

FIRE SAFETY ISSUE
September 1991

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Overview

In September, TI staff and consultants hit the road to meet with fire officials and spread the word about The Institute's Fire Safety Education Program. We also assisted the Federal Relations and State Activities divisions in learning more about fire-related activity by state and federal legislators.

Highlights

Michigan's "fire-safe" cigarette bill was scheduled for a hearing in the House Public Works Committee on October 3. We assisted the State Activities Division by reviewing draft testimony and providing fire data on Michigan. Upon receiving The Institute's memorandum of opposition to the bill, the committee chairman removed consideration of the bill from the agenda.

We gave a presentation on The Institute's fire safety issue activities to the joint venture group, formed by TI member companies to research "fire-safe" cigarette technology. The group met to prepare a series of presentations for the October 31 meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), created by the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990.

Rep. Cardiss Collins (D-IL), chairperson of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Competitiveness Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee announced that she was holding a field hearing October 4 in Chicago on "fire safety issues." We helped the State Activities and Federal Relations Divisions to learn more about the hearing, arranged for coverage and worked with fire organization allies on testimony and statements for the record.

Responding to a recent editorial in Public Education Digest that attempted to convince the fire service that accepting assistance from the tobacco industry was "unethical," the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal authored a defense of our work with the fire service and initiated a vigorous letter-writing campaign to attack the critics of our program.

Institute staff and consultants participated in the Maryland Governor's Fire Safety Conference and conferences of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania and the Delaware State Firemen's Association, giving presentations on grant writing, TI's Fire Safety Education Program and Proving Public Fire Education Works.

Fire Safety Issue--September Status Report
Page 2

Institute staff and consultants also attended the annual meeting of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). We gave a presentation on TI's grants program during the annual Fire Prevention Showcase, sponsored by the IAFC Fire Prevention Committee. TI was praised for its continued support of the committee.

In preparation for the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Foundation meeting, we visited the offices of the American Critical Incident Stress Foundation to review the operation of the critical incident stress debriefing hotline and network, made possible in part by a grant from the NVFC Foundation.

As a grant from TI, a TriData representative attended a meeting of the National Fire Information Council (NFIC) to discuss the use and presentation of data in fire service annual reports.

We printed a revised version of the National Volunteer Fire Council's membership brochure.

To highlight the growing problem of arson in the United States, particularly in metropolitan areas, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) announced plans to conduct a press conference on the subject later this year. We began researching public relations firms to assist with the project.

We met with a representative of the Community Services Division of the District of Columbia Fire Department to discuss ideas for conducting a senior citizen fire safety campaign in the city.

In September, The Tobacco Institute's Fire Safety Education Program responded to 27 requests for educational resources from fire departments and educational organizations in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

We also donated used computer printers to the offices of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters.

Next Month's Goals

Attend and follow up on NVFC and NVFC Foundation meetings.

Assist as needed in preparation for October 31 TAG meeting.

Assign a public relations firm to help IAAI with its press conference.

Evaluate grant requests received in August and September.