



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY  
John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



**Division of Fire Safety**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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## *Technical Bulletin*

January 18, 2008

### **Cigarette Fire Safety Program**

This standard requires the industry to produce a cigarette which essentially self extinguishes and as such reduces the possibility for igniting upholstered furniture, thereby reducing the overall number of fires. To date, almost ½ of the United States have enacted or in the process of enacting legislation as well as the dominion of Canada have followed suit and adopted cigarette fire safety standards. This follows the leadership of New York State in enacting the first standard in the United States

The Office of the NH State Fire Marshal is requesting that fire chiefs and/or a designee report all fires suspected to have been caused by cigarettes to the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal within *fourteen days* of completing their investigation. This request is intended to provide a process for the fire service to measure the effectiveness of the standard in reducing the number of cigarette caused fires and the resultant dollar loss and fire deaths.

As a means to assist the fire service in complying with the reporting requests of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a process has been established for fire chiefs and their investigation units to report specific criteria which will aid in monitoring the effectiveness of this important fire safety program. A simple one page form titled “**New Hampshire State Suspected Cigarette Caused Fire Incident Report**” captures the necessary data from suspected cigarette caused fire incidents. In addition to the form, it is important to document the cigarette pack by photographing each side of the pack with “*up-close*” detailed photos depicting the Fire Standard Compliant markings and the NH State Tax Stamp. The report form may be obtained by contacting the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal or via our website at [www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety). The form can be submitted to the office by any of the following means:

- E-mail [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov)
- Fax (603) 271-3206
- Mail Office of the NH State Fire Marshal  
33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305

Staff from the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal will evaluate each submission. Follow up contacts will be conducted with fire chiefs, as necessary, to review details of the incident and the data as captured through the fire departments documentation of the incident which includes the cigarette packaging.

**Fire Investigation Technical Assistance** for fires suspected to be caused by cigarettes is available by contacting the Office of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal at (603) 271-3294.