

# Hot Topics in Fire Prevention

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## Fire Dues Self-Certification Process Concludes March 15<sup>th</sup>

The 2% Fire Dues Self-Certification Process runs from January 11 – March 31, 2016. This year the goal is to complete the self-certification process by March 15, 2016.

As of February 29, we have had phenomenal participation with 97% of all required forms being completed by at least one party (clerk or chief) and just over 85% of all forms being successfully submitted by both parties.

During the time period, both fire chiefs and municipal clerks must complete the self-certification forms on-line through use of the [Wisconsin's Fire Program On-line System](#).

Failure to complete the self-certification form by either the chief or the municipal clerk will result in an on-site audit of the fire department and may lead to the loss of 2% Fire Dues funds.

When logging into the [Wisconsin's Fire Program On-line System](#), both chiefs and clerks are asked to verify the information displayed and change any information that should be updated.

Several new fields have been added to the fire department information screens. Amongst the new fields are: number of inspections on the Lead Inspector's page, the NFIRS contact, and the Fire

Department organization type on the Fire Department page.

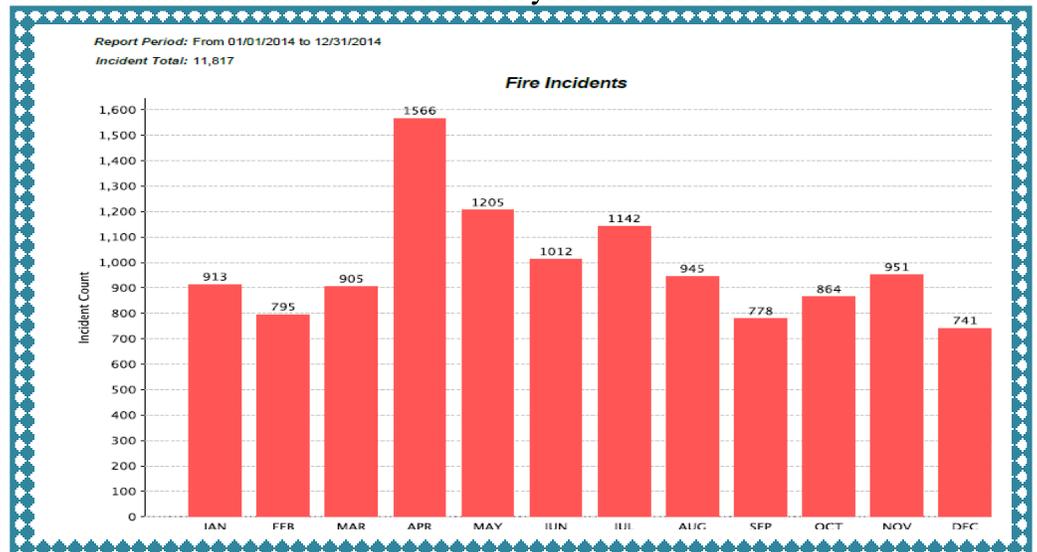
As part of the Annual Fire Department Update, Chiefs were asked to complete their updates by February 1.

Following the successful submittal of all updated fire department information, the annual Deputy Cards and Fire Inspector Identification Cards can be printed directly from the fire dues application. This year the cards will only be available within the web application.

For login assistance or if you have additional questions regarding the process, please contact us at [DSPS IS Fire Dues](#).



## 2014 WI Fire Incidents By Month of the Year



## Recent Management Changes within DSPS

We would like to keep you informed of a few recent management changes within the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Eric Esser, the previous Assistant Deputy Secretary, has moved to Deputy Secretary of the Department. Jeff Weigand, previous Administrator of the Division of Industry Services, is now serving as Assistant Deputy Secretary. Kirsten Reader, previous Administrator of the Division of Professional Credential Processing, has transitioned to Administrator of the Division of Industry Services. Kirsten has been with the Department for over two years, and prior to serving as a Division Administrator, she served as Public Information Officer at the DSPS. She looks forward to working with you in the future. Amy Millard, Bureau Director of Technical Services, is assuming the responsibilities for the Safety and Fire Prevention Programs. Amy has been with the department since September 2015. Amy has been in State Service for 22 years and held positions with the following Departments: University of Wisconsin, Department of Corrections and Department of Health Services.

*Two new faces in the management of the Fire Prevention Program.*



Kirsten Reader  
Division Administrator



Amy Millard,  
Bureau Director

## WisSAFE Program Progresses

[WisSAFE](#) is dedicated to protecting the citizens of Wisconsin from the devastating effects of fire. Smoke alarms give early notification in case of a fire and warn the occupants of danger. There are still approximately 3,000 fire related deaths in the United States every year. The WisSAFE goal is to eliminate fire deaths in Wisconsin by providing the needed education and tools. The WisSAFE team is dedicated to fire prevention and life safety.

The WisSAFE program is progressing with 70 fire

departments now participating in the program with 1,750 smoke alarms committed to be installed in homes.

WisSAFE along with the fire service organizations are working closely with the American Red Cross to provide and install smoke alarms in the homes of our communities. A letter was sent out on February 1 to the chief of each Wisconsin fire department with information on the program and how to participate. WisSAFE team members will be presenting information at

the fire service conferences around the state and will be extending the participation deadline until the middle of March.

Additional information can be obtained from the website:

[www.wissafe.com](http://www.wissafe.com)

or by e-mail:

[smokealarms@WisSAFE.com](mailto:smokealarms@WisSAFE.com)

*It's a fact: if a smoke alarm was installed before Mar 1, 2006 it needs to be replaced!*



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### Bloodborne Pathogens Standard: 29 CFR 1910.1020

Do you have a bloodborne pathogens program included in your standard operating guidelines? DSFS has adopted OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens standard which requires that an employer develop and implement a bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan if employees have reasonably anticipated job-related contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Some key elements of a written Exposure Control Plan (ECP) include:

- Identification of job classifications, tasks and procedures where there is occupational exposure
- Offering free hepatitis B vaccinations to all occupationally exposure employees
- Providing and ensuring that employees use personal protective equipment and practice Universal Precautions
- Ensuring that contaminated sharps are disposed of in proper sharps disposal containers
- Establishing a procedure for post-exposure evaluation and follow-up
- Training occupationally exposure employees at initial assignment and at least annually thereafter
- Performing and documenting an annual review of the written ECP, including the evaluation and selection of medical devices with engineered sharps injury protection

Additional information on the [Bloodborne Pathogens standard](#) (29 CFR 1910.1030) and the required elements of an ECP and can be found on the [OSHA](#) website under [Safety and Health Topics](#) located within the Training and Education Section.

Sample fire department standard operation guidelines ([SOGs](#)) which include an ECP can be found on the DSFS [Fire Department Safety and Health Program Publications](#) webpage.

Ann Jurkowski, CIH  
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### Debunking NFIRS Reporting Myths: Reporting Doesn't Help My Department

Often department personnel may not see the value in completing an accurate, timely NFIRS incident report. After all, the call was handled so the job is done – or is it?

Would your department benefit from continuing to receive 2% Fire Dues funds? Could you find a use for FREE grant money? Would you like to be able to present an accurate

picture of what your department does and the numerous ways that you serve your community? – NFIRS is the solution you are looking for.

There are many reasons to submit a NFIRS incident report. By completing the NFIRS incident report, your department, county, state, and the nation can use the data contained within your incident report to justify

budgets, personnel and apparatus needs, new and revised codes, personnel, schedules, public education needs, qualify for grants, and meet requirements for 2% Fire Dues funds.

It is never too late to submit a missing incident. Please contact your [NFIRS Program Manager](#) for help with reviewing your department's NFIRS submissions and any gaps in your reporting.

*A good field report can make NFIRS reporting easier. The original WFIRS paper report is still available on the DSFS Fire Prevention [NFIRS webpage](#).*

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*Fighting Fires with Facts*



**We're on the Web!**

<http://dsps.wi.gov/Programs/Industry-Services/Industry-Services-Programs/Fire-Prevention/>

## Fire Prevention Program Staff Popping Up Around the State

The Fire Prevention Program staff have been busy around the state conducting fire department audits, presenting at the 2016 Wisconsin Towns Association's 2016 district meetings, completing the presentations for the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association's district meetings, attending County Chief's meetings, and preparing for attendance at

two upcoming Fire Service Conferences. Look for staff within the vendor area on March 11 – 12 at the Wisconsin State Firefighters' Association's Annual Conference in Stevens Point. Staff will also be found in Green Bay on June 24 – 25 at the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association's Annual Conference.

The presentation from the district meetings for both the Towns Association and the Municipal Clerks Association will be posted to the [Fire Prevention – Training](#) webpage following the conclusion of the meetings in April.

For questions on the audit process contact your local Fire Prevention Coordinator.

## Fire Prevention Program Contacts

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The Industry Services Division Fire Prevention Program provides services related to fire prevention, protection, fire department safety & health, NFIRS, and the administration of the two percent fire dues. Staff also provide assistance to fire chiefs and inspectors in Wisconsin in support of fire prevention inspections.

## Share Your Thoughts

Please let us know your thoughts on the newsletter by completing the [Newsletter Feedback survey](#). We look forward to hearing what you like about the newsletter and what we can include in the future to make the newsletter top your very own *Must Read List*.