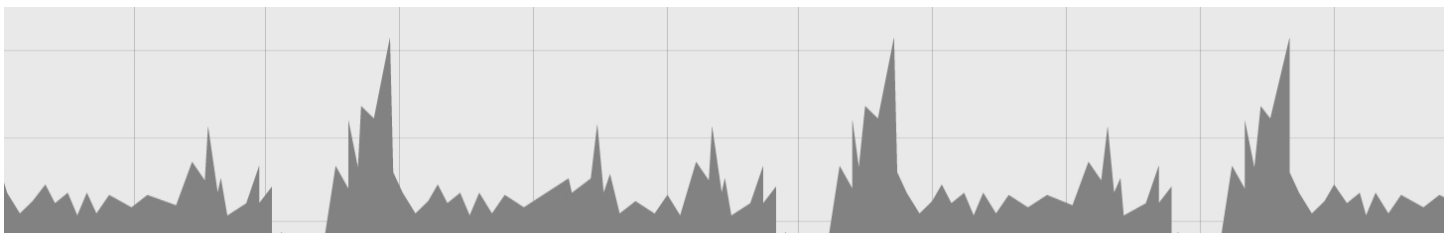
January 2000

- 10-12 NEC® Panels 10, 12, 13, Hilton Head, SC
- 10-15 NEC Panels 1, 8, 14, 16, Hilton Head, SC
- 12-15 NFPA Standards Council, Key West, FL
- 13-15 NEC Panels 9, 11, 18, Hilton Head, SC
- 17-19 NEC Panels 4, 6, 15, Hilton Head, SC
- 17-22 NEC Panels 2, 3, 5, 20, Hilton Head, SC
- 17 TCC Manufactured Housing, Hilton Head, SC
- 20-22 NEC Panels 7, 17, 19, Hilton Head, SC

IFMA Announces—The IFMA Bulletin Board

IFMA is proud to announce the development of a Bulletin Board. The online IFMA Bulletin Board has been developed as a service to the fire prevention community as a means to disseminate information and solicit input. Member and interested individuals will be able to post information or questions and receive input from interested parties. The address is www.nfpa.org/members/member_sections/international_fire_marshall_as/international_fire_marshall_as.html.

Please visit the new service and provide your input.



NFPA Committee Announcements

The **Committee on Construction and Demolition** is seeking members in all interest categories. This committee is responsible for NFPA 241, *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations*.

The **Committee on Emergency Medical Services** is seeking members in all interest categories. This project was just approved by the Standards Council.

The **Committee on Fire Doors and Windows** is seeking members in the enforcer, user, and installer/maintainer interest categories. This committee is responsible for NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and Fire Windows*, and NFPA 105, *Recommended Practice for the Installation of Smoke-Control Door Assemblies*.

The **Committee on Incinerators and Waste Handling Systems** is seeking members in all interest categories. This committee is responsible for NFPA 82, *Standard on Incinerators and Waste and Linen Handling Systems and Equipment*.

The **Committee on Industrial Trucks** is seeking members in all interest categories. This committee is responsible for NFPA 505, *Fire Safety Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks Including Type Designations, Areas of Use, Conversions, Maintenance, and Operation*.

The **Technical Committee on Laboratories Using Chemicals** is seeking members in the enforcer interest category. This committee is responsible for NFPA 45, *Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals*.

The **Committee on Marine Fire-Fighting Vessels** is seeking mem-

bers in all interest categories, especially fireboat users, architects and/or marine engineers, and marine engine manufacturers. This committee is responsible for NFPA 1925, *Standard on Marine Fire-Fighting Vessels*.

The **Committee on Motor Vehicle and Highway Fire Protection** is seeking members that have expertise in the trucking industry, especially in motor freight terminals. This committee is responsible for NFPA 502, *Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways*, and NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*.

The **Committee on the Manufacture of Organic Coatings** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts and manufacturers. This committee is responsible for NFPA 35, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*.

The **Committee on Record Protection** is seeking members in the insurance, installer/maintainer, and enforcer categories. This committee is responsible for NFPA 232, *Standard for the Protection of Records*, and NFPA 232A, *Guide for Fire Protection for Archives and Records Centers*.

The **Committee on Water Tanks** is seeking members in the following interest categories: special expert, insurance, and enforcer. This committee is responsible for NFPA 22, *Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection*.

The **Committee on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcer, installer/maintainer, research and testing, and insurance. This committee is responsible for NFPA 18, *Standard on Wetting Agents*.

1999 November Meeting Report on Comments Available

To obtain a copy of the 1999 November Meeting *Report on Comments*, please fill out the attached coupon and return it to NFPA. Under the NFPA standards-making system, recipients of the *Report on Proposals* have a period of time in which to make comments on the *Report*. This comment period ended April 2, 1999. The *Report on Comments* will contain all comments

received on the *Report*, together with the responses of the respective committees. Return the coupon to Fulfillment Center, NFPA, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or fax to the Fulfillment Center at (617) 770-0700. The *Report on Comments* is also available from the NFPA Home Page at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

Please send me:

1999 November Meeting *Report on Comments* (ROC-99NM CD-ROM Version)

1999 November Meeting *Report on Comments* (ROC-99NM Print Version)

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PLEASE NOTE: Organization members of the NFPA, subscribers of NFCSS (National Fire Code Subscription Service), and members of NFPA committees/panels having printed reports in the *ROP* will be sent the publication automatically and need not return this coupon.

Christmas Tree Fires

The following information is taken from the June 1999 report, *U.S. Home Product Report, Forms and Types of Material First Ignited in Fires*, by Kimberly D. Rohr. If you would like more information about other topics covered in the report, please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or E-mail osds@nfpa.org.

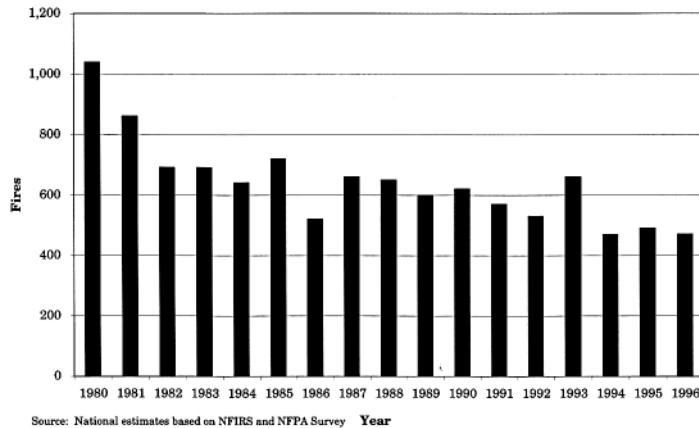
Christmas trees were the items first ignited in 400 home fires, resulting in 11 civilian deaths, 93 civilian injuries, and \$19.6 million in direct property damage, per year in 1992-96. These include real as well as artificial trees. The average number of Christmas tree fires and associated losses have declined in the most recent time period.

The leading cause of Christmas tree fires and property damage was short circuit or ground fault, with 24 percent of the fires. Other electrical failure ranked third in number of fires and tied with short circuits and ground faults in fire deaths with the exception of the "other known" category.

Thirty-three percent of Christmas tree fires involved unsawn wood as the type of material first ignited. Unclassified or unknown types of natural products accounted for 13 percent of Christmas tree fires.

Cords and plugs were the leading type of equipment involved in the ignition of Christmas trees, and they were the only type of equipment to account for more than 50 fires per year. Form of heat of ignition included only one category accounting for more than 50 fires per year—unspecified short circuit arc, with 100 fires (17.4%), 0 civilian deaths, 14 civilian injuries (15.1%),

Christmas Tree Fires in U.S. Homes, 1980 - 1996



and \$3.3 million in direct property damage (16.9%) per year.

Safety Tips

- One of the most important things to remember when decorating your Christmas tree is to use safe tree lights. Some lights are designed only for outdoor use. The larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb and all lights should be listed by a testing laboratory. Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights.

- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

- Never use candles to decorate a tree.

- Any string of lights with worn, frayed, or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.

- If you have a live tree, try to keep it as moist as possible by giving it plenty of water. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles.

- Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.

- When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.

- Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watch-

ful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights. Store matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

- Carefully plan where your tree will be positioned. Make sure it is at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from any source of heat, and do not place the tree in front of or near your exit. Also try to position it near an outlet so that wires are not running long distances.

- Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are very dangerous and should not be left in a garage or placed against the house.

U.S. Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends

The following executive summary is from the March 1999 report, *U.S. Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends*, by John R. Hall, Jr. Please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or E-mail osds@nfpa.org to request a complimentary copy of the complete report.

Home heating fires fell 7% from 1995 to 1996, to a total of 63,300, which was less than half the levels of the late 1970s, before the rush to buy portable and other space heaters began. The oil embargoes of the 1970s triggered a surge in usage of wood stoves, fireplace inserts, and portable kerosene heaters. This in turn pushed the number of home heating fires up by roughly 60,000 from 1979 to 1980. The new total

of more than 210,000 a year held for four years. Since 1983, the number of home heating fires has fallen by more than 147,000, or 70%.

Milder winters do not appear to be a leading factor in the size of the drop in home heating fires. Instead, the drop probably reflects both a leveling off of sales, greater familiarity with the rules of safe use of

auxiliary heating devices, and perhaps continued improvement in the safety features of equipment design. However, we should be alert to the possibility of a new move to auxiliary heating, and associated fire risk, because the potential for oil price shocks or supply interruptions, coupled with more severe winters, still remains.

Heating equipment is no longer the leading cause of home fires but now trails cooking equipment, and accounts for only one-seventh of home fires. Heating equipment remains the leading cause of fires in one- and two-family dwellings but ranked only eighth highest as a cause of fires in apartments in 1992-96. "Homes" refers to one- and two-family dwellings (which includes manufactured homes) and apartments.

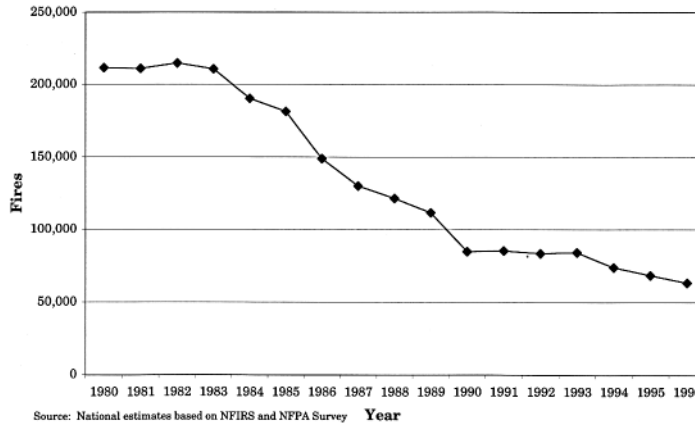
The estimated 63,300 home heating fires in 1996 also killed 628 people, the highest death toll since 1988. (The previous five years had been the five lowest in the 17 years studied.) Heating equipment was the second leading cause of home fire deaths, behind smoking. Home heating fires in 1996 also caused 1,764 civilian injuries, the lowest figure in the 17 years studied, and \$658.2 million dollars in direct property damage. All of these estimates refer only to U.S. fires reported to fire departments.

Portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment (such as chimneys) accounted for two of every three home heating fires in 1996 and five of every six associated deaths. Each of these devices has a higher rate of deaths per million households using them than do any of the various types of central heating units (i.e., furnaces) or water heaters. (When comparing the risk of fire relative to usage, heat transfer systems such as ducts and hot water piping, chimneys, and connectors, all are counted with the heating equipment they support.)

Portable and fixed space heaters pose a greater risk because they provide so many more opportunities for error by the people using them—in installing them, maintaining them, fueling them, operating them, and arranging household contents around them. Furnaces and water heaters require—and permit—fewer interventions by occupants. Causes of fires involving furnaces or water heaters are more likely to involve mechanical or electrical failures, while the causes of fires involving portable or fixed space heaters are dominated by human errors, such as placing them too close to combustibles.

Of the five most widely used types of portable or fixed space heaters—portable electric heaters, portable kerosene heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces with inserts, and

U.S. Home Heating Fires, 1980 - 1996



Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA Survey

room gas heaters—the portable electric heaters are the most popular, although together wood stoves and fireplaces with inserts are not far behind. Gas-fueled fixed space heaters have the highest fire death rate relative to the number of households that have them. Room gas heaters also tend to be older units and are used by proportionally more poor families. Because they are also associated with roughly 60 deaths a year due to carbon monoxide poisoning from inadequate ventilation, they appear to have the highest overall risk. Portable kerosene heaters rank second in risk of fire death. Depending on the years of fire experience analyzed, the risk for portable kerosene heaters either is close to that for gas-fueled fixed space heaters or is considerably lower and more comparable to risk for the other devices. Wood stoves and fireplaces with inserts also rank high in fire deaths relative to either households using them and have the highest rate of property damage relative to either households using them or heating units in use. Portable electric heaters rank with wood stoves in fire death rate relative to households using them. All these devices can be dangerous if not used properly and carefully.

Most home heating fires are preventable if people follow NFPA codes, standards, and recommendations, and other guides to safe heating, such as advice from fire code officials and fire safety experts:

- When buying a new unit, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Have a qualified technician check that the unit has been installed properly.
- Wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors, and all other solid-fueled heating equipment need to be inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Space heaters need space. With very few exceptions, home heating devices need a 36" clearance from combustibles. (In metric terms, this can be rounded up to 1 meter, which is slightly more than 39".)
- Portable kerosene heaters must be fueled only in a well-ventilated area, free of flame and other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer for

that device. Also, be sure that portable kerosene heaters are legal for home use in your community.

- When turning a heating device on or off, be careful to follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, look for devices with automatic shutoff features.
- Be sure any gas-fueled heating device is installed with proper attention to ventilation, and never put unvented gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms. Also, LP (liquefied petroleum) gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies are prohibited for home use by NFPA standards.

There are some differences in fire death risk among different types of central heating units, defined by type of fuel or power, but these differences are dwarfed by the difference in risk between central heating and space heating (either fixed or portable).

Major causes of home heating fires include (a) lack of regular cleaning, leading to creosote buildup, in wood-burning devices and associated chimneys and connectors; (b) failing to give space heaters space, by installing heaters too close to combustibles or placing combustibles too close to heaters; (c) basic flaws in the construction or design of wood-burning heating equipment; and (d) fueling errors involving liquid- or gas-fueled heating equipment.

President's Corner



John S. Robison

The IFMA Board met in San Diego, CA, on July 17 and 18, and looks forward to seeing many of you during the NFPA 1999 Fall Meeting to be held in New Orleans, LA, from November 13 through 18.

Executive Secretary Steve Sawyer has announced that the online IFMA Bulletin Board will be up and running next month. Everyone should visit the NFPA/IFMA web site at www.nfpa.org to locate this important improvement for communication within the organization.

The 1999 membership directory has been completed. Our membership continues to grow and we encourage everyone to enlist new members at every opportunity. The Board has discussed a contest within state chapters for enlisting new members. I would appreciate any ideas you have on this. Please E-mail your ideas to me at jrobison@insurance.state.al.us.

We currently have 16 active chapters and Georgia has expressed interest in becoming an IFMA Chapter. We encourage those who wish to pursue this effort to contact a Board member or the executive secretary if we can be of any assistance. The strength of the International Fire Marshals Association lies within its chapters.

New IFMA Chapter Certificates have been mailed to every chapter president. If any president has not received the new certificate, please contact Steve Sawyer immediately.

Second Vice-President Ron Farr will be contacting every state chapter regarding their attendance at the Chapter Presidents' Meeting in May 2000. Chapter representation is important as it gives state chapters an opportunity to communicate directly with the entire Board at one time, while allowing the Board members to meet each of you and learn how we can assist you. State chapters are reminded that annual reports should be submitted to the IFMA executive secretary.

IFMA members who are willing to receive their IFMA *Quarterly* should notify Steve Sawyer. This can be accomplished by E-mail at ssawyer@nfpa.org.

The Fall IFMA Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. in New Orleans. Everyone attending the NFPA 1999 Fall Meeting should make every effort to attend.

The Winter IFMA Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Altamonte Springs, FL, on February 5 and 6, 2000.

Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

I would like to welcome the South Carolina Fire Inspectors Association, the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, and the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association as the newest IFMA Chapters. This brings our total chapters to 16. We also have two applications in process and one inquiry. The chapters have been an asset to the association and I hope the level of participation from the chapters will continue to increase.

IFMA once again has a full agenda for the 1st Annual Fire Marshals Conference/NFPA Fall Meeting to be held in November. We're offering four educational programs, the Codes and Standards Forum, and the Business Meeting. On Sunday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., IFMA will host a hospitality room for all IFMA members and invited guests. The Florida Fire Marshals Association and the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society will sponsor the hospitality room.

The 1999 Membership Directory is finally here; it is available to all IFMA members. You can receive the directory in two formats, paper or electronically in PDF format. See the form in this edition of the *Quarterly* to request your copy of the directory.

By the printing of this *Quarterly*, IFMA will have an informational, online Bulletin Board. The IFMA Bulletin Board has been developed as a service to the fire prevention community as a means to disseminate information and solicit input. The address is found on page 10 of this newsletter.

I would like to thank the Arizona and Tennessee Chapters for their help in this year's Fire Protection Institutes.

I would like to thank those individuals who submitted articles for the *Quarterly*. It is important to ensure the information in the *Quarterly* is timely and of interest to the members.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans in November.

Veteran Fire Safety Program Gets New Name

Operation Life Safety (OLS) has announced that it has a new name, the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI). The organization's steering committee made the change at its June 22, 1999, meeting in Baltimore, MD. Operation Life Safety will remain as the flagship program of the RFSI.

The steering committee had been considering a name change for some time. The original name was an outgrowth of Operation San Francisco, a series of tests in 1982 of the then new residential sprinklers combined with smoke alarms. The committee selected the new name because it is self-descriptive of the organization's mission, which the former name was not.

The mission of the RFSI remains the same, to reduce residential fire deaths, injuries and property loss. Residential fires in the U.S. account for only 20 percent of all fires but result in over 80 percent of fire deaths. The RFSI is committed to significantly reducing the number of residential fire deaths by advocating residential fire sprinklers and smoke alarms and teaching fire-safe behavior.

Operation Life Safety is the RFSI's flagship program devoted to increasing the use of residential fire sprinklers combined

with smoke alarms. Its primary focus will be on providing technical assistance to jurisdictions with adopting sprinkler ordinances, but it will also provide information to consumers on both residential fire sprinklers and smoke alarms.

Much of the OLS information for fire officials and consumers can be downloaded at the RFSI web site at firesafehome.org. The OLS program also conducts workshops on residential fire sprinklers. The workshops are primarily designed for fire officials and public policy makers but can be modified for other audiences.

Contact:

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Shawnee Mission, KS 66216
Tel: (913) 268-1311
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E-mail: patcough@sprynet.com

1st Annual Fire Marshals Conference Hospitality Room

On Sunday, November 14, 1999, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the 1st Annual Fire Marshals Conference, all IFMA members are invited to the IFMA Hospitality Room, sponsored by the Florida Fire Marshals Association and the Michigan Fire Safety Inspectors Society. This will be a unique opportunity for IFMA members and other invited guests to discuss items of mutual interest. Please join us.

HELP WANTED:

National Fire Academy Alumni Association State Co-ordinators

The NFAAA Board of Directors seeks persons interested in coordinating activities within their respective states. Duties and responsibilities include: coordinating membership recruitment and building an E-mail address system that allows communication within the state and also nationwide, from state to state. Only those with a high level of motivation towards the development of a strong NFAAA need apply.

The NFAAA vision is "To enhance the ability of the National Fire Academy to educate the fire service." Our mission is "To increase fire service educational opportunities through support of the National Fire Academy, as accomplished through timely informational exchange and membership involvement. To provide a clear-

inghouse for fire service educational opportunities and exchange of ideas. To improve firefighter safety and effectiveness through enhanced fire service training and education."

Each of the individuals selected must be exceptionally resilient and have a burning desire to see the NFAAA goals attained. There is no pay; however, rewards are tremendous at the self-actualization level. State co-coordinators must have access to a computer with E-mail capabilities. Candidates can be either career or volunteer from the rank of firefighter to fire chief, active or retired. If interested, please contact the NFAAA Board Chairman, Frank Livingston, EFO TOP ASSISTANT, 224 Pinedo Drive Titusville, FL 32780; (407) 264-3472; E-mail address: frankl@topassistant.

FIRE LOSS STATE BY STATE

by Kriston L. Welch

Hawaii

Population: 1,183,000
 Size of state: 6,459 square miles (16,729 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$41,772
 Fire deaths: 12 (#41)
 Fire deaths per million people: 10.1 (#37)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): none (3)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 8.7 (#46)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 11 (#48)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 6.7 (#46)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 17.8 (#48)
 Percentage without high school education: 16.3 (#23)
 Deadliest fire this century: On January 14, 1969, 24 people died at Pearl Harbor when a fire broke out on the nuclear aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise.

Idaho

Population: 1,188,000
 Size of state: 83,574 square miles (216,456 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$34,709
 Fire deaths: 6 (#48)
 Fire deaths per million people: 5.1 (#48)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): none (5)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 12 (#26)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 42.6 (#13)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 15.9 (#25)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 19.8 (#46)
 Percentage without high school education: 14.3 (#35)
 Deadliest fire this century: On May 2, 1972, 91 people died in a silver mine blaze in Kellogg.

Illinois

Population: 11,845,000
 Size of state: 57,918 square miles (150,007 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$39,554
 Fire deaths: 188 (#4)
 Fire deaths per million people: 15.9 (#16)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 6 (18)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 12.4 (#25)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 15.4 (#42)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 27.1 (#11)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 23.1 (#22)
 Percentage without high school education: 15.6 (#25)
 Deadliest fire this century: On December 30, 1903, 602 people died in the Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago. This is the fourth-deadliest fire and the deadliest single-building fire in U.S. history.

Indiana

Population: 5,828,000
 Size of state: 36,420 square miles (94,328 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$35,147
 Fire deaths: 110 (#13)
 Fire deaths per million people: 18.9 (#14)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 1 (13)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 13.7 (#23)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 35.1 (#18)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 24.2 (#19)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 27.2 (#2)
 Percentage without high school education: 18.1 (#19)
 Deadliest fire this century: A gas explosion at the state fairgrounds coliseum in Indianapolis killed 75 people on October 31, 1963.

Delaware

Population: 723,000
 Size of state: 2,396 square miles (6,206 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$39,309
 Fire deaths: 14 (#39)
 Fire deaths per million people: 19.4 (#13)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 1 (1)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 8.3 (#47)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 27 (#32)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 14.3 (#30)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 25.5 (#9)
 Percentage without high school education: 15.6 (#18)
 Deadliest fire this century: According to our records, Delaware hasn't had a fire this century that killed 10 or more people.

Florida

Population: 14,419,000
 Size of state: 59,928 square miles (155,214 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$30,641
 Fire deaths: 148 (#9)
 Fire deaths per million people: 10.3 (#35)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 2 (7)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 14.9 (#14)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 15.2 (#43)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 3.7 (#47)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 23.1 (#22)
 Percentage without high school education: 18.6 (#18)
 Deadliest fire this century: On May 11, 1996, an onboard fire caused a ValuJet passenger jet to crash in the Everglades, killing 110 people.

Georgia

Population: 7,334,000
 Size of state: 58,977 square miles (152,750 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$32,496
 Fire deaths: 185 (#6)
 Fire deaths per million people: 25.2 (#6)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 2 (11)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 14 (#21)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 36.8 (#17)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 8.1 (#43)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 20.5 (#43)
 Percentage without high school education: 21.2 (#13)
 Deadliest fire this century: The Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta killed 119 people on December 7, 1946.

Iowa

Population: 2,848,000
 Size of state: 56,276 square miles (145,754 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$33,209
 Fire deaths: 39 (#29)
 Fire deaths per million people: 13.7 (#24)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): none (1)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 10.7 (#33)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 39.4 (#15)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 35 (#5)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 23.2 (#21)
 Percentage without high school education: 13.3 (#41)
 Deadliest fire this century: A fire at a Davenport mental hospital killed 41 people on January 7, 1950.

Kansas

Population: 2,579,000
 Size of state: 82,282 square miles (213,110 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$32,585
 Fire deaths: 37 (#30)
 Fire deaths per million people: 14.3 (#22)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): none (5)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 14.9 (#14)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 30.9 (#27)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 24.5 (#17)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 22 (#27)
 Percentage without high school education: 11.9 (#45)
 Deadliest fire this century: On December 13, 1916, a coal mine blaze in Stone City killed 20 people.

Kentucky

Population: 3,882,000
 Size of state: 40,411 square miles (104,665 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$32,413
 Fire deaths: 84 (#19)
 Fire deaths per million people: 21.6 (#11)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 2 (10)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 18.5 (#6)

Percentage living in rural areas: 48.2 (#8)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 15.9 (#25)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 27.8 (#1)
 Percentage without high school education: 24.6 (#1)
 Deadliest fire this century: On May 28, 1977, a fire at the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate killed 165 people. This is the second-deadliest U.S. fire or explosion of the past 40 years.

Louisiana

Population: 4,341,000
 Size of state: 49,651 square miles (128,595 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$30,262
 Fire deaths: 111 (#12)
 Fire deaths per million people: 25.6 (#5)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 2 (4)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 25.7 (#1)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 31.9 (#24)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 10.6 (#36)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 25.2 (#10)
 Percentage without high school education: 24.3 (#2)
 Deadliest fire this century: On December 22, 1977, a fire at a grain elevator in Westwego killed 36 people.

Maine

Population: 1,239,000
 Size of state: 33,741 square miles (87,388 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$34,696
 Fire deaths: 16 (#38)
 Fire deaths per million people: 12.9 (#28)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): none (3)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 9.4 (#40)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 55.4 (#3)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 34.9 (#6)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 25 (#12)
 Percentage without high school education: 14.2 (#36)
 Deadliest fire this century: On January 31, 1945, the Lacoste Babies Home orphanage fire in Auburn killed 17 people.

Maryland

Population: 5,060,000
 Size of state: 12,297 square miles (31,849 square kilometers)
 Median household income: \$43,993
 Fire deaths: 35 (#32)
 Fire deaths per million people: 6.9 (#44)
 Firefighter deaths (five-year total): 1 (12)
 Percentage living below poverty level: 10.7 (#33)
 Percentage living in rural areas: 18.7 (#38)
 Percentage of housing built before 1940: 15.5 (#29)
 Percentage over 18 who smoke: 21.2 (#39)
 Percentage without high school education: 15.3 (#28)
 Deadliest fire this century: On December 8, 1963, lightning struck three fuel tanks on a passenger airliner in flight somewhere near Elkton. The tanks exploded, killing all 81 people on board.

FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) Regarding NFPA 96

By R.T. Leicht, CFI CFPS

In past years, I have experienced various AHJ responsibilities. My first was in the Air Force where one of my assignments was to serve as one of base's safety officers. Then I joined the fire department. Since then, I've worked for corporate risk management of a large Fortune 500 company, as a loss control representative for a large insurance company, as a private consultant, and then I went back to the fire marshal's office. In spite of the diversity of the jurisdictions, when it comes to the protection of commercial cooking, the same questions seem to "pop" up. Over the years, I find that my copies of NFPA 96, *Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*, have accumulated a flock of "post-it" notes in select areas of the standard in order for me to avoid offering opinions that contradict something that I may have offered previously. The following is a gathering of all these interesting notes.

Question: WHEN DO YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE A GREASE HOOD AND EXHAUST SYSTEM?

Answer: A Type I hood is required any time that cooking operations, which may produce smoke or grease laden vapors, is conducted. In actuality, whenever cooking occurs, the potential for smoke is present. Even a hot dog roller or a pop corn popper will produce some level of grease laden vapors. However, the intent of the standard was not to include devices that only produce incidental levels of grease laden vapors. The intent was to capture grease particulate generated from conventional commercial cooking equipment.

Question: CAN A MESH-TYPE FILTER BE USED IN A GREASE HOOD IF THE FILTER IS UL LISTED?

Answer: Although you may find mesh-type filters with a UL mark, this listing is not for use in cooking hoods. There are mesh-type filters listed for use in air ventilation systems but not commercial cook-

ing exhaust systems. For use in cooking exhaust systems, the filters must not only capture grease, but also divert the grease to an appropriate collection point. Mesh-type filters do not offer that feature.

Question: IS THE FAN FOR THE MAKE-UP AIR SUPPLY REQUIRED TO AUTOMATICALLY SHUT DOWN WHEN ITS EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM ACTIVATES?

Answer: Not always! The only time that the fire industry feels that a powered source of make-up air could "fan" a fire in the cooking area is when the make-up (replacement) air system terminates within the confines of the hood. That is, where the air is supplied internally to the hood.

Question: WHY DOESN'T THE EXHAUST FAN HAVE TO AUTOMATICALLY SHUT DOWN UPON ACTIVATION OF THE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM, SINCE ALLOWING IT TO RUN MAY DRAW FRESH AIR TOWARDS THE FIRE?

Answer: Fire experts don't feel that the air movement caused by the continued running of the exhaust system fan significantly affects the fire behavior. In addition, the slight risk that is realized is far outweighed by the benefit of the additional cooling that is achieved when the exhaust fan continues to run. Modern extinguishing systems trust that a "reflash" will not occur on the cooking surfaces, so shutting off fuel and removing residual heat are important evolutions.

Question: DOES NFPA 96 REQUIRE THAT EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS, INSTALLED PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT OF UL 300, BE REPLACED?

Answer: NO! Underwriters Laboratories first introduced test standard UL 300 for fire extinguishing systems and protection of restaurant cooking areas in November 1994. It was developed to recognize improved cooking equipment technology, changes in the composition of common-

ly used vegetable oils, and the autoignition of cooking oils occurring at lower temperatures. The release of this standard generated confusion and some misinterpretation among some officials who implemented the standard as a retroactive regulatory requirement for existing cooking equipment and exhaust systems. As a result of this misapplication, properly functioning, well-maintained, UL-listed equipment was being declared "out of compliance" with fire codes. Some restaurant owners were faced with expensive equipment upgrades, fines and penalties, and even cease and desist orders. Existing systems that are replaced or modified or have changed cooking oils, where the existing system does not provide adequate protection, may need to be replaced.

To obtain a definitive answer, the National Restaurant Association asked UL to interpret the standard and to determine if such regulatory actions were the intent of the standard. On March 1, 1996, UL responded to the request and stated the following: "While we believe the requirements contained in UL 300 offer an enhanced level of safety for fire suppression equipment intended for the protection of restaurant cooking areas, extinguishing system hardware authorized to have the UL Listing Mark and manufactured prior to the effective date of November 21, 1994, continues to be considered UL Listed provided that it is installed, inspected, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions referenced on the name-plate."

Question: ARE ALL OCCUPANCIES WITH COMMERCIAL COOKING REQUIRED TO HAVE A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM?

Answer: NO! Only some occupancies warrant a fire alarm system. These systems are intended either to alert persons of a pending danger or to promptly notify fire fighting forces, or both. Since it is

accepted that at least one of these actions is appropriate when a fire extinguishing system activates, the fire extinguishing system is required to be an initiating device to any alarm system that may already be present or required. This is true with all extinguishing systems in any occupancy. Bottom line; extinguishing systems don't mandate that an alarm system be installed. Instead, fire alarm systems are required to include all fire extin-

guishing systems as initiating devices.

Question: DOES NFPA 96 APPLY TO TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS THOSE FOUND IN PAVILIONS, OUTDOOR CARNIVALS, AND TEMPORARY CONCESSIONS?

Answer: It does now, even though this latest edition of the standard is the first one to actually state it. The "code" recognizes that the criteria established have

been done so with much forethought and deliberation. It is believed to be the most all-encompassing, yet prudent, regulation of the known hazard. It would therefore not be logical to enforce these rules in some operations and then not implement them, at least in part, in other applications merely because of their untraditional arrangement and nature.

Codes and Standards Available for Download on Online Catalog

NFPA is now selling standards in PDF form from the NFPA web site. Customers can download 59 codes and standards from this web site, allowing 24 hour/7day a week access to our codes. To review the current codes for sale, please visit the NFPA web site. The 1999 May Meeting codes will be available next month and other codes will follow as they are revised.

Technical support is available via E-mail and telephone for customers who may have any questions or problems with the web site. The E-mail address is support@nfpa.org and the phone number is (412) 322-1696. The customer support line is staffed Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

1999 IFMA Membership Directory Available

The 1999 IFMA Membership Directory is available, either in paper or electronic version. To receive the new membership directory, fill out the form below or send an E-mail to IFMA@nfpa.org including your name, address, phone and fax number, E-mail address, and NFPA membership number. Please specify which version you wish to receive, paper or electronic. The IFMA Membership Directory will be sent to IFMA members only.

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Quincy, MA 02269-9101

Fax: (617) 984-7056

E-mail: ifma@nfpa.org

NEW MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION

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Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
Santa Clara, CA

William Mitchell
San Francisco Fire Department
Anselmo, CA

CONNECTICUT

Todd Gagnon
Cromwell Fire District
Cromwell, CT

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Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office
Georgetown, DE

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Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Department
Boynton Beach, FL 33435

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Estero Fire & Rescue
Estero, FL

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Gainesville Fire Rescue
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Portland Fire Bureau
Portland, OR

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Philadelphia, PA

Warren Zimmerman
Philadelphia Housing Authority
Philadelphia, PA

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Factory Mutual
Leesville, SC

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Lowe's Home Improvement Center
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Alexandria, VA

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Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

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N. Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada

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Balashikha, Moscow Region, Russia

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Hashim Abdulrahman
Royal Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

TAIWAN

Lee Ching-Hsu
Safety & Loss Control Department
Taipei, Taiwan

Committees Soliciting Proposals

The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their respective reports. In accordance with the *Regulations Governing Committee Projects*, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content for the documents listed below. Proposals received by 5:00 p.m. EST on the closing date indicated will be acted on by the committee, and that action will be published in the committee's report. Proposals must be submitted to Codes and Standards Administration on proposal forms available in the back of all NFPA documents or from NFPA headquarters. (NOTE: For information on specific committee meeting dates, contact Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA.) Please note that for **new documents (P*)**, a draft copy of the **new document** on which to submit proposals will be available. Copies of **new document (P*)** drafts are available from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101 and available on NFPA's web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/procom/document.html>. If you need a current edition of a document, please contact NFPA Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or call (800) 344-3555.

NFPA 15-1996	<i>Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 17-1998	<i>Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems</i>	1/5/01
NFPA 17A-1998	<i>Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems</i>	1/5/01
NFPA 18-1995	<i>Wetting Agents</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 25-1998	<i>Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 51-1997	<i>Design and Installation of Oxygen-Fuel Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 51B-1999	<i>Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 55-1998	<i>Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders</i>	7/6/01
NFPA 70-1999	<i>National Electrical Code®</i>	11/5/99
NFPA 75-1999	<i>Protection of Electronic Computer/Data Processing Equipment</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 80-1999	<i>Fire Doors and Fire Windows</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 96-1998	<i>Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 288-P*	<i>Fire Tests of Fire Door Assemblies</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 306-1997	<i>Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 402-1996	<i>Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Operations</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 407-1996	<i>Aircraft Fuel Servicing</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 424-1996	<i>Airport/Community Emergency Planning</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 471-1997	<i>Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 472-1997	<i>Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 473-1997	<i>Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 502-1998	<i>Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 513-1998	<i>Motor Freight Terminals</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 560-1995	<i>Storage, Handling, and Use of Ethylene Oxide for Sterilization and Fumigation</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 664-1998	<i>Prevention of Fires and Explosions in Wood Processing and Woodworking Facilities</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 704-1996	<i>Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 1081-P*	<i>Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications</i>	1/7/00
NFPA 1192-1999	<i>Recreational Vehicles</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 1194-1999	<i>Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds</i>	6/30/00
NFPA 1981-1997	<i>Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service</i>	1/1/00
NFPA 1982-1998	<i>Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)</i>	1/1/00

P* Proposed NEW drafts are available from the NFPA Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

Chapter News

At its Annual Meeting held in June, the South Carolina Fire Inspectors Association received its charter from Lewis Lee, IFMA Executive Board and South Carolina State Fire Marshal. South Carolina is Chapter 14.

Welcome to the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association and the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association as the newest chapters of IFMA.

Silver Anniversary of the Federal Fire Programs

Almost exactly 25 years ago, the passage of Public Law 93-498, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974," created a federal focus on the nation's fire problem. The President signed the legislation, passed earlier by the Congress, on October 29, 1974. Originally called the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, later renamed the United States Fire Administration (USFA), the federal focus has become a widely used resource by fire departments and fire safety professionals from across America.

For a quarter century, the nation has benefited from the USFA and its programs, training courses, and reference materials. By way of USFA's training arm, the National Fire Academy (NFA), hundreds of thousands have participated in NFA courses either on-campus in Emmitsburg, MD, or off-campus at locations across the country delivered in partnership with state fire service training agencies. Fire and emergency services personnel have participated on campus in 2-day, 6-day, and 2-week courses, including the prestigious Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP), as well as in off-campus courses sponsored by every state's fire service training program.

USFA's Fire Management and Technical Programs Division likewise has disseminated thousands of publications concerning a broad range of fire and life safety technical subjects. The M&T Division has also overseen the development of hundreds of major projects and partnership activities, including the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a nationwide system for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information about the nation's fire problem. In addition, numerous firefighter health and safety initiatives, dissemination of information about applications of advances in technology, and advocacy for the nation's fire protection communities are but a few examples of the USFA's valuable work in its last quarter century of service.

USFA's Management Operations and Student Support Division also plays a critical role with regard to key budget, personnel, admissions, and campus operations responsibilities. MOSS's roles in all administrative matters is essential to the accomplishment of the total USFA mission

The 25th Anniversary of USFA / 20th Anniversaries of NETC and FEMA

At the same time USFA begins to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Emmitsburg campus will also recognize its 20th year of service. Designated as the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), the former St. Joseph College site was dedicated as the new home of the National Fire Academy on October 8, 1979. A

little over a year later it was renamed to the NETC due to an expansion that brought the former Civil Defense Staff College (formerly within the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency) from Battle Creek, MI, to Emmitsburg. Upon its arrival, the Staff College also was renamed to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Jointly, USFA NFA, and EMI train and assist those in America who must prepare for, respond to, and recover from a broad range of disasters and emergencies facing every community in every state.

This year is also the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the parent agency of USFA and EMI. The USFA was transferred from the U.S. Department of Commerce to the new FEMA when FEMA was created by Executive Order on April 1, 1979.

FEMA's mission is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect our institutions from all hazards by leading and supporting the nation in a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Recognition Events

Serving, as a campus-wide planning team, is a group of individuals representing organizational elements including the NETC Recreation Association and the on campus AFGE Union Local 1983. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has two of their staff working with USFA personnel on the 20th anniversary portion. Assisting USFA Acting Chief Operating Officer Rich Marinucci with the planning effort are John Ottoson, Smiley White, Joyce Glass, Tracy Orndorff, Eileen Harrison, Don Begg, Ken Kuntz, Tim Ganley, and Wayne Powell.

Also assisting the team is FEMA headquarters personnel. Marc Wolfson, Public Affairs, is preparing news releases and initiating interactions with the fire press, and Margaret Larson, Congressional Affairs, is investigating potential interaction with members of Congress (such as Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska who was an original member of the Presidential Commission that issued the *America Burning* report).

Others on campus helping with special projects include Maury Grundy with appropriate web page recognition, and Virginia Nocon and Marjean Meyer with support activities. Many other staff and contractors have expressed interest in helping with a campus-wide open house/walking tour (see Item 1 below). Planned events include:

An NETC Campus "Open House" on Friday, October 8, for the local community and interested families of staff and contractors

A recognition celebration at NETC Building B (the student center) open to FEMA staff from headquarters and Mt. Weather for Wednesday afternoon, October 13

A formal "Theme Dinner" on Wednesday evening, October 27, in concert with campus food service contractor, Guest Services

An Anniversary Booklet designed to recognize the accomplishments of the men and women of USFA over the past 25 years

A special 25th anniversary logo in color

In addition, it is anticipated that one or more external groups may wish to sponsor recognition events. Also under consideration are a number of related efforts, including 25 years of service recognition at USFA exhibit show booths, in USFA publications, and on special banners, posters, etc.

The Creation of USFA: Historical Background

A 1966 report, the "Wingspread Conference on Fire Service Administration, Education and Research: Statements of National Significance to the Fire Problem in the United States," stated that the traditional concept of fire protection as a strictly local responsibility needed to be re-examined. From this and a series of related issues occurring nationally during that time, national fire and allied groups began to push for legislation that would assist state and local governments in meeting their fire protection and public safety responsibilities.

Known as the "Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968," President Richard M. Nixon appointed 24 members to a presidential commission that went on to issue their landmark document, *America Burning*, in May 1973. *America Burning*, detailing the nation's unacceptably high losses from fire, identified appropriate roles for the Federal Government in turning back these losses by ways of national leadership and advocacy. Their work and report became the catalyst for Public Law 93-498, the "Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974," which created today's USFA, which was passed into law on October 29, 1974.

This date then marks an historic event that would impact on the quality of fire prevention and control in this country forever after. The Act, passed by the Congress and signed by the President, led to the creation of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA) established within the U.S. Department of Commerce. The NFPCA, subsequently renamed the United States Fire Administration, serves as the federal focus on fire-related issues.

Twenty-five years later, the United States Fire Administration continues to influence fire prevention at all levels of the federal, state, and local government through its fire prevention and control activities in public fire safety education, arson preven-

tion, fire safety research, data collection and analysis, and training and education programs. The United States Fire Administration partners with other federal, state and local government agencies, and volunteer organizations to reduce the loss of life and property due to fire.

A broad range of administrative and managerial support responsibilities are accomplished as well assuring that the programmatic mission is properly accomplished, thus...

As an entity of FEMA, the mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. USFA serves the nation independently, in coordination with federal agencies, and in partnership with fire protection and emergency services communities. With a commitment to excellence, USFA provides public education, training, technology, and data initiatives.

The Future

USFA has planned a number of activities and events to commemorate the 25th anniversary. Official anniversary recognition may begin with acknowledgement via this year's National Fire Prevention Week Proclamation, which is issued annually by the President of the United States. A number of national fire related groups, including the fire service press, are also planning appropriate commemorations during the 25th anniversary year.

In honor of the anniversary, appropriate state and local events might include local recognition of National Fire Academy graduates and acknowledgement of United States Fire Administration accomplishments during other formal events, such as conferences, meetings, and celebrations of fire and life safety initiatives. Such events are also expected to provide opportunities to renew efforts in the area of fire prevention and control as America enters the next century.

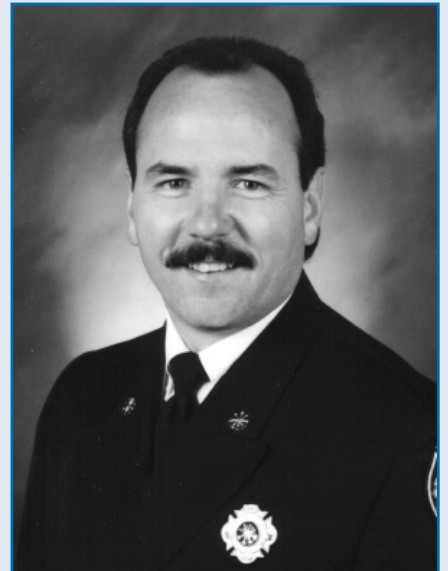
It is at this 25-year mark that the Federal Fire Programs are taking a serious look at where they've been and where they need to be to best serve fire and emergency services personnel, as well as the entire fire protection community. With the assistance of leading authorities on fire and life safety from both the public and private sectors, USFA, in concert with America's fire protection leaders, has been closely examining its future by identifying approaches most appropriate to accomplish its mission.

For information about the USFA, and other campus resources, consult USFA's Internet web site at <www.usfa.fema.gov>. Media inquiries regarding anniversary recognition information should be directed to Marc Wolfson in FEMA's Public Affairs Unit at (202) 646-3766.

Meet the IFMA Board 1st Vice-President, Jim Crawford

- 24 years in the fire service
- Began as volunteer, then paid firefighter
- Fire Marshal for City of Portland in Oregon
- A.S. in Fire Science from Clackamas Community College
- B.S. in Business Management and Communication from Concordia University
- 1st Vice President of IFMA
- Member of Standards Council for NFPA
- Adjunct Faculty for the National Fire Academy and Western Oregon University
- Recipient of Fire Command Fellowship from NFPA

- Personal:
 - Married, two children
 - Snow skier — and lousy golfer



**INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
SECTION NEWSLETTER**

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