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Maine Fire Marshal News, January 2008

Maine Office of State Fire Marshal

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PREVENTION * LAW ENFORCEMENT * RESEARCH

Maine Fire Marshal News

Maine State Fire Marshal's Office • Fire Research
Maine Department of Public Safety
Mainefiremarshal.com

January 2008

Winter 2008 Vol. 1, Issue No.8

WELCOME!

Welcome to another edition of the Maine Fire Marshal News. As always we appreciate your taking time to read the newsletter and forwarding it on to others. With each edition we receive e-mails from individuals requesting that they be included on the list. Surprisingly, many of these new readers are not from the fire service at all! Some are teachers, physicians, builders and other citizens interested in the fire service in Maine. Again, we encourage all readers to contribute an article in a future edition.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



Juvenile fire-setting is a serious challenge in Maine and across the nation. According to the National Fire Protection Association children started an estimated 13,900 structure fires reported to U.S. fire

departments, resulting in an estimated 210 deaths, 1,250 injuries, and \$339 million in direct property damage in 2002.

Roughly two out of three child-set fires

and three of four associated deaths and injuries involve matches or lighters. We believe there is more we can and must do to prevent youths from gaining access to lighters and to educate them and their families about the dangers of the misuse of fire in general. Maine joins 30 other states that have now established a juvenile fire setter program to address this issue. Lighters however, and in particular novelty lighters, present a unique challenge.

These toy-like lighters by design have characteristics that make them appealing and intriguing to adults and children alike. This presents a risk to our youth that is both unacceptable and preventable. Novelty lighters by definition have an entertaining audio or visual effect or depict (via logos, decals, etc.) or resemble in physical form or function articles commonly recognized as appealing to or intended for use by children under 5 years of age. For example, cartoon characters, toy guns, watches, musical instruments, vehicles, animals, and food or beverages. A novelty lighter may operate on any fuel.

European Nations have recognized this danger and in 2007 a ban on novelty lighters went into effect in the European Union. The EU recognized that the toy-like lighters that appeal to children represent a high risk of misuse. Unfortunately, in the U.S. the CPSC has not followed suit.

In the meantime, fire service personnel have been working with local and state officials

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in an attempt to protect their own citizens. In Maine LD 2081 "An Act to Prohibit the Retail Sale and Distribution of Novelty Lighters" has been introduced and hearings are scheduled.

We hope Maine's fire service and others interested in reducing the unnecessary risk of children hurting themselves and others with these lighters will join us and the bill's sponsor, Representative Sykes of Harrison, in supporting this bill. We believe this will contribute to making Maine a safer state for all children.

Sincerely,
John C. Dean
Fire Marshal

The State of Maine's Fire Service

In the October issue of the Fire Marshal's Newsletter, Chief Guimond of the South Portland Fire Department submitted an article many found both interesting and informative. In addition to the positive remarks about that article and the idea of having such an article in the newsletter, others have sent in articles the first of which follows.

Chief Chris Matson of the Milford Fire/Rescue Department submitted the following article. Take a moment to read what the Chief has to say and don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to provide your own perspective. Do you agree with Chief Matson? Or are you seeing the fire service in a different light?

Chief Matson responded to a question that I should mention has changed due to what I learned about the fire service in Chief Guimond's letter from October. In particular the Chief pointed out that "the fire service has taken on several roles not covered in the question..."

I asked Chief Matson the following question:

In terms of suppression, public education, public awareness, intervention, code enforcement activities, and EMS services where do you think the fire service should be now and where do you think it should be in the future. Why do you believe this and what obstacles do we face? enforcement activities, where do you think the fire service should be now and where do you think it should be in the future?

Here's how Chief Matson responded.

The Milford Fire Rescue Dept. is primarily a paid on-call department. Our staffing includes one full-time chief and 20-25 paid-on call personnel. We provide fire suppression, non-transporting emergency medical services and limited technical rescue (ice, water, low angle/confined space). Our non-emergency services include fire and injury prevention education and fire and life safety inspections.

I'll address each of the items in the question above independently, as to my particular department's status, where the fire service in general is, and where we should be in the future.

As far as actual fire suppression is concerned, it is no secret that most departments' responses to actual structure fires are significantly fewer than in the past. Nonetheless, fire is the constant yardstick used by the public to measure the level of service we provide to our communities. A residential structure fire in my area generally is handled by 3 or 4 departments, depending on water supplies and some other variables. These 3 or 4 departments can usually field 20 or 25 firefighters and sufficient apparatus to handle a fairly straightforward fire, regardless of the day of the week or time of the day. Mutual aid in our area is mostly "call for what you need", and not "automatic". My impression of the fire service in general in our state is that most regions handle fires in a similar way. Many areas of our state have refined

their responses to include “automatic aid” for particular kinds of calls. Politics aside, I think that automatic aid works. I know of very few departments, call, career, or some combination of the two that can handle even a fire in a single family residence without assistance from neighboring departments. In a state that holds local control near and dear to its heart, automatic aid is a less threatening way to ensure adequate responses to emergencies. For some regions, “automatic aid” is the “where we are now” and they should be commended. For others, “automatic aid” is the “where we should be”. Our area is starting to see an increase in automatic aid agreements. One can hope that it is a sign of departments being proactive to ensure safety, but many agreements are entered into in desperation. My opinion is that as time goes on, automatic aid will be required to ensure adequate responses, and we should embrace it sooner rather than later. I am in hopes that our region can work towards more automatic aid to more efficiently provide necessary services.

Public education, awareness and code enforcement all have the same purpose; that is to prevent fires and injuries, rather than respond to them. Our department has a fairly modest budget and we’ve had to address these areas in some creative ways. Our department inspects all new construction, commercial and multi-family dwellings, using qualified on-call personnel. Our fire and injury prevention efforts include on-call personnel as well as employees that do not perform emergency response functions. I have no statistics to back this up, but my feeling is that many departments shy away from comprehensive education and code enforcement. While it is a big undertaking, code enforcement has far reaching effects. It has been our experience that most people want to live and work in a safe environment, and most problems can be avoided with some

education. Our inspection program has been well received by the majority of our citizens. Having qualified personnel to perform these functions means committing to getting them the proper training. We would not expect an untrained rookie to man an attack line, and we should not expect untrained personnel to present effective education programs or perform inspections on complex buildings. As manpower becomes more of an issue and budgets become tighter, we must maintain and even improve our efforts in these areas rather than turn our backs on them. While fire may be the yardstick by which we are judged, public education and fair, effective code enforcement has the biggest impact over the longest time span. For far too long, the first thing to go when the budget axe falls is education and enforcement. This mentality needs to change, and it is up to the fire service to educate the public as to the importance of these functions.

Our community receives excellent EMS transport service from a local career fire department. When they are unable to respond, the next closest community provides transport services. Currently, there is certainly no need for us to expend the resources or funding to provide transport EMS service to our community. However, as our community grows, and the population in general ages, demands for service increase. We took the step several years ago to provide first response EMS services to our community. Non-transporting EMS is relatively inexpensive. It provides us with the added insurance of trained medical personnel being available in the event of a delayed response by a transporting service. In addition, we have more trained EMS providers at motor vehicle crashes and other incidents. Some departments struggle with changing roles, however, ours has wholeheartedly accepted the new responsibilities. In fact, EMS has drawn new recruits, who end up getting trained in fire suppression as well. I think

most departments in our state have accepted that, like it or not, they will need to provide some level of care. There are a few holdouts, though. Those departments that refuse to provide medical services are missing a golden opportunity to provide an important service to the community.

"Those departments that refuse to provide medical services are missing a golden opportunity..."

Many critics will say that they have few too many people, with too little time for all the training and time necessary to provide these services. That may in fact be the case in some areas. I see this excuse used many times, though, to avoid the challenges of providing effective emergency services to communities. Often, new challenges and opportunities to provide service will breathe new life into a faltering department. Rocking the boat sometimes yields unexpected benefits, and takes organizations in directions it never thought it could go.

Chief Chris Matson
Milford Fire/Rescue Department

2007 Maine Fire Fatalities

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

Though one fire fatality is too much for those who lose someone, it is statistically improbable that such incidents can be entirely eliminated. The best way to monitor progress is to measure the rate of fire deaths and more specifically how it occurs in various property types and among various at-risk populations.

2007 was a good year for three reasons. First, we had 12 deaths matching an all time low we saw back in 1995. Second, the population in Maine, albeit by a small margin, continued to increase so the rate of fire deaths diminished. Third, the percentage of senior citizens killed was

below the national average. The fire experience for Maine's seniors' has historically been more severe in contrast to what we've been seeing for nationally.

Residential occupancies, as expected lead the way in terms of property type with all one and two family dwellings accounting for all these fatalities. Maine also experienced four fatalities in vehicle fires which was unusual. In terms of cause where determined, only one fatality was the result of smoking.

Overall, between 1998 and 2007 Maine experienced a rough decrease in fatalities of 20%. However, using a linear best fit trend line which smooths out fluctuations over the 10-year span of time, the overall trend reflects a decrease of 11.9% in fatalities due to fire (see table 1).

Table 1 Maine Fire Deaths 1998 - 2007

Year	Deaths	Linear Best Fit Trend
1998	15	18
1999	21	18
2000	16	18
2001	18	18
2002	15	17
2003	22	17
2004	17	17
2005	21	17
2006	15	16
2007	12	16
-20.0%		-11.9%

Federal and State Legislation

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

According to various sources, President Bush will be submitting a 2009 budget proposal that includes language that would eliminate the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). This proposal would mark the first time since 2003 that the President has proposed zero funding for the Fire Act Grant.

If this is in the President's proposal it doesn't mean the end of the AFG program. But it does mean that the fire service is going to have to work to preserve both programs.

The President has never fully supported the program preferring instead to send funds directly to the states with an emphasis on fighting terrorism. However, this year's budget proposal is also likely to include cuts in the State Homeland Security Grant and Urban Area Security Initiative grant programs so the states are not likely to see benefits should either proposal succeed.

"Since 2001, Maine fire departments have been awarded ...AFG grants totaling \$42.7 million..."

The good news is that Congress has not backed the President in similar efforts previously. Hopefully, those who have worked Capitol Hill in recent years will prevail again.

Since 2001, Maine fire departments have been awarded 546 AFG grants totaling \$42.7 million and 1 SAFER grant for \$81 thousand.

In Maine two legislative proposals should concern Maine's fire departments. The first aims to exempt existing non-residential dwellings from any future sprinkler requirements and another seeks to prohibit the retail sale and distribution of novelty cigarette lighters in Maine.

LD 2081, *An Act to Prohibit the Retail Sale and Distribution of Novelty Lighters*, is sponsored by Representative Sykes of Harrison. Given the frequency of fires in Maine where children are directly involved in the ignition of the fire in combination with the number of multi-fatal fires nationally also involving children, the fire service should welcome and support this

bill in addition to appreciating Representative Syke's action.

Though we are in the process of fully developing our databases here at the Fire Marshal's Office to the point where we can separate incidents involving regular lighters, matches and novelty lighters, the frequency of children involved in the ignition of a fire is compelling. It only makes sense to remove something that looks like a toy but can also facilitate considerable destruction from Maine homes. It should be noted that private sector interests, including some well-known retailers, support this bill.

LD 1981, *An Act to Exempt Certain Facilities from Increased Fire Sprinkler Requirements* is a more complicated matter. The bill came about as a result of the most recent rule making session of the Fire Marshal in which existing bars with live entertainment, dance halls, discotheques, nightclubs and assembly occupancies with festival seating exceeding 100 persons will require a sprinkler system.

We are all familiar with the tragic fires at Coconut Grove, Rhythm Club, Beverly Hills Supper Club and others that have, ironically, been the impetus for regulatory changes to improve fire safety in these venues. However, here in Maine and across the nation these catastrophic events and fires in general at such locations are few compared with residential or outdoor fires.

The Fire Marshal's rationale for moving forward with this requirement was based on the fact that despite additionally stringent egress, smoke and fire alarm, and other mitigation requirements put into regulation, people still may not behave well in an emergency. What separates sprinklers from other post ignition systems is they, at minimum, diminish fire spread or put out the fire. Essentially, they make up for human error.

Given the history of fires in these occupancies, and the Fire Marshal's experience in the fire service at the local, state and national level, it would have been difficult for this office not to incorporate these latest changes into our rules on behalf of the citizens of Maine and the visiting public.

More on Smoke Alarms

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

I confess to be intrigued by the continuous flow of stories about smoke alarm successes and, unfortunately, the tragedies that could have been averted had they been in place and operable.

Over the past few months we have seen an injury in a Randolph fire where an area of a building where an alarm was not present while others escaped the same fire where an alarm was present and operable. In Turner recently a mother and her two children escaped a fire after an alarm went off warning them.

Then last week in Waterville (see photo below) we saw tragedy again when a fire injured two individuals and killed a 23 year-old female. Investigators say the battery-operated smoke detector had been removed from a hallway wall. It was found in a kitchen drawer with its battery removed. Fire Marshal Dean put it best in stating "If it had been a working smoke



Morning Sentinel staff photo



alarm, we wouldn't have two people in the hospital and another at a funeral home. One dead and two seriously injured isn't the way we want to start 2008, as I am sure the families feel as well. "For a \$2 battery we wouldn't be in this situation."

While this is taking place I learned that the city of Phoenix, Arizona, a city of 1.5 million, is holding a press conference to celebrate the fact that they have not had a fire fatality in 15 months. In 2005 and 2006 they experienced 11 and 17 fatal fires. Why the change?

Phoenix attributes their success in reducing fire fatalities to what they call the "GET IT – CHECK IT – CHANGE IT" program. The program, which received considerable support from city officials, involved the installation of 2,406 smoke alarms and 1,617 long-life batteries.

Phoenix also benefited from the ongoing discussion over the efficacy of ionization smoke alarms as opposed to photo-

electric. The National Institute of Standards and Technology concluded

that ionization alarms provide a "better response to flaming fires," while photoelectric alarms provide "considerably faster response to smoldering fires," after testing thousands of alarms for two years. As this research was being released Phoenix moved to install a combination of both.

This approach of using a combination of photo-electric and

"This approach of using a combination of photo-electric and ionization alarms in all hallways and rooms has become a standard response to questions about what type of alarms to use and where to use them."

ionization alarms in all hallways and rooms has become a standard response to questions about what type of alarms to use and where to use them. It is wise advice. Perhaps we need to examine the use and operability of smoke alarms in Maine more closely?

Nelson Collins is Maine's New Assistant Fire Marshal

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

Nelson Collins who has supervised the Fire Prevention Division of the Maine Fire Marshal's Office is the new Assistant Fire Marshal. This change reflects the importance of Nelson's work and the Fire Marshal's focus on code enforcement as a very important tool in the arsenal of fire prevention and safety approaches available to the fire service.



Nelson Collins (left) is shown here along side retired State Police Officer David Blake (photo by Steve McCausland)

Nelson is a 20-year veteran of the Fire Marshal's Office and has supervised staff inspecting schools, day care centers, hospitals, foster homes and other public facilities around Maine. As the new Assistant Fire Marshal Nelson brings with him a considerable wealth of institutional and historical knowledge about the application and efficacy of fire codes as a



fire prevention tool. A well-respected and affable individual, Nelson will continue to contribute to Maine's admirable record in fire prevention. In 2007 Nelson received DPS Manager of the Year honors. Congratulations Nelson!

Smoke-Free Housing: Avoiding Maine's #1 Cause of Home Fire Deaths

By Amy Olfene, Project Coordinator, Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine

In Maine, approximately 37% of all fire fatalities are caused by cigarettes or other smoking materials. Fires related to smoking are easily prevented, and the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine is dedicated to ensuring that no Maine citizen falls victim to smoking-related fires this year.

The Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine is a group comprised of over 50 public health advocates, tenants, landlords, property managers, legal professionals, environmental health professionals and many others with the mission to reduce the number of multi-unit residents who are involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke, as well as to reduce the number of cigarette-related house fires in multi-unit homes. According to the United States Fire Administration, one in four people killed in home fires caused by smoking materials is someone other than the smoker: 34% were the children of the smoker and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smoker.

Additionally, everyday in Maine, one non-smoker dies from exposure to

secondhand smoke (SHS). Secondhand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Class-A carcinogen to which there is no safe level of exposure. Young children are particularly susceptible to SHS because their lungs are not fully developed and exposure can cause asthma, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia. The elderly and people with respiratory illnesses are also especially vulnerable to SHS.

The Coalition advocates for voluntary policy change by landlords and property managers to make their buildings smoke-free, and keep lit smoking materials out of their buildings, preventing both fire and secondhand smoke exposure. We offer information regarding smoke-free housing, tenant and landlord resources, and a registry of smoke-free buildings in Maine in an effort to see that the 78% of tenants who want to live in smoke-free housing are given that opportunity. In recent surveys, the Coalition found that 37% of Maine's private apartments are currently smoke-free and 50% of the State's housing authorities had a smoke-free policy. While we celebrate this success, there is still much to be done. In just the past two months there have been devastating fires in multi-unit residencies: one in a private apartment in Waterville and another at the public housing authority in Westbrook where the use of medicinal oxygen was involved. These smoking-related fires forced over sixty people from their homes and left one person dead.

The Smoke-Free Housing Coalition promotes that this issue is about the smoke, not the smoker. Like most smoking-related fires, the aforementioned fires were the cause of smoking that occurred inside the home. By requiring tenants of multi-unit buildings to smoke outside, landlords significantly decrease

the level of exposure secondhand smoke and smoking-related fire hazards to all their residents. The Coalition urges fire service workers to present smoke-free policy adoption to housing professionals as way to drastically reduce the risk associated with allowing smoking in the home. To learn more, please contact the Smoke-Free Housing Coalition by calling (207) 874-8774 or by visiting www.smokefreeforme.org.

The First Few Minutes - GIS & Emergency Response

By Vicki Schmidt, Firefighter & State Fire Instructor

On a sunny winter afternoon four snowmobilers cross a frozen lake. From shore, a homeowner watched in horror as one by one they disappeared through the ice. Moments later pagers and radios called firefighters and rescue workers into action. As units responded, radio traffic requested an iceboat. Dispatchers questioned where they might find one. Too many minutes later they learned the nearest iceboat was over an hour away.

Firefighters and rescue workers, especially those involved with incident management, are well aware that the first few minutes of a call determine its outcome. A typical "room and contents fire reaches flashover within seven to ten minutes of ignition, and occupants who have not already escaped are not likely to survive. Likewise, a vehicle accident victim will begin to suffer brain damage if deprived of oxygen for more than six minutes.

The negative effect of lapsed time cannot be underestimated. As fire and EMS department services expand, the importance of geographical information systems (GIS) is becoming widely accepted. Combined with computer-aided dispatch (CAD), GIS and E911 helps first responders respond more efficiently. We have maxed out our ability to "get there" any faster, but we have only begun to arrive with ultimate resourcefulness. Even the

simplest GIS can provide the valuable package of information that tells responders what they'll need for where their going and what they'll find when they get there.

Though many towns are several years away from having mobile GIS programs for incident management, there is immediate value for GIS programs with regards to preplanning and response logistics. Pinning resources to response is a growing facet of GIS for local responders. This is especially valuable for mutual and automatic aid Departments. Several Maine fire departments have established maps that show target hazards while other have focused on water resources complete with photos of hydrants and drafting sites. Hydrant capacity, access information, and seasonal conditions are also noted. GIS is further used for identifying geographical voids in resource coverage. One Maine Fire Department even received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant award after GIS showed the lack of 4WD vehicles for off-road rescues and wild land fires for over 100 square miles of rural and urban interface land in western Maine.

An often overlooked use of GIS is combining such programs as economic development with fire hazard reduction. Vacant structures are not only an economic blight to a town; they are target hazards that hide dangers for first responders. A database of vacant structures that maps and signals risk for dispatchers and responding units, can also create a visual reference and starting point for mitigation measures that work to get the buildings "back in service" as productive revenue generators for the region.

GIS software runs the gamut from enterprise solutions to more friendly desktop programs. If your municipality offers GIS services, then building on that

program for emergency services is probably your best choice. Asking yourself what you want from a GIS is a good starting point. Obtain demo copies of attractive software and spend time reviewing their characteristics. Talk to practical users of the software instead of the sales department to secure a complete and unbiased understanding of the software before considering any purchase. And as with any successful program, enlist the thoughts of grass roots responders as well as program leaders.

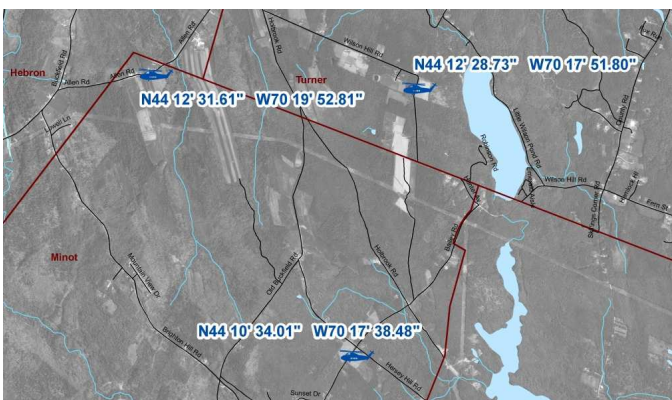
Towns that have implemented E911 can establish response information based on address data combined with geocoding services available with most GIS software packages. Online programs such as Google Earth, USAPhotomaps, and others which allow custom data integration also show promise. These programs are easily utilized, "cheap to keep" and are used in many departments to help responders with response variables and preplanning activities.

Key to establishing useful GIS services for your town's emergency departments is identifying what data is needed. Base data, such as transportation routes, bridges, contours, rivers etc., is generally available from the Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS). Maine also has several regional planning commissions, county emergency management agencies and local universities who often help coordinate GIS based fire and response resource data.

Data that cannot be gleaned from standard resources, such as blueprints, preplans, and photos, are now easily linked to any quality GIS software and quickly add valuable information for response logistics. Sophisticated and high end GIS programs can even offer three dimensional views of buildings and internal systems, and will probably become more popular and less costly as technology evolves.

Information regarding dangerous locations, such as elevators, high-voltage areas, truss construction, propane tanks, and medical oxygen, also need to be identified and either mitigated or avoided. Notice of these hazards is easily linked to E911 information and then communicated to responders at dispatch. Responders receiving this information en-route, and ideally in preplanning briefings before an incident occurs, can arrive on scene with knowledge that ensures their safety and allows efficiency for their initial actions.

One often overlooked, but vitally important piece of the GIS readiness and response challenge is staffing. Information is most usable when used in-house as well as coordinated with dispatch services. Computer savvy and an ability to comprehend spatial relationships are important qualities when considering who should be responsible for GIS activities. Emergency management GIS staff need not be first responders, but a working understanding of fire and emergency management response protocol will certainly compliment the implementation of a successful fire and EMS based GIS program.



This map showing helicopter landing zones with predetermined coordinates is one way GIS is helping with emergency response.

Vicki Schmidt is a firefighter for the Buckfield Fire Department. She is also a State Fire Instructor, an active participant with the Frandford Mutual Aid Fire Training Association and serves on the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission for the Maine State Federation of Firefighters.

Fire History



For the February 4, 1735 issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Benjamin Franklin sent an anonymous letter to his own newspaper entitled: "Protection of Towns from Fire." Writing as an "old citizen" he stated: **"In the first place, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."**
(<http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/philadelphia/fire.htm>)

Quote of the Day

"True loyalty must be freely given, it...springs from the mind that is given the facts, that retain ancient ideals."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, from FDR: The War President, 1940 - 1943, by Kenneth S. Davis

Resource Links Section Added to Fire Marshal's Web

By Richard E. Taylor, Sr. Research and Planning Analyst

Information from various national and state organization ranging from statistics, research and reports, fire prevention and safety programming and other fire related issues can be found on the Maine Fire Marshal's web page.

Go to our web and on the right contents bar, under "Featured Links" scroll down to "Resource Links" and that will bring you to this new addition to our page.

Our web page has been revamped and has sections dealing with investigations, rules/laws of the fire service, inspections, MEFIRS and research on Maine fire. You can also find past editions of this newsletter on our web.

Check it out!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maine Fire Protection Services Commission's Blaine House Conference Best Practices Award

The Best Practices Award was established by the Fire Commission in 2002 to highlight individuals, fire/rescue departments, agencies, organizations, communities and others within Maine who show initiative and creativity; develop, adopt and improve the best ideas; and encourage and support safety and health for emergency responders in Maine. The award is given periodically as "best practices" are identified, with an annual presentation at events such as Maine Fire/Rescue Services Day at the Legislature or the Fire Commissions Blaine House Conference. Awards are publicized by press release and on the Fire Commission website. To nominate someone or a emergency services group visit the Commission's Best Practices Award page at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/commission/award.html>

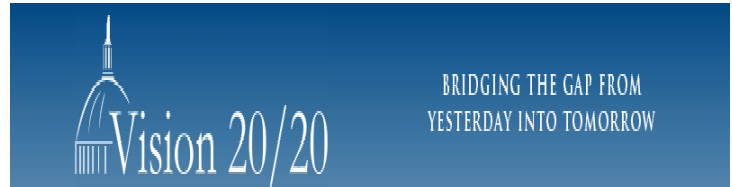
Maine Fire Protection Services Commission's Blaine House Conference Thursday & Friday, March 13th & 14th, 2008

*The 2008 Blaine House Conference promises to be one of the best. Captain Dugin from Ladder 123 Bronx, NYC will return as our keynote speaker and present throughout the Conference. His topic: **Fireground Survivability.***

*Also featured at this years Conference is Volunteer Fire Chief of the year, Chief Michael Varney from the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Inc., Ellington, Connecticut. Chief Varney will present on **Interoperability** on Friday morning.*

In addition to other speakers and workshops the Conference will host over 30 vendors! The 2008 Blaine House Conference will be held at Verillos in Portland and will include a Thursday Evening Roundtable and extended vendor display. Watch for an upcoming flyer, registration, and lodging information.

**Maine Fire Prevention and Safety Officials
Don't miss this webinar below! Click on for
more details!**



Vision 20/20: Developing a National Agenda for Fire Prevention

Presented By Jim Crawford
February 13, 2007 - 1 pm (ET) [Register Now](#)

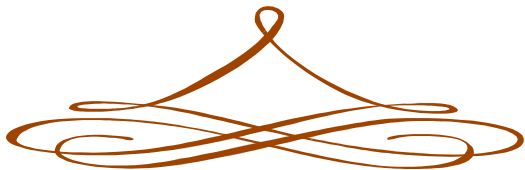
OVERVIEW: The Institute of Fire Engineers US Branch was awarded a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant by DHS to develop a comprehensive national strategy for fire prevention with the goal of focusing everyone's efforts collectively to effectively address the fire problem in the United States. A webinar, hosted by Firehouse.com, will be a key part of this effort to gather information from fire professionals. You are invited to take part in this landmark event, which will shape the future of fire prevention in the United States. [Register Now](#)

2nd Annual Western Maine Fire Attack School

**May 16th, 17th, & 18th, 2008
The Bethel Inn Resort & Conference
Center, Bethel, Maine
Open house Vendor & Fire Service
Display Area
Friday Night and ALL DAY
SATURDAY! – No Charge!**

**Janet Wilmoth, Editorial Director for FIRE
CHIEF magazine, will be our keynote
speaker on Friday, May 16th.**

email: info@frandford.org website:
<http://www.frandford.org> phone: 207-
966-2280



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Editors: Richard E. Taylor & Lori L. Gunn

To submit articles for publication contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (207) 626-3870 and ask to speak with the editors. You may also e-mail an article or comment to Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov

All articles are subject to an editorial staff review prior to inclusion. For a copy of submission requirements contact the editorial staff.

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