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# Safety Spotlight Newsletter

As the summer passes, I've been contemplating a couple things since this past June's flooding incidents that have devastated so many people's lives in this State. It has helped me to realize the importance of preparation and action. First, during the month of September throughout the nation, it's recognized as National Preparedness Month. With the flooding incidents that affected numerous counties, I want to encourage you to take the time to better prepare for the future as individuals, families, and communities. As West Virginians we've always come together to help one another, but the only way we can do it better in the future is through preparing now! Secondly, during the month October we recognize it as Fire Prevention Month; with the week of October 9 – 15th campaign being: "Don't Wait – Check the Date!" Emphasizing the importance of working smoke alarms and replacing them every 10 years.

I commend the many who have helped to make many people in your community and throughout the State circumstances better because of your care and concern for people. One other thing; please encourage the children in your community, grades K through 5, to participate in our agency's first annual Fire Safety Poster Contest. More information will follow soon!

Sincerely,

Ken Tyree  
State Fire Marshal



## Upcoming Events

### August 10-13th

88th Annual WV State Firemen's Association Convention

### August 18-19th

WV Fire Commission Meeting, Snowshoe Mountain

## Important Announcements

The WV State weekend at Emmitsburg, MD will be on November 5 & 6, 2016, and we will be sharing with Delaware. This is an excellent opportunity for training at the nation's premier training facility.

For more information you can contact Program Coordinator, Lanny Adkins at the WVU Fire Service Ext.

Lanny.Adkins@mail.wvu.edu

## Fire Prevention Resources

Have you downloaded the **FEMA** app?

<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

You can use the App for fire safety reminders.

- Weather alerts
- Disaster Safety Tips
- Interactive Emergency Checklist

## Public Education Network

Kids head back to school this month and we have something fun as well as educational for them to participate in. We are holding our first annual Fire Safety Poster contest.

We've asked schools to submit a drawing about fire safety, with the chance to be featured on the cover of our annual fire safety calendar. On our website you'll find the information to the contest as well as rules.

Something else we've added to our website is new and updated information. We want you to be able to utilize our website as a resource and that means making it accessible. Check back frequently as we'll include useful information for Fire Prevention Week.

We encourage departments to reach out to our agency if you haven't already done so. Our Public Education Network has grown to 84 and we hope that number continues to grow as we all work toward the same goal, educating our residents about fire and life safety and reducing death and injury.

## Junior Firefighter Camp, Continues to Grow

129 junior firefighters from 12 different states, including West Virginia attended the WVU Fire Service Extension's 2016 Junior Firefighter Camp at the WV State Fire Academy.

The Junior Firefighter Camp provides classroom and practical training to further participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities in firefighting and emergency operations for certification in NFPA 1001, Standard on Firefighter Professional Qualifications.

Goals are set up to allow campers to gain insight and interest in becoming long term members of emergency services, increase their awareness about volunteering and supporting the fire and emergency services as well as developing leadership skills.

Some instructional topics to be covered include:

Hoseline Operations  
Fireground Operations  
Portable Fire Extinguishers  
Ground and Aerial Ladders  
Leadership and Team-Building  
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus  
Personal Protective Equipment  
Vehicle Fires  
Vehicle Extrication  
Special Operations  
Fire Apparatus  
Forcible Entry  
Live Fire Training  
Urban/Rural Water Supply  
Ventilation  
Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting



◀ Back  FEMA

**Test Smoke Alarms**  off  
Frequency: Every month

**Update Emergency Kit**  off  
Frequency: Every 6 months

**Practice Fire Escape Plan**  off  
Frequency: Every 6 months

**Replace Smoke Alarm Batteries**  off  
Frequency: Every year

**Reset Reminders**

# 2016 Junior Fire Fighter Camp Statistics

Males- 113  
Females- 16  
Total Campers- 129

Junior Firefighters represented these states and territories:

- Puerto Rico
- District of Columbia
- Kentucky
- Virginia
- Colorado
- North Carolina
- Massachusetts
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- New York
- Indiana

Returning Campers:  
1st Year Campers- 101  
2nd Year Campers- 20  
3rd Year Campers- 5  
4th Year Campers- 2

Sponsored by:  
WVU Extension Service  
West Virginia University  
W.Va. State Firemen's Association  
W.Va. State Fire Chief's Association  
W.Va. State Fire Commission



## Code Corner

What is the definition of an educational occupancy according to the National Fire Codes?

Educational occupancies include all buildings or portions of buildings used for educational purposes through the twelfth grade by six or more persons for four or more hours per day or more than 12 hours per week.

Educational occupancies would include:

- Kindergarten
- Nursery schools
- Private schools
- Public schools





# Grilling Fire Safety

Knowing a few fire safety grilling tips will help everyone have a safe summer.



Only use your grill outside.

Keep it away from siding and deck rails.



Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire.

This will keep kids and pets safe.

Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.



Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.



Open your gas grill before lighting.

Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches.



Never leave any of them unattended.

**Stay fire safe this summer!**

For more information and resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



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## Wyoming Co. Chief Receives Golden Axe

Pineville Fire Chief Jack Lambert received the “Golden Axe” from his department in June for his continued service to his community after 70 years of service to the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department, 56 of those years as the Fire Chief.

Lambert began as a firefighter at just 14 years old in 1946. He is looked up to in his community as a respected leader and says he enjoys teaching a younger generation of firefighters.

Lambert is still very active with the department.



## WV Teen Becomes National Junior Firefighter of the Year

A West Virginia firefighter has received a national award. Brittany French, 19, of Hedgesville has been awarded The National Volunteer Fire Council’s Junior Firefighter of the Year. Sponsored by Tyco, this award honors a junior firefighter who has gone above and beyond in both their service and to their department.

French has been involved with the 4-H Junior Fire Company for 8 years and has attended the WVU Extension Service Junior Firefighter Camp. She is currently enrolled in the paramedic program at the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. She is also a member of the Hedgesville Volunteer Fire Department.

She is a role model to all firefighters and has already accomplished so much. French will be honored on August 19th by the West Virginia Fire Commission for a job well done.

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