

Office of the State Fire Marshal
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www.firemarshal.wv.gov

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Issued Bi-monthly



Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Message from the State Fire Marshal,

In an effort to keep West Virginians and others safe, this year's Fire Prevention Week Campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" focuses on an educational and action effort to educate the public about the basic but essential elements of escape planning and recognizing the need of knowing how to get out, how quickly fire can spread and where to meet. Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go, no matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.

Other educational concerns for safety in addition to escape planning and smoke alarms that need to be reviewed are the importance of planning and practicing fire escape drills, safe cooking and heating practices, proper use of matches, lighters, candles, and smoking materials just to name a few.

So, you're probably wondering; how can I help in this effort outside of my own home? Here's a few ideas: Encourage your local leaders to spotlight and bring attention to fire safety in the home and businesses through signing a proclamation and promoting the importance of fire prevention and safety; use Social Media to share information, safety tips, and other information and resources to get the word out; participate and encourage educational events at schools in your community. Share your own knowledge of fire prevention or safety by inviting the local fire department in your community to enhance this important information and lastly encouraging organizations in your community to host an open house at the fire department or other community events with the focus being on safety.

As your State Fire Marshal, I believe that each of us can help make a difference in keeping people safe from injury and even death as a result of fire. Let's work together to keep those who live, work, and visit our State safe!

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Tyree Jr.
WV State Fire Marshal





How to make your life easier using NFIRS

Increased integration between CAD and NFIRS-based RMSs has exposed some trends in the data that can have a significant impact on the accuracy and quality of the data collected. Two NFIRS data elements impacted by the integration of CAD and RMSs are Incident Times and Incident Remarks/Narratives.

- Always check your NFIRS report for automatically populated fields, and edit as needed.
- Confirm that the data in all fields are correct and appropriate for your incident.
- Work with your RMS and CAD vendors to ensure fields are linked and populated correctly.
- If fields are automatically populated within an optional NFIRS module, then all required fields for that module must be completed.
- Remember, just because CAD populates fields in your NFIRS report does not mean that you cannot edit or remove that data.
- Carefully review the log files returned to you after submitting an import to the National Database.



Is fire escape plan messaging a top priority for your department or organization? If not, it may be time to revisit your outreach strategy.

According to the National Fire Protection Association:

- *Seventy-one percent of households have a fire escape plan, but only 47% of those have practiced it.*
- *One-third believe they have at least six minutes before a fire in their home becomes life-threatening.*
- *Only 8% said their first thought was to get out when they heard the smoke alarm.*

It's clear from this survey that many in your community probably don't understand the life-threatening risks from heat and toxic smoke produced in a modern home fire. Fire departments need to re-enforce these messages about the characteristics of fire: Fire is FAST. Fire is DARK. Fire is HOT. Fire is DEADLY!

Thirty years ago, people had 17 minutes to escape a home fire: now they have about two minutes. New construction practices and materials, as well as the furniture inside, cause fires to burn faster. Another hazard found in many homes is synthetic materials such as rubber, plastic or foam. When those materials burn, they can cause cyanide poisoning. Most people who die in a fire die from smoke inhalation, not burns.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape.™," provides an opportunity for fire and life safety organizations to share how important it is for everyone to have a home fire escape plan. Teach your community about the dangers of fire and smoke. Learning these dangers may help them understand that having a plan is not enough. They need to practice it, so everyone knows what to do if they have a fire in their home.

To help you teach your community about the importance of escaping a home fire quickly, USFA created new social media cards and a flyer you can customize that contain messages about the dangers of fire. Also, our new fire safety pictographs will help you to increase the reach of your messages. We offer templates for you to create and customize flyers, posters, banners and door hangers with our pictographs.

Be the hero in your community. Use our fire safety materials to teach residents about the dangers of a modern home fire and why a fire escape plan is so important should one occur.



Fire Risk in 2017

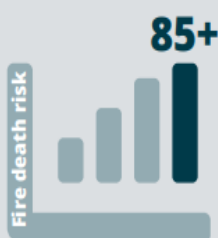
TOPICAL FIRE REPORT SERIES by the US Fire Administration

The risk of death or injury from fire is not the same for everyone. This topical fire report explores fire risk for people living in the United States and why for some groups of people, fire risk is more severe.

Risk by age:



Adults ages 50 or older had a greater relative risk of fire death than the general population.



Adults ages 85 or older had the highest risk of fire death.



had a greater relative risk of fire injury than the general population.

Children ages



had an elevated risk of both fire death and injury when compared to older children (ages 5 to 14); however, their relative risk was still lower than that of the general population.



Risk by region: People living in the Midwest and South had the greatest relative risk of dying in a fire when compared to populations living in other regions of the United States.



Risk by gender: Males were 1.6 times more likely to die in fires than females.

Risk by race:

African Americans
and
**American Indians/
Alaska Natives**

were at a greater relative risk of dying in a fire than the general population.

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.

FOR THE FULL REPORT: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v20i3.pdf>

Code Corner

Based on **Executive Order No. 4-19**, the use of a device by a staff member that prevents both ingress and egress through school doors in an emergency situation, active shooter hostile event response, and similar type drills will be permitted.

The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) is placing interim measures for the use of Temporary Door Locking Devices (TDLD)

The Conditions of Use and Operational Requirements for TDLDs are outlined as follows: Temporary door locking devices in school buildings. A temporary door locking device shall be permitted when approved by the State Fire Marshal through a review of all said devices being proposed for use in school buildings where a variance is being requested from the requirements of NFPA 101, 7.2.1.5.3:

For more information head to our website:

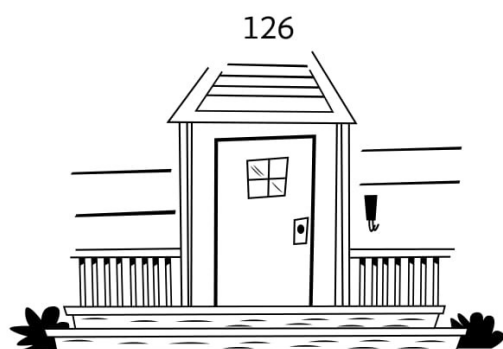
www.firemarshal.wv.gov



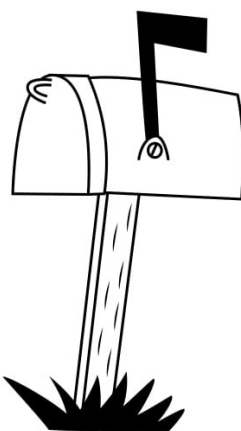
Choose Your Outside Meeting Place

Name: _____

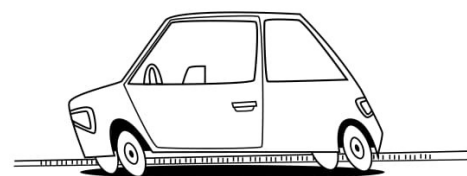
Directions: Your family should always choose an Outside Meeting Place where you will all meet when the smoke alarm sounds. A good Outside Meeting Place is far enough from your house to be safe, and it stays in one place! Circle the good choices for an Outside Meeting Place below, and put an X over the bad choices.



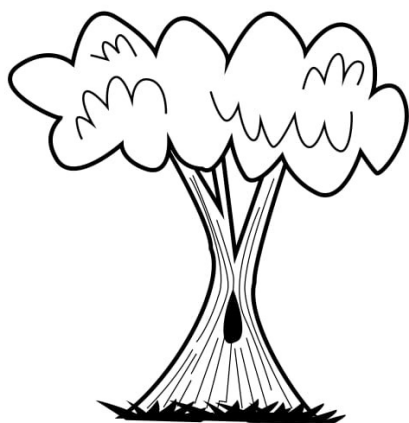
Neighbor's porch



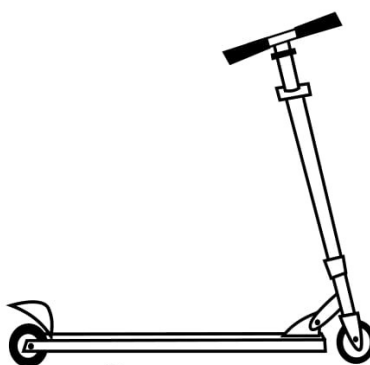
Mailbox



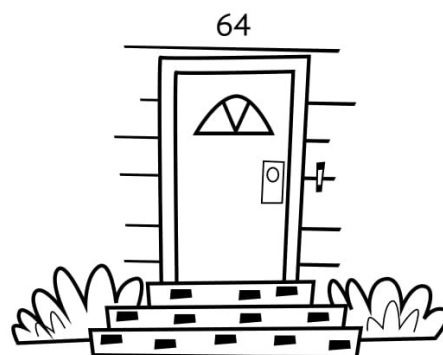
Parked car



Tree



Scooter



Your front steps



THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.

Training Opportunities and Important Dates

Course Name	Location	Start Date
Bovine Emergency Response Plan Training	Cabela Retail Store	Oct 19
Fire Fighter 1	Pennsboro VFD	Oct 19
Drafting & Dump Tank Operations	Morrisvale VFD	Oct 19
Fire Fighter 2	Wellsburg VFD	Oct 20
Driver Operator Pumper	Alma VFD	Oct 26
EVOC	Panthera Training Center	Oct 26
Emergency Vehicle Operations	Hooverson Heights VFD	Oct 26
Firefighter 1 and 2	Augusta VFD	Oct 28
Structural Fire Fighting	United Technical Center	Nov 01
Emergency Vehicle Operations Course	Grafton Fire Department	Nov 03
Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks	Highlands Event Center	Nov 14 - Nov 15
ASSET 2019	Canaan Valley Resort State Park	Nov 15 - Nov 17
Firefighter 1	Bridgeport Fire Department	Feb 03



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

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Legislative, Codes & Regulatory

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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



Thomas Keefer

Tom was appointed to the State Fire Commission by Governor Manchin in 2009. He represents the Business and Industry interests for the Commission. Tom began his career at the DuPont, Belle, WV facility in the Project Engineering Group in May 1974. Tom was a DuPont / Chemours HAZMAT responder since 1976 with extensive experience in process safety, safety, security, hazardous material distribution, emergency response, and incident command.

Recent Retirement of Longtime Employee



Assistant State Fire Marshal Doug Gregory retired on October 11th, 2019, after serving The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office and the citizens of our state for 28 years.

Doug was part of the inspections division in Marion, Tyler & Doddridge Counties

He will now spend his days with his wife and plenty of deer on his 400 acre farm. Thank you for your service ASFM Doug Gregory!