

An Ounce of Prevention

May 2024



Executive Message...

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter! We are looking to make a bunch of “quality of life” improvements to the association. One such improvement is online payment for dues and the dinner through Venmo and PayPal. We are very excited to begin rolling out these improvements, but as we know technology always has some bugs especially when building something from the ground up. We ask for everyone to be patient while we roll out these changes. If anyone has

any suggestions for me or the E-board please let us know and we will do our best to incorporate it. The dinner invoice is on the members area of the website and the 24/25 dues invoice is under the “become a member” section of the public website. Stay safe out there! .

Samuel T. Antoshak, IAAI-FIT
BCFPPA Treasurer
Saddle River Fire Marshal

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 12	Waldwick Fire Department	9:00 a.m.
August 14	Palisades Park Fire Department	7:30 p.m.
September 25	Annual Dinner Meeting Greycliff, 122 Moonachie Ave, Moonachie, NJ	
October 9	Ramapo College, Mahwah	9:00 a.m.
December 11	Emerson Fire Department	7:30 p.m.

All meetings will start at the time noted. The education session will be done first, followed by the business meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING EVENTS

May 8	Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council meeting, Princeton, NJ
May 9	Public Education Advisory Council meeting, Union County Fire Academy, Linden, NJ. Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.
May 15	NJ State Fire Commission meeting at the NJSFA headquarters, 1711 Rt. 34, Wall Township, NJ. Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.
May 17	Eligible Organizations meeting, Union County Fire Academy, Linden, NJ
May 19	Annual NJ&NYVFA Memorial Service, Bergen County Fire Academy, Mahwah, NJ starting at 2:00 p.m.
May 23	17th Annual Fire Bowl State Championship at Kean University
June 7	NJ&NYVFA Annual Convention, Montvale Firehouse, 35 West Grand Street, Montvale, NJ. Convention starts at 8:00 p.m.
June 12	BCFPPA meeting, Waldwick, NJ. Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 ASSOCIATION MEETING

The regular meeting of the Bergen County Fire Prevention and Protection Association was held on February 14, 2024 at 9:15 AM at the Westwood Fire House. Introduction of our Host Fire Marshal Darrin Blankenbush 54 members attended.

The Education program today was a presentation from the Bergen County Juvenile Fire Prevention Program by Lieutenant Aaron Hilliard of the Hackensack FD.

Following the education program, the business meeting was called to order by President Chris Annunziata. The minutes of the December meeting as sent were approved on a motion by Al Carroll and seconded by Tom Dirienzo. Motion carried on a voice vote

Correspondence received: Letter from the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association requesting support of their Fund Drive. Motion by Tom Tuttle to make a \$500.00 donation. Seconded by Al Silverman. This was approved by all

Treasurer: Balance on hand \$46,465.46. See attached. Motion by Hunken with a second by Silverman to approve. Carried by voice vote
Bills to be paid: Webmaster for Web site \$265.00 for 3 years Approved

NJ Division of Fire Safety report: Jose Rodriguez reported on the status of the end of the year report. All members have submitted their reports to the State. The State DFS will be visiting to collect the past due amounts. No new information on the new code

All 10-year batteries are to be listed for that use. All contractors are to submit their report to the portal.

County Fire Marshal: Congratulations to Tim Ferguson on his appointment. He has no report as of now.

County Fire Coordinator: No Report

Juvenile Fire Prevention: to date 6 Referrals. They can always use educators

Newsletter: Jerry Naylis reported the February issue has been distributed. Naylis also reported that the New Townhouse Fire Safety Act has been passed and was signed into law by the Governor. Legislation is being proposed to amend the original Fire Safety Act to require Licensing of Fire Officials and Fire Inspectors. Other amendments are also being considered. One provision will be that all inspection fees are to go to Fire Prevention not a town's general revenue funds.

The next NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting will be Held March 20 in

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD JUNE 12TH AT
WALDWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT
15 E PROSPECT ST, WALDWICK, NJ AT 9:00 A.M.
EDUCATION PORTION STARTS PROMPTLY AT 9:00 A.M.**

Mahwah at the Bergen County Fire Academy

Website: Sign up and use it.

Committee Reports:

Dinner: going to held at the Greycliff in Moonachie at \$85.00 per head. Date to be determined

Education: The presentation at the April meeting will be Medical Essential Diagnostics. This is a program similar to the Captain Buscio Cardio Pulmonary medical evaluation program. They will talk for 30 Minutes. They have offered to pay the Association for the refreshments \$500.00

Currently working on a full day class on Energy System Storage. Awaiting confirmation from the presenter

Vice President: Calendars are available and the poster contest that comes out in the Fall, we should be more aggressive. More at the meeting in April

Presidents Report: Progress, will be attending the County Presidents meeting on 2/16/2024

We need to get an accountant to make sure we are following all the proper guidelines with the IRS.

We are currently working on the dues and dinner invoices.

Our Next meeting will be on April 10th at 7:30 PM in Saddle River 93 East Allendale Avenue, Saddle River.

Old business: None New Business: None Good & Welfare: None New Members: none

Special Thanks to Serve Pro of Westwood and Janet Pomertz for the breakfast this morning.

Being no other Business, Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

Employment opportunity

Hillsdale Inspector, 10 Hour per week

NEW FIRE CODE UPDATE

TRENTON, NJ – Word has reached us that the updated New Jersey Fire Code, based on the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code will be in the April 15 edition of the New Jersey Register for adoption. Subchapters 2 and 4 will be effective immediately upon publication. Subchapter 3 will be effective 6 months following the adoption notice. The new requirements addressing mulch within 18-inches of a structure will be effective 12 months after adoption. The staggered effective dates of the various sub-codes are in line with what has been discussed for some time and should come as no surprise.

NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING REPORT

MAHWAH, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met on Wednesday March 23, 2024 at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, NJ for its regular bi-monthly. There were over 100 people in attendance making this meeting one of the most heavily attended meetings in recent history.

The meeting started with the first public comment period taking center stage. Professor Glenn Corbett of Waldwick was one of the first commenters. Corbett made a request that the commission refocus on the issue of radio communications in large buildings including high rises. He noted that following the tragedy at the World Trade Center in 2001 radio communications was identified as a critical issue. In particular he spoke about radio signal amplification that was proposed for subchapter 4 (the retrofit code). The proposal seems to be stalled and Corbett made a strong case for this proposal to be moved forward.

The next series of people who addressed the commission spoke about a proposal being worked on by a sub-committee from the Training and

Education Advisory Council that had recently been widely distributed that would establish regulations requiring physical fitness training (PT) during Firefighter 1 and 2 classes. Reportedly, this proposal grew from a lawsuit involving a firefighter who was dismissed from his fire department due to inability to perform. Without getting into the details of the case the judge hearing the case cited that there were no state standards against which to evaluate a person's ability to perform and ordered the individual who brought the suit to be reinstated.

Numerous individuals spoke in favor and against adopting the proposal as presented. Some felt the proposal was a rush to judgment without fully defining the problem and identifying the steps necessary to address the issue raised in the court decision. State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky reminded all present that any sub-committee and any advisory council can only recommend an item for consideration by the fire safety commission. The commission in turn can only make recommendations to the Commission of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs as the commission by law is an advisory body and has no authority to enact or establish regulations.

The state fire marshal also gave an extensive report on activities of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. His remarks included the following:

1. On February 5, 2024 the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposed rule revising its emergency response standard. This is the first time OSHA has revised this standard since 1980. The initial closing date for public comments was May 6, but OSHA has extended the comment period until to June 21, 2024. Director Mikutsky told all in attendance that if enacted the 321 pages proposed rule could bring challenges to all fire departments, especially volunteer fire departments. With these changes, OSHA will issue a new safety and health standard, titled Emergency Response, to replace the existing Fire Brigade Standard. The new standard would address a broader scope of emergency responders and would include programmatic elements to protect emergency responders from a variety of occupational hazards according to OSHA. It is especially important that the volunteer fire service understand how these changes would impact them. To that end, the director stated that NJ DFS has been meeting with the NJDOL to discuss how these regulation updates and their anticipated impact on the fire service. NJDFS, NJDOL and the NJDOH (Health) have established a working group NJFFS (Forest Fire Service) and NJOEMS (Emergency Management).
2. On March 5 Governor Murphy announced which New Jersey Fire Departments will receive grants totaling \$20 million to help with the purchase of gear and equipment. The funds will come from the federal American Rescue Plan and will be distributed among 353 fire departments across the state. The funds may be used for protective clothing, breathing apparatus, and other equipment.
3. The Department of Defense (DOD) SERDP (Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program) is looking at PFAS-free technologies to treat textiles to enable the textiles to be hydrophobic (water resistant) and oleophobic (oil resistant) as well as being environmentally friendly.

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4. New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be June 1 & 2. Registration for NJ Weekend can be found at www.keanfiresafety.com
5. The 2024 Fire Bowl – the 17th Annual – is on track to be the largest ever. There will be over 30 teams representing 9 cities and town statewide. The program got underway on March 7 and will culminate with the State Championship on May 23rd. This year has seen the largest number of schools participate in the Fire Bowl competition.
6. The New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference will be April 22 through 26 in Atlantic City. The NJ DFS will be presenting at this year's conference.
7. There is a Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist class set for April 17 & 18 at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. The class is currently filled and there is a waiting list of about a dozen people. The division is hopefully planning another class due to the high interest in this subject.
8. The Channel 6 & 7 Operation Save-A-Life smoke alarms programs are ongoing as in past years. Unfortunately, the NJDFS is very short on smoke alarms. The division anticipates getting a new shipment in late April or early May. The director noted that fire departments that accepted alarms and agreed to provide distribution data from January 1, 2023 forward will not be receiving additional alarms without providing distribution logs. The program is not sustainable if alarms continue to be handed out without accountability.

On the subject of Training and Education the director made the following comments:

9. On the topic of Fire fighter 1 & 2 the SME (Subject Matter Expert) group has completed Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations JPR (Job Performance Requirement) skill sheets to the current NFPA 470 Standard. The fire academies are delivering the updated material, reflecting the standard change. The need was stressed to have representation of the instructors delivering the FF 1 and FF 2 courses at the Eligible Organization meetings.
10. On the topic of Rapid Intervention Crews the SMEs will be meeting in March/April to discuss the upcoming Train The Trainers session. There will be three scheduled. The first will be held in Morris County. There will be two additional sessions in the Central and Southern regions of the state.
11. Regarding On-Line training the On-Line committee will work towards the following goals:
 - a. Standardization of the use of the Jones and Bartlett (J&B) Navigate online platform. Many academies are using it to supplement their programs. Some are using it to replace the classroom portion. Committee Chairman Wiest expressed a need for a standard use so that all programs remain the same across the state. The committee will poll the academies to develop a consensus.
 - b. There was a discussion on a clear definition of "On-Line" training. Are we talking about self-paced training? Do we mean instructor led, using a platform such as Teams or Zoom? The committee will be working on some guidance towards standardization of "On-Line" programs and delivery. There was significant discussion on this topic. Many people attending the T&E meeting express a variety of opinions in favor and against On-Line training. The committee will work towards the goal of a standard delivery of On-Line/Hybrid program delivery.
 - c. On the topic of Apparatus Driver /Operator training the director reported that the TTTs were successful and well attended. The program and delivery methods were well received. DFS recently delivered the driver portion of the

program for the Carteret Fire Department. The exam was scheduled for late February. The practical testing will be conducted later in the year. The program delivery is in two parts, namely the NFPA 1002 chapter 4 requirements and then the pump portion. Once students have completed both programs they will be eligible to apply for the Driver Operator/Pump Operator certification. The committee discussed programs being offered that are entry level driver operator programs. Unless a Tier 1 or all career FD runs the NJDFS program, other training will not be eligible for certification.

- d. Junior Firefighter / Auxiliary – The proposed regulations are still under legal review and the process continues. In the meantime, the guidance memo issued by the NJDFS allowing juniors to attend fire training at state certified fire training facilities is still in effect.
- e. Over 25,000 applications for certification have been processed by the Office of Training and Certification.
- f. DFS and Kean University held Hazardous Materials WMD Awareness and Operations TTTs in January to review NFPA 470, 2022 edition. Jennifer Troup, J&B Account Executive was the instructor. The programs were well attended.
- g. Starting January 1, 2024 on-line Hazardous Materials Incident Commander (HMIC) programs will need to provide proof of written and skills exams to be eligible for certification.
- h. Firefighter 2 equivalency exams ended on December 31, 2023. There were 53 exams administered to over 1,500 firefighters. The pass rate was very good.
- i. The spring 2024 training brochure became available on February 21, 2024. Registrations began on March 5, 2024 at www.keanfiresafety.com
- j. All certification applications have been updated. Please discard any old applications and start using the updated forms. Only minor revisions were made, the most notable being the removal of the old fax number. The current fax number is 609-292-6831.
- k. The director reminded that all certifications must be applied for using the appropriate application. A Firefighter 1 certification will only be for FF 1. It will not automatically award Hazardous Materials certification even though class completion was provided.
- l. The Office of Training and Certification is backed up with data entry. An extremely large volume of items have been received to date and the office is working to get caught up. The office has received approval to hire for the vacant Training and Certification Specialist 1 position.
- m. The Basic Fire Police credentialing program is being revised and updated with the assistance of Chief Ron Martinelli and the Fire Police SME group.
- n. The grandfathering clause for Firefighter 1 certification ended on February 5, 2018. Everyone must provide a Firefighter 1 course completion certificate to receive certification.
- o. The ARFF credentialing program will be run exclusively at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, the Newark International Liberty Airport and the Atlantic City Airport. This is due to requirement to run the course successfully. The Middlesex County Fire Academy and Port Authority of NY & NJ staff will be involved in every course delivery. All materials needed for this course, i.e. student manuals, jet fuel, ARFF crash truck, purple K extinguishers, etc. will be purchased by the organization sponsoring the program.

For details, please contact Program Manager Taylor at the NJDFS.

- p. The Code Enforcement SME group will be meeting to update the applicable training programs for the 2018 NJ IFC.
- q. The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday April 16, 2024 at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, 53 Academy Drive, Westampton, NJ starting at 10:00 a.m.
- r. The next meeting of Eligible Organizations is scheduled for May 17 at the Union County Fire Academy.
12. The Office of Fire Department Programs (OFDP) is engaged with meetings at multiple fire and intelligence/security levels with state and federal partners planning for the World Cup games in 2026. Multiple regions of the state will be impacted with the 8 scheduled games at MetLife Stadium as well as 6 scheduled games in Philadelphia.
13. The foam survey closed on February 28. The next step is for NJ DEP to go to bid for the disposal of foam. The reimbursement of disposed foam, which will be ad NJ DEP project, has an initial fund of \$250,000. Fire departments that disposed of foam will need to apply for a reimbursement grant from NJDEP. The process will have parameters set forth by NJDEP and the signed legislation. This will not be a gallon for gallon reimbursement. The total survey results are 303 fire departments reporting approximately 155,000 gallons of foam for disposal.
14. The NJDFS is a state agency member of the SAVER working group. This group's goal is to provide a standardized emergency response to active violent events in the state. NJDFS, NJSP, NJOSHP and NJDOC make up the working group. Active shooter classes are being conducted by OFDP members with the state agencies.
15. The OFDP will be presenting at the NJ Emergency Preparedness Association conference in April. Seminars on the NJ Fire Resources Deployment Act and the NJ Fire Threat Task Force will be presented. There will also be a NJDFS information booth in the vendors area.
16. Currently there are 13 ongoing fire department complaint investigations and dual investigations or referrals on going with NJDOL/PEOSH and NJDOH.
17. The NFIRS unit continues to monitor and compile statistics regarding fire incidents. There are currently only 543 fire departments out of 705 reporting data to NFIRS. Commissioner Jerry Naylis stressed the importance of fire departments to submit data to the state NFIRS program so we can continue to focus resources to address problems and issues facing the fire service.
18. There is a Kean University NFIRS Fire Incident reporting class scheduled for April 8 at the Passaic County Fire Academy in Wayne, NJ.
19. The director stated we are still awaiting the release of the new fire code which is being reviewed by the Governor's office.

In other business the Fire Safety Commission briefly discussed amendments to the existing New Jersey Fire Safety Act, first enacted in 1983. Much has changed in the 41 years since enactment and some feel the time has come to make updates to the FSA. Commissioner Jerry Naylis stated that we should have a small task group to identify the most critical needs and focus the energy of the commission on those issues.

DUCT DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS

Contributed by David T. Phelan

(Email firesubcode@gmail.com)

How many times have you or your FD agency responded to an activated fire alarm only to be told on dispatch or on arrival that the area of activation is a duct smoke detector? I'm continually amazed by how often I hear a fire department being dispatched to activated fire alarms which are originating from duct mounted smoke detectors. Once my amazement passes I usually mumble under my breath something like 'why?' or 'how are we still having this problem?'

Duct mounted smoke detectors, abbreviated as DSD's in this article, have essentially one purpose in a building's fire protection scheme; they shut down air handler equipment to prevent smoke spread through an HVAC air duct system. That's it, one simple and very straightforward task. If there is smoke present in the supply and/or return side of an air handler then the DSD will shut down the affected air handler to stop the spread of smoke throughout the areas served by that duct system. They are not intended to detect smoke in the building and sound an occupant evacuation signal.

Once the DSD responds to smoke in the duct and shuts down the air handler it may also produce a SUPERVISORY signal on the fire alarm control unit, if one is present in the building. If the building or premise is not otherwise equipped with a fire alarm control unit then all that is required is a local (on the premise) indication of the activation. This is typically accomplished using a local annunciator in a constantly occupied area.

The NFPA Fire Protection Handbook makes two important statements regarding duct mounted smoke detectors:

'Smoke detectors at these locations {ducts} are primarily intended to prevent smoke circulation throughout the entire area served by shutting down the air handling system.'

'Due to the dilution effects of air picked up from various branch return ducts, these smoke detectors cannot be expected to reliably provide 'early warning' smoke detection...such an arrangement is not a substitute for a smoke detection system for building protection.'

Still not convinced? If you still believe that duct smoke detectors are just like other spot smoke detectors protecting occupied spaces in a building and they need to be 'ALARM' signals which cause building evacuation and an emergent fire department response then consider the following from the Int. Mechanical Code Commentary:

'It is not the intent of this section (Duct Smoke Detectors) to send a signal to the fire department or to activate the alarm notification appliances within a building.'

Further, the NJ Uniform Fire Code states the following in Section 907.3.1:

'In facilities that are required to be monitored by a supervising station, duct smoke detectors shall report as a supervisory signal and not as a fire alarm. They shall not be used as a substitute for required open area detection.'

There is no gray area in those sentences and it makes the intent of the UFC very clear; Fire departments are not to be dispatched to 'fire alarm' activations which are solely duct smoke detector activations. All that Section 907.3.1 requires is a supervisory signal at a constantly attended location on the premise, and where remotely monitored, the monitoring service makes notification to a responsible owner, occupant, or facility personnel. Every false fire alarm response needlessly places emergency responders and the general public at risk of injury and when DSD's are involved these false automatic 'alarms' are prohibited acts.

There are also two exceptions to the base requirement which gives certain buildings some flexibility in compliance. In order to apply Section 907.3.1 you must select one of three scenarios based on the

existence, or not, of a fire alarm system on the premise. Between the code and two exceptions there are essentially three scenarios to choose from for compliance:

Building's With Fire Alarm Systems Monitored Off Premise – Activation of a DSD causes a supervisory signal at a constantly attended location on the premise. The signal is also transmitted to the monitoring center as a SUPERVISORY signal so notification is made to a responsible owner or premise representative. The FD is not involved.

Building's With Local Fire Alarm Systems & No Off Premise Monitoring – Under Exception #1 this condition is permitted to have a DSD activate the building's occupant notification appliances as an 'alarm' thereby bringing the attention of building occupants to the activated DSD. While this may seem contradictory to monitored fire alarm systems under this code section the difference is a fire department response is not automatic and in theory the building employees or staff are trained how to respond to an alarm activation whether a spot smoke detector or a DSD.

Building's Without ANY Fire Alarm System But Still Requires Duct Smoke Detection – Exception #2 applies in a building which does not have any code required fire alarm system but still has HVAC or air handling equipment which requires DSD's. This exception makes use of self-contained DSD alarm annunciators which get located at a location which is 'approved' by the code official. Upon activation the air handler shuts down and there is a locally annunciated horn & optional visual to signal employees or facility personnel and the FD is not involved. The photographs below depict typical self-contained local DSD audible & visual annunciators used to meet this code exception.



As for 'new' construction projects or 'new' HVAC equipment containing DSD's the Uniform Construction Code has had similar parallel language via the adoption of the International Mechanical Code going back over the last 20 years so both the UCC and UFC are essentially harmonized, meaning all new projects should already be configured as supervisory signals or with dedicated local HVAC annunciators. If you become aware of the FD responding to DSD's which are being reported as 'activated fire alarms' through a monitoring center you have a clear violation of the UFC and there is some corrective work to be done before the false alarm becomes a true tragedy. Lastly, at the point in time which the 2018 edition of the IFC-NJ is adopted there are no changes proposed which will impact any of the above information.

TESTING YOUR POWER OF OBSERVATION AND THE NEW JERSEY FIRE CODE

In the last issue of An Ounce of Prevention the new photo showed idle wood pallets being stacked and stored in the truck area of an indoor loading dock. Upon closer examination (and counting the number of pallets) we see that the pallets are stacked higher than 20 feet. We can also see that the area covered by the idle pallets is larger than 120 sq. ft. A quick look in the NJ Fire Code directs us to section 3206.3 which classifies pallets and flats that are combustible as High-Hazard commodities. Hopefully, this starts to ring alarm bells in your thought process.

Idle wood pallets present a severe fire challenge. Stacking idle wood pallets as shown in the photo introduces the best possible arrangement to promote rapid spread of the fire, heat release and complete combustion

(see NFPA 13, Section 20.14). After just a few uses a wood pallet dries out and the edges begin to fray and splinter. This makes ignition quite simple, even from a small ignition source.

Stacked pallets create formidable challenges for automatic sprinkler protection. The problem is that ceiling sprinklers are not able to adequately prewet all surfaces of the pallets. The underside of the pallets is a dry area where a fire can grow and spread, and one that water from a ceiling sprinkler system is unable to reach.

The NJ Fire Code states that the contiguous area of high-hazard storage is limited to 120 sq. ft. (see section 3204.2). Additional areas must have space separation from other high-hazard storage areas of at least 25 feet. Idle wood pallet storage can go up to 20 feet according to NFPA 13, but the sprinkler demands for such a storage arrangement require specific densities and sprinklers with K-factors of 11.2 and higher. When idle wood pallets are stored indoors to heights greater than 6 feet you need to examine the sprinkler requirements in NFPA 13.

Look to see what type of sprinklers are installed at the ceiling. Standard 1/2-inch sprinklers whether upright or pendant have a K-factor of 5.6. 17/32-inch sprinklers have a K-factor of 8.0. Control mode sprinklers have a K-factor of 11.2 or higher. Sprinkler spacing also comes into play. An inadequate water supply (remember sprinklers plus hose stream requirements) will lead to an uncontrolled fire. You would be well advised to find out what the available water supply is for the facility.

The photo from last month shows wood pallet. Some facilities use plastic pallets. If there are plastic pallets, the sprinkler demands will be even higher. You may also come across idle pallets being stored in racks. This is an absolute no no. Under no circumstance should idle pallets be allowed to be stored in racks. Burning pallets in racks will not collapse. The pallets will be held in place and continue to burn in an uncontrolled fashion.



If you are not sure, seek help from a fire protection engineer or specialist using the technical assistance requirement in Section 103.4 of the NJ Fire Code.

This month's photo asks you to identify what this is and what does it do? The answer in the next issue.



"AFTER THE FIRE" – LESSONS FROM THE SETON HALL FIRE

NEW MILFORD, NJ – On Monday May 6, 2024 Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons presented the invaluable lessons learned from the tragic Seton Hall fire to the seniors of the New Milford High School. This was third session delivered by these two classmates to high schools covered by the Interboro Mutual Aid Group this year. Previous presentations were made earlier this year in Emerson and Tenaflly. A fourth presentation is planned for Bergenfield.

The feedback following the presentations has been outstanding. The students find the discussion and lessons riveting. Alan Silverman of New Milford said the presentation was excellent. The students were very quiet and attentive during the two-hour session. This mirrored similar feedback following the Emerson and Tenaflly sessions. Pete DeVries said that in Tenaflly you could hear a pin drop.

These public fire safety education programs are being sponsored by the Interboro Mutual Aid Group that includes fire departments in the northeastern portion of Bergen County.

The program targets high school students that will in their near future move onto college. Shawn and Alvaro want to share with these high school students the important lessons from their experience during the Seton Hall fire.

What many students thought was another false alarm, turned out to be the real thing. A drunken prank that went horribly wrong claiming the lives of three college freshmen and injured fifty-eight other students plus eight firefighters. Amongst the most severely burned victims were roommate Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons.

If your fire department, fire prevention bureau or high school would like to have Shawn and Alvaro visit to make this presentation to your high school they may be contacted by calling Shawn at 862-215-6026 or by emailing shawnsimons.afterthefire@gmail.com

Registration begins May 6th online at www.keanfiresafety.com



New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and Kean University present:

Homeland Security and Fire Safety Conference June 6, 2024

Kean University
STEM Building
1075 Morris Ave
Union, NJ 07083

8 A.M. Check-in and Breakfast

Multiple Agency Speakers

Attendees will receive .5 Technical CEU

(Code Enforcement, Instructor and Investigator)

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