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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

# BRIEFING HANDBOOK



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND  
CONTROL ADMINISTRATION



Mission:

Each year 12,000 Americans die due to fire and 300,000 are injured. The total economic cost of destructive fire is estimated conservatively to be \$11 billion per year. This represents the highest per capita rate of death and property loss from fire of all the major industrialized nations in the world. Firefighting is the nation's most hazardous profession.

Congress found that "[w]hile fire prevention is and should remain a state and local responsibility, the Federal Government must help if a significant reduction in fire losses is to be achieved." Consequently, the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA) was established in October 1974, to reduce America's "unacceptably high rates of death, injury, and property loss from fire . . ." through a "coordinated program to support and reinforce the fire prevention and control activities of State and local governments."



Major Statutory Authorities:

Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, (P.L. 93-498, 88 Stat. 1535, 15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq., 278 f, g, 42 U.S.C. 290(a)), hereinafter, the Act



Historical Background:

The Fire Research and Safety Act of 1968, 15 U.S.C. 278 f, established a Fire Research Center within the National Bureau of Standards and created the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control which was to present a report two years after its organization. NFPCA Administrator, Howard Tipton, was then the Executive Director of that Commission. The Commission's report, America Burning, was presented on May 4, 1973 and contained ninety recommendations including the creation of a U.S. Fire Administration "to provide a national focus for the nation's fire problem and to promote a comprehensive program with adequate funding to reduce life and property loss from fire."

The Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics held hearings on fire prevention and control on July 25, 26, 31 and August 1 and 2, 1973. Likewise, the Senate Commerce Committee considered the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1973. The Senate passed a bill on November 2, 1973 and the House passed one on April 29, 1974. Conference Committee reports were issued and the House and Senate agreed to the second on October 9 and 10, respectively. The President signed the Act on October 29, 1974.

The Act reflects many of the recommendations of the Commission, in addition to the creation of a Federal focal point (NFPCA): the establishment of a fire data system, the encouragement of master planning, the creation of a National Fire Academy, new Federal initiatives in public fire education and the sponsoring of studies of firefighter equipment and strengths of Federal fire research programs.

For FY 1977, NFPCA has a budget of \$12,239,000 to fund the fire programs: National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control, Public Education Office, National Fire Data Center, National Fire Safety and Research Office, Fire Research Center (NBS) and the miscellaneous administrative and statutory responsibilities assigned to the office of the Administrator.



Organization:

NFPCA is headed by an Administrator, compensated at Executive Level IV, and a Deputy Administrator, at Executive Level V. The Administration is divided into four program areas, three of which (National Fire Data Center, National Fire Safety and Research Office, and Public Education Office) are under the direct supervision of Associate Administrators, and the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control, headed by the Superintendent. The programs of each of the four divisions are discussed in the next section. The Center for Fire Research is organized under the National Bureau of Standards. Its programs are closely coordinated with those of NFPCA.

Within the Office of the Administrator are the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, the Chief Counsel, the Director, Office of Administration, the Director, Office of Information Services, and their staffs. The Chief Counsel's office provides general and direct legal support to all elements of NFPCA, reviews grants and contracts, assures compliance with statutes and Government regulations (including FOIA, Privacy Act, Reports Act, and Advisory Committee Act), issues Federal Register notices, counsels on conflicts of interest questions, is implementing §15 of the Act (Public Safety Awards) and §11 of the Act (reimbursement for firefighting on Federal property). The Director, Office of Information Services and her staff issue press releases, arrange public appearances, participate in organizing the Annual Conference (§14 of the Act), respond to requests from the media and the public, and assist other offices in publication matters. The Office of Administration evaluates grants and contracts, prepares budgetary information, assures compliance with administrative and financial regulations, and oversees personnel matters.



-BIOGRAPHY-

HOWARD D. TIPTON  
Administrator  
National Fire Prevention and Control Administration

Howard D. Tipton was nominated by President Gerald R. Ford to be the first Administrator of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration on July 24, 1975. He was confirmed by the U. S. Senate on August 1 and sworn in to office by Secretary of Commerce Rogers C.B. Morton on August 26.

Mr. Tipton was born on July 1, 1936, in Los Angeles, California. He received his B. A. degree from the University of Redlands in 1958 and his M.P.A. degree from the University of Southern California in 1969. He received a CORO Foundation Public Affairs Fellowship in 1959.

Prior to his appointment as Administrator, Mr. Tipton served as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the County of San Diego, California, and for the U. S. Department of Transportation. He was Executive Director of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control from 1971 to 1973. From 1969 to 1971 he was Vice President and General Manager of Lampman and Associates of Pomona, California, and from 1962 to 1969 he was City Manager of Glendora, California.

He is married to the former Nancy Wilson. They have one son and two daughters.

-BIOGRAPHY-

DAVID A. LUCHT  
Deputy Administrator  
National Fire Prevention and Control Administration

FORMAL EDUCATION:

Mr. Lucht attended the Illinois Institute of Technology, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Following graduation, Mr. Lucht was employed by the Ohio Inspection Bureau where he gained experience in fire risk analysis and evaluation of public and private fire protection systems.

In 1968 he joined The Ohio State University, serving as Research Associate in the Building Research Laboratory. Here he gained extensive experience in building code development and full-scale fire testing of building construction systems and materials. While associated with OSU, Mr. Lucht also lectured in the University Curriculum, instructed fire science courses at Columbus Technical Institute, and taught in the Fire Service Program of the State Department of Education.

From 1972 to 1975, Mr. Lucht was employed at the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal. Here he served in several capacities, including Chief of the Inspection Bureau, First Assistant Fire Marshal, Chief Deputy Fire Marshal and in the position of the Ohio State Fire Marshal.

On June 27, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford appointed Mr. Lucht to the post of Deputy Administrator of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, following confirmation by the United States Senate.

Mr. Lucht is a registered professional engineer in the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. In 1971 he received the United States Jaycees Distinguished Service Award and Columbus Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Men Award.

Mr. Lucht was born on February 18, 1943, in Warren, Ohio. He and his wife, Flora, have three sons and they reside in Rockville, Maryland.

September 1976



Major Programs:

The National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control (the Academy) was established in response to the requirements of section 7 of the Act. The functional divisions of the Academy include:

1. Academy Operations, Planning and Evaluation which is responsible for the overall management of the Academy and which is responsible for the planning and evaluation of the Academy's programs.
2. Education and Training which is responsible for the development and delivery of fire education and training programs for use by the Academy and by State and local organizations.
3. Education and Training Assistance which is concerned with the financial and technical support of State and local fire protection education and training organizations and institutions, and financial support of students enrolled in education and professional programs.

Working through these functional areas, the Academy will:

- a. develop education and training programs for use at Federal, State, and local levels.
- b. conduct courses of education and training,
- c. conduct short courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences, and
- d. give technical and financial assistance to education and training at the State and local levels.

Initial subject areas to be covered by the Academy programs include:

- a. fire prevention,
- b. fire and arson investigation,
- c. fire service administration and management,
- d. instructor training,
- e. master planning,

- f. fire safety practices for architects, interior designers, urban planners, and code enforcement officials,
- g. marine firefighting, and
- h. aircraft crash firefighting.

Section 6 of the Act authorizes the Administrator to "take all steps necessary to educate the public and to overcome public indifference as to fire and fire prevention." The Public Education Office has been charged by the Administrator with the primary responsibility for administering the programs under this authority.

Within the Public Education Office, there is a Public Fire Education Resource Exchange System which gathers and disseminates concepts and techniques in fire education through education conferences and through the promotion of State or local education efforts.

The Public Fire Education Research and Development program of the Public Education Office executes the statutory authority of the Administrator to "sponsor and encourage research, testing, and experimentation to determine the most effective means of such public education" and addresses its projects to special groups, to specific techniques, to particular fire hazards, and to the fire services.

Section 9 of the Act requires the Administrator to operate a National Fire Data Center for the "selection, analysis, publication, and dissemination of information related to the prevention, occurrence, control, and results of fires of all types." Its goal is to provide an accurate nationwide analysis of the fire problem, to identify major problem areas, to assist in setting priorities, to determine solutions to fire protection problems, and to monitor the progress of programs to reduce fire losses so that users can initiate, support, or redefine their efforts as appropriate.

The Data Center is organized into five divisions: Operations and Planning, Data System, Analysis and Evaluation, Computer Systems Support, and Reference Service.

The specific functions of the National Fire Data Center (Data Center) include:

1. the collection of fire incident and related data from the fire services and other organizations,



2. the analysis of data to identify fire protection problems and corresponding solutions, and
3. the dissemination of fire prevention and control information to the fire services, State and local governments, and other interested persons.

The goal of the National Fire Safety and Research Office (NFSRO) is to provide the planning, research, and technology to significantly decrease fire-caused deaths, injuries, and economic losses, and to improve the cost effectiveness of fire protection.

The NFSRO is responsible for implementing the following sections of the Act:

- Section 8 - Technology Development Program,
- Section 10 - Master Plans,
- Section 12 - Review of Codes,
- Section 13 - Fire Safety Effectiveness Statements, and
- Section 21(e) - Interagency Coordination.

In addition, Section 18 provides that the Administrator is responsible for coordinating programs conducted by the National Bureau of Standards Fire Research Center with those of NFPCA. The NFSRO is organized into six functional elements: (a) Program Planning and Control, (b) Research Policy and Applications, (c) Regulatory Impact, (d) Technology Development, (e) Planning and Management Research, and (f) Interagency Coordination.



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Resources  
(\$ amounts in thousands)

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY 1976</u>		<u>FY 1977</u>		<u>FY 1978 Request</u>	
	<u>Full-time Permanent End-of-Year Employment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Full-time Permanent End-of-Year Employment</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Full-time Permanent End-of-Year Employment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Education and training:						
National academy for fire prevention and control.....	15	\$1,154	29	\$2,359	48	\$4,255
Public education.....	3	174	9	735	12	974
Subtotal.....	18	1,328	38	3,094	60	5,229
National fire data center.....	16	1,110	22	1,621	24	2,234
Research and development:						
Fire technology and management research.	10	3,237	13	2,371	14	2,170
Fire research center.....	...	3,195	...	4,545	...	4,948
Subtotal.....	10	6,432	13	6,916	14	7,118
General administration.....	15	606	19	608	28	924
 Total, operations, research and administration.....	 59	 9,476	 92	 12,239	 126	 15,505
 <u>Facilities (FY 1977 Supplemental).....</u>	 ...	 ...	 ...	 5,000	 ...	 ...
 Total, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration.....	 59	 9,476	 92	 17,239	 126	 15,505



FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- o Develop Academy training programs
- o Develop the Public Education Assistance Program (PEAP)
- o Develop the Fire Data Center
- o Claims program by which reimbursement is authorized for the costs to local fire services for firefighting on Federal property
- o Obtain supplemental appropriation for purchase and renovation of the Majorie Webster site
- o Awards for Public Safety Officers
- o Master Planning Report
- o Implement and administer an education and training assistance program
- o Model state fire organization

Title: Develop Academy Training and Education Programs

Background:

Section 7 of the Act authorizes the development of Academy training courses for the purpose of advancing the professional development of fire service personnel and others engaged in fire prevention and control activities. The subject areas of the courses will include the techniques of fire prevention; fire and arson investigation; fire inspection; fire administration and management; fire instructors; fire safety practices for architects, builders, interior designers, and urban planners; fire protection master planning; fire prevention and control aboard waterborne vessels; aircraft fire and crash rescue; and fire officer courses.

Issue:

In fiscal year 1977, the development and initial delivery of the following courses will take place: labor/management relations, overview of master planning, systems requirements, Arson I (delivery will not occur until fiscal year 1978), data and coding format, fire safety design for architects, implementation of master planning (course delivery in fiscal year 1978), instructor one, and management of fire prevention programs (course delivery in fiscal year 1978).

Analysis of Issue:

In order for the Academy to establish itself as a first-rate institution, it is absolutely necessary that the initial bloc of courses be of especially high quality. Fiscal year 1977 is a crucial year for the long-term success of the Academy program.

Schedule:

Implementation of course delivery will occur throughout fiscal year 1977.



Title:     Develop the Public Education Assistance Program  
          (PEAP)

Background:

Public education programs have been developed for targeted groups and communities and have proven to be successful in reducing fire losses significantly. No efficient or effective way exists, however, to disseminate these programs to other communities within the state of origin or between states. The Public Education Assistance Program (PEAP) will assist states in establishing a public education resource center for the collection and distribution of such programs and materials.

Issue:

In fiscal year 1977, the PEAP program will be pilot tested in four states and a model for use by all states and the NFPCA will be developed. Additional resources are being requested in fiscal year 1978 to expand the system into additional states.

Analysis of Issue:

This program will be the key element in the delivery of public education programs to local communities, and its development will guide the NFPCA's role in this area.

Schedule:

Four pilot states are being selected. The guidelines and criteria for the PEAP program will be published in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1977. The fiscal year 1978 budget to OMB includes increased funds for expansion of the system to additional states.



Title: Develop the Fire Data Center

Background:

Section 9 of the Act establishes a National Fire Data Center to collect and analyze various kinds of fire data. A National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) has been set up to assist states collecting and analyzing standard fire data and reporting it to the NFPCA. Also, a study has been conducted to determine the need and design of a technical information center within the Data Center.

Issue:

Insufficient dedication of resources at the local level to sustain the NFIRS system could influence the making of sound national estimates.

Analysis of Issue:

It is impractical to fund individual communities with Federal monies to sustain the NFIRS system. The solution to this problem lies in the dissemination to the fire services of useful reports analyzing local fire statistics that would provide the incentive to dedicate the resources necessary to continue participation.

Schedule:

Work is proceeding on the development of statistical reports. The 1979 budget will include a request to fund the technical information center.

Title: Claims Program to Provide Reimbursement for  
the Costs of Firefighting on Federal Property

Background:

Section 11 of the Act authorizes reimbursement for the direct costs and losses incurred by local fire services in firefighting on property which is under the jurisdiction of the United States. The legislative history indicates that Section 11 was made a part of the Act because the Comptroller General had ruled, consistent with a long line of decisions, that fire services which had participated in the particularly costly firefighting effort at the Federal Military Personnel Records Center could not be reimbursed by the Federal Government, without a private relief bill. 53 Comp. Gen. 410 (1973). The general principle was that where a local fire service must, by law or contract, provide fire protection to a given area free of charge, it must do so to Federal facilities within that area. In such a case, there was, prior to Section 11, no authority for a Federal agency to contract for, or reimburse costs of, the local fire organization's service.

Issue:

Because Section 11 is not self-explanatory, and because there are difficult substantive and procedural issues involved, it is necessary to promulgate implementing regulations prior to the processing of claims.

Analysis of Issue:

The issues presented by Section 11 include: what is the intended meaning of "property which is under the jurisdiction of the United States"; what are "direct costs and losses"; what is meant by "payments"; and what is the effect of Section 11 on existing mutual aid agreements between Federal agencies and local fire services. The resolution of those issues is reflected in the document which is to be published as a notice of proposed rule-making and which includes the implementing regulations.

Schedule:

Formal and informal opinions have been received from the Departments of Justice and the Treasury and from officials in the Forest Service and in the Bureau of Land Management in the Interior Department. It is expected that the notice of proposed rulemaking will be published in the Federal

Register by the beginning of calendar year 1977, with a 60 day comment period. During that time, we plan to solicit the views of concerned Federal agencies and we plan to hold informational meetings with fire services and local officials so as to more directly receive their comments and answer their questions. It is expected that the final regulations will be promulgated and claims will be processed within the second quarter of 1977.

Title: Supplemental Appropriation for Acquisition and Renovation of the Former Marjorie Webster College to Serve as the Academy Campus and as NFPCA Offices

Background:

Section 7 of the Act directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish, at the earliest practicable date, a National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control. The purpose of the Academy is to "advance the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control activities." The Act authorized \$9 million for the construction of a facility which Congress intended to be a "small but excellent campus with a first-class staff and facilities." The legislative history indicates that Congress assigned the Academy "the highest priority" if America's fire losses are to be reduced.

A 3-member Site Selection Board instituted pursuant to Section 7(g) of the Act reviewed over 200 proposals for the Academy location and recommended the site of the former Marjorie Webster College in Northwest Washington, D.C. to serve as the Academy site and as the offices of NFPCA. The Secretary of Commerce formally selected the recommended site on August 26, 1976. A Contract of Sale, conditional on appropriations, was signed on September 13, 1976, and the National Capital Planning Commission approved our Master Plan for the use of the site, on November 11, 1976.

Issue:

The \$9 million authorization for construction of the Academy is read to include acquisition and renovation costs. Appropriations, however, have not been made. A request for \$5 million supplemental appropriation in 1977 has been approved by the Department of Commerce and submitted to OMB. The supplemental includes \$2.6 million for acquisition and \$2.4 million for planning, designing and construction (largely renovation).

Analysis of Issue:

The Marjorie Webster College site is extremely cost effective (by an estimated \$3 million + in present value) and offers the critical advantage of a facility wherein the Academy and NFPCA may be housed together in Washington, D.C.

Schedule:

Assuming approval by OMB, the supplemental budget request will go forward to the Congress in January with the 1978 budget. Final Congressional action is expected by May 1977. As soon after that time as is practicable, closing with the sellers will take place.

Appendix:

Although not attached, the Site Selection Board's Report, a full Environmental Assessment, and the supplemental budget justification are available from NFPCA.

Title: Awards for Public Safety Officers

Background:

Section 15 of the Act created the President's Award for Outstanding Public Safety Service (to be given by the President) and the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Public Safety Service (to be given by the Secretary of Commerce to firefighters, by the Secretary of Defense to civil defense personnel, and by the Attorney General to law enforcement officers). A working group from the three Departments drafted regulations which were published under the authority of the three Departments as a notice of proposed rulemaking on July 26, 1976. The 90-day comment period ended on October 26, 1976, and all comments received have been reviewed.

Issue:

Final regulations must be promulgated, the Joint Public Safety Awards Board (to administer the President's Award program) must be established, and three members from each Department and an Executive Secretary (a Department of Commerce employee) must be designated. Citations and medals must be designed and produced.

Analysis of Issue:

The promulgation of regulations and the establishment of the Joint Board require coordination among the three Executive Departments. While these tasks are progressing, coordination must commence on the design and procurement of the medal and each Department must achieve compliance with the Privacy Act.

Schedule:

Secretarial level concurrence in the promulgation of the regulations, in the establishment of the Joint Board, in the constituting of the Board's membership, and the design and procurement of the Awards is desired by the end of the first quarter 1977. Simultaneously, Privacy Act systems should be established. It is not unreasonable to predict that these goals can be accomplished, and invitations for the nominations disseminated, by no later than the end of the second quarter 1977.

Appendix:

Attached is a copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking.



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Fire Prevention and Control Administration

[ 15 CFR Part 1800 ]

## PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS TO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

## Proposed Implementation Provisions

This is a notice of proposed rulemaking which is issued jointly by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General. The proposed regulations implement an awards program for public safety officers as established by section 15 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-498, 88 Stat. 1535, 15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq., 278 (f), (g), 42 U.S.C. 290(a)). 15 CFR Part 1800 would be added for this purpose.

The Act creates two awards: The President's Award For Outstanding Public Safety Service; and the Secretary's Award For Distinguished Public Safety Service. Nominations for either of these awards are restricted to persons serving a public agency, with or without compensation, as firefighters; law enforcement officers, including corrections or court officers; or civil defense officers.

These proposed regulations are the result of consultations among representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Justice. The regulations, as presented here, are approved for this publication by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General, and are promulgated under their authority by the Administrator, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration.

Inquiries and comments on these proposed regulations should be in writing, should indicate the subject addressed, and should be submitted, on or before October 26, 1976 to:

Administrator, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 19518, Washington, D.C. 20036

All comments received on or before October 26, 1976 shall be considered and shall be available for public inspection at:

Room 302, 2400 M Street, NW., Washington, D.C.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations by establishing a new Chapter XVIII—National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, Department of Commerce, containing new Part 1800, as follows:

## PART 1800—PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS TO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

Sec.	
1800.1	Background and purpose.
1800.2	Definitions.
1800.3	Nomination process.
1800.4	Nomination and selection criteria.
1800.5	Joint Public Safety Awards Board.
1800.6	Design and procurement of awards.

Sec.	
1800.7	Selection process.
1800.8	Presentation of awards.
1800.9	Funding.

**AUTHORITY:** Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, sec. 15 (Pub. L. 93-498, 88 Stat. 1535, 15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq., 278(f), (g), 42 U.S.C. 290(a)).

## § 1800.1 Background and purpose.

The regulations in this part are issued under the authority of Pub. L. 93-498, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. The Act establishes two classes of honorary awards for public safety officers and directs the issuance of the necessary joint regulations by the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General. The Secretary of Commerce has delegated authority, pursuant to DOO 25-6A, for the issuance of the required regulations to the Administrator, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. The Administrator has obtained the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to issue these regulations to implement the statutory provisions on behalf of the three agencies concerned.

## § 1800.2 Definitions.

(a) "Public safety officer" means a person serving a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter, a civil defense officer (or member of a recognized civil defense preparedness organization), or a law enforcement officer, including a corrections or court officer.

(b) "President's Award" means the President's Award for Outstanding Public Safety Service, presented by the President of the United States to a public safety officer for extraordinary valor in the line of duty or for outstanding contributions to public safety.

(c) "Secretary's Award" means the Secretary's Award (or the Attorney General's Award) for Distinguished Public Safety Service, presented to public safety officers for distinguished service in the field of public safety.

(d) "Nominating Official" means the head of a Federal government department or agency, the governor of a state or territory, or the chief executive or executives of any general governmental unit within any state or territory.

(e) "Joint Board" means the Joint Public Safety Awards Board established by the Departments of Commerce, Defense and Justice, to carry out the purposes of Pub. L. 93-498 and this part.

## § 1800.3 Nomination process.

(a) The Nominating Officials shall submit their nominations for the Secretary's Award to the appropriate Department depending upon the category of the nominee involved, as follows:

(1) A firefighter: U.S. Department of Commerce, Attention: Administrator, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, P.O. Box 19518, Washington, D.C. 20036.

(2) A civil defense officer (or member of a recognized civil defense prepared-

ness organization): Director, Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C., 20231.

(3) A law enforcement, corrections or court officer: Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Office of Management and Finance, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., 20530.

(b) The Nominating Officials shall submit their nominations for the President's Award to the Executive Secretary, Joint Public Safety Awards Board, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, P.O. Box 19518, Washington, D.C., 20036.

(c) All nominations shall be submitted in writing in accordance with the requirements prescribed in this section and § 1800.4 at the earliest practicable date after the performance of the act or acts for which the nomination is made. Nominations for each year shall be made before November 15; any received thereafter will be considered as having been made for the following year.

(d) Nominations for the President's Award or the Secretary's Award should include the name of the candidate, his/her position title, the public agency served, the locale where the candidate performs his/her duties, the name of the nominating official, a summary describing the outstanding contribution, distinguished service or extraordinary valor, and the relevant dates relating thereto. The description should be sufficiently concise and specific to justify the request for recognition of the safety officer through the presentation of either of the awards. Copies of any published factual accounts of the nominee's accomplishments should also be attached when available.

(e) An annual invitation shall be issued by the Joint Board for nominations for the President's Award and, on behalf of the respective Departments, for the Secretary's Award. Such invitation shall be issued by letter or by notice in appropriate publications of interest to the public safety community. However, nominating officials need not wait for such invitation but may nominate at the most appropriate time in accordance with the other provisions of this Part.

## § 1800.4 Nomination and selection criteria.

(a) Nominations for the President's or Secretary's Award shall be made on the basis of, and in conformity with, the following uniform criteria:

(1) President's Award—Documentation accompanying the nomination for the President's Award must indicate not only that the nominee unquestionably meets the standards established for the Secretary's Award (see paragraph (a) (2), of this section), but also deserves greater public recognition than that afforded by the Secretary's Award because he/she has demonstrated unique qualities of courage, imagination or ability.

which have resulted in outstanding contributions to the public safety.

(2) **Secretary's Award**—The documentation that accompanies the nomination for the Secretary's Award must clearly show that the public safety officer's qualifying service or act is marked by courage, imagination or ability or has resulted in a significant contribution to the public safety accomplished through an originality of effort which far exceeds the expected quality of performance of the normal duties assigned to the nominee.

(b) Nominations shall specify whether the nominee is being submitted for the President's Award or the Secretary's Award.

**§ 1800.5 Joint Public Safety Awards Board.**

(a) A Joint Public Safety Awards Board (Joint Board) is hereby established to fulfill the responsibilities of the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General by administering the process of nomination for the President's Award and by coordinating the selection process with the Executive Office of the President. The Joint Board shall consist of nine members who are of appropriate rank (at or equivalent to grades GS-14 or above). Three members shall represent each of the three executive agencies. The members of the Joint Board shall select one of their number to act as the chairperson.

(b) Members of the Joint Board shall serve in addition to their regular duties and without additional compensation. The members of the Joint Board shall establish the procedure by which the selections for the President's Award shall be made to assure the timely presentation of public safety awards.

(c) The Joint Board shall obtain the services of a Department of Commerce employee to act as the Executive Secretary of the Joint Board. The Executive Secretary shall perform such functions as are appropriate to the Board's responsibilities, including the receipt of all

nominations, and the communication of nomination information, for the purpose of receiving comments thereon, from members of the public safety community pursuant to § 1800.5(e).

(d) The Joint Board shall review the nominations for the President's Award and shall recommend to the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General by February 1 of each year, those nominees determined by them to merit the President's Award, together with the reasons therefor. The Secretaries of Commerce and Defense and the Attorney General shall then recommend to the President those nominees determined by them to merit the President's Award, together with the reasons therefor.

(e) The Joint Board may request that persons representing a cross-section of the National public safety community comment upon nominations made to the Board for the President's Award. For this purpose, the communication of nomination information shall be effected by mail.

**§ 1800.6 Design and procurement of awards.**

(a) The Joint Board shall consult with the Department of the Treasury and the Executive Office of the President in regard to the design and procurement of the appropriate citations and medal for the President's Award in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(b) Insofar as practicable, the designs of the three Departments shall be coordinated so as to avoid distinctly different recognition of the various public safety officers.

**§ 1800.7 Selection process.**

(a) **President's Award**—Nominations for the President's Award shall be processed and evaluated as set forth in § 1800.5. Recipients of the President's Award shall be selected by the President.

(b) **Secretary's Award**—Upon receipt of a nomination for the Secretary's Award, the Head of the Department shall cause an evaluation and selection

of the nominees in accordance with the criteria prescribed in § 1800.4(a).

(c) Individuals nominated for the President's Award who are considered not to meet the criteria for that Award by the Joint Board or who are not recommended to or selected by the President shall be automatically considered by the Head of the Department concerned for presentation of the Secretary's Award.

**§ 1800.8 Presentation of awards.**

(a) **Presentation of the President's Award** shall be made at such time, place and circumstance as the Executive Office of the President directs. There shall not be more than twelve (12) President's Awards given out during any calendar year.

(b) **Presentation of the Secretary's Award** shall be made by the Head of the Department concerned or his designee at such time, place and circumstance as the Head of the Department determines.

**§ 1800.9 Funding.**

(a) **President's Award**—The costs involved in designing and striking the cast for the medal to be presented in conjunction with the President's Award shall be prorated among the three Departments concerned. The cost of producing the medal and printing the certificate for a recipient shall be borne by the Department of Commerce if the recipient is a firefighter, by the Department of Defense if the recipient is a civil defense officer, or by the Department of Justice if the recipient is a law enforcement officer.

(b) **Secretary's Award**—All expenses in connection with the Secretary's Award shall be borne by the appropriate Department.

Dated: July 20, 1976.

HOWARD D. TIPTON,  
Administrator, National Fire  
Prevention and Control Administration.

[FR Doc. 76-21657 Filed 7-23-76; 8:45 am]

Title: Master Planning Report

Background:

Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Administrator to "encourage and assist" states and political subdivisions in master planning which is systematic planning and cost benefit analysis approach to fire problems. Section 10(b) requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit a report to Congress on master planning which is to include model plans and a recommendation as to whether Federal financial assistance should be authorized for master planning in all states. NFPCA has awarded grants for the creation and testing of models and manuals for community, rural and state master planning. The community and rural planning manuals that have been produced are now being utilized and evaluated by selected jurisdictions across the country.

Issue:

Whether the Federal government, through NFPCA, should establish a large-scale program of assistance to state and local governments for master planning is the critical issue to be addressed in the 1978 report to Congress.

Analysis of Issue:

Program results, thus far, indicate that the community and rural projects have produced a widely applicable manual and methodology; the state project has been less successful. The issue of Federal assistance is related to the evolution of a model state agency (issue no. 10), the assistance program as authorized under the Academy (issue no. 9), and under the Public Education Office (issue no. 2), and data collection and dissemination as authorized under the Data Center (issues no. 3).

Schedule:

The report must be submitted by the Secretary of Commerce to the Congress by October 28, 1978. Prior to that, models should be evolved and tested, and a firm set of recommendations on the assistance issue should be put forward.



Title: Implement and Administer an Education and Training Assistance Program

Background:

The Congress authorized an education and training assistance program in the Act. The NFPCA Administrator is authorized to "provide stipends to students attending Academy courses and programs, in amounts up to 75 per centum of the expense of attendance, as established by the Superintendent." This section applies to on-campus as well as off-site training and education courses certified by the Academy and held at colleges, universities, and other facilities.

Issue:

Through grants to states, the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control is funding the development of organizational designs to describe the state fire education and training system as it now exists, and the formulation of comprehensive five-year plans for improving fire education and training throughout the state. Incentives in the form of financial aid to students is necessary to assure that fire service personnel, architects, engineers, building officials and others receive the proper and most effective fire education and training consistent with the goals set forth in the five-year plan.

Analysis of Issue:

No funds for this program are contained in the 1978 budget. It is estimated that, by 1981, \$18 million will be needed for the program.

Schedule:

Funding for this program has been identified by the NFPCA Administrator as a key issue in the 1979 budget cycle.



Title: Model State Fire Organization

Background:

In Section 2 of the Act, Congress declared that:

"(5) while fire prevention and control is and should remain a State and local responsibility, the Federal government must help if a significant reduction in fire losses is to be achieved."

NFPCA must cooperate with the States and with local fire services in developing data, analyses, new techniques and new equipment. Yet, many States do not have a central contact point for NFPCA. In addition to the imperative that NFPCA work with the States, the Act (at Sections 8(c), 10 and 12) provides the authority for NFPCA to assist the States in developing the delivery systems necessary to more effectively prevent and control fire losses, to utilize NFPCA programs and to better supply NFPCA with the data, testing, and evaluation necessary for the development of successful programs.

To date, NFPCA has been consulted in the development of state-level fire programs in several states and numerous other states are asking for advice during legislative and executive planning activities.

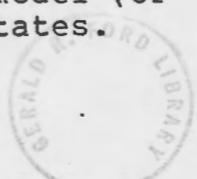
The April 1976 issue of Fireword, an NFPCA publication, was devoted to a concept paper on state fire prevention and control functions.

Issue:

The States, the local fire services and NFPCA critically need a model state fire agency to consolidate efforts in fire prevention and control and to be a contact for NFPCA programs. Our programs to date would support the award of grants for the evolution and testing of such a model.

Analysis of Issue:

The Fireword publication outlined functions that seem to be needed at the statewide level. However, it stopped short of announcing a specific model structure. Such a model (or models) should be created and tested in several states.



Schedule:

Legislative hearings are planned in several states which are moving to rationalize, through statutes, their fire prevention and control efforts at the state level. These will be held throughout 1977 and NFPCA has been invited to, and will, participate in the hearings. NFPCA also plans to award grants to several states for the development and testing of a model, during 1977.

Appendix:

Attached is the Fireword issue on the State Fire Safety Concepts.



# FIREWORD

A BULLETIN FROM  
THE NATIONAL FIRE  
PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
ADMINISTRATION, U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230



## NFPCA Designs Preliminary Concept on State Fire Safety Services

**W**HAT NEEDS to be done to better respond to the current and future fire prevention and control needs at the State level? This question is being repeated in queries to the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. The question is coming from State officials across the nation, interested in improving the planning, development and delivery of their fire safety services.

The NFPCA is looking at the situation. The agency has been observing State programs and talking with State officials from both executive and legislative branches. Based on its research, it has developed a preliminary concept, a possible approach to a State fire

safety organization. These *beginning thoughts* point to the need for a single State focus to have the primary responsibility for matters affecting the fire safety of its citizens and for that State fire entity to receive meaningful input from the organizations and interest groups involved in or affected by the State fire prevention and control effort.

In exploring the present state-of-the-art of fire prevention and control activities in various States, it is evident that conceptually the State role relates to coordinating services; standardizing and establishing minimum levels of safety in the interest of public safety and welfare; and supplementing local and regional fire prevention and control efforts.

States perform their *coordinative roles* in many areas such as health care, criminal justice, transportation, public education and agriculture. Coordinative roles include a comprehensive identification of problems and needs, State and local program coordination, and processing and/or distribution of Federal assistance. Similar functions are performed in fire prevention and control.

State governments also *standardize* and establish legal *minimums* of safety and sanitation on a state-wide basis. State building codes typically establish standard minimums of safety and sanitation. Similar approaches are taken in highway safety, health care and occupational safety. Additionally, minimum standards are set for a variety of occupational skills, including fire fighting, police services, engineering, nursing, architecture and others. Finally, States are involved in standardizing information on various parameters including health statistics, fire statistics and economic indicators.

Often these standards and minimums are coordinated with Federal programs.

To help meet local and regional citizen needs, States also provide *direct supplemental services*. These services are of particular importance in rural communities, counties, townships and the smaller municipalities. Examples of these supplemental services include agricultural assistance, public health services, social services, planning and community development. Supplemental fire prevention and control services often include enforce-

*Continued on next page*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** State-level activities aimed at improving the planning, development and delivery of fire safety services are definitely on the increase. The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration is seeing evidence of this as more and more State officials are calling or writing, asking for the NFPCA views on what needs to be done to better respond to contemporary and future problems.

To respond to these requests, our agency has begun to develop preliminary thoughts on State fire program functions, and how they logically could be coordinated. These thoughts are a *beginning*. They are the formulation of a response to your requests for our views. This issue of *Fireword* presents these thoughts to you, our readers, so that you can respond to them with your views, comments and suggestions. We need your input and ask that you send your comments to: David A. Lucht, Deputy Administrator, National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., 20230.

ment of fire safety standards, fire and arson investigation, forensic laboratory services, fire services training and public fire education.

Typically, States provide a variety of specific services which have impact on fire losses. These services often include:

- Collection and analysis of fire data
- Adoption of minimum fire safety standards for new buildings
- Adoption of minimum fire safety standards for existing buildings and premises
- Adoption of minimum fire safety standards for storage, handling and use of flammable and explosive materials
- Enforcement of fire safety standards
- Investigation of fire and fire-related crime
- Plan and deliver public fire education programs
- Adoption of personnel performance standards for fire safety personnel
- Delivery of fire training and education to fire service personnel and others.

These activities are all good. But more needs to be done. For instance, it is not uncommon for State-level fire prevention and control programs to be developed and executed by a variety of loosely coordinated agencies—and in varying degrees of quality. It is not infrequent that several State agencies find themselves in competition with each other in pursuit of the same goals. Often State agencies have overlapping authority and responsibility, and some needed services are not provided at all.

The Congress, in passing the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, declared that "fire is an undue burden affecting all Americans" and that "such losses of life and property are unacceptable." It also recognized that "fire prevention and control is and should remain a State and local responsibility," and that the "Federal Government must help if a significant reduction in fire losses is to be achieved."

The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration was created to give this help—to support and reinforce the fire prevention and control activities of State and local governments.

What is the NFPCA relationship with State governments? Several major issues have been identified: What are State responsibilities? How should they be carried out? How can NFPCA be most helpful? With whom in State government does NFPCA communicate concerning overall State programs?

After considering these and other related issues, the NFPCA has developed two *preliminary* findings:

- **FIRST**, The NFPCA believes that each State should designate a single State entity as having primary responsibility for the fire safety of its citizens. Just as the NFPCA was created as the "Federal focus," each State should provide a "State fire focus." The primary purpose of such a focal point would be to encourage coordination, reduce duplication of effort, and fill voids in service, while reducing the State's fire loss.
- **SECOND**, the State fire entity should receive meaningful input from organizations and interest groups which are involved in or affected by the State fire prevention and control effort.

The concept outlined in this issue of *Fireword* might serve as a vehicle for accomplishing these two objectives. ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Fireword* is a monthly NFPCA publication. In each issue we'll present information on NFPCA activities. We'd also like to share stories of interest about fire prevention and control from around the U.S. with our readers. If you are involved in or know of an effective program, send the information and any pictures to: *Fireword*, Peg Maloy and Cheri Steffek, Editors, NFPCA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

# NFPCA Outlines Model State Organization

**T**HIS MODEL State concept for a State fire safety system establishes one possible method by which a State can provide a "State fire focus."

The focal point for State fire programs will be referred to as the "State Fire Commission." However, it must be emphasized that the references here to organizational names are of secondary importance. The important issue is the function: what must be done?

The State Fire Commission would be the single State entity responsible for coordination and balance within the overall State fire prevention and control program. The Commission would be constituted to assure meaningful participation by the paid, part-time and volunteer fire services, including chief officers, rank and file personnel and code administration and enforcement personnel typical of fire marshals' offices. It should also include representation from local government administration, insurance industry, construction industry, consumer interests and State agencies such as the department of education, the State forester and the State fire marshal. This Commission would provide an opportunity for participation by the various interest groups and offer a mechanism for the balancing of various views. Functionally, the Commission would be a coordinating force—overseeing the actual implementation of State fire programs.

Obviously, the actual program activities of the State must be developed and implemented by professional full-time State employees rather than a "commission." Again, the titles of the employees or officials are of secondary importance to the actual identification of responsibility and function. Obvious too is the fact that all States are different in many respects with

regard to organizational framework, statutes and job titles. However, we have observed two types of state officials who "typically" have responsibility for functions which are primarily fire safety mission oriented:

- Director of Fire Training and Education
- State Fire Marshal

This program concept will focus on these two officials as the most probable candidates for carrying out statewide efforts. We will now examine programmatic functions and how, under this model, responsibility might be assigned to these officials. Subsequently, we will consider the role of the Commission itself.

### Director of Training & Education

In some States, training and education responsibilities may be assigned to the fire marshal or some other official. In other States, training and education responsibilities are shared by several agencies. Whatever the title of the agency or agencies, the important consideration is that these specific functional responsibilities be clearly identified and assigned. For purposes of this outline, that agency is headed by an official called the Director of Fire Training and Education who would be assigned the following activities:

- A. Preparation of Personnel Performance Standards
  1. Personnel Performance Standards for firefighters.
  2. Personnel Performance Standards for code enforcement officers.
  3. Personnel Performance Standards for fire/arson investigators.
  4. Personnel Performance Standards for fire instructors.
  5. Personnel Performance Standards for public fire education specialists.
  6. Personnel Performance Standards for fire officers.
- B. Preparation of State Plan for Fire Education and Training
  1. Identify statewide training and education needs for the "public" (primary and secondary school ages and adults), as well as the needs of local personnel who

deliver community based public education programs.

2. Identify statewide training and education needs for fire services (fire-fighting, leadership, management, planning; code enforcement officers, fire/arson investigators, instructors; data collection, public education).
3. Identify statewide training and education needs for fire-related disciplines (design professions, industrial community, construction industry, etc.).
4. Formulate a training and education delivery system which
  - Provides equal opportunity to receive quality programs which respond to needs
  - Integrates the delivery capabilities of State instructional programs with those of local fire academies, primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities
  - Measures the effectiveness of training and education efforts
  - Adjusts readily to changing needs or indications of ineffectiveness

- Provides career incentives in fire prevention and control disciplines
- Tests and certifies students who have successfully completed courses of instruction

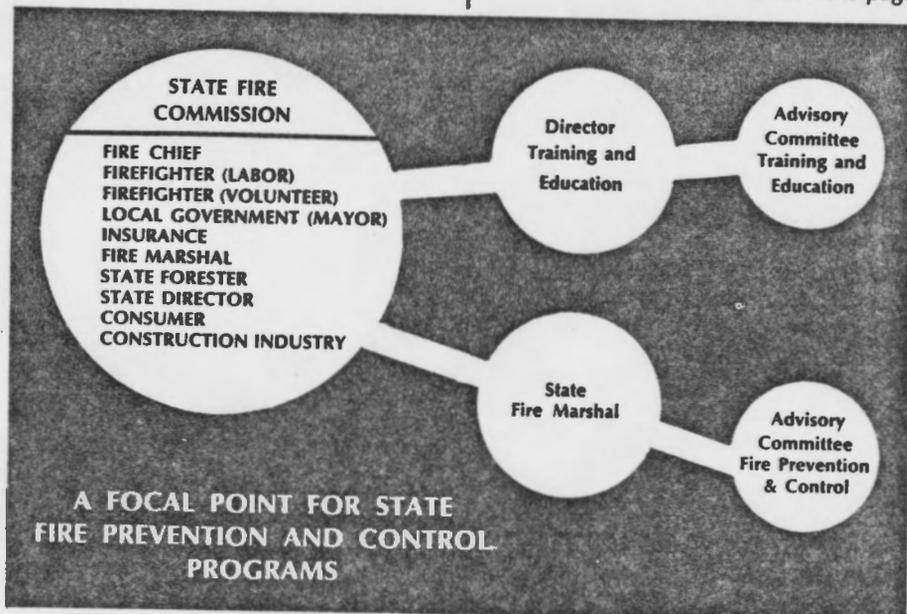
- C. Provision of Supplemental Services to Regional and Local Levels
  1. Provide fire training and education by professionally qualified personnel.
  2. Assist local communities in the planning, development and delivery of local training and education programs for the public as well as for fire safety specialists.

### State Fire Marshal

In some states, the responsibilities here associated with the fire marshal's office are handled by the State Police or another executive unit. In other States, some of these duties may be as efficiently performed by the Director of Fire Training and Education, or his equivalent. For the purposes of this article, these functions are assigned to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Note that the critical factor is not the name of the State unit, but rather that the following responsibilities be well defined and assigned for implementation:

- A. Preparation of Standards
  1. Standards for collecting

*Continued on next page*



- and reporting fire data.
2. Minimum standards for fire safety in buildings and premises and for storage, handling and use of dangerous materials.
  3. Standards, rules and regulations for fire safety effectiveness statements.
- B. Data Collection and Analysis
1. Collect data from local and regional fire services, fire insurance industry, hospitals and coroners/medical examiners.
  2. Pre-process data and supply to National Fire Data Center.
  3. Execute quality assurance programs.
  4. Analyze data and define statewide fire picture.
  5. Relay feedback data to local and regional fire services and others.
- C. Preparation of State Master Plan for Fire Prevention and Control

Public Law 93-498 provides that "The establishment of master plans for fire prevention and control are the responsibility of the States and the political subdivisions thereof." The Public Law definition of "master plan" includes the following elements:

1. Survey the resources and personnel of existing fire services and analyze the effectiveness of fire and building codes;
2. Analyze short and long term fire prevention and control needs;
3. Develop a plan of action to meet the fire prevention and control needs;
4. Estimate cost and develop realistic plans for financing the implementation of the plan and operation on a continuing basis, and summarize problems that are anticipated in implementing the master plan.

Preparation of the State Master Plan would have to be done in close liaison with the State Director, and the Master Plan would closely interface with the State Plan for Fire Education and Training.

It is also recognized that in part the missions of other State agencies have impact on citizen fire safety (examples: building code regulation, occupational safety and health, disaster services, insurance regulations, wildland protection). The Master Plan would also have to take these services into account and contrast them against overall needs.

- D. Provision of Supplemental Services to Regional and Local Levels
1. Code enforcement by professionally qualified personnel
  2. Fire and arson investigation by professionally qualified personnel
  3. Public fire education by professionally qualified personnel

### State Fire Commission

To achieve interest group input, balance and coordination, the role of the Commission would then be:

- A. Formal adoption of standards prepared by the State Director and the Fire Marshal.
- B. Formal approval of the Statewide Fire Education and Training Plan prepared by the State Director.
- C. Advise the Fire Marshal as to the data collection and analysis activities, including adequacy of feedback reports.
- D. Formal approval of the State Master Plan for Fire Prevention and Control prepared by the Fire Marshal.
- E. Advise the State Director and the Fire Marshal as to the responsiveness of supplemental services.

If the Commission "workload" were considered to be excessive in accomplishing these responsibilities, the activities could be divided among special advisory committees. A functional advisory committee could be established for the State Director and the Fire Marshal. Each committee would be oriented to the specific responsibilities of each of these officials. The committee memberships might be separate from the Commission or they might be "subcommittees"

of the Commission itself. However, they would only be advisory in nature and ultimate coordination and balance would be achieved by the single State entity—the Fire Commission.

It does not appear necessary for the "Commission" to represent a high-cost activity. Members would possibly receive travel expenses and/or per diem to attend official functions. "Committees" might be strictly voluntary in nature. As stated previously, the actual planning, development and delivery of programs would be performed by the State officials. In some States it may be desirable to establish a full-time "Fire Administrator" to serve the Commission and to exercise administrative authority over both the Fire Marshal and the State Director. In other States, administrative coordination may be executed by the Governor with the Marshal and the State Director reporting to him through their respective Cabinet officers.

### Appeals

Certain of the functions enumerated here involve legal control and mandatory requirements (e.g., code regulations). In these cases, appeals mechanisms must be provided for persons aggrieved by the action of an agency or official. This can be handled in a number of ways, depending upon the administrative procedures statutes in the particular States. Among the options are the following:

- *Fire Commission hears appeals.*

In this case, the appellee might be a member of the Commission. For example: the State Fire Marshal may have written the order of code compliance which is the subject of the appeal. He may also be a member of the Commission. In such an instance, the Marshal might have to excuse himself from the proceedings because of conflict of interest. (Or, perhaps the State statute would not allow him to be a member in the first place.)

- *Create an "appeals board" solely for this purpose.*

- Use an "attorney examiner" to hear the appeal case.
- Provide for appeals directly to county or municipal court.

As a matter of public policy, the State may wish to consider handling appeals on human safety issues only in court. Part of the cause of "public indifference" about fire safety is due to the casual attitude government sometimes exhibits toward those responsible for dangerous situations. The public is probably much more conscious about traffic regulations than fire regulations. In a large part, this is due to the fact that few people are ever issued a "ticket" for willfully causing a fire danger to exist.

### Statutory Requirements

The accomplishment of a State fire program as described will require a statutory foundation. While many of the statutory necessities are evident, the following will summarize some of the highlights. The State statute should:

1. Establish and appropriate funds for support of the State Director and Fire Marshal. Fire Commission members would probably serve without pay but may receive travel and per diem expenses.
2. Establish legal authorities, responsibilities and qualifications for the State Director,

## NBS Studies Mobile Home Fire Safety

**M**OBILE HOMES now provide shelter for roughly one of every 27 Americans. Increasing concern over the potential fire hazards posed by mobile homes has prompted a comprehensive study by the National Bureau of Standards' Center for Fire Research. Estimates indicate between

*Continued on next page*

Fire Marshal and Commission.

3. Establish penalties for violation of mandatory regulations.
4. Establish criminal prohibitions for serious fire hazards, arson and careless fire conduct.
5. Allow for creation and administration of regional fire services.
6. Assure fire service statutes allow freedom of entry, promotion and protection of personnel in all possible disciplines (firefighting, inspection, investigation, public education, emergency medical), paid, part-paid and volunteer.
7. Establish mandatory reporting of fire data by fire service, fire insurance industry, hospitals and coroners/medical examiners.
8. Assure delegation of enforcement authority to local and regional fire officials.

### Summary

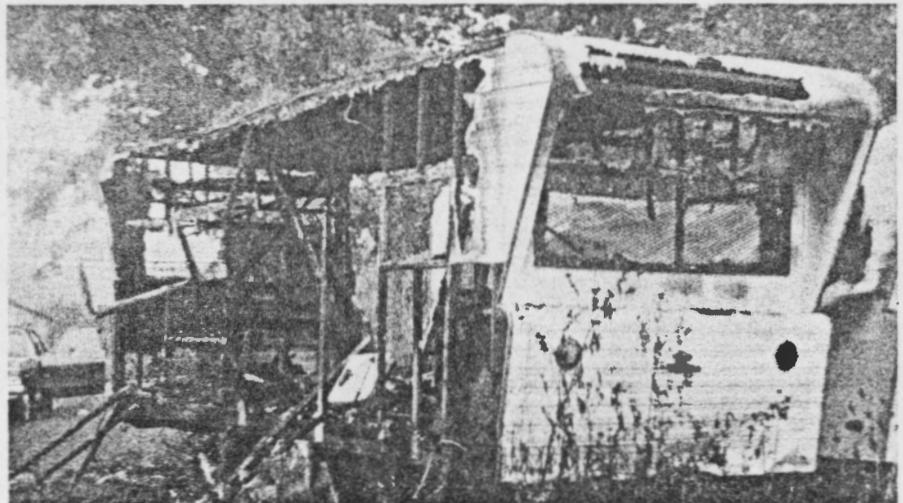
We have said that State programs should develop with meaningful input from those groups which are involved in or affected by the State fire prevention and

control effort. Likewise, the NFPCA is anxious to receive input to its programs. This preliminary concept is published in *Fireword* for that purpose.

*This does not represent a requirement of the Federal Government.* It is, rather, an attempt to share some of the NFPCA thinking with you. The concept should be looked at as *one possible method* which might be used to achieve a comprehensive, well-balanced State fire program—with meaningful input from interest groups in the State. It also represents the type of State organization with which the NFPCA would like to communicate in its efforts to support and reinforce the fire prevention and control activities of State government.

It is difficult to support and assist a State activity if there is no State fire focus and no definable comprehensive State program.

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. ■



Mobile home fires too often end in total destruction. A program to assess the fire safety of modern mobile homes is now in progress at NBS.

Photo courtesy of the Prince Georges County Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention



National Fire Prevention and  
Control Administration  
Announces  
the First National Conference on  
"The Dynamics of Fire Prevention"  
October 18-20  
Hyatt House Hotel  
Los Angeles International Airport,  
California  
Reserve Time Now  
Watch for Details

#### NBS STUDIES *continued*

2½-3 million mobile homes are currently in use in the United States. From 1960 to 1972, their production increased almost six times, from 103,700 in 1960 to 600,000 units in 1972.

Apparently, the fire incidence rate in mobile homes is no greater than for conventional housing; but the danger to life and property is reportedly three to five times greater in mobile homes.

Until recently, no systematic research studies had been done to determine the reasons for this apparent hazard. For the past year, however, the Center has conducted a project to develop a testing program to assess the fire safety of modern mobile home designs.

The studies are being carried out over a two-year period, during which a series of tests will be conducted to obtain experimental research data on the potential growth and spread of fire in a mobile home as affected by interior finish, layout, location of ignition and other special features. ■



Firefighters in turnout coats battle heavy smoke at this two alarm fire. Several studies are underway to improve a

firefighter's "protective envelope."  
Photo courtesy of the Boston Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau

## NFPCA Initiates Studies

THE SPECIAL needs of firefighters are being studied in technology programs initiated by the NFPCA National Fire Safety and Research Office. A major program with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for improving a firefighter's "protective envelope" has begun and is being supported through research underway in several other studies.

The cooperative program with NASA covers the design, development, prototype fabrication, test and evaluation of improved clothing and equipment for use by firefighters. Technology and materials

developed for the Apollo and Skylab projects are being used in the development, and representatives from the firefighting community are assisting researchers in identifying priorities.

The project objectives include: improving firefighter safety by providing protection against heat, flame, smoke, toxic fumes, moisture, impact, penetration and electrical hazards; improving firefighter performance through better protection, reduced weight, increased maneuverability and reduced physiological stress; and, meeting price levels acceptable to the fire service and local communities. NASA recently completed a project to improve the breathing system for firefighters, and will incorporate those findings into the current study.

The Harvard University School of Public Health, in cooperation with the Boston Fire Department, is conducting studies to measure the actual structural fire environment faced by firefighters. This will help determine at what temperatures his protective equipment must function.

With the University of Maryland, the NFPCA is sponsoring studies to measure the physical abilities and requirements of firefighters. This program covers cardio-vascular strength, flexibility, agility and coordination. Tests are beginning with a sample of 100 firefighters chosen from the 3,000 active members of the six fire departments of the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.

Data from these studies will be incorporated with information gathered by the International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL/CIO), under a grant from the NFPCA. The IAFF has conducted an investigation into causes of deaths of fire department personnel. One of the most surprising results of the study was the high incidence of fatal heart attacks. Of 101 on-duty deaths investigated, 45% of the firefighters died from heart attacks, 62% of those attacks occurring at the fire scene. The IAFF will soon publish a report of these findings. ■

## Site Selection Board Announces Spring Plans

THE SITE Selection Board of the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control has held its first hearings.

The 3-member Board held hearings March 22-23 in Washington, D.C., and March 25-26 in San Francisco. Oral proposals and comments on possible Academy sites were heard.

The deadline for filing proposals was April 25, and now the Board will evaluate those it received. In selecting a site for recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce, the Board can also consider sites identified through its own initiative.

The schedule of activities for the Board includes, from May 10-21, visits to those sites the Board feels are most suitable. By June 30, the Board will make its recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce through the NFPCA Administrator Howard D. Tipton. The Secretary will make his final decision by October 29, 1976. ■

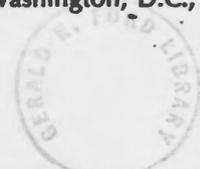
## New Library Seeks Old Books

THE NFPCA's National Fire Reference Service is forming a library collection of books, audio-visual materials, literature and documents to serve the needs of the fire community and the Administration's staff. The library is being designed to operate as a national clearinghouse for fire-related information, and initially will make materials available through inter-library loan. Eventually, the Reference Service hopes to prepare and disseminate information products which will be of benefit to the fire community.

The new library is having problems obtaining copies of older, out-of-print books and materials. In addition to technical and fire-service management books, other volumes that can provide historical continuity and flavor of the

fire service are needed: books such as "Fire and Firefighters" by John V. Morris (1953), "The American Firemen" by H. L. Champlin (1875), "The Third Alarm" by James L. Ford (1893), "Fire Alarm—The Story of Fire Fighting" by J. J. Floherty (1949), and the pictorial history "The Romance of Firefighting" by Robert S. Holzman (1956).

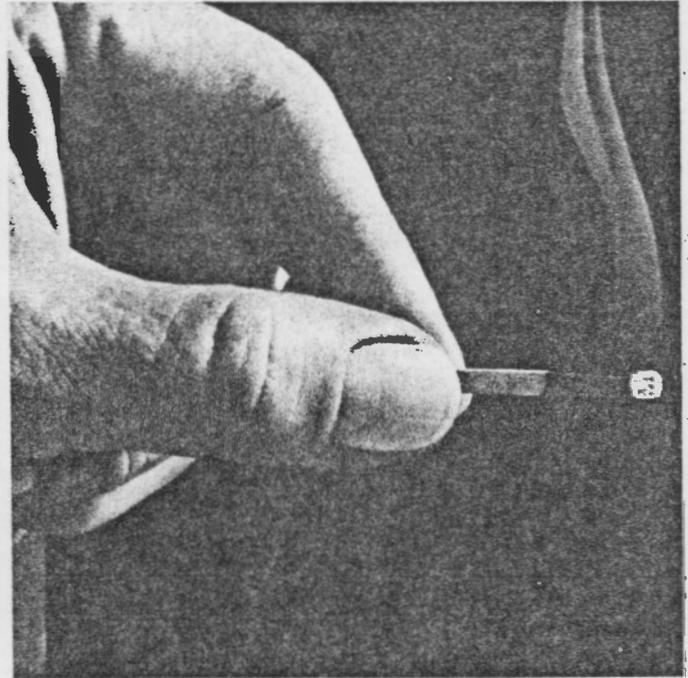
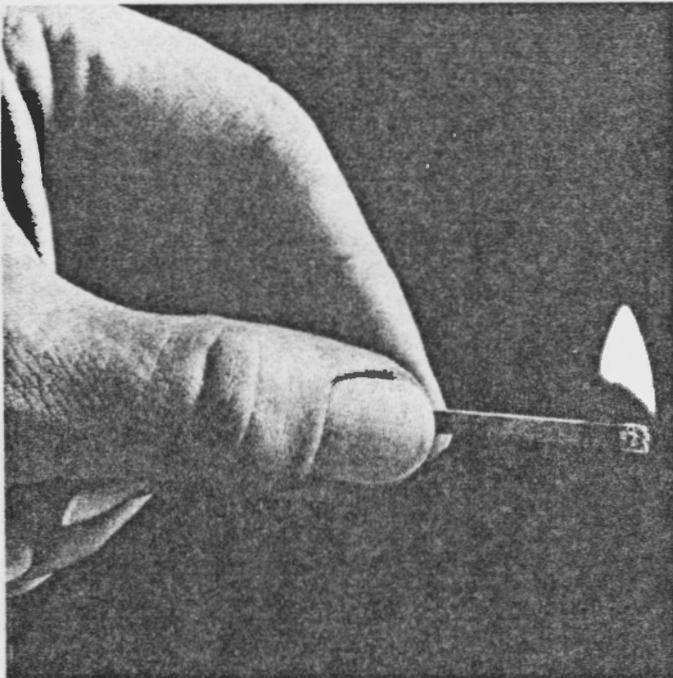
If you have old volumes or other materials you think the Reference Service would find useful, and you would like to donate them, please contact the Reference Service for mailing labels. Write: National Fire Prevention and Control Administration, Attn: Richard G. Katz, Reference Service, P. O. Box 19518, Washington, D.C., 20036. ■



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Fire Prevention and Control Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

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An accidentally dropped match can do a lot of damage, but now one company is doing something to reduce this danger. The Diamond Match Division of Diamond International Corporation,

New York, has introduced "Stoplite," a bookmatch which is treated so that it burns with about half the heat output of the standard bookmatch, and which goes out by itself half-way down the

match stem. Diamond is changing its entire bookmatch production to incorporate the Stoplite treatment process.





Congressional Oversight:

House Committee on Science and Technology and the Senate  
Committee on Commerce



Other Major Outside Contacts, Including Advisory  
Committees:

American Institute of Architects  
American Insurance Association  
Chamber of Commerce  
Factory Mutual System  
Fire Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Fire Marshals Association of North America  
Fire Retardant Chemicals Association  
International Association of Black Professional  
Fire Fighters  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL/CIO)  
International City Management Association  
International Fire Service Training Association  
International Society of Fire Service Instructors  
Insurance Services Office  
Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations  
National Association of Counties  
National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control  
Association  
National Fire Protection Association  
National Forest Products Association  
National Governors Conference  
National League of Cities  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
Portland Cement Association  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
Society of Plastics Industry  
Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association  
Underwriters Laboratories  
Model Code Groups  
State and local fire training and fire marshals offices  
Local fire service officials  
Officials at all levels of government

