

**FIRE SAFETY ISSUE**  
**August 1991**

**Primary responsibility: Karen Pernicola**  
**Sharon Ransome**

---

**Overview**

In August the fire safety issue staff kept busy building and strengthening The Institute's relationships with key fire service officials and organizations. We also helped the fire service learn about its obligations under the Americans With Disabilities Act, and we continued development of a 1992 budget.

**Highlights**

The \$1 million funding for "fire-safe" cigarette research was deleted from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) 1992 budget request by the Senate appropriations subcommittee overseeing the CPSC. Federal Relations offered TI's assistance in restoring the funding (which had been approved by the House), and were told that Rep. Moakley was confident the funding would be restored. We kept our fire service allies informed.

An article by consulting attorney John Fox called "Will the Americans With Disabilities Act Change Fire Service Standards?" appeared in the August issue of Fire Engineering magazine. The article has prompted scores of requests from fire department officials for more information. Fox also will speak on the ADA at the annual meeting of the California State Firemen's Association.

We met with the president of the Call-Volunteer Firefighters Association of Massachusetts and the chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to discuss the goals of the new state volunteer organization, how the association can be an effective member of the NVFC and assistance available through The Institute's Fire Safety Education Program.

The Consumer Awareness Committee of the CPSC's National Smoke Detector Project met in Washington, D.C. Committee members determined an action plan for the coming year, and divided responsibilities. As a member of the committee, we volunteered to help draft a standard speech for project representatives to use when encouraging organizations to become involved in the project.

TI consultant Phil Schaeffer discussed industry-sponsored research on international comparisons in fire protection with the staffs of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) and Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA). CFSI staff requested additional copies of all four TI-sponsored TriData reports.

**Fire Safety Issue--August Status Report  
Page 2**

TriData staff gave a presentation on the Proving Public Fire Education Works report at the annual meeting of the Virginia State Firemen's Association.

We assisted in designing a brochure publicizing the critical incident stress debriefing team hot line of the American Critical Incident Stress Foundation. The NVFC Foundation, on whose board of directors TI sits, is funding the hot line in its first year. We also assisted the NVFC in updating its membership brochure.

In response to a number of requests from newly appointed state-level public fire educators for help with resources and ideas, we began compiling a list of state fire marshals' offices that employ state-level educators in hopes of developing a peer networking directory. The National Association of State Fire Marshals is assisting.

In August, TI's Fire Safety Education Program responded to 50 requests for information and educational resources from fire departments and organizations in 23 states. In addition, the Congressional Fire Services Institute staff was grateful to receive a "grant" of several used office chairs from TI.

We provided a briefing on the "fire-safe" cigarette issue and TI's grants program to a new attorney for Lorillard.

We computed 1991 estimates for the fire safety issue budget, and submitted initial and revised budget requests for 1992.

Sharon Ransome continued to learn and rehearse the standard presentation on The Institute's Fire Safety Education Program and the "fire-safe" cigarette issue. We should begin receiving requests for 1992 fire conference speaking engagements before year's end.

We met with a new consultant working with the joint venture group of company scientists on the "fire-safe" cigarette issue to explain TI's Fire Safety Education Program and our work with the fire service.

We completed an updated draft of the "Accidental Fires: Where The Tobacco Institute Stands" brochure. Budget concerns have put production of the revised brochure on hold for now.

We met with the public education coordinator of the Prince George's County, Maryland, Fire Department about a proposal to produce the video featuring TI's Fire Safety Education Program

**Fire Safety Issue--August Status Report**  
**Page 3**

materials and other free public fire education resources. Meanwhile, we worked on developing a draft script.

We began a discussion with "social costs" issue staff about the social costs aspects of the "fire-safe" cigarette issue. We will consider whether and to what extent The Institute's "social costs" arguments are appropriate to advance within the context of federal "fire-safe" cigarette research. The CPSC is charged with developing information on the "societal costs of cigarette-ignited fires."

**Next Month's Goals**

Complete script for fire video.

Continue editing high school fire safety curriculum.

Update fire safety hearing readiness document.

Finish compiling list of state-level public fire educators.

Draft article on the fire service's accepting assistance from industry, for publication in fire press.