

Safety Spotlight Newsletter

Fire Marshal's Message:

Autumn is upon us and it's a great time to concentrate our fire safety efforts as we enter the fall "Fire" Season. Fire Prevention Week kicks off the season; October 9-15, 2016, and this year's National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme is "Don't Wait, Check the Date. Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years".

I ask people frequently how old their smoke alarms are and almost always the answer is "I don't know". We've made giant strides in getting people to install smoke alarms and test them monthly, but most people don't realize they need to replace them every 10 years. So this year it's a great time to get the word out and ask people to inspect their smoke alarms for a manufacturer's date on the side or bottom of their alarms and replace them 10 years from that date. I bet if they take the time to check the date, they will also test their alarms and replace the batteries if needed.

According to an NFPA report, one out of five smoke alarms in U.S. homes don't work; three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without smoke alarms (38 percent) or with no working smoke alarms (21 percent).

Each of you play a vital role in fire prevention and awareness. October is an excellent month to do community outreach and examine your own fire and emergency preparedness. Ask yourself and people from your community: Do you practice a home fire escape plan? Do you know the main reasons for fires starting in the home? Do you have working life saving equipment (smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, 72 hour emergency preparedness kits, etc.) in your home? Answers to these questions and many more can be found on our Fire Safety and Resources page at: <http://www.firemarshal.wv.gov/Divisions/Fire%20Services/Pages/Fire-Safety-Resources.aspx>

Join with us to reduce the fire deaths in our state through outreach education and thank you for your outstanding community service! Together we can make West Virginia a safer place to live, work and visit!

Sincerely,
Bob Sharp,
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal



Upcoming Events

October 9th-15th
National Fire Prevention Week

October 13th and 14th
Fire Commission Meeting

October 16th
Fallen Firefighter Memorial
1pm at the WV Cultural Center

Important Announcements

Winners for our first annual Fire Safety Poster Contest will be announced on October 24th.

Thank you to the schools that participated.

We are excited to announce the winners, check back on our social media and website!



Eyes Shut, Doors Shut



Should people sleep with the door open or closed to best protect themselves in a home fire?

This is the question we tackled this summer as we watched the Charleston Fire Department burn two bedrooms with the door closed and one with the door open. The difference between the two rooms was drastic.

In an effort to reflect the latest information, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) recently modified its messaging around sleeping with a door closed.

The updated message for sleeping with the door closed states, "A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected." Previous messaging stated that if you sleep with the bedroom door closed, to install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom, and for the best protection, to make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected.

Wood County Fire School

150 firefighters participated in the 46th Annual Wood County Fire School the weekend of October 1st.

The one and two-day rescue and EMS courses took place at Parkersburg South High School where 37 fire departments were represented.

Returning classes offered were Basic Firefighting Tactics, Advanced Firefighting Tactics, NFIRS Introduction to NFIRS 5.0, Auto Extrication, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), Basic Pumps and Engine Operations.



Fire Prevention Resources

Do you need safety tip flyers in your community?

NFPA.org offers several fact sheets with safety tips on a wide variety of important topics. Fire related topics include Exit Drills in the Home, Smoke Alarm Safety as well as seasonal topics.

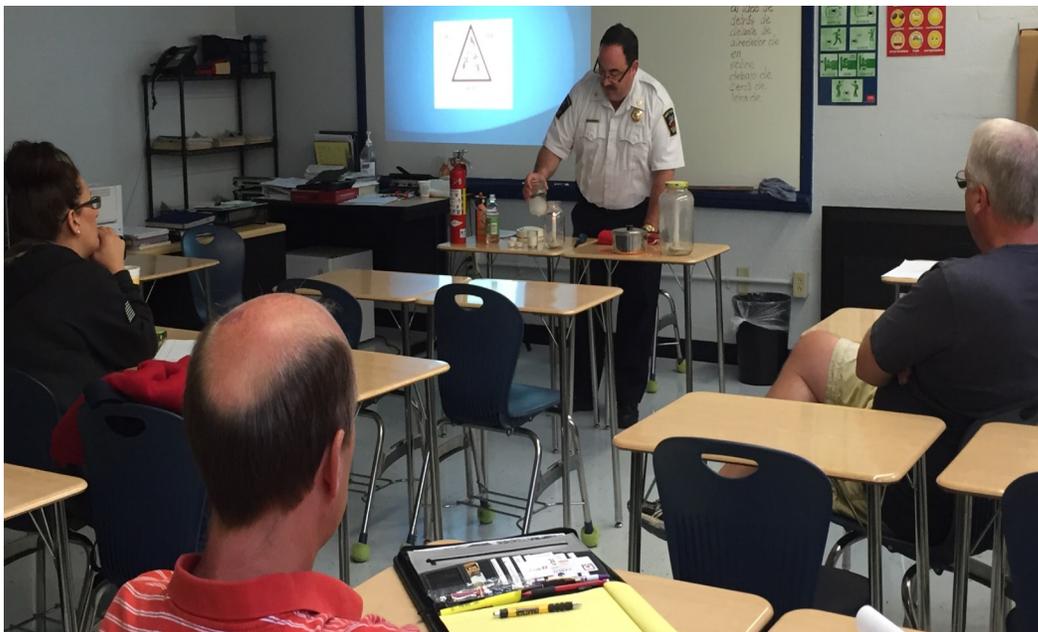
The bottom of these sheets include a place to put your fire departments name and phone number.



New classes this year included Evidence Collection, Rapid Intervention Team, Training Office, ATV Search and Rescue II as well as Fire & Life Safety Educator Course.

Instructors for our agency included Alice Morrison with the NFIRS class and Courtney Rosemond in the Fire and Life Safety Educator Course. The Fire and Life Safety Educator Course was new this year. This class is designed to train and equip students with fire prevention and life safety education based on Community Risk Reduction. Students will be able to design fire and life safety presentations targeting a specific need group within your community.

Based on identification of primary injury problems in the student's community, they will be able to write and deliver a lesson, stating a desired outcome for the target audience and be able to name appropriate prevention education programs and resources available for student's own use with high-risk groups in his or her community.



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:

- Kindergartens
- Nursery schools
- Private schools
- Public schools

Trivia

Q. Is a fire alarm system required for all educational occupancies?

A. No. An exemption is provided for classroom buildings of less than 2500 sq. ft. gross floor area with direct exiting to the outside from each classroom.

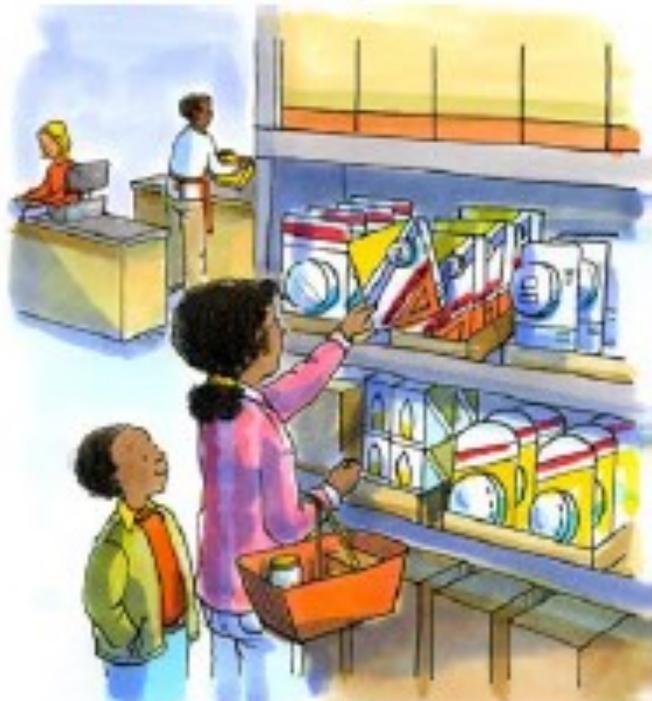


Get to Know Smoke Alarms

If there is a fire in your home,
there will be smoke.



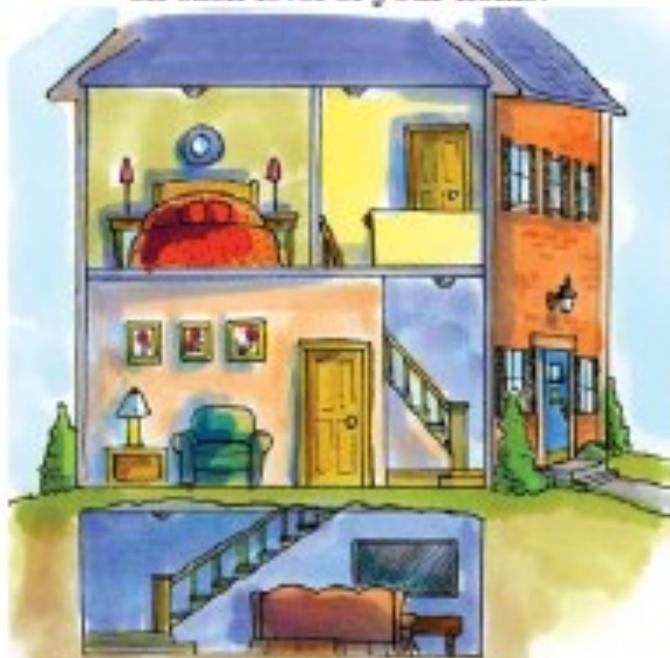
A smoke alarm will let you know
there is a fire in your home.



You need a smoke alarm in each bedroom.



You need a smoke alarm
on each level of your home.



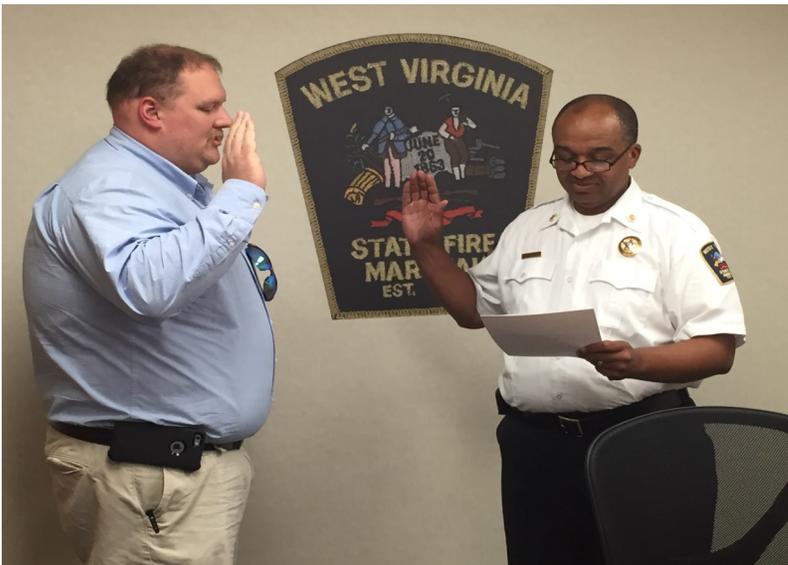
— Keeping Your Community Safe and Sound —

Last Call for Retired Firefighter Matt Jackson

Captain Jackson was a Charleston, WV Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Training Officer, and mentor to so many throughout the fire service here in the State and beyond. Captain Jackson was highly respected by his peers and everyone in and connected to the fire service throughout West Virginia. He was the consummate firefighter and instructor.

Captain Jackson held many honorary lifetime memberships to fire departments throughout the State. He was honored as a Distinguished West Virginian twice (1981 and 1985). In 1981, he was named the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, Instructor of the Year. He was appointed to Charleston Firefighter's Civil Service Commission.

The legacy that Captain Jackson leaves behind will not only inspire those he mentored, trained, and touched, but many first responders and fire service members statewide, for years to come. He surely will be greatly missed!



Our agency welcomes a new Assistant State Fire Marshal. James Lewis was recently sworn in by Marshal Ken Tyree. Lewis will be assigned to the Fire Inspections Division.



Join us in congratulating Assistant State Fire Marshal Shawn Alderman for being named the **International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Investigator of the Year for 2016.**