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# Safety Spotlight Newsletter

## *Fire Marshal's Message:*

Greetings to each of you faithful and valiant servants of your community. As a part of this inaugural 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 is 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!

This newsletter will provide you with the latest happenings around the state in fire safety and prevention and what our office is doing to reach fire departments and residents. We'll inform you of the projects we're working on and how we're accomplishing our agencies mission and goals.

Sincerely,  
Ken Tyree, *State Fire Marshal*



## Upcoming Events

### April 7

Fire Commission Meeting

### May 4-7th

WV Public Safety Expo

## Important Announcements

As of April 1<sup>st</sup> our office will no longer accept cash as a form of payment from walk-in customers. We will be accepting checks, cashier's checks or money orders.

Electrical licenses can now be found online.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup> Consumer Fireworks are now legal in the state. Information laws, regulations, licenses and safety can be found on our website.

## Public Education Network



Our public education network has grown to 50 fire departments statewide and we thank you all for your response in designating someone to bring awareness to fire safety and education. When we say Public Education Network we mean those of you willing to help us get smoke alarms into homes.

We're looking to bring our residents back to the basics and teach them about the importance of smoke alarms, what resources we have to get them these smoke alarms and how you can help us.

We have a goal, it's to work to lower the fire death rate in the state. We're hoping our collaborative efforts can help us do just that. A proactive approach to fire education and prevention is the most effective way to prevent injury or death in a fire. We'll be making our way around the state and you'll be hearing from us very soon. This newsletter is to give you an idea of what we are doing at the Fire

Marshal's Office and what resources are available to you.

Our innovative initiative will continue to lower the number of homes that do not have smoke alarms, and increase the number of residence protected and educated in fire safety.



### Fire Prevention Resources

Free fire safety information is available and can be found on the National Fire Protection Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org/>. Another resource is the United States Fire Administration. They offer free publications and will have them sent to your department. <http://www.apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/>



### Public Education Network Partners

Shayne Brown	McClellan District Vol. FD	Richard Miller	Linside Vol. FD
Jay Parsons	Mineral Wells Vol. FD	Troy Baker	Shepardstown FD
Jonathan T. Cresong	Upper Laurel Fire and Ambulance	Danielle Grant	Seneca Rocks Vol. FD
Steven Sommers	Matoaka Vol. FD	Philip T. McKown	Servia Vol. FD
Josh Mills	Martinsburg FD	Glenn Davis	Buckhannon Fire Dept
Bryan Beverage	Romney Fire Company	Rob Savage	Hurricane Vol. FD
Patrick Clark	Pinch Vol FD	Elaine Whitaker	Lenore Vol. FD
William Weese	Man FD	Butch Mansfield	Pipestem Vol. FD
Paul Porter	Cheat Lake Vol. FD	Gladys Adams	Main Harts Creek Vol. FD
Jason Baltic	Silverton Vol. FD	Walter Williams	Ona Vol. FD
Mark Niggenmayor	Winfield District Vol. FD	Nila Bland	Brandy Wine Vol. FD
Chuck Carney	Sissonville FD	Tony Gillispie	Winfield Vol. FD
Billy McDonald	Independent Fire Company	Jeff Thaxton	Tyler Mountain Vol. FD
Tracey Cline	Hanover Vol. FD	Johnny Mann	Beckley Fire Dept.
Martin Hess	Gilmer Co. Vol. FD	Zac McGinnis	Dunbar FD
Marisa Dunbar	Union Vol. FD	Scott Himrod	Valley Grove Vol. FD
Greg Childress	Tornado Vol. FD	Billy Conyers	Panther VFD
Chad Cox	Mullens Vol. FD	Dennie Hale	Welch VFD
Andrew Dotson	Morgantown FD	Paul Hare	Iaeger VFD
Walter Knight	Lost Creek Vol. FD	Michael Guella	Roderfield VFD
Dustin Amtower	New Creek Vol. FD		
Donna Hill	Cora Vol. FD		
Jason Gregory	Oak Hill Vol. FD		
Jason Maisey	Middlebourne Vol. FD		
Windell Hunter	Verdunville Vol. FD		
Michael Shank	Charleston FD		
Tim Zutaut	Mabscott Vol. FD		
Leisha Cassell	Bartow-Frank-Durbin VFD		
Ed Geisel	Wheeling FD		
Cain Maynard	Kermit Vol. FD		
Kevin Ackerman	Parkersburg FD		



*Cain Maynard of the Kermit Volunteer Fire Department installs a smoke alarm for a resident.*

## Smoke Alarm Initiative

It's been a deadly winter in the state of West Virginia and our office is looking to save lives with smoke alarms. Our office has a limited amount of smoke alarms and getting them into the homes of the most vulnerable residents is our goal. We look forward to working with your departments to get these alarms out to residents.

An important aspect in getting alarms into homes is installing them. A smoke alarm in a drawer will not alert residents of a fire. A poll conducted in 2009 by Market Research Institute shows firefighters ranked as the most trusted profession. We can use this to our advantage and get into homes to install them. Getting a fire truck out into communities while not responding to an emergency call can create neighborhood equity. Residents will see you, approach you and address concerns.

The smoke alarms in our agency are being tracked through a database in correlation with our NFIRS program. We're looking forward to reporting back to you on how many saves we've received word of. Data is key to helping us save lives and where our focus should be.

We've begun installing smoke alarms in Mingo County. Kermit Volunteer Fire Departments has installed a total of 72 alarms.

## Meet the Staff



### Courtney Rosemond

#### Public Information Specialist II

Courtney joined the State Fire Marshal's Office in December of 2015 and comes after 5 years as a journalist in Southern West Virginia. She's a transplant from New England that will be educating in the Southern Coalfields and Eastern Panhandle. Fresh from the National Fire Academy look forward to her stopping into your fire station. She's in the process of getting her Firefighter I certification. Contact Courtney at [Courtney.a.rosemond@wv.gov](mailto:Courtney.a.rosemond@wv.gov)

# Smoke Alarms at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

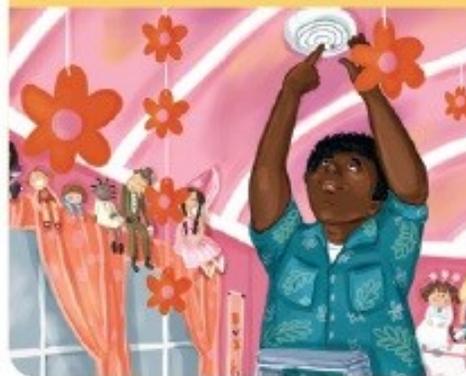
## SAFETY TIPS

- » Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- » Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- » It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- » Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- » There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- » A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- » People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- » Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



## FACTS

- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

## Community Risk Reduction

We are focusing on **Community Risk Reduction (CRR)** it's a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact.

Typically, Community Risk Reduction programs use a six-step approach towards development. The Community Risk Assessment Guide has been developed to help fire departments and other organizations to conduct a basic or more complex assessment of risks within their community. Our public education division will be meeting with departments around the state to show you how this works and how we can make it work for our state.

We encourage you to take a look at CRR and how other fire departments and agencies countrywide are implementing this process to find the risks in their community. <http://www.strategicfire.org/>



## State Fire Marshal's Comprehensive Report on a Review and Recommendations on Volunteer and Part-Volunteer Fire Service

In 2013, as a part of trying to address the issue of Worker's Compensation coverage for Volunteer and Part Paid Volunteer departments, the WV Legislature charged the State Fire Marshal to provide a comprehensive report to assess and address the needs pertaining to several areas of the fire service. This past December the report was submitted to the legislature for consideration. The Fire Marshal has provided numerous fire service organizations and members

with this report. It can be found on the fire marshal's office website under the Fire Department Services Division section.

Full report can be found:

<http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov/Divisions/Fire%20Services/Documents/33-3-33a.pdf>

