

Office of the State Fire Marshal
1207 Quarrier St.
Charleston WV, 25301
(304) 558-2191
www.firemarshal.wv.gov

February, 2019
Issued Bi-monthly



Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Message from the State Fire Marshal,

Greeting to each of you faithful and valiant servants of your community. As a part of this February issue, I want to thank each of you for your participation in serving your communities, in providing them the necessary safety and assurance that comes with the vital service you provide. I also, would like to thank all that have come into the statewide public education network; your participation in this network, will help provide instructional outreach, resources, and public safety awareness within the communities in which you serve. As our agency expands our outreach to your communities, my hope is that partnerships will form and grow to help spread the message of safety and reduce the fire concerns in your community!

As I look forward to the things, we will accomplish from an agency stand point, I too must reflect on this past year. West Virginia ended the calendar year with 42 fire-related deaths; this is less than the previous two years but still places our wonderful State in the top ten for fire fatalities in the Nation, which for me is unacceptable. In the coming months I ask you to get involved with the numerous opportunities like our partnership with the American Red Cross "Sound the Alarm" Campaign to ensure that working smoke alarms are installed in every home in your community.

My hope is that many will benefit from looking ahead to a better 2019 by serving your communities in many ways and providing an environment of safety and security to all in our great State!

Sincerely,
Ken Tyree, State Fire Marshal





Fire Prevention Guide

A new year brings new opportunities to bring fire prevention and life safety messages to residents of West Virginia.

Fire safety and prevention is something we should be focusing on all year long, not just the month of October. While a lot of effort is put into successful programs in the fall, our hope is to provide messaging all year long with a monthly theme, and weekly guide.

You can find the fire prevention guide on our website, www.firemarshal.wv.gov or subscribe to our Public Education Network and get reminders and information. Send an email to courtney.a.rosemond@wv.gov to get involved.

Below is the theme for the month of February.

Theme: Burn Awareness and Prevention

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Week 2 – Fire Safety for Children

Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 4 – Candle with Care

How to make your life easier using NFIRS

If your department has a Jr. Firefighter program, you may want to consider making the NFIRS reporting a mandatory part of their training.

This way, as they come up in the department, they will know how to do NFIRS and it won't fall to just one person. Not only that, but it will also teach them what data needs to be collected on a run sheet, which will help you get better documentation. Just make sure they know some very important rules:

- Don't pay attention to color. If the field is blank, fill it in, if you have the data. If you don't put the data in, you won't be able to get it out later when you run statistics.
- Don't use any code that ends in zero that says "other" in the descriptor. If that seems to be your only option, call me and I'll find a code that fits your situation.
- Always look back over the report once you've finished entering it and make sure everything was keyed in correctly.



Cooking Fires in Residential Buildings (2014-2016)

These topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

Findings

- ❶ Each year, from 2014 to 2016, fire departments in the United States responded to an estimated average of 188,800 cooking fires in residential buildings. These fires caused an estimated annual average of 195 deaths, 3,800 injuries and \$463 million in property loss.
- ❷ Cooking was, by far, the leading cause of all residential building fires and injuries.
- ❸ Cooking fires in residential buildings occurred most frequently in the late afternoon and evening hours from 4 to 9 p.m., accounting for 40 percent of the fires. Fires peaked from 5 to 8 p.m. when many people were preparing the evening meal.
- ❹ Residential building cooking fires peaked in November at 9 percent and declined to the lowest point during July and August.
- ❺ Confined fires, those fires involving the contents of a cooking vessel without fire extension beyond the vessel, accounted for 91 percent of residential building cooking fires.
- ❻ Oil, fat and grease (47 percent) were the leading types of material ignited in nonconfined cooking fires in residential buildings.
- ❼ In 83 percent of nonconfined cooking fires in residential buildings, the fires were limited to the object or room of fire origin.
- ❽ The leading specific factor contributing to ignition in nonconfined cooking fires in residential buildings was unattended equipment (40 percent).
- ❾ Smoke alarms were present in 67 percent of nonconfined cooking fires in occupied residential buildings. Additionally, automatic extinguishing systems (AES) were present in only 8 percent of nonconfined cooking fires in occupied residential buildings.



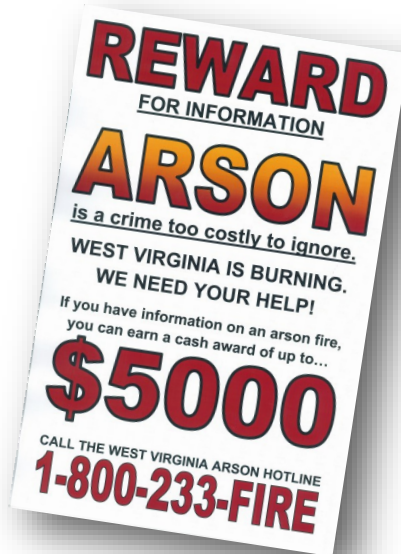
National Fire Data Center
 16825 S. Seton Ave.
 Emmitsburg, MD 21727
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/>

[Download Full 14-page Report](#)

FAQ

How do you request a fire investigation with the State Fire Marshal's Office?

Contact the Arson Hotline
1-800-233-FIRE



Code Corner

EGRESS— *What are the minimum number of exits?*

The minimum number of exits must be increased as follows:

- Occupant load of more than 49 but fewer than 500
- Occupant load of more than 500 but fewer than 1,000
- Occupant load of more than 1,000
- Exceptions are granted for existing buildings as provided by the specific occupancy sections of various Building or Life Safety codes.

The minimum occupant load or number of people expected in a building at any time is determined by dividing the gross or net floor area of a specific portion of the building by a factor projected for each person.





Scald Prevention

Safety Tips

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Scald Safety

- Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

Burn Rx

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

FACT!

Prepackaged **microwavable soups** are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.



Greenhalgh DG, Bridges P, Coombs E, et al. Instant cup of soup: design flaws increase risk of burns. Journal of Burn Care and Research, July–August 2006; 27(4):476-81



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Training Opportunities and Important Dates

EVOC	Romney Rescue	Feb 09
Firefighter 1	Parsons Volunteer Fire Department	Feb 09
Fire Fighter 1	Short Gap Volunteer Fire Department	Feb 12
Wildland Firefighting	Parkersburg Fire Station 6	Feb 16
ESCAPE 2019	Pipestem State Park	Feb 19 - Feb 24
FF 1 Module 3	Bedington VFD	Feb 19
Fire Officer 1 and 2	Hedgesville VFD	Feb 22
EVOC	MaysvilleVFC	Feb 26
FF 1 Module 4	Bedington VFD	Mar 05
EVOC	Friendship Fire Co	Mar 05
Driver / Operator - Pumper	MaysvilleVFC	Mar 07
Handling Elevator Emergencies/Rescue	Parkersburg Fire Station 6	Mar 16
Firefighter 1	Friendship Fire Co	Mar 20
Driver Operator-Pumper	Cheat Lake Volunteer Fire Department	Mar 29
Auto Extrication	Parkersburg Fire Station 6	Apr 13



Visit West Virginia Public Service Training at:

www.wvpst.org

 West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE



WVU Fire Service Extension

West Virginia Fire Commission



West Virginia State Fire Commission

Grant K. Gunnoe, Chairman

Doug M. Mongold, Vice Chairman

Ted A. Shriver, Secretary

Disciplinary

Carl Eastham (Chair)
Ted Shriver (Vice Chair)
Edward George
Doug Mongold
Martin Hess

Legislative, Codes & Regulatory

Ted Shriver (Chair)
Edward George (Vice Chair)
Jim Oldaker
Tom Keefer
Mark Stroop

Fire Department Services

Doug Mongold (Chair)
Jim Oldaker (Vice Chair)
Phil Hart
Dave Camp
Mark Stroop

Operations

Dave Camp (Chair)
Doug Estep (Vice Chair)
Tom Keefer
Carl Eastham
Virgil White

Recruitment & Retention

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



Dave Camp

Dave represents the Fire Insurance industry in West Virginia and was appointed on the Fire Commission by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin in 2014. He is an insurance agent with Bill Bailey Insurance Agency / VFIS of WV. Mr. Camp has more than a decade of experience in the Fire Service specializing in Safety, Education, Training, Risk Analysis and Loss Control Practices. He holds the Certified Professional Insurance Agent (CPIA) designation and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Management from Davis & Elkins College.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 21, 2018

State Fire Commission Officers Re-elected

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Fire Commission has elected to keep its current leadership during calendar year 2019, the Office of the State Marshal announced Friday.

Chairman Grant Gunnoe, who represents the West Virginia Professional Fire Chiefs Association; Vice Chairman Doug Mongold, representing the West Virginia Firemen's Association; and Secretary Ted Shriver, representing the West Virginia Society of Architects, all retained their positions for the coming year.

The commission held its election Dec. 14 during its quarterly meeting in Triadelphia, Ohio County.

The State Fire Commission consists of thirteen members, qualified by experience and training to deal with the responsibilities of the commission. The following are the remaining members and who they represent:

- Phil Hart and Martin Hess, the West Virginia Fire Chief's Association;
- Jim Oldaker and Doug Estep, the West Virginia Firemen's Association;
- Mark Stroop and Virgil White, the West Virginia Professional Firefighters Association;
- Carl Eastham, the West Virginia Professional Fire Chiefs Association;
- Edward George and Thomas Keefer, the West Virginia Manufacturers Association;
- Dave Camp, the Professional Independent Insurance Agents of West Virginia and the West Virginia Society of Architects.

The governor appoints the commissioners. The state Senate on Dec. 10 confirmed Mongold, Hess and Stroop after Gov. Jim Justice chose them for terms ending June 30, 2023.

The Fire Commission next meets 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 8 at the Fire Marshal's Office in Charleston. The commission's committees will meet the prior day beginning at 10 a.m.