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Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Message from the State Fire Marshal,

As grilling season approaches remember recipes for fire safety. The phrase “sweet summertime” rings true but it’s also time to slow down and be more vigilant. Summer means an increased risk for grilling fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), seven out of every 10 adults in the U.S. have a grill or smoker. This simply means Americans do a good deal of barbecue cooking. May through July are the leading months for home grilling fires. Often residents think fires can only happen in winter months, this is not true. Beyond grilling fires, fireworks, camp fires and electrical boating fires can also pose a danger.

This summer I encourage you, check in with your local fire department, educate children on what to do in a fire. School may be out, but this is a great time for kids of all ages to see the fire departments in their communities and ask questions, learning can be done outside the classroom.

And as always, head to our website and follow along on our social media pages as we send out weekly safety information.

On behalf of the thousands of Fire and EMS first responders throughout our great State, myself along with our agency members, wish you an enjoyable and safe summer!

Sincerely,

Ken Tyree
State Fire Marshal





How to make your life easier using NFIRS

NFIRSGram: Report remarks—telling the story

This NFIRSGram explains the value of using the Remarks field and how to enter quality content that benefits your fire department.

- The Remarks or narrative field in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) report is the only place the reporting department can document, in its own words, what events might have led up to, transpired during, or occurred after the incident.
- Although this field is not required, it allows the reporting department to “paint a picture” of the incident by providing further details that can be beneficial for training and incident investigations.



Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year



In an effort to recognize educators who take the lead role in making their communities safer, The State Fire Marshal’s Office presents the 2019 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to Andrew Dotson of the Morgantown Fire Department.

Dotson has been a firefighter with the Morgantown Fire Department for 13 years and was appointed to oversee the department’s fire prevention efforts in 2012. During his time as Fire Prevention Coordinator, Dotson has provided training to more than 12,000 people annually through his development of community outreach programs.

The award was presented on May 9th, 2019 at the 3rd Annual Fire Safety Summit Dinner, held in conjunction with the West Virginia Safety Expo.

Also recognized were several departments for dedication to their communities. These departments have worked diligently to install hundreds of smoke alarms in homes. We recognize St. Albans FD, Princeton FD, Hillsboro VFD, Lewisburg FD, Logan County #200 VFD for their continued hard work in risk reduction.

The purpose of this summit is to bring together all stakeholders who have an interest in who have an interest in reducing risk and protecting life in their communities. this summit is for all willing and able to learn, share, and network with others within communities. This year Meredith Hawes, an Education Specialist from NFPA presented seminars on *Creating a Public Education Experience* and *Motivating your Audience for Behavior Change*.

We look forward to bringing the Fire Safety Summit back again next year.



Code Corner

Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate.

However, they pose a serious fire safety hazard and their use is **prohibited** by National Fire Protection Association code requirements.

NFPA 1 Fire Code 2015 Edition:

10.10.9.3 The use of unmanned, free-floating sky lanterns and similar devices utilizing an open flame shall be prohibited



Marina & Boating Safety

Boats can be a great source of summer fun and leisure. But, boaters, swimmers, and marina staff must be aware of dangers in and around the water. Electrical hazards and carbon monoxide (CO) bring unique risks to the boating world. Learn to protect people and pets from these dangers.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- » Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drownings (ESD).
- » Be sure your boat is well maintained. Have it inspected each year. Ask a qualified marine electrician to do this job.
- » Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if electrical current is leaking from the boat.
- » Only use cords intended for marine use. Never use household cords near water.
- » Know where your main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- » Poorly tuned engines produce more CO. Keep your engine properly maintained. Follow manufacturer's instructions for service.
- » Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear and pipes should be inspected for leaks.
- » Get into fresh air right away and get help if you feel symptoms of CO poisoning. These include headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures. The symptoms can be similar to seasickness. Assume it is CO exposure until you are sure the boat is safe.
- » Do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents. CO accumulates there.
- » Install CO alarms inside your boat. Test CO alarms before each trip.
- » Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- » If the CO alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location right away.



KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrical shock drownings can occur when marina electrical systems leak electrical current into the water. Boats can also serve as the source of an electrical leakage. Leakage can cause a shock that can injure, disable, or kill a person.

Carbon Monoxide is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called the "invisible killer." CO is created when fuels such as gasoline, diesel, or propane do not burn fully. CO is also produced when wood or charcoal is burned.

Sources of CO on your boat may include engines, gas generators, and cooking ranges. Space and water heaters can also be sources of CO. CO can collect anywhere in or around a boat. The gas is harmful to both people and to pets.

FACT

CO can remain in or around your boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Training Opportunities and Important Dates

Rescue Core Prerequisites	Levels VFC	Jun 08
HazMat Operations Refresher	South Fork VFD	Jun 09
Rescue Core with Rope Rescue Level 1	Bridgeport Fire Department	Jun 18
Emergency Services Instructor Course	Ft Ashby VFD	Jul 26
Rescue Core Prerequisites with Rope Rescue Level 1	Moundsville VFD	Jul 27
Vehicle & Machinery Rescue Level 1	Moundsville VFD	Sep 07 - Sep 08



Visit West Virginia Public Service Training at:

www.wvpst.org



West Virginia Fire Commission



West Virginia State Fire Commission

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Doug M. Mongold, Vice Chairman

Ted A. Shriver, Secretary

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Carl Eastham (Chair)

Ted Shriver (Vice Chair)

Edward George

Doug Mongold

Martin Hess

Legislative, Codes & Regulatory

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Mark Stroop

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Dave Camp (Chair)

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Virgil White

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Martin Hess (Chair)

Doug Estep (Vice Chair)

Jim Oldaker

Phil Hart

Training

Virgil White (Chair)

Tom Keefer (Vice Chair)

Jim Oldaker

Edward George

Doug Estep

Meet the Commission



Martin Hess

Mr. Hess was appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Jim Justice in February 2018. He currently serves as Fire Chief of the Gilmer County Volunteer Fire Department, a position he has held for five years. Chief Hess represents the WV State Fire Chief's Association. He is involved in several community activities including serving as Deacon at Leading Creek Baptist Church, Chairman of the Gilmer County LEPC, Coordinator of Gilmer County CERT, a WV Fusion Liaison Officer, Vice Chairman of WV WARN, a Hunter Education Instructor, a TIMS Instructor and an EVOC Instructor.

Longtime employee, Deputy State Fire Marshal Clearance “Joe” Leake Retires

In April, the West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office said goodbye to longtime employee Deputy State Fire Marshal Clearance “Joe” Leake. After more than 40 years with the agency, Deputy Leake retired. The majority of his career has been spent as the leader of the inspections division.

In May a celebration with family, friends, past and present employees along with DMAPS Cabinet Secretary Jeff Sandy all in attendance.

The honoree was presented with several gifts. State Fire Marshal Ken Tyree presented Leake with the U.S. Flag flown over the WV State Capitol on the official day of his retirement, April 30, 2019. He was also given a certificate of appreciation signed by Governor Jim Justice, presented by Debbie Lewis.

We wish Joe and his family good luck and happiness through what we hope will be a long and relaxing retirement.

