



Spring 2008  
Digital Edition 1

# FIRE FOCUS

Joseph V. Doria, Jr. Commissioner ~ Lawrence Petrillo, Director

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# The Newsletter of the Division of Fire Safety

Spring 2008  
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## **FIRE FOCUS**



*Joseph V. Doria, Jr. Commissioner ~ Lawrence Petrillo, Director*

### **LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

I am certainly pleased to see that Fire Focus, the official newsletter of the Division of Fire Safety, has been reborn. However, in keeping up with the times, Fire Focus will no longer be printed as a paper document - as had been done in the past. Instead, Fire Focus will be an exclusively on-line newsletter. It will be distributed both by e-mail and via the internet.

This change in format will allow Division of Fire Safety staff to update Fire Focus more readily and more frequently - keeping the State's fire service more in-tune with happenings at the Division in a more timely way. The newsletter will also be equipped with hyperlinks to directly link stories from Fire Focus to articles on the internet providing more information.

I am looking forward to the new, and improved, version of Fire Focus and I hope our State's fire service will benefit from this advanced way of sharing information. We look forward to accomplishing our mission of keeping you informed.

### **OPERATION SAVE-A-LIFE TEN-YEAR PARTNERSHIP**

For the past ten years, the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety has partnered up with WABC-7 on a unique program to promote fire safety awareness in the tri-state area. Operation Save-A-Life, which includes FDNY and sponsors like Kidde and Toyota, is a campaign that provides smoke detectors for over 15,000 New Jerseyans annually. WABC celebrated the on-going success of this program with the 10th Annual Kick-Off Breakfast at Tavern on the Green on January 23rd.

The New York version of the Save-A-Life program, a campaign that originated at WPVI in Philadelphia, has seen over 15,000 smoke detectors its first decade in operation. ABC-7 Anchorman Bill Ritter spoke about the program's importance and ability to save lives through education and awareness.

"Our partnership with the firefighters in New York and New Jersey is about serving the public and saving lives," said Ritter. "We'll never know how many people we've helped by both the spread of the smoke detectors, as well as information. The mission is to get the message out there, and I'm proud to be part of it."

New Jersey State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo was featured as one of the keynote speakers at the Kick-Off Breakfast. He urged the sponsors, as well as the fire departments, involved with the Operation Save-A-Life program to continue their tremendous work and find new ways to educate the public on fire safety issues.

"This partnership in fire safety education between the public and private sectors is an important step towards making citizens aware of the very real dangers of fire," said Petrillo. "And it is certainly a message that we must continue to develop and expand upon."

State Fire Marshal Petrillo also acknowledged two special guests attending the breakfast from the Bayonne School District. Mrs. Christine Mercun and Mrs. Patricia Dziubek have been two of the driving forces behind New Jersey's newest fire safety education program - the New Jersey F.I.R.E. Bowl.

Any fire officials in New Jersey needing to arrange a pick-up of smoke detectors can contact Charlie Luxton at the NJ Division of Fire Safety. [~WABC TV~\(Web Link\)](#)



# FIRE FOCUS

## FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY SPREADS TO SOUTH JERSEY

Earlier this year, the Division of Fire Safety and the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness raised New Jersey's preparedness level by unveiling its latest large-scale firefighting tool called the "Big-Flow Neptune System." This is the same system, which has been available and deployed in the northern Urban Area Security Initiative portion of the State. Last December The "Big Flow" unit, is manufactured by United Technologies's Kidde Firefighting Systems, was recently demonstrated on the banks of the Delaware River at Gibbstown.

Among those on hand to introduce the new equipment were State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo, Homeland Security Director Richard Canas, and State Senator Stephen Sweeney. Director Canas highlighted the fact that this new system is part of the overall goal of having New Jersey, as a whole, prepared for any kind of disaster.

"Providing South Jersey with this state-of-the-art equipment is consistent with the State's regional strategy of homeland security," said Canas. "We need to be ready for a large-scale emergency - whether it's a terrorist attack, accident, or natural disaster."

The new Neptune unit is designed specifically to address concerns related to the critical industrial infrastructure located in and around the Delaware River. This region, which includes New Jersey counties such as Gloucester and Camden, has the second-largest oil-refining capacity in the United States.

The system, which can deliver over 5,000 gallons of liquid per minute at 150 psi, is seen by Senator Sweeney as a way for the firefighters in his legislative district to be on the cutting-edge in their firefighting capabilities.

"The arrival of this equipment and technology to our region will be essential to our firefighters in protecting both the infrastructure and lives of our residents," said Sweeney.

## U.S.F.A. KICKS OFF SMOKING AND HOME FIRES CAMPAIGN

Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths. To aid in preventing these tragic incidents, the United States Fire Administration launched a nationwide Smoking and Home Fires campaign. The aim is to raise awareness and stop home fires caused by smoking before they start.

The message is simple. It is to urge smokers to: **Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.** The campaign will promote fire-safe smoking practices through educational materials, community organization-sponsored events, and a user-friendly Web-site.

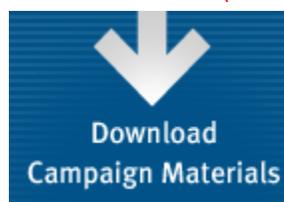
For more information on the campaign and to view the demonstration on how quickly a smoldering cigarette can turn into a raging fire, please click on the video link below:

**VIDEO**  
*(Web Link)*



~U.S. Fire Administration~  
*(Web Link)*

*(Web Links)*



# FIRE FOCUS

## NJDFS POSTER CONTEST

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety has once again teamed up with the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association to hold its annual Fire Safety Poster Contest. The artwork of students from every county in New Jersey has been submitted for State judging, and ultimately there will be seven grand prize winners in seven divisions.

This year's contest theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan!". This theme encourages the students to promote proper preparation in the home in case of a fire. The kids have come up with a wide variety of ways to artistically convey this message. All contest winners will be announced in May and receive their prizes at the Awards Luncheon.

Each of the seven State winners will receive a full DELL computer system, compliments of Sprinkler-Fitters Union 696. In addition, one overall winner will have their poster mass-produced for distribution throughout New Jersey.

## CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT ~ 2008 OUTLOOK ~

It's now 2008, and many Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Construction Code Officials are not fully aware that all fire equipment contractors are required to obtain business permits with the Division of Fire Safety. As of July 1, 2003, all fire equipment contractors must have business permits issued by the Division in order to legally operate within the State of New Jersey.

The only exception to this mandate is for fire alarm installations. A company may install, maintain, and inspect systems if they meet one of the following established criteria:

 A business permit issued by the Contractors Certification and Emblems Unit.

 Hold a license from the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs as an Electrical Contractor.

 Hold a license for Fire Alarms issued by the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.

Currently, if a company has an employee with an individual license, they may do fire alarm work. The procedures for issuing business licenses are in their final stages. Once they are in place the business license will be required.

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs currently only issues individual licenses. They are now in the process of issuing business licenses. A fire alarm business permit or license does not, however, grant a contractor the approval to do any work reserved to that of a license electrician. An example of this type of work would be AC/AD-wired smoke detectors.

The Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit would like to provide all our permit holders direct access to current industry news and issues. This program is just one more tool to fill the code enforcement - contractor information void.

Contractors can join this voluntary program. Sign up now via the NJDFS website.

~ [www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/contcert.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/contcert.shtml) ~



# FIRE FOCUS

## CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT ~ 2008 OUTLOOK - CONTINUED ~

The Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit needs the code enforcement community to act as our eyes and ears. We ask your help in making the program better by reporting your concerns to our staff. The Unit also oversees the Disability and Oxygen Emblem Program for the Division of Fire Safety. Emblem applications may be downloaded from the website and distributed by any Local Enforcement Agency, fire department, police department, civic group, etc. Applications can be filled out and faxed to the Division at 609.324.8493.

Questions regarding contractors licensed by the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs can reach that office at 973.504.6245. All complaints and questions from customers or code officials should be directed to the Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit at 609.324.3560.

**Gary Licknack, Supervisor** ([e-mail link](#))

## PRUDENTIAL CENTER PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGE TO NEWARK F.D.

During its first year in operation, Newark's brand-new, state-of-the-art arena has become New Jersey's premiere venue when it comes to sports and entertainment. In addition to serving as the home of hockey's New Jersey Devils, the Prudential Center (a.k.a. 'The Rock') has hosted world-famous acts such as Bon Jovi, the Spice Girls, and Hannah Montana. With all these exciting events coming to Newark, the fire service has had to do its part to ensure the safety of The Rock's visitors.

Many sports and entertainment events today use pyrotechnic displays (i.e. indoor firework effects) to enhance the live audience's experience. While pleasing to the eye, there are naturally inherent dangers that go along with using indoor explosives with thousands of people present.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, led by Joshua Lazarus, has held special training sessions with the Newark Fire Department's fire officials to familiarize them with the types of pyrotechnic equipment they will be seeing at the Prudential Center. With several acts coming to the arena using these devices, it is important that local fire officials know what to look for - ensuring that the displays are used safely.

"Even experts in pyrotechnics can make mistakes," said Lazarus, who gave a live demonstration of several common types of fireworks displays. "That's why it is important to be as thorough as possible when doing an inspection before an event. There are a lot of lives at stake in an arena, so we err on the side of caution."

The Prudential Center has certainly enjoyed great success in its first year of operation. The NJ Division of Fire Safety and the Newark Fire Department will continue to work together to ensure that success continues by keeping the building fire-safe.

For more information on Pyrotechnic displays, please contact **Josh Lazarus** ([e-mail link](#)).



# FIRE FOCUS

## ARSON/K-9 UNIT STATS

NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
ARSON/K-9 UNIT  
2008 MONTHLY INVESTIGATION STATISTICAL REPORT

CLASSIFICATION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
COMPLAINT/INSPECTION	0	0	0	0	0
ORIGIN & CAUSE INVEST.	5	11	6	12	34
ORIGIN & CAUSE W/CIV. INJ.	1	0	3	1	5
ORIGIN & CAUSE W/CIV. FAT.	2	2	3	0	7
ORIGIN & CAUSE W/FF. INJ.	0	0	1	1	2
ORIGIN & CAUSE W/FF. FAT.	0	0	0	0	0
FF INJURY	5	1	3	2	11
FF FATALITY	0	0	1	0	1
K-9 ACCELERANT DETECTION	6	2	3	4	15
ORIGIN & CAUSE WITH K-9	1	3	2	4	10
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION	0	1	0	0	1
CANCELLED ENROUTE	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>87</b>

FIRES BY CAUSE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
ACCIDENTAL	3	3	3	6	15
INCENDIARY	6	7	4	10	27
NATURAL	0	0	0	0	0
UNDETERMINED	6	9	9	8	32

INVESTIGATOR STATISTICS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
TRAINING HOURS	41	35	72	35	183
K-9 DEMONSTRATIONS	4	3	5	6	18

## NFIRS MULTI-YEAR DATA

The Division of Fire Safety is pleased to announce the release of the *Fire In New Jersey - 2006 Data*. is available on the Division's website.

Division NFIRS data is a comprehensive picture of the Fire Service in the state.

Click on the links below to get a preview of what you can expect to see in the report.



[Most Frequent Types of Fire Incidents - 2007](#)



[Most Frequent Property Use Where Fires Occurred - 2007](#)



[Most Frequent Property Use of Building Fires - 2007](#)

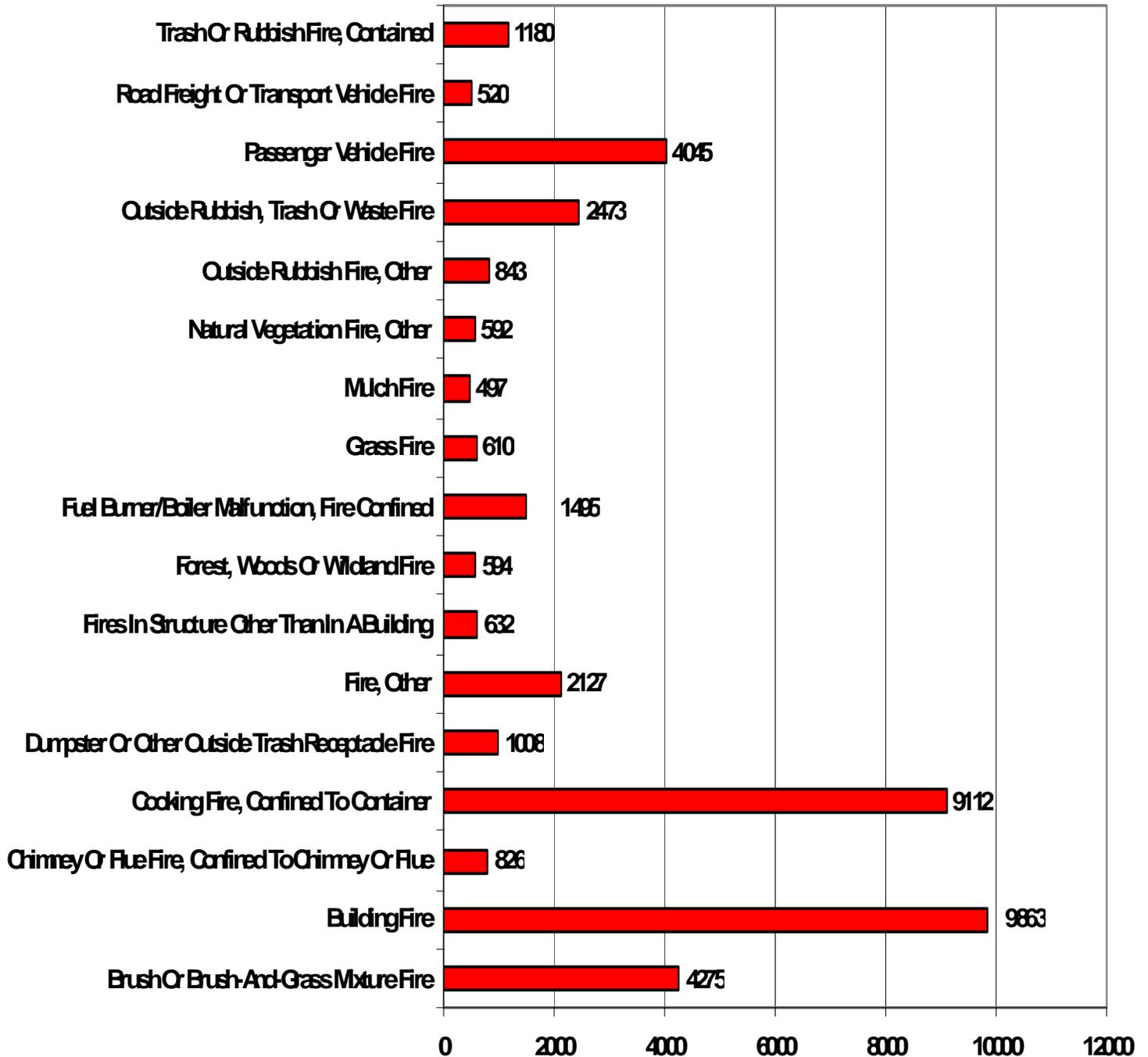


[Fires in Residential Property Uses - 2007](#)



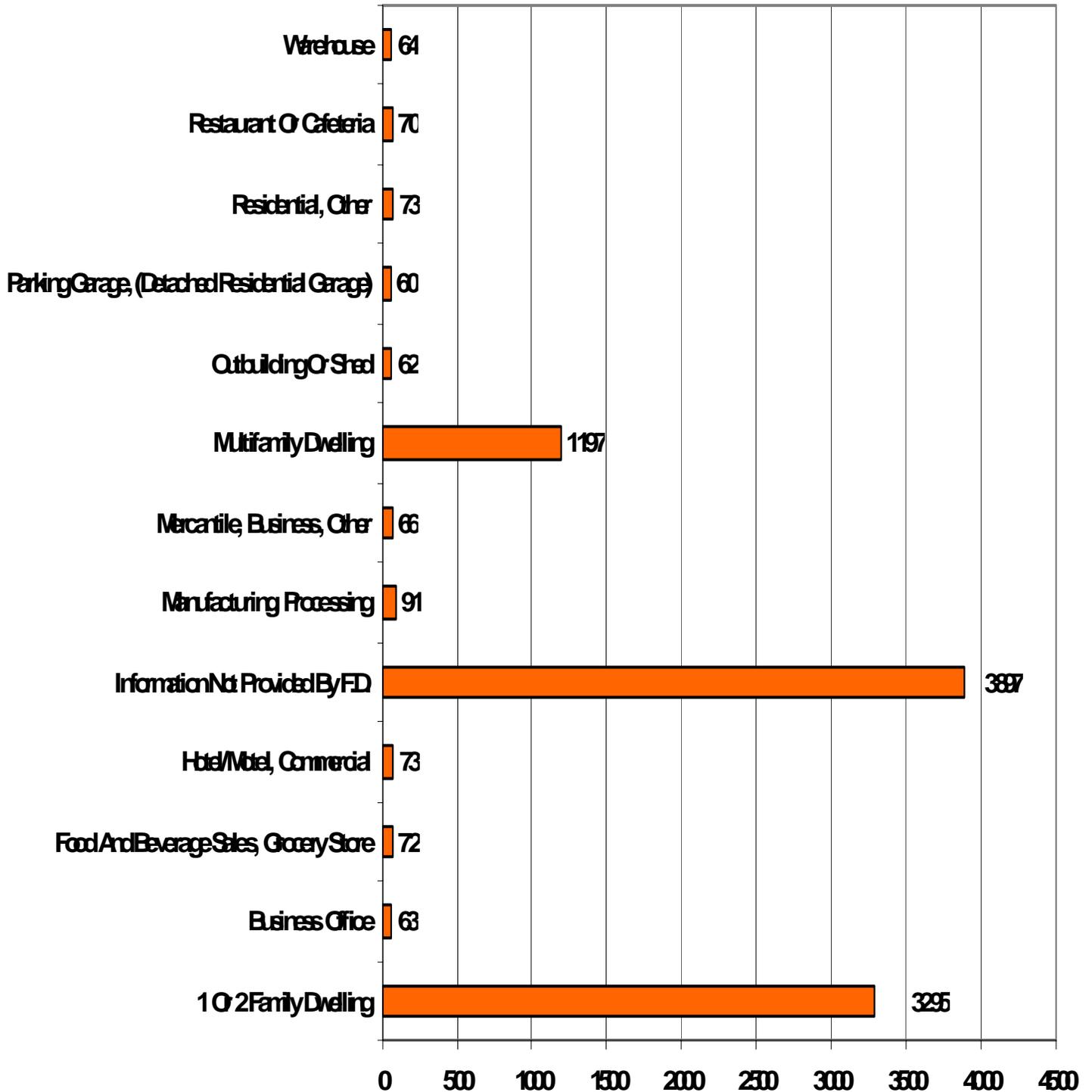
# FIRE FOCUS

## Most Frequent Types of Fire Incidents - 2007



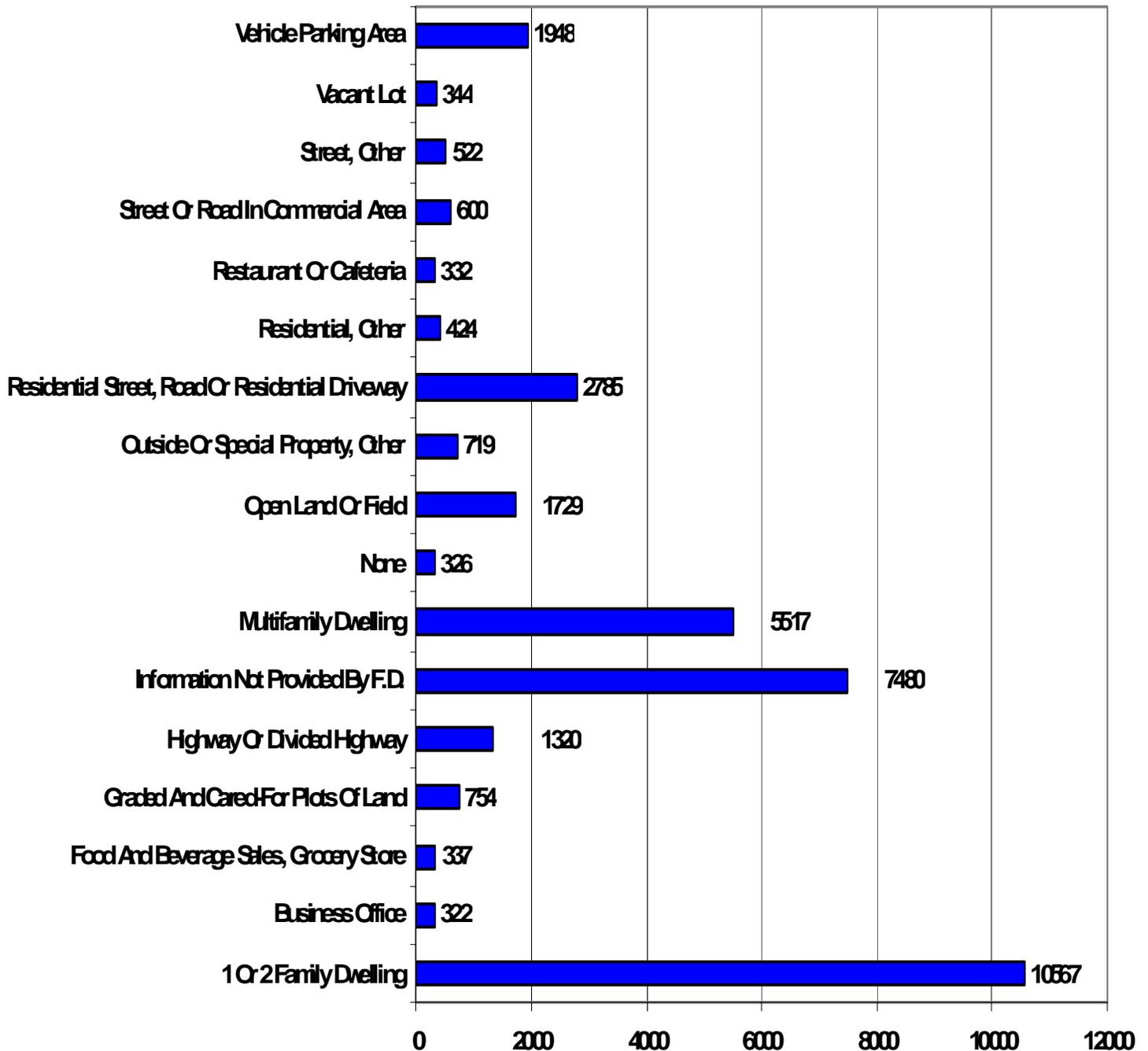
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## Most Frequent Property Used Building Fires- 2007



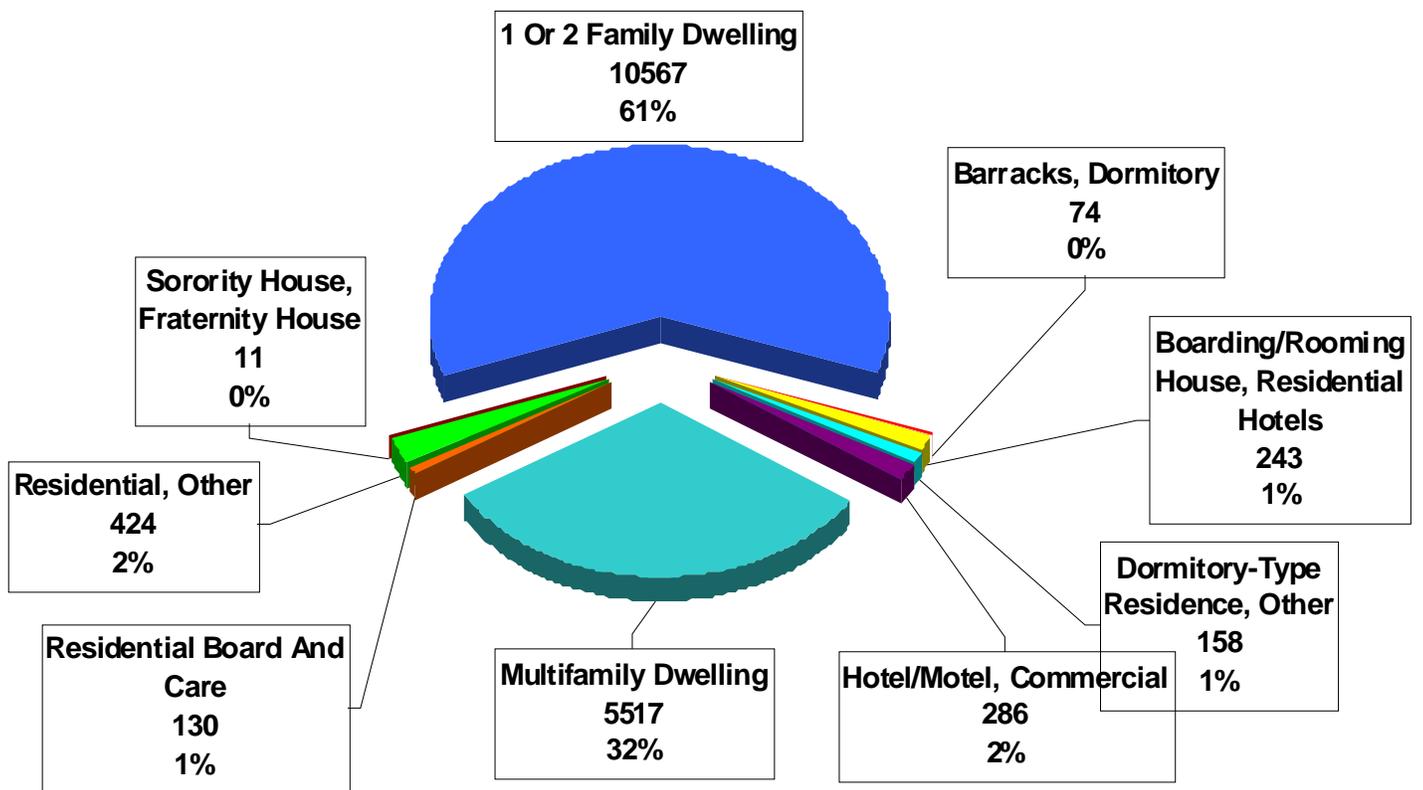
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Most Frequent Property Use Where Fires Occurred- 2007



# FIRE FOCUS

## Fires in Residential Property Uses - 2007



**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
CONTACT INFORMATION**



*Division of Fire Safety  
Staff*

**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
101 South Broad Street**

-  Director's Office 609.633.6106
-  Inspection Unit 609.633.6132
-  Legislative Unit 609.984.1947
-  Publications 609.633.7129

**BORDENTOWN OFFICE 609.324.7336**

-  Arson/K-9 Unit
-  Contractor Certification & Emblem Unit
-  NFIRS Unit
-  Office of Fire Department Preparedness
-  Public Education Unit
-  Smoke Detector Distribution
-  Training and Certification

**VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT  
1.800.FIRELINE**

**JUVENILE FIRESETTER HOTLINE  
1.800.357.5230**

**Arson/K-9 Unit**

- Chris Eckert - Supervisor**
- Beverly Verde - Technical Assistant
- Stephen Letts - K-9 Investigator
- Rod Meyer - K-9 Investigator
- Jason Spiecker - Investigator
- Jeff Silver - K-9 Investigator

**Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit**

- Gary Licknack, Supervisor**
- Kim Lake
- Chris Michallis

**Fire Code Enforcement**

- Louis Kilmer - Bureau Chief**
- Carol Quinn - Inspection Office Staff Supervisor**

**Team 1 Inspection Team**

- (County Codes - 02, 07, 09, 10, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21)*
- Josh Lazarus, Supervisor**

**Team 2 Inspection Team**

- (County Codes - 03, 04, 11, 12, 13, 18)*
- Glenn Smyth, Supervisor**

**Team 3 Inspection Team**

- (County Codes - 01, 04, 05, 06, 08, 15, 17)*
- Robert Kozlowski, Supervisor**

**Office of Fire Department Preparedness**

- Richard Farletta, Supervisor**

**Training & Certification**

- Kent Neiswender, Supervisor**
- Debra Jones-Stevenson
- Greg Kirkham

**Fire Department Services**

- William Kramer, Bureau Chief**

**Fiscal (LEA Rebates)**

- Aida Jones, Supervisor**

**NFIRS Unit**

- Heather Puskar, Supervisor**
- Fred Connin - NFIRS Representative
- Steve Hearn - NFIRS Representative

**Publication Unit**

- Marylain Kemp

# FIRE FOCUS

## COUNTY FIRE CODE REPRESENTATIVES

### PAUL ALLEN, SUPERVISOR

~Contact Information~  
609.633.6111  
[pallen@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:pallen@dca.state.nj.us)

## NORTHERN FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

### GEORGE CRAMER

~Contact Information~  
609.633.6112  
[gcramer@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:gcramer@dca.state.nj.us)

10 - Hunterdon ~ 11 - Mercer  
14 - Morris ~ 18 - Somerset  
19 - Sussex ~ 21 - Warren

### PAUL ELENIO

~Contact Information~  
609.633.6147  
[paul.elenio@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:paul.elenio@dca.state.nj.us)

02 - Bergen ~ 07 - Essex  
16 - Passaic ~ 20 - Union

## CENTRAL FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

### FRANK CLARK

~Contact Information~  
609.633.6738  
[fclark@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:fclark@dca.state.nj.us)

01 - Atlantic ~ 03 - Burlington  
12 - Middlesex ~ 13 - Monmouth  
~15 - Ocean ~

## COUNTY FIRE CODE REPRESENTATIVES - CONTINUED

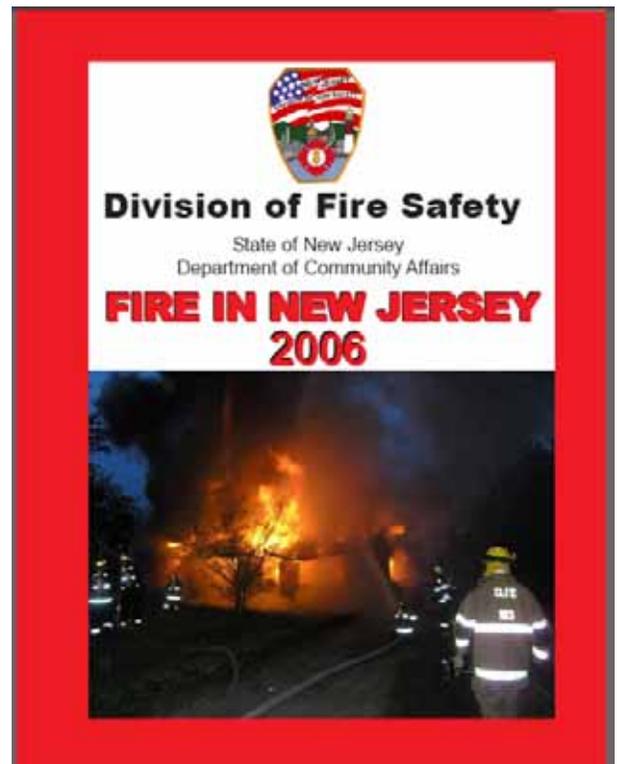
### SOUTHERN FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

### GEORGE BECKETT

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609.826.5551  
[george.beckett@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:george.beckett@dca.state.nj.us)

04- Camden ~ 05 -Cape May  
06 -Cumberland ~ 08 - Gloucester  
~ 17 - Salem ~

*Please contact any of the Fire Code Representatives for code assistance related questions or concerns.*



*Click on the above to access Fire In New Jersey 2006*



# FIRE FOCUS



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**FIRE FOCUS** invites submissions, including photographs that would be of interest to the Fire Service and makes every effort to print all items submitted. All submissions however must be made by e-mail to Jerry Clark. All submitted material must be copyright cleared and can be e-mailed to the attention of the Public Education Unit, Jerry Clark at [jerry.clark@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:jerry.clark@dca.state.nj.us).

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