

21st Annual
**Anthony R. Braig Conference
on Youth Firesetting**

December 5-6, 2024
Middlesex County Fire Academy
Sayreville, New Jersey

Presented by:



For Fire Service, Mental Health, Law Enforcement,
Social Services, and Educational Professionals

21st Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting

AGENDA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Conference Registration & Breakfast**
- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Welcome Address – Amphitheater**
Richard J. Mikutsky, Director
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
- Keynote Address**
Dianne Grossman, “Mallory’s Army”
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM **Afternoon Classes in Session**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Breakfast**
- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Plenary Session – Amphitheater**
Laura Billon
“Say What?! When HOW you Communicate
is Just as Important as WHAT You Communicate”
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM **Afternoon Classes in Session**

2024 CONFERENCE SPECIAL OFFERING

As announced, Helge “Hagar” Nordtveit and Joe Ehrhardt have begun their retirement as YFS trainers. They are remaining, however, in the NFA cadre of contract instructors for YFS.

As part of this transition, Hagar and Joe will be offering scheduled half-hour clinics with YFS Managers or Specialists who want to strategize around specific program obstacles. Space will be limited.

If interested, please request a clinic appointment via Charles Lavin (Charles.Lavin@dca.nj.gov) and briefly describe the issue so Hagar and Joe can be prepared.

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE ONLINE AT:
www.keanfiresafety.com

21st Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register for the Conference, please email Charles.Lavin@dca.nj.gov with the following information:

*NAME

*ORGANIZATION

*EMAIL ADDRESS

*PHONE NUMBER

*NJDFS ID NUMBER (if applicable)

*CLASS CHOICE FOR THURSDAY PM (12/5)

“Understanding and Interviewing Firesetting Youth”

OR

“Bombing Prevention Awareness”

*CLASS CHOICE FOR FRIDAY PM (12/6)

“New Frontiers in Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention”

OR

“Fire in New Jersey – Prove Your Programs”

OR

“How to Create Successful Fire Safety Programs”

Once ALL of the above information is received, you will be provided with a private link and instructions to submit payment. Once payment is received, your seat at the conference will be confirmed.

The cost is \$110 per person. This includes all courses, as well as breakfast and lunch for both days.

1.0 CEUs will be awarded upon completion of all conference sessions.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS NOVEMBER 22, 2024

COURSE LISTINGS

THURSDAY AFTERNOON - DECEMBER 5, 2024 PROGRAM TIMES AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

“Understanding and Interviewing Firesetting Youth”

Instructors: Brian Dean & Victor Neumann

This course will provide an overview of the South Mountain Youth Center’s Juvenile Firesetter treatment program and the realities of working with delinquent youth. Attendees will be provided with an overview of the skills and approaches necessary for interviewing and engaging with firesetting youth and culminate in the opportunity for several participants to virtually interview firesetting youth located at the South Mountain Youth Center.

2. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

“Bombing Prevention Awareness”

Instructor: Stephen Christinzio

The Bombing Prevention Awareness course provides an introduction to the terrorist attack cycle, an overview of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), homemade explosives (HMEs), and a response to suspicious behaviors and items. This basic awareness is used to enhance bombing prevention measures.

This course will cover the following topics:

- ▶ IED construction and classification
- ▶ IED explosive effects
- ▶ HME and precursor awareness
- ▶ The terrorist attack cycle
- ▶ Response to suspicious behaviors and items

COURSE LISTINGS

FRIDAY MORNING - DECEMBER 6, 2024
PLENARY SESSION IN AMPHITHEATER

9:30AM to 12:00 PM

**"Say What?! When HOW you Communicate is
Just as Important as WHAT You Communicate"**

Instructor: Laura Billon

As it has been said, "What we have here is a failure to communicate..." How are we communicating with the youths sitting across from us? Are we speaking to them in a way that they appreciate: with respect, with empathy, and ethically? As nice as it would be to put our kids into a cookie-cutter box to figure out, we know that this is not possible. We must remember that each child is an individual, with feelings, emotions, and their own life experiences, perhaps involving trauma, mental health challenges, and things that we cannot imagine. As an overview, let's highlight these ideas by looking at some cases to identify how best to get through to the people who may feel that the dangerous and risky behaviors that they are engaging in is their only outlet.

With some real case examples, get an introduction to incorporating better ways to communicate, educate, and initiate improved interventions based upon the needs of the individual. Be the conduit for healthier communication with your Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Program. As it is often said, communication makes the world go 'round!

COURSE LISTINGS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON - DECEMBER 6, 2024 PROGRAM TIMES AND DESCRIPTIONS

3. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

“New Frontiers in Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention”

Instructor: Karla Klas

Youth firesetting (YFS) is a critical issue demanding innovative solutions. This session delves into the latest research, advancements, trends, current landscape, and best practices to empower professionals in preventing and intervening in this complex behavior. Discover a cutting-edge early identification tool, strategies, tips, and collaborative approaches to ignite positive change within your community.

4. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

“Fire in New Jersey – Prove Your Programs”

Instructors: Vincent Campagna & Scott Royle

This instructional session will identify various fire types, patterns and concerns utilizing current and historical fire incident reporting data that directly impacts a fire departments decision in implementing or continuing a community outreach program.

This session will touch on social media trends and its role in Youth Firesetting along with a brief introduction to the U.S. Fire Administration NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) which will be replacing the legacy NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) in 2025.

Real time data, graphs, mapping and events will be demonstrated and utilized. It is strongly encouraged to bring your laptops, smart phones, I-Pads, and thinkpads/computers for interactive use.

“Prove Your Program” focuses on following the data or following the money concept for value added to your community outreach programs in identifying, evaluating, and educational success.

COURSE LISTINGS

5. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

“How to Create Successful Fire Safety Programs”

Instructor: Michael McLeieer

Fire departments are uniquely positioned to know their communities better than most other organizations. However, many departments face a number of challenges getting the job done. This includes knowing how to develop successful fire safety programs and update older media technology (VHS, DVD, USB-A) to newer digital formats to meet the needs, risks and hazards of their target audiences.

This presentation will guide participants through the 5 basic steps of the fire safety program development process:

1. Assess your community;
2. Develop partnerships;
3. Plan and implement your program;
4. Market your program;
5. Evaluate your program.

An emphasis will be placed on building public-private partnerships which will bring unique perspectives to better assess the actual or potential risks in the community and offer solutions to prevent or mitigate these risks.

CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON EDISON/WOODBRIDGE

100 Parsonage Road
Edison, NJ 08837



Overnight accommodations will be available at the Homewood Suites by Hilton Edison/Woodbridge at a special rate. Overnight rooms should be reserved no later than November 10, 2024. All reservations made after this date will be based on availability and at the standard room rate.

For your convenience, a link has been set up specifically to book rooms for the Conference. That can be found at:

Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=EWRWOHW&groupCode=CHWNJD&arrivaldate=2024-12-03&departuredate=2024-12-06&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

BIOGRAPHIES

LAURA BILLON

Laura Billon has been in the fire service and safety operations for over twenty-five years. She is a Certified Fire Investigator and possesses a Law Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Youth Justice and Child Law, a Master's Degree in Forensic Science, and a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Protection Administration. As a Firesetting Profiler, she focuses on the firesetting motivations of individuals of all ages and develops intervention and diversionary programs for behavioral changes for youths involved in misusing fire. Since 2003 she has been an instructor in the Arson Investigation, Safety and Operations, and Fire Prevention Management Departments for the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy. She is a POST certified instructor of arson laws and motivations to the San Diego Sheriffs Department and since 2002 has been an adjunct professor in the School of Public Safety to SDCCD. She speaks to, and trains departments in various fire investigation, community risk reduction, safety operations, ICS, and law enforcement topics around the world. She was hand selected to be part of the curriculum writing committees for the Fire and Arson Investigation and Fire Prevention Management curricula at the U.S. Fire Administration. She has developed many youth firesetting intervention, community risk reduction, and safety programs for cities and counties around the country. She has authored a chapter on origin and cause fire investigation for a college text book entitled, Burns, the Medical and Forensic Model, by Dr. Alan Clark, has published numerous articles regarding fire investigation and prevention, profiled hundreds of firesetters, regularly investigates and testifies as an expert on various fire cases around the country. She is a regular contributor to NPR radio in Los Angeles where she speaks about arsonists, firesetters, and the motivations behind their fire setting behaviors. She resides in Southern California.

VINCENT CAMPAGNA

Vincent Campagna, Program Specialist 2 Regulatory Programs, assigned to the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety's, Office Of Fire Department Preparedness (OFDP), Fire Incident Reporting Unit, is also a Certified Fire Inspector, Fire Official, and Fire Investigator.

BIOGRAPHIES

STEPHEN CHRISTINZIO

Detective Sergeant Stephen Christinzio has 21 plus years with the State Police. He has been assigned to the Bomb Unit since 2007 and is currently the South Squad Supervisor. Upon joining the unit, he became a certified fire investigator and has conducted multiple fire investigations. In 2009, he became a certified bomb technicians and since then has responded to and conducted multiple IED, HME, and other explosive related investigations. He was awarded Trooper of the Year for his actions during the Seaside Bombing Incident which occurred at the Semper Fi Run in 2016. He is also assigned to the FBI National Security Taskforce - WMD Stabilization Team.

BRIAN DEAN

Brian Dean is the Assistant Director of the South Mountain Youth Center in South Mountain, Pennsylvania. Brian has a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. He has spent a 25-year career working with at-risk youth in various stages of residential care and treatment programming. For the last 22 years, Brian has worked for Abraxas and had oversight of their juvenile firesetting treatment program. He has maintained a relationship with the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD and collaborates in both course development and presentation to the Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention (YFPI) course.

DIANNE GROSSMAN

Dianne is a wife of 23 years, mom of 4, entrepreneur and now advocate... On June 14, 2017 - the unimaginable happened. Dianne and her husband Seth's youngest daughter -Mallory Rose Grossman, 12, of Rockaway, NJ - died by suicide after months of bullying at school. She was an avid gymnast, cheerleader, and lover of all things outdoors. She is the 4th child in the Grossman family. Her character at the young age of 12 made her more inspirational than the average adult. She was a compassionate, selfless, KIND, and loving old soul. She loved summer weekends at the family campground where she sold homemade crafts to raise money for Camp Good Days, a camp for children with cancer.

Her smile and giggle could light up a room. With this as her mother's memory, Dianne Grossman - the advocate - was born out of tragedy and

BIOGRAPHIES

vowed to do her part to empower children, educate parents and enrich schools, hopefully do her part to “blue out bullying”. Dianne Grossman graduated from the school of hard knocks life. She’s used her journey over the last 40+ years to be a resilient person, she believes “it is never about what happens to you in life, but what you DO after that matters.” Many say, YOLO (you only live once), Dianne disagrees, she believes we live twice - the life here and now and the legacy carried on after you have passed. Reminding young people to leave behind a legacy worth carrying on is her mission. Be the KIND of person you want to meet. With a blue band on her arm, she lives a bracelet KIND of life.

KARLA KLAS

Karla Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP manages the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center’s nationally acclaimed community and family-centered injury prevention programs. Her 32-year distinguished career in burn/trauma critical care nursing, research, professional development training, mentoring, program management, public education, curriculum development, CRR, and injury/violence prevention has produced numerous journal publications, textbook chapters and grant awards. She has attained multiple specialty certifications and leadership appointments to committees devoted to injury control. She is a Michigan ACE Community Champion trainer and a Professional Instructor for the National Fire Academy. An award-winning educator, speaker, and author, Karla also mentors at-risk youth, volunteers in survivor support programs, and enjoys all kinds of outdoor adventures with her family. Learn more at: <https://traumaburn.org/karla-s-klas-bsn-rn-ccrp>

LT. MICHAEL MCLEIEER

Michael McLeieer is an award-winning public fire & life safety educator who has been in the fire service for over 25 years, and has served on fire departments in both Michigan and Massachusetts. He also served as the training and scheduling training coordinator for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and was in charge of the statewide youth fire intervention program. He is a National Fire Academy contract instructor and also serves as a past president of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors, the Michigan State Firemen’s Association, public

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information officer for the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, founder of the nonprofit fire safety organization E.S.C.A.P.E. Inc (Education Showing Children and Adults Procedures for Evacuations), and launched the statewide risk reduction public education and alarm installation campaign Keep Michigan S.A.F.E.™ (Smoke Alarms For Everyone) with his media partners WXMI Fox 17 in West Michigan.

VICTOR NEUMANN

Victor Neumann currently serves as the Clinical Director of the South Mountain Youth Center's Firesetter, Sex Offender, and Habitual Offender treatment programs. Victor holds both a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice specializing in Behavior Management and a Post-Master's Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis from Saint Joseph's University. Throughout his 7-year career, he has worked with at-risk youth in a number of direct-care and clinical roles, most recently as the Senior Treatment Supervisor and Masters-level Clinician. With behavior as the primary focus of his career, Victor has worked with delinquent youth to identify the root causes of their offending and the most appropriate path to rehabilitation.

SCOTT ROYLE

Scott Royle is a Program Specialist 2, Regulatory Programs with New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. He is a NJ DFS certified Firefighter, Fire Instructor and Fire Investigator. Scott has served in the fire service in New Jersey as both career and volunteer since 2002. He is currently assigned to OFDP (Office of Fire Department Preparedness), NFIRS Unit.

CONFERENCE DIRECTIONS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
1001 Fire Academy Drive, Sayreville, NJ 08872
732-727-0008

Via Route 9 / Route 35 Northbound: Come up through South Amboy into Sayreville. Do not go over the bridge. Take the exit on to the Route 9/Route 35 circle. The sign for the exit reads North 35. The ramp is just after a large sign marked Colosseum (sic). At the bottom of the ramp merge right into the circle, then move quickly to the left lane to go around the circle. Bear left going around the circle, passing the Amboy Cinemas. After going under Route 9, merge to the right and take the first right turn-off, on to Chevalier Drive, just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Traveling from Perth Amboy on Route 35 Southbound: Take Route 35 south, crossing the Victory Bridge, and passing the back of Amboy Cinemas. Follow the Route 9/Route 35 circle under Route 9. After going under Route 9, merge to the right and take the first right turn-off, on to Chevalier Drive, just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Via East Brunswick / South River via Route 535: Route 535 is Cranbury Road in East Brunswick. It becomes Main Street in South River. Travel North on Route 535 through South River and over the Veterans' Memorial Bridge, stay in left lane. At the light after the bridge go straight on to Washington Road. At the next light, (this will be the second traffic light after crossing the bridge) turn left on to Main Street. Proceed to the fourth traffic light (approx. 5 miles) and make a left into the Fire Academy.

CONFERENCE DIRECTIONS

Via the Garden State Parkway Northbound: Take Exit 125 (just after the Raritan tolls and before the bridge). At the bottom of the ramp turn left on to Chevalier Drive, then make the first left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

Via the Garden State Parkway Southbound: Take Exit 124 (just after the Raritan tolls). At the bottom of the ramp turn right on to Main Street and after a few hundred feet make the first right on to Kennedy Drive. Stay on Kennedy Drive for 3/4 of a mile, through the traffic light, and straight into the Fire Academy.

Via Route 9 Southbound: Take Route 9 south from Woodbridge over the Raritan River. Take the first exit (marked South Amboy Business Center). At the bottom of the ramp take the first right turn on to Chevalier Drive just past the Sayreville Motor Lodge (Note: Chevalier Drive street sign may be missing, look for signs for Garden State Parkway "South"). After 1/4 mile (just past the Parkway entrance) turn left on to Main Street (large church at corner). After 3/4 mile take the exit for Kennedy Drive. At the bottom of the ramp turn right into the Academy.

From the New Jersey Turnpike North or South: Take Turnpike Exit 11 for the Garden State Parkway (GSP). After the tolls, bear left and on to the Garden State Parkway (GSP) traveling south. From the GSP take Exit 124 (just after the Raritan tolls). At the bottom of the ramp turn right on to Main Street and after a few hundred feet make the first right on to Kennedy Drive. Stay on Kennedy Drive for 3/4 of a mile, through the traffic light, and straight into the Fire Academy.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to bring together State and County resources in the common goal of addressing the issue of youth firesetting throughout the state. We also aim to provide existing county youth fire prevention programs the support necessary to continue their vital mission and make every effort to aid in the development of programs in the counties where none exist.



KEAN