



Minnesota Fire Safety Educator

**A Resource for Fire Safety Educators
From the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division**

**June 2016
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Training opportunities

This summer the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) will offer two opportunities to expand your knowledge in public fire safety education and youth firesetting intervention. These classes will provide you with updated materials and messages that can be integrated into your prevention programs. Both of the trainings listed below are open to anyone with an interest in public fire education or youth firesetting interventions.

Public Education and YFPI Updates

Hosted by Owatonna Fire Department

July 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and

July 17, 8 a.m.-1 pm

Public Education and YFPI Summer Summit and Meeting

Hosted by Bemidji Fire Department

July 27, 3-6 p.m.,

July 28, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and

July 29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To sign up for these trainings, visit the training page on the [SFMD website](#).

Both of these trainings are free!

Professional Development Symposium

The 2016 National Professional Development Symposium will be held June 27-29 at the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy campus in Emmitsburg, Md. Although the application period closed on May 30, there is an opportunity to participate online. This year the USFA is offering the general sessions and four workshops via the internet:

- What Do Managers Want: How Should I Professionally Develop?
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant: Past, Present and Future
- Focused Fire Prevention: Focusing Resources Where They Matter
- Saving Our Own: Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service

More information on the Professional Development Symposium can be found on the [USFA website](#).

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Just 10!

The theme for 2016 Fire Prevention Week is “Don’t Wait Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years.” Of course, to go along with the theme, NFPA has already begun rolling out resources and materials to help support the message. One of the resources already available on the NFPA website is a 10-minute mini-lesson to teach attendees to locate the date a smoke alarm was manufactured and the importance of replacing the smoke alarms when they reach the 10-year mark. This lesson can be used alone or as a starting point for a longer lesson on smoke alarms.

Other teaching resources already available for Fire Prevention Week include songs, lesson plans, letters to parents, tip sheets and lessons for high-risk populations. Of course, keep an eye on the [Fire Prevention Week website](#), as new things will continue to be added.



We want your saves!

Do you have a smoke alarm, sprinkler, Stove Top Fire Stop or other save from your community? The SFMD, along with the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association’s Public Education Committee, are looking to collect these saves to show the importance of fire prevention and safety messaging to the public. It can sometimes be difficult to show the results of fire prevention because it’s hard to prove a fire never happened. By collecting stories of saves, we hope to be able to show the impact of our fire prevention efforts. Keep this in mind for any type of save. If a resident tells you they were able to slide a lid on a pan that had started on fire or stopped putting out smoking materials in the potted plants on the deck, we would like those stories too!

Updates from NFPA

News releases

- Summer season: [Peak time for grilling fires](#)
- NFPA, IAFC and NVFC launch [2016 Safety Stand Down Quiz Sweepstakes](#)

Safety Source newsletter

- Fire Prevention Week 2016 theme announced; NFPA updates its educational messaging around sleeping with a door closed; 'Tis the season to keep grilling fire safety in mind

Safety information

- New sample [social media messages](#) on grilling safety for people to use
- New smoke alarm 10-minute mini-lesson – Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Celebrate Older Americans Month with Remembering When
- Carbon monoxide alarm alerts residents to hazardous grilling mistake
- News story underscores the importance of replacing smoke alarms every 10 years (and this year's Fire Prevention Week theme!)
- ESFI reinforces [proper use of extension cords](#) to reduce risk of electrical fires

Social media to benefit your agency

Date/Time:

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

[Register!](#)

Is your department using social media to its advantage? As agencies are beginning to adapt social media as a tool to inform people, improve awareness, and plan ahead, agencies also need to be aware of how to use social media to their advantage. Agencies can make, promote and send out their own video, photos and written content. They can communicate directly with their communities as well as receive priority on news platforms who are seeking original content before, during or after an emergency.

This webinar, presented by Bill Delaney, will explore how Montgomery County (Md.) Fire and Rescue (MCFRS) is taking their social media and third party platforms to a new level in an effort to fill the information gap for local news and residents, to spread fire/injury prevention and emergency preparedness messages as well as stories and important safety information.

Bill Delaney has over 33 years of experience in the fire service, and over the last 16 years, he has served as a civilian program manager with MCFRS. He currently manages the MCFRS's robust social media platforms and serves as part of the public information office staff. He is a nationally recognized speaker, has presented at the Emergency Management Summit and NFPA, and is past chair of the DHS Virtual Social Media Working Group.

Leadership in Fire Safety Education Award

The 2016 Dr. Anne W. Phillips Leadership in Fire Safety Education Award was presented to Gerry Bassett at the annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner in Washington, D.C. on May 5, 2016. If you have been to the National Fire Academy to take a course in public education or community risk reduction, Gerry's name is familiar. Gerry retired in July 2015 as the public education and training program management chair at the National Fire Academy.

According to Nancy Trench, assistant director at Fire Protection Publications, Gerry did not attempt to "boil the ocean" – he did not attempt the impossible. Instead, he fashioned a scope that was very achievable and even practical. He began to "boil the water" one pot at a time, influencing and embedding a culture of fire prevention one National Fire Academy student at a time. During his tenure of 37 years, as many as 70,000 students had the advantage of participating in one of his courses, including executive fire officer graduates.

Wildland Urban Interface toolkit

This spring, wildland fires have been a hot topic in the news, and we have continued to see risk of wildland fires across the state. To help fire departments increase their knowledge and educate the public, USFA has released the [Wildland Urban Interface \(WUI\) toolkit](#).

On the site you will find a Fire Adapted Communities Self-Assessment Tool, case studies to adapt for wildfire, curricula, and "Ready, Set, Go!", which is a program to help teach people to prepare for wildfire.

Nocturnal olfactory response to smoke odor

By Joe L. Lynch, Irondale Fire and Rescue Service – Reprinted from USFA TRADENET Update 5/23/16

Summary:

The Irondale Fire and Rescue Service has been teaching its constituents that they could not smell during sleep and therefore needed the protection of a smoke detector. A challenge to this idea produced the problem of not knowing whether the sense of smell will awaken a human to smoke odor stimulus. The only way to answer that challenge was to perform an inquiry (research) to affirm or deny the existence of olfactory fire protection during sleep. Through descriptive and evaluative research methods, this research project evaluated the sense of smell during sleep to learn if a sleeping adult could detect the odors of water, smoke, or citrus. These odors were first introduced to conscious subjects to screen them for olfactory response. The subjects went to sleep and a compressor pump nebulized three different odorants through an elaborate delivery system into the sleep rooms. EKG, EEG, EMG, and EOG bio-measurements were monitored for response to the stimuli. The following research questions were identified for use: (a) Can a defined group of conscious adults detect the presence of the smell of smoke odor?, (b) Will the smell of smoke odor awaken a defined group of sleeping adults?, (c) Will the smells of water, smoke, or citrus odors cause arousals in a defined group of sleeping adults? The results revealed that although a significant number of subjects responded to the stimuli, only two of the ten subjects awoke. The integration of an olfactometer into smoke detectors, the use of smell sensitive components in building materials and household goods, a greater emphasis on smoke detector compliance, and the dissemination of the knowledge gained in this study to convince citizens to protect themselves with smoke detectors were all recommended as a result of this study.

America's PrepareAthon!

Learn more about [America's PrepareAthon! Be smart. Take part. Prepare.](#)

America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations and communities to prepare for specific hazards through group discussions, drills and exercises. On the website you can learn more about hazards and how to prepare, learn how to take action, read stories about individuals and communities participating in the PrepareAthon, and find other resources.

Community Risk Reduction resources

If you have not yet checked out the [Vision 20/20 website](#) you are missing out on some great resources! Vision 20/20 has developed a number of free resources to help in your Community Risk Reduction planning. Community Risk Reduction goes beyond fire prevention education and is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact.

- [Community Risk Assessment Guide](#) (also available as a [PDF](#)) helps fire departments and other fire and life safety organizations conduct a basic or more complex assessment of risks within their community.
- [Community Risk Reduction Planning Guide](#) assists fire departments and other fire and life safety organizations to use the information they discovered from the Community Risk Assessment Guide and begin to plan and initiate their programs or outreach.
- [Fire Safety Materials Generator](#) is a tool to generate customized door hangers, flyers and activity guides with proven fire safety messages with your department logo and contact information.