

NEWS RELEASE:



NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation

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New NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation and RFSI Join Forces, Signaling a New Era in Residential Fire Safety

WASHINGTON, DC – The newly formed National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (the NASFM Foundation) has been entrusted with continuing to provide the educational activities and technical assistance that previously have been offered by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI).

The NASFM Fire Research and Education Foundation was formed in as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the oversight of the National Association of State Fire Marshals. The NASFM Foundation was established to advance the NASFM mission of protecting human life, property and the environment from fire through science, innovation, research and education. The NASFM Foundation seeks projects that mobilize industry, the scientific and technical community, emergency responders, code officials and other stakeholders to plan and implement the next generation of fire safety advances.

NASFM President Alan Shuman, who is also President of the NASFM Foundation, said, "With more than 80% of civilian fire deaths occurring in residential structure fires, there is a crucial need to bring fire safety in the home to a new level. The NASFM Foundation is honored to carry on the good and important work of the Residential Fire Safety Institute at a time when these resources are more necessary than ever." RFSI Chairman Gary Johnson stated, "NASFM has been a longstanding and valued supporter of RFSI; the RFSI Steering Committee unanimously agreed that this new partnership will lead to an even greater level of fire safety and prevention for the public."

RFSI, formerly known as Operation Life Safety, was created in 1982 as a public interest group to promote fire-safe homes through built-in fire protection and fire safety education. RFSI's Steering Committee voted January 26 to dissolve it as a stand-alone organization. At the same time, it voted to transfer the assets and RFSI services to the NASFM Foundation, becoming the first project of the new Foundation. These activities include a newsletter, website, educational resources and technical assistance to fire departments, local and state governments on programs that involve residential fire sprinklers, carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, and other early warning equipment.

Under the theme, "Doing the right thing for fire safety," the NASFM Foundation encourages public-private cooperation and cost sharing in pursuit of higher levels of fire safety. President Shuman said that the NASFM Foundation soon would issue membership invitations to public agencies, corporations and institutions with strong track records in support of fire safety. Further, the Foundation will be actively seeking advisory partners on the RFSI Project to help ensure that all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in enhancing residential safety.