

# December 2007 Newsletter

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## Are You on the Path to a Line of Duty Death?

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## Someone is Missing Tonight

As I sit beside the fireplace this evening and the holiday season approaches, all is well with the Bowker family. I count the many blessings too numerous to mention that my family and I have recently received. One of the blessings that I am most grateful for is that I am alive and well this holiday season, and that my family and friends are not mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and a brother. But that was almost not the case. My story begins with the events that occurred during a structure fire I responded to on August 29th, 2007 in my community.

## Safety Support for Firefighters

I have always been the glass is half empty type guy, which I believe serves me well as a fire department safety officer. It is our job to look at every situation and figure out what is the worst possible thing that could go wrong - and the actual possibility of that happening.

## PASS it On

In March the National Fire Protection Association has updated NFPA 1982, Personal Alert Safety Systems, to address safety issues first discovered in December 2005. However recently in an incident in Oneida, just west of Utica, New York a firefighter lost an arm and suffered severe burns from his ear to his leg on his right side, when a building collapse, however he nearly lost his life when his PASS Alarm didn't work.

## Safety Stand Down renamed to Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week June 22-28th

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) led the nation in the fire and emergency services' first Safety Stand Down in 2005. This event added to the momentum of meeting the USFA goal of reducing line-of-duty deaths.

## Region V Update

As a new Regional Advocate this position is filling the gaps in my calendar, quickly. Thank you Chief Marinucci. I am not complaining. This is a great way to stand up for what you believe in. Keeping our firefighters safe should be every Fire Chief and Firefighters initiative.

## Common Voices

Fifteen hundred mourners gathered on November 7, at the Koger Center, on the campus of University of South Carolina, to remember the seven students who perished in the early morning fire in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, that completely destroyed a beach house on Oct. 28. The victims, most of whom attended the University Of South Carolina were identified as: Cassidy Fae Pendley, 18; Lauren Astrid Kristiana Mahon, 18; Justin Michael Anderson, 19; Travis Lane Cale, 19; Allison Walden, 18; William Rhea, 18; and Emily Lauren Yelton, 18. There were also six other students who barely escaped the fire by jumping out of the windows.

» **Also:** [Common Voices Advocates' Coalition Met in New York City](#)

## 10 Deadly Tanker Mistakes

Tankers account for only a small portion of the apparatus operated by fire departments in the United States, yet they are involved in many of the accidents - a lot of them fatal. Here are 10 deadly mistakes that departments often make when specifying, building, operating and maintaining tankers.

## State Fire Commissioner Recognized for Courage to Be Safe Program

State Fire Commissioner Edward A. Mann has been recognized by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for his tireless work to make sure fewer firefighters die in the line of duty.

## November Region VII Advocates Report

Region VII has added 2 new advocates, Steve Arnold and Todd Farley are Missouri state advocates. Steve Arnold recently retired as Chief of the Pattonville Bridgeton Terrace F.P.D. and Todd Farley is Deputy Chief at Central Jackson County F.P.D. Another applicant Vickie Schulte, Captain for City of Fulton F.D. is in the process of applying.

## CFSI Unveils New Government Relations Section on its Website

The Congressional Fire Services Institute recently posted the newly designed [Government Relations section of its website](#). Providing a broad range of information about the federal government, the redesigned section is an excellent educational tool for individuals interested in learning about the legislative process and the types of federal programs available to the fire and rescue services.

## **Illinois Names State Advocate for LSI Program**

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Ralph Webster has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Illinois.

## **Missouri Names State Advocate for LSI Program**

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Steve Arnold has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Missouri.

## **We Proudly Endorse the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives**

Capt. Rice of the North Fort Myers Fire Control District, Florida lists what their department has done to adopt the 16 initiatives.

## **16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Support**

Chief Bruce Metz of the Jackson Center Ohio Fire Department announces their support of the 16 initiatives.

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# CPSC Releases Holiday Safety Tips for Avoiding Fires and Injuries



WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the holidays approach, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging people to look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 8,700 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in about 400 fires annually, resulting in 20 deaths, 70 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and

damage.

CPSC conducts surveillance of holiday lights and decorations at stores nationwide, and this year has prevented the import of 320,398 units of holiday lights that did not meet safety standards.

"Candle lighting ceremonies during Advent, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are beautiful traditions," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "But keep matches, lighters and candles away from children and never leave burning candles unattended. These simple safety tips will help prevent many of the 10,000 candle-related fires that occur each year. Stay safe this holiday season; it's the best gift you can give."



CPSC suggests following these tips to make your holiday a safe one.

## Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

## Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose

connections, and throw out damaged sets.

- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

### **Decorations:**

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

### **Fireplaces:**

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

You can also view CPSC's publication [Holiday Decoration Safety Tips](#).

# Are You on the Path to a Line of Duty Death?

By Chief Michael D. Chiaramonte CFO, MIFireE

It is a wonderful time of the year. It is a period when we reflect on family and think of special times. We decorate our homes in a festive way and eat rich foods. Children salivate over special gifts. Adults reflect on family. It is a time when tradition and culture clearly emerge. The words "tradition" and "culture" are used quite often but just what do they mean? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines tradition in the following way "An inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action or behavior." That same dictionary defines culture as "A set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterize an institution or organization." The Kemah, Texas Fire Department produced an [excellent web page discussing tradition in the fire service](#). Part of the introduction to that page states "From the first moment a new cadet (rookie or "probie") is taken into the department "family" they are introduced to fire service traditions." The longer we are in the fire service the more we realize that many of these traditions are the things which make our job very special and, in fact, they solidify the brother and sisterhood.

The culture of the American fire service was formed from many years of tradition. This tradition has a great deal to do with the way a firefighter views themselves. Firefighters are sworn to protect life and property and they traditionally emphasize getting the job done, regardless of the risks - no matter what. For example, often firefighters have faced tremendous danger in an effort to save an abandoned building leaving only two walls standing which were only to face the wrecking ball a couple of weeks later. Why take such a risk? How far does the traditional concept of the duty to save property go? Are firefighters culturally committed to uphold the traditional concept of sworn duty to a degree that puts them in a position of unnecessary risk? Is it this tradition that has created a macho culture in the fire service resulting in a way of thinking, acting and behaving that may, at times, be unsafe? It is not unusual to hear a firefighter state that a line-of-duty death is "part of the job." It can be construed that to die in the line of duty is glorious. Attitudes like this automatically consider it heroic to die in the line of duty, no matter if that death was a direct result of an unnecessary action.

The Firefighter Life Safety Summit's initial report encapsulated the present culture of the fire service when it made the following statement, "The willingness of firefighters to risk their own lives to save others must never be used as an excuse to take unnecessary risks. Firefighters are highly respected for being willing to risk their own lives to save others, but that cannot justify taking unnecessary risks in situations where there is no one to save and nothing to be gained. In too many cases firefighters lose their lives while trying to save property that is already lost or to rescue victims who are already dead. While these efforts are valiant, they are also futile. Individual firefighters who take unnecessary risks, or fail to follow standard safety practices, endanger their own lives as well as the lives of other firefighters who are depending on them. This, of course, does not mention the risk to those who might be making the effort to rescue them."

It is understood that a firefighter's work environment is dangerous, the risks of the job and what kills firefighters are well documented but the same things are happening over and over again. This is obviously a cultural problem in the fire service. Janet Wilmoth, editor of Fire Chief Magazine gives us three typical examples of this culture:

- A fire department that enforces seatbelt regulations except for the dive team who has permission to get dressed when the apparatus is responding.
- A fire apparatus manufacturer that promotes a speeding fire truck.
- A fire department that wants a live burn training facility to be able to create temperatures of up to 2,000 degrees.

Chief I. David Daniels stated "To begin a cultural shift toward absolute firefighter safety, chiefs and officers must be held accountable both for enforcing the safety rules of their organizations and for exemplifying them."

Chief Daniels advocates the four basic principles of Organizational Behavior Modification as a way of changing the culture of the fire service. Positive reinforcement or the administration of positive consequences for desirable behavior is absolutely necessary. Rewards given as soon as possible after a positive event are essential to change culture. Examples of such rewards are awards for safety achievements and exceeding fitness or wellness standards or for innovative safety programs.

Care must be taken to ensure that time is spent training firefighters how not to get in trouble in the first place and how to get out if something goes wrong. Punishment, or the administration of negative consequences or the withdrawal of positive consequences, should be used to reduce the likelihood of repeating unsafe behavior in similar settings.

- A driver who passes through a red light without stopping
- A firefighter who doesn't don protective clothing in a hazard zone
- A chief officer who doesn't implement the IMS at a major emergency

These situations would be less likely to repeat if there was a consequence.

Departments should be ever vigilant of using reinforcement consequences such as:

Awards given for heroism if the act was committed in direct violation of safety rules, such as rescue attempts without available protective equipment,

Fire service organizations should not be supporting fire departments that obviously disregard safety rules.

Chief Daniels challenges fire chiefs by saying "Are you willing to say as a fire chief, 'The culture of the fire department I am responsible for will change?' If chiefs don't initiate cultural change, who will? If they don't start now, when will the culture change?"

In order to initiate the needed cultural changes in our profession, the Safety, Health and Survival Section of the Arizona Fire Chief's Association has drafted the following key action statements:

For a cultural change to occur at the national level, someone must lead the way to serve as model for others to follow. The leadership of all fire service organizations should demonstrate a commitment to meeting this challenge and setting the example for achieving this cultural change by advocating and insisting on performance behaviors that are consistent with published standards and best practices. The key to changing the safety culture is to change the attitudes and behaviors of all members in the fire service.

Every Chief Officer, Training Officer, and Company Officer in every Fire Department must adopt a zero tolerance philosophy for deviations from or failure to follow published safety standards and best practices.

All fire service leaders and trainers must make every effort to recognize, publish and celebrate organizational and individual successes whenever positive outcomes are identified as a result of following best practices models, or by accomplishing a major objective through the implementation or demonstration of safe practices. The fire service needs to seek ways of finding and publishing positive outcomes that occur as a result of proper safety behavior.

These are just a few suggestions to develop new traditions and a new culture in the fire service. The future should see each and every fire department with traditions of safety and with an overall safety culture. There is a

great deal of talk about safety in many fire departments across the country but is it just that, talk? If we continue to kill over one hundred firefighters in the line of duty each and every year in this country resulting from firefighters responding to and returning from alarms in fire apparatus and personal vehicles, from stress and overexertion, from falls, entrapment and disorientation in structure fires as well as from wildland events, we will not be able to say that the American fire service has a safety culture. We cannot continue to accept death as a part of the job and we, most certainly, cannot continue to take unnecessary chances. Good sensible risk management must prevail. We need to convince ourselves and each other on every level of the fire service, not just on the chief and officer's level, that safety is of paramount importance and that we are all personally accountable for our actions. We owe it to our families and organizations not to cause permanent damage in their lives. The tradition and culture in our service is beautiful and bonding. It is a special part of the job. Let's make it even better by keeping each other around to enjoy it. Let's pledge to improve the greatness of our tradition and culture by making sure that "Everyone Goes Home" becomes its corner stone. Happy Holidays, enjoy.

# Someone is Missing Tonight

**By Gary Bowker**

Kansas Advocate

As I sit beside the fireplace this evening and the holiday season approaches, all is well with the Bowker family. I count the many blessings too numerous to mention that my family and I have recently received. One of the blessings that I am most grateful for is that I am alive and well this holiday season, and that my family and friends are not mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and a brother. But that was almost not the case. My story begins with the events that occurred during a structure fire I responded to on August 29th, 2007 in my community.

The Winfield Fire Department was dispatched to the report of a structure fire at 2:59 PM on this date. I happened to be only a short distance from the address and I arrived several minutes before our first due Engine and Quint. The weather conditions were very warm and humid which is typical for a summer afternoon in Kansas. Upon my arrival I noted that we had a single story wood frame duplex apartment approximately 50% involved, with flames showing from the windows on the A side of the structure, and heavy dark smoke pushing from the eaves at both B and D ends of the attic. After relaying my size-up report to the incoming units, I put on my turnout gear and began to ascertain whether or not the occupants were still inside the structure. A neighbor reported that nobody was at home and the occupants were in the process of moving in. Upon the arrival of Winfield Engine-71, Quint-71, and Command-71, I assumed the duties of Incident Safety Officer. An offensive fire attack was quickly extended through the front door into the involved apartment along with a primary search of the involved units. The fire was brought under control within about 25 minutes. By this point in time I had conducted 5 or 6 360's around the structure and had coordinated the scene safety concerns with Command. The initial attack crew was sent to rehab and our automatic aid engine company from neighboring Arkansas City Fire Department had arrived on scene. Their crew was in the process of conducting a secondary search and checking for fire extension into the adjoining apartment unit.

At this point in time I felt that it was time for me to go to rehab and cool down. I thought to myself, I've only been on scene about half an hour and I shouldn't be this "overheated" and fatigued. After informing Command that I would be checking into rehab, one of our captains stopped to talk to me. The next thing I recalled was being helped into the EMS ambulance and my turnout gear being stripped off of me. I had reached the point of total exhaustion about one minute after feeling fatigued and realizing that I needed to go to rehab.

After being transported to the hospital and receiving IV fluids, I quickly recovered and wanted to get back to the fire scene. I thought to myself, I really do need to be in better physical condition and I could stand to lose a few pounds. I have to make PT more of a priority in my schedule. Several weeks later while working on the treadmill in the fire station, I noticed that I was again becoming too quickly fatigued after about a twenty minute workout. I was really feeling worn-out and my legs were beginning to feel weak. Again I believed that I just needed to be in better condition and I'm not getting any younger.

Now fast forward to the morning of October 10th, 2007. My alarm went off that morning at 0630 and I got up for work. I noticed that I had a dull ache in the upper center portion of my chest. As I was shaving, this ache extended into my left arm and into my back between the shoulder blades. I did not like this. I knew what these symptoms were and I did not want to believe this was happening to me. I also realized that denial is the No.1 symptom of an impending heart attack. Another fact that I realized about this time, firefighters do not like to call 911 for themselves. I called the fire station instead and had a crew at my home within several minutes. (They radioed EMS while in route to my residence) After arriving at the hospital and being treated, the blood test

revealed that I did not have a heart attack. The decision was made to go ahead and transport me to Wichita to the Kansas Heart Hospital for further evaluation. After a trip to the cath-lab I was informed that I had a 98% blockage of all three of the main coronary arteries, with additional blockage of a number of the lesser one's. Bypass surgery was the only option. I was diagnosed with Coronary Artery Disease. The following morning I went into surgery and received seven heart by-passes.

Within several days I could tell that I felt better than I had in 6 or 7 years. To date I have lost 30 pounds, I am on a regular exercise program and I feel great. Its been a number of years since I could honestly say that. My wife and I have modified our diet to that of a healthy heart life style. You know, I've come to the realization that the typical American diet is really loaded with fat and calories and its killing us. This is an area we truly need to make the cultural change happen in our lives for healthier longer living. For me, the alternative is that I will likely die early if I did not modify my life style. I no longer am concerned about "losing weight" as the end result of my dieting and exercise. My focus is now on having a healthier heart. The weight loss is taking care of itself as a result. It is worthy to note that my heart disease was in large part caused by hereditary factors. My father died early from this disease in 1977. The primary symptom I experienced prior to the morning of October 10th was early exhaustion when I exerted myself. I did not associate that with cardiac trouble. Thinking back, I recall several times this past summer after coming home from work that the muscles in both arms would ache. Again, that was unusual, but I did not associate that as a warning symptom.

I could have been the poster boy for a cardiac related Line-of-Duty Death...a 51 year-old male, chief officer, somewhat overweight, poor dieting habits, didn't exercise enough, and had history of hypertension being controlled with meds...Well at least I didn't smoke.

How many of you fit into this same category that I did? Is your department on its way to having a LODD?

If you have a family history of heart disease or have experienced any of the symptoms that I did, you should see your physician immediately. Now is the time. Don't put it off. If you won't do it for yourself, do it for your family. Do it for your crew. Stress and over exertion is the No.1 killer of firefighters in America today. And folks... in most cases it is completely preventable. Only by the grace of God am I still here to celebrate another holiday season with my family. The structure fire on August 29th could have easily been my last alarm. According to my cardiologist I was "hanging on by a thread". Responding to another fire, going up the flight of stairs to my office 5 or 6 times a day, or just sitting at my desk could have been it. I went to the edge as about as close as you can get without going over and having a massive heart attack.

I wonder how many among our ranks will be missing next Christmas because of a preventable LODD. Are you listening...? As of tonight 105 fallen firefighters across America have already had their last Christmas on this Earth...and their families mourn and their children miss their daddy. I thank God I was not 106.

*Gary Bowker is a retired Fire Chief with the US Air Force and is the current Fire Marshal with the City of Winfield Kansas a community of 12,000 people. Winfield Fire Department is a 20 person paid department with 10 reserve firefighters located 30 miles southeast of Wichita. Gary has 33 years of fire service experience and teaches part time with Butler County Community College Fire Science program. He and his wife Pam have three sons and a daughter. All three sons are firefighters and his daughter is studying to become a nurse.*

# Safety Support for Firefighters

**By Richard C. Maddox**

I have always been the glass is half empty type guy, which I believe serves me well as a fire department safety officer. It is our job to look at every situation and figure out what is the worst possible thing that could go wrong - and the actual possibility of that happening.

After evaluating these possibilities, we then need to be able to report them to the incident commander in a concise, effective manner. In my humble opinion, the reason we don't have more safety officers operating on the fireground is that both the incident commanders and the safety officers themselves did not learn a very important lesson most of us were taught in kindergarten: playing well with others.

Since being appointed Safety Officer in 1992, I have worked with many chiefs and company officers. Some were easier to work with than others, but my guiding principal has always been firefighter safety first, everything else second.

My principal job is to protect firefighters' lives, and my secondary job is to make the incident commander look good, while doing my job first. If both incident commander and safety officer understand that simple rule, egos can be checked at the door and we can work together to ensure firefighter safety.

We must ensure that we have a trained and, if possible, a certified fire department safety officer on the scene of every structure fire, heavy rescue and special operations response. We owe nothing less to our firefighters and their families.

One only needs to look at the headlines of the major fire service publications to see the immediate need for the position of a fire department safety officer. This need is backed up by the actual requirement of numerous standards and regulations for the designation of a fire department safety officer.

The incident commander needs that second set of senses to help them evaluate the situation as it relates just to firefighter health and safety, so that he /she can develop the tactics to complete the task at hand.

My message to the chiefs of departments across the United States and Canada is to take a bold step and establish a safety officer program for your department. You must ensure that all your safety officer candidates are provided with the appropriate levels of training and the tools to complete their task in an efficient manner, and encourage them to become certified Incident Scene Safety Officers (Fire Suppression). The Fire Department Safety Officers Association will be happy to guide you in the endeavor. Stay Safe.

Richard C. Maddox is the vice chairman of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. He is a certified fire suppression incident scene safety officer and a health and safety officer. He has served with the Sayville, New York Fire Department for the past 32 years and is currently the department's health and safety officer and chairperson of its health and safety committee. He is the FDSOA current representative to the NFPA 1720 Technical Committee. Mr. Maddox holds an associate's degree in applied sciences, a bachelor's degree in health care administration and a master's degree in public administration. He is employed by the New York State Office of Mental Health as a clinical risk management specialist. He can be reached at [Safetysfd@aol.com](mailto:Safetysfd@aol.com)

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](http://www.fdsoa.org). Join the FDSOA for its 20th Annual Apparatus Specification & Vehicle Maintenance Symposium being held January 20-23, 2008, in Orlando, Florida. For more information go to [FDSOA.org](http://FDSOA.org).

# PASS it On

In March the National Fire Protection Association has updated NFPA 1982, Personal Alert Safety Systems, to address safety issues first discovered in December 2005.

However recently in an incident in Oneida, just west of Utica, New York a firefighter lost an arm and suffered severe burns from his ear to his leg on his right side, when a building collapse, however he nearly lost his life when his PASS Alarm didn't work. According to the Centers for Disease Control, which investigates firefighter fatalities, 15 firefighters have died nationwide in the last ten years because their PASS device failed when exposed to heat and water, the two things firefighters are sure to face. Those findings led to new standards and a redesign that's more heat and water resistant. The trouble is, no one is telling the firefighters. By law, no one has to. They're left to find out on their own. Local NewsChannel 13 called several local fire departments about the incident in Oneida to see if they were aware of the PASS Devices deficiencies they found that many volunteer departments in the area did not know. The Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program Advocate Program Manager Chief Rich Marinucci has tasked the Regional Program managers to make sure ever there state advocates gets the word out. The advocates are a grass roots approach to promoting the awareness and implementation of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and providing resources to enable them to do so. This includes spreading the word and sharing best practices. You can join the effort below are revisions that were made to the 2007 edition of NFPA 1982.

The NFPA recommends that "emergency responders continue to maintain and use existing PASS. Users are cautioned, however, that both the existing as well as the new PASS (when available) should always be considered a last resort call for help for emergency responder personnel who are unable to otherwise notify others that they are in distress.

"Firefighters and other emergency responders should continue to activate and wear PASS whenever in hazardous areas of any incident, but should also be aware of the possibility that hostile conditions may adversely affect the operation of PASS. Incident command should continue to apply all personnel accountability measures at all incidents to assure the safe entrance and exit of personnel from hazardous areas. Direct supervision of operating companies or teams should provide for the safe operating locations of personnel and ensure that members do not 'freelance' on the incident scene."

The 2007 edition of NFPA 1982 contains revisions providing for strengthened performance requirements and testing regarding the alarm signal degradation issue. The new edition also addresses other issues, including problems caused by vibration, probably during transportation, and water ingress into the electronic and power supply compartments.

The principal changes contained in the 2007 edition of NFPA 1982 are:

- New water immersion requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is exposed to 350° F for 15 minutes and then to water submersion in 4.9 feet of water, also for 15 minutes, for each of six cycles. The PASS device then is examined to determine that there has been no water ingress, and that all PASS signals function properly and electronic data-logging functions operate properly. Following this test, the PASS device is re-immersed in the test water for an additional five minutes with the power source compartment(s) open, and following the five minutes the PASS device is removed from water and wiped dry; the electronics compartment then is opened and examined to determine no water ingress.
- New high-temperature functionality requirements and testing to now have PASS mounted in a circulating

hot air oven at 500° F for five minutes. The PASS alarm signal must function at or above the required 95dBA sound level; electronic data-logging functions must operate properly; and no part of the PASS can show evidence of melting, dripping or igniting.

- New tumble-vibration requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is "tumbled" in a rotating drum for three hours, and the PASS alarm signal must function at the required 95dBA sound level and electronic data-logging functions must operate properly.
- New "muffling" of the alarm signal requirements and testing for PASS where PASS is mounted on a test subject and evaluated in five positions - face down with arms extended, supine left, supine right, fetal right with knees drawn to chest, fetal left with knees drawn to chest - and the alarm signal must function at or above the required 95dBA sound level. The NFPA is offering free online access to the new edition of NFPA 1982 at its [Web site](#).

# Safety Stand Down renamed to Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week June 22-28th

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) led the nation in the fire and emergency services' first Safety Stand Down in 2005. This event added to the momentum of meeting the USFA goal of reducing line-of-duty deaths. This goal was spawned by the National Fallen Firefighters Firefighter Life Safety Summit conducted in Tampa in 2004. The Stand Down program is supported by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the Foundation's Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program and other major fire service organizations. In the last three years the Safety Stand Down has grown into a successful safety awareness and training initiative.



In 2008, the Safety Stand Down will become known as the Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, to be held June 22-28, 2008. This week will be devoted to reviewing safety policies, evaluating the progress of existing initiatives and discussing health and fitness. In addition to promoting awareness and implementation of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives the program's State and Regional Advocates will be encouraging Fire/EMS departments in their states to make a concerted effort during the week to correct safety deficiencies, provide training and providing best practices and training materials.

# Region V Update



As a new Regional Advocate this position is filling the gaps in my calendar, quickly. Thank you Chief Marinucci. I am not complaining. This is a great way to stand up for what you believe in. Keeping our firefighters safe should be every Fire Chief and Firefighters initiative.

One way is compliance with the Seatbelt Initiative. This can be a struggle. Many advocates have experienced the same resistance of receiving signatures. The language used is for some reason "hard to understand" for their State Fire Departments. This can be a challenge, but it is achievable. Simple language interpretation and some personal conversations go a long way to obtain a signature. In addition to signatures the Dearborn Fire Department has implemented seatbelt training. Donning their full turnout gear and

locking into the seatbelt. Experiencing the evolution and overcoming the minor hassles was well worth the satisfaction of accomplishing the goal. What did it identify; the comfort level of those who could secure their seatbelt with the SCBA strapped on and those who would need to wait until they arrived at the incident to don their SCBA.

In this position I view the structure of the Advocates and how everything flows fall under the Chain of Command. We travel with our communication from the National level to the smallest Fire Departments. Everyone is responsible and need to be held accountable for their actions. We must avoid gaps and communication failure. That being said we are all human and human error in inevitable. So, recovery is critical. When networking with advocates all around the country technology is a necessity. We have enhanced our process of communication and it needs to continue to reduce the death of firefighters. Every part of our initiative is focused on the final outcome, to prevent one death at a time.

**Nazih M. Hazime**  
**Dearborn, MI**  
**Region V Advocate**

# Common Voices

## Using aggressive public safety education to spread the life-saving message



### **AZARANG (OZZIE) MIRKHAH**

*with Ed Comeau, Firehouse.Com Contributors*

Fifteen hundred mourners gathered on November 7, at the Koger Center, on the campus of University of South Carolina, to remember the seven students who perished in the early morning fire in Ocean Isle Beach, NC, that completely destroyed a beach house on Oct. 28. The victims, most of whom attended the University Of South Carolina were identified as: Cassidy Fae Pendley, 18; Lauren Astrid Kristiana Mahon, 18; Justin Michael Anderson, 19;

Travis Lane Cale, 19; Allison Walden, 18; William Rhea, 18; and Emily Lauren Yelton, 18. There were also six other students who barely escaped the fire by jumping out of the windows.

The day after the fire, Chip Auman, the owner of the beach house said that his family's "lives were just changed forever" by the tragedy. Auman said his 18-year-old daughter survived the fire, but was hospitalized and in stable condition because of complications from smoke inhalation. "The thought of losing a child is unimaginable to me, and as a father my heart goes out to the families that lost a loved one in this situation," he said. Auman said the situation was "hard to fathom." "There's just no words to describe what we've been going through," he said, asking for prayers for survivors and the families of those who died. "We're numb, we're confused, we're heartbroken."

What is also so telling about this fire is that it tragically demonstrates the importance of fire safety, all the time, no matter where you are. These 13 students had gathered together for a weekend vacation from school. The house was owned by the parents of one of the students, so it was not an unfamiliar place. Just because they were not on campus, in their fraternity, sorority or residence hall, doesn't mean that they can flip the fire safety switch in their head to "off." In a study done by the People's Burn Foundation and Campus Firewatch, most of the students did not know what to do if a fire broke out in their room and one of the common responses was "stop, drop and roll." (This study can be downloaded from [Campus Firewatch](#)). This shows us that we did a great job with the fire safety message when they were kids, but we did not keep it up as they matured and assumed more responsibility for their own fire safety.

After the fire, Terry Walden, father of one of the victims said "Allison's sorority roommate was one of the survivors. She managed to jump to safety from the third floor of the burning condominium." Walden said, "I just hope and pray that she didn't suffer." He added, "You know, it's going to be hard in the next couple of weeks when we really come to grips with the fact that she's not coming back. That is going to be the hardest part." Walden said "You can't be going through life assigning guilt or blaming people. You have to accept these things and move on. We will try to do that somehow."

As a father, I can fully understand Mr. Walden's pain and his deep faith. Losing his 18-year-old daughter in this tragedy, and all that he could hope and pray for was that "she didn't suffer". Despite the heavy heart, he is accepting this tragic loss with a fatalistic perspective, and with a level of forgiveness that is reflective of his deep beliefs and humanity. My heartfelt sorrow and deepest condolences goes to him and all the other family members

of this tragedy.

His statement "you can't be going through life assigning guilt or blaming people. You have to accept these things and move on" deeply aches my heart and brings tears to my eyes. Mr. Walden is indeed a bigger man than I, and a much kinder human being. Because, I can't forgive; and I do assign guilt.

As a Father I might be able to forgive. But then no; based on what I know as a fire service member, I can't forgive. Based on what I know as a fire protection professional, I do assign guilt. And that guilt goes to all involved in the construction of these homes without the residential fire sprinklers, we in the fire service included.

According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, "installing both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system reduces the risk of death in a fire home by 82% relative to having neither".

Eureka! We do indeed know what and where we should be focusing on, and how to reduce 80% of our fire fatalities and decrease our fire loss! As the saying goes, this should be just as easy as "shooting fish in a barrel" then, right? We see the target, we have the know how, and simple affordable life saving technologies, such as the smoke alarms and the residential fire sprinkler systems have been available for decades. But, while smoke alarms are now quite common in our households, and 96% of our homes have smoke detectors installed in them; residential fire sprinkler systems have been installed in only 2% of homes in our country.

Then the question is why? What are we waiting for? What is holding us back? Why don't we have residential fire sprinkler systems in all newly constructed homes? Really, why don't we put all our support behind installing such life saving technology in all our new houses nationwide?

As a fire service member, I am ashamed of the fact that as of the end of October, we have had a total of 356 fatalities in 90 multiple-fatality fires this year, where 195 (55%) of them have been children, and the remaining 161 (45%) have been adults. A horrible fire death is not acceptable and must not be anyone's destiny. Not in this day and age, where feasible technology is available to prevent such catastrophic fire losses.

Yes, in all of those instances, we did get there to fight the fire. And we got there very fast, from the time that we were dispatched. But then, not fast enough to save the lives of those 195 kids. I believe that residential fire sprinklers could have made the difference between life and death for those kids.

I am ashamed, because public education must be of our highest priority in the fire service, yet it isn't. All around the country, the absolute majority of our public, is not even aware of the availability of life saving technologies such as the residential fire sprinkler systems. Then since they are not informed, our grieved public accepts these fire losses as faith, and unavoidable. Yet, if they were well informed and educated, they would undoubtedly be outraged, that despite the availability of feasible technology, not enough is being done to strengthen the construction codes to create a much safer environment in their homes to protect their children.

Look at the current national concern with the lead paint in the toys manufactured in China for the past few years. There are millions of these toys purchased in this country every single year, and not even a handful of children have died of lead poisoning nationally. Yet, rightfully so, concerned parents have been outraged and have demanded a recall and have boycotted these toys. Just look at the international impact of such concerns. China was so concerned about their international image and trade that based on the CNN report, former Chinese State Food and Drug Administration Minister Zheng Xiaoyu was executed, on July 11, 2007!

Yes, concerned parents with a common cause and a common voice can, and do make the difference. After all, it is about the safety of their children. What would those parents do if they knew the odds of their children perishing in a fire at home were much higher than dying from these toys? Wouldn't they be outraged and demand an

answer and an immediate change?

Our society is much kinder than China in treatment of responsible officials, and we don't enforce Hamurabi's Code. But still, accountability is the key. And we must answer for all these 3,000 residential fire deaths year in and year out. What is our game plan for reducing that number and making sure such tragedies would not be repeated in future?

We in the fire service have not educated our public the way we should. And that my friends, is our greatest weakness. That is why currently only 2% of homes have residential fire sprinkler systems. And that lack of information is precisely what our opponents are banking on, and through their inaccurate statistics and misinformation campaigns hope to keep the residential fire sprinkler requirements out of the building code.

We in the fire service must change that. We must have a much higher priority for public education and fire prevention. We must also focus extensively on coalition building and grassroots efforts to mobilize our public to bring about the change and strive for a safer community.

We can learn from the success of other national organizations and try to do same in the fire service. One such example is Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), that was established back in the 1980s. MADD has been tremendously successful in helping change public attitudes and laws regarding driving under the influence (DUI). With MADD's significant influence, all 50 states have now passed laws making it a criminal offense to drive with a designated level of alcohol, regardless of whether the driver is impaired or not. MADD then successfully lobbied to lower that original level of .10% down to .08%, and are actively working to lower it even further.

It is important to recognize that fire service is not and must not be alone in this effort. We must join forces and have public/private coalitions, both at the national and local levels to promote fire and life safety.

Call it karma, but only three days before the fatal Ocean Isle Beach fire, on October 25, 2007, the National Fire Sprinkler Association Board of Directors announced that it has launched an advocates' organization called the Common Voices Coalition. The news release on the NFSA's website states:

"NFSA began building the Coalition in February 2007 by bringing together fire advocates who have been affected by fire, but have turned tragic events into advocacy by supporting fire sprinklers. The Coalition is well on its way to making a difference, with a plan that includes education, advocacy, and promotion of fire sprinklers. The six individuals who are serving on the Advisory Board of the Coalition include:

- Bonnie Woodruff, mother of Ben Woodruff
- Gail Minger, mother of Michael Minger
- Vina Drennan, widow of John Drennan, FDNY Fire Captain
- Amy Acton, Burn Survivor and Director of The Phoenix Society
- Justina Page, mother of Amos Page
- Donna Henson, mother of Dominic Passantino

The four mothers all have lost children to fire. The efforts of the advisory board include a plan to provide testimony and a speakers' bureau for others that are pursuing fire sprinkler legislation across the country. They have identified as priorities work on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, a bill in both the House and Senate in Washington, D.C. and participation with the IRC Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition, a group focused on the inclusion of fire sprinklers in residential code requirements.

The Common Voices Coalition will also target specific national television programs in an effort for their grass-roots message to be heard. America has a fire problem, and fire sprinklers are part of the solution. The

advocates put a face on the statistics and bring the problem to life.

"I applaud the strength, courage and vision demonstrated by the Common Voices Coalition Advisory Board," said NFSA President John Viniello. "I expect when fire sprinklers become recognized as an inseparable part of the American fiber, we will inevitably look back on the works of this Coalition as being important milestones toward the elimination of fire as a threat to life."

"It is extremely gratifying for me as Chairman of the NFSA Board of Directors to provide support to such a worthy organization," said Wayne Gey. "With fire killing over 3,000 people a year - most of those in dwellings - the need for the proven, time-tested technology of automatic fire sprinklers where we live, work and play is obvious. By creating the means for the Common Voices Coalition to make their tragic experiences with fire heard, public awareness and sensitivity to fire protection issues will be heightened, resulting in a progressive decrease in fire-related fatalities."

This is indeed a great effort that must be supported nationally. These grieving mothers can and must be the national voice of compassion and public education for us. They are striving for a safer community, with the hope that other families don't have to live through such tragedies. I believe that it is their educational efforts that just like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will eventually bring about that change.

Two other parents that are speaking out are Doug and Linda Turnbull, who lost their daughter, Julie, in an off-campus fire at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. At the national launch of Campus Fire Safety Month at Kent State University, Doug Turnbull spoke of the heartache of losing his daughter, just weeks before she was to graduate and move on to a promising career and life. You can watch his comments online at [www.campus-firewatch.com/video.html](http://www.campus-firewatch.com/video.html).

On Friday, November 2, President Bush was in South Carolina for a political fundraiser and expressed his condolences and sympathies by stating that "I know people are hurting when they think about the seven youngsters who had so much hope in their lives and had their life taken during that fire. I hope the families and loved ones can take comfort that, in this great state and around the nation, there's a lot of people praying for them."

Praying we must and we will indeed. But for us in the fire service, praying is not enough. We must take measured, sustained, progressive steps to rid the society of the menace of fire, and best serve our public, whom we are sworn to protect. We must focus more on fire prevention; and public education and code enforcement must be much higher priorities for us in the fire service.

The fire service must actively participate in the code development process, and we must change the construction codes to require residential fire sprinkler systems in all new homes. Just by this single action, we could reduce our total national fatalities by more than 80%. The International Code Council's (ICC) Final Action Hearing, on September 17-23, 2008, in Minneapolis, is where we must take a stance and make a historic change by voting for the adoption of a mandatory requirement to have residential fire sprinkler in all new homes.

The Fire service is the sleeping giant that is destined to play the highest role in the battle to mandate residential fire sprinklers in all new homes. It is time for this gentle giant to wake up and to best fulfill its professional obligation in protecting the public. Wake up gentle giant, wake up. For the sake of all of our country's children, please wake up. It is time for action.

In the short term, we must also aggressively address fire safety education for everyone, at all age levels. This will also have a dramatic impact on reducing fires across the nation if we can better educate everyone across the age spectrum and not just the young or the elderly. In one estimate, by focusing so much of our efforts on these two

age groups, we are leaving out about two-thirds of the people in this country when it comes to fire safety education.

When a seven-year-old child dies in a fire because there were no smoke alarms present, he or she had nothing to do with that. An adult made that fateful decision. When a 70-year old person is killed in a fire because they were smoking while on oxygen - is it reasonable for us to expect them to change a lifetime of habits at that age? The answer is "no." Wouldn't it have been so much better to have changed their behavior when they were younger?

We have been teaching children about fire safety easily for over 20 years by now. So, shouldn't we have the most fire-safe generation around? And if this were true, wouldn't the number of fires and fire deaths be going down? One of the big reasons it is not, is that we have not been continuing the education throughout their lives, and by failing to do so, they are not passing on the fire safety messages to their own children because they don't know it themselves!

Improving fire safety in this country is a multi-faceted approach involving constant, ongoing efforts. We can achieve our goals, but it must be a collective effort by everyone involved. It is a huge challenge, but I know that it is one that the fire service is up to - we always are!

*Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, Firehouse.com Contributing Editor, is the Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) for the City of Las Vegas Department of Fire & Rescue. His responsibilities include reviewing all building fire and life safety system designs and submittals to insure compliance with the federal, state and local fire and life safety codes and standards. Mr. Mirkhah is also involved in the development of fire & life safety codes and standards for the city.*

*Mr. Mirkhah is a registered professional engineer with more than 25 years of work experience in the field of fire protection engineering. Mr. Mirkhah joined the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue (LVF&R) more than 12 years ago. Prior to that Mr. Mirkhah worked as a consultant designing fire protection systems for some of the most internationally recognized fire protection consulting firms.*

*Mr. Mirkhah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (BSME), and a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA). Mr. Mirkhah is a 1999 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Mr. Mirkhah is a Certified Building Official, Certified Fire Inspector, Certified Mechanical Inspector, and Certified Plans Examiner through the International Code Council (ICC).*

*Mr. Mirkhah is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and serves on the national NFPA 13 Technical Committee for Sprinkler System Discharge Design Criteria. Mr. Mirkhah is a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) - USA Branch. Mr. Mirkhah is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). You can contact Mr. Mirkhah at: [amirkhah@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:amirkhah@lasvegasnevada.gov).*

*Ed Comeau is the owner of [writer-tech.com](http://writer-tech.com), a technical writing firm that publishes Campus Firewatch, a monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on issues relating to campus fire safety. He is the founder and past-director of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, a non-profit education and advocacy organization focusing on the complex issues of campus fire safety. Mr. Comeau has been instrumental in developing educational material targeting students as well as raising national awareness of the importance of fire safety among parents, administrators, legislators and students. His writing has appeared in a number of international publications and he is the author of the campus fire safety chapter in the current edition of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook.*

*Before forming [writer-tech.com](http://writer-tech.com), Mr. Comeau was the chief fire investigator for the National Fire Protection*

Association's Fire Investigations department. He was responsible for the management of the department and conducted investigations of a number of major incidents, including: the Oklahoma City bombing; the Treasury Building fire in Washington, D.C.; the Rockefeller Center fire in New York City; the Kobe, Japan earthquake; the airport terminal fire in Düsseldorf, Germany; the English Channel Tunnel fire; and the Gothenburg, Sweden disco fire.

Before joining NFPA, Mr. Comeau was a fire protection engineer for the Phoenix Fire Department. While in this capacity he was responsible for organizing the department's Urban Search and Rescue program and developed training material for the department's technical rescue program in the areas of structural collapse, trench rescue and confined space operations. Prior to joining the Phoenix Fire Department he was a call fire fighter for the Amherst, MA, Fire Department.

Mr. Comeau holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

# 10 Deadly Tanker Mistakes

**By Chris Cavette, Senior Editor**

***Fire Chief***

Tankers account for only a small portion of the apparatus operated by fire departments in the United States, yet they are involved in many of the accidents - a lot of them fatal. Here are 10 deadly mistakes that departments often make when specifying, building, operating and maintaining tankers.

» [Read the Full Article at FireChief.com](http://www.firechief.com)



# State Fire Commissioner Recognized for Courage to Be Safe Program

HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 27 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- State Fire Commissioner Edward A. Mann has been recognized by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for his tireless work to make sure fewer firefighters die in the line of duty.

After 18 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2004, Mann started the "Courage to be Safe ... so Everyone Goes Home" program to reduce the number of casualties. Since then, the program has been replicated across the country and the number of firefighter deaths has dropped.

"I am proud to be recognized by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation," said Mann, who was recently honored at the 17th Annual Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute Annual Conference and Dinner. "My participation and dedication to the Everyone Goes Home program is fueled by my strong desire to see each firefighter who responds to a call return home safely."

Federal Emergency Management Agency head Dave Paulison observed Mann's tribute and Fire Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki presented the award.

"Ed Mann has led the charge in Pennsylvania for firefighter safety and he continues to push for a better fire service delivery system for the residents of the state," said Siarnicki. "He is truly committed to the delivery of quality services while ensuring that in such a dangerous vocation, the state's fire service community is well trained, well equipped and well managed to ensure that 'everyone goes home' safe and sound after each call. His dedication to safety is serving as a true model for the entire nation."

Chief Billy Goldfeder, chairman of the International Association of Fire Chiefs' safety, health and survival section, said: "Few Fire Service leaders have had the impact that Commissioner Ed Mann has had. Some tell others 'not to take it personally' when there are problems that are tough to solve, but Ed took it personally a few years ago when Pennsylvania lead the nation in firefighter fatalities.

"Ed took the deaths of his brother and sister firefighters so personally that he visited with PA firefighters in every part of the state to help them get re-educated and re-energized to stop the needless line of duty deaths," Goldfeder said.

Mann's office has conducted nearly 60 Everyone Goes Home presentations, training approximately 8,000 firefighters. For more information about the fire service in Pennsylvania, visit <http://www.osfc.state.pa.us>.

# November Region VII Advocates Report

Region VII has added 2 new advocates, Steve Arnold and Todd Farley are Missouri state advocates.

The CTBS class is scheduled for delivery at Missouri Fire & Rescue Training Institute Winter Fire School thanks to efforts of Missouri Advocate Kate Moore.

Nebraska state advocate Kyle Ienn, Chief of Ralston Nebraska F.D. continues his efforts through CTBS deliveries. Kansas Advocate Todd Miles is working with Kansas University Fire Training on future CTBS deliveries and has linked the KU fire training website to the EGH website. Kansas Advocate Gary Bowker continues his recovery from cardiac bypass surgery, and has written an article regarding his ordeal entitled [\*Someone is Missing Tonight\*](#). The CTBS train the trainer delivery in Iowa is in final planning. Plans continue for the Initiatives Implementation Workshop in March 2008. Region VII advocates held a conference call on 20 November to discuss completed and future projects. The National Seatbelt Pledge was one of the projects discussed.

# CFSI Unveils Newly Designed Government Relations Section on its Website

The Congressional Fire Services Institute recently posted the newly designed Government Relations section of its website ([www.cfsi.org/govt\\_affairs.asp](http://www.cfsi.org/govt_affairs.asp)).

Providing a broad range of information about the federal government, the redesigned section is an excellent educational tool for individuals interested in learning about the legislative process and the types of federal programs available to the fire and rescue services.

The section will feature monthly articles from the leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus under the title of the "Congressional Alarm."

Congressman Rob Andrews (NJ) is featured in this month's section with an article on children's sleepwear. Congressman Andrews has been actively advocating for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to revise the standard on children's sleepwear, recognizing that the existing standard needs to be strengthened in order to reduce the number burn-related injuries and deaths attributed to the types of sleepwear that meet current CPSC standards.

The newly designed section contains a current membership list for the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the CFSI National Advisory Committee. The caucus directory will enable readers to access their Congressional member's website that explains scheduling information and positions on important federal issues. The section also features a video message, titled CFSI Week-In-Review. Each week, the message will be delivered by the CFSI staff or Caucus leaders, reviewing events that occurred on Capitol Hill that impact the fire and emergency services.

Established in 1989, CFSI is a nonpartisan, non-profit policy institute designed to educate Congress about the challenges and needs of our nation's fire and emergency services. CFSI is not membership-based, but offers an array of services without charge to firefighters and rescue personnel seeking information about Congress and current legislation.



## From the Office of U.S. Congressman Robert E. Andrews

As a Co-Chairman for the Congressional Fire Services Caucus in the House of Representatives, it is my privilege and responsibility to respond to critical fire safety issues. In the interest of protecting the lives and safety of America's children, I want to revisit the perplexing subject of flammable children's sleepwear. Fires and burns are the fifth leading cause of accidental injury-related death among children under age 15. Because of this, safeguarding our children against the risk of fire is a matter of crucial importance.

One way to reduce the estimated 40,000 children who are injured by fire in the home each year is to call on the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to tighten regulations on flammable sleepwear. Under the current CPSC regulation, sleepwear that is not fire resistant can be imported and sold provided it is not labeled as sleepwear or is "tight-fitting." Infant sleepwear size zero to nine months has no standard for fire resistance. Because children age five and under are twice as likely to die in a fire as the rest of the population, they need as much protection from fire as possible.

The current standard, implemented in 1996, backpedaled on the original regulation for the flammability of children's sleepwear mandated in 1972. Between 2002 and 2005, 540 children ages 14 and under died and 1,600 more were

injured in home structure fires. Such numbers show that the relaxed CPSC standard is failing our nation's young and vulnerable, increasing the likelihood of death and injury by fire. In a one year period of time between July of 2002 and June of 2003, hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 3,895 injuries caused by fires starting with worn clothing. These injuries are largely preventable. Legislation that raises the standard of flammable children's sleepwear is a precautionary measure that can help preserve the health and safety of America's 73 million children.

In the past year, the U.S. imported almost 99% of sleepwear on the market. Those imports included flammable pajamas that fall short of today's CPSC standards. Thirty percent of all children's product recalls in the last five years relating to fire, burn and electrical shock hazards were articles of clothing that failed to meet the requirements of the Flammable Fabrics Act. The number of children injured by these products has nearly doubled in the last five years, in comparison with the previous decade. By implementing stronger regulations on flammable pajamas, the CPSC can safeguard children's sleepwear against the risk of fire.

In my 17 years of service as the Representative of New Jersey's 1st District, I have collaborated with my fellow members of Congress to continually advocate for increased fire safety and prevention. I am dedicated to protecting my constituents, the American people and our nation's children in particular against the dangers posed by fire.

**Be safe,  
Rep. Rob Andrews**

# Illinois Names State Advocate For LSI Program

Emmitsburg, MD, December 3, 2007 - The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to announce that Ralph Webster has been selected as a Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program State Advocate for Illinois.

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](http://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.



In this position Mr. Webster will be working to ensure fire departments in Illinois are aware of the initiatives and assist them in implementation strategies. Mr. Webster 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.

"As Chief of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, I feel it is my responsibility to advocate for the safety of the men and women that serve the residents of the district. As a Director for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, one of my assigned responsibilities is to help advance the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives within Illinois" said Webster. "I believe that being an Everyone Goes Home state advocate will help me better serve my department and advance the safety initiatives throughout the state" concluded Webster.

The Life Safety Initiatives Team is pleased to welcome Ralph Webster to the program.

For more information on the Everyone Goes Home Program please visit [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com) or call 1.877.344.0361.

# We Would Like to Proudly Endorse the 16 firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

Our department has been striving to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries by completing the following:

- Our department has researched, developed, and implemented SOGs pertaining to life safety initiatives such as May-day, 2in/2out, RIT, accountability, fireground procedures, etc.
- Our safety committee continually meets and strives to meet the requirements of NFPA 1500 (including a risk management plan) and is researching and developing a formal "firefighter safety program."
- Annual recognition of Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down.
- Our department has recognized national standards by having personnel complete IC, 100,200,300,400,700,800, etc. courses.
- Safety is a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment. Our department makes every effort to research the latest in equipment and apparatus, during major purchases establishing committees.
- Continual emergency vehicle operations training. This involves annual driver training, competency courses (VFIS), reviewing our departmental driving policy, etc.
- As training, regularly examining and discussing NIOSH firefighter death and injury reports.
- We have an LODD bulletin board which is continually updated. Whenever there is a firefighter death or serious injury, firefighters are made aware of the death/causes and the article is posted on this bulletin board in the training room.

Respectfully,

**Capt. Rice**  
**North Fort Myers Fire Control District, Florida**

# 16 firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Support

I believe very strongly in the 16 Initiatives. We have to stop killing firefighters. When you walk into our station the first thing you see is a sign on a stand that says Everyone Goes Home and below are listed all the names of our fire department members. We talk about this at every training and our debriefings after runs. When I teach a class I also use the first half hour of class to talk about "Everyone Goes Home"

**Bruce Metz**

**Chief Jackson Center Ohio Fire Department**