

SIREN

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

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

State Fire Administrator, James Burns, Announces “Courage to be Safe” Available in New York State



More than 3,000 firefighters have died in the line-of-duty from 1981 to 2005, meaning that, on average, a firefighter dies every three days in the United States. Every year, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) honors the fallen and provides assistance to the families. However, recognizing the need to do more to prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries, the NFFF launched a national initiative to bring prevention to the forefront. Its first major action was to convene a national gathering of fire and emergency services leaders to conceive a firefighter line-of-duty death prevention plan. This Firefighter Life Safety Summit, held in March 2004 in Tampa, Florida, produced 16 major Life Safety Initiatives that provided the fire service a blueprint for making changes.

The implementation of these initiatives can play a major role in helping the United States Fire Administration meet its goal of reducing firefighter fatalities by 25 percent within five years and 50 percent within ten years.

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control in partnership with the NFFF is announcing a new educational initiative to accomplish this goal. The NFFF “Courage To Be Safe” program is based on the 16 initiatives developed during the Firefighter Life Safety Summit. These initiatives are:

- Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety, incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
- Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
- Empower all firefighters to stop unsafe practices.
- Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular re-certification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.

- Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relate to the initiatives.
- Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
- Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
- Ensure grant programs support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
- Develop and champion national standards for emergency response policies and procedures.
- Develop and champion national protocols for response to violent incidents.
- Provide firefighters and their families’ access to counseling and psychological support.
- Provide public education, more resources, and champion it as a critical fire and life safety program.
- Strengthen advocacy for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
- Make safety a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

The “Courage To Be Safe” program will be available for delivery in New York State beginning May 1, 2006. All firefighters, especially individuals in leadership and decision making positions are encouraged to participate in this educational experience. The program may be scheduled by contacting your County Fire Coordinator.

Access the County Fire Coordinators list at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/listcoor.html>

For additional information you may visit the NFFF web site at:

<http://www.firehero.org>

or contact Chief Thomas Wutz of my staff at:

TWutz@dos.state.ny.us



HHS Issues New Tool to Help Offices and Clinics Prepare for an Influenza Pandemic

Useful to Fire and EMS agencies with a little modification

Washington DC -- Medical offices and ambulatory clinics are a first resource for many seasonal flu sufferers. The same would be true if a pandemic influenza were to strike.

Recognizing the important role these organizations would play in caring for the sick, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed a checklist to help them assess readiness and plan for a response.

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt released the guide during a speech at the American Medical Association (AMA) Presidents' Forum in Washington, D.C. today. The Presidents' Forum is organized by AMA for presidents, presidents-elect and executive directors of state, county and specialty medical societies and is touted as the premier leadership event for the leaders of organized medicine. The Medical Offices and Clinics Pandemics Influenza Planning Checklist will also be distributed at pandemic planning summits in states across the country.

"The ability of medical offices and ambulatory clinics to monitor illness in surrounding communities and in their own patients will be crucial to the success of dealing with a pandemic," Secretary Leavitt said. "Identifying strengths and weaknesses in their organizations now and building community contacts in advance will provide a strategic advantage if a pandemic influenza strikes."



While the checklist was designed with a pandemic influenza in mind, it could be helpful in other types of emergencies.

Recommendations include:

- Incorporating pandemic influenza preparedness into emergency management planning;

- Having a plan for surveillance and detection of pandemic influenza in the population served;

- Having a communication plan identifying key public health contacts; the organization's point person for external communication and health care entities and their points of contact;

- Providing education and training to ensure that all personnel understand the implications of and control measures for pandemic influenza;

- Developing a plan for triage and management of patients during a pandemic;

- Developing an infection control plan; and

- Developing a vaccine and antiviral plan.

The release of checklists, correspondence with medical leadership, and the ongoing state summits build on the Administration's overall planning to increase pandemic preparedness.

President Bush outlined a coordinated government strategy that includes the establishment of the new International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, stockpiling of vaccines and antiviral medications, expansion of early-warning systems domestically and abroad and new funding and initiatives for local and state level preparedness. The first round of funding, \$100 million, has been released to states for local preparedness.

A copy of the "Medical Offices and Clinics Pandemics Influenza Planning Checklist," along with the newly released "Pandemic Planning Update," other checklists and planning information are available at:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

G&T Grant Sites

G&T (Office of Grants & Training, within DHS) is the principal federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises and equipment support. To support this mission, G&T administers a number of programs that provide a wide array of support to our nation's emergency preparedness and response community.

For more information on G&T, please visit the Website at:

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

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is a division of the Preparedness Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security.

The mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. For more information on USFA, please visit the Website at:

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

To view the latest round of FP&S awards, please visit:

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



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Grants Information Page

The following websites contain information to assist fire departments in applying for grants:

U.S. Fire Administration:

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

Assistance to firefighters grant program.

National Fire Academy Training grants:

<http://www.fedmoney.org/grants/p-s9018-03.htm>

To provide financial assistance to state fire training systems for the delivery of a variety of National Academy courses/programs.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) applications:

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

Volunteer Fire Assistance:

http://12.46.245.173/pls/porta130/SYSTEM.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=97.043

One of the objectives of the VFA program is to provide financial, technical and related assistance to state foresters to organize and train local firefighting forces for fire protection in rural areas and communities.

Hazmat Emergency Preparedness Grants:

<http://www.hazmat.dot.gov/linup.htm>

The grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction and guidance to enhance state, territorial, tribal and local hazmat emergency planning and training.

Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program:

<http://txforestservice.tamu.edu>

Provides funding for the acquisition of fire fighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, computer systems, dry hydrants and fire training.

Grants.gov

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for more than \$400 billion in Federal grants. Grants.gov is THE single access point for over 1000 grant programs offered by all Federal grant-making agencies. The US Department of Health and Human Services is proud to be the managing partner for Grants.gov, an initiative that is having an unparalleled impact on the grant community.

CDC has Large Collection of Training Materials

Large collection of slides at CDC, interactive media, webcasts, video and other stuff at:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/media.asp>

everything from infection control to bioterrorism.

Navigation of Grants.gov is simple. Use the colored tabs and/or links at the top of the screen to access primary sections of the site or the links to the left and below to access information on specific topics.

Health & Human Services – Office of Grants

<http://www.hhs.gov/grants/index.shtml>

The Office of Grants (OG) is the lead grants administrative policy and oversight office in the largest Federal grant-making agency—the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). OG serves customers throughout HHS and the public by providing leadership and quality customer service in all areas of grants management, including policy development and guidance, oversight and review, financial and business management, expert best practices consultation, technical assistance, and training. OG works closely with the Office of Management and Budget and other Federal agencies in accordance with Public Law 106-107, the Federal Financial Management and Improvement Act of 1999, to develop and implement grants policy and further government-wide grants streamlining and simplification initiatives, such as Grants.gov.

Under OG's leadership, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) manages approximately 300 grant programs and awards over \$239 billion in mandatory and discretionary grant funds annually. To learn more about grants management within HHS, please visit

GrantsNet.

<http://www.hhs.gov/grantsnet>

the OG-administered website.

OG is comprised of the immediate office and two divisions: the Division of Grants Policy and the Division of Grants Oversight and Review.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

<http://cfda.gov>

<http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>

The online Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance gives you access to a database of all Federal programs available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals. After you find the program you want, contact the office that administers the program and find out how to apply.

Subscribe On-Line to FEMA / NFA / USFA E-Mailings

Coffee Break Training

Fire and building inspectors with busy daily schedules often don't have time to attend valuable skill-enhancing training sessions, so the United States Fire Administration (USFA) is providing "Coffee Break Training" bulletins for you to read and enjoy during your daily break. These one-page training notices, posted every Tuesday, provide technical training in fire protection systems, building construction, codes and standards, inspection techniques, hazardous materials and administrative tips.

LAMP-Post

LAMP is short for Learning-Academic Materials and Programs and is an electronic version of the LAMP-Post offered at the annual Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) conference. Periodically, we will send to your e-mail address information deemed of interest to the professional development community, including new USFA research studies, technical programs and press releases that may have relevance to fire-related training and degree programs, and FESHE-related announcements including upcoming conference information, updates on the model curriculum and new activities.

Homeland Defense Journal Offers Free Grants Handbook

Homeland Defense Journal, with assistance and support from Oracle Corp., is offering, for free, A Guidebook to Grants. The handbook features interviews with state and local grants writers and federal grants evaluators and covers all aspects of the grants process.

The handbook was researched and written by Homeland Defense Journal's senior correspondent, Don Philpott, an internationally recognized journalist with more than 20 years with Reuters News Service.

Oracle Corp. underwrote the research and production of the handbook. Oracle's partnership with state and local organizations has helped secure grants funding for much needed information technology.

<http://s115515424.onlinehome.us/grantHandbook.aspx>

TRADE

The Training Resources and Data Exchange (TRADE) program is a regionally based network designed to foster the exchange of fire-related training information and resources among Federal, State, and local levels of government.



Preparedness Network (PREPnet) (formerly EENET)

The Preparedness Network (PREPnet) is a satellite-based distance learning and information system used by the United States Fire Administration and other government agencies to bring interactive programming into virtually any community nationwide. With a wide variety of programs, there's something for everyone. All programming is open, and is in the public domain, so that any community with access to a C-band or Ku-band analog satellite dish or a community cablevision provider can receive broadcasts and participate. You may also subscribe to Press Releases and Firefighter Fatality notices on this page.

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

State Health Commissioner Novello Unveils State Health Department's Pandemic Influenza Plan

Comprehensive, Wide Ranging Initiative Prepares State for Potential Health Emergencies

ALBANY, February 23, 2006 - State Health Commissioner Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., today unveiled the State Health Department's comprehensive Pandemic Influenza Plan.

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/pandemic/>

-- a wide-ranging initiative to help protect New Yorkers in the event of a worldwide epidemic of influenza. Many facets of the plan are already in place as part of the State's efforts to protect the health of all New Yorkers.

Direct link to Health Department Press release with links to the Pandemic Influenza Plan.

http://www.health.state.ny.us/press/releases/2006/2006-02-23_pandemic_plan_release.htm

To view the plan, or for more information about pandemic influenza, go to"

<http://www.nyhealth.gov>
<http://pandemicflu.gov>

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NLM EnviroHealth Links and Pesticides



A new web page that addresses the relationship between pesticides and human health has been added to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Enviro-Health Links. The page provides links to selected web sites on pesticide exposure, as well as on the treatment and prevention of pesticide poisoning: <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/pesticides.html>

In our everyday lives, we all handle many chemicals (including pesticides) that can be toxic if ingested or inhaled. Acute or chronic exposure to pesticides can cause severe and even life-threatening illnesses. The risk of potential injury to a chemical is determined by exposure and toxicity. Without both

factors there is no risk. If we take care to limit our exposure and handle these substances safely, we reduce our risk. This web page provides selected links to help identify and reduce the risk. NLM also offers other Enviro-Health Links on topics such as:

Children's Environmental Health:

<http://phpartners.org/cehir/sampler.html>

Indoor Air Pollution:

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/indoorairpollution.html>

Outdoor Air Pollution:

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/outdoorairpollution.html>

Lead:

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/lead.html>

Arsenic: <http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/arsenicandhumanhealth.html>

NLM Enviro-Health Links:

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/envirohealthlinks.html>

USCG CHRIS Manual

To download the U.S. Coast Guard CHRIS Manual, go to:

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

and then click on Library in the left-hand menu, you'll find a link to the 1999 CHRIS Guide with corrections (posted January 13, 2005).

The USCG and the United States Government Printing Office (USGPO) have exhausted their supplies of the CHRIS Manual in both formats (print and CD). The CD version has been reordered but will not be available for a while. The print version may not be reordered at this time.

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

Community Planning Guide

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

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

Hand Sanitizer Alert

S.A. Reynolds, et al.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no03/05-0955.htm>

OFPC Congratulates and Welcomes:

Cheryl Hine

FPS I Cheryl Hine has accepted a transfer to the Hazardous Materials Bureau. Cheryl will be working in the Initial Training Division for Deputy Chief Wheeler, and is currently assigned to the Academy of Fire Science.

Erwin LaTourette

Deputy Chief Erwin LaTourette has accepted a transfer back to the Hazardous Materials Bureau. Erwin will continue to assist the Fire Services Bureau with some projects that he had started.

Ronald J. Dunn

Chief, Hazardous Materials Bureau

Nox Connelly:

Nox Connelly has been appointed to the Fire Academy Bureau. He will be reporting to Deputy Chief Dave Martinichio. Nox has 5 years as a career firefighter/paramedic with Salem, Oregon; volunteer firefighter/EMT in Kellog and Deadwood, Oregon; 3 years career firefighter/paramedic field training officer in Milpitas, California; Emergency Services Specialist at Cornell University, 2001 to the present; currently volunteer firefighter/paramedic in Cayuga Heights.

William Taylor:

Bill Taylor has been appointed to the Fire Academy Bureau. He will be reporting to Deputy Chief Dave Martinichio. Bill has 26 years volunteer fire service; currently active firefighter with Scranton Fire Company; former member of Newton-Abbott fire company where he was Chief for 12 years; taught Thermal Imaging Camera course for OFPC as A/R SFI; retired from USAir (fleet service agent, Buffalo-Niagara International Airport); lives in Hamburg, NY; married, w/ three sons.

Dave Martinichio

Deputy Chief, Fire Academy

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Build Your Own Training Tower for under \$5000



Fast Team, Firefighter safety and survival, search and rescue, technical rescue and the list goes on for what the community wants it's firefighters to do. They

see it on the TV and think you are the expert in the community on everything.

This is no different than any other small community that has limited funds. It was determined by the Chief and members of the Red Creek Fire Department that with the County Training Center nearly 30 miles from the station, our own training tower would be beneficial to the department. This would also count for ISO credit for the community insurance rating.

Looking at several other departments training facilities that used several utility poles with platforms to the elaborate tower costing \$250,000, we decided to keep it simple and yet get the most bang for our buck.

To meet ISO standards, our department would need at least a 2-story structure. A 14' by 16' structure was big enough to meet our needs. The roof area has a 4-foot wall and one side of the structure was designed for repelling, bailout window, and pick-off window. Attached to the back of the structure would be a roof simulator for ventilation and crawl space drill. A "through the wall" section was built inside the first floor going into the roof simulator.

Since we can not burn in the structure, a smoke machine was bought for just a little over \$200 to provide no visibility situations. On the second floor several windows were put in to use for laddering drills, rescue of occupants drill and FFS&S (Firefighter Safety & Survival) ladder slide. A hatchway from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor provides training for simulation of a firefighter through the floor for our FAST team and confined space training. A small opening in the front of the building will be used for confined space training such an opening in a boiler.

Just outside the structure is a pad with an eight-foot wall with a 100 pound propane tank, a propane bar-b-que grill and a natural gas meter to simulate a fire next to a structure with all the props. Live fire will be conducted on the pad in addition to fire



extinguisher training. Other live fire training will be conducted for vehicles and bush/grass.

Portable panels in the first floor will provide a maze to hone firefighter's skills in search and rescue. These panels were made up from scrapes of plywood and other materials left over at the end of construction.

A 6-inch reinforced concrete base was poured for the foundation. 2"X6" studs were used for wall and 2"X10" floor joists and roof rafters were used. The repelling wall used pressure treated plywood for durability. Vinyl siding covers the other three walls for exposure protection. The roof simulator used 2"X10" and 2"X6" lumber for construction with a 6/12 pitch.

As far as labor, firefighters did part of the labor and a special arrangement was made with a local corrections facility to supply supervised personnel to do a portion of the training tower at no cost to the Fire Department.

Financing the training tower was the question many members had before building it. We had a few thousand dollars put aside for the tower, so the Training Officer was put in charge of getting financial resources to build it and offset the burden of the cost. A news release was sent to all the local newspapers explaining what the fire department was using the training tower for. ISO allows fire departments within 15 miles to claim credit for their ISO ratings. Two neighboring fire departments sent donations with the agreement they can use the tower. Local organizations were contacted and sent in donations along with residents that read the local newspaper articles. Fifteen quotes were sent out to local lumber companies for material list. We went with the lowest bidder for lumber and materials. Every few weeks a news article would go out to inform the residents of the status of the training tower. Good PR goes along way.

Building a Training Tower requires a lot of thought and person power. Our blueprints were nothing but a hand drawn design on paper and it worked. This is the best place to start with input from all the members before the actual construction starts. Many minds are better than one. If you have members who are in construction, you should pick their minds for ideas. A lot of good ideas and construction problems were solved before we even started.

Future ideas for our Training Tower could include a pit for trench rescue, a flashover simulator, a natural gas simulator, and HazMat simulator. Only imagination and whatever the future holds in the fire/rescue/ems will guide us.

The Red Creek, New York Fire Department is located in Wayne County along Lake Ontario and covers approximately 35 square miles of a small community of agricultural and small businesses. The Department has 60 active members, 1 station, 2 engines, 2 tankers, a heavy rescue, a brush truck, and an ALS ambulance.

Submitted by: Bob Day
New York State Fire Instructor



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Helium Surprise for Firefighters

If this firefighter was surprised at the amount of Helium used in an MRI unit, it might be worth spreading the word.

Event Description

Our engine was dispatched to an AFA (Automatic Fire Alarm) at the local hospital. Just prior to arrival, we received an update of smoke coming from the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) building. On arrival, we found a technician who told us he was prepping the building for removal. All MRI equipment was still in place. He had powered up the equipment when smoke began to come from an electrical unit. He immediately turned off the power and dumped the charge to the MRI magnet. We found no smoke, but there was steam coming from a vent on the exterior of the MRI exam area. He informed us that the steam was from Helium used to cool the magnet. We opened the door

to check the exam room and noticed that the whole room was shimmering like a mirage. We realized that there was a Helium leak in the room. I told my driver to close the exam room door and had the entire crew exit the building. My voice had that squeaky Helium pitch to it. We re-entered with SCBA and a 4-gas monitor to ventilate and check O₂ levels. The Oxygen level just inside the door was 14%. A few steps into that atmosphere could have caused asphyxia. Inside we found that the vent pipe had come loose allowing the Helium to fill the room we nearly entered.

Lessons Learned

We were unaware that a significant amount of Helium was used in the MRI process. A thorough inspection of the Helium system would have noted the short comings in this system. It was a good reminder to pay attention to things that don't look right, and back away.

Source:

<http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/Query.htm#>

FEMA Training Resources Page

Are you aware of the FEMA Training Resources page? If not go to <http://www.training.fema.gov/> and you will see several links to training resources. At that page, there is a NETC Virtual Campus which includes 13 self-study course for which you can receive a certificate. There is also a link to the NFA page that will take you to the off-campus courses that include an additional 13 courses. Both of these links are a method of connecting your personnel to a self-study capability that will allow them to receive credit for the training.

You can access the IS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses by accessing the Virtual Campus and viewing a list of all available courses at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>



EENet Changes to PREPNet

We have a new name! The Emergency Education Network (EENET) is now the Preparedness Network (PREPnet). Stay tuned for future updates!

For the most current listing of programs and satellite information, check PREPnet's Web Page at:

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

Library in the Sky

The Library in the Sky is a database of interesting and useful educational Web sites for those involved in education. Find the information you want through the Search, User Tabs, by Department, or Materials.

Currently there are 1255 educational Web sites listed in the Library in the Sky. Search the entire database of resource links, or narrow your search to those Web sites that will most likely be of interest to you.

<http://www.nwrel.org/sky/index.asp>

Some of the information, methods, and research cataloged here may be useful to "trainers" regardless of the topic.

New Hazard Risk

Assessment Instrument

All-hazards planners can take advantage of a new tool as a guide for conducting a risk assessment of their communities that uses a standard approach to hazard risk assessment. The Hazard Risk Assessment Instrument is a workbook that uses generic hazard models (earthquake, flood, hurricane, tornado, and terrorist bombing) to which the user applies the four steps of the risk assessment instrument: determining the probability of a mishap and the severity of the consequences, then scoring the consequences, and conducting risk analysis.

The Hazard Risk Assessment Instrument offers practice in, and reinforcement of, the exercise of delineating the probability of threats, the third step in the critical infrastructure protection process. To complete the worksheets, the user must rank hazards based on a range of improbable to frequent. Sample completed worksheets that rank hazards and threats are provided, as are links to examples of mapping tools.

The full assessment tool, produced by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, can be accessed at:

<https://www.cphd.ucla.edu/hrai.html>

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NIOSH Evaluating and Seeking Stakeholder Input on the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

NIOSH is undertaking two complementary efforts to seek data and input to guide future directions of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program. Last month, NIOSH initiated a national survey of U.S. fire departments focusing on the use of NIOSH recommendations and information products. NIOSH is seeking input from fire chiefs and frontline fire fighters to see how and where NIOSH reports are being used and to identify ways to increase the usefulness and impact of the fire fighter program in reducing fire fighter fatalities. More information on the program, survey, and meeting can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire>.

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

Rochester and Monroe County New York Responders Tuning in Datacasts

Link to story in TV Technology:
<http://www.tvtechnology.com/features/news/2006.03.08-04-n-rochester.shtml>
Link to additional information on the Emergency Training and Information Network:
<http://www.etin.us>

USFHA Publications

New Publications from the US Federal Highway Administration
Transportation Evacuation Planning and Operations Workshop:
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/tepo_wksp/main.htm
Simplified Guide to the Incident Command System for Transportation Professionals:
http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/ics_guide/index.htm

Understanding State and Local Disaster Law

Significantly tested during hurricanes Katrina and Rita was the comprehension of state and local authorities regarding laws governing disaster preparedness and response. Consequently, the importance of understanding such laws in a disaster situation is an outcome that received the special attention of the American Bar Association (ABA). An ABA committee studied the matter and released a report this month to help emergency managers and other Emergency Services Sector (ESS) leaders better understand the scope and limitations of their authority under state and local disaster-related laws. One of the report's five chapters is devoted to state, local, and first responder issues. It explains important distinctions, e.g., the differences between the expression and clarity of authority; the implementation of authority; the actual exercise of authority; and the appropriateness of delegation of that authority. This particular section specified that state and local governments bear the responsibility for devising effective plans, procedures, and protocols, which make that authority operational and facilitate its exercise during incident response. The state, local, and first responder issues' chapter poses seven important questions that should be discussed at the state and local levels with emergency management and emergency services providers as well as other critical infrastructure stakeholders. With some relationship to critical infrastructure protection, the section includes a reminder to revisit the ABA's checklist for state and local government attorneys to prepare for possible disasters. Visit: <http://www.abanet.org/statelocal/checklist406.pdf>. The full Hurricane Katrina Task Force Subcommittee Report can be viewed and downloaded at: http://www.abanet.org/natsecurity/scolns_hurricane_katrina_report_feb_2006_2.pdf.

Wood Plastic Composites and Plastic Lumber

Online seminar related to wood-plastic composites and plastic lumber use in the building and construction industry that may be of interest. More and more those materials are being used as alternatives to wood and other materials in decking, siding, and roofing applications. For additional information go to: <http://specialchem4polymers.com/techcenter/webseminar/register.aspx?idseminar=100&1r=wpc06>

Talking About Disaster

The URL points to the American Red Cross Talking About Disaster Guide for Standard Messages.
<http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/guide.html>

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USFA Releases Confined Structure Fire Reports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In 2002, there were approximately 52,000 confined structure fire incidents reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) according to two new reports issued today by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

Confined structure fires are small fire incidents that are limited in scope, are generally confined to noncombustible containers, rarely result in serious injury or large content losses, and are expected to have no accompanying property losses due to flame damage.

"This is the first time the U.S. Fire Administration has published a report on confined fires," said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy United States Fire Administrator. "This report will aid the fire service and fire prevention communities in understanding the nature of such fires."

The reports were developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of the U.S. Fire Administration, and are based on data from the 2002 NFIRS database. The Confined Structure Fires report examines the characteristics of small fires that occur in structures and that are contained or confined as recorded by fire department personnel using the NFIRS data collection report. The Investigation of Confined Structure Fires report is part of the USFA's Topical Fire Research Series and summarizes the detailed analysis and findings of the full report.

Confined structure fires account for 37 percent of all reported structure fires and 38 percent of residential structure fires. More than half of all confined structure fires are confined cooking fires. A copy of the full report, Confined Structure Fires can be downloaded from:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/pubs/confined-structure-fires.shtm>

A copy of the topical report, Investigation of Confined Structure Fires, can be downloaded from:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/pubs/tfrs.shtm>

Landfire Web Site

<http://www.landfire.gov/>

LANDFIRE is a five-year, multipartner wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel mapping project designed to generate consistent, comprehensive maps and data describing vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics across the United States. The primary partners in the project are the Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Fire Lab.

NASA Earth Observatory

NASA Earth Observatory: Natural Hazards –

The purpose of NASA's Earth Observatory is to provide a freely-accessible publication on the Internet where the public can obtain new satellite imagery and scientific information about our home planet. The focus is on Earth's climate and environmental change. In particular, we hope our site is useful to public media and educators. Any and all materials published on the Earth Observatory are freely available for re-publication or re-use, except where copyright is indicated. We ask that NASA's Earth Observatory be given credit for its original materials.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/>

USFA Releases Structure Fire Response Times Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Deputy United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson, announced the release of the Structure Fire Response Times report from the National Fire Data Center in Emmitsburg, MD. Response times in this report are measured from alarm time to the arrival of firefighters on scene. To the fire service, "total" response time is typically measured from the time a call is received by their emergency communications center to the arrival of the first apparatus at the scene. For the public, the clock for response time begins when an individual becomes aware there is an emergency incident occurring and they place a call for assistance. While the difference between these two approaches may vary by only a minute or so, for someone awaiting arrival of help, the time can be agonizing. This study confirms, however, that local fire departments' response times to structure fires

are less than 5 minutes nearly 50 percent of the time. The report, Structure Fire Response Times, is based on data from the 2001 and 2002 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The report examines general trends in response times to structure fires as well as regional, seasonal and time of day trends.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/pubs/tfrs.shtm>

The National Fire Data Center's Topical Fire Research Series explores facets of the U.S. fire problem that affect Americans in their daily lives. Based primarily on data collected through USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), each issue briefly addresses the nature and relevance of the specific fire or fire-related problem, highlights important findings, and suggests other resources to consider for further information. Each topical report also includes recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report.

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Wikiversity School of Fire and Emergency Management

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikiversity:School_of_Fire_and_Emergency_Management

Among other things, this page will lead you to a list of 14 fields of study. Clicking on fields in "Training Materials", then individual course names and then "additional materials" will bring up curriculum materials and sometimes full-text workbooks, lesson plans, etc.

"Today's fire and emergency services has evolved considerably. While steeped in a rich history, the new fire service tradition is one of diversity of skills and knowledge. The vision of the School of Fire and Emergency Management is to be a portal for training and education; as well, to provide a resource for related research and data. Our approach is titled Open Source Learning..."

"How the Open Source Learning Project Works:

The Open Source Learning Project is designed for the fire service, by the fire service and projects are developed in accordance with current, applicable NFPA standards. Course "kernels" will contain the learning objectives and the basic course outlines.

Once completed, a project facilitator will be assigned and the course posted for comments. Anyone can post to the curriculum as long as the ground rules are maintained. As well, organizations and individuals creating support materials (i.e., PowerPoint presentations, student guides, skill sheets, test questions/banks, and so forth) can be posted as well. Courses will remain on the website for continuous development and ongoing updates. In the spirit of Open Source, courses can be downloaded at no cost to the individual or the organization. The individual or organization accepts responsibility for ensuring the course meets their local needs as the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Equally, contributors accept that the information they provide is open to comments, edits, downloads, and use. The best explanation is to quote Wikibooks with, 'If you don't want your writing to be edited mercilessly and redistributed at will, then don't submit it here.' Finally, the purpose is to create a community of fire service developers, experts, and users, that will create the most comprehensive curriculum possible for the referenced NFPA standards. In the end, the most critical component of training benefits- the student. Knowing the end result, the fire service is improved and at the end of the day the philosophy of "everyone is safe and everyone goes home" becomes a reality."

Kids Eating Cosmetics Tops Calls To Poison Center

SUNY Upstate: Kids Eating Cosmetics Tops Calls To Poison Center

Syracuse (WSYR-TV) - SUNY Upstate reports that questions about children ingesting deodorant, after-shave, makeup, perfume, baby oil, and other cosmetics topped the list of most-common calls into the Upstate New York Poison Center in 2005. In a statement, SUNY Upstate says the Poison Center received 1,708 calls last year regarding cosmetic poisonings. The statement says nearly 5

calls-per-day had to do with kids eating cosmetics.

The second-most-popular call was exposure to cleaning products. SUNY Upstate says the center received about 1,104 calls related to those types of poisonings.

Another popular call was parents concerned about unintentional multi-dosing, or giving their kids more than one kind of medicine. The poison center received more than 20,000 calls last year related to kids under five, according to the statement. The center received more than 34,000 calls total.

A reminder, the poison center phone number is 1-800-222-1222.

Earthquake Science Articles for Students, Teachers, and Families

"Earthquake Science Explained" is a series of ten short articles for students, teachers, and parents that were originally published as weekly features in the "San Francisco Chronicle." The U.S. Geological Survey created the series to present some of the new understanding gained and scientific advances made in the century since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2006/21/>

CDC has Large Collection of Training Materials

Large collection of slides at CDC, interactive media, webcasts, video and other stuff at:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/PHTN/media.asp>

everything from infection control to bioterrorism.

Nationwide Plan Review Phase I Report

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released "Report to Congress: The Nationwide Plan Review (Phase 1)," which provides the status of catastrophic planning in all states and 75 of the nation's largest urban areas. The report is available on the Web site of the International Emergency Management Association.

<http://www.iaem.com/documents/Phase1Report-SubmittedtoCongress.pdf>

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NLM's TOXMAP Adds New Chemical and Health Data

In response to feedback from users, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has added new chemical and health-related data to its interactive mapping site, TOXMAP

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

Released in September, 2004, TOXMAP helps users explore the geographic distribution of certain chemical releases, their relative amounts, and their trends over time. This release data comes from industrial facilities around the United States, as reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Now, users can also use TOXMAP to find information about Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund sites and substances. The Superfund program

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/index.htm>

is part of a federal government effort to clean up land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the EPA

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

as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or to the environment.

The substances found at Superfund sites have been designated as causing or contributing to an increase in mortality or in irreversible or incapacitating illness, or posing a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or to the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. More than 800

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/hazsubs/cercsubs.htm> substances are currently designated as hazardous, and many more as potentially hazardous.

TOXMAP has also added mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), as well as age and gender data from the US Census, and income data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

TOXMAP links to NLM's extensive collection of toxicology and environmental health references, as well as to a rich resource of data on hazardous chemical substances in its TOXNET databases

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

The resource also provides fact sheets and summaries about the various chemicals, written by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and EPA progress reports on the Superfund sites.

Since many users may not be experienced in reading maps or understanding map data, TOXMAP provides a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov/toxmap/help/faq.jsp>

and a "Glossary of Terms"

<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov/toxmap/help/glossary.jsp>

Both resources attempt to provide questions/answers to supplement the user's ability to understand the map displays and the data. More information about TOXMAP can be found at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/toxmap.html>.



Pipeline Emergencies Training Program

Training and supporting materials that offer life-saving information to the Emergency Services Sector (ESS) are available as part of a joint effort by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

As part of the nation's critical infrastructure, the United States has 327,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines, 1.8 million miles of natural gas distribution pipelines, and 161,000 miles of pipelines for a range of liquid petroleum products, all used daily.

In 2002, PHMSA, the primary federal agency responsible for ensuring the safe operation of pipelines, began working with NASFM on the Partnership for Excellence in Pipeline Safety. While the partnership's long-term goal is to eliminate

pipeline incidents, the organizations collaborated to create the Pipeline Emergencies training program. To help ensure personnel safety, the program teaches responders about the hazards and risks of pipeline operations.

The no-cost training package includes a textbook supported by a curriculum instructor's guide and companion PowerPoint presentation, as well as a CD-ROM, and training video. A dedicated website offers additional information. One-day train-the-trainer programs for the package have taken place in 15 states and others are being scheduled.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.pipelineemergencies.com>

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Library Hot Picks

"New @ the Library" for additional information, contact Diana Robinson at the New York State Academy of Fire Science, Library, Montour Falls, NY. Telephone 607.535.7136 extension 605 or drobinso@dos.state.ny.us

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/library.htm>

"User's manual for NFPA 921: guide for fire and explosion investigations, 2nd ed." Quincy, MA: NFPA, 2005, 428p.

"IRC 2003 DVD & workbook set." [DVD set]. Country Club Hills, IL: International Code Council; 2004.

Notes: A 10-part set divided into 3 binders, each accompanied by a workbook. Patrons may borrow only one binder of this series at a time.

Abstract: Binder 1: Sites and Soils; Footings for Concrete, Masonry and Wood Foundation Walls; Concrete, Masonry and Wood Foundation Walls. Binder 2: Construction and Inspection of Floor Joists; Framing of Wood Stud Walls; Proper Construction and Inspection of Ceiling Joists and Rafters; Roof and Roof Structures. Binder 3: Exterior and Interior Wall Coverings; Building Planning and Construction; Inspecting for the Energy Provisions of the International Residential Code.

"Cardiac Emergencies: The Continuum of Care." FETN EMS [videotape]. Jan. 2006. Approx. 30 min.; VHS.

Notes: Accompanied by curriculum guide and CD-rom with PowerPoint presentation

Abstract: Pulse #464-0106: "Responding to a cardiac emergency is an all-too common part of the emergency professional's job. Join us as we

track a cardiac emergency from beginning to end: from the first chest pain to the emergency care and transport and on to the final physician to patient counseling. Proper techniques in how to recognize a cardiac-related event are demonstrated, along with strategies for response and treatment."

"Scene safety at structural fires." American Heat [Videomagazine]. Dec. 2005. Approx. 30 min.

Notes: Accompanied by guide.

Abstract: Program #463-1205 "This course explores the preparation a firefighter must undergo to be ready and able to respond to structural fires. It also identifies five safety elements and 10 key steps related to safety that should be performed upon arrival at a structural fire. In addition, five high-risk issues aimed at assessing risk are identified and lessons learned from live burn training are explored."

"Fire chief's desk reference," by John M. Buckman, III. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett, 2006, 496p.

"Rapid intervention company operations" by Michael Mason and Jeffrey Pindelski. Albany, NY: Delmar/Thomson Learning, 2006, 361p.

"Accountability: are our firefighters safe?" York, PA: VFIS // Glatfelter Insurance Group, 2003, CD-rom.

Includes: 139 slides and instructors notes in PowerPoint; student handout in Acrobat; and 3 scenarios and 2 SOPs in Word

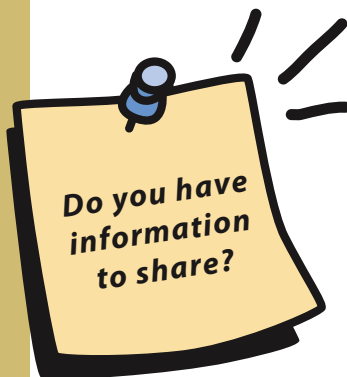
"Basics of Material Safety Data Sheets and Hazardous Materials" FETN Firefighting Skills [videotape]. Jan. 2006. Approx. 25 min.; VHS.

Notes: Accompanied by curriculum guides.

Abstract: Program #038-0106, HazMat Awareness series, part 5 of 8 "Knot tying: the basic knots." [CD-rom]. Sterlington, LA: Beutner Multimedia; 2001.; CD-rom.

Abstract: Shows how to tie 21 basic knots

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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