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*YFPI-specific content

Youth fire prevention and intervention training

This free training course will take place before the start of the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators’ annual fire investigation conference.

Coalition Building and Case Studies
There are benefits and pitfalls that happen when fire service, law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, burn services, child welfare and school personnel interact to address youth firesetting behaviors. Understanding the benefits of coalition building can strengthen a program and its services. This course will feature case studies to illustrate the benefits of coalitions.

Participants will:
- Understand the various disciplines that make up a community coalition for youth firesetting intervention.
- Learn the benefits of coalition partnerships.
- Discuss case studies relevant to youth firesetting intervention.

YFIRES: The First 500 Cases Revealed
This course focuses on the first 500 cases to be reported from YFIRES. YFIRES collects information on youth firesetting cases from any professional discipline working with firesetting behaviors. This presentation shares an analysis of the data collected in YFIRES between Jan. 1, 2016, and Aug. 13, 2017.

Participants will:
- Understand the development criteria for YFIRES.
- Learn the benefits to data collection, storage and reporting.
- Discuss reporting results for YFIRES.
- Discuss coalition building implications of YFIRES.

When: Tuesday, March 20 from 1-5 p.m.

Where: Holiday Inn St. Cloud
75 37th Ave. S.
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Registration: Register online by clicking here.

Questions: Contact Kathi Osmanson at 651-201-7220 or kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us.
It’s all fun and games...

“It all fun and games until someone pokes an eye out.” Around the holidays the product pictured below popped up in many Facebook newsfeeds. Some adults may take this prank gift as a joke, but each year we see people of all ages injured and killed using flammable gas on fires.

In September of 2017, Arionna Matteson of Menahga, MN was injured when her ten-year-old brother poured gasoline on a campfire. She was left with third-degree burns on 75 percent of her body. In December she was finally able to move out of the burn unit but continues to receive care for her burn injuries. Prior to the incident, her mom had talked to her and her siblings many times about the dangers of fire and to never put any type of accelerant on the fire. You can read more about the story of Arionna on the Fox 9 website.

Of course, we see across the state of Minnesota that it isn’t just the kids that are using flammable liquids on fires. Spring will arrive soon, and with it an increased number of people having campfires. Consider putting together a campaign for spring on the hazards of recreational fires.

Vision 20/20 call for presentations

The call for presentations is now open for The Vision 20/20 Project’s 5th annual Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction Symposium! This is your chance to share what works in your community with others from across the country.

The symposium will take place April 9-11 in Reston, Virginia.

Information on how to submit a presentation is available on the Vision 20/20 website.

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on Friday, Jan. 26.

We look forward to seeing you in Reston!
Vacant residential building fires

Each year, an estimated 23,800 vacant residential building fires were reported to U.S. fire departments and caused 75 deaths, 200 injuries and $785 million in property loss.

A recent report from the U.S. Fire Administration looked into fire loss, types and causes. The report reviews fires in these vacant buildings from 2013-2015.

According to USFA, a major concern when a vacant building catches on fire is that little is known about the building’s overall condition. Many buildings are in disrepair and can be missing certain structures, such as staircases or portions of floors. If people use the vacant building as a home or shelter, the unknown condition of the building and the unknown number of people in the building can put firefighters’ lives in danger when they enter to attempt a rescue during a fire.

The entire report can be downloaded from the topical fire report series on the USFA website.

Winter fire safety

We have already seen plenty of below-freezing days this winter, which have also brought us a number of heating-related fires. Across the state there has been a number of fires caused by space heaters specifically. Each year, across the country, more people die in home fires in the winter months than at any other time of year.

Help spread the word about home fire safety and winter heating. The United States Fire Administration, National Fire Protection Association and Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division each have a number of resources to assist departments in educating the public around winter fires.
NFPA updates

NFPA Today blog
- Are you prepared to respond to active shooter and hostile events? Provide input on NFPA 3000 now.
- Safety alert: NFPA urges the public to use portable space heaters with caution.
- NFPA on the passing of famed architect and fire safety innovator John Portman.
- Apply today for your share of Wildfire Community Preparedness Day funding.
- Is the connection from the transfer switch to the controller a feeder conductor or a branch circuit?

Safety Information
- With a major storm on the horizon, reduce risks with Put a Freeze on Winter Fires campaign.
- NFPA’s Fire Sprinkler Initiative site gets an upgrade!

Fire Sprinkler Initiative
- Fire sprinkler advocate calls out legislators’ actions prohibiting sprinkler requirements.
- Fire in rural home extinguished by not-your-average “sprinkler.”
- Will a new study lead to the sprinklering of all new homes in Las Vegas?

Fire Break Newsletter
- Southern California wildfires declared a natural disaster.
- A day with benefits – Wildfire Community Preparedness Day can result in many positive outcomes.
- A fresh look – introducing Firewise USA’s new website!

Research
- Workshop on International Wildfire Risk Reduction
- Smoke Detector Spacing for High Ceiling Spaces

Let your voice be heard
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsors the Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) made up of professionals from National fire and life safety organizations and local fire departments.

The purpose of the EMAC is to provide nationally recognized, consistent fire and life safety messages.

The comment period for EMAC messages is open NOW until Feb. 9, 2018. You can find the current messages and submission form here.