

FIRE SAFETY ISSUE
August 1990

Primary responsibility: Karen Fernicola

Overview

Though a slow month legislatively, August is traditionally a busy month for fire service organization conferences. We attended several of them, taking advantage of opportunities to brief key fire service officials on the new "fire-safe" cigarette legislation. We also gave a number of presentations on The Institute's Fire Safety Education Program.

Highlights

After President Bush signed the "Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990" into law, we suggested that Reps. Moakley and Boucher ask leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus for their help in getting the word out to members of the fire service.

"Fire-safe" cigarette legislation was the subject of a brief segment on Jack Anderson's "The Insiders" news program, which aired shortly after the Moakley/Boucher "fire-safe" cigarette compromise passed Congress. A TI spokesperson stressed that more research was needed before "fire-safe" cigarette standards could be developed, while Rep. Moakley discussed the compromise bill. Although approached for comment, the International Association of Fire Chiefs declined to be interviewed for the show.

We attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) annual meeting. At the IAFC's second annual Fire Prevention Showcase, we gave a brief presentation on The Institute's Fire Safety Education Program and an update on the "fire-safe" cigarette issue. TI was recognized by IAFC President Jim Estep for providing a grant to make the showcase possible.

We also arranged for the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) to host a hospitality suite during the IAFC meeting. Later in the month, we attended a strategic planning session conducted by NASFM board and committee chairmen. It was an ideal opportunity to meet and become acquainted with some of the country's brightest and most influential fire service representatives.

The biennial meeting of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) provided a forum for us to present a workshop on TI's Fire Safety Education Program. IABPFF received a grant from TI to defray conference costs.

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We gave a talk on the fundamentals of grant writing to South Carolina public fire educators at a conference sponsored by the South Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office.

In upstate New York we met with the New York State Fire Marshal and the legislative chairman of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs to update them on the "fire-safe" cigarette issue and to determine whether the New York fire service plans to support a state "fire-safe" cigarette bill in the coming legislative session.

Reviews of TriData's "Proving Public Fire Education Works" draft were completed, and production has begun. We are preparing to complete production of the book by October, to correspond with Fire Prevention Month.

We reviewed articles that will appear in an October fire safety supplement being published by the Portland, Oregon, Skanner newspaper with a grant from TI. The Skanner's supplements have been recognized by Oregon officials as contributing to an increased awareness of fire safety -- and corresponding drop in fire deaths -- among residents of Portland.

We began preparing an outline for a September briefing on the fire safety issue for Thomas Griscom, executive vice president of external relations for R.J. Reynolds.

Next Month's Goals

Complete presentation on fire safety issue for Griscom briefing.

Prepare presentation on 1991 fire safety plan and budget for Communications Committee meeting.

Prepare for early October meeting of the National Volunteer Fire Council Foundation.

Complete typesetting and layout of "Proving Public Fire Education Works" report and develop a distribution plan.