

WASHINGTON REPORT

By Harold V. Semling, Jr.

USFA/FEMA news

President nominates Bragdon. President Reagan has submitted the name of Clyde A. Bragdon, Jr., to the U.S. Senate for confirmation as administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration. Bragdon, retiring chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, has long been rumored to be the front-runner for the position. Bragdon was recommended for the post by Fred J. Villella, associate director of training and fire programs for FEMA, and the recommendation was forwarded to the president through FEMA Director Louis O. Giuffrida. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold confirmation hearings June 5. Bragdon will replace Acting Administrator Ed Wall.

Fire executive fellowship program. FEMA has announced the establishment of a new Fire Executive Fellowship Program in cooperation with Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Fellows will attend the widely respected 19-day Harvard Executive Training Program for state and local government senior executives.

Six fellowships will be awarded by Harvard's admission committee based on recommendations of a nominating panel that will include FEMA officials as well as representatives of the nation's fire service. To be eligible, a candidate must be the chief executive or next in command of a fire department with 100 or more personnel, or the state fire executive or deputy. A criterion for selection includes completion of the National Fire Academy's Executive Development III course.

The new fellowship program is sponsored by the U.S. Fire Administration and National Fire Academy.

Launches computer program. The U.S. Fire Administration has launched a development

demonstration program to measure the usefulness of computer-generated data in the management of fire department operations, including fire and EMS response, training, fire prevention, public education, and inspections. Three fire departments—Arlington and Prince William counties in Virginia and Southfield, Michigan—have been selected to participate in the project, which Polaris Research and Development of San Francisco will conduct under a contract with FEMA.

According to Fred J. Villella, "Demonstrating how a local department may utilize today's ever-changing computer technology in their decision-making process is a critical element in our overall efforts." Villella hopes to expand the demonstration-study program to five more departments by the fall of next year.

States to get training grants. FEMA has allocated nearly \$7 million in training grant funds to the states for emergency management training in 1984 compared with less than \$3 million in 1983. This increase will allow the states to fully handle the field courses of the Emergency Management Institute under their Comprehensive Cooperative Agreements with FEMA. The 10 FEMA regions will continue to offer limited "region-unique" training for federal, state, and local staff as necessary in special cases.

According to FEMA Director Giuffrida, FEMA has been working hard in partnership with state emergency managers and their governors to make "professional, predictable, acceptable, and multi-agency response to emergency situations" a reality in every community. "Training courses crystalize emergency management knowledge for use when a crisis is in the making," Giuffrida said.

The target audience for these training programs will be county ex-

ecutives, mayors, city managers, emergency program managers, police and fire chiefs, directors of public works and public health, EMS coordinators, school officials, and others.

FEMA funds earthquake preparedness plan. FEMA is making \$300,000 available to the recently organized Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium to develop a five-year earthquake preparedness plan and to conduct a National Earthquake Conference this month in St. Louis. States participating in the consortium include Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, all of whom would be affected by an earthquake along the New Madrid fault system.

According to scientific estimates, a severe earthquake along the New Madrid fault would cause significant damage over a 200,000 square mile area. Nearly total destruction would occur close to the epicenter, producing a natural disaster unequalled in the nation's history in terms of human life and economic losses.

Firesafe cigarettes

At a crowded press conference in the Capitol, Senators John Heinz (R-PA) and Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Representative Joe Moakley (D-MA) announced they will push for quick enactment of firesafe cigarette legislation. The legislation has a very good chance of approval, Moakley said, because it represents a compromise agreement with the Tobacco Institute.

The legislation calls for an inter-governmental agency review of the cigarette fire issue with the assistance of the tobacco industry, the fire service, the medical community, and the furniture industry. A study would be conducted for the Congress to determine the technical and economic feasibility of producing a "firesafe" cigarette.

The legislation defines a firesafe cigarette as one that has a minimum propensity to ignite upholstery and mattresses.

The provisions of the act call for the chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to chair the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Firesafety. Members would include the assistant secretary of health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the associate director for training and fire programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The interagency committee would be responsible for directing, oversee-

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ing, and reviewing the work of a technical study group, which would include:

- One scientific or technical representative each from the CPSC, the Center for Fire Research at the National Bureau of Standards, the National Cancer Institute, the Federal Trade Commission, and FEMA, appointment of whom shall be made by the heads of those agencies;
- Four scientific or technical representatives appointed by the chairman of the interagency committee

from a list submitted by the Tobacco Institute;

- Two scientific or technical representatives appointed by the chairman of the interagency committee from lists submitted by the American Burn Association, the American Public Health Association, and the American Medical Association;
- Two scientific or technical representatives appointed by the chairman of the interagency committee from lists submitted by the National Fire Protection Association, the In-

ternational Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, and the National Volunteer Fire Council;

- One scientific or technical representative appointed by the chairman of the interagency committee from a list submitted by the Business and Industrial Furniture Manufacturers Association and one from a list submitted by the American Furniture Manufacturers Association.

Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr., president of the Tobacco Institute, said the study "will have a positive effect on the problem of accidental fires." He also noted that "a comprehensive federal study should help identify and resolve many of the claims that have been made in this area, some of which we know to be incorrect and some of which cannot be answered because appropriate technology does not now exist to either prove or disprove them." He added the hope that, as the study proceeds, "proven approaches to firesafety, such as public education, code enforcement, and smoke detectors, will be continued and expanded."

The Citizens Committee for Fire Protection has endorsed the compromise legislation, pointing out that it provides for government control of the study, broad representation on the technical study committee, no preemption of state legislative activities aimed at developing or requiring safer cigarettes, and no blanket anti-trust immunity for cigarette industry participants in the study.

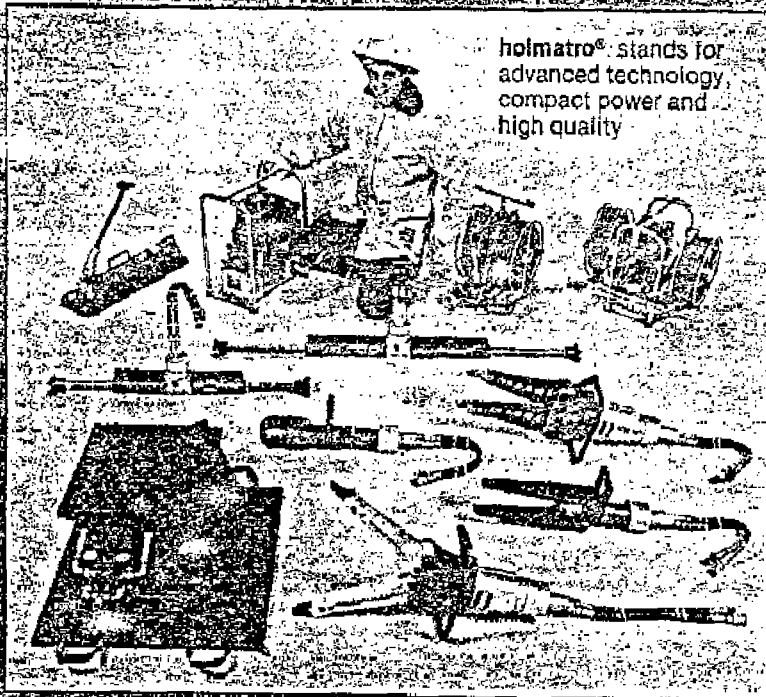
Stuart M. Statler, CPSC member, said the legislation "is an important first step in addressing the awesome hazard of cigarette ignition. It should be passed swiftly so that work long postponed can begin immediately. With its passage," Statler continued, "the tobacco industry assumes considerable responsibility to ensure the success of the study mandated by the bill. By dedicating resources in house to expedite research concerning a firesafe cigarette, and then sharing the fruits of this research, each firm can demonstrate its commitment to halting needless pain and suffering."

Aviation safety

Introduce cabin safety legislation. Representatives Elliott H. Levitas (D-GA), Guy V. Molinari (R-NY), and Dan Glickman (D-KS), members of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, have introduced legislation to require the

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