January 2008

Newsletter for Alaska's Fire Service and Building Professionals

The Fire Flyer

Division of Fire and Life Safety

Code Red—Chignik Fire Department

Greetings,

As most of you already know the Division of Fire Prevention no longer exists. We are now called the Division of Fire and Life Safety (DFLS). There were a number of reasons for the change. The primary reason is our mission isn't just to prevent fires. Our job is teaching the residents of the state how to safely use fire. Since fire is such a large part of our everyday lives preventing it is pretty much impossible.

I had originally wanted this newsletter out in November, but waited until after the Governor's budget was made public. We have faired very well this year.

The support of Commissioner Monegan and Governor Palin is simply amazing. Historically, requests for funding increases for this division never made it past the department level. This year Commissioner Monegan not only recognized the serious problems facing Fire and Life Safety, he successfully took our case to the Governor and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This is the first step to getting the funding we need. Now we have to convince the legislature to keep our budget intact. Below I will outline the increases that are in the Governor's budget for DFLS.

Operations Budget

$220,000 increment to replace receipt services shortfalls. Over the past several years our revenue from plan reviews has been decreasing. Last year, we collected $300,000 less than the previous year. As a result, we ended FY07 roughly $200,000 over budget. This increment will come from the general fund. To keep the budget amounts the same OMB decremented $220,000 from our authorized program receipts. This will allow us to know, before the end of the year, how much funding we have to operate with.

$250,000 increment to fund the Office of Rural Fire Protection. This funding will allow us to sustain Project Code Red which is currently in 124 rural communities. Currently there is only occasional funding to add communities to the project, but nothing for maintenance and ongoing training. Once we get Project Code Red up and running we will start looking for funding to add new communities to the system. *Continued on next page*.

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

Continued Operations Budget

$85,000 increment for additional travel costs for building inspections. For many years, the division hasn't been able to do all of the inspections that we are required to. This additional funding along with a newly implemented schedule will allow us to meet our obligations for building inspections.

$20,000 increment to cover additional travel costs to the North Slope. Historically the division has used the shared services jet and North Slope facilities while conducting building and construction inspections. This practice is no longer allowed and this funding will cover these additional costs.

Capitol Budget

$350,000 replace TEB fire engine at the Juneau Training Center. The Training and Education Bureau currently does not have the pumper necessary to conduct live fire training.

$395,000 to build two story burn building at the Fairbanks Regional Training Center. This request was submitted from the Fairbanks area through Commissioner Monegan. Currently there is no civilian training facility in the northern region set up to do live fire training.

It is obvious that fire safety is a priority with this administration. I ask for your support as well. Please contact your local legislators and ask them to support Governor Palin's budget for the Division of Fire and Life Safety.

Finally, I am planning to have a two day forum for Alaskan Fire Marshals. The primary focus for this forum is to work with the deferred jurisdictions to work on our communications and consistency. However, anyone with responsibilities in public education, plan review, building inspections, and fire investigations will be welcome. The dates will be the 11th and 12th of April 2008. We picked these dates to make it easier to attend the Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators (AAFAI) training and general meeting conference the 14th through the 18th of April 2008.

The Alaskan Fire Marshals Forum will be an intense two days. There is a lot of information to cover, and decisions to be made. For that reason we will have to charge $15 – $20 per day so we can have lunch brought in to us. (The state still won't let me buy food, sorry!) I will be publishing an agenda soon.

That is all for now. Stay safe.

David L. Tyler
State Fire Marshal

Plan Review Bureau

First and foremost we have officially adopted the 2006 International Building, Fire, Mechanical and Chapters 6 and 7 of the Fuel Gas Codes. In addition to this the State amendments to the codes are available online at akburny.com.

It is now the responsibility of the local Fire Chiefs to adopt the new codes, and adoption of Chapter 5 of the IFC as it pertains to local fire department vehicle access.

After a very long vacancy the Plan Review Bureau now has a new Administrative Clerk, Cerrissiah Buck. She came to us from AST, and has a strong military background. She will be a valuable asset to our team, and help to process plans in a prompt and expedient manor. We welcome Cerrissiah Buck; it is great to have her aboard.

The final bit of news is we now have the capability in place to process credit cards for plan review fees. It is our hope that this will make our bureau more customer and service friendly.

Regarding planned construction and plan reviews, a courtesy copy of plan review related correspondence will be sent to the fire chief of a registered fire department in their area where the plan review occurs. This will hopefully raise awareness that plan reviews are required for new construction before construction begins including remodels, and fuel systems. This will hopefully help the fire departments be aware of what's going on in their area.

Life Safety Inspection Bureau

The Division of Fire Prevention has changed its name to The Division of Fire and Life Safety. This name change better reflects our overall mission to the people we serve within our State. However, our divisions overall mission has not changed. We are working on some improvements. Steps to streamline "call outs" for fire investigations have already taken place. Several other positive steps are also being taken; training, customer service, and interaction with the fire service community are also being enhanced.

With these changes come increased workload, to include; calls for technical assistance, origin and cause investigations, and fire and life safety inspections.

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau had a very busy quarter with inspections, training and investigations. John Bond led the way with the Palmer State Fair vender training and fire inspections. Nathan Rocheleau assisted him with performing over 300 vendor inspections. The Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium requested life safety surveys for a new Frontier Extended Stay Clinic program. Bob Plumb and Lloyd Nakano performed the initial life safety surveys for Haines, Glennallen, Klawock, and Unalaska. They also, performed life safety surveys for hospitals and long term care facilities located throughout Alaska.

Our bureau was requested to investigate fires at Nikiski, Girdwood, Palmer, Steese, Kotzebue, Kaparuk. We even responded to Fort Richardson to assist with a tragic fire they had there. Deputy Bond, Rocheleau and DePeter responded and conducted the investigations at those locations for fire origin and cause determinations.

Tom DePeter, Bob Plumb and Nathan Rocheleau attended the Fire Explosion and Arson Investigation course taught by retired Special Agent John Maloonly. Two deputies attended training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. John Bond successfully completed the Interview and Interrogation course and Deputy Nakano successfully completed Fire Inspection Principles.

Deputy Hunter graduated November 15, 2007 from the Public Safety Academy at Sitka.

Joint Pipeline Office

Within the State Fire Marshal's Office exists a little known operating component that provides fire protection operations, engineering, education, inspection and investigative oversight of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) as it operates the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. This position is known as the TAPS Fire Safety Specialist and is one of several state and federal agencies charged with ensuring all the administrative and legislative regulations are adhered to according to their individual agency powers and to the State Lease and Federal Grant stipulations of the Right-of-Way agreement that leases the land for the use of the pipeline. The TAPS Fire Safety Specialist is a Liaison between the State Fire Marshal, the Alphabet Soup of state and federal agencies and Alyeska when it comes to any fire related issues. You might think of it as a one stop shop for all services for one customer. The position is dynamic, requiring judgment mixed with flexibility, one day you're the hammer, the next day a buffer between agencies or an advocate of company actions.

One of the best characteristics of the work is the ability to take time to explore the intricacies of specialized fire protection systems and leading edge technologies. For instance; state of the art UV/IR detection systems, berth foam fire protection systems, Novtec 1230 Halon replacement systems, etc. Additionally, the office reviews and participates in evaluating fire response and spill source control operational plans and training.

Alyeska is currently reevaluating and changing how it moves oil from Pump Station 1 in Prudhoe Bay to Tide Water at the Valdez Marine Terminal. Originally, there were twelve Pump Stations. The system operated pretty much like a full time fire pump relay operation, only this one is 800 miles long, travels over three mountain ranges and uses 48 inch pipe. Figure the hydraulics on that! Today the number of Pump Stations will be whittled down to four due to a lower throughput of oil and the use of a Drag Reducing Agent (DRA). DRA acts just like light water does in firefighting; it reduces friction loss and allows the pumping of more oil with less pressure. The current operational change is called Strategic Reconfiguration (SR).

The SR design bases are modular in conception so crude oil throughput changes may be decreased or increased as dictated by oil production. Automation and central control from a single location will operate the system in lieu of individually manned pump station control centers. Two maintenance centers will house baseline crews for all maintenance and emergency response activities. Ultimately pump stations no longer used will be disconnected from the pipeline and put into cold status and eventually removed and the land restored.

The TAPS Fire Safety Specialist is a great opportunity to be involved in fire operations, prevention, engineering, training and assist in ensuring the flow of oil into your wallet.

PRISM

The Pacific Institute of Safety and Management (PRISM) training center has had significant changes this year. The previous PRISM management company opted to pursue other business interests and choose not to renew their management contract with the City of Kenai. Their decision to depart prompted City of Kenai and the State of Alaska Fire Marshal's office to begin discussing a facility management plan in 2006. In early 2007, a contract between the City and the State of Alaska Fire Marshal's office became final and PRISM training center operations continued under the direction of the Division of Fire and Life Safety Training and Education Bureau (TEB).

As part of the PRISM management plan, the Fire Marshal's office created two positions dedicated to the Kenai office. Gordon Descutner was hired the Fire Training Administrator and has the responsibility for management of the PRISM facility and program development. Kirsten Raye is the PRISM Associate Coordinator and has responsibility of class schedules, client/instructor interface, fiscal functions, and other administrative duties. With the addition of these two positions, PRISM has maintained efficient facility operations and sustained fire training activities and core curriculum throughout the summer.

The PRISM curriculum includes classes such as First Aid/CPR, Hazwoper, Petro Chemical Health and Safety, Emergency Trauma Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Industrial Firefighter, and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting. The PRISM training center offers other facility options as well. Classroom rentals are available for various functions, and the facility can accommodate groups as large as 80 people. In addition, there is a large exterior training ground with a number of live fire training simulators. Fire simulation props include two aircraft simulators and an industrial fire-training platform. PRISM also has a three-story structure that is useful for interior fire training, confined space rescue, or law enforcement training.

The staff at PRISM has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition over the summer. Although the facility management changed this year, PRISM has retained many of the contract instructors so that the training center is able to offer the same quality instruction that has been available through PRISM over the past decade. The PRISM training center will continue to offer classes to meet the needs of the fire service and health and safety industry, and PRISM will be developing new courses and curriculum over the winter.

PRISM training center is located at 450 Marathon Road in the City of Kenai. Stop by and tour the facility if you are considering training options in the Kenai area, or call the PRISM training center for price quotes and availability (907-283-3054).

Industrial Prop at PRISM

The Pacific Rim Institute of Safety and Management (PRISM) training center has operated under the direction of the State of Alaska Fire Marshal's office Training and Education Bureau (TEB) since March of 2007, but the facility has been in operation on the Kenai Peninsula for nearly a decade. Throughout this time, the facility has offered a variety of training classes to assist in meeting the needs of fire and safety training for Alaska industry. In order to provide highest quality training, PRISM has always been reliant upon fire training simulators and the ability to generate realistic fire scenarios on the training ground.

Conoco Phillips has recently donated a wellhead fire simulator to PRISM that will add a significant component to our industrial fire program. This simulator will be an excellent addition to the industrial fire simulators, and it will add a realistic training challenge for industrial firefighters. The wellhead prop will enable many firefighters to train for response to fires specific to their work environment. Firefighters that receive training with this simulator will likely understand the strategy and tactics associated with wellhead fires more thoroughly, and this prop will greatly enhance their ability to control a wellhead fire emergency safely and efficiently.

PRISM has been working to refurbish and improve fire ground simulators this year. The Conoco Phillips wellhead simulator donation will be a significant improvement to the facility training ground that would not have been possible without their donation. On behalf of the PRISM training center and the State of Alaska Fire Marshal's office, we would like to thank Conoco Phillips for their donation and recognize their commitment towards improving safety in Alaska's fire service.

Smoke Detectors or Alarms

What's in a name?

In 2002 the Fire Service community nationwide began switching from the term "Smoke Detector" to the term "Smoke Alarm". Information collected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during a market study of public safety terms indicated that switching terms would improve the odds of the public taking "Smoke Alarms" more seriously.

The study implied that to the general public the word "detector" did not mean danger. When the general public hears the term "smoke detector" they may understand that it detects smoke but in many cases it doesn't translate to an indication of danger; especially if they have not received any meaningful education about actions to take when a "Smoke Detector" sounds.

When the general public hears the term "smoke alarm" they have a better understanding that the situation is dangerous. Alarms go off when danger is near so it is more of an action word telling people to leave the area.

By changing a simple term the public is more apt to leave a building when the "Smoke Alarm" sounds.

Ionization –VS – Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

In light of the recent media and fire service community coverage about the proper selection and use of the different types of smoke alarms I thought I would clarify our position on the installation of smoke alarms in residential structures.

A study by the National Institute of Standards and Technology concluded that fires in residential structures are more likely to smolder longer and burn faster than homes occupied when smoke detectors were first introduced decades ago. This has lead some organizations in the fire service to call for the discontinued use of ionization smoke alarms.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend one smoke alarm be installed on each level of the home including basements and attic spaces and one in each sleeping room. These are required for all residential housing by AS 18.70.095.

2. We recommend the use of combination alarms (ionization and photoelectric technology) for residential use.

3. Our office has recommended the use of photoelectric smoke alarms for use in smaller houses (less than 1200 sq ft) in rural locations for many years. This policy was based on research into the high number of nuisance alarms caused by steam from kitchens and bathrooms when ionization alarms were used.

No matter what type of smoke alarm is used the entire unit should be replaced at least every ten years and many of the new smoke alarms have an expiration or replacement date on the unit.

National Institute of Standards and Technology study http://smokealarm.nist.gov

Basic Types of Smoke Alarms

Ionization Smoke Alarms react quicker to fast burning fires involving flammable liquids and simple Class A materials such as paper.

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms react quicker to smoldering fires such as those ignited by smoking materials in a couch or chair.

Kitchen Smoke Alarms – Kitchen smoke alarms can be either ionization or photoelectric but they include a button that silences the alarm for 15 minutes. This reduces the chance that an occupant will remove the batteries if the alarm sounds due to smoke from cooking.

References for more information on this topic:

Alaska Injury Prevention Center's Original Research on "Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms in rural Alaskan homes" http://www.alaska-ipc.org/ionization.pdf

International Association of Fire Chiefs – Fire and Life Safety Section's position paper http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/FLSS_Position_Paper_smoke_alarms.pdf

UL's study on smoke characterization www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/research/SmokeCharacterization.pdf

Fire Safety for Alaskan Native Kids' Game

In the fall of 2005 the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety Training and Education Bureau applied for a Fire Prevention Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to develop, produce and distribute a high quality video game for rural Alaska. The majority of rural communities in Alaska are not accessible by road and it is difficult to reach children in these communities with fire prevention materials. The schools have set curriculum and it is difficult to schedule prevention classes during normal school hours. Most rural communities have computers and internet access, so the Training and Education Bureau partnered with Compelling Technologies, Inc. of Kirkland Washington to develop a high quality video game. The game would have to be fun for the kids to play and address fire prevention issues in rural Alaska. The characters and story line would be Native Alaskan.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety requested $1,000,000.00 to fund this project and received $314,100.00 in 2006 to complete phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 of the project included in depth field studies on what to incorporate in the game and what age group to focus on. The design team made several trips to Alaska to interview rural children, teachers, firefighters and elders. Initial graphics and story line were developed and presented to several rural school children to get their feedback on the game. The project received excellent reviews from the children and they all wanted to play the game.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety received notification on June 22, 2007 that they were awarded a grant for $685,075.00 to complete phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 will cover the actual production, completion and distribution of the game. There will be an evaluation process to gauge the impact of the game on Rural Alaska fire statistics.

Success Stories

Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Department Receives Fire Prevention Trailer

North Star Volunteer Fire Department in North Pole, Alaska has donated a fire prevention/safety trailer to the Rural Deltana VFD. North Star VFD was able to get a new safety/prevention trailer through a grant and offered their older one to us. We appreciate NSVFD for offering this trailer to us. We are looking forward to using this trailer to teach fire safety and prevention throughout the whole year, not just in October during National Fire Prevention Month. Fire prevention and safety should be taught and practiced everyday. Even though the trailer was given to the RDVFD, it is a community-wide fire prevention trailer. It takes about 3 to 4 people to safely run the trailer. Our goal is to be able to train all the area firefighters and EMS personnel the operations of the trailer.

Arctic Fire & Safety in Fairbanks and Mt. McKinley Bank here in Delta Junction were eager to help support the operation of the trailer and have helped us purchase materials to distribute to visitors.

We appreciate their desire to help us get the message out to the community about fire safety and prevention. It takes money to keep this trailer operating. Since our funds are limited, we are thankful for these two corporations stepping up to help us. The Alaska Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Training and Education Bureau have also supplied us with a lot of materials also and we are grateful for their help.

After doing a few repairs and applying a coat of paint, we were able to get the trailer ready for the Deltana Fair. We are thankful for all the firefighters that put many hours into getting the trailer ready.

Child Practicing on the Escape Ladder

Rural Deltana VFD Prevention Trailer

Assistant Chief Ernie Wyrick helping Children Practice Fire Escape Drills

Of the more than 200 people that visited the trailer during the Fair, 98 children and 48 adults took part in the fire prevention presentation. The program involved watching a 15-minute DVD and then going upstairs to a small bedroom to practice fire escape drills. The room was filled with smoke. A smoke alarm was activated and then they had the opportunity to crawl on the floor to a window where they could exit the room by using an escape ladder. It was exciting to see all these individuals take part in the program and to see so many parents go through the program with their children.

Our goal is to get the message out to as many as possible.

We are planning to visit the area schools and are willing to work with any other organization or group that would like for us to bring the trailer to them, free of charge, to teach fire safety and prevention. You can contact us at 895-5036 or 895-4820 or by email at ruraldeltanavfd@firefighting.net.

Notices and Consumer Alerts

In keeping with the divisions mission statement: “The mission of the Division of Fire and Life Safety is to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.“ Included are the following alerts:

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Article “House fires lead chiefs to urge safety “ By Chris Eshleman Published November 26, 2007

NOSH Alert Fire Fatalities

Globe Fire Sprinkler Corporation Recall

Consumer Warning Potential Fire Hazard With Chinese-Made Electronics Sold For Use By Children

FAIRBANKS
Daily News - Miner

House fires lead chiefs to urge safety
By Chris Eshleman
Published November 26, 2007

The McCormick family was one of three families in the North Pole area alerted by working smoke detectors to fires in the home during a recent four-day stretch.

The kitchen fire had broken out in the early morning hours after a family member left something on the stove, homeowner Otis McCormick said.

“I heard the fire alarm first,” McCormick, a pastor at a North Pole church, said. “It all happened in a matter of seconds.”

The McCormicks lost part of their kitchen but avoided injuries.

The other two house fires were linked to wood stoves. They prompted fire officials to ask area residents to maintain active smoke detectors and regularly clean their chimneys.

American Red Cross of Alaska official Greg Williams said his organization has helped a number of families affected by house fires over the past 12 days. He pointed to rising fuel prices and suggested the community’s reliance on wood stoves this winter could increase — as could fire hazards if home owners have failed to properly inspect their stove systems.

“It will probably continue to cause problems in the next few weeks,” Williams said.

North Star Volunteer Fire Department chiefs reported last week that a wood-framed house caught fire in Moose Creek early Tuesday morning when heat from a stove’s chimney sparked a blaze.

The family was awakened by a smoke detector and escaped, they said, and the fire consumed much of the home before being extinguished.

The fire occurred three days after improperly-discarded ashes from a stove sparked the first house fire.

Across town, crews from Chena Goldstream Fire and Rescue have also responded to a number of fires linked to wood-burning stoves and blocked chimneys.

“The last three fires I’ve been called to were all chimney fires,” department captain Guy Tytgat said.

Jeff Tucker, chief of the North Star department, said smoke — a greater contributor to fire-related fatalities than actual flames — is also usually the first visible sign that a fire has broken out, and fire officials stress the importance of having working smoke detectors in the home.

The North Star department and other organizations give away smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, installing them for free for families who need help.

Tucker also urged builders and homeowners installing wood stoves to closely read installation manuals and follow building and fire codes and to keep chimneys clean.

Mark Wiebold, a sales specialist at a Fairbanks stove store, said owners can simply ask area chimney sweeps for advice on how often to clean their respective chimneys. Some might only need to be cleared once a season, he said.

“For others, they might need to be swept every three weeks,” he said.

Chimney sweep Charlie Whitaker suggested people with wood stoves think about upgrading older stoves and about cutting and storing their wood in a dry place up to a year before they burn.

Fire chiefs said homeowners can also simply do what McCormick did — install fire detectors as soon as possible and keep them loaded with fresh batteries.

“I know there’s a need for them,” McCormick said of his decision to install two detectors in his family’s home. “It’s a warning device that everyone should have.”

Contact staff writer Chris Eshleman at 459-7582.

Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events

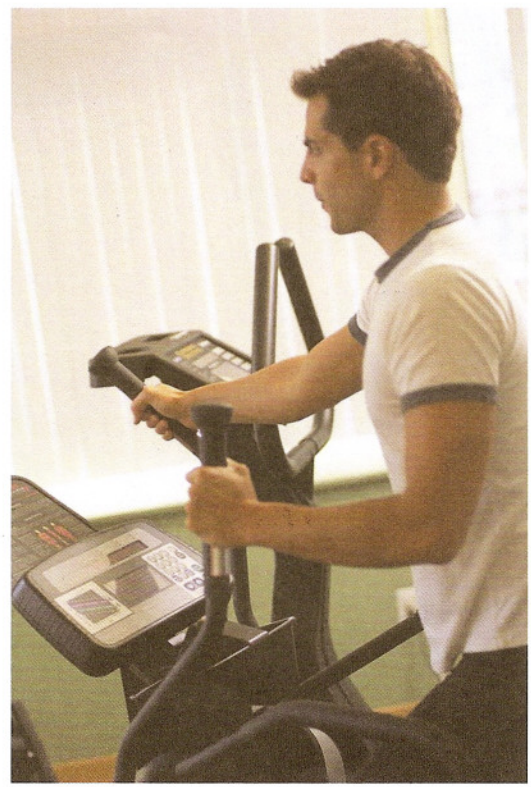
WARNING!

Fire fighters are at risk of dying on the job from preventable cardiovascular conditions.

Fire fighters are dying on the job from preventable cardiovascular conditions.

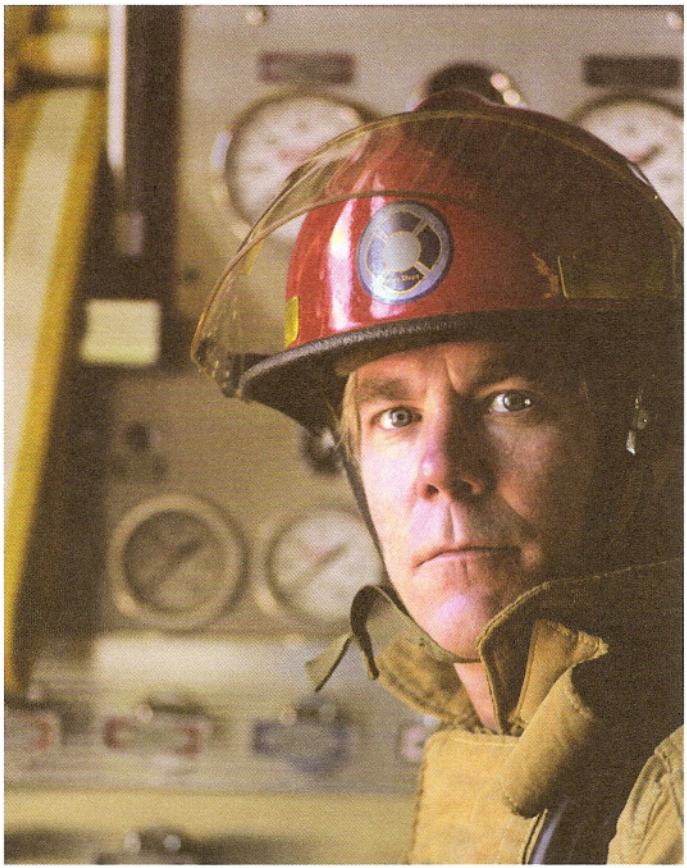
Sudden cardiac death represents the most common cause of a fire fighter fatality. This document:

1. Provides background on fire fighting and heart disease,
2. Presents five case reports to highlight important findings,
3. Summarizes data from the NIOSH cardiovascular disease (CVD) fatality investigations, and
4. Provides recommendations (listed below) to minimize the risk of injury and death to fire fighters from cardiovascular events.



Fire Departments should take the following steps to reduce on-duty heart attacks and other sudden cardiovascular events:

- Provide medical evaluations to ensure that candidates and members are capable of performing job tasks with minimal risk of sudden incapacitation.
- Ensure that physicians conducting the medical evaluations are knowledgeable about the physical demands of fire fighting, the essential tasks of fire fighting, and the consensus guidelines developed by the fire service.



- Implement a comprehensive wellness/fitness program for fire fighters to reduce risk factors for CVD and improve cardiovascular capacity.
- Control exposure to carbon monoxide and other fire contaminants through proper management of the fire scene and proper use of respiratory protection.
- Ensure adequate staffing levels for operations to prevent over-exertion.
- Provide on-scene rehabilitation to monitor vital signs for indication of excessive cardiovascular strain, and to cool and hydrate the fire fighter.
- Implement a comprehensive hearing conservation program.

To help fire departments implement these steps, fire service agencies should conduct research on the following:

- Effectiveness of health promotion programs to reduce the incidence of heart disease among fire fighters.
- Barriers to implementing health promotion programs (both wellness and fitness).
- Effectiveness of on-scene rehabilitation to reduce cardiovascular strain.
- Risk posed to fire fighter's cardiovascular system due to occupational exposures.

For additional information, see ***NIOSH Alert: Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Heart Attacks and Other Sudden Cardiovascular Events*** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2007–133]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

NIOSH—Publications Dissemination
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226–1998

Telephone: **1–800–35–NIOSH**
(1–800–356–4674)
Fax: 513–533–8573
E-mail: pubstaft@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH Web site at
www.cdc.gov/niosh

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

NIOSH

GLOBE
FIRE SPRINKLER
CORPORATION

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE
for
Fire Marshals
June 2007

Dear State Fire Marshal:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Globe Fire Sprinkler Corporation of Standish, MI have announced a nationwide recall of between 100,000 and 300,000 Model J Series dry fire sprinklers manufactured between 1990 and 1999. Although there have been no reports of injury between 1999 and 2005, Globe received five reports that these sprinklers failed to operate properly in a fire. **If this occurs, persons and property may be at risk.**

These Model J dry sprinklers must be replaced immediately. Dry sprinklers do not have water in the leg of pipe directly above the sprinkler head, so they can be used in areas of buildings where the sprinklers or water supply pipes could be subject to freezing. Examples of such areas include unheated attics, freezers and coolers, porches, warehouses, and parking garages. Although Globe does not know the locations in which Model J sprinklers may have been installed, other manufacturers' dry sprinklers have been installed in nursing homes, hospitals, convalescent and long-term care facilities, apartment buildings, supermarkets, and office buildings.

Globe Model J sprinklers have the name "Globe," the letter "J," and the year of manufacture, from 1990 through 1999, embossed on the frame of each sprinkler. The enclosed photos may help you identify them. We note that many of the Model J sprinklers are already subject to NFPA 25, which requires that dry sprinklers over 10 years old be tested or replaced.

Globe has agreed to provide standard replacement sprinklers for $9 each – half of its manufacturing cost – to building owners who follow specific procedures to qualify for this program, with the possibility of a partial rebate after June 1, 2011, to firms or individuals who submit qualifying claims on or before that date. Quick response sprinklers will cost somewhat more, but will still be substantially reduced in price. Full details about the recall program can be found at www.globesprinkler.com (click on the "Recall" link) or by calling toll free 1-800-248-0278 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. **In the interest of protecting public safety, we strongly encourage you to notify all local departments under your jurisdiction of this recall and to highlight this recall program in your own publications, on your website, or by linking to the website above.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission will be monitoring implementation of this recall program.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Worthington, P.E.
President

4077 Air Park Drive • Standish, Michigan 48658

(989) 846-4583 • Fax (989) 846-9231
Inside USA • 1-800-248-0278

SPRINKLER IDENTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

RECALL PROGRAM FOR GLOBE MODEL "J" DRY SPRINKLERS

Finding Dry Sprinklers. Pendent sprinklers (Fig. A) hang with the deflector facing the floor. They are often installed with optional escutcheon plates to cover clearance holes in ceilings and sometimes the sprinklers are "concealed" behind the removable cover plates (Fig. B). Upright sprinklers rise vertically from the water piping and are typically found in areas where the water piping is exposed, such as garages and warehouses. In addition to upright and pendent sprinklers, as well as vertical sprinklers (Fig. C), horizontal sidewall sprinklers (Fig. D), as the name implies, are located along a side-wall or side of a beam. Similar to pendent sprinklers, the horizontal sidewall sprinklers are often installed with optional escutcheon plates to cover clearance holes in the wall.

Precautionary Steps in Identifying Your Sprinklers

Prior to attempting the identification of a given sprinkler as being part of this Program, please review the following safety warnings: prior to attempting to view installed sprinklers, consult sprinkler system drawings, records of installation and/or maintenance, and/or look at spare heads located in the spare head box to attempt to identify the sprinkler model(s) installed in your sprinkler system.

If you are unable to determine what type of sprinklers you have in this manner, you may try to get close enough to the sprinklers to visually inspect them. Caution must always be exercised when climbing a ladder, using lifts, and scaffold to view installed sprinklers. DO NOT attempt to visually inspect your sprinklers if doing so places you in a precarious position.

Caution should be used at all times when attempting to identify and view sprinklers. The glass bulb or heat sensitive element can be easily damaged, causing the sprinkler to activate. If you are required to remove a cover plate for a concealed sprinkler, use caution not to disturb the sprinkler or damage the operating element which may cause activation of the sprinkler. Do not apply sources of heat and do not strike, disturb, or apply pressure to the glass bulb or activation element of the sprinkler. MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO NOT REMOVE YOUR SPRINKLERS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THEM. Sprinkler systems contain water under pressure or compressed air/gas that can cause severe damage or personal injury if sprinklers are removed while under pressure. Proper draining of a sprinkler system by a professional sprinkler installer prior to sprinkler removal is required to protect the building from water damage. If a sprinkler is to be removed or installed after the system has been properly shut down and drained, only the approved sprinkler wrench for the model sprinkler being removed or installed should be used to prevent damage to the sprinkler(s). Sprinkler systems should be regularly inspected and maintained by a professional fire protection installer in accordance with local and national guidelines. All dry sprinkler heads in a sprinkler system should be tested and replaced, if necessary, no later than ten years after installation.

Fig A

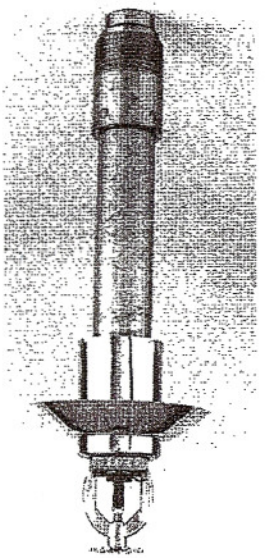


Fig B

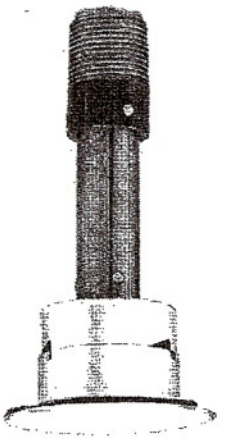
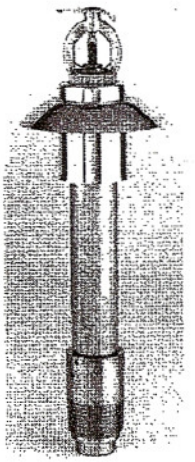


Fig C



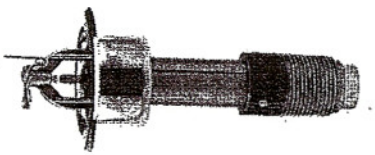


Fig. D



In this test, a birthday candle ignited a child's "boombox" in less than 10 seconds. The resulting fire was capable of engulfing a child's bedroom in fire within three minutes. A new international fire safety standard requires electronic products to resist a candle flame for three minutes with no flame spread.

CONSUMER WARNING: POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD WITH CHINESE-MADE ELECTRONICS SOLD FOR USE BY CHILDREN

The National Association of State Fire Marshals, retailers and certain electronics manufacturers are in consultation on two models of Chinese-made products, which preliminary testing suggests pose a potentially serious fire hazard due to the highly flammable nature of their outer enclosures. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has been notified by the retailer of these products.

Pending further testing, consumers are advised to be careful with open flames around all computer and consumer electronic equipment such as computer game devices, "boomboxes," computer keyboards, speakers, ink-jet printers and all other consumer electronic and computer equipment sold for use in the home. Such precautions include the following:

1. Keep all candles at least 2 feet (24 inches) from the plastic outer enclosure of such devices.

2. Remove these products immediately from children's rooms, and especially those of children with known or suspected fire-setting behavior.

3. Before purchasing consumer electronics and computer equipment for the home, read the product literature to determine if their outer enclosures meet the flammability standard UL 94 V-1 or better, or that they meet the requirements of the International Electrotechnical Commission's technical specification IEC TS 62441 or equivalent, and that a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories has tested the outer enclosure of the products to ensure their resistance to ignition.

Inquiries may be directed to info@firemarshals.org