NASFM: A Partner in Fire Prevention and Protection

FCIA Education and Committee Action Conference
The Adolphus Hotel - Dallas, TX
May 6, 2015
National Association of State Fire Marshals

- Founded 1989
- **Membership:**
  - Senior State Fire Officials and their key staff
  - Companies and associations that support our mission
- **Mission:**
  - Protection of life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards
  - Effective and efficient operation of individual state fire marshals’ offices
Board of Directors

- Butch Browning (LA), President
- Ed Paulk (AL), Vice President
- Julius Halas (FL), Secretary-Treasurer
- Chris Connealy (TX)
- Jim Greeson (IN)
- Gary West (TN)
- Bill Degnan (NH), Immediate Past President
NASFM’s Issues

- Building safety and model codes
- Safety layering and resilient buildings
- Arson and fire investigation
- School security
- Energy in transportation safety training
- Hazardous materials safety
- Data collection and usage
- Firefighter safety and health
- Public safety messaging campaigns
NASFM Values

- Safety is a shared responsibility
  - Consumers, producers, regulators
- Safety should be engineered-in where possible
- Reasonable levels of safety “redundancy” or “layering” are crucial
  - Provide passive and active protection
  - Address ignition sources and fuels
- Simultaneously high levels of fire safety, health and environmental quality are achievable
  - The bottom line is the safety of the public and emergency responders
NASFM’s Partners & Advisors

- Academicians
- Scientists
- Engineers
- Testing laboratories
- NFPA and ICC
- Code specialists
- Industry representatives
- Government officials
- Other fire service organizations
Who Are State Fire Marshals?

- Senior state public safety officials
- Advisors to governors, state-level agencies, legislatures
- Primary focus: Prevention
- Generally serve “at the pleasure of”
- Liaison to local fire departments
Office of State Fire Marshal

Some are independent agencies and some operate under other state agencies

- Insurance
- Public Safety/Emergency Management
- Forestry
- Commerce
- State
- Building Safety

- Licensing and Regulation
- Housing and Community Development
- State Police
- Labor and Licensing
- Justice
Range of Responsibilities

- Code adoption/enforcement
- Inspections
- Fire/arson investigation
- Data collection/analysis
- Fire-related policy and legislation
- Public education
- Training/certification

- Standards development
- Licensing
- Wildland firefighting coordination
- Hazmat incident response
- Pipeline regulation
- Plans review
- Homeland security
What’s the lesson here?

◊ No “One Size Fits All”
  • Varying responsibilities and services from state to state
  • Different state, county, and local-level requirements and laws in effect
◊ BUT – We have lots in common
  • Need for information and education
  • Common mission to protect life, property, and environment
◊ We can help each other!
Current Initiatives

- Project FAIL-SAFE
- Safety Layering Matrix
- School Security Initiative (classroom doors)
- Yellow CSST Safety Campaign
- Energy Emergencies Training
Project FAILSAFE

Evaluating Active and Passive Components in the Built Environment
Project FAIL-SAFE

Goals

- Develop, analyze and validate test data
- Investigate active & passive system interdependence
- Evaluate minimum code requirements
- Enhance building resiliency
- Improve occupant and firefighter safety
- Kick-off meeting June 9
Project FAIL-SAFE

Objectives

- Literature Search/Review
- Modeling
- Comparative Burns (side by side)
- Matrix Enhancement
Safety Layering Matrix

Data Driven Evaluation of Codes, Standards & Firefighting Tactics
Decision-Making Matrix Goals

- A decision-making tool for determining the most efficient and cost-effective combination of fire protection measures
  - Allow code officials the ability to carefully and accurately assess the fire and life safety features of a building
- Provide firefighters with the information needed to alter firefighting tactics
Safety Layering Matrix
Objectives

- Gather reliable real-life building safety and fire protection feature data
- Assess trends in both strengths and weaknesses
- Educate code officials and firefighters
- Provide scientific data about building safety features to enhance resiliency
How Can We Work Together?

- Education on maintaining fire systems
- Advocate for and participate in developing safer buildings
- Code development
- A shared belief in effective code development, good enforcement and effective maintenance of systems
- Other areas?????
Thank You!

National Association of State Fire Marshals
www.firemarshals.org

Jim Narva, Executive Director,
Jnara@narvaassociates.com
202-470-4258