

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

➤ [From The Director](#)

➤ [Holiday Message](#)

➤ [Life Saving Awards](#)

➤ [New Navy Fire Trucks](#)

➤ [Navy F&ES POCs](#)

➤ [News Distribution](#)

➤ [Combs Cartoon](#)



From the Director

As you can see from the Table of Contents this is a very short Holiday version of “*What’s Happening*” this month. Our editor Ricky is out undergoing some medical treatments/procedures, and will be out through the holidays. *We wish Rick a full and speedy recovery.* Without Rick we are limited on our newsletter content, but we wanted to pass along some important information.

We wish everyone a *Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.* While many personnel will be taking time away from the job during the period, we recognize our Firefighters will be working throughout the holidays providing critical and life saving services to our installations.

Firefighter safety continues to be one of our main goals. In last months edition we had a photo of Navy firefighters conducting training and it appeared they did not have on complete protective clothing for the type of evolution. Thanks to one of our readers for identifying the potential dangers of training without proper protective equipment. As you know many hazards in firefighting are still potentially dangerous to firefighters even during training. We have spoken with the appropriate personnel and proper PPE was reinforced with the department. While we are on Safety, just last week we inspected 13 of our new Navy structural pumpers and were pleased to see many new features on this year’s model to include seat belt monitoring systems, data recorders, more user friendly seat belts, additional storage for loose equipment, and many other NFPA mandated items. The new trucks are being readied for shipment this month (see some on page #5). What a nice Christmas present for the departments receiving the new apparatus!

On a closing note, I wanted to offer a very *Special Thanks* to all of our Firefighters and Military personnel serving around the world. All too often your service goes unrecognized. We fully understand and appreciate your dedication and devotion to duty. Thanks, we are looking forward to another great year in 2010. *Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All !!*

Sincerely Carl

Holiday Message



Holiday Fire Safety Message From CNIC F&ES

-- By: Matt Garbow, Battelle Contract Support to Navy F&ES Program

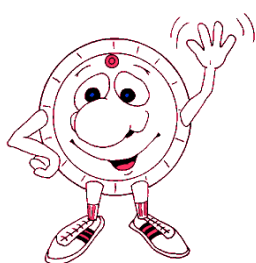
The winter holiday season is a joyous time of the year where friends and family come together to enjoy each others company. The same season is also statistically the most dangerous time of year for fire related injuries and deaths. Have yourself a very Merry and SAFE holiday this season. Please follow these fire safety tips and best wishes from your Navy Fire & Emergency Services.

Spread the holiday cheer safely this season by: using decorations that are flame resistant or retardant, select the appropriate indoor/outdoor light sets that display the label of an independent testing laboratory, replace any electrical decorations that have worn or frayed cords or loose light bulb connections, secure light strands with clips instead of nails to avoid wire damage, don't overwhelm electrical sources with more than three connected strands of mini light sets or 50 bulbs for screw-in bulb light sets, and practice safe climbing techniques on a stable step stool or ladder when hanging decorations above your head. Don't become one of the estimated 5,800 Americans who spend a portion of their winter holiday in the emergency room due to falls associated with decorating.

US Fire Departments respond to an estimated 250 house fires a year that begin with Christmas trees. When selecting a live Christmas tree, make sure that it is fresh by tapping it on the ground a few times; only a few needles should fall off a fresh tree. Once you have the tree home, keep it hydrated and refill the water container daily. Place the tree at least three feet away from any fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent. NEVER use real candles to decorate Christmas trees!

More than one third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves, and other fuel-burning appliances as their home's primary heat source. Thirty-six percent of house fires originate from fuel-burning heating fires. Keep your chimney/flue clean and have it inspected/swept annually, use a screen to keep the fire from leaving the fireplace, only burn paper (as starter) and wood, DO NOT burn trash or use flammable liquids as starters; certain materials will release toxic vapors into your house and can create additional buildup in the flue, only burn one artificial log at a time as they create a large amount of concentrated heat, don't leave a fire unattended if you leave the house or go to bed, let the fire burn itself out, do not use water to extinguish a fire in your fireplace as this can crack the bricks in your hearth and cause a rapid expansion of superheated steam, dispose of ashes in a metal or ceramic container only after they are cool.

Holiday Message (cont)



Fire Safety (cont)

The kitchen seems to be a busier place than usual during the holiday season and is the most common room in the house for a fire to start and fire related injuries to occur year-round. Think before you cook and limit distractions before you start so you can focus on what you are doing and not leave cooking food unattended. If you are working at the stove top don't wear loose fitting clothes that may catch fire, turn the pan and pot handles away from the edge of the stove, keep small children away from hot surfaces and sharp tools, and keep flammable objects like cookbooks and kitchen towels at least three feet away from the stovetop. It is also a good practice to keep a large lid handy when cooking on the stove to smother a grease fire that may start in a pot or pan. Please fry your turkeys with care! Locate turkey fryers away from homes, garages, breeze-ways, wood decks/porches, and low hanging tree branches.

There is no sound like that of a smoke detector to spread the holiday cheer and there is no better time to test them than the holidays when the whole family is gathered to hear. Smoke detectors should be tested on a monthly basis and have their batteries changed on an annual basis. There should be at least one smoke detector on every floor of the house. Fire experts advise us to have smoke detectors located directly outside bedroom doors as they are more likely to wake the sleeping. Drafts can make smoke detectors less effective so they should not be placed by windows, doors, or air outlets/intakes. If you have a smoke detector in your kitchen that sounds on a regular basis due to steam or minor smoke from cooking, relocate it farther away from the stove/oven, don't disable it! Smoke detectors have contributed to almost 50% decrease in fire fatalities since the late 1970's and an estimated 890 more lives could be saved each year if every home was equipped with working smoke detectors.

From the Navy Fire & Emergency Services Family to yours, have a safe and happy holiday! Don't hesitate to call or stop by your Installation Fire Station if you have further questions or concerns.



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season !

Life Saving Lapel Pins



New Navy F&ES Life Saving Awards

-- By: Tim Pitman, Navy F&ES, Emergency Medical Services Program Manager

Navy Fire & Emergency Services' (F&ES) has a long-standing Life Saving Award (LSA) recognition program. This provides recognition to F&ES members for their successful and life saving actions on their Installation or in their community.

This program provides F&ES and Command leadership the opportunity to recognize F&ES members for their outstanding performance during highly stressful and challenging incidents where their "*direct*" intervention and patient care saved the life or lives who otherwise would not have had a positive outcome.

Previously, LSA recipients received a certificate of appreciation and a CNIC N30 F&ES coin for their outstanding and heroic efforts from the Director, Navy F&ES.

Beginning in January 2010, Navy F&ES will begin issuing a Life Saving Lapel Pin to recipients of the LSA. The Lapel Pin, seen here in the picture at left, was designed in the shape of a Maltese Cross in brass relief, is topped with the words "Fire & Emergency Services", and has the words "Lives Saved" as a foundation. The Lapel Pin includes a fire fighter scramble, an EMS Star of Life and proudly displays the CNIC Command name bordered in blue background encapsulating a numerical device indicating the number of lives the fire fighter has saved.

The numerical device in the center of the Lapel Pin is interchangeable to recognize the total number of lives saved by the fire fighter. The numerical device corresponding to the number of total lives saved (including any past LSA recognition) will be sent with the LSA certificates and F&ES coin. For example, if a fire fighter saved two lives and is recognized for the effort, the fire fighter will receive a Lapel Pin with the #2 device. Another example includes when a fire fighter is submitted for a LSA after January 1st, 2010, and received a LSA prior to 2010, the Lapel Pin will include the numerical device corresponding to the total number of lives saved by the fire fighter as recorded at CNIC. For several Navy fire fighters today, this means they will receive a Lapel Pin with a #5 or #6 device for the total number of lives saved to date.

CNIC will begin issuing the new LSA recognition Lapel Pin starting in January 2010. We are eager for the chance to announce in our February Issue of the "What's Happening" newsletter who the first recipient of the new Lapel Pin is in Navy F&ES.

CNIC also wants to ensure past recipients of LSAs have an opportunity to receive a Lapel Pin for their past outstanding and heroic work. Procedures and an application form for applying for the Lapel Pin for LSA recognition received prior to January 1st, 2010 will be posted online at the CNIC Portal. A link to the LSA application on the CNIC Portal will be distributed to your Regional Fire Chiefs by January.

If you need further information regarding the new Lapel Pin, or information on the Life Saving Award criteria, please contact either Tim Pitman (202) 433-4782 or Eric Chaney (202) 433-3291.

Fire Truck Pic



Seat Belt Monitoring System



Any guesses on what this new required device is ??

See answer next page

Navy Starts Delivery on 29 Structural Pumpers

Our FY09 structural pumpers are ready to start delivery. The first 13 units will be delivered in Dec/Jan time frame and are scheduled for delivery to: Pearl Harbor (2), Jacksonville, Kingsville, Mayport, Carderock, Bethesda, Washington Navy Yard, Indian Head, Sigonella, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Newport.



The remainder of the structural pumper order will be delivered in Feb/Mar timeframe and they are scheduled to be delivered to: New London, Earle, Crane (2), Northwest Region (2), San Diego (3), Ventura, Pensacola (2), Patuxent River, JR Marianas (2), and Chinhae.

Navy F&ES POCs



News Distribution

Combs Cartoon



Answer to Question (previous page): NFPA approved fire helmet restraint

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