

SIREN

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

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



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Can Have Long-Term Effect

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medline plus/news/fullstory_29303.html

(*this news item will not be available after 02/23/2006)

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Moderate to severe carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can cause injury to the heart muscle that increases the long-term risk of death, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

**"Please wear your SCBA at all CO, Fumes and Unknown Odor calls."
SFA Jim Burns**

Previous reports have shown that in-hospital mortality is low for patients with moderate to severe CO poisoning, but it has been unclear if CO exposure affects long-term mortality risk.

To investigate, Dr. Timothy D. Henry, from Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, and colleagues assessed the outcomes of 230 consecutive patients who were treated with hyperbaric oxygen for CO poisoning

between 1994 and 2001. The subjects were followed until November 11, 2005.

Damage to the heart, based on measurement of cardiac enzymes or ECG changes, was identified in 37 percent of the patients, the report indicates. During an average follow-up of 7.6 years, 24 percent of the patients died. Twelve of these patients died while hospitalized.

On long-term follow-up, the death rate for patients with heart muscle injury was 38 percent compared with a rate of 15 percent for those without heart damage.

Heart damage often occurs in patients with moderate to severe CO poisoning and these patients have a higher mortality risk, the authors conclude.

They recommend that patients who may have been exposed to CO should be screened for heart damage and additional cardiovascular risk assessment should be considered for all patients with confirmed heart injury.

Risk Watch in New York

Risk Watch, a program through the National Fire Protection Association, is the first comprehensive

injury prevention curriculum available for use in schools. It is based on an integrative, experiential approach to learning. Risk Watch is age appropriate and utilizes the latest educational theory and practice. It is designed to allow maximum teacher flexibility and can be customized to local needs. During the fall of 1999, several New York State government agencies and non-profit organizations joined in a partnership called Team New York, becoming one of twelve Risk Watch pilot states.

To date over 50 schools in 23 communities have been participants. Each school is supported by a local police and fire departments. Approximately 26 fire departments work in the Risk Watch

education programs. The total effort as of 2005 has conducted safety education for an estimated 11,500

students, aged one through fourteen years, in 460 classrooms across New York State.

November 17 – 20, 2005, the 4th Annual Risk Watch Champion Conference was held in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference brings together NFPA's Risk Watch Champion Management Teams from across the United States and Canada. The 3-day conference offered several sessions for attendance such as Method on Implementation, Pitching the Program, Trends in Childhood Injuries and the Risk Watch Natural Disasters program. The conference was a great learning experience, good for information gathering, as well as a success for all who attended.



Team New York (l to r) – James Burns, NYS OFPC; Kristi McGarthy, NYS OFPC; Dave Walker, North Greece Fire District; Peter Sidari, North Greece Fire District; David Jacobowitz, FASNY; Dave Clapp, NYS Education Department; Suzanne Syzdek, NYS Department of Health; John Sroka, VFIS of New York; William Timmons, Ridge Road Fire District; Brian McQueen, FASNY; Sue Davis, Ridge Road Fire District.

Submitted by:
Kristi McGarthy, Fire Protection Specialist
Fire Prevention Bureau

Grand Island Fire Company Discovers What May be Our Next Call to Duty

If you look at your EMS responses, it won't take you long to come to the same realization that Lieutenant Adrian Pilliod did in January of 2005. Grand Island was responding to a large number of calls involving patients over the age of fifty.

Lieutenant Pilliod came up with an idea to check up on patients a week or so after the call to make sure basic needs were being met. So was born the "Senior Assistance Team".

The plan was to get out face to face with patients who have been involved with any type of medical emergency call. After establishing a team and meeting with Fire Chief Greg Butcher, it was decided that the team wanted to accomplish the following:

- Educate on both local and county programs that were available for seniors, such as meals on wheels and the Senior Center of Grand Island

- Re-educate on fire prevention and check for working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Check on their general welfare.

One of the first questions that arose during the planning stage was what to do when suspected abuse or someone who was not able to live safely on their own was found. Lieutenant Pilliod first met with Barbara Gannon who is the director of the Senior Center of Grand Island. Barbara offered the fire company a wealth of information and was made part of the Assistance Team. She also directed Adrian to Erie County Adult and Senior Services. Several meetings were held with Gavin Casper of Erie County. Gavin was able to provide insight on situations we were most likely to encounter and contact telephone numbers to call in case there were questions or case referrals. It was also decided to have scheduled meetings to make sure the program was still running on track and to also address any questions.

After a month of meetings and discussions, the first Senior Assistance Team call went out during the second week of February. We all felt that this was going to be a good program but we were still not sure how it would be perceived.

The approach is simple. Members of the team are dressed in the fire departments class B work uniforms and ride in teams of two in a department utility vehicle. We ring the doorbell and just act like a caring responder. We ask how they are feeling and check to see if there is anything we can do for them. We check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for batteries and usually sit down for a

story or two. We hand out educational material on fire prevention and local service providers, along with a list of local and county telephone numbers to call if they need help or have any questions about support services. The smiles and sometimes tears of the people we are visiting told us quickly that this was a program that will be a part of the services that the Grand Island Fire Company offers its community. The expression on the face of a senior person when they find out we are just looking to put a battery in a detector or make a suggestion as to putting their fire extinguisher in a better location is gratifying in itself.

In most cases there is not a need for further action. It is when you are dealing with calls involving people in the seventy and higher ages you start to run into other situations. Adrian reports coming across the following:

- Nutritional issues where people were not eating or drinking enough fluids.

- Ambulatory problems where people were not able to safely move about their home.

- Residents in short term crisis due to illness or injuries.

In all cases such as these, all that is needed is a call to the proper department of County Services or to the Grand Island Senior Center and a referral is made. They take over from there and calls are made back to the department to update the team on the referral.

The response from the community has been amazing. Chief Butcher is stopped on a regular basis when out in the community and is given high praises for the program. It can be said without a doubt that this program has saved lives.

Chief Butcher states, "The opportunity gained in the Fire & Safety education outreach to seniors alone is worth every minute of our volunteer firefighter's time".

Any Department interested in finding out more about this program is encouraged to call EMS Lieutenant Adrian Pilliod at the Grand Island Fire Company. The number is 716.773.4334. Grand Island along with Erie County Adult/Senior services will help train and advise any department who wishes to start a similar team.

Submitted by: Adrian Pilliod
Lieutenant, Grand Island Fire Company



See related story next page.

USFA Releases Fire and the Older Adult Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Adults age 65 and older are 2.5 times more likely to die in fires than the overall population, and as Americans age, their fire risk increases, according to a new report issued today by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

"Fires occurring in the home and in various health care settings for older adults are often preventable," said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy United States Fire Administrator. "Because the older adult population accounts for a substantial portion of the nation's fire deaths and injuries, it's important that we take steps to reduce this fire problem."

The report, *Fire and the Older Adult*, was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part



of the U.S. Fire Administration, and is based on research from a variety of public and private organizations and data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), U.S. Census Bureau, the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging. The report analyzes the fire risk to persons age 65 and older as a complement to the USFA's Fire Safety Campaign for People 50-Plus. The report provides an extensive review of the fire situation for older adults in the United States and evaluates fire risk factors and risks of fire injury and fatality among that population group.

According to 2002 NFIRS data, 34 percent of the people who died in residential structure fires and 14 percent of the people who were injured were age 65 and older.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from: www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-300.pdf

Welcome and Congratulations!

Welcoming Andrew Jones to OFPC

Andrew Jones has joined the OFPC staff as an FPS 1 (trainee) assigned to the lower Hudson Valley East, Putnam, Westchester, New York City, Nassau & Suffolk Counties.

Andy comes to us from the Department of Corrections and was most recently an SFI assigned to Orange County.

Chad Smith Appointed to Fire Services

Chad Smith has been appointed to the Wireless 911 group of the Fire Services Bureau. Chad will be the telecommunications analyst working with Wireless 911

Scott Edkin Joins the Hazardous Materials Bureau

Welcoming Scott Edkin to the Hazardous Materials Bureau. Scott is originally from the Canton area and currently resides in Wilton. He is assigned to the Airport division as an FPS-T under Deputy Chief Kirk

David Wilkinson Assigned to Arson Bureau

Mr. David Wilkinson has been appointed to OFPC and assigned to the Arson Bureau as a Key Board Specialist 1. David, who resides in Schenectady will be taking over duties formerly handled by Margaret Galvin, who has accepted a KBS position with Data/Fire Reporting.

Margaret Galvin transferred to Special Services

Margaret Galvin, has accepted a KBS position with Data/Fire Reporting unit of the Special Services Bureau. Margaret moved over from the Arson Bureau to take on the duties of Key Board Specialist I with Special Services



Diana Turek Joins Special Services

Diana Turek joins Special Services as a Keyboard Specialist 1 (KBS-1) and has been assigned duties with the Fire Reporting / Data Entry Unit. Diana comes to us from the Fleet Bank. Her duties will include data entry for the Fire Reporting and Training Administration units.

Andy Pohl Transfers to Fire Services

Andy Pohl has transferred from the Hazardous Materials Bureau to the Fire Services Bureau and will be working with the Wireless 911 group. Andy started with OFPC in the Hazardous Materials Bureau in March of 2003. He transferred to Fire Service Bureau in November of 2005. His duties will include: assist with annual surveys of county PSAPS, assist with the work the Unit has already begun in the area of Public Education and assist with the day to day operations of the unit

FedGrant Sites

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department's Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration.

G&T is the principal federal agency responsible for the preparedness of the United States for acts of terrorism, including coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters



pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises and equipment support. To support this mission, G&T administers a

number of programs that provide a wide array of support to our nation's emergency preparedness and response community. For more information on G&T, please visit the Website at:

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

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is a division of the Preparedness Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security. The mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. For more information on USFA, please visit the website at:

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

To view the latest round of award announcements, please visit:

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

AFG Grant Workshops for 2006

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is a competitive grant opportunity for local fire departments and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations that are not affiliated with a hospital. The AFG funds activities such as purchasing firefighting equipment, personal protection equipment, training, firefighting vehicles, and firefighter/first responder safety projects.

Each year the AFG regional staff conducts hundreds of workshops nationwide to provide up to date program information to applicants. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) has begun posting the FY 2006 AFG workshop schedule on its website:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

The workshops are scheduled by AFG regional representatives and offer current program information for any fire and/or EMS organization that wishes to submit a 2006 AFG application.

There is no charge to any AFG workshop. The schedule will provide the locations, dates, times and points of contact for each workshop. If you are unable to attend a workshop offered in your area, the program office will also be providing on the AFG website an electronic copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the workshops. In addition, by mid-February, the applicant tutorial, the FY 2006 AFG Program Guidance, and a list of FAQ's will be available on the website. During the application period, there will be an expanded help desk at 1-866-274-0960 and at:

FIREGRANTS@DHS.GOV



DHS Grants Pages

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Support web site is presented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness Directorate's Office of Grants and Training in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration to assist with grant submissions.

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

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

http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp_about.aspx

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

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/Workshop/display/workshops.aspx>

DHS Releases FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Guidance

Washington, D.C. - On December 2, 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released grant guidance and an application kit for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The FY 2006 HSGP includes five programs: the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and the Citizen Corps Program (CCP).

Each state will be responsible for submitting an application for FY 2006 HSGP funds by Thursday, March 2, 2006.

The grant guidance and application kit are available at:

<http://www.ojp.usdo>

SIREN

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

41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231
518-474-6746
e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

Homeland Security Unveils 2006 Strategy for Awarding Urban Grants



The Homeland Security Department is requiring urban communities to form regional bodies and submit unified spending plans to get a share of nearly \$800 million in grants this year.

The department announced the metropolitan regions eligible for the 2006 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants program. The biggest change is that cities and counties in a designated region now must pull together and submit an "investment justification" to get funding.

Previously, communities that made the eligibility list were guaranteed at least some funding.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the change is intended to ensure that grants are spent wisely. Regional spending plans must be aligned with the department's National Preparedness Goal, which lists the capabilities and equipment communities need to fight terrorism.

Full story:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33084&dcn=e_hsw

90 Million Could Fall Ill from Flu, Health Chief Says

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt says a major outbreak of the bird flu could sicken about 90 million people in the country and kill about 2 million. What's worse is that approximately 40 percent of all emergency workers could get sick at the same time. Can we ever really be ready for a pandemic?



The Associated Press is reporting that Leavitt made the remarks at a pandemic planning in Vermont last week. He told conference attendees that in Vermont alone, nearly 200,000 could expect to get sick if the flu strain were as strong as the Spanish flu of 1918.

AP says Leavitt told attendees that it's imperative for emergency medical services to prepare for when hospitals can't take any more patients. "It

will break out in every community at the same time, and every community will have to take care of its own," Leavitt said. "Every state, every city, every town, every church, every business, every school and every family needs a plan. That is what will ultimately produce our readiness."

Leavitt is currently touring the nation to talk to emergency officials about preparing for the flu, which AP says has

killed about 120 people in Asia. He warned conference attendees in Vermont that if the pandemic hits, the federal government may not be able to help stop the rapid spread of the virus.

"Any community that fails to prepare with the expectation that the federal government will throw them a lifeline is tragically wrong," Leavitt said.

To read the full article, click here:

www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2006/01/13/us_health_chief_says_flu_pandemic_would_be_dramatic

Sifting Through Official Speak on Bird Flu

"Good information should increase the level of fear in people that haven't been thinking about it at all,"

Subject: Media: Sifting Through Official Speak on Bird Flu

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5071792>

WHO Says Threat Of Flu Pandemic Not Overplayed



http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_29261.html

SIREN

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

41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231
518-474-6746
e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

Congress Provides Funding For ENHANCE 911 Act

Arlington, VA - NENA applauds the efforts of the House-Senate Conference Committee that approved the Digital Television and Public Safety Act on Monday as part of the Budget Reconciliation conference report. The legislation provides \$43.5 million to implement the ENHANCE 911 Act, a bill that was sponsored by the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus and signed into law by President Bush last year. In addition to establishing a national 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office, the ENHANCE 911 Act authorizes up to \$250 million per year in matching grants for states, local governments and tribal organizations to improve their 9-1-1 communications systems. These upgrades are necessary to provide 9-1-1 emergency communications centers with the capability to know the location of emergency callers when dialing 9-1-1.

The funding for the ENHANCE 911 Act will come through proceeds of a spectrum auction that will be held no later than January 28, 2008. The auction will come in advance of a February 17, 2009 date in which broadcasters are required to vacate the analog portion of public spectrum which will be made available to emergency responders for interoperable radio communications. Proceeds from the auction will be deposited into a "DTV Transition and Public Safety Fund" in the Treasury which will then be available for ENHANCE 911 grants. Several other items must first be paid for before the \$43.5 million is available for E9-1-1 upgrades, including \$1.5 billion for a DTV converter box subsidy program and \$1 billion for state and local interoperability grants. More than \$10 billion will need to be raised during the spectrum auction for the funding to be made available for the ENHANCE 911 grants. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the auction will raise \$10 billion, while several independent reports estimate that total to be closer to \$20 billion. The House voted on Monday to approve the Budget Reconciliation Conference Report and the Senate passed the legislation today.

While most areas in the United States have basic 9-1-1 service, there are still many communities operating without it. More than 225 counties still do not have enhanced 9-1-1 (automatic location information and a call back number) for their landline telephone service. Additionally, only fifty-four percent of PSAPs, covering only two-thirds of the population in the United States, have the necessary technology to locate wireless

9-1-1 callers. Also, new technologies such as voice over IP (VoIP) continue to emerge and provide a challenge to PSAPs. A primary reason for these limitations is due to a lack of funding for 9-1-1.

Current Wireless 9-1-1 Statistics

NENA published current wireless E9-1-1 statistics earlier this month measuring the number of counties, individual Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and total population covered by Phase I and Phase II wireless location technology. The statistics, part of an ongoing wireless deployment project sponsored by the US Department of Transportation, are available at:

http://www.nena.org/911_facts/911fastfacts.htm.

More detailed county by county statistics can be found on the wireless deployment section of the NENA Web site at:

<http://nena.ddti.net/>.

As of December 1st, 69.7 percent of counties contain PSAPs receiving Phase I data while 42.7 percent of counties have PSAPs accepting Phase II calls. The percentages for individual PSAPs are slightly improved from previous statistics with 79.3 percent receiving Phase I calls and 53.9 percent Phase II capable. The PSAP statistics translate to 84.5 percent of the US population covered by Phase I and 66.7 percent covered by Phase II enabled PSAPs. As the numbers suggest, the greater population covered than PSAPs with Phase I and II technology in place, particularly for Phase II, indicates that more deployments are occurring in high-density population areas and that rural areas continue to struggle to upgrade their E9-1-1 capabilities. This is a critical reason why funding the ENHANCE 911 Act grant program is so important.



The need for precise wireless E9-1-1 location information has been demonstrated in recent weeks resulting in lives saved where the technology exists. Only a month after implementing an E9-1-1 system, on December 12 in Brown County, Wisconsin an injured snowmobiler was saved after making a wireless 9-1-1 call. The caller did not know exactly where he was, but the 9-1-1 telecommunicator did thanks to the Phase II E9-1-1 system. Emergency responders were able to quickly find him and get him the help that he needed. A day after Brown County's E9-1-1 system helped locate the injured snowmobiler, the Calumet County, Wisconsin Sheriff's Department says it was also able to save a life thanks to its new E9-1-1 system. A 13-year-old girl used a cell phone to call for help saying that her mom was having a seizure. She could only tell the 9-1-1 telecommunicator that she was somewhere between Chilton and Neenah but with the precise location provided by the E9-1-1 system, emergency responders were able to find the girl and her mother.

These examples occur on a regular basis around the country with lives being saved because authorities can locate wireless 9-1-1 calls and lives being lost when the technology is not in place. NENA will continue to monitor the progress being made in the deployment of Phase II wireless technology and will work with all parties to meet our goal of 100 percent phase II deployment.

New Report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

CSIS is developing model guidelines for disease exposure control (DEC) -- to help communities prevent or minimize exposure to contagious diseases and disrupt disease transmission, when vaccines or other medical countermeasures are inadequate or unavailable. The full report entitled "Model Operation Guidelines for Disease Exposure Control" can be accessed at:



http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/051102_dec_guidelines.pdf

CSIS will collaborate with the various stakeholders in reviewing and refining this document to ensure that it reflects the best technical, public health, and emergency operations thinking to plan for an outbreak. Comments can be sent to: DEComments@csis.org

Why do Fire Reports?

How much did it cost your department running on false alarms last year?

How many personnel hours were expended in training last month?

What percentage of personnel time is expended on EMS calls versus fire calls?

What was your dollar loss to fires and what was the dollar value you saved last year?

If you can't answer these questions, maybe you need to look at your Fire Reports and the value of timely and accurate reporting!

CAMEO Rescheduled



The CAMEO course originally scheduled for 30 January thru 3 February has been rescheduled for the 6th through the 10th of March. Class will begin at 1:00PM on the 6th and conclude by 12:00PM on the 10th. Please contact the Fire Academy at 607.535.7136 to enroll. You may download registration forms from:

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

Newest Addition to Tox Town



A Farm neighborhood is the newest addition to Tox Town, a Web-based introduction to environmental health risks and toxic chemicals.

<http://www.toxtown.nlm.nih.gov> invites visitors to explore a farm to learn about

environmental health issues related to agricultural waste, drinking water quality, air pollution, pests, and farm animals. Farms share many of the same environmental health concerns found anywhere in the US, but they also have unique concerns and issues, such as exposure to hazardous agricultural chemicals and toxic gases from animal waste.

New locations to explore on the Farm are farm buildings, feeding operations, landfills, agricultural runoff, farm animals, farm ponds, meat processing, tree farming and logging, off-road vehicles, and nearby urban sprawl. Farming is one of the most

hazardous occupations in the U.S. Because farm families usually live where they work, all family members are at increased risk of farm-related injury and illness.

Tox Town uses neighborhood scenes, the Farm, City, Town, and US-Mexico Border, along with color, graphics, sounds and animation to add interest to learning about connections between chemicals, the environment and the public's health. Tox Town's target audience is high school, college, and graduate students, educators, and the interested public.

ToxTown is a project of the Specialized Information Services Division of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. Promotional materials and Tox Town images for Web sites and publications are listed at:

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/clipart.html>

Please send your comments or questions about Tox Town to:

tehip@tehl.nlm.nih.gov

Submitted by: Diana Robinson
Librarian, NYS Fire Academy



12 Months of Preparedness Outreach, Education, and Awareness Series Launched



Dear Colleagues,



In response to last year's historical number of natural disasters and their impact on people with disabilities, EPI is launching a 12-Months of Preparedness Outreach, Awareness, and Education Series to encourage people with disabilities to better prepare themselves for emergencies.

In 2005, EPI participated in National Preparedness Month by sending our Partners in Preparedness materials out to over 30,000 emergency managers and disability leaders across the nation. However, we recognize every day of every month as an opportunity to educate people with disabilities on personal preparedness, and acknowledge that one month designated for preparedness is not sufficient for any citizen, and more significantly, not for people with disabilities.

Each month we will host informational messages and specific resources to address that month's theme. January is "Get Informed" month, and we have launched the Interactive Map of Disability and Emergency Preparedness Resources as a service to first responders, emergency managers, and people with disabilities.

Please visit our website at:
<http://www.nod.org/emergency>
 for additional information.

Thanks,
 Hilary C. Styron, Director
 Emergency Preparedness Initiative
 National Organization on Disability Headquarters
 910 16th Street, NW - 6th Floor
 Washington, DC 20006
 HQ Office: 202-293-5960
 Direct: 202-955-6320
 TTY: 202-293-5968
 Fax: 202-293-7999

CSX Transportation Provides Training Materials

CSX Transportation provides training materials to response agencies located in the states in which they operate. Due to the high demand for these training products, CSXT cannot provide materials for agencies in states other than those served by CSXT. If you are associated with a response agency west of the Mississippi River, Wisconsin, or any other area not served by CSXT, you should contact the railroad company operating in your jurisdiction for training.

The material is free. Please see:
<http://csxhazmat.kor-tx.com/index.php>



Electronic Field Guides for Palm and Pocket PC

They're here! They're FREE!

It has been a long wait but they are sure you'll be pleased with the results. The new Informed Electronic Field Guides for Palm and Pocket PC are now available for download at the Informed website. And the best news is - they're FREE!

Yes, for a limited time only Informed is giving away these two applications. You can simply register on their web site and download them for free. What's the catch? It's simple. They want you to use them, abuse them, and turn them inside out. Then tell them what is good, what is bad and what you'd like to see changed or added.

Shortly after you download the applications, they will send you a link to an online survey. All they ask is that you take some time to come back and tell them what you think. The survey is short, won't take much of your time, you can take the survey as often as you like. They know you will continue to learn more and more as you use it so they want to give you every opportunity to give them your feedback. They will use this feedback to build an even better product in the near future.

So there you have it - a FREE product and an easy way to help them build the best electronic tools available to our profession.

http://www.nfrmag.com/bannertrack_informed.asp
<http://www.informedguides.com/?link=logo&u=6&c=589&t=h>

SIREN

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

41 State Street
 Albany, NY 12231
 518-474-6746
 e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

Fire Data Analysis Handbook

FEMA

The fire service exists today in an environment constantly inundated with data, but data are seen of little use in the everyday, real world in which first responders live and work. This is no accident. By themselves, pieces of data are of little use to anyone. Information, on the other hand, is very useful indeed. What's the difference? At sporting events, people in stadiums hold up individual, multi-colored squares of cardboard to form a giant image or text, which could be recognized only from a distance. This is a good analogy for data and information. The individual squares of cardboard are like data. They are very numerous and they all look similar taken by themselves. The big image formed from the organization of thousands of those cards is like information. It is what can be built from many pieces of data. Information then is an organization of data that makes a point about something.

The fire service of today is changing. More and more, it is not fighting fires as much as it is doing EMS, HAZMAT, inspections, investigations, prevention, and other nontraditional but important tasks which are vital to the community. Balancing



limited resources and justifying daily operations and finances in the face of tough economic times is a scenario that is familiar to every department.

Turning data into information is neither simple or easy. It requires some knowledge of the tools and techniques used for this purpose. Historically, the fire service has had few of these tools at its disposal and none of them has been designed with the fire service in mind. This book changes that. It was designed solely for the use of the fire service. The examples were developed from the most recent fire data collected from departments all over the Nation. This book was also designed to be modular in form. Many departments' information needs can be met by using only the first few chapters. Others with a more statistical leaning may want to go further. The point is, it's up to the reader to decide. This handbook is just another tool, like a pumper or a ladder, to help do the job.

In this revised edition, the use of statistical symbols and formulas has been eliminated for ease of use and understanding. The problems at the end of each chapter also have been left out. The philosophy behind this is not to discourage anyone seeking immediate results, and to encourage those with a desire for more in-depth knowledge of statistical analysis tools.

To download this handbook, go to:
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/tools/>

Available for Meetings and Conferences!

Every fire chief is responsible for managing the operations of their fire department in such a way that firefighters can do the most effective job of fire control and fire prevention in the safest way possible. Effective performance requires careful planning, which can take place only if accurate information about fires and other incidents is available. Patterns that emerge from the analysis of incident data can help departments focus on current problems, predict future problems in their communities, and measure their programs successes.

To help you collect data and turn it into useful information, the staff of the Fire Reporting Unit is available to assist you. Deputy Chief Bill Lamb and Information Technology Specialist Barbara Foley will come to you to assist in answering your questions and concerns.



Staff is available for county chief's association meetings, line officers meetings or other events to provide help and guidance. Staff is also available for training sessions and technical assistance on the Fire Reporting System at the county, department or individual levels.

To request assistance please contact Deputy Chief Lamb or Barbara Foley at 518.474.6746. Or by e-mail to:

wlamb@dos.state.ny.us
 or bfoley@dos.state.ny.us.

You may also fax a request to: 518.474.3240.

For more information on Fire Reporting, go to:
<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firedata.html>
 OFPC website main page, go to:
<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html>

SIREN

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

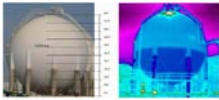
41 State Street
 Albany, NY 12231
 518-474-6746
 e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

Evaluation Metrics Proposed for Firefighter Thermal Imagers



Firefighters are starting to recognize the potential usefulness of thermal imagers or infrared cameras for saving property and lives. Choosing the most appropriate thermal

imager for a particular use, however, can be difficult. No standardized performance guidelines exist for infrared camera devices specifically tailored to first responder needs. For example, the devices may be used to locate victims in a burning building or to pinpoint fire sources in a smoky environment.



Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) hope to change

that situation. Researchers have submitted recommendations to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that outline evaluation methods for thermal imagers as used in six critical emergency situations. These recommendations include tests to assess durability as well as image quality.

While firefighter applications represent less than 10 percent of the \$1.2 billion worldwide annual market for infrared cameras, the NIST researchers say that the performance evaluation methods will be very important to the first responder community. "Right now," says Francine Amon, leader of the NIST team, "fire departments have to base their thermal imager purchasing decisions

on manufacturer's literature, personal experience and word-of-mouth recommendations. Standardized performance metrics and test methods should improve the selection process for these potentially life-saving devices that cost an average of \$10,000 each. They also should encourage technological innovation for the first responder community."

The NIST researchers suggest performance metrics that would reveal a thermal camera's ability to:

- Detect unusually hot spots, such as electrical outlets and light ballasts;

- Guide fire hose streams toward the fire source;

- "Size-up" thermal conditions inside a building, such as hot walls or ceiling sections, in preparation for entry into a room;



- Identify faces and bodies of firefighters and victims for search and rescue operations;

- Find hot spots and hidden smoldering during reconnaissance in the aftermath of a fire; and

- Locate hazardous material spills.

The NFPA's Committee on Emergency Service Electronic Safety Equipment is expected to review the suggestions in 2006.

In addition to NIST, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are providing funding for NIST's ongoing thermal imaging performance evaluation project. NIST, DHS and USFA recently sponsored a workshop at NIST on "Thermal Imaging Research Needs for First Responders." A copy of the proceedings is available at:

<http://www.fire.nist.gov/>

A USFA Web site discussing the project is available at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/research/safety/nist3.shtm>

Editor's Note: It may be advisable to consider if the TICs being evaluated will operate from both fixed wing and rotary aircraft. A TIC may be useful in a wildland search capacity and for locating hotspots and underground fires in a wildland/urban wildfire interface.

NHTSA Releases New Study on Fatal Urban and Rural Crashes

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released a study of fatal urban and rural crashes. The new study compared fatality rates on urban vs. rural roads and evaluated average response times.

The study found that 42 percent more fatal crashes occur in rural than urban areas, the report shows. The study also includes state-by-state comparisons.

The new study can be viewed on the NHTSA Website:

<http://www-nrd.hntsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/Rpts/2005/809896.pdf>

New Website Presents Research on Industry Fire and Explosions

Interested readers can now access a new website that provides the background research for IRP 18 Upstream Petroleum Fire and Explosion Hazard Management (formerly called Explosive Atmospheres in Vessels, Tanks and Piping Systems). This IRP is currently under development under the direction of the Drilling and Completions Committee (DACC). The research was compiled by the IRP 18 Committee working with the University of Calgary's Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.

To view the website, got to:

<http://www.firesandexplosions.ca>

Disaster Research Newsletter

DISASTER RESEARCH (DR) is a moderated newsletter issued by the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder for creators and users of information regarding hazards and disasters.

Publication of the DR is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). However, the information presented here does not necessarily reflect the views of NSF. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed here are those of the indicated author(s) or the Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, send messages to: listproc@lists.colorado.edu.

To SUBSCRIBE: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include <>):
SUBSCRIBE HAZARDS <Your Name>

To UNSUBSCRIBE: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include your name): UNSUBSCRIBE HAZARDS

Hurricane Response Shows Gaps in Public-Private Coordination

By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr., National Journal
On Thursday, August 25, as Hurricane Katrina roared toward the coast, the global operations center went to full alert.

A small crew had tracked Katrina 24 hours a day since it formed as a nameless tropical depression. Now dozens of personnel, drawn from different specialties, packed the operations center and readied the mobile command posts for deployment. Managers kept one eye on the storm's advance and another on the progress of the supply trucks laden with food, water, generators, and even diapers that were heading toward staging areas.

That afternoon, Katrina plowed through Florida and then made its fateful turn toward New Orleans. The operations center sent urgent orders to local managers all along the Gulf Coast: Board up your stores.

All of these preparations -- the command post, the forecasting, the pre-positioning of supplies -- were being made by an organization entirely independent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. military, and the state of Louisiana. They were being made by Wal-Mart.

This document is located at:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1205/1222205nj1.htm>

The Natural Hazards Center maintains a Web site containing back issues of DR, its extensive publications list, links to many other hazards/disaster information sources, full-text papers, and more. The Center's Web site is:

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/>

The Natural Hazards Center also publishes a bimonthly printed newsletter, the "Natural Hazards Observer," which is free to subscribers within the United States and for download on the Center's Web site; international subscriptions are \$24.00/year. To order the "Observer," contact the Center:

Natural Hazards Center
University of Colorado 482 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0482 USA
Telephone: (303) 492-6819

Fax: (303) 492-2151

E-mail:

hazctr@colorado.edu.

GSA Launches Upgraded FirstGov Search Engine



The General Services Administration launched a beefed-up online search engine late Monday night, calling the tool for government Web site-querying the most powerful of its kind.

As part of GSA's FirstGov.gov Web portal, the search feature scans government sites for Web pages, official documents, podcasts and databases of frequently asked questions. It compiles the results and organizes them to facilitate fast retrieval of information.

The search engine expands FirstGov's hunting capabilities to include state, local, tribal and territorial government Web sites, and will look through 40 million documents, up from the previous 8 million.

Full story:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33224&dcn=e_gvet

<http://www.FirstGov.gov>

Journal of Severe Storms Meteorology

The Electronic Journal of Severe Storms Meteorology (EJSSM) is an open-access, international, scientific, formal, online journal for the publication of original and updated research. Through peer reviewed notes and articles, EJSSM serves the community of meteorology that is concerned with severe storms, including both convective and nonconvective severe weather. EJSSM exists to improve understanding, prediction, preparedness and mitigation of all severe local storm hazards.

<http://www.ejssm.org>

SIREN

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

41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231
518-474-6746
e-mail: fire@dos.state.ny.us

NY Rally Cost Fire Dept \$4500

http://www.dailyfreeman.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1769&dept_id=74958&newsid=15976897&PAG=461&rft=9

01/22/2006

Turner rally cost fire department \$4,500

KINGSTON - The city fire department spent nearly \$4,500 in overtime costs for its role in protecting the city during a November rally by a white supremacist.

Fire Chief Richard Salzman said \$4,474 was spent to pay firefighters and other staff members to work when Hal Turner, who hosts a New Jersey-based Internet radio show, staged the rally on Broadway in front of Kingston High School.

The fire department bill brings the city's total overtime bill for the Nov. 19 rally to nearly \$30,000. The police department previously reported spending about \$25,000 for overtime pay that day.

There was no violence at the rally and no problems that required the fire department's attention, but Salzman said the money was well spent.

"I would rather be criticized for being proactive than be criticized for not having the proper resources in place," he said.

Mayor James Sottile agreed.

"This was a serious situation that could have been catastrophic for this community," Sottile said. "Because of the professionalism of those involved, the message of hatred did not resonate through this community."

Turner held the rally in response to incidents at and near Kingston High School in which white students were assaulted and black students were arrested.

The rally drew about 40 Turner supporters (some clad in Nazi uniforms); about 200 counter-demonstrators and 200 police officers in riot gear, including some on horseback.

Salzman said the fire department's overtime costs for the rally contributed to a \$48,000 overrun in the department's \$115,000 overtime budget for 2005. He said the money will come from other lines in his budget.

Contributing factors to the fire department's overtime costs in 2005 were major rainstorms in April and October and sending two firefighters to the Gulf Coast to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Overtime costs related to weather are to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Salzman said.

The Common Council's Finance/Economic Development Committee has recommended the transfer of funds in the fire department's budget to cover the overtime costs until reimbursements are received. The full council will vote on the request at its February meeting.

Sottile said the city Department of Public Works and other departments still need to determine overtime costs related to the Turner event. The mayor has predicted the total will be about \$60,000.

Editor's Note: Do you capture enough data to obtain this information? Are you able to go to your mayor, commissioners, town board, or supervisors and answer questions or support a request? If not -- you need to look at the importance and benefits of timely, accurate and complete Fire Incident Reporting.

You Gotta Love This!

Chester City PA. A citizen who is a little mad about an ambulance parked in front of her garage calls county dispatch on the radio. You can't make up stuff like this. Another reason to lock the rig.

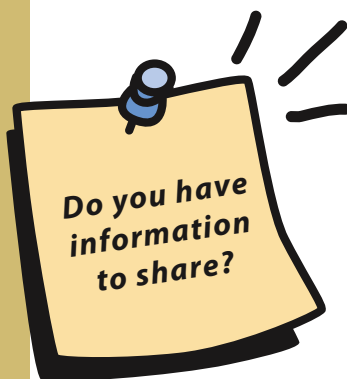
<http://www.firegroundaudio.com/funny/STAYOFFRADIO.wav>

Submitted by:

Barny Lee

Assistant Chief, Salamanca FD

Send Us an Article



Commercial products and services are mentioned for informational purposes only and should not be construed as OFPC or Department of State endorsements.

Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged.

All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested. Contact us by e-mail at fire@dos.state.ny.us subject: *SIREN*.

SIREN

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

41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231
518-474-6746

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