



Hot Spots from the State Fire Marshal August 2014

Safety resources for firefighters deploying to wildfires

It's been an extremely busy fire season to this point and red flag fire conditions show no sign of easing up. As the hot weather patterns continue, firefighters and safety officers need to be extra vigilant about heat related injuries. There are some great resources on this topic and others on the [Northwest Coordination Center's website](#). These resources can help educate firefighters about hydrating, working in hot, dry conditions, and the risk factors that may lead to heat related injuries.

2013 firefighter fatalities

In 2013, 97 on-duty firefighter deaths occurred in the U.S., which is a large increase over recent years due primarily to two high-fatality incidents – the Yarnell Hill Fire that killed 19 wildland firefighters in Arizona and the explosion in West, Texas that killed nine responding firefighters. According to a NFPA report released in July, despite the large number of traumatic and burn injuries that occurred in those incidents, stress and other medical-related issues continue to account for the largest number of fatalities. You can [access the full 2013 firefighter fatality report on the NFPA website](#).

Fires in college housing

According to the NFPA report "[Structure Fires in Dormitories, Fraternities, Sororities, and Barracks](#)," September and October are the peak months for fires in college housing. In the past five years in Oregon (2009-2013), there were a reported 40 college housing-related fires that caused more than \$160,000 in property loss. Fortunately, there were no reports of deaths or injuries. The [NFPA](#) and the [Center for Campus Fire Safety](#) are urging fire agencies to remind students to be mindful of fire safety. Helpful resources include a free [fire safety checklist](#) and [campus and dorm fire safety tip sheet](#).