

SIREN

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

George E. Pataki
Governor
Christopher L. Jacobs
Secretary of State
James A. Burns
State Fire Administrator

2nd Annual Fire Service Safety Stand Down

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Building on the success of the first Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down in 2005, the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control is joining the IAFC, the IAFF, NVFC, and the North American Fire Training Directors, as well as 14 other fire service partners in calling for the second Stand Down. The 2nd Annual Safety Stand Down will be held starting Wednesday, June 21, 2006, and continuing until all personnel and duty nights have been covered.

A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its organization. This safety stand down is to raise the level of awareness toward fire fighter safety and call attention to the unacceptable number of deaths and injuries plaguing fire departments

Starting Wednesday, June 21, 2006 and continuing until all subsequent duty days/shifts have been covered, all fire departments — career, volunteer and combination — are being urged to suspend all non-emergency activity and instead focus entirely on firefighter safety.



“We must take positive steps to reduce the high fire fighter death and injury rate”

“We must take positive steps to reduce the high fire fighter death and injury rate and while fire fighter safety is part of every operation in the fire service, the Safety Stand Down raises awareness of the issue and calls attention to the unacceptable number of fire fighter line-of-duty deaths”, according to State Fire Administrator James Burns. The 2006 Stand Down will focus on emergency vehicle safety, including seatbelt usage and safe driving through intersections. Many training resources are available to the fire service to assist with Stand Down activities. A few of these are:

- OFPC Emergency Vehicle Operations training course
- Emergency Vehicle Operations courses available from insurance companies
- Firefighterclosecalls.com (lesson learned)
- Respondersafety.com (lesson learned)
- NIOSH.gov (case histories)
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives
- USFA & NVFC Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System
<http://firefighternearmiss.com/home.do>

Each of these programs and web sites have valuable and current information concerning emergency vehicle operations and response safety.

Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference

On behalf of the 2006 Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference planning committee, we invite you to attend this conference. Please note that registrations must be received by June 16, 2006 to qualify for special “early bird” reduced registration fees. With five tracks and some really great National Speakers, we think you will find this a great value and a training opportunity.

Stephanie H. Burgess, MBA, CSP

Chair Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Corporate Risk Management - Kaleida Health

Nancy Brennan Blundell

Project Coordinator

Border Community Service

Niagara University

Online registrations may be made at:

<http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice>

Look for the 2006 Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference title in left border.

For additional information and on-line registration:

<http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice/conference.htm>

For brochure:

http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice/pdf/2006_Conference-Brochure.pdf

Sponsored by Niagara University’s Border Community Service
In partnership with:

The Local Emergency Planning Committee of Erie County

The Local Emergency Committee of Niagara County

The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Ontario, Canada)

The Western New York Healthcare Association

The Western New York Public Health Alliance

CAMEO 20th Anniversary

This message has two purposes: 1) to notify you about the latest CAMEO software release, and 2) to give you information about activities related to CAMEO's 20th anniversary.

New versions of CAMEOfm, ALOHA, and MARPLOT were released in February. The major change is the inclusion of fires and explosions modelling in ALOHA. See the CAMEO web site for details.

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

As many of you know, 2006 marks CAMEO's 20th anniversary. Twenty years ago (in 1986), NOAA and Seattle-area firefighters embarked on a design collaboration that resulted in the first version of CAMEO. Many years and versions later, CAMEO is still going strong. We'll be celebrating CAMEO's 20th birthday with special events throughout the year. The biggest event will be the 2006 CAMEO Conference, scheduled for Houston, TX from

October 30 - November 1. We'll keep you informed about the conference and other anniversary events through the CAMEO News Service and CAMEO Website.

Best Regards,

The CAMEO Development Team at NOAA HAZMAT and EPA OEM



CEDAP Awardee List Released:

The list of awardees from the most recent phase of the DHS Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) has been released. Some jurisdictions have already been notified via their congressional delegation. Award letters were mailed on 18 May to all successful applicants. Letters will also be sent to unsuccessful applicants. HOWEVER, the letters to unsuccessful applicants will not be sent for approximately three more weeks. The reason is that the program manager is attempting to consolidate all possible funds and cost savings to make a few additional awards. The status codes for successful applications were updated on the Responder Knowledge Base on

18 May. Originators should check the status of their applications - if the application was successful, the status will be changed to "Awarded." If you do not see a status change, please be patient.

We will update any additional awards during the next few weeks, and when we are sure there are no more awards, we will change all remaining statuses to "Not Awarded." Work is also continuing on CEDAP 06. We will publish more information on the schedule as it becomes available.

http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=132444.

There are two options for this site. You may register for free and have complete access to all the resources available on the Responder Knowledge Base. If you do not wish to register, you may register anonymously as a "guest". You will then have limited access to some of the resources on the website.

<http://www.rkb.mipt.org/>

Captain Suffers Pulmonary Embolism During Response

F2005-33 Captain Suffers Pulmonary Embolism During Response to a Medical Call and Later Dies - New York

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200533.html>

2006 Atlantic Hurricane Names Active Hurricane Season Predicted

The 2006 Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1, 2006. Here are the names for this year's Atlantic tropical cyclones:

Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sandy, Tony, Valerie, William

The National Hurricane Center is predicting another active Atlantic hurricane season, forecasting 13 to 16 named storms. Four to six of those will be major.

Read the full story at

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>

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DHS - Office of Grants and Training (OG&T)

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated that response to an incident of terrorism can rapidly deplete local supplies and equipment. In order to further enhance the capability of state and local units of government to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) weapons and cyber attacks, G&T offers a suite of equipment programs that support G&T grant funding. The G&T equipment programs provide a means of direct support to first responders to enable them to acquire additional, specialized equipment, as well as training and technical assistance on those necessary equipment

items. G&T equipment programs allow state and local units of governments to meet the challenges presented by terrorist organizations and to strengthen the capabilities of first responders to safely and effectively prepare for and respond to a terrorist incident

Itep – Information Technology and Evaluation Program

RKB – Responder Knowledge Base

EPAP – Equipment Purchase Assistance Program

HDER – Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program

DPETAP – Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program

PEP – Pre-Positioned Equipment Program

InterOp Comm – Interoperable Communications User's Handbook

SAVER – System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders Program

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/equipment.htm>

Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes

This document represents a joint effort by NETS, NHTSA and OSHA to reduce motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries in the nation's workforce. This white paper was funded under [Purchase

Order Number B-9-4-2-3576] for the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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



Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System is a voluntary, non-punitive and secure reporting system with the goal of improving fire fighter safety.

Submitted reports will be reviewed by fire service professionals. Identifying descriptions are removed to protect your identity. The report is then posted on this website for other firefighters to use as a learning tool. For more info, visit:

<http://firefighternearmiss.com/home.do>

CDCP and EMAC EHAP New Website

A new web page has recently been launched on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency Preparedness and Response Web site that provides information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and the EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project.

This Web page can be accessed at:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac>.



Related Resources:

Official website for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC):

<http://www.emacweb.org>

EMAC Tips for State Health Agencies:

<http://www.astho.org/pubs/EMACTips10.pdf>

Information from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) on how state health agencies can effectively use EMAC for emergency response

EMAC Briefing for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Conference Call, February 3, 2006:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac/pdf/cdc-briefing-3feb2006.pdf>

EMAC Environmental Health Assistance Project

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/emac/resources.asp>

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FirefighterCloseCalls.com

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/index.php>

FirefighterCloseCalls.com was an idea born from The Secret List <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/secret.php>. Like FFCC.com it also has roots within The Secret List, an independent newsletter produced since 1998 in an effort to bring forward the issues involving injury and death to firefighters and now, with a focus on EMS personnel... often issues that are ignored, quickly forgotten or just not talked about. Originally started as an e-mail group amongst some close friends in the fire/EMS service, The Secret List is currently received by thousands of fire and EMS members. To subscribe click above addresses:

The EMSCloseCalls site has been up and down during construction. If the site is down, try again later it will be worth the extra effort!

EMSCloseCalls.com

<http://www.emsclosecalls.com/index.php>

FEMA Releases Preparedness DVD

"Getting Ready for Disaster - One Family's Experience," a citizen preparedness DVD from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has been released to help people get ready for disasters that may impact their families and communities. The DVD guides viewers through important steps of disaster preparedness and addresses critical issues in seven segments: Getting Informed, Making a Plan, Assembling a Disaster Supplies Kit, Food and Water in an Emergency, Helping Children Cope with Disaster, Disability and Special Needs Populations, and Getting Involved - Citizen Corps.

The DVD was designed to be used with "Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness" and the accompanying facilitator manual for teaching preparedness principles in small group or classroom settings.

Free copies of the DVD (FEMA 500) and the "Are You Ready" guides (IS-22 and IS-22FG) are available through the FEMA Distribution Center at (800) 480-2520. Requests are currently limited to one DVD per caller.

In the coming months, the DVD will be translated into Spanish and will be available in both languages on a single DVD. Video files, a transcript, and the guide can also be downloaded from:

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

Insurance Company Denies Firefighter's Claim

From News10 NBC - Rochester

A Wayne County volunteer firefighter, who was hit by a car while doing traffic control for another accident, is being denied medical coverage by the fire department's insurance provider. Jim Gallaher is a former chief of the Lincoln Fire Department, in Wayne County.

He's been a volunteer for 30 years. In February he was nearly killed in a hit and run accident while on the job. The suspect has still not been found. Now the insurance company is refusing to pay for his pain and suffering.

Gallaher still wears a cast on his leg. He has constant headaches, memory loss and he can't drive anymore. In his words, his quality of life is down the tubes.

"The thing is I can't do stuff myself, I've got to rely on my friends, neighbors, relatives to do everything for me," said Gallaher.

It all began in late February. A car hit Gallaher as

he was diverting traffic from another accident. He woke up hours later at Strong Memorial Hospital. Now, the fire department's insurance provider has denied his claim.

Gallaher's lawyer, Tony DiNitto showed NEWS 10NBC the insurance company's denial. It said because Gallaher was not physically in a department car and because his name is not specifically listed on the policy, he is not considered covered.

The case has far reaching implications for all volunteer firefighters whose names may not appear on their department's insurance policy.

Gallaher has contacted State Senator Mike Nozzolio about the problem, but a lawsuit may be next. "It doesn't make any sense so that's why we're trying to look into it, but they're not budging. They say tough. I'm not a member even though I am a member. It doesn't make any sense," said Gallaher.

NEWS 10NBC called the insurance company, Utica National. The company said it does not comment publicly on its claims. In its denial, Utica National said the policy in this hit and run case covers the fire department but not the firefighters. Jim Gallaher says the firefighters are the department.

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New Landview/MARPLOT Viewer Available

There is a new Landview/MARPLOT viewer available for six cities as test areas for a 3-dimensional rendering of those areas. It combines an aerial photo with topo maps. One of the things it does is allow you to put ALOHA plumes onto an area. It's only in test right now, but here's the site address: <http://web-services.gov/lvterrain/index.html>



News from the Responder Knowledge Base:

IAB Releases Spring 2006 Standardized Equipment List (SEL):

The Inter-Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and Inter-operability (IAB) has released the Spring 2006 version of its Standardized Equipment List (SEL). The interactive version has been uploaded to the Responder Knowledge Base <http://www.rkb.mipt.org>.

This latest version contains changes to many of the item descriptions, features, and operating considerations. It also includes new items such as a water distribution system, a combination respirator, forensic software for cyber security, and a fixed-site infrared chemical detector. Many of these

changes may be adopted by DHS for inclusion in the Authorized Equipment List (AEL) used to determine grant allowability. A list of proposed updates has been submitted to the DHS Preparedness Directorate's Office of Grants and Training for approval. If updates are made to the AEL, they will be reflected in the change log available on the Responder Knowledge Base AEL page, and will be loaded into the RKB's online AEL immediately after approval.

http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=130360
There are 2 options for this site. You may register for free and have complete access to all the resources available on the Responder Knowledge Base. If you do not wish to register, you may register anonymously as a "guest". You will then have limited access to some of the resources on the website. <http://www.rkb.mipt.org/>

EMS Needs More Support

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Funding for responders is still well below that of police and firefighters. There is a shortage of EMTs and paramedics.

"More than a year ago, a report on the nation's emergency medical services found that woefully inadequate funding and training had left few responders equipped to respond safely and effectively to terrorist attacks or other catastrophes. Little has changed since New York University's Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response

released 'Emergency Medical Services: The Forgotten First Responders' in April 2005. Its highlights include: Of the country's 900,000 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), most had received less than an hour of training to respond to large-scale terrorism and 20 had received no training. Emergency medical services (EMS) received only 5 % of federal bioterrorism grant money. Equipment for at least half the EMTs and paramedics in 25 states was inadequate for responding to a chemical or biological attack." <http://www.philly.com/mlid/inquirer/news/local/states/newjersey/14606810.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>.

Emergency & Information Service Website

Close to real-time interactive map of current emergencies. It is good but be aware that all of this is from a Hungarian based website.

Therefore, icons may not be exactly geographically correct. RSOE HAVARIA Emergency & Information Service Website: http://visz.rsos.hu/alertmap/usa_alert.php?lang=eng

MMWR (Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Review)

Estimating Potential Impact of an Influenza Pandemic Using 1968- and 1918-Type Scenarios http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5519a5.htm?s_cid=mm5519a5_e



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NWCG Training Working Team Website

The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) is a member of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). USFA plays a key role in representing structural fire service issues to this group, and in representing wildland fire issues identified by this group to the Nation's structural fire service.

USFA plays an important part on several NWCG working teams, including the Training Working Team (TWT). The NWCG TWT manages the NWCG training curricula program; recommends for approval the Wildland Fire curriculum; oversees NWCG course revisions; recommends to NWCG the course development and format standards; assures all training materials developed by NWCG meet the Course Development and Format Standards; and provides guidance to other NWCG Working Teams on the development process and standards.

USFA is pleased to share with the structural fire service community that the NWCG Training Working Team has a new Website:

<http://training.nwcg.gov>

This website provides information about the NWCG curriculum, training program, training material, standards, and any related areas of the NWCG interagency training program. Some features on the new website include:

- Student Information;
- NWCG Training Course Information
- How to Enroll in a NWCG Course
- NWCG Course Prerequisites
- NWCG Position Task Books
- NWCG Course Coordinators and Instructors Guidance;
- Putting on a NWCG Course
- NWCG Course Updates
- NWCG Course Alerts
- NWCG Instructor Qualifications
- NWCG Online training;
- NWCG Online Pre-course Work (all pre-course work will eventually be transferred to online)
- NWCG Online Training Courses (I-100 is now available)
- NWCG Training Development;
- Training Curriculum
- Course Revision SME Opportunities (Nomination period now open for fall '06 courses)
- Issue Papers

NWCG welcomes suggestions for improvement of the site. Please send them to: sue_curd@nifc.blm.gov.

NHTSA Office of Emergency Medical Services

The mission of the Office of EMS is to reduce death and disability by providing leadership and coordination to the EMS community in assessing, planning, developing and promoting comprehensive, evidence-based emergency medical services and 9-1-1 systems.

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.2a0771e91315abbbf30811060008a0c/>

Or:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

Click the "TRAFFIC SAFETY" tab at the top. Click "Emergency Medical Service" in the left column.

NYS OHS NIMS News Updates

The New York State Office of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the State Preparedness Steering Committee (please refer to NYS NIMS Implementation Strategy for additional information) is committed to providing the appropriate guidance and information necessary

to assist entities in achieving compliance with the NIMS. Ongoing informational updates will be provided via this website and will be augmented with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section where visitors can gain timely and relevant information to assist them with their NIMS implementation.

http://www.security.state.ny.us/training/nims_update/index.html

NIMS
online.com

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e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

OSHA Products Available to Keep Workers Safe in Hot Weather

Louisiana Tower Crew Uses OSHA Heat Stress QuickCard to Help Save Co-Worker's Life
WASHINGTON -- Fast-thinking employees performing cleanup and recovery work in New Orleans helped save a co-worker's life on May 4 by using an OSHA QuickCard.

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3154.html> to identify signs of heat stroke and then provide first aid until an ambulance arrived a few minutes later. Earlier that day, the small group of tower workers and their supervisor, held a 15 minute safety meeting to discuss the recognition, treatment, and dangers of heat related illnesses. After being treated for heat stroke, the worker was released from an area hospital and returned to work the next day. An attending physician said that if treatment had been delayed another 15 minutes, he might have died.

While the outcome of this story is not likely to lead the nightly news or appear on the local paper's front page, it does represent a real scenario that plays itself out many times throughout the hot summer months. However, because of foresight, fast thinking, and the right information, tragedy can be averted.

"Summer is just around the corner and the combination of heat, humidity, and physical labor can be dangerous for those working outdoors," said OSHA Administrator Ed Foulke. "To help workers and employers become more aware of these hazards and how they can protect themselves, we are offering tips to keep them safe and healthy throughout the summer months."

The two most serious forms of heat related illnesses are heat exhaustion (primarily from dehydration) and heat stroke, which could be fatal. Signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke need immediate attention. Recognizing those warning signs and taking quick action can make a difference in preventing a fatality.

Presenter's University

Here you'll find lots of FREE stuff to put Wow! in all your presentations. Try free presentation software and download any of our many free PowerPoint templates or Corel master.

<http://www.presentersuniversity.com/downloads.php>

Working Outdoors

http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/working_outdoors.pdf

is an OSHA fact sheet that offers advice on ways to protect against exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV), precautions to take if working in extreme heat, and how to protect against Lyme disease and the West Nile Virus. The fact sheet also offers information links for teenagers working at summer jobs.

OSHA's Heat Stress Card

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list>

lists tips and precautions to prevent many heat-related deaths and injuries. Available in English and Spanish, this laminated card is free to employers to distribute to their workers. It offers a quick reference about heat-related injuries, including warning signs, symptoms and early treatment.

Protecting Yourself Against Harmful Sunlight

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list>

is a pocket card that explains how to perform self-examinations to detect early stages of skin cancer. The card, available in English and Spanish, also describes common physical features of skin cancer that can be caused by exposure to the sun.

These publications and others related to outdoor job hazards can be downloaded from OSHA's web site on the publications page

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list>

or can be ordered by calling OSHA's publications office at (202) 693-1888. More information about heat and sun hazards can be found on OSHA's website

<http://www.osha.gov/index.html>

and at the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov>

and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and health (NIOSH)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit:

<http://www.osha.gov>

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<http://www.presentersuniversity.com/store.php>

and even Ask the Professor

<http://www.presentersuniversity.com/professor.php>

your most perplexing presentation software questions.

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Reporting Extrication-Related Deployment of Automotive Safety Equipment

Recently, there has been increased media attention about the potential dangers of extrication-related deployments of automotive safety equipment (i.e., air bags, seat belt pretensioners, etc.) to emergency personnel during rescue and EMS operations. While there have been reports of injuries to rescuers, the prevalence of these types of incidents is not known. For several years, NHTSA's Special Crash Investigation Program (SCI) has investigated reports of injuries from safety devices, including malfunctions and/or inadvertent activations of air bags during rescue operations. In the few reported cases of deployments occurring during rescue operations, it was found that the vehicle electrical system was either not properly deactivated or the responders had inadvertently damaged the vehicle air bag control module.

NHTSA's Crash Investigation Program and Emergency Medical Services Division will continue to monitor and analyze the problem. However, in order to determine the extent and nature of any hazard and design appropriate countermeasures,

it is crucial that NHTSA receive information on as many of these incidents as possible. Emergency services providers are reminded to report all unintentional deployments of automotive safety equipment, whether or not the rescuer is injured, by one of the following methods:

John Brophy, Special Crash Investigator, 202-366-0328 or John.Brophy@nhtsa.dot.gov.

David Bryson, Highway Safety Specialist, 202-366-4302 or Dave.Bryson@nhtsa.dot.gov.

By facsimile: 202-366-5374, Attention: SCI Program

By mail: U.S. DOT/NHTSA, Special Crash Investigation Program (NPO-122), Attention: John Brophy, 400 Seventh St., SW, Room 6213, Washington, DC 20590

The safety of emergency services personnel is of paramount importance to NHTSA. The agency will carefully review all reported hazards involving vehicle safety equipment and, in concert with its national partners, take action to ensure emergency responders' safety. You are encouraged to share this reporting mechanism with all emergency enforcement agencies.



RadTown USA

Radiation is natural and all around us. It can be man-made too, but it's nothing new; it is, quite simply, part of our lives. RadTown USA is a virtual community showing a wide variety of radiation sources and uses as you may encounter them in everyday life.

Each RadTown location highlights a particular radiation issue that you might encounter in your everyday life:

Discusses the issue

Lists the important roles that federal, state, and local governments and international organizations play in protecting you from harmful exposure.

Describes what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

Information is organized in a series of easily understood fact sheets with links to more in-depth information.

<http://www.epa.gov/radtown/>

SAFER Grant Application Period Opens

As of May 30, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. eastern daylight time, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began accepting applications for SAFER grants. The deadline for receipt of the SAFER grant applications

will be 5:00 p.m. eastern daylight time on June 30, 2006.

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

Contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

The State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) Web Site

The State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) Web Site

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

has many publications not typically found in a FEMA web site. A few even in Spanish.

Pandemic Influenza Checklist for Businesses

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=29215&heading=e-mail+alert>

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USFA and NFPA Release Report on Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires

EMMITSBURG, MD. - Acting United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) President and Chief Executive Officer James Shannon announced today the completion of a report on Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires. The report is the result of a USFA partnership with NFPA to develop sound, research-based recommendations for behavioral mitigation strategies to reduce smoking fire fatalities in the United States.

"Smoking continues to be the number one cause of residential fire deaths, which justifies a new look at research about the role of behaviors in causing those deaths," said Acting USFA Administrator Charlie Dickinson. "Through this partnership with NFPA, hopefully, we can reduce fire deaths from this cause."

Smoking-material fire deaths are more likely to involve a fire that begins very close to the victim. The percentage of smoking-material fatal fire victims who are "intimate" with ignition is three times the corresponding percentage for fires due to other causes, according to the report. Fatal victims of smoking-material fires are, therefore, less likely than fatal victims of other kinds of fires to be saved by strategies and technologies that react after ignition, such as smoke alarms. For many, if not most of these victims, there is no substitute for prevention. The report further noted that one in four fatal victims is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

"NFPA is leading the charge to reduce cigarette-ignited fires through its Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes," said James M. Shannon, NFPA President and CEO. "NFPA was proud to partner with USFA in this effort to not only reinforce the work of the

coalition but to identify additional ways to minimize loss of life and property from cigarette fires. It is clear from the report we must continue to educate smokers and their families and friends about the strategies that will have the greatest impact on this tragic ongoing loss of life."

The project recommends the use of general messages and several specific messages aimed at specific audiences. The recommended messages are:

- * If you smoke, smoke outside.
- * Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays. Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like an end table.
- * Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dowsing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- * Check under furniture cushions and in other places people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- * Smoking should not be allowed in a home where oxygen is used.
- * If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes. They are less likely to cause fires.
- * To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been consuming alcohol, or have taken medication or other drugs.

These messages have been applied to existing USFA educational materials and are being adopted into NFPA educational messages as they come up for routine revision.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/research/other/smoking-mitigation.shtml>

USFA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. Visit NFPA's Web site at; <http://www.nfpa.org>.

U.S. Forest Service's Remote Sensing Applications Center

(RSAC) is in Salt Lake City, Utah, co-located with the agency's Geospatial Service and Technology Center. Guided by national steering committees and field sponsors, RSAC provides national assistance to

agency field units in applying the most advanced geospatial technology toward improved



monitoring and mapping of natural resources. RSAC's principal goal is to develop and implement less costly ways for the Forest Service to obtain needed forest resource information.

RSAC website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/rsac/index.html>

Active Fire Maps:

<http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/>

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

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WISER version 2.2 is now available for download

This release includes: Updated data for existing chemicals and 15 new substances, including all that have been suggested by users. The "Help Identify" feature of WISER for Windows now allows searching by NFPA 704 placard. This feature will also be coming soon in the PDA and WebWISER applications and will include more comprehensive data.

Download this new release from the WISER web site, or try WebWISER, the online version of WISER: <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov>

We are eager to hear your suggestions and feedback; they drive our priorities and make WISER a better tool:

<http://www.wiser.nlm.nih.gov/feedback.html>

Thanks for your help!

New WISER substances include:

Acetic Acid (64-19-7)
 Acetonitrile (75-05-8)
 Chloroacetic Acid (91-11-8)
 Dimethyl Sulfoxide (67-68-5)
 Glutaraldehyde (111-30-8)
 Methly Isobutyl Ketone (108-10-1)
 Phosphoric Acid (7664-38-2)
 Potassium Hydroxide (1310-58-3)
 1,2-Propanediol Dinitrate (6423-43-4)
 Sodium Hydrosulfide (16721-80-5)
 Stoddard Solvent (8052-41-3)
 Sulfur (7704-34-9)
 Amosite Asbestos (12172-73-5)
 Chrysotile Asbestos (12001-29-5)
 Tremolite Asbestos (14567-73-8)



Wildfire Resource

The United States has witnessed the early arrival of the 2006 Wildland Fire Season. For example, wildfires have already swept across thousands of acres in Texas, New Mexico, and Florida. According to a Government Accountability Office report (GAO-06-671R) issued earlier this month, it is possible that this wildfire season will offer new challenges beyond what has been experienced in previous years. Experts believe that catastrophic damage from wildland fires will probably continue to increase. "The number of acres burned by wildland fires annually from 2000 to 2005 was 70 percent greater than the average burned annually during the 1990s."

In the past five years the wildland/urban interface created a new frontier requiring innovative rules of engagement, which demanded much more from fire departments. In today's rapidly expanding wildland/urban interface, firefighters are facing

wildfire disasters with increasing frequency. Consequently, the necessity to protect the critical infrastructures of wildland firefighting organizations has never been greater. The Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) asserts that this is particularly true for their personnel who are the foremost among internal critical infrastructures.

The GAO report reinforced several tasks that agencies must complete prior to implementing a cohesive wildland fire management strategy. The EMR-ISAC affirms that the following tasks contribute to the protection of wildfire responder critical infrastructures: Finish data systems needed to identify the extent, severity, and location of wildland fire threats to local communities and ecosystems. Update local fire management plans to better specify the actions necessary to effectively address these threats. Assess the cost-effectiveness and affordability of options for reducing the ample supply of fuel for fires. Ensure reliable mechanisms exist to communicate among wildfire responders and critical infrastructure stakeholders when threatened by wildfires.

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White House Flu Plan Overlooks Firefighters & Paramedics

IAFF [May 4 Washington DC USA]--The General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO/CLC, Harold Schaitberger, issued this statement today on the federal government's plan to prepare for a potential flu outbreak:

"The Bush administration's plan outlining the nation's response to a potential outbreak of pandemic flu is a startling reminder of the work that still needs to be done to guard against influenza.

"The federal government's plan fails to adequately address the health of fire fighters and emergency medical professionals and fails to recognize the role fire departments play in developing and implementing a community-wide response to a flu outbreak.

"In addition, state and local governments must ensure fire fighters and emergency medical personnel have the training and resources to perform their jobs adequately during such a potential national crisis.

"State and local preparedness is paramount, because the federal government made it clear today that people can't count on a rescue effort orchestrated by Washington officials. Fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel will be the first ones responding to the needs of America's citizens during a pandemic.

"Fire fighters and paramedics will face enough risk caring for people exposed to pandemic flu; they shouldn't be exposed to greater risk because states, cities and towns are ill-prepared to respond to an outbreak that health officials have warned for months could sweep across our nation.

"Preparation and funding are crucial to an effective emergency response. Federal, state and local officials must make funding available so fire fighters and EMS personnel are adequately trained and equipped with routine safety equipment. They must have vaccine, gloves and proper respirators so they don't become carriers of the infection as they treat those stricken with the flu.

"Local government officials and public health officials must collaborate with fire departments and emergency medical service providers to take the fundamental first step of crafting a plan of action. In addition, they need to outline the role of fire departments, draft a plan to limit exposure of fire fighters to pandemic flu, and acquire protective equipment and enforce the proper hygiene measures. They also must plan for the impact on departments in the event fire fighters become infected in large numbers.

"The plan also fails to recognize the substantial role that fire departments can have in public outreach, as well as community-based vaccine delivery before an outbreak occurs.

"The president outlined a \$7.1 billion spending plan to combat an outbreak, but Congress has approved just \$3.8 billion to date."

DHS to Design Interoperability Standards for Emergency Communications Equipment

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the department plans to assemble a task force focused on performance standards for achieving emergency communications equipment that can work across jurisdictions.

Speaking at the Tactical Interoperable Communications Conference in Washington, Chertoff said over the next two months that the Homeland Security Department will invite "first responders" to participate on the task force, which will help guide purchasing decisions for equipment to aid communications among local, state and federal responders.

"The idea is ultimately not to dictate a particular form of product or a particular vendor but rather to lay down some standards," he said. Within two weeks, the department plans to conduct a baseline survey to gauge the current state of interoperability. Full story:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=34049&dcn=e_gvet



Accuracy of Emergency Medical Services Call Volume Predictions Based on Demand Pattern Analysis

http://www.aemj.org/cgi/content/abstract/13/5_suppl_1/S84

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OSHA Drafts Guidance for EMS Workers in Hazmat Conditions

Stakeholders are applauding OSHA for holding an unprecedented meeting on emergency medical service workers best practices. OSHA held the meeting May 4 on the Best Practices Guidance document it is developing for the medical care segment of the EMS first responder community. The document is a follow-up to the agency's Best Practices for Hospital Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances released last year. The EMS meeting was led by David Ippolito, OSHA's director of science and technology assessment, to gather input from experts in the government and private sector. A source present at the meeting says Ippolito was surprised to find how little information is published on EMS workers' health and safety during a mass disaster.

Stakeholders at the meeting were also surprised to see that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration did not cosponsor the meeting, although NHTSA representatives were present. EMS workers are under the auspices of the NHTSA. When asked why NHTSA did not cosponsor the meeting, an NHTSA spokesperson said OSHA would have to answer because it was their meeting. An OSHA spokesperson declined to answer why NHTSA did not cosponsor the meeting or whether the agency would be invited to cosponsor future EMS events. The source present at the meeting said, "This is the first step in addressing an EMS area that really needs to be served." An OSHA spokesperson says the objective of this meeting "was to clarify issues of scope, feasibility, state of art approaches and terminology. There will be additional stakeholder input as the document is developed, including a 30-day posting on the OSHA public web site this fall to ensure a broad cross section of public comments."

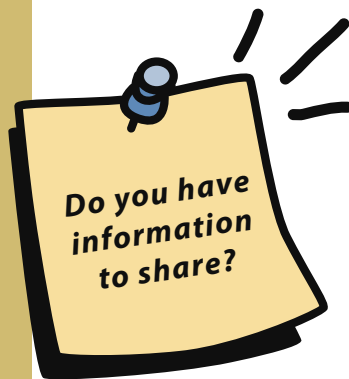


Homeland Responder and the Homeland Security Training Network

Homeland Responder is a magazine style video program that delivers Disaster Preparedness related training. Our goal is to provide responders with a unique training program that addresses current preparedness and response issues while answering their questions and giving them insights into lessons learned. Homeland Responder is produced through the facilities of The Homeland Security Training Network (HSTN) in cooperation with private sector organizations and public agencies. In this edition of Homeland Responder you'll see tales of survival and lessons learned in Gulfport, Mississippi, in "Katrina the Aftermath".

You can see today's Homeland Responder by going to: http://www.homelandresponder.org/video/brief101/hrbrief_101.htm
For more information on Homeland Responder or the Homeland Security Training Network visit: <http://www.homelandresponder.org>

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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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