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## Maine Fire Marshal News, July 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  
<http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm>

July 2008

Summer 2008 Vol. 1, Issue No. 10

## 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. This edition will focus on rising fuel costs and public safety, the myths and realities of sprinkler systems, a new section called "Maine Firewatch" in addition to other information. As always, we encourage all readers to contribute an article in a future edition.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



I'd like to begin this message by recognizing an error in our April edition of the Fire Marshal's News.

In the April edition of the newsletter we discussed L.D. 2081, P.L. Chapter 510 "An Act to Prohibit the Retail Sale Distribution of Novelty Lighters" and it's significance to Maine. In doing so we recognized a number of organizations who supported this legislative effort. However, we

neglected to mention a key player: The *Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters*. The *MSFFF* appeared at both the hearings and work sessions in addition to taking extra time to talk about this issue directly with Maine's legislators. We thank them for their hard work on this issue.

I want to call your attention to a few items in this edition of the Fire Marshal's news. Of particular concern to us in the fire service is reconciling the astronomical cost of heating fuels, the efforts to seek alternative heating appliances and of course, fire safety. As you'll read in the article "*Rising Fuel Costs and Public Safety*" on page 2, history has a lot to teach us about the potential hazards correlated with hasty purchase, installation, and operation of alternative heating appliances. However, we can learn from this history and that should benefit us in reducing energy costs this season in a safe way.

Also in this addition you'll find a section focused on just a few of the fires occurring in Maine over the past couple of months. Some of these fires injured individuals and one killed someone. What makes the difference between those spectacular fires where no one is hurt and those that take lives and injure Maine citizens and the visiting public? If you look at each of the residential and commercial fires in "*Maine Firewatch*," a new section in the newsletter, you'll see a variable that verifies what we read in the research on fatal fires and injuries all the time. Can you find it?

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## **Rising Fuel Costs and Public Safety**

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

Another item we're particularly honored to mention in the newsletter is the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant we were awarded in the latest round of AFG Fire Prevention Grants. The grant will allow us to continue building the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative as well as study the awareness of this issue among key collaborators in the state.

On this same note, many of you may have seen the great news that Governor Baldacci issued an executive order establishing the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative. The order was issued on June 17<sup>th</sup> and describes the rationale, purpose, objectives, and annual reporting requirements of the collaborative. I know I speak for many when I say that this has been a long time in the making. Individuals such as Jerry DeMillo, our own Asst. Fire Marshal Joe Thomas, Gary Simard, and a host of others have dedicated countless hours to this issue. We thank them and the others for their tenacity.

Those are just a few items to look forward to in this edition. But let me close by reminding all Maine citizens and those visiting our fine state, that fire safety is fully realized when we make it part our routine activities as individuals and when we, as a fire service, integrate fire prevention and safety into our fire service culture.

Thank you, have a great and safe summer season.

Sincerely,  
John C. Dean  
Fire Marshal



Rising heating oil costs in Maine and across the Nation is putting upward pressure on the demand for wood and pellet stoves and other alternative heating appliances and fuels. It's being reported that the demand on pellet stoves and seasoned wood appear to have already exceeded supply in some areas of Maine. Besides the obvious financial concerns, this problem also raises issues for the public safety community.

In looking at the national fire experience from the latter 1970s into the 1980s, a period in which we experienced an "energy crisis," there was a surge in residential heating related fires. Heating actually surpassed cooking at one point as the number one cause of fires in residential dwellings corresponding with the increased use of alternative heating appliances such as wood stoves and space heaters. This surge in residential heating fires contrasted with that of other property types. Experts have attributed this contrast to homeowners being less cautious, and perhaps less regulated, than owners of other property types.

More telling however is the fact that heating fires, where the source of heat causing the ignition was central or water heating sources, actually

remained steady during this period of increasing heating fires. In

"... where the source of heat causing the ignition was central or water heating sources, [the frequency of heating related fires] actually remained steady during this period of increasing heating fires."

the latter 1980s into the 1990s we began to see a decrease in the number of heating related fires as the fuel prices settled to a level acceptable to consumers, and hence, diminishing demand for using alternatives. So is there a lesson here? We believe there is and it is not all gloom and doom by any means.

In looking at the history of heating fires around the time of the 70s energy crisis it is safe to say that a considerable number of these fires

could have been avoided through the proper installation, maintenance, placement, and use of alternative heating sources. In addition, this scary heating fire experience resulted in the production of safer appliances that come with better details from the manufacturer as to their installation and use. The level of public education and awareness about heating fires has risen as it has been taught on an annual basis to an entire generation of Americans. This by no means implies we shouldn't rise to a heightened level of awareness this coming winter. Let's review some of the rationale for this cautionary note.

When choosing an alternative heating appliance, begin the selection process by carefully considering your heating needs and the associated installation/placement, maintenance, and operation or usage of the device itself. Begin by **READING THE MANUFACTURER'S** specifications. Let's look at each consideration in the selection process one at a time beginning with placement. Once you've assessed your heating needs and are trying to decide which appliance will meet those needs, consider how you'll install and where you are going to put this appliance?

Wood stoves and portable electrical heaters need space. Read the specs on these appliances and heed the warnings regarding distances. Electric heaters should be a minimum three feet away from combustible items such as furniture, draperies, and other items. Wood stoves have clearly outlined specifications regarding recommended distances from walls, floors, etc. and address what you'll need to maintain a safe separation of venting pipes from combustibles. Do you have the safe usable space for both the appliance and its venting system?

Regarding installation of venting systems more specifically, you'll find that pellet and wood stove manufactures often specify "DO NOT CONNECT THIS UNIT TO A CHIMNEY FLUE SERVING ANOTHER APPLIANCE." Or when it is allowed, it must be done consistently with

NFPA 211 guidelines to ensure adequate venting space for the other appliance. In other words you might need a larger flue and that discovery should be made prior to purchasing the appliance. A lot of people are surprised to discover that most pellet stoves are designed for direct

venting as opposed to venting through an

**"It should also be noted that the concerns regarding proper venting are not simply an issue of fire safety alone but safety from carbon monoxide poisoning as well."**

existing chimney. It should be noted that the concerns regarding proper venting are not simply an issue of fire safety alone but safety from carbon monoxide poisoning as well. Under the right circumstances, venting two appliances into the same flue can result in the introduction of CO into the home.

Regarding maintenance issues, experts at the NFPA and other fire prevention organizations all agree that if venting pipes, chimneys and actual appliances were routinely inspected and cleaned as is again, recommended by the manufacturer, we could reduce the count of chimney fires as well as those created by the close proximity of venting pipes to structural elements. Find a reliable certified chimney sweep to inspect and clean your chimneys, venting and clean your appliance as recommended by the manufacturer. Have your oil company check your furnace each year as well.

Finally, even if you've done everything by the book, something can go wrong and it does as you can see from Figure 1 below. So, check your smoke alarms and install carbon monoxide detectors as an added protection. For more information see our Wood Burning Stove Guide at:

<http://mainegov-images.informe.org/dps/fmo/documents/2005Woodburningguide.pdf>

Figure 1 Heating Related Fires In Maine 2000 - 2007

Fire Type	Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Property loss
Structure Fires	335	9	13	\$3,075,165
Chimney	2,805	0	0	\$733,651

# **FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE RECEIVES DHS FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT**

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

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a Fire Prevention and Safety grant to the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office. FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The grant amount, \$152,356.00, will be used by the Fire Marshal's Office to continue the existing Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative by building a stronger more sustainable partnership with Maine's school health coordinators and public health educators, mental health care providers, and other social service providers who focus routinely on childhood issues.

More specifically, the Fire Marshal's Office will conduct an analysis of these providers to better understand their level of awareness of juvenile fire setting incidents, whether or not they integrate that awareness into screening, evaluation or programming efforts, what motivated them to integrate or not, and what method of integration is being used. With this information in hand the Fire Marshal in collaboration with the Pine Tree Burn Foundation will hold three seminars in which peers from the each of the stakeholder groups will lead a discussion on why and how they've integrated an awareness of this issue into their work, what they're doing and what problems they've encountered in addition to their successes.

Since 2000 Maine Fire Departments have reported over 1,800 incidents in which children were involved in the ignition of a fire. The Fire Marshal's Office firmly believes that absent a viable working relationship with the health education community, mental health care providers and other social service providers, efforts to reduce the frequency of these events will not be optimized.

# **QUESTIONS ABOUT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS FOR MAINE FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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

The Fire Marshal's Office is seeking to inform communities of the importance of leaving a paper trail when developing mutual aid agreements. This effort is the result of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committees concern about this issue for Maine Fire Departments.

Mutual aid agreements in a rural state like Maine are essential to adequate fire suppression efforts for many towns. It is critical that both the sending and receiving towns and their firefighters be aware of the liability issues involved in such an agreement and not be caught short should an injury or even worse, a fire fighter fatality, occur under such circumstances.

The Maine Municipal Association covers many of Maine's fire departments but not all of them. If you are among those departments not covered by MMA, are you confident your mutual aid agreement and insurance policy contains the adequate liability components and insurance coverage essential to protect you in the event of an accident? If these questions cause you to pause and think, then we'd suggest you contact our office with your questions and, or, concerns for your municipality and its firefighters.

The Fire Marshal's Office will also be forwarding a request onto the Maine Fire Chief's Association to solicit information from departments regarding their questions and concerns about liability insurance coverage and mutual aid agreements. We will also be asking the Maine Municipal Association, an organization with an obvious interest in the best interests of Maine's Municipalities, for its assistance in answering these questions.

If you're a fire chief or municipal officer please consider these questions carefully and follow through with questions. You may contact our office with those concerns by calling Richard

E. Taylor at 626-3873 or via e-mail at [Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov](mailto:Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov).

## **FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE** **SUMMER INTERNS DELIVER** **FIRE PREVENTION AND** **SAFETY MESSAGE TO MAINE'S** **CHILDREN**

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

The Fire Marshal has acquired the services of two University of Maine at Farmington students this summer to deliver fire prevention and safety education to children at Maine childcare centers and homes. The interns are participating in the Maine State Government Internship Program.

The students are using the nationally recognized "Play Safe, Be Safe" program which is a unique multimedia fire safety education program, created in cooperation with educators and fire safety experts for children three to five years of age. For children six to twelve, they're using the Fire Marshal's Hazard House model. The interns have been doing a great job integrating their knowledge and skills as students of elementary education and health into the world of fire prevention and safety.

So far, the interns have delivered the program to approximately 250 Maine children. They wrote the following articles about their travels in Maine.

### **WHAT I DID FOR MY SUMMER JOB**

By Ashley LaCroix, UMF (Elementary Education Major)

As a Fire and Life Safety Educator for the State Fire Marshal's Office this summer, I find myself explaining my job to everyone I know. Meredith, another intern, and I are traveling all over of the state of Maine to visit daycares to teach children about fire safety. We are talking about stop drop and roll, what to do during a fire, fire prevention tips (check your smoke detectors every month!), and more.

The second question I always hear "Is it worth it?" If you could ask me this question during the two hour-long car ride down to Kittery I'd probably say I don't know (just because I hate long car rides). But once I get to interact with the kids, it's a resounding yes. The thirty minutes to an hour we spend with them is definitely worth it. Our quick lesson has just made these kids much safer, and hopefully the families safer.

Our program consists of two different sections: Play Safe, Be Safe and Hazard House. Play Safe, Be Safe is for three to five year olds. The kids get to watch a quick video, practice stop drop and roll, and play a fire safety game. Hazard House looks just like a dollhouse. In it are certain hazards that will light up, make noise, or make smoke. We have the kids tell us what the hazards are and why, then going into a quick talk about what can be done to prevent that hazard. Then we move on to talk about what they can and should do for their homes. We end with the kids directing us on how to get a sleeping girl out of her house safely.

No matter which program we do, the kids love it. They commonly ask to do it again, or to keep playing. I think it is great that we can get them so involved in a fun activity that they forget we are actually teaching them something.

So far, we have seen one hundred and ninety two children. Our current total estimates that we will see six hundred and sixty four children before the summer is over. We're visiting both family daycares and childcare centers in equal amounts. We've noticed the childcare centers appear to be in urban or suburban places and most family daycares are in more rural areas, but this doesn't hold true for every one.

Meredith and I are booked pretty solid this summer, so don't be surprised if your child comes home with papers from us and wanting to teach you to stop drop and roll or have you check the smoke detectors. Go with it. Teaching them (and yourself) fire safety is quick and easy. And everyone wants a safer house.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION**

By Meredith Dufour, UMF (Community Health Education Major)

**This summer I am spending my time as one of two interns for the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office as a Fire and Life Safety Educator. It is our job, as interns, to go throughout Maine to daycare facilities and summer camps to teach the children about fire safety. We teach stop, drop and roll to 3-5 year olds and we show children ages six and up about the different types of hazards that can occur in their homes. We also make a point to teach the children about preventing fire from getting on their clothes or how to correct a hazard that they may spot at home.**

**Why make a point about prevention? Though knowing what to do if fire is to one day get on your clothes or the house catches on fire is very crucial to the health and well-being of a child, knowing how to prevent these accidents from occurring can help avert not only the potential health risks if a fire were to strike, but the economic impact that the family may face if one is seriously injured or if the home is completely destroyed.**

**According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2006 alone the United States stated that 3,245 civilians that lost their lives as the result of fire, 16,400 injuries that occurred as the result of fire, 81% of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences, and direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$11.3 billion. And the American death rate due to fire is higher than all natural disaster deaths combined. That statistic alone astonishes me. With natural disasters the only thing you can do is to prepare what you can then get out of nature's way. With a residential fire it probably could have been easily prevented to begin with.**

**Our attitude in today's society is to do nothing until something bad happens. We are in need an attitude adjustment. Prevention needs to play a bigger role because not only can it save**

**lives, it can also save us from burning a hole in our pockets.**

## **FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NFPA SEMINAR**

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

**The Fire Marshal's Office hosted another successful and well-attended program on NFPA standards/codes. The Foundation for the Advancement of Life Safety and Security, the NFPA's Jim Dolan, and Fire Marshal's Office staff conducted trainings on:**

**NFPA 80, *Standard for Fire Doors and other Opening Protectives;***

**NFPA 37, *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustible Engines and Gas Turbines;***

**NFPA 110, *Standard for Emergency Standby Power Systems;* and,**

**NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code* (a refresher)**

**Over two-hundred individuals attended the two-day program. Participants included members of the fire service community, Maine code enforcement officers, public facilities managers and some architects from all parts of Maine. Unfortunately the interest was so high that many applicants had to be turned down due to the volume of registrations the State Fire Marshal received.**

**The Fire Marshal's Office is already conceptualizing similar trainings for the near future. Future trainings will be broken up into those focused on the enforcement community, i.e. fire service and code enforcement people but also more specialized trainings designed for architects and engineers who have expressed considerable interest in these trainings. In recognizing the valuable contribution architects and engineers can make in terms of fire prevention and safety we intend to bring more specialized training for this specific audience.**

  
www.smokefreeforme.org

## MEFIRS – Maine Fire Incident Reporting System

	Current Statistics 2008 (7/17/2008)	Totals for 2007
Total Incidents Reported:	12,430	84,106
Fires:	1,187	5,601
EMS:	7,172	51,843
All others:	4,071	26,662
Fire Departments Reporting	114	200

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### MEFIRS:

In a report soon to be issued by Maine's Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative, readers will get a chance to see how important and valuable the information provided through the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System can be. The reader will also see some glaring holes in the data being provided and understand how failing to report information, particularly about children and fire, can make it difficult to understand, develop, justify and target fire prevention and safety programs aimed at children. The reporting system is important for all aspects of the fire service. With good data we build the sense of value the public has in the work we do.

Under 25 M.R.S.A § 2395 "The municipal fire chief shall submit to the State Fire Marshal an incident report for each response made, regardless of whether an actual fire occurred. The report must be submitted in a manner consistent with a national fire incident reporting system." For those of you who are not yet reporting we'd suggest you go to: [Office of Maine State Fire Marshal: Maine Fire Incident Reporting System: Home](#) to learn more about the MEFIRS system.

### Some FAQs:

#### 1. How do I print a hard copy of the report I make in NFIRS 5.0?

To print a hard copy of the report, complete the following steps:

- a. Open the Incident you wish to print
- b. Click on the Incident on the on the Menu bar
- c. Click on generate report. The Data Entry Tool saves reports to the default location of the REPORTS folder in the NFIRS Root Directory. It is often easier to find if the report is saved to the Desktop
- d. The user will be prompted Report Forms Generated Successfully. Click OK
- e. Open the Incident Report (PDF)
- f. In Acrobat Reader from the file tab on the menu bar, click on print

#### 2. Arson and Juvenile Module Use:

Under the NFIRS description the definition of Arson is to "unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

This optional Arson Module may be used whenever the Cause of Ignition is coded as Intentional or as Cause Under Investigation without any distinction made as to whether or not a crime has occurred or a determination of criminal intent. The Arson Module may also be used when the fire is coded as Cause Undetermined After Investigation.

The Arson Module may also be used to document juvenile-set fires, whether determined to be intentional, unintentional, or under investigation. This information will permit analysis of juvenile firesetting trends, including intervention strategies and recidivism. Juvenile-set fires are defined to be those fires where the person involved in the ignition is under the age of 18.

The Arson Module consists of two parts: a local investigation module that permits a fire department to document

## MEFIRS – Maine Fire Incident Reporting System FAQs - cont'd

certain details concerning the incident; and the juvenile firesetter section (Section M) that identifies key items of information that can be used by the local fire department, state and national intervention programs.

### 3. U.S. Fire Administration adds Novelty Lighter Code to NFIRS

Effective January 1, 2008, the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) began collecting information specifically about novelty and toy like lighters. This information is captured in the "Fire Module" under a new code **877** for "Equipment Involved in Ignition".

This newly adopted NFIRS code is implemented at a good time as the law banning the sale of novelty lighters in the State of Maine is now enacted. Departments that experience these types of juvenile set fires are encouraged to utilize the new code for Novelty Lighters when the circumstances dictate.

NFIRS and MEFIRS data indicate that lighters play a role nearly equal to matches in residential child-play fires, and some studies show that lighters tend to be the preferred ignition source. When children set fires in the home, the most common area of the fire origin is the bedroom, and the material ignited is often bedding or clothing.

### 4. Additional changes from NFIRS in the latest release:

**Incident Type (Basic Module) 100 – Fire Other**, will require a Fire Module.  
A "Critical" error will result if the Fire Module is not made out.

A new **Actions Taken code 87 – Investigate fire out on arrival** has been added.  
It should be used where the fire department responds but the fire is already out or been extinguished.

A new **Type of Material First Ignited code 28** has been added for Ethanol.

Finally, remember *if you want to map the fires in your service area using GIS mapping technologies*, it is important to include the full address including prefix, street name, street type, and suffix. Use a capital followed by lower case in the street and town name. This will save you time editing when you create your attribute table from the database.

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## MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

By Eric J. Ellis, Fire Protection Engineer

People are becoming more educated about fire sprinkler systems. It is now more commonly known for example that in a fire only the fire sprinklers in close proximity to the fire are the ones that will go off. Each fire sprinkler head needs heat at a certain temperature at that head before it will fuse and release water.

The most common misconception about fire sprinkler systems is that they are too expensive. This misconception, more than any other prevents people from learning the truth about them. Those educated about the pros and cons regarding economics will sometimes have fire sprinkler systems installed voluntarily.

Here are some of the reasons why:

1. There should be a 5 to 12% insurance break.

2. There are several construction concessions when there is a fire sprinkler system, which gives greater flexibility of design. One example of this is bedrooms not being required to have egress windows, which means you can have bedrooms in the basements and in loft areas.
3. The equity of the home and resale value is increased.
4. House location options increase when obtaining local building permits, including being further from a fire hydrant, further down a dead-end road, smaller turn-around areas, smaller house lots, and decreased distance allowed between buildings.
5. Costs and liability of cisterns and/or fire-ponds or adding closer fire hydrants is eliminated.
6. The average property loss from fire and water damage when there is a fire is typically less than \$2,300 with a fire sprinkler system, as opposed to over \$45,000 without one. This is from a 15 year study in Scottsdale, Arizona.
7. The chances of dying in a fire get reduced by about 50% with smoke alarms, but by about 85% with fire sprinklers in addition to the detectors. About 3,000 people die each year from fires in the USA, and most of these occur in homes.
8. Fire sprinkler systems knock out a fire before they get out of control. This means minimal disruption of the schedules of people living in the home. Work, school & vacation plans can continue without relocating to a hotel for months while the home is being rebuilt, which is what the typical scenario would be for a non-sprinklered home in a fire...when people survive the fire.



## **NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** **2008 THEME ANNOUNCED**

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

The National Fire Protection Association theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 2008 is **PREVENT HOME FIRES**. An extremely relevant theme since most fire injuries and deaths occur in one and two family dwellings in Maine and across the nation.

For more information about the program and access to materials you can receive for your campaign click on the following url:

[NFPA :: Learning :: Public education :: Fire Prevention Week](#)

**FIREFIGHTERS'  
SECOND BEST FRIEND**

**FIREFIGHTERS'  
BEST FRIEND**

**HOME FIRE  
SPRINKLERS**

**Your Best Friend when fire strikes your home.**

 **Homeland Security** Home fire sprinklers save your life, your loved ones, and your property.

 **USFA**

Ask your home builder to install fire sprinklers and protect what you value most.  
And visit the U. S. Fire Administration's Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) to learn more about home fire sprinklers.

EA-296/July 2006

# **MAINE FIREWATCH**

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

The following photos are from the scene of some fires that occurred in Maine since during June and July.



Photo courtesy of Lewiston Sun Journal

A 71 year-old women suffered smoke inhalation and second degree burns in this mobile home fire (above). According to Fire Marshal's Office investigators, she was fortunate to have survived the fire considering the extent of the fire damage. First responders thought the women actually attempted to go back into the home after it was on fire. The cause of the fire, which started around 10PM, has not been determined.



Photo Courtesy of Bangor Dailey News

The person living in this mobile home was not so fortunate and died in the blaze. The fire, which spread rapidly through the home was reported at 5:30 AM. The cause of the fire has not been determined.



Photo courtesy of Bangor Dailey News

This fast moving apartment fire (above) left seven families homeless but no one was killed or injured. The fire was reported at 8AM and several surrounding fire departments responded. The cause of the fire has not been determined.



Photo Courtesy of Bangor Dailey News

It's difficult to see the leveled structure to the left. It's a cabin believed to have been destroyed when a propane stove or heater exploded. The

Fire started about 1AM and two occupants suffered severe burns and were in critical condition at Massachusetts General Hospital.



Photo Courtesy of Bangor Dailey News

Yes, forest fires do occur in Maine. Though starting at a camp, this fire spread through 130 acres of forest requiring a multiple department response. Wind was a factor in the spreading fire the cause of which has not been determined. The fire started about noon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Fire and Life Safety Educator Course to be Offered at Southern Maine Community College*

During the fall semester Southern Maine Community College Fire Science department will offer FT-218, Fire and Life Safety Educator, a 45-hour course based on national professional qualification standards. FT-218 will be offered Thursdays, 1:30 PM - 4:15 PM from September 4th until December 18, 2008. The activity-based course provides excellent preparation for current and prospective educators in designing, marketing and delivering risk reduction programs to community members of all ages. Course assignments include engaging children at SMCC's Early Childhood Education Center in basic safety and injury prevention workshops.

The 3-credit college course addresses the job performance requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1035 *Fire and Life Safety Educator* Levels I+II. Students who successfully complete the course can earn Maine Fire Training & Education Fire & Life Safety Educator I+II state certification by completing 5 community education assignment. For more information on registering for this class and other courses in the Fire Science Department at SMCC go to: [Course Information and Schedules | Southern Maine Community College](#)

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The National Fire Sprinkler Association will be holding a seminar on sprinkler systems, codes, and standards in Freeport, August 26 – 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street, Freeport, Maine, 04032. Topics will include NFPA. Topics to be covered include:

- Commissioning and Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems
- Basic Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems
- Advance Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems
- Sprinklers for Dwellings
- CPVC Piping Installation Requirements and Procedures.



Photo(s) Courtesy of WGME & WMTW TV

**This fire (two photos above) will go down as one of the most costly fires in Maine history. The Washburn & Doughty boatbuilding facility in Boothbay was completely destroyed. The fire started around 9AM and caused an estimated \$30 million in damage and has resulted in the temporary loss of 65 jobs out of approximately 100 positions. Fortunately no one was killed or injured in the fire believed to have been caused by a spark from a cutting torch. Governor Baldacci visited the fire scene the following day.**

### **This Month in Fire History**

*July 6<sup>th</sup> marked the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Hartford Circus Holocaust” fire as it has come to be known. On this day in 1944 two-thousand people attended the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. Approximately 20 minutes into the show a flash fire occurred injuring 163 people and killing 63 others. Estimates of property loss range from \$200,000 to \$300,000. The cause of the fire was never precisely identified but possibilities include a cigarette. Fire retardant tent materials, prohibitions on smoking in addition to adequate exit openings/directions were cited as ways to avoid such an event from occurring again. All these elements are now part of fire codes in use throughout the United States.*

*Upcoming Events* cont'd from page 11

For more information and registration materials on the NFSA seminar go to:

<..\Web Items\Seminar-8-26-08to8-28-08.pdf>

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14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire & Life Safety Education  
Conference  
September 23 and 24, 2008  
Holiday Inn – Taunton, MA

Planned by the Fire & Life Safety Education  
Task Force

For more information and registration  
materials on this event go to:

<..\Web Items\08 Program.pdf>



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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](mailto: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.

Maine State Fire Marshal  
Department of Public Safety  
52 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
<http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm>

Phone:  
207-626-3870

E-Mail:  
[Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov](mailto:Richard.e.taylor@maine.gov)