



Minnesota Fire Safety Educator

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

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Amanda Swenson Deputy Fire Marshal Public Educator amanda.swenson@state.mn.us 651-201-7214	

444 Cedar Street
Suite 145
St. Paul, MN 55101



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Fire Marshal](#)

National Fire Academy— Course Vacancies

The National Fire Academy has published course vacancies for second semester, April 1–Sept. 30, 2015. To enroll in a free National Fire Academy course, first review the list of class options along with prerequisites. Next you will need a student identification number if you don't have one. Finally, submit your application. If you need assistance, find tips on the [website](#) or call the Admissions Office at 800-238-3358.

Course vacancies are updated every Monday and Thursday. Classes can fill quickly. If you do not find a course vacancy to meet your training needs be sure to look at first semester course offerings. Those run Oct. 1 – March 31, 2016 and the application period begins April 15, 2015.

Minnesota Fire and Injury Prevention Group

The next meeting of the Minnesota Fire and Injury Prevention group will be Wed., March 18 at 10 a.m. at Minnetonka Fire Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Blvd. The focus of the meeting will be safety camps. If you work with a safety camp or are part of your department's fire prevention group, this will be a great brainstorming meeting.

If you plan to attend the meeting please RSVP to Jim Lundeen at jlundeen@eminnetonka.com or Sara Ahlquist at sahlquist@eminnetonka.com.

Lunch will be provided.

Community Risk Reduction Discussion

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, Fire Engineering hosted a “Hump Day Hangout” on the topic of community risk reduction. The panel included champions in the area of risk reduction from around the country. In the conversation were Chief Bobby Halton, Chief Rick Lasky, Chief Jim Crawford, Assistant Chief Becki White and Captain Brian Zaitz. The conversation can be found on the [Fire Engineering website](#).

State Fire Marshal Conference

Registration for the Minnesota State Fire Marshal conference is open. The conference will be April 14-15 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Minneapolis. In the Fire Prevention and Youth Firesetter Prevention and Intervention track, class topics include event planning, working with the media, resources and YFPI trends. In addition to Fire Prevention and YFPI tracks there are tracks in Fire Protection Systems, Fire Code and Fire Investigation. While the registration form asks for you to select a track each day, you may attend a session outside the selected track.

Registration forms are available on the State Fire Marshal Division website at www.fire.state.mn.us. The cost of the conference is \$130 which includes both days of workshop sessions and lunches. If you have questions, contact Kevin McGinty at kevin.mcginty@state.mn.us or 651-201-7219.



Fire Safety Program Toolkit

The U.S. Fire Administration has recently posted an online toolkit for fire safety educators. The toolkit was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with assistance from the USFA, to present five steps to create or enhance a fire-safety education program for your community. Whether you are an experienced fire-prevention veteran or just beginning in the field, this kit will help you become more effective.

Grant Opportunity – Fire Prevention and Safety

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have announced the 2014 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program. The application period opens March 16, 2015; submission deadline is April 17, 2015. Remember that applicants must be registered and active in the System for Award Management ([SAM](#)) in order to be eligible for a grant.

Four activities eligible for funding under the “Fire Prevention and Safety” category are:

- general education/awareness
- code enforcement/awareness
- fire and arson investigation
- national/state/regional programs and studies

Another category is “Research and Development Activity”

In the Research and Development category, funds are available for clinical studies, technology and product development, database system development, dissemination and implementation research, and preliminary studies.

Projects that received grant funding in the past include:

- A grant to the Galesburg, Ill. FD assisted in outfitting 3,300 strategically-targeted, low-income residences with smoke alarms
- National Volunteer Fire Council screened almost 600 fire-and-emergency personnel for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose with grant support
- In Greensboro, NC, funds enabled the FD to wrap commuter buses with fire prevention and safety messages
- Seventeen grantee communities in Alaska were able to conduct free fire-safety inspections and install safety equipment in homes

For complete information on the grant program, visit the [FEMA website](#).

Heating Fires in Residential Buildings (2010 – 2012)

The U.S. Fire Administration recently released a fire report on heating fires in residential buildings. The report addresses the characteristics of home heating fires caused by central heating units, fixed or portable heating units, fireplaces, heating stoves, chimneys and water heaters.

Some of the findings in the report include:

- Residential heating fires peak from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Residential heating fires peaked in January and declined to the lowest level June–Aug.
- Confined fires (such as chimneys, flues or fuel burners) accounted for 84 percent of residential heating fires

To access the entire report, visit the [U.S. Fire Administration website](#).

Kindergarten Student Helps Family Escape Fire After Learn Not To Burn Program

Every year firefighters from Grand Prairie Fire Department in Alberta, Canada teach students in kindergarten and second grade fire prevention with the Learn Not to Burn program through NFPA. This year, Hayden Sather was one of the students who learned about fire prevention through the program. Hayden probably didn't realize his knowledge would soon be used in a true emergency in his home. Hayden and his family were sitting down for lunch when smoke alarms sounded. Hayden sprang into action and helped his family escape.

To read the entire story and learn more about the Learn Not to Burn program visit the [NFPA website](#).

WCCO Excellent Educator

The week of February 13, Casidy Anderson carried her fire prevention message to an even larger audience as she was celebrated by WCCO as the Excellent Educator of the week. Casidy Anderson has been with Minneapolis Fire Department for sixteen years and is currently the Community Risk Reduction Officer for the department. Working Minneapolis schools as well as high-risk adults, English-as-a-Second Language groups, deaf and hearing-impaired individuals, Casidy brings her passion for fire prevention across the city. Congratulations to Casidy Anderson who certainly deserves the title "Excellent Educator." See the video or read the article on the [WCCO website](#).

Year of Living Less Dangerously From Wildfire

NFPA, with support from State Farm, encourages fire departments, communities and individuals to reduce risks of wildfire by planning and being prepared.

On the [NFPA website](#) there are resources about wildfire and risks in your own area, wildfire risk evaluation, inventory for insurance, application for Firewise communities and much more. Since this winter has had low snow totals it is important for residents in the wildland-urban interface to understand wildfire risk.

The *Year of Living Less Dangerously from Wildfire* campaign calls on you to plan, act and embrace ways to reduce your wildfire risk. Through May, the campaign is focused on planning. The planning phase includes learning about wildfire risks and realities. During the summer months, the campaign shifts to action — when communities practice evacuation plans and apply for Firewise recognition. Finally, in the fall, the focus is on success stories and lessons learned by participants in the campaign.

To learn more about *Living Less Dangerously from Wildfire* visit the [NFPA website](#).