



Everyone Goes Home[®]

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

OCTOBER 2007 EDITION

Newsletter

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Courtesy of Richard R. Anderson, Anderson Media Group

Since 1982, a grateful nation has honored its fallen fire heroes during the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held in Emmitsburg, Maryland. On October 5-6, 2007, the fire service and the nation honored the firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2006, as well as others from years past, and gave support and comfort to their surviving families, at the 26th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, conducted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The weekend included a candlelight service held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Candlelight service sends the message of eternal memory and hope. Its elements included an explanation of the luminary's tradition, the lighting of the luminaries, recognition of the families being honored, lighting of the remembrance candle by returning surviving families, and the sharing of that light with newly grieving families. A string quartet provided spiritually uplifting musical presentations interspersed with moving vocal performances from several performers. The service culminated in a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace by all of the singers who performed during the service followed by the Roll of Honor, a slide show honoring each fallen hero individually. The glow of candles held by families of the fallen firefighters illuminated the basilica during this presentation which featured photographs of their loved ones displayed on the screen on the altar. Hal Bruno, Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors, greeted the families. Chief Charlie Dickinson, Deputy Assistant U.S. Fire Administrator, served as the master of ceremonies.

Brooks Martin (Region VIII), Ernie Mitchell (Region IX), Mark Peterson (Region X), Richard Mariucci (Advocate Program Manager) and Nazih



Photo by Bill Green for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

This program is made possible through the efforts of the



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Homeland Security



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NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND (Continued from Page 1)

Hazime (Region V), who all serve as regional advocates for the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives program, participated in the service Saturday evening and the tribute on Sunday. Ernie Mitchell said “I was very impressed at the presentation and service, it was very touching.”

On a beautiful Sunday morning, the Memorial Service was held at the site of the National Fallen Firefighters Monument at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg. This location is where the fallen firefighters were given the respect, fitting for the heroes they were, of their names officially added to the Memorial Monument. Thousands of firefighters, including honor guards and pipe-and-drum bands in full regalia, were in attendance.

Each family received a greeting from President Bush, the United States flag that flew over our nation’s capitol and at the National Fallen Firefighters Monument., a rose and a badge. These flags were presented to the families by fire service leaders from across the country.

Those honoring the fallen firefighters and their families included Gregory Cade (Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Assistant Administrator (Fire Administrator) for the U.S. Fire Administration), David Paulison (Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency), the Honorable Steny Hoyer (U.S. House of Representatives); and the Honorable Roscoe Bartlett. (U.S. House of Representatives)

President Bush placed the Presidential Wreath at the Monument. Selected readings of the lives of the fallen firefighters and poignant musical performances added to the ceremony. The President remarked “Families of our fallen firefighters have suffered a terrible loss. No words can ease the ache in your hearts. At this difficult time, we will try to help by taking you in our arms. We offer you our heartfelt and sincere compassion. We hope it is some comfort to know that your loved ones will live on forever in the memory of the communities they served so well.”



Photo by Jenni McClelland, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



Photo by Bill Green for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



NEW POLICY MAY HAVE KEPT 9 OUT OF INFERNO

By Ron Menchaca, Glenn Smith

The Post and Courier

Saturday, September 22, 2007

Charleston firefighters likely would not have entered the Sofa Super Store, where nine firefighters were killed June 18, if a new policy for battling blazes in buildings with truss roofs had been in effect that night.

The new policy, signed by Charleston Mayor Joe Riley on Sept. 5 and announced this week, requires city firefighters to use a heat-sensing camera to detect hidden fire and prohibits firefighters from entering such structures if a truss roof or floor has been exposed to fire.

Ted Austin, the city's safety management director, said the new policy is "very cautious, and certainly makes firefighters aware of the hazards." But he said he doesn't think it would have saved any of the nine men killed in the sofa store fire because the blaze spread so rapidly.

On Thursday, state workplace safety officials fined the city \$900 for not having procedures covering the special hazards of the truss roof design. The city was fined an additional \$8,425 for three other violations in what the state office of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said was one of the largest fines ever imposed on a public agency in South Carolina.

Video footage, photographs and firsthand accounts from of the sofa store fire indicate that the building's steel truss was exposed to heat and fire within minutes of the arrival of the first crews. Firefighters on the scene did not check for hidden fire inside the ceiling and commanders ordered crews to go inside to fight the blaze. Firefighters had at least one heat-sensing, thermal imaging camera available that night, but it sat unused in a fire truck parked outside the store.

The truss design is widely reviled in the fire service because it can hide growing fires and has a propensity to weaken and collapse when exposed to heat, sometimes in as little as 10 minutes. Charles-

ton firefighters were inside the sofa store for at least 30 minutes before the roof collapsed as flames consumed the building.

The federal government issues special safety guidelines about the truss design and warns firefighters to get out if there is any indication that the trusses are exposed to fire.

Mike Smith, one of nation's leading lecturers and authors on building construction and firefighting, said Friday he is often surprised by the number of firefighters who aren't aware the potential dangers posed by certain construction.

Smith, retired deputy chief with the District of Columbia Fire Department, recently gave a seminar on the topic at a firefighters' convention in Myrtle Beach. "We all know what bad ju-ju trusses are," he told a class of firefighters from departments throughout the state. "Steel was born of fire. It dies of fire."

Firefighter Coverage

Policies detailing how firefighters should respond to fires in different types of buildings are great, Smith said. But they mean little if firefighters are not trained how to recognize different types of building construction and understand the unique hazards that each can pose to firefighters, he said.

He said training on building construction is lacking in the fire service.

Riley announced the new truss policy during a press conference called to dispute state findings that the city knowingly placed its firefighters at risk during the June 18 blaze. Riley said the initiative was one of several steps the city had taken to improve the fire department. He said he is unaware of any other fire department in the state that has a specific policy for battling blazes in buildings with truss construction.

Austin was the primary author of the policy. He drew from existing truss roof policies used by fire departments in Phoenix, Maryland and Virginia, as well as federal firefighting guidelines. Austin said he also consulted with local structural engineers. He said the city's policy goes beyond what OSHA would require, to encompass not only metal trusses but



NEW POLICY MAY HAVE KEPT 9 OUT OF INFERNO (Continued from Page 3)

those made of wood as well.

As written, the new policy assumes that city firefighters already recognize metal truss construction. But one Charleston firefighter said he and others in the department are concerned that the city issued the new policy without providing the training to back it up.

"It's a joke," said the city firefighter, who did not want his name published because he fears he would be reprimanded for speaking out. "How the heck am I going to know if it's a truss roof building? I have not had any training on building construction."

Austin said the policy calls for additional training and the fire department is in the process of developing a curriculum for truss roof fire tactics.

After the sofa store fire, message boards and blogs were filled with firefighters lamenting the challenges of fighting fires in buildings with steel trusses. Some talked about a saying in firefighting circles, "Never trust a truss."

The Post and Courier first reported the dangers associated with fire and steel trusses June 23. For that story, the newspaper asked Charleston Fire Chief Rusty Thomas if firefighters at the scene of the sofa store fire were aware of the widely circulated reports and warning about this type of building construction in a fire and if he thought the truss might have played a role in the fire.

Thomas answered that his department has fought plenty of fires in buildings with steel trusses. "As far as if they knew it was steel truss construction and stuff like that, I don't know if my guys knew or not," Thomas said at the time.

Smith did not comment specifically on the Charleston fire, the fire department or the new policy. He said the only time a fire commander can justify sending his people inside such a building is if they have reliable information that someone is trapped inside. Even then, commanders need to ensure they have enough water ready to douse the blaze and that the rescue operation won't unnecessarily endanger the lives of firefighters.

"If I can't guarantee 100 percent that I can bring you out, I don't put you in. It's about being responsible for the lives of the people that work for you. As a chief, I took that seriously," Smith said.

Columbia Fire Chief Bradley Anderson said Charleston's broad new policy is commendable, but its effectiveness will depend on the training that supports it and how well the men on the street understand it.

"In this business, you don't have the luxury of looking up a policy when you respond," he said. "You have to know it and be able to recall it at a moment's notice when you are responding somewhere at two in the morning."

LANDMARK STUDY IDENTIFIES VITAL "KNOWLEDGE GAP" OF STUDENTS WHEN IT COMES TO BURN AND FIRE SAFETY

Students were unaware of some of the most basic steps to take to save their lives in the event of a fire.

BELCHERTOWN, Mass., September 4, 2007 — A study released today conducted by the People's Burn Foundation of Indiana and Campus Firewatch outlines where students are lacking when it comes to life-saving information. This study also provides insight as to how students learn and how burn and fire safety professionals can deliver their messages



to them effectively.

This study is the result of a series of focus groups at schools in Indiana and Massachusetts as well as an on-line survey of over 500 students from across the nation. In addition, a virtual focus group was held using Second



LANDMARK STUDY IDENTIFIES VITAL “KNOWLEDGE GAP” OF STUDENTS WHEN IT COMES TO BURN AND FIRE SAFETY (Continued from Page 4)

Life, which provided the opportunity to interact with a much broader group of students and educators in gathering information.

The findings document what many campus fire safety officials have known through their personal experiences:

- Students have a demonstrated lack of knowledge about burn and fire safety, including information as basic as knowing what to do if their room should catch on fire
- Once they became aware of this knowledge gap, they were very interested in learning how to close this gap with life-saving information
- Delivering the information is a challenge because today’s students are inundated with advertising messages.

This study identifies these knowledge gaps and outlines possible strategies that can be used in delivering this training to today’s electronic generation. It also contains invaluable information on other contributing factors for the campus fire safety professional to consider when reaching out to these students, including how to market fire safety, the role of alcohol in campus-related incidents and the human behavior

factors relating to the student demographic.

“The college demographic is a tough nut to crack,” said Shawn Longerich, executive director, People’s Burn Foundation. “Understanding how they think and what will attract their attention is crucial to developing meaningful prevention programs. As future leaders and parents, if they don’t know how to prevent fires and burn injuries, how will they teach their own children when the time comes?”

Copies of this study can be downloaded from both the Peoples Burn Foundation’s website (www.peoplesburnfoundation.org) and Campus Firewatch (www.campus-firewatch.com).

The People’s Burn Foundation (PBF) was established as a nonprofit organization in 1997 by Della Hines, a burn survivor, after she suffered the loss of two of her three children in a 1991 apartment fire. PBF develops national burn prevention programs as well as provides support to burn survivors throughout Indiana.

Campus Firewatch, in publication since 2000, is a monthly electronic newsletter focusing on campus fire safety. For more information, visit our website at www.campus-firewatch.com.

INEXPERIENCE LED TO FIREFIGHTER’S FATAL CRASH, POLICE INQUIRY STATES

Peter Beebe-Lawson had just 7.5 hours of training in a tanker truck when he responded to a call in May.

The Associated Press September 12, 2007

SPRINGFIELD — Speed and inexperience have been cited as factors in the crash of a tanker truck in May that claimed the life of a volunteer firefighter, according to a state police investigation.

Peter Beebe-Lawson was driving the truck toward a fire at Cole’s Shingle Mill in Prentiss when he lost control of the vehicle.

“Nobody ordered him to get the truck,” Trooper Jarod Stedman said Monday. “His wife and everybody





INEXPERIENCE LED TO FIREFIGHTER'S FATAL CRASH, POLICE INQUIRY STATES (Continued from Page 5)

else said that he knew the people whose place was on fire, and everybody agreed that he was trying to go above and beyond to give them a hand."

Beebe-Lawson, who was not wearing a seat belt, died of chest injuries after the tanker went off the right side of Route 169 and then veered into pine trees on the road's left side. Beebe-Lawson, 50, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fire department records show that Beebe-Lawson had only 37 hours of logged firefighter training, including 22 hours of truck driving and 7 hours driving the 3,500-gallon Freightliner tanker, according to Stedman's 41-page report.

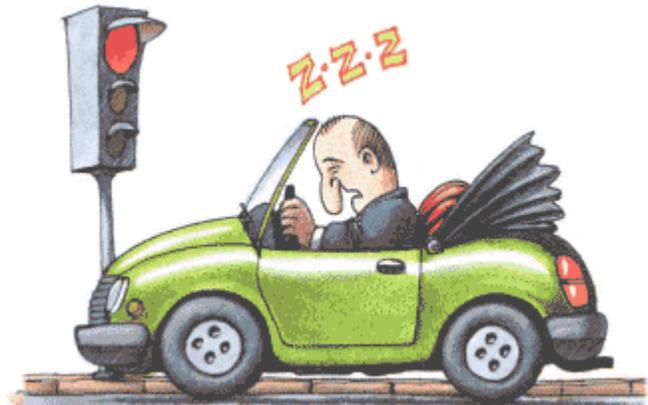
"The documents do not indicate what portions of training time with (the truck) were actually emergency driving," Stedman wrote. "Since the training time with (the truck) was only 7.5 hours, I feel that Beebe-Lawson was fairly inexperienced with that truck, specifically as it pertains to the handling, stability and weight shift in corners."

Beebe-Lawson's wife, Selby, called her husband a hero. "Nothing in that report changed anything for me. He still did what needed to be done," she said Monday.

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SLEEP DEPRIVATION

This new report, *The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Fire Fighters and EMS Responders*, along with its accompanying computer-based educational program, presents background information on normal sleep physiology and the health and performance effects of sleep deprivation. Countermeasures for sleep deprivation are reviewed, which relate to identifying those particularly susceptible to risks of sleep deprivation, individual mitigating strategies and work-related issues. The project was supported by a cooperative agreement between the IAFC and the United States Fire Administration (USFA), with assistance from the faculty of Oregon Health & Science University.



WHY I'M AGAINST SEAT BELTS

A satirical view By Phil Sample

When I look at the foolishness of the debate going on now about residential fire sprinklers and the opposition to residential sprinklers at the ICC hearings in Orlando, Florida, I have to ask if the same absurdity went on when seatbelts were introduced. Can't you just see the testimony by the Automotive Industry at the National Transportation Safety Board

hearing?

THIS PROPOSAL WILL KILL AFFORDABLE TRAVEL

Americans are concerned about this dangerous proposal to require seat belts. Seat belts will likely add thousands of dollars to the cost of cars, driving the common Joe out of the car market and on to buses, or worse yet, light-rail.



WHY I'M AGAINST SEAT BELTS (Continued from Page 6)

And for those who are well off, this added financial burden will likely mean they will be unable to afford leather upholstery, two-tone paint, wide white walls, in-dash GPS, the six disc CD player, and the 42" HD TV.

THE FINANCIAL RUIN OF OUR ECONOMY

The additional cost of seat belts will likely ruin the automotive industry. And you know what they say, "As GM goes, so goes the country." With the added financial burden of seatbelts, many manufacturers will be put out of business laying off thousands of American workers and leading to the collapse of Wall Street.

If you don't believe this, look at Studebaker, Kaiser, Gremlin, Maverick, Rambler, Opal, Javelin, DeSoto and the Horseless Carriage. Every one put out of business by unreasonable beaurcrats and their never ending red tape.

SEAT BELTS WILL ACTUALLY MAKE CARS MORE DANGEROUS

Imagine this...you are driving along a dark coast highway on a stormy night and the windshield wipers aren't keeping up. Suddenly there it is in the middle of the road, a huge boulder that apparently slid down the rain soaked hillside above. You swerve too hard putting your car in a dangerous slide and see that you are about to plunge over the cliff into the ocean below. Just as you get your car door open and are about to jump to safety you realize you don't have time to release the latch on those damn seat belts.

SEATBELTS ARE UGLY

People just aren't going to tolerate paying \$1,800 for a new car and then having ugly green canvass straps with obnoxious heavy metal hardware messing up their clear plastic seat covers. CEOs and other executives will be unrepresentable after driving to work. The unsightly wrinkles to their Façonnable shirts and Armani suits will make it impossible to conduct business.

THE PUBLIC ISN'T READY FOR SEAT BELTS

We go to the street to interview your average Amer-

ican. Here we are strolling through your average small town American cemetery.

"Excuse me ma'am what brings you out today with all these people?"

"Why I'm Against Seat Belts", Phil Sample

"My 16 year old son died in a tragic car accident. They say he would have lived if he had a seat belt on."

"But ma'am don't you realize all the disadvantages of seat belts (*#&*@!)oops, looks like we better find some other average American citizen to represent the public's opinion."

SEAT BELTS WON'T HELP IN NEW CARS

There is no need to require seat belts in new cars because 90% of the people that die in auto accidents die in cars older than five years old.

Note: 90% of the cars on the road are older than five years old. HMMMMM? (Scratch head here).

NEW CARS ARE SAFE ENOUGH ALREADY

New cars today have plenty of safety features like brakes and horns. There is no need to add the onerous cost of seat belts. We acknowledge that we originally opposed the requirement of brakes but they turned out okay. We just don't see the need to add any MORE safety requirements.

About the Author: *Phil Sample is the cynical Fire Marshal of the City of Lake Oswego for the past 30 years. He doesn't understand the motives of those who oppose baseball, mother, apple pie, seat belts or residential fire sprinklers.*



FIRST NEW NATIONAL SEAT BELT PLEDGE CERTIFICATE GOES TO NEW JERSEY FIRE COMPANY

Saturday Sept 15 NJ State Firemen Convention Wildwood NJ: The East Windsor Volunteer Fire Company # 2 Mercer County New Jersey is the first organization to receive the New National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge Certificate for achieving 100% participation in the signature campaign. The certificate is new because Chief Greg Cade the US Fire Administrator signed his name on the certificate and added the logo representing the UFSA. In addition the new President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Steve Westermann added his signature to the certificate as his first official act.

The East Windsor Volunteer Fire Co # is the first departments in New Jersey to have its entire membership sign the pledge promising to wear their seat belts on apparatus.

Vehicle crashes are the number two cause of firefighter deaths. Not using seat belts is the number one safety violation in the fire service. These two lethal facts have resulted in the death of 11 firefighters and countless injuries nation wide since January 2007.

The impact object of the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge is that no firefighter dies because they did not have their seat belt on in 2008. The program objective is to have 1,000,000 firefighters take the pledge and 30,000 fire departments receive the certificate. So far over 40,000 firefighters have signed the pledge and over 80 departments have achieved 100% participation www.trainingdivision.com/seat-beltpledge.asp

The US Fire Administration, <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/about/chiefs-corner/022807.shtm> the International Association of Fire Chief, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives are committed to firefighter seat belt safety. Take the pledge and buckle up so Everyone Goes Home. <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com>



Photo Credit Dave Murphy

LtoR Deputy Fire Chief Eric Coran New Windsor VFC #2, Burt Clark US Fire Administration, Cathy Hedrick National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, Greg Collier NJ State Advocate Everyone Goes Home®



MAKING THINGS SAFER

By Michael Petroff

With more than 80 line-of-duty deaths so far this year, the number of LODDs is already on course to exceed the 2006 total of 106.

The United States Fire Administration attributes nine of this year's deaths to lack of seat belt use, while the same number died in the sofa store blaze in Charleston, S.C., in June.

In the wake of the Charleston fire, a panel of fire service professionals developed a list of recommendations to try to avoid a recurrence of this type of incident. The recommendations include changes to basic operations that are nationally accepted.

These reports and the data concerning seat belt use indicate that firefighters are continuing to ignore safe practices, national standards and case studies of fires.

Several agencies are attempting to reduce firefighter deaths, through the publication of safe practices, studies of incidents and by promoting safety training for all fire personnel. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the Firefighter Near Miss Reporting System, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and ourselves — the Fire Department Safety Officers Association — are just some of the agencies attempting to coordinate efforts and reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

The NFFF, for example, has developed the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. These initiatives provide an outline that guides the fire and emergency services to develop safe policies and procedures. Part of these efforts include the Everyone Goes Home Courage To Be Safe program, which presents stories of the survivors of dead firefighters including parents, spouses and fire chiefs. The program also questions our thought process of "Belief – Misconception – Consequences." The belief exists that a responder does not need to wear a seat belt. The misconception is that an accident will not happen. And the consequence of no belt is injury or death.

NIOSH publishes reports on incidents that result in firefighter LODDs. It also provides policy, procedure

and equipment recommendations to prevent recurrences. Along with NIOSH reports, the Near-Miss Reporting System provides case studies that describe tactics, strategy or operational problems that may have resulted in firefighter injury or death. The initiative is supported by both the IAFC and the IAFF, and is funded by grants from Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. and the United States Fire Administration Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

Our group, the FDSOA, is an association formed in 1989 to specifically address firefighter safety issues. The organization provides training, educational resources and networking opportunities for the fire service in the United States, Canada and overseas. Our mission is to "promote safety standards and practices in the fire, rescue and emergency services."

The FDSOA also provides an opportunity for two levels of certification for safety officers — incident safety officer and health and safety officer, and is an accredited agency of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

To facilitate training and certification opportunities, the FDSOA sponsors an Annual Safety Forum, which is held this year in Orlando, Florida, from October 31 – November 2. Details and registration forms are available at www.fdssoa.org.

Presenters at the event will include Chief Billy Hayes of the Riverdale (Ga.) Fire department and the Region V regional advocate for the Everyone Goes Home Life Safety Initiative Program, and Battalion Chief John Tippett of the Montgomery County (Md.) Fire Rescue. Tippett is also the IAFC project director for the Near-Miss Reporting System. Both of these seminars will provide deliverable ways to meet the goal of reducing firefighter deaths and injuries.

In a pre-forum two-day session, individuals can prepare to take the FDISO certification exam by attending the Incident Safety Officer Academy, while those already certified as an ISO can attend the two-day Health and Safety Officer Academy in preparation for the HSO certification exam.

The FDSOA, since its inception, has served as a



MAKING THINGS SAFER (Continued from Page 9)

source for training, certification and continuing education for safety officers. By sponsoring this forum, the FDSOA is providing deliverable means to implement the goal of reducing firefighter deaths and injuries. We hope to see you there — and working to make a difference together.

Michael Petroff is a retired battalion chief from the Ferguson Fire Department of St. Louis County, Missouri. BC Petroff served for more than 32 years, progressing through the ranks. He served on the St. Louis County Overhead response team, and is an instructor for national, state and local fire agencies. BC Petroff is a western region director for the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, a member of the National Fire Protection Association 1021 Committee, a member of the Thomson Delmar Fire Advisory Board, and serves as the region VII regional advocate for the Everyone Goes Home Life Safety Initiatives Program.

The Fire Department Safety Officers Association was formed in 1989 for the purpose of addressing firefighting safety issues. Today, more than 3,000 members represent public, private and industrial fire and EMS personnel around the world. The FDSOA is an accredited certifying agency of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. The FDSOA membership and Board of Directors are active in many facets of the fire service including the National Fire Protection Association. For additional information on certification and membership, contact the FDSOA at www.fdsoa.org.

Join the FDSOA for a week of education, training and networking at the annual FDSOA Safety Forum held in Orlando, Fla. Oct. 28 – Nov. 2, 2007. For more information go to www.FDSOA.org.

THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR: IN THE WORDS OF THE CHIEFS

“The District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department was very proud to be one of the cities that were selected as part of the recent and highly successful NFFF Whistle Stop Tour. This program allowed our Department to showcase many of the firefighter health and safety needs and requirements to our community in a highly effective way. More than 400 people from all walks of life attended and learned a great deal about the risks and challenges that face the firefighting profession every single day. Our agency would be honored to be a part of any program that was sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation as we help them raise the bar for firefighter safety issues.”

Chief Dennis L. Rubin

District of Columbia Fire Department





THE WHISTLE STOP TOUR: IN THE WORDS OF THE CHIEFS (Continued from Page 10)

“In June of this year I had the sad honor of presenting Firefighter Mark Carters widow with a flag of the United States. This was dark day for myself and the Phoenix Fire Department. In the Fire Service any chief or fire department member will tell you it does not get any worse than that. I would say that the “Whistle Stop Tour” is a call to action that will help many departments avoid having to experience a “dark day.” We should all hope that our members finish their shift and safely return home to their loved ones.”

Chief Bob Khan

Phoenix Fire Department

“The Whistle Stop Tour presented a tremendous opportunity for the career and volunteer members of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service to renew their focus on the health and safety of our fire/rescue service. The excitement and energy created by the Tour invigorated our folks and provided renewed validity to our focus on “everyone goes home.” Additionally, the concept of engaging the public, the media and survivors with active fire/rescue personnel in a public forum was powerful. This was a well thought out and seamlessly implemented event. We would be honored to participate in any future related activities.”

Chief Tom Carr

Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue

“The “Whistle Stop Tour” was a huge success in New York City. It has brought a new awareness to firefighter safety in our department and will help us reduce injuries in the future. It has also assured the families of our fallen heroes that their loved one’s death was not in vain and we will learn from their losses.”

Chief Salvatore Cassano

Fire Department City of New York (FDNY)

“The “Whistle Stop Tour” is an excellent example of how the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation is capable of providing a National Campaign with critical information on Firefighter deaths and injuries to be shared with the community and the fire service. It was very effective and got the attention of thousands of citizens and FF’s at each stop about the necessary safety measures that must be taken to reduce the unnecessary FF deaths.”

Chief Luther Fincher

Charlotte (NC) Fire Department

“The Whistle Stop Tour was well attended by all of the Fire Departments within our region. It was an eye opener that had us all talking about Firefighter safety and what we could do to be safer in all of our procedures.”

Chief William W. Bryson

Fire Chief City of Miami Fire-Rescue



UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES RECEIVES DHS GRANT TO ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IN MODERN FIRE SITUATIONS

Engineered Lumber and Effectiveness of Extinguishing Agents to Be Examined

UL Newsroom

CHICAGO, IL--(Marketwire - September 12, 2007) - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently awarded Underwriters Laboratories (UL) a \$991,900 Fire Prevention and Safety Research Grant to enhance understanding of the hazards to firefighters in structural fires and provide data to further advance knowledge of current fire fighting tactics.

Conducted in cooperation with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Chicago Fire Department and University of Maryland Fire Protection Department, the Firefighter Safety Research Project will 1) investigate the structural stability of engineered lumber and 2) evaluate the effectiveness of extinguishing agents used to fight fires in modern structures.

"The Firefighter Safety Research Project will provide the fire community with an even better understanding of the evolving issues in fighting fires and help develop alternative methods and materials to further advance fire science," said Tom Chapin, UL's director of Research and Development. "It is the next logical step in our ongoing efforts to systematically address modern-day fire growth behavior and protect all of us from property damage and loss of life in structural fires."

Lightweight wooden trusses, made with engineered lumber, are commonly found in 65 percent of new residential and commercial developments, according to the Wood Truss Council of America. Allowing for faster, more cost-effective construction, recent anecdotal evidence has indicated that lightweight wood trusses may become unstable and collapse more quickly in fire situations than traditional trusses.

"The research conducted under this grant should shed new light on an issue we've long suspected was causing instability for firefighters and leading to

injuries. We applaud DHS for recognizing the importance of this research and we hope to have strong recommendations for the future of fighting fires in new residential and commercial developments to follow," said IAFC President Chief Steven Westermann.

Earlier research by the National Engineered Lightweight Construction Fire Research Project indicated that unprotected lightweight wood truss assemblies can fail within six to 13 minutes of exposure to fire. Between 1998 and 2003, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health attributed 13 firefighter fatalities and nine firefighter injuries to the collapse of buildings built with lightweight wood trusses. During the same timeframe, five fatalities and two injuries are attributed to collapses of buildings with heavy timber, solid-joint lumber truss construction.

"Building and roof collapse are the most dangerous elements of fire fighting," said Raymond Orozco, Chicago Fire Department Fire Commissioner. "The move toward more and more lightweight construction means that men and women in the fire service must have the best information available to be able to determine the risk and timing of structural failure. This grant and the subsequent data developed will prove invaluable in establishing procedures that minimize risk and maximize safe suppression techniques." The second part of the research project will evaluate the effectiveness of various extinguishing foams in residential fire situations and provide information to help national fire service organizations design new firefighting tactics, develop Web-based training programs and increase overall firefighter safety.

The Firefighter Safety Research Project is UL's latest research and development project to advance the DHS goal to eliminate residential fire deaths by 2020. In May, UL completed a groundbreaking study that investigated 27 synthetic and natural materials and various combinations of materials now most



UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES RECEIVES DHS GRANT TO ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IN MODERN FIRE SITUATIONS (Continued from Page 12)

commonly found in homes. As a result, UL is now strongly recommending that consumers utilize both photoelectric and ionization technologies to optimize detection and permit the best available escape time in residential fire situations.

UL expects the research project to take one year and anticipates a report on the findings in early 2009.

Underwriters Laboratories is an independent, not-for-profit product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components,

materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL Marks appearing on 71,000 manufacturers' products each year. UL's worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 66 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 104 countries. Visit: www.UL.com/newsroom.

Established in 1873, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) represents the leadership of over 1.2 million firefighters internationally. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in fire fighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search & rescue, and public safety legislation.

“EVERYONE GOES HOME” GOES TO THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR



Courtesy of Crawford Weistling, MN State Advocate

Each year the Minnesota State Fair, one of the largest State Fairs in the nation, hosts the Governor's Fire Prevention Day. This one day event is touted as being the world's largest single day fire prevention event in the Country. Each year fire prevention day brings close to 100,000 people to the fair. This year and last year "Everyone Goes Home" was present. What a unique way to spread the message. Not only do you have firefighters from all over the upper Midwest in attendance you have their wives and children present.

Along with all of the firefighter specialty items being handed out, attendees were given helmet size "Everyone Goes Home" stickers and our brochure with the Sixteen Life Safety Initiatives. Getting the word to the firefighters as well as their families has to have an impact. At this event just talking about firefighter safety carried a strong message with fire prevention activities.

As part of the Governor's Fire Prevention Day a memorial service honoring fallen firefighters is held at one of the fair ground's band shell pavilions. This well attended event is planned and hosted by the Minnesota Fallen Firefighter's Association. Keynote speakers for this year's event where the Minnesota Director of Public Safety and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal. The Governor is normally present but was personally involved with the serious flooding that occurred in Southeast Minnesota.

Minnesota State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl has joined the effort to support the LSI and be a strong voice for firefighter safety, helping to deliver the "Courage to Be Safe" message throughout Minnesota.





WISCONSIN NAMES STATE ADVOCATE FOR LSI PROGRAM



Emmitsburg, MD, September 11, 2007 – The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Chief Donald Dominick has been selected as the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Wisconsin.

On March 10 - 11, 2004 hundreds of leaders in the fire service industry attended a Summit coordinated by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Tampa, Florida. The collective goal was to come up with an approach that would enable fire departments to achieve the aggressive goal

set by the United States Fire Administration, of reducing firefighter line of duty deaths by 50% in 10 years. The Summit produced a unique consensus document that became known as the “16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives” or the blueprint to eliminating preventable firefighter line of duty injuries and deaths; www.everyonegoeshome.com/initiatives. The Foundation applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to fund the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The primary mission of this program is to work in conjunction with all the fire service organizations to make every fire department in United States aware of the “blueprint” developed in Tampa, and to provide resources to enable departments to implement them.

Mr. Dominick has an Associates Degree from Henry Ford Community College and Bachelors from Central Michigan University majoring in Public Administration; and graduated from the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program in 2005.

In this position Mr. Dominick will be working to ensure fire departments in Wisconsin are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. Don Dominick will be the ears and eyes for the national program supporting the mission of eliminating preventable line of duty injuries and deaths through the sharing and implementation of best practices and training programs.

“I have the desire to be involved with something that has a positive impact on the fire services as a profession. How could it get any better then protecting our own?” Dominick said. He continued by saying “My dedication to this initiatives has been, and always will be that Everyone Goes Home.”

The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Don Dominick to the program.

For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit www.everyonegoeshome.com or call 1.877.344.0361.

OHIO NAMES STATE ADVOCATE FOR LSI PROGRAM

Emmitsburg, MD, September 25, 2007 – The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Firefighter/EMT Chris Hafley has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Ohio.

On March 10 - 11, 2004 hundreds of leaders in the fire service industry attended a Summit coordinated by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Tampa, Florida. The collective goal was to come up with an approach that would enable fire departments to achieve the aggressive, yet realistic goal set by the United States Fire Administration, of reducing



firefighter line of duty deaths by 50% in 10 years. The Summit produced a unique consensus document that became known as the “16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives” or the blueprint to eliminating preventable



OHIO NAMES STATE ADVOCATE FOR LSI PROGRAM (Continued from Page 14)

firefighter line of duty injuries and deaths; www.everyonegoeshome.com/initiatives. The Foundation applied for and received a Department of Homeland Security Fire Safety and Prevention Grant to fund the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The primary mission of this program is to work in conjunction with all the fire service organizations to make every fire department in United States aware of the "blueprint" developed in Tampa, and to provide resources to enable departments to implement them.

Mr. Hafley has been involved in the Fire Service for 26 years and is employed by the City of Tiffin in the Fire Rescue Division. Currently, he is working as a Firefighter/Paramedic and the department's EMS Training Coordinator. Mr. Hafley holds both State of Ohio Fire and EMS Instructor certifications.

"I first became interested in the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives after attending the FDIC in Indianapolis. I had always promoted safety during Emergency operations in Fire and EMS and carry the same safety education over into my instructing" Hafley said. Mr. Hafley continued by saying "I feel by getting involved in a process that I believe deeply in that I can make a difference in minimizing Firefighter injuries and line of duty deaths in my local area fire departments and departments in Ohio."

In this position Mr. Hafley will be working to ensure fire departments in Ohio are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. Chris Hafley will be the ears and eyes for the national program supporting the mission of eliminating preventable line of duty injuries and deaths through the sharing and implementation of best practices and training programs.

The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Chris Hafley to the program.

For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit www.everyonegoeshome.com or call 1.877.344.0361.

GET DRESSED, GET SEATED, GET BELTED, GET GOIN! FRIEND OR OFFICER?

Richard Bowers

Region III Advocate LSI Program

As a young firefighter the thrill of being in the fire station and waiting for the call is absolutely the best anticipated times in your fire service life! The bell sounds and the personnel take their place on the apparatus and to the call we respond.

As a firefighter we each have a responsibility for our own safety - it begins with each of us! As a driver operator we each have the responsibility to get the apparatus and the personnel to the scene safely. As the officer of the apparatus we each have the responsibility for the safety of the personnel on the rig, the safe operation of the vehicle to the scene and the safety of the public while responding and return-

ing from incidents.

As a firefighter we get dressed prior to getting on the apparatus, we each get seated and we get belted - easily done! As the driver we get on the rig, buckle up and go through the start up procedures and the driver makes sure that everyone is seated and belted - easily done! As the unit officer, we get dressed prior to getting on the apparatus, we each get seated and we get belted, and we make sure that everyone else on the rig is seated and belted prior the unit moving - easily done! The unit arrives to the incident safely and returns safely to the station for the next run - easily done!

However, as the officer you are expected to set and be the example for safety practices. Reinforcement and accountability are critical elements of the posi-



GET DRESSED, GET SEATED, GET BELTED, GET GOIN! FRIEND OR OFFICER? (Continued from Page 15)

tion of officer. How will you act when confronted with safety challenges from your personnel? Will you be a friend or will you be the Officer when you are faced with the safety of your crew?

Let's walk through the same scenario as above with the firefighter, the driver and the officer. The call comes in and the rookie firefighter runs to the rig, jumps in and begins to get dressed. The driver jumps in yells to you - the officer, "let's go", you are holding us up, and the driver does not even know the location or route of travel to the incident! What actions as the officer are you going to take? Are you going to be one of the "guys or gals" and jump on the rig and get caught up in the adrenalin peak and place your crew and the public at risk? Or, are you going to be the officer and leader in your position of authority and responsibility and do the right thing and say "stop"?

Yes, be the officer and take a second for safety and "stand up so you stand out for safety"! You have the responsibility to make sure your personnel arrive alive and go home after each shift and call. As an officer there is no room to be one of the guys or gals - there is a time to be a friend and there is a time to be an officer. When it comes to being belted in your apparatus you need to be the "OFFICER". Make sure you personnel "GET BELTED"!

I would like to offer a little safety slogan reminder that you can post in the fire station and on the rigs in every riding position, so there is a method to the message in making sure every firefighter has the opportunity to "GET BELTED", "ARRIVE ALIVE" to make sure "EVERYONE GOES HOME"!

**GET DRESSED! GET SEATED!
GET BELTED! GET GOIN!**