

SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • March 2006

George E. Pataki
Governor
James A. Burns
State Fire Administrator

Recognize the Threat!

It is unfortunate that illegal drugs continue to plague our society. It is also very unfortunate that those least capable of protecting themselves from these dangerous chemicals are placed at risk. Firefighters and Emergency Responders may also be placed in danger from these same hazardous chemicals.

With this in mind, I am passing on some information and requirements for the fire and emergency services. I fully support the requirements that all emergency responders be familiar with clandestine drug labs. I also support the requirement that the presence of a suspected drug lab be immediately reported to law enforcement. The requirements of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services are designed to identify and remove children and other innocents from dangerous environments. This same requirement will help protect you from exposure to some extremely hazardous substances.

Included in the Meth Lab Update below is the entire message introducing the new requirements. Please ensure that all your personnel are made aware of this.

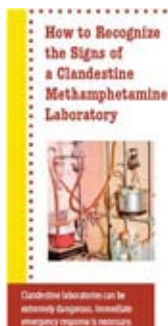
For more information on clandestine drug labs, please contact your county fire coordinator to schedule the "Recognizing Clandestine Drug Operations" training course presented by OFPC staff.



Stay Alert...Stay Safe
James Burns
NYS Fire Administrator



Meth Lab Update



"New Requirement for Employers of Persons Mandated to Report Potential Child Abuse in New York State"

New York State recognizes the potential threat of methamphetamine to our public health and safety. Methamphetamine, also known as meth, crystal meth, tina or speed,

has been adversely affecting individuals in various communities throughout New York State. The physical effects of the drug on users are debilitating and sometimes irreversible. In addition, the methods of manufacturing methamphetamine are also extremely dangerous and pose a serious hazard to anyone in or near the location where it is being produced.

Legislation that became effective on October 31, 2005 requires certain employers to provide information to their employees on recognizing unlawful methamphetamine laboratories. If you are an employer of persons mandated to report potential child abuse in New York State and your employees visit the residences of children, you must provide your employees with information on recognizing the signs of a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory.

These unlawful laboratories and the people who operate them can pose a serious threat. Dangerous chemicals are used and discarded when the drug is produced, and the people making the drug may be violent. Children and others who live on the premises are at risk from exposure to the toxic chemicals that are used or formed during the manufacturing process. Clandestine laboratories may also endanger others who visit them, including your employees.

A new brochure, "How to Recognize the Signs of a Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory", will aid employers with providing information to their employees.

It is recommended that each employee who visits locations where children reside be given a copy of this brochure.

If an employee suspects a methamphetamine laboratory, (s)he should leave the premises and contact local law enforcement.

This brochure was developed to assist mandated reporters, along with police, fire fighters, ambulance personnel and any other interested party. It identifies and provides pictures of tell tale signs and includes directions as to how to proceed and report the suspicion.

The brochure may be downloaded and printed from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) web site at:

www.oasas.state.ny.us/meth/index.htm.

Additional information about methamphetamine and clandestine laboratories is also available at this web site.

Burn Down Your Town!



As an Instructor for several years now I have tried to make training interesting and fun!! One of the ways is to make your own tabletop training simulator.

With a very limited budget, you can simulate just about any situation that could happen in your response district and do it in your own firehouse.

I made my tabletop simulator portable so I could set it up at any department by using standard firehouse tables or you can have it permanently mounted on 4 x 8 sheets of plywood. I use two-inch masking tape to make roads and streets, and label them using a magic marker. You can make permanent streets on your own board.



Search out your local hobby or model train shops; they may have used houses, buildings, and churches that can be

purchased for less than half of the list price. A model train show in your area is also a good source of used equipment. I bought 3 houses for five dollars. I also use "HO" scale models. There are different scales, such as "N", "O", and other scales. Most state and county simulators use HO scale.

To save money, go to your local "Wal-Mart" or toy stores to purchase vehicles, Match-Box, Tonka, and Hot-Wheels can be purchased for less than a buck



or get a boxed "emergency set" which has fire trucks, ambulances, police vehicles, and civilian vehicles. Some hobby shops have more detailed vehicles, but you are going to pay ten to fifteen dollars each for them.

The other option is to look through your kid's toy box.

Now to make the simulation somewhat realistic, I bought some acrylic stuffing or batting from a craft store and spray painted some of it red, gray, and black. Tear off a piece from the red, put it in a window or door, and you have



fire. Use the black and gray for smoke around windows and eaves and you have a working fire!!! If the incident commander does the right thing, you take away some fire; if they don't you make it bigger. Save some of the white acrylic batting for "gas" or vapor during a propane leak or other chemical spill.

What's nice about gas or vapor is you can keep putting it down to make a plume across your town.

If you have a larger budget, there are actual model homes and an IRS building which actually smokes and lights go on to look like fire. Get a Wathers Catalog from a hobby store to order these and other buildings.

Some of the props I have are propane tankers – rail, truck, and filling station, a complete airport with planes, hangar, and terminal. A power plant with transformers and substations. For rural areas, I have barns, farm equipment, cows and water tankers. For urban areas, hydrants, many cars and people (HO Scale) for Mass Casualty or EMS scenarios. Several tractor trailers, both cargo and fuel tankers add to the versatility.

Some scenarios you may want to consider while conducting your drill are, if the incident commander doesn't have an RIT and Fast team, put a firefighter down inside your building. If the IC doesn't put a standby in your station, start another fire in town, see if this gets his/her adrenaline flowing. If the IC doesn't have enough water or lines out, make the fire bigger!!

For communications, purchase the "2 mile walkie-talkies" or the "family radio" sets for a few dollars each. I have eight of them, one for dispatch and others for the "assignments"; (these work well on the simulator). See if the IC changes the channels from the main fire frequencies to working frequencies. If they don't dispatch other departments to tie up the air!



The departments that have trained on my simulator say they learn a lot about themselves as commanders and have a lot of fun doing it. Never put down anyone who makes a mistake, this is a learning experience. The sky is the limit with the number of scenarios you can create.

The whole department can benefit from the old timer to the new aspiring officer with your own simulator. Now you can burn down your town!!! - and have fun doing it.

Submitted by: Bob Day, NYS Fire Instructor

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NIH NLM Sites

National Library of Medicine – National Institutes of Health

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/carbonmonoxidepoisoning.html>

Site for Household HazWaste Day

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/hazardouswaste.html>

Household Chemicals

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/householdproducts.html>

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/products.htm>

Pesticides

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/pesticides.html>

Radiation Exposure

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/radiationexposure.html>

The National Library of Medicine's ChemIDplus



The National Library of Medicine's ChemIDplus has added new structure searching features to its Advanced search page:

<http://chem.sis.nlm.nih.gov/chemidplus/chemidheavy.jsp>:

"Exact (parent only)" searches for exactly what is drawn or transferred to the structure box, with all the structure's atoms and bonds

identical in the retrieved compound.

"Flex" and "Flexplus" search for records containing a parent structure plus additional components (salts, hydrates, or mixtures with other chemicals).

Example: Searching "Aleve" (naproxen) via "Exact (parent only)" retrieves one record. Searching "Aleve" via If the "Flex/Flexplus" retrieves nine records (the parent naproxen record, and seven other salts and mixtures of naproxen).

More information about these search features can be found in the Help section of ChemIDplus Advanced at:

http://chem.sis.nlm.nih.gov/chemidplus/documentation/help/chemidfs2webAdvanced.jsp#_StructuresSearch

Reports and Research on Needs of People with Disabilities in Disasters

"Disability World," a bimonthly webzine on international disability news, developed this summary of recent resources regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning for and responding to emergencies and disasters both natural and otherwise.

http://www.disabilityworld.org/12-01_06/disasterneeds.shtml

Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program is administered by the Department's Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration.

For information on past awards, visit:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fps/award/>

Prevention & Safety Grants page:

http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp_about.aspx.

For more information on G&T, visit:

<http://www.ojp.gov/odp>.

For more information on USFA, visit:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

Ready Kids Rolled Out

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Advertising Council launched Ready Kids, a family-friendly tool to help parents and teachers educate children, ages 8-12, about emergencies and how they can help their families better prepare. The Ready Kids program launched at Andrew Jackson Language Academy in Chicago with a roundtable discussion led by DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and an interactive presentation for families by local first responders. Ready Kids is the newest addition to the successful Ready campaign, a national public service advertising campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

Secretary Chertoff said, "We hope the Ready Kids Website and in-school materials will help facilitate discussions about this important subject and encourage all families to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about the different emergencies that can happen."

Ready Kids fact sheet:

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0847.xml

Ready Kids Website:

<http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>

Press Release Source:

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5383>.

To learn more about the Ad Council and its campaigns, visit:

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

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Federal Grants Sites Merge

Two federal Web sites for grant applications merged under the auspices of the <http://www.Grants.gov> e-government project. The merger eliminated <http://www.Fedgrants.gov>, according to Grants.gov officials.

http://www.gcn.com/vol1_nol/daily-updates/37849-1.html.

Grants Affected by NIMS

Link to the list of all grants that are affected by NIMS.

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/federal_prep_grant_prog.pdf.

DHS Issues Protective Action Guides for RDD

DHS issues Protective Action Guides for Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) and Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Incidents. Notice [Federal Register: January 3, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 1)] [Notices][Page 173-196]

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/05-2451.htm>.

ANSI critique of guidelines:

<http://government.ihs.com/news-06Q1/ansi-dirty-bomb-guidelines.jsp>

New NIMS Tools Available

In a September 2004 letter to the nation's governors, the Department of Homeland Secretary's Michael Chertoff outlined a phased approach to National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation that states, territories, tribes, and local jurisdictions would need to follow for full compliance with NIMS no later than 30 September 2006. The NIMS was developed to provide a consistent nationwide approach to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from domestic disasters.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established a web-based, self-assessment tool, the National Incident Management Compliance Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST), to help organizations identify weaknesses in incident preparedness and become compliant with NIMS. Recently, three news tools have been added to NIMCAST:

Incident Command System (ICS) Instructor Guidelines

Graniteville SC Chlorine Release Report

Here is a link to a report about the Graniteville SC chlorine spill from last year.

It is a PDF file, 50 pages, written by the Dept. of Journalism at the University of South Carolina. It appears to be quite detailed.

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/qr178/qr178.pdf>

Latest NIMS Guidance

While most emergency situations are handled locally, when there's a major incident help may be needed from other jurisdictions, the state and the federal government. NIMS was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management. The documents below outline ways state and local Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) and Standard Operating Procedures can be modified to align with NIMS concepts and terminology.

Access Training Guidelines: Incident Command System

Instructors:

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/ICSInstructorGdl0106.pdf>

Access Integrating NIMS into State EOPs and SOPs document:

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/eop-sop_state_online.pdf

Access Integrating NIMS into Local/Tribal EOPs and SOPs

document:

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/eop-sop_local_online.pdf

NIMS
Online.com

These guidelines provide training directions needed by ICS instructors and for agencies offering ICS training programs.

Integrating NIMS into state and local EOPs and SOPs

This tool outlines ways state and local incident managers can modify Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to align with NIMS concepts and terminology.

Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) Implementation Details

The details reinforce state and local efforts to effectively implement NIMS and encourage, where appropriate, a regional approach to NIMS.

Use the NIMCAST website to understand the FY06 requirements that must be completed in order to receive FY07 federal preparedness funding, and to learn about possible future requirements for continuous full NIMS compliance in FY07 and beyond.

Visit the NIMCAST website at:

<http://www.fema.gov/nimcast/index.jsp>

Visit the NYS Office of Homeland Security website at:

http://www.security.state.ny.us/training/nims_documents.html

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CAMEO Web Site Update

Changes in the new software versions:

CAMEOfm has been upgraded to version 1.1.3

Updated to allow import of Tier2*Submit 2005 files

Chemical Library was updated with the latest AGLs values

Minor changes to the Reactivity Report

MARPLOT has been upgraded to version 3.3.2

Correctly display ALOHA's multiple footprints



ALOHA has been upgraded to version 5.4

The latest version of ALOHA (v5.4) has added the ability to model the hazards associated with fires and explosions. With this major update, users can now estimate the hazards associated with jet fires (flares), pool fires, vapor cloud explosions (VCE), BLEVEs (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosions), and flammable regions (flashfires) as well as toxic threats. The User manual was completely updated to include

extensive material associated with fires and explosions.

<http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo/reqquets.htm>

Thoughts On Masks During Pandemics...

It becomes clearly evident for anyone who has worn medical masks for any length of time that there exists a vast difference between products. These differences dramatically affect performance, comfort and therefore, safety.

Current CDC recommendation for respiratory isolation is the N-95 or better mask. Unfortunately the recommendations stop there. Under current medical economics, cheaper is better. Therefore, most institutions are stocking the classic "duck bill" N-95 mask. During a pandemic, this could have disastrous consequences.



The "duck bill" mask does not have an exhaust valve. Moisture from resting exhalation quickly saturates the mask and makes it incredibly difficult to breathe in as little as 20 minutes. Furthermore, as the mask saturates, it becomes limp and soggy. During the act of inhalation, the mask collapses into the oral cavity forcing the wearer to push it back out with his/her tongue. Also, the moisture contained in the now saturated mask will facilitate passage of the .2 - .3 micron virus through the material, and into the user.

The mask-face interface is slight to non-existent allowing unfiltered air to easily leak into the corners of the mask especially if there is any facial hair present or fast growing since the last shave.

Other N-95 masks (read more expensive) have exhaust valves and are firmer or formed to prevent collapse on the wearers face. They still possess limited interface between the mask and wearer.

N-100 masks provide a quantum leap in comfort, wear-ability, durability and protection. By protection, I am not quoting the particulate standard that the N designation is derived. I am speaking to the actual function of the mask on the wearer's face and its ability to provide continued protection in a biologically contaminated environment. If you won't wear a mask continuously because you can't breathe in it, it provides NO protection.



The N-100 masks have exhaust valves, a wide mask to wearer interface and are more durable than their N-95 counterparts. Just ask the health providers in Hong Kong during the SARS epidemic. They were explicit in their preference for the N-100 over the N-95s.

Additionally, the thought that masks will be changed out with each patient contact during a pandemic is ludicrous. Usage will dramatically exceed supply in days. Health providers will be forced to use the remaining masks over a prolonged period of time as a matter of self-preservation. A soggy N-95 mask will quickly be discarded as the wearer finds he/she can no longer breathe through it.

An N-100 mask provides a more logical and cost efficient choice for pandemic usage. It is comfortable enough to sustain wear over a 12 hour shift without driving the user incoherent. It is durable enough to provide protection for a prolonged period of time and it provides an inherent higher level of protection.

Facta non Verba! Deeds, not words. In my mind, everyone who will have pandemic patient contact and especially those responsible for purchasing such equipment should be required to wear these masks for an 8-hour shift before making any decision on what works and what doesn't. The results will be surprising.

Courtesy of:
Glenn G. Williams
MD, FACEP

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Bird Flu Spreads Westwards, Nations Mobilize

Lethal bird flu has continued its invasion of the European Union (EU) but there was better news from India where tests showed that a farm worker's death was not due to the H5N1 virus that causes the most dangerous form of the disease.

French authorities vowed to spare no effort in containing avian influenza, after the country became the sixth in the European Union, and the most westerly, to be hit by the virus.

Europe's top producer and the world's fourth-largest exporter of poultry, France confirmed that H5N1, which can kill people as well as birds, had been identified in a wild duck found dead in the central-eastern Ain department.

Since 2003, just over 90 people have died from bird flu in China, Southeast Asia, Iraq and eastern Turkey after contracting the H5N1 virus from infected poultry. No human infections have been reported in Europe.

To view the entire article, please visit:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/02/19/060219152859.bdkhnmlr.html>

Educational Website on Blast Injuries

Announcing the launch of a new educational website regarding blast injuries:

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

The website is maintained by an academic group of University-based emergency physicians with a special interest in blast-related issues. The goal of the website is to provide important resource information about blast injuries, blast physics, and explosive characteristics.

Please review the website. Any feedback or suggestions would be greatly appreciated in order to make this a more comprehensive educational tool. Please send your comments to:

blastinjuries@yahoo.com

or

info@blastinjury.org

NY Fire Fighter Dies After Responding to a Call

Fire Fighter Dies After Responding to a Call - New York

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200524.html>

CDC Public Health Law Web Site

New Look for CDC Public Health Law Web Site. The CDC Public Health Law Program has redesigned and updated its web site. The Program has deleted many older materials on the site and added new ones. Over the next few months, the Program plans to add many more materials, especially on emergency legal preparedness. According to Dr. Frederic E. Shaw, a medical officer/attorney at the Program, "For now, we have revamped the site to make it better organized and easier to navigate. In the future, we plan to make our site a portal for a broad collection of electronic information on public health law." Shaw said the Public Health Law Program has recruited a team of expert volunteers to help provide new content for the site. To see the new site, visit:

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/>

Congress Approves New Spectrum for Public Safety

Congress has passed legislation to set a firm date for making spectrum in the 700 MHz band available to public safety; the president is expected to sign it into law. The legislation (S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005) will:

Require television broadcasters to vacate channels 63, 64, 68 and 69 by February 17, 2009. These channels will then be dedicated for exclusive use by public safety agencies. The channels are in the upper 700 MHz band and near the lower 800 MHz band where public safety is being relocated as part of the Consensus Plan rebanding effort currently underway. This new 24 MHz is equal to the entire public safety spectrum currently available across 10 frequency bands. Essentially, this new law doubles the current spectrum available to public safety.

Require the FCC to auction the spectrum not dedicated to public safety by January 28, 2008. The first \$7.363 billion raised from the auction shall be sent to the U.S. Treasury. Revenue in excess of that amount may become available for several purposes including:

Establishment of a \$1 billion grant fund for public safety interoperable communications;

\$156 million for public warning systems; and \$43.5 million to assist E911 programs.

The legislation offers opportunities for fire chiefs:

New spectrum in the 700MHz band to increase capacity where no additional spectrum is currently available;

The ability to expand communications capabilities to data and other wideband applications;

Funding to replace legacy communications systems with radio equipment manufactured today that can easily transition between 800/700 MHz frequencies;

A date certain-February 17, 2009-for chiefs and other local government leaders to begin the planning process to upgrade or replace existing radio systems; and

The ability to more easily plan for interoperable systems.

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EIIP Virtual Forum Transcript Now Available

To read the transcript of the February 8, 2006 session on "The Pipeline Emergencies Program - A National Training Curriculum," please go to the EIIP Virtual Forum

<http://www.emforum.org>

and click on 'Transcript' -- OR -- go directly to:
<http://www.emforum.org/vformum/1c060208.htm>.

Every Injury Must Be Reported & Documented!

No Matter How Minor It May Appear.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatality:

Name: Gary Wayne Kistler, Sr.

Rank: Firefighter

Age: 65

Gender: Male

Status: Career

Years of Service: 30

Date of Incident: 1/28/2006

Time of Incident: 2200 hours

Date of Death: 2/05/2006

Department Name: Saucier Fire Department

Address: 20121 West Wortham Road, Saucier, MS
39574

Telephone: 228-832-0638

Department Chief: Marena Weems

Incident Description: Firefighter Kistler suffered a cut injury to his finger while working a motor vehicle accident extrication involving a fatality. A number of days later, Kistler being treated by medical personnel for pain in his arm and back, died in the hospital from complications related to the infection from his injury.

FEMA Looking for Book Draft Review



Volunteer Reviewers Needed for
Emergency Management Textbook
The Federal Emergency Management
Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management

Higher Education Project is seeking volunteers to review a draft of an undergraduate-level college textbook, "Introduction to Emergency Management." This 668-page textbook has been developed by a team at Texas A&M University. Interested volunteers, who believe they have the necessary background and expertise to review an undergraduate-level textbook dealing with emergency management, will have 45 days after receipt of the priority-mailed paper copy to review and return comments. It is requested that no one seek a review copy for information purposes only, as within a few months a final version of the textbook will be available for free downloading at the FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Web site,

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu>.

If interested in becoming a reviewer, visit:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/edu/collegecrsbooks.asp>

to become familiar with other FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Project materials prior to reviewing this textbook. To become a volunteer reviewer or to request more information, contact Barbara Johnson, Emergency Management Institute, FEMA; (301) 447-1452; e-mail: barbara.l.johnson@dhs.gov;

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/>.

Quick Response Reports

Postdisaster Studies Sponsored by the Natural Hazards Center

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/>

Free Safety Checklists, PowerPoints

<http://www.web-safety.com/Exchange/index.htm>

New Command & Control Simulations

Deputy United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson announces new command and control online simulations.

Q325 Townhouse simulation presents the user with a set of complex fire and rescue problems commonly found in a townhouse, row house, garden apartment, or condominium response. Upon successful completion of this online simulation course, the user will be able to recognize the fire and rescue issues related to this type of occupancy.

Q324 Ranch House interactive simulation involves a scenario depicting a single-story, single-family dwelling and presents the student with a "room-

and-contents" fire and basic rescue problems. Upon successful completion of this online simulation course, the user will be able to recognize the cues and problems associated with this type of incident.

Q424 - Nursing Home Fire simulation presents the user with a kitchen fire in a two-story nursing home. Upon successful completion of this online simulation course, the user will be able to recognize the rescue issues related to this type of occupancy - those people who have differing medical problems and those people who are visiting.

National Fire Academy/United States Fire Administration certification will be granted upon successful completion of the course evaluations.

These courses can be found on USFA's Virtual Campus at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov>.

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Fire Team USA

NSFA to Partner with Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association and Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department for FireTeam USA Workshop Tour

Fire Team USA received notification in the first round from the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security that their grant in the amount of \$592,510 had been awarded.

Fire Team USA is a partnership between the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, the National Fire Sprinkler Association, and the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department that addresses the economics of various fire safety issues within communities across the United States, including residential fire sprinkler ordinance adoption. The work of Fire Team USA was piloted in Tennessee in 2005 with a FY04 grant called Fire Team Tennessee, and proved to be successful in communities across the Volunteer state.

With FY05 funds, \$650 million will provide direct assistance to thousands of fire departments and organizations throughout the country. Fire Team USA will use funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings public policy makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals together to learn about fire sprinklers and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community.

Vickie Pritchett, NFSA Associate Director of Public Fire Protection, will serve as project manager of the grant. Vickie will be working with Jim Dalton, NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Wayne Waggoner, NFSA Southeast Regional Manager, Shane Ray, PVVFD Fire Chief, and the NFSA training division to deliver the Fire Team USA workshop to 10 states in 2006.

The grant idea was first formulated when Shane Ray, Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department Chief, conducted research for an Executive Fire Officer Program research project that focused on why fire chiefs did not lead fire sprinkler efforts. The idea was expanded by and formulated into a grant application by Vickie Pritchett and Jim Dalton.

"Fire Team Tennessee brought together the necessary statistics, tools and resources and delivered them to the stakeholders who can do something good with the information," explains Chief Ray. "It is rewarding to see the key players in communities come together and realize that fire sprinklers will make a difference in the quality of life in the community. The communities that we reach with this message will be better prepared as they grow, and it is great to help them plan for a future that includes fire protection."

"I've been in the business of educating folks about residential fire sprinklers for 25 years, and it is refreshing to see and be involved in this effort," explains Jim Dalton, of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. "The resources are available, the technology is proven, all we need is for caring and committed leaders to step up to the plate and create the plan that works best for their community. It's exciting to be a part of this initiative, building upon the success of Fire Team Tennessee and taking this important information to the nation."

"We recognize the importance of the Fire Act Grants to our nation's fire departments and we will continue to work closely with the fire service community to meet their needs," said Matt A Mayer, Acting Executive Director of Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program assists local fire departments to purchase firefighting equipment, fund firefighter health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs, and conduct fire education and prevention programs throughout the United States.

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grants ensures that the nation's firefighters continue to have the basic capability they require to do their jobs, improve safety and save lives" said David Paulison, Acting Undersecretary for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Department's United States Fire Administration.

For more information contact Fire Team USA, at 615-533-0305, or on the web at

<http://www.fireteamusa.com>

or email us at

FireTeamUSA@aol.com.

For more information on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, please visit the Program Website at:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>.

or contact the Grants Program Office at 1-866-274-0960. For more information on USFA, please visit the Website at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>.

FireTeamUSA: New York State

Have You Registered Yet?

This is an invitation regarding Fire Team USA: New York! Gather up your team and sign up today because registrations are first-come, first-served and priority is given to teams over individual registrations!

Fire Team USA is a special day and a half informational and training conference on fire protection for your community. All you have to do is coordinate your team, sign up, and show up!

Accommodations, training, and information is provided free of charge, sorry, no travel reimbursement or stipends. Registration is handled when you log on to:

<http://www.fireteamusa.com>

and register. We will make your hotel arrangements and provide you with a confirmation and details. If you are close to the Fire Team USA site, simply select the button that designates no hotel room needed, let us know you will commute!

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Fire Team USA is partnering for public policy with a focus on cooperating for quality communities. This seminar is an initiative to bring fire marshals, fire chiefs, elected officials, building officials, and other stakeholders from communities across your state and region together to learn and share fire prevention methods and alternatives that affect our quality of life. Some communities bring insurance agents, sprinkler contractors, water purveyors....all of this is decided by where you are in the process.

Fire Team USA..bringing the resources to YOU!
Register Today!

For more information, log onto our website.

<http://www.fireteamusa.com>

Need to Prepare for Mass Casualty Incidents

International Association of Fire Chiefs

<http://www.iafc.org>

Al Qaida Audiotape Reinforces Need for Fire Departments to Prepare for Mass Casualty Incidents

On January 19, the media reported that al-Qaida claimed to be planning another attack on the United States. The Arab news network Al-Jazeera had aired an audiotape that allegedly featured warnings from Osama bin Laden.

"This report serves as a reminder that America's fire service must remain vigilant and prepared to respond to a terrorist incident," said IAFC President Chief Bill Killen. "Whether or not we have the luxury of a warning, we must be ready."

The IAFC recommends that all fire chiefs take the following actions:

Review your protocols for mass prophylaxis, mass decontamination, and responding to mass casualties

Meet with your command officers to discuss these protocols, and require them to meet with their companies as well

Review available resources on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), secondary explosive devices (SEDs), and suicide bombings. Some suggestions include:

Interactive Map of Disability and Preparedness Resources

http://www.nod.org/EPIResources/interactive_map.html.

This tool developed by the National Organization on Disability provides an interactive directory of regional, state, and local disability-related emergency management resources. The map is a work-in-progress, and as new resources are developed and discovered they will be included.

House Bill - Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities Announced

Emergency Preparedness and Response for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 2006 (Introduced in House) H.R.4704 Sponsor: Langevin, Ramstad, Weldon

Title: To address the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a major disaster, to increase the accessibility of replacement housing built with Federal funds following Hurricane Katrina and other major disasters, and for other purposes. This bill mirrors Senate Bill 2124 announced in December

Full text of the bill is available on Thomas:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

and will be available at the NOD website, Emergency Preparedness Initiative, National Organization on Disability:

<http://www.nod.org/emergency>

A video produced in 2005 by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) and the IAFC entitled, "Suicide Bombings: The New Chaos," which is available on the IAFC Web site at:

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=365>.

(Due to our agreement with ODP, only members of the IAFC may access this video on the IAFC web site. Non-members should contact ODP at the address listed below.) A series of videos produced by ODP on managing terrorism incidents, responding to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) crime scene, and surviving WMDs and SEDs. These videos are described in detail at:

<http://www.ojp.usdojgov/odp/docs/video.htm>.

(To order these videos, please contact ODP at the address listed below. They are free of charge to state and local agencies.)

A fact sheet for first responders on SEDs from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which may be found at:

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/guides/secondary.html>.

A Department of Homeland Security training guide on explosive devices, available at:

http://cdp.dhs.gov/pdfs/agert/Explosive_Devices.pdf.

To order videos from ODP, please e-mail your request to: askcsid@dhs.gov. Be sure to include the full title of the DVD(s) you are requesting as well as your mailing address. You may also send a request via regular mail on your agency's letterhead to: Director, VIDEO REQUEST, Office for Domestic Preparedness Support, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20531.

Standing Together: An Emergency Planning Guide for America's Communities

"Standing Together: An Emergency Planning Guide for America's Communities" The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. 2005.

http://www.jcaho.org/about+us/public+policy_initiatives/planning_guide.pdf

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NIOSH: Traumatic Occupational Injuries

Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

Each year an average of 105 fire fighters die in the line of duty. To address this continuing national occupational fatality problem, NIOSH conducts independent investigations of fire fighter line of duty deaths. This web page provides access to NIOSH investigation reports and other fire fighter safety resources.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire>.

NOAA Changes Snow Strengths

NOAA announces that for the remainder of the winter season, its scientists will give the public a new, easy-to-understand scale to categorize major snowstorms after they effect the Northeast. The Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale, or NESIS, will quickly calculate the impact of a powerful snowstorm soon after it strikes, and give it a rank, similar to methods used to categorize the strength of tornadoes.

NOAA scientists will now rank high-impact Northeast snowstorms into five categories: extreme, crippling, major, significant, and notable. The Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale index differs from other meteorological indices in that it uses population information in addition to meteorological measurements to provide an indication of a storm's societal impacts.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/snow-nesis/>.

OSHA Offers New Guidelines to Help Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes

Employers and employees who use motor vehicles for work purposes stand to benefit from new guidelines developed by OSHA, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety. The 32-page Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes offers useful information to help employers design an effective driver safety program in their workplace. The motor vehicle guidance is available from OSHA's publications page on the Web, or can be ordered by calling the publications office at (202) 693-1888.

Available from:

http://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor_vehicle_guide.pdf.

NYSAFCC Conference Lake George

OCC Fire Bike Coming to FIRE 2006!

See the Orange County Choppers' Fire Bike at FIRE 2006! Built as a tribute to the 343 New York firefighters who perished in the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Fire Bike is one of the most famous bikes to ever roll out of the Orange County Choppers shop in Montgomery, N.Y. Appropriately assembled of parts from across the country, the Fire Bike is a symbol of the unity, honor, and pride that swept the country after 9-11. With a gas tank from California, a carburetor from Texas, wheels from New Hampshire, and a swing arm from Oklahoma, the Fire Bike is a stunning portrayal of the effects of this fateful day on the nation. By far the focal point and most meaningful piece of the bike is the bolt affixed atop the gas tank; a part of history recovered by a firefighter from the ashes of the World Trade Center. Also at FIRE 2006, don't miss this chance to pick up your official OCC gear while in Lake George. Special thanks to ESIP for sponsoring the Orange County Choppers.

<http://www.nysfirechiefs.com>.

NYSOHS Needs Assessment Tool

The New York State Office of Homeland Security has developed an on-line needs assessment tool for emergency services personnel. This tool was created to assist in the evaluation of the specific needs of the "Emergency Response Community" in New York State related to Homeland Security training.

Training remains a critical part of ensuring proper preparedness to effectively protect the lives and property we serve. This is need is amplified when dealing with issues related to uncommon threats and responses.

Please forward the web link below to everyone within your agency and encourage them to complete this survey.

http://www.ohs.ene.com/training_survey.aspx?IID=6

Open Courseware

MIT has their "Open Courseware" effort at

<http://ocw.mit.edu>.

Johns Hopkins School of Public Health at

<http://ocw.jhsph.edu/>

A list of many more participating schools around the world can be found at

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Global/AboutOCW/otherocws.htm>.

Weather Websites :

NOAA nowCOAST Web Mapping Portal:

<http://nowcoast.noaa.gov/>

Weather for NYS:

<http://www.uswx.com/us/wx/NY/>

Choose you own state:

<http://www.uswx.com/us/wx/>

FY 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program Guidelines

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy2006hsgp.pdf>

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Some Calls for Chesapeake Firefighters Defy Classification

The Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk, Va.

CHESAPEAKE -- Firefighters searched everywhere last August for the source of a mysterious haze that filled a Grady Street apartment. They checked closets, cabinets -- anywhere a smoldering fire might be hiding.

"I could smell it, and I could tell something was burning," Lt. David Elliott said.

Finally, colleagues brought in a special camera that uses infrared to find heat sources, and there it was, "burning hot," Elliott said.

A flower pot.

The occupant of the apartment had put burning incense sticks in the soil of a potted plant. Firefighters extinguished the flower pot, preventing the fire from spreading.

Last year, the Fire Department answered nearly 7,000 calls for fires and other hazardous or unknown conditions. Firefighters and paramedics went to nearly 17,000 calls for medical help.

Each call carries the urgency of life-and-death consequences.

Yet sometimes the calls are in a category all their own. Last year, 95 fire calls were classified as unspecified and 3,736 calls were put into a category called "other types of situations."

The responders have their own name.

"We call them 'off-the-wall calls' because there's no classification for them," said Elliott, a 21-year veteran of the department. "I probably run three or four a year."

Take the shoe burning in the middle of Scenic Boulevard last February or the hollow tree that caught fire on Border Road in June.

Firefighters took some water from a nearby ditch and extinguished the shoe. The tree proved a bit more difficult.

Firefighters used rags to plug holes in the tree and then pumped more than 1,000 gallons of water into it to put out the fire.

The cause: Someone had thrown lit cigarettes into the tree.

Years ago, Elliott said, he went to an apartment after a woman brought home plastic bags full of clothes hot from the dryer of a coin-operated laundry.

"She left them in the plastic bags, and they auto-ignited and almost burned down her apartment building," Elliott said.

Sometimes the "other" calls that firefighters receive aren't for fires at all.

Like the horse that got stuck last March in a ditch alongside Battlefield Boulevard.

The horse was on its side in about 5 feet of water. Animal control officers were at the scene with the owner, according to fire officials. A sling was improvised by firefighters, and using the aerial ladder of a ladder truck, the horse was guided out to safety.

Cats get stuck in trees. So do bears. And children.

In December, firefighters went to Tree Duck Court to free a child whose leg was stuck between two tree branches.

They drove wedges between the branches and created enough space for the child's leg to be freed.

At least two cats were rescued last year. One had to be rescued twice. Some years, bears climb high in neighborhood trees and are too frightened to come back down. In those cases, Capt. Steve Johnson said, firefighters help game wardens and animal control officers with special equipment and other needs.

Earlier this month, firefighters were at a shopping center on Greenbrier Parkway when they noticed that a raven was stuck in the "V" of the Old Navy store's sign.

Animal control officers and a Fire Department ladder truck were called.

"It was in a form of panic and as we put the ladder up toward it, he got kind of frantic," Lt. Scott Clifford said of the bird.

Firefighters blocked off the road in front of the store, and a crowd gathered. Employees of surrounding stores went outside to see if something was burning.

As soon as an animal control officer climbed the ladder and rescued the bird, which had a broken wing, "the bird appeared to breathe a sigh of relief," Clifford said. "He was very calm."

The bird was taken to be rehabilitated.

"I thought it was real nice," said Bob Port, who works at Bobick's Golf Headquarters nearby.

Firefighters love a happy ending, too, Johnson said.

He said people know they can count on firefighters whenever they are needed, a tradition that predates call boxes on telephone poles.

"We may be the last person you call, but we'll do something," Johnson said. "We'll come."

Eric Auf der Heide's Book "Disaster Response"

"Disaster Response: Principles of Preparation and Coordination" This classic book is available for reading online at no cost from the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance.

Dr Auf Der Heide was good enough to make his book available, in full, online at:

<http://orgmail2.coe-dmha.org/dr/Images/main.swf>

<http://orgmail2.coe-dhma.org/dr/index.htm>

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Underwriters Laboratories To Provide Free Seminars For Fire Regulators

Northbrook, IL - Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) will be hosting a series of free seminars designed to provide fire officials with the information and training on recent revisions to UL 300, the Standard for Safety for Fire Testing of Fire Extinguishing Systems for Protection of Restaurant Cooking Areas.

After attending the free seminar, participants will be able to:

- Effectively navigate the UL 300 Standard;
- Discuss the fire test methods and requirements for various types of commercial cooking appliances;
- Identify the characteristics of pre-engineered systems, including their self-contained supply of extinguishing agent, and apply the requirements in UL 300;
- Discuss and apply the requirements in model codes covering commercial cooking equipment and cooking operations; and

Identify appropriate size and type of portable fire extinguishers that are required for supplemental protection in commercial cooking areas and different applications.

"The switch from animal fat-based frying and cooking oils to vegetable-based oils in cooking has resulted in restaurant and commercial cafeterias using higher cooking temperatures," said Al Ramirez, manager of Regulatory Services. "The dry chemical agents used in pre-engineered extinguishing systems are on the brink of being phased out, as they can no longer extinguish vegetable-based fires. UL's free seminars will provide fire protection authorities with the knowledge to successfully evaluate the ability of the pre-engineered equipment to protect restaurant cooking areas."

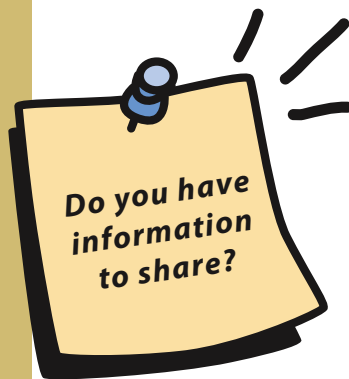
Seminar dates, locations, and registration information is available:

<http://www.uluniversity.com/SUTRA/shopul/customer/home.php?&cat=434>

10 Rules for Unified Incident Command

1. Ensure that the Unified command consists only of the highest ranking officers from each responding agency.
2. Include only those agencies that have a major operational function.
3. Unified command must be flexible enough to transition from one incident commander to another as an incident unfolds.
4. Assign a liaison officer to inform members of each agency the outset of an incident where the command post is.
5. If the unified command post is in a mobile command vehicle, clearly label the vehicle's exterior as such.
6. Consider distributing to first responders quick copies of incident scene maps designating the location of the unified command post.
7. Get rid of 1-codes and use plain English in communicating at an incident scene.
8. Since a good unified command requires the establishment of relationships between ranking officers of the various emergency response agencies, build those relationships before you have to respond to an incident, and work to maintain and nurture those relationships.
9. Use unified command for pre-incident planning.
10. Get political leaders involved in the process to ensure that a higher authority supports the unified command / ICS concept and directs emergency agencies to implement it.

Send Us an Article



Commercial products and services are mentioned for informational purposes only and should not be construed as OFPC or Department of State endorsements.

Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged.

All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested. Contact us by e-mail at fire@dos.state.ny.us subject: *SIREN*.

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