

# Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Winter 2002

## *John S. Robison Receives Meritorious Service Award*



*Ron Farr (left) presents the Meritorious Service Award to John Robison (right).*

In 2000 the Meritorious Service Award was established to honor a member or members of the International Fire Marshals Association for notable and significant service in the public fire safety fields, including, but not limited to, fire prevention, fire inspection, fire safety education, fire investigation, fire code enforcement, and fire code development, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Association.

John Robison, the 2002 recipient of this award, is no stranger to IFMA. John has been employed in the Alabama Fire

Marshals office since 1972 and has served as the State Fire Marshal since 1989. He has been a member of IFMA for many years where he has served as president and is currently chair of the IFMA 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. He is currently chair of the NFPA 30A Technical Committee. Additionally, Robison serves on the UL Fire Council as well as other local and national committees.

John was responsible for negotiating with the Utah Olympic Committee to supply fire inspection personnel for Olympic venues. During the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Park City, Utah, John served as the IFMA Olympic Project Manager. Thanks to John's efforts, IFMA had 25 members supporting Park City, Utah, performing fire inspections and assisting the fire and EMS services during the Olympics. John spent six weeks in Park City, Utah, as part of the Fire Marshals Management Team. As part of the management team, he arranged schedules, organized work shifts, and oversaw the operation of the fire inspection teams. It took John over four years to make this project possible. On behalf of IFMA, the 2002 Meritorious Service Award was presented to John Robison for his notable and significant service to fire protection, life safety, and fire code development in keeping with the highest traditions of the International Fire Marshals Association.

*See page 12 for important information on the Quarterly.*

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## Fire Marshals Quarterly

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We encourage you to send items of interest to:

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## Fire Marshals Association of Colorado Becomes 20<sup>th</sup> IFMA Chapter



*(Left to right) IFMA Executive Secretary Steven Sawyer presents the Fire Marshals Association of Colorado Webmaster George McNeley, President Jerry Stricker, and Secretary Shelley Hunter with the IFMA Charter.*

The Fire Marshals Association of Colorado (FMAC) joins the International Fire Marshals Association as Chapter 20. Executive Secretary Steven Sawyer attended their May meeting to present the Charter. FMAC is an organization open to members of the fire service, private industry, and allied professionals who have an interest in fire and life safety. FMAC's primary avenue to promote and enhance fire and life safety is through code development, education, and legislation. The Fire Marshals Association of Colorado currently has 90 members. Please welcome FMAC as our newest chapter.

## NFPA'S Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund Committee Announces the First George D. Miller Scholarship Recipient

In tribute to NFPA's outgoing President and CEO George D. Miller, the board of directors of NFPA unveiled the George D. Miller Scholarship during the Association's World Safety Conference & Exposition™. Its first recipient is John Moschella, a master's degree candidate in fire science and administration at Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts.

Miller looked surprised as John Bryan, Ph.D., chair of the Association's Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund Committee, announced the creation of the scholarship, which had been authorized by NFPA's board last November. Miller was then asked to come forward to present the \$5,000 award to Moschella.

The scholarship will be awarded to one or more students per year who are enrolled in a fire service or public administration program in the United States or Canada and will be administered by the committee, appointed by NFPA's board. Moschella was recognized for his academic excellence (4.0

grade point average) and leadership qualities, including those as a Massachusetts fire officer.

Criteria for the Miller scholarship are completion of at least one academic year of post high school credits, scholarship achievement, leadership qualities, and concern for others/volunteerism. Each Miller scholarship awarded will be for at least \$5,000.

The Miller scholarship brings to eight the number of scholarships currently being offered by NFPA.

For more information on the Miller scholarship or the other scholarships offered by NFPA, please visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org), or contact the Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund Committee, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269.

## Fire Deaths in U.S. Homes Drop More Than 9% in 2001

### *Majority Fire Fatalities Still Occur Where We Feel Safest*

Fire deaths in U.S. homes dropped 9.1% last year from the previous year, according to a report released from the NFPA. In all, 3,110 perished in home fires, the place we feel safest, and another 3,086 fire fatalities occurred elsewhere, for a total of 6,196 fire deaths. (Of these, 2,451 occurred due to fires started by the attacks on America on September 11.)

Nationwide, there was a home fire death every 170 minutes, compared with every 153 minutes for the previous year.

Since 1977, NFPA has collected data from U.S. fire departments to produce the yearly Fire Loss report, which cites fire data relating to deaths, injuries, locations, trends, and analyses.

Overall, home fires have declined fairly steadily since 1978 and were down by nearly half in 2001 (48%). Only 1999 had a lower home fire death total (2,895) in the past quarter-century.

“We believe the decline in home fire deaths as evidenced from last year’s data is attributed to increasing public safety education coupled with advances in fire safety technology; these have made substantial progress in saving lives,” said John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D., NFPA’s assistant vice president for fire analysis and research.

#### **Other major findings from the report are as follows.**

**Number of fires:** Every 18 seconds, a fire department responded to a fire somewhere in the United States in 2001. In all, there were 1,734,500 fires attended by public fire departments, a slight increase of 1.6% from the year before. Most of these fires were outside fires with very little loss involved, but 396,500 were home fires.

**Injuries:** Nationwide, there was a reported fire injury in the home every 34 minutes, compared with every 23 minutes in 2000. A total of 21,000 fire injuries were reported last year; 800 of these occurred in the September 11 attacks, and 15,575 occurred in structure fires in homes.

**Property damage:** In all, an estimated \$43,983,000,000 in direct property damage occurred as a result of fire; \$5,643,000,000 occurred from fires in homes, and \$3,231,000,000 occurred in other structure fires, exclusive of the events of 9/11.

**Arson:** An estimated 45,500 intentionally set structure fires occurred last year. Intentionally set fires resulted in \$34,453,000,000 in property loss; \$33,440,000,000 were due to the events of 9/11, and \$1,013,000,000 were from other set structure fires. There were 39,500 intentionally set vehicle fires, which caused \$219,000,000 in property damage.

**Outside fires:** There were 861,500 outside fires in 2001. In particular, last year, brush and grass fires decreased 9.0% to 414,000.

**Events of September 11:** Fatalities from all the events from September 11 are included in the report because the effects of fire led to the collapses and destruction.

The full report is available from NFPA’s Web site, <http://www.nfpa.org/Research/OneStopDataShop/Reports/FireStats/FireStats.asp#free>.

## *Dear Fire Marshals,*

NOTIFIER, a well-known manufacturer of commercial fire alarm systems, publishes a FREE quarterly newsletter that keeps customers, end users, fire service professionals, and engineers up-to-date on what's happening within the fire alarm industry as well as within NOTIFIER. NOTIFIER would like to include you on the subscription list.

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## Lithium Fires

**By Jon Nisja, Supervisor, Minnesota State Fire Marshals Office**

On Tuesday, July 16, 2002, a demonstration of fires involving lithium metal and the extinguishing methods was held at Guidant, an Arden Hills–based manufacturer of implantable medical devices, such as cardiac pacemakers. Guidant is involved in developing their own lithium batteries to power their medical devices (see photo #1).

Lithium batteries are becoming extremely common. They are used for standard batteries and specialized batteries in electronic devices. Metallic lithium is more dangerous, from a fire safety standpoint, than lithium ion. Lithium is a Class D combustible metal that reacts violently with water so water-based fire extinguishing is not an option. Lithium is also dangerous when in contact with skin and mucous membranes.

The demonstration used 10 grams of lithium in 3 mil foil (small quantities). For shipping and handling, the lithium is kept in moisture-proof bags sealed with argon (an inert gas). Almost immediately upon contact with air, the lithium went from a shiny, bright appearance (like aluminum foil) to a brownish-gray color (rapid oxidation). Some minor amounts of smoke were generated, presumably from the moisture in the ambient air.

Upon application of a few drops of water, the lithium started burning vigorously and very intensely. The color of the flame was similar to a welder's arc (see photo #2). Fire extinguishment was performed using specialized Class D extinguishing agents; one such product was called "Lith-X." The extinguishing agents can be applied manually (pouring it on the burning metal with a scoop) or with a fire extinguisher (see photo #3).

The room where the lithium will be stored and handled is being protected with an Inergen fixed fire-extinguishing system.



*Photo 1 – Nardini Fire Equipment Vice President Karl Shoberg describes the extinguishing objectives prior to the demonstration.*

The intent of these extinguishing agents is to smother and coat the burning lithium. Even when covered or coated, the lithium will continue to burn for several minutes but the intensity of burning was obviously diminished. The extinguishing agent is graphite-based, giving it a gray color as opposed to the typical white/yellow color of most extinguishing agents (see photo #4).

### **Some things to remember or consider with lithium:**

- It reacts violently with water/moisture.
- Water-based fire suppression systems are not recommended.
- Human bodies are predominantly water. Lithium causes severe tissue damage to humans.
- Rooms containing lithium must have a very stable environment (low humidity).
- Only small quantities of lithium should be used at a time. As the amount of lithium increases, so does the reaction when in contact with water (burning to violent burning to explosions).
- Specialized extinguishing agents are necessary as this is a Class D combustible metal.
- The extinguishment objective is smothering or covering with the knowledge that combustion may continue (at a decreased level). Do not expect complete and total extinguishment to take place immediately.
- Sand may also be an effective extinguishing agent but it would need to be clean, dry sand (no moisture, no contaminants).
- It burns very intensely with a fair amount of "splattering."

The demonstration was put on by Nardini Fire Equipment. A special thanks to Nardini Vice President Karl Shoberg, Arden Hills Building Official Dave Scherbel, and Lake Johanna Fire Inspector Eric Nordeen for their assistance with this demonstration.



*Photo 2 – Small quantity of lithium burns very intensely.*

*continued on the next page*

## Lithium Fires *continued from page 5*



Photo 3 – Extinguishers containing special agent and pail of Lith-X for manual application.



Photo 4 – Application of specialized extinguishing agent (note the darker gray/brown color of the agent).



## Code Question

What are the code violation(s)? See page 12 for answers.

If you have a code violation you would like included, please forward to the Executive Secretary with your answer.

## Study Finds That Fire Death Rates Vary Greatly From State to State

Where you live can make a big difference in your likelihood of dying in a fire, but everywhere in the United States, you're safer from fire today than you were two decades ago.

Those are the key findings in a new state-by-state analysis of fire death patterns by the NFPA. The study found that, although death from fire has dramatically declined overall—from 5,804 deaths in 1980 to 3,347 in 1999—there are huge variations from state to state in how many people die.

The states with the highest fire death rates in 1999 were Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia. Those with the lowest rates were New Hampshire, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado, and California. But every state had a lower fire death rate in 1999 than it did in 1980.

*continued on back cover*

# New Members

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
Abbink	David	Fire Marshal	West Metro Fire Protection District	Lakewood	CO
Adams	Mark		Des Moines Fire Department	West Des Moines	IA
Agosti	John	Fire Investigator	John Michael Agosti & Associates, Inc	Lake Zurich	IL
Allen	Jeff	Fire Marshal	Irmo Fire Department	Columbia	SC
Amsler	J	Fire Marshal	Montgomery Fire Department	Montgomery	AL
Anita	Edmiro	Chief Fire Prevention	Curacao Fire Department	Curcao	
Baker	Garland	Fire Protection Analyst	Home Depot	Atlanta	GA
Banks	Ernest		Banks Alarm	Anniston	AL
Barber	Steven		Cowlitz County Building and Planning	Kelso	WA
Barlow	Ian	Fire Marshal	Salt River Proj Nauajo Sta	Page	AZ
Barnes	Leroy	Building Inspector	Riverhead, Town of	Riverhead	NY
Barzelatto	Anthony		Department of Community Affairs	Tenaflly	NJ
Beal	Janet	Lieutenant	Seattle Fire Department's Fire Marshals Office	Seattle	WA
Behlmer	Kevin	Fire Marshal	Seabrook, City of	Seabrook	TX
Benarick	Glenn	Deputy Chief	Fairfax County Fire Rescue Dept.	Fairfax	VA
Bennett	Bob	Field Supervisor	Michigan Dept. CIS Fire Safety	Gaylord	MI
Bessette	Gerald	Chief	East Providence Fire Department	East Providence	NY
Bigelow	Steven	Fire Chief		Bremerton	WA
Bilodeau	Annick	Trainer	Canadian Museum Civilization	Hull	QC
Blair	Robert	Captain	Stow Fire Department	Cuyahoga Falls	OH
Blake	John		SWCHSC	Toronto	ONT
Blankenbush	Darren	Fire Official	Westwood Fire Prevention Bureau	Westwood	NJ
Blaschik	John	Deputy State Fire Marshal	Conn. Department of Public Safety	Middletown	CT
Blind	George	Fire Marshal	Sunnyvale City of Department of Public Safety	Palo Alto	CA
Bogari, Jr.	William	Fire Chief	West Easton Fire Department	Easton	PA
Bolding	C.	Fire Marshal	Sulphur Springs Fire Department	Sulphur Springs	TX
Bologna, Jr.	Vincent			Melville	NY
Boris	Scott	Fire Fighter		Prospect	CT

*continued on the following pages*

# New Members *continued from the previous page*

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
Brewer	Donald	Fire Marshal	Clemson University Fire and EMS	Clemson	SC
Brillhart	R.			Waxahachie	TX
Brilliant	Alexander	Fire Marshal	Town of Rocky Hill	Rocky Hill	CT
Brown	Eric	Office of Fire Safety	George Mason University	Fairfax	VA
Buckman	John	Fire Chief	German Township Fire Department	Evansville	IN
Bunting	Ben		Summerville, Town of	Summerville	SC
Burgess	Daniel	Fire Marshal	Sanford Fire Department	Sanford	ME
Carpenter	John		Tumwater Fire Department	Olympia	WA
Comtois	Ron	Fire Marshal	North Coventry Township	Pottstown	PA
Curlis	John	Fire Safety Inspector	Environmental Health and Safety	Bowling Green	OH
Damstra	David	Fire Prevention Officer	Hingham Fire Department	Hingham	MA
Davis	Phil		Santee Fire Department	Santee	CA
Deffibaugh	Steve	Fire Marshal	Collin County	McKinney	TX
Digiovanni	Stephen		Fire Protection Management	Las Vegas	NV
Favanger	Dave	Fire Marshal	Parkside Borough Fire Marshals Office	Parkside	PA
Garner	Scott	Fire Marshal	Brunswick County Emergency Services	Bolivia	NC
Garufi	Michael		Somerdale Fire Prevention Bureau	Sommerdale	NJ
Gerard	Alan			Iowa City	IA
Guynn	Jim	Fire Marshal	Provo Fire and Rescue	Provo	UT
Hogan	Douglass	Firefighter/Paramedic	Grand Rapids Fire Department	Willoughby	OH
Hohbein	Doug	Plans Examiner	Nebraska State Fire Marshal	Lincoln	NE
Irace	Charles	Code Enforcement Officer	Liberty Village of	Liberty	NY
Jasper	John		Johnston Fire Department	Johnston	RI
Jenkins	M.L.		Rimkus Construction Corp.	Irving	TX
Kabele	Rick		North Lake Tahoe FPD	Incline Village	NV
Kemerer	Ron	Fire Safety Inspector	Lealman Fire Rescue Inc.	St. Petersburg	FL
Kirkham	Dan		Wyoming Dept of Corrections	Rawlings	WY
Kitchens	John	Fire Captain	City of Los Angeles Fire Department	Los Angeles	CA
Klein	David		Las Vegas Fire Rescue	Las Vegas	NV

**International Fire Marshals Association**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
LaMotte	Kip	Fire Inspector	New Brighton Department of Public Safety	St. Paul	MN
LaPalio	Anthony	Fire Investigator	Vollmer-Gray Engineering Laboratories	Long Beach	CA
Lapore	Dennis	Coordinator	Belmar Fire Department	Belmar	NJ
Leland	Roger	Fire Inspector	City of Davenport	Davenport	FL
Masterson	Hank	Code Enforcement Officer	Grand Junction Fire Department	Grand Junction	CO
McDonnell	Frank	Fire Prevention Inspector	Jackson Fire Department	Jackson	NJ
Moore, Jr.	David	Deputy State Fire Marshal	Montana Fire Marshals Office	Helena Mountain	MT
Murphy	William	Fire Marshal	Sante Fe Spring Fire	Santa Fe	CA
Nerelli	Joseph	Deputy Fire Marshal	Parkside Borough Fire Marshals Office	Parkside	PA
Newberry	Joseph (Mike)	Fire Investigator	Atlantic Fire Investigation	Jarrettsville	MD
Odermann	Frank	Fire Marshal	Billings Fire Department	Billings	MT
Osborn	Keith	Administrative Division Chief/Fire Marshal	City of Garden Grove-Fire Department	Menifee	CA
Phelan	David	Fire Investigator	Dumont Fire Prevention Bureau	Dumont	NJ
Planchard	Amory	Fire Marshal	Tri County Fire Department	Ooltewah	TN
Porch	Brannon	Fire Marshal	Town of Bernalillo Fire Department	Bernalillio	NM
Preziosi	Mark	Director, Operations	Museum of Modern Art	New York	NY
Rader	Michael			Roanoke	TX
Raymond	Jerry	Fire Inspector	Sartell Fire Department	Sartell	MN
Rocha	Robert	Fire Marshal	Kansas City Kansas Fire Department	Kansas City	KS
Rozanski	David	Fire Marshal	Decatur Fire Department	Decatur	IL
Shannon	Troy	Deputy Fire Marshal	Buffalo Grove Fire Department	Buffalo Grove	IL
Silverman	Alan	Fire Official	River Edge Borough of	River Edge	NJ
Steeber	Ken	Fire Official	Milltown Fire Department	Helmetta	NJ
Stringfellow	Dewey	Asst. Fire Chief	Saraland Fire Department	Saraland	AL
Swarthout	Steven	Fire Marshal	Mason City Building 3	Shelton	WA
Uthe	Dan	Chief	Tucson Fire Department	Tucson	AZ
Weaver	Wayne		Allegheny Township Fire Department	Duncansville	PA
White	Mark		Sony Metreon	San Francisco	CA
Williams	Duane	Fire Inspector	Little Canada, City of	Little Canada	MN

## Chapter Spotlight

### Chapter 2, New England Association of Fire Marshals

The New England Association of Fire Marshals (NEAFM) is comprised of membership from the six New England states; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont with other members from New York, New Jersey, Florida, and California.

Our membership is currently 378 members, which includes 347 active and 31 life members.

We recently updated our goals and objectives to reflect the needs of our members in the 21st century.

The new goals are as follows:

1. Establish effective communications with its members and all public safety professionals.
2. Proactively represent its members in the development of international, federal, state, and local legislation, regulations, and codes.
3. Support the needs of its membership through education.

In order to successfully meet these goals and objectives we have developed our Web site, where we post updated information as well as our most recent approved minutes.

Our association is represented on the Northeastern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, as well as having members on various NFPA technical committees. We also submit written and/or oral testimony to assist our member states in passage of fire and life safety legislation.

Finally, in order to meet our education goal, we sponsor a three-day conference every September. In past conferences our list of speakers have included Dr. Henry Lee, world renowned forensic scientist; Al Hogan, F.P.E. Walt Disney World and the Reedy Creek Fire Department; Retired Fire Prevention Lieutenant Rick Davey, author of the book *A Matter of Degree*; Dr. Dennis O'Neal, National Fire Academy; and VP Gary Keith, VP of Public Education, Mary-Kay Appy, and Senior Fire Investigator Robert Duval, all of NFPA.

In 2001 our conference was held in Warwick, Rhode Island. The second day of the conference centered on trial preparation, expert witness testimony and a mock trial.

The speakers that day included Judge Edwin Gale of the Rhode Island Superior Court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerald Sullivan, and agents from the Bureau of ATF. It was the best attended of the three days, and although very successful it proved to be the most difficult day of our 42 years of putting on conferences. It was September 11, the day of the terrorist attacks.

This year's conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Burlington, Vermont, on September 9, 10, and 11. It will include sessions on code enforcement, fire investigation and public education.

This year for the first time in the history of our association we will also be involved in a joint venture with the New England Fire Chiefs Association. On Saturday, June 22, 2002, we sponsored a morning session at their annual conference, entitled *World Trade Center Collapse: FEMA Building Performance Assessment Team Analysis*. The speakers were Robert Duval, Senior Fire Investigation, NFPA; Chris Marrion, ARUP Fire Consulting Engineers, New York; and Ed DePaola, President, Structural Engineers Association of New York.

Our association has one primary focus and that is to assure our members are some of the best informed public safety professionals anywhere and our officers and board of directors are committed to making every effort to successfully achieve this.

**New England Association of Fire Marshals**  
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## President's Corner



Ron Farr

It is hard to believe that summer is gone, winter is closing in fast (brrrrrr for those in the colder climates) and many of us are already making plans for 2003.

I would like to congratulate Past President John Robison on his receipt of IFMA's 2002 Meritorious Service Award and 2nd Vice President Scott Adams on his receipt of the 2002 Robert W. Gain

Award presented by the Western Fire Chief's Association. Both individuals are very committed and dedicated to fire and life safety and certainly deserving of these recognitions.

The last week of September took me to Nashville, Tennessee, for the combined meeting of all of the Regional Code Development Committees. Thanks again for all the hard work members of the committees put forth and a special thanks again to the agencies that allowed their employees to participate. These committees have been a valuable tool in working toward timely and meaningful proposals to various

NFPA documents. Also a special thank you goes out to Steven Sawyer, Executive Secretary to IFMA, for all his dedication and hard work with the Regional Code Development Committees.

On October 6, 2002, I had the honor of attending the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial held at the MCI Center in Washington, DC, on behalf of IFMA. The tribute that was paid to our fallen heroes was an emotional and exceptional event. Let us give hope that the number of fallen heroes will never again be this high.

Plans are being made to celebrate IFMA's 100th Anniversary in 2006. Past President John Robison has agreed to chair the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee with Board Member Jimmy Hill serving as the liaison to the IFMA board. I know these two (with the help of others) are putting together ideas to make this a memorable event, so if you have any suggestions or information about IFMA please contact them.

As I close I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and the best for a great New Year.

## Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

Congratulations to John Robison, Alabama State Fire Marshal and IFMA past president for receiving the IFMA Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Also, congratulations to Scott Adams for receiving the Robert W. Gain Award presented by the Western Fire Chief's Association. Both of these awards are well deserved.

I had the pleasure of attending the Michigan, New York, and Florida chapter annual meetings these past few months. All of these meetings were well attended, educational, and showed a high level of commitment to fire safety.

We also would like to welcome the Fire Marshals Association of Colorado and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association as Chapters 20 and 21.

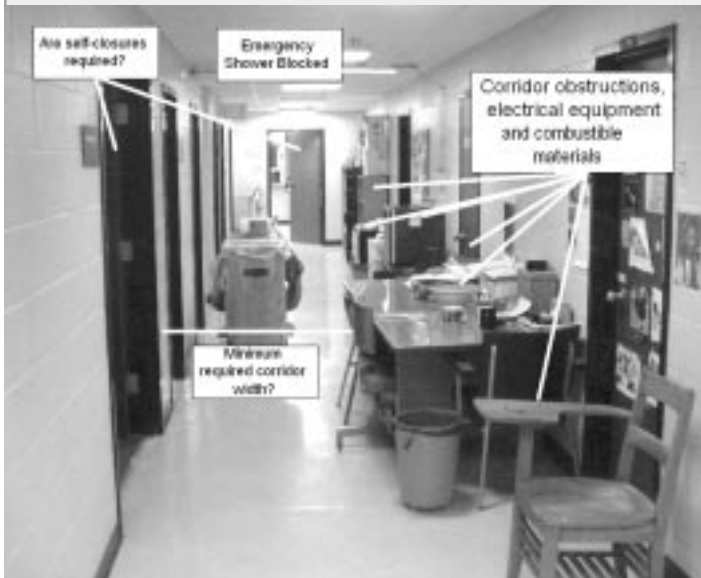
This year's Annual Fire Marshals conference was very active with IFMA sponsoring nine educational offerings, the executive board meeting, business meeting, codes and standards forum, and the hospitality room. We would like to thank the Arizona, Delaware, Florida, and Michigan chapters for sponsoring the hospitality room.

This is the last paper edition, for those who get paper, of the Quarterly. We will continue to provide information to the members by use of the Quarterly, the Web site, e-mail, mailings, and Web board. Due to the high cost of printing we felt there were better places to use our money while still providing the services you are used to. The key to staying in touch with our peers is in today's world of electronic communication. By developing a solely electronic newsletter we can provide you with more timely information, by cutting out at least three weeks of reviewing proofs, printing, and mailing. For those few members, who do not have e-mail, please contact me and we can arrange for paper copies to be sent.

The board and I are committed to continue finding better ways to communicate with members and get the best bang for our buck. If you have any suggestions on content, programs, or other issues, please contact any board member (listed on page 2).

To you and your families, have a safe and joyous holiday season and New Year.

## Code Question Answer



## Important News on the IFMA Quarterly

After this edition the *Quarterly* will only be made available in electronic format. The cost to print and mail the *Quarterly* is approximately one-third of our operating budget. The recent economic conditions and the need to provide additional services have made IFMA look at its mission and determine where it is best to place our resources. This will also enable us to provide the newsletter in a timelier manner. In addition, important news can be quickly forwarded to the membership.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail IFMA your e-mail address as soon as possible to prevent missing future issues. Please provide the following information in the correspondence: name, address, phone, fax, e-mail, and NFPA membership number and send to:

IFMA  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02269  
Or Fax (617) 984-7056  
Or E-mail [IFMA@nfpa.org](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org)

## U. S. Consumer Products Safety Commission Seeks Help on Overfill Prevention Devices

The Office of Compliance staff, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), is investigating allegations of broken Overfill Prevention Devices (OPD). Specifically, we have received complaints and allegations that parts of the OPDs have been found 'rattling around' in 20 lb. propane cylinders. The staff is concerned that overfilling of propane cylinders could occur if a broken OPD is relied on when filling the cylinders, even though other methods of checking the propane levels are supposed to be used. Overfilled cylinders can present serious risks of fire or explosions to consumers.

To date, we have received verbal reports of broken OPDs, but we have not been able to locate any of these cylinders and/or

valves for evaluation. Your assistance in our efforts to collect incident samples would be greatly appreciated. Please contact a CPSC field investigator or regional center directly if you encounter any cylinders with broken OPDs, so that we can arrange to pick up the product(s) for engineering review. The staff would also appreciate your providing the above information and a request for assistance to fire officials within your jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please contact the Joseph Vogel, Compliance Officer Recalls and Compliance Division at (301) 504-0608, extension 1169.

## IFMA/NFPA Regional Fire Code Development Committee Spring 2003 Meeting

To encourage greater fire service participation in the NFPA Codes and Standards Making System, IFMA and NFPA has established four Regional Fire Code Development Committees. The members of these committees are from the fire service in your area. The committees are responsible for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and act as liaisons to their region's fire service for inputting changes to NFPA Codes and Standards. The meetings will be held on the following dates and times.

***Northcentral***

March 18–19, 2003: Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago, IL, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Northeastern***

February 26, 2003: Crowne Plaza Albany Hotel, Albany, NY, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Southern***

March 11–12, 2003: Four Points Sheraton Riverwalk North, San Antonio, TX, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Western***

March 4–5, 2003: Double Tree Hotel at Reid Park, Tucson, AZ, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the meeting. You are responsible for all costs associated with your travel. If you are interested in attending, please complete the form below and return by February 3, 2003, or contact Steven Sawyer at (617) 984-7423.



## Spring 2003 NFPA/IFMA Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting Attendance Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan on attending the Spring 2003  Northcentral  
 Northeastern  Southern  Western Regional Fire Code  
 Development Committee Meeting

Please return by February 3, 2003 to:

Steven F. Sawyer  
 NFPA  
 1 Batterymarch Park  
 Quincy, MA 02269-9101  
 or Fax: (617) 984-7056

## Fire Prevention Week is Nation's Oldest Safety Observance Nonprofit NFPA has Sponsored Fire Prevention Week for 80 Years

According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 6–12 this year, is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The week, officially sponsored by the NFPA, is intended to raise public awareness of fire dangers and the simple prevention measures that should be employed by all. The President of the United States has proclaimed the observance every October for 80 years.

"A Presidential proclamation is a persuasive endorsement from the highest level," said NFPA President James M. Shannon. "NFPA is proud of its role working alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Office of Management and Budget to facilitate a Fire Prevention Week Presidential Proclamation signing each year. We believe having the President's personal support of our efforts has been key to the success of Fire Prevention Week for the past eight decades."

NFPA's role as official sponsor also includes the development and dissemination of a variety of targeted educational materials designed to be integrated into local FPW campaigns conducted by fire departments and other community partners. NFPA hosts the official FPW Web site ([www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)) where first responders and other public safety advocates can download free fire prevention and protection information,

materials, and activities to complement their efforts. A core component of FPW is NFPA's line of original, award-winning print and video educational tools created for the campaign.

*History of FPW:* The history of FPW has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8 but continued into and did the most damage on October 9, 1871. In just 27 hours, this tragic fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,000 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The cause of the fire has never been confirmed. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which October 9 falls. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Partnering with NFPA this year are FEMA's United States Fire Administration, the Home Safety Council, Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and First Alert. The theme for FPW 2002 is "Team Up for Fire Safety." This year's campaign addresses three simple safety steps: installing/testing smoke alarms, practicing fire drills, and hunting for home hazards.

Free online safety advice on these and other topics is available to all by logging on to [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## NFPA Technical Committees are Seeking Members

The **Committee on Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing Appliances** is seeking members in the following categories: installer/maintainer, enforcing authority, and consumer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 97, *Standard Glossary of Terms Relating to Chimneys, Vents, and Heat-Producing Appliances*, and NFPA 211, *Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances*.

The **Committee on Combustible Metals and Metal Dusts** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer, special expert, and user. The Committee is responsible for NFPA 480, *Standard for the Storage, Handling and Processing of Magnesium Solids and Powders*; NFPA 481, *Standard for the Production, Processing, Handling, and Storage of Titanium*; NFPA 482, *Standard for the Production, Processing, Handling and Storage of Zirconium*; NFPA 484, *Standard for Combustible Metals, Metal Powders, and Metal*

*Dusts*; NFPA 485, *Standard for the Storage, Handling, Processing, and Use of Lithium Metal*; and NFPA 651, *Standard for the Machining and Finishing of Aluminum and the Production and Handling of Aluminum Powders*.

The **Committee on Electronic Safety Equipment for Fire and Emergency Services** is seeking members in all interest categories.

The **Committee on Emergency Service Organization Risk Management** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1201, *Standard for Developing Fire Protection Services for the Public*, and NFPA 1250, *Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*.

The **Committee on Fine Aerosol Extinguishing Technology** is seeking members in all interest categories.

*continued on the next page*

## *NFPA Technical Committees are Seeking Members* continued from page 14

The **Committee on Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert or user. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 801, *Standard for Fire Protection for Facilities Handling Radioactive Materials*; NFPA 804, *Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*; and NFPA 805, *Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*.

The **Committee on Fluidized Bed Boilers** is seeking members for all interest categories except manufacturer. The Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Garages and Parking Structures** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer, special expert, and user. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 88A, *Standard for Parking Structures*.

The **Committee on Hazard and Risk of Contents and Furnishings** is seeking members in the interest categories of consumer, user, installer/maintainer, and enforcing authority. The Committee is responsible for NFPA 555, *Guide on Methods for Evaluating Potential for Room Flashover*.

The **Committee on Hazardous Chemicals** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer and special expert. The Committee is responsible for NFPA 40, *Standard for the Storage and Handling of Cellulose Nitrate Film*; NFPA 42, *Code for the Storage of Pyroxylin Plastic*; NFPA 430, *Code for the Storage of Liquid and Solid Oxidizers*; NFPA 432, *Code for the Storage of Organic Peroxide Formulations*; NFPA 434, *Code for the Storage of Pesticides*; NFPA 490, *Code for the Storage of Ammonium Nitrate*; and NFPA 704, *Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response*.

The **Committee on Internal Combustion Engines** is seeking members in all categories except manufacturing, insurer, and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 37, *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines*.

The **Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings** is seeking members in the interest categories of enforcing authority and insurer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 35, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*.

The **Committee on Public Fire Educator Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except labor and user. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1035, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator*.

The **Committee on Pulverized Fuel Systems** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer and user. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Racetrack Stables** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 150, *Standard on Fire Safety in Racetrack Stables*.

The **Committee on Single Burner Boilers** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Solvent Extraction Plants** is seeking members in the interest categories of equipment manufacturer, insurer, and enforcing authority. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 36, *Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants*.

The **Committee on Stoker Operations** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer and user. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Wastewater Treatment Plants** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturer and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 820, *Standard for Fire Protection in Wastewater Treatment and Collection Facilities*.

The **Committee on Water Spray Fixed Systems** is seeking members in the enforcing authority interest category. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 15, *Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection*.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees or on any NFPA technical committee can download a technical committee application form from NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org/Codes/TechnicalCommittees.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/TechnicalCommittees.asp) or request a form from NFPA Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

## Committees Soliciting Proposals

The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their respective reports. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content for the documents listed below. You can submit proposals online, or download the proposal form from [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). Proposal forms are also available in the back of all NFPA documents, the NFPA Directory, or from the NFPA Directory online.

Document No./ Edition	Title	Proposal Closing Date
NFPA 11A-1999	<i>Standard for Medium- and High-Expansion Foam Systems</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 15-2001	<i>Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 32-2000	<i>Standard for Drycleaning Plants</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 45-2000	<i>Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 59A-2001	<i>Standard for the Production, Storage, and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 92A-2000	<i>Recommended Practice for Smoke-Control Systems</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 92B-2000	<i>Guide for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Areas</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 96-2001	<i>Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 99-2002	<i>Standard for Health Care Facilities</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 99B-2002	<i>Standard for Hypobaric Facilities</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 110-2002	<i>Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 111-2001	<i>Standard on Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 120-1999	<i>Standard for Coal Preparation Plants</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 121-2000	<i>Standard on Fire Protection for Self-Propelled and Mobile Surface Mining Equipment</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 122-2000	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 123-1999	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Bituminous Coal Mines</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 214-2000	<i>Standard on Water-Cooling Towers</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 241-2000	<i>Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 251-1999	<i>Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Endurance of Building Construction and Materials</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 271-2001	<i>Standard Method of Test for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 273P*	<i>Standard Method of Test for Determining the Degrees of Combustibility of Building Materials</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 289P*	<i>Standard Method of Fire Test for Room Fire Growth Contribution of Individual Fuel Packages</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 405-1999	<i>Recommended Practice for the Recurring Proficiency Training of Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 408-1999	<i>Standard for Aircraft Hand Portable Fire Extinguishers</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 409-2001	<i>Standard on Aircraft Hangars</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 410-1999	<i>Standard on Aircraft Maintenance</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 422-1999	<i>Guide for Aircraft Accident Response</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 423-1999	<i>Standard for Construction and Protection of Aircraft Engine Test Facilities</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 450P*	<i>Guide for Emergency Medical Services and Systems</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 502-2001	<i>Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 555-2000	<i>Guide on Methods for Evaluating Potential for Room Flashover</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 556P*	<i>Guide on Methods for Evaluating Fire Hazard and Fire Risk of Vehicular Furnishing</i>	1/3/2003

continued on the next page

Document No./ Edition	Title	Proposal Closing Date
NFPA 701-1999	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 780-2000	<i>Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 909-2001	<i>Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 914-2001	<i>Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 1150-1999	<i>Standard on Fire-Fighting Foam Chemicals for Class A Fuels in Rural, Suburban, and Vegetated Areas</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 1221-2002	<i>Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Public Emergency Service Communications Systems</i>	1/5/2004
NFPA 1561-2002	<i>Standard on Emergency Service Incident Management System</i>	6/27/2003
NFPA 1710-2001	<i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments</i>	1/3/2003
NFPA 1720-2001	<i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments</i>	1/3/2003

\* Proposed new documents

## NFPA Says Smoke Alarms are Just the Beginning

*Much more can be saved by escape plans and fire sprinklers*

Smoke alarms have been the leading reason for the dramatic reduction in home fire deaths over the past few decades—but the NFPA says that much more can be done to lower fire fatalities and property damage.

It's become traditional to test smoke alarms when you set your clocks back each fall. This year, NFPA is urging people to take the occasion to also devise and practice a home escape plan. NFPA also recommends that homeowners consider installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in all newly built homes.

“The widespread use of home smoke alarms is a public-safety triumph,” said John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D., of NFPA’s Fire Analysis and Research Division. “Smoke alarms are the leading reason that fire deaths in the home have been cut in half since the late 1970s. But just think how many more lives could be saved if all homes also had automatic sprinklers, and everyone knew how to get out quickly in a fire?”

### The NFPA promotes these safety measures:

**Working smoke alarms.** Roughly 19 out of 20 (or 95%) of U.S. households have smoke alarms, but one-fifth of those homes remain unprotected—because the alarms aren’t working. When fire deaths occur in homes that have smoke alarms, half those deaths are in homes where the alarm did not sound. The most common reason is dead, missing, or disconnected batteries. You should change the batteries when the smoke

alarm chirps to warn you that power is getting low, when you change your clock from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time, and when you move into a new home. Replace the entire smoke alarm, whether hard-wired or battery-powered, if it is more than 10 years old.

**Escape plans.** Every household should draw up—and practice—a home fire escape plan that includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas, two ways out of each room, unobstructed and easy-to-use exits, a meeting place outside, and a posted emergency number for the fire department. Even preschoolers can grasp the basics, and during NFPA’s “Great Escape” campaign recently, 10 million households developed and practiced an escape plan for the first time—but that still left three-fourths of households without one.

**Automatic fire sprinkler systems.** Because they react so quickly, fire sprinklers dramatically reduce heat, flames, and smoke. Sprinklers cut the chances of dying in a fire by more than half, and combined with smoke alarms, they cut the chances of dying in a fire by more than 80%, relative to having neither. Sprinklers also cut the average property loss in a fire by one-half to two-thirds.

For more information on fire safety, including smoke alarms, escape plans, and fire sprinklers, visit NFPA’s Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## A Look at the 2001 Fire Loss Statistics

The following information is taken from three One-Stop Data Shop reports: *Fire Loss in the United States During 2001*, *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States, 2001*, and *U.S. Firefighter Injuries, 2001*. The complete reports are available on NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org/osds](http://www.nfpa.org/osds). To request hard copies, contact the One-Stop Data Shop at [osds@nfpa.org](mailto:osds@nfpa.org), or call Nancy Schwartz at (617) 984-7450.

### Number of Fires

- In 2001, U.S. public fire departments responded to 1,734,500 fires, a slight increase of 1.6% from the year before. These include 521,500 structure fires (383,500 of which were home fires), 351,500 vehicle fires, and 861,500 outside fires.
- Every 18 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States.
- A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 60 seconds.
- There are 44 home fires every hour.
- Fires occur in vehicles at the rate of 1 every 90 seconds.
- There is a fire in an outside property every 37 seconds.

### Civilian Fire Deaths

- In 2001, there were 6,196 civilian deaths; 2,451 of which were due to the events of 9/11/01. Exclusive of the 9/11/01 events, an estimated 3,745 civilian deaths occurred, a decrease of 7% from the previous year.
- Home fires caused 3,110, or 83%, of civilian fire deaths, exclusive of the events of 9/11/01. This is a 9% decrease, making it the second lowest home fire death total since NFPA's fire experience current survey methodology started in 1977.
- Nationwide there was a home fire death every 170 minutes.

### Civilian Fire Injuries

- A total of 21,100 civilian fire injuries were reported in 2001; 800 of these occurred in the events of 9/11/01.
- Exclusive of the events of 9/11/01, structure fires caused 17,225 civilian fire injuries. 15,575 occurred in residential properties and 1,650 occurred in nonresidential structures.
- Home fires caused 15,200 civilian fire injuries. Nationwide, there was a civilian home fire injury every 34 minutes.
- There were 1,750 civilian fire injuries as a result of highway vehicle fires.

### Property Damage

- An estimated \$44,023,000,000 in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2001. This figure includes \$33,440,000,000 due to the events of 9/11/01.
- Excluding the events of 9/11/01, \$8,874,000,000 of property damage occurred in structure fires. \$5,516,000,000 occurred from fires in the home and \$3,358,000,000 occurred in other structures.

### Incendiary and Suspicious Fires

- An estimated 45,500 intentionally set structure fires occurred last year. Intentionally set fires resulted in \$34,453,000,000 in property loss; \$33,440,000,000 were due to the events of 9/11, and \$1,013,000,000 were from other set structure fires.
- There were 39,500 intentionally set vehicle fires, which caused \$219,000,000 in property damage.

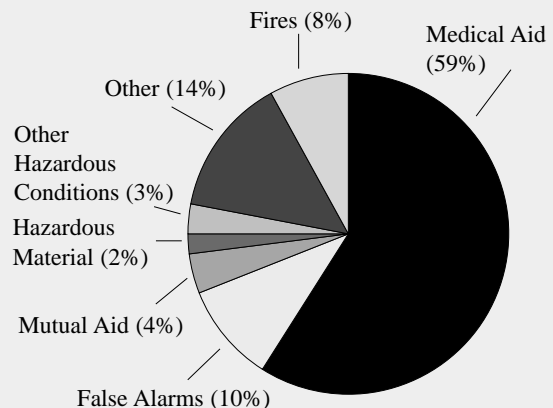
### Fire fighter Fatalities and Injuries

- In 2001, a total of 439 fire fighters were fatally injured while on duty. Of these, 364 were career, 63 were volunteer, and 12 were non municipal (those not employed by local, public fire departments). This includes 340 fire fighters at the World Trade Center, September 11, 2001.
- In 2001, 82,250 fire fighters were injured in the line of duty. Of those, 41,395 occurred on the fireground.

### Fire Department Calls

- U.S. fire departments responded to 20,965,500 calls in 2001. These 20,965,500 calls are broken down as follows: 1,734,500 fires, 12,331,000 medical aid, 2,157,500 false alarms, 838,500 mutual aid, 381,500 hazardous material, 605,000 other hazardous condition and 2,917,500 other.
- In 2001, U. S. fire departments responded to 2,157,500 false alarms. Of the total of false alarms, 822,000 resulted from a system malfunction, 274,000 were malicious, 761,500 were unintentional, and 300,000 were others, such as bomb scares.

Fire Department Calls in 2001



# IFMA Merchandise Order Form

Get your IFMA merchandise to promote IFMA.

**Baseball Hat:** \$15.00 each, includes postage and handling

Number	Cost	Total Cost
_____	\$15	_____

**Golf Shirt:** 100% cotton white golf shirt with red and blue collar and sleeves, IFMA logo on left breast—\$30.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$30	_____

**Lapel Pin:** \$3.00 each, includes postage and handling

Number	Cost	Total Cost
_____	\$3	_____

**Wind Shirt:** blue nylon wind shirt with hand pockets, IFMA logo on left breast—\$40.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$40	_____

**Grand Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed, *please make payable to IFMA.*
- Charge my credit card.  MasterCard  Visa  AmEx
- Card #: \_\_\_\_\_
- Card Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax to:

IFMA  
 Attention: Order  
 1 Batterymarch Park  
 Quincy, MA 02269  
 Fax (617) 984-7056



## Study Finds That Fire Death Rates Vary Greatly From State to State continued from page 6

The differences among states are explained chiefly by the characteristics of the population. The highest fire death rates were in states with a higher proportion of adults who lack a high school education, who smoke or who are poor.

So a high fatality rate does not mean that state and local fire officials are doing a poor job. At the same time, though, a state can lower its death rate without changing its population.

The experience of South Carolina illustrates this point. South Carolina had the nation's highest fire death rate in 1988 and 1989. Then it introduced a statewide fire safety program that emphasized smoke alarm installation and fire safety education. By 1991, the state's rank had dropped to No. 6. Right after the program lost its funding, the death rate went up again, and by 1993, South Carolina had the nation's second-highest fire death rate. The program has since been restored.

"What this study shows is that fire deaths can be prevented. They're not inevitable," said the report's author, John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D. of NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division. "When a community reaches out to educate the public and provide the tools to be safe, lives are saved. Universal fire safety education in schools and compliance with modern consensus fire safety codes and recommended rules for safe use of home

products, all are additional steps that have been proven to save lives in any state, for any group of people."

Four of every five fire deaths occur in the home. But many can be prevented if there are working smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Additionally, every household should draw up—and practice—a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room, unobstructed and easy-to-use exits, a meeting place outside, and a posted emergency number for the fire department. Consider, too, home fire sprinklers, as they cut the chances of dying in a fire by more than half.

The study of fire death patterns by state was drawn from the national database of death certificates collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, which includes most but not all fire deaths. For example, the database does not count arson deaths, often categorized as homicides or suicides, and fire deaths after a vehicle crash. Because of such anomalies, small differences between states should not be overemphasized. But the major patterns that the study found are valid.

The full report contains year-by-year data as well as a narrative describing each state's experience. For more information, visit NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



**NFPA International**  
**INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION**  
**SECTION NEWSLETTER**

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