OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 14 FY 08/09
DATE June 17, 2008

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MAINE JUVENILE FIRE SAFETY COLLABORATIVE

WHEREAS, the occurrence of juvenile set fires is both pervasive and incredibly destructive; and

WHEREAS, each year fires set by juveniles, attributed to varied motivations, account for a large percentage of fire-related injuries, property damage and even deaths; and

WHEREAS, from 2000 to present in Maine, there were 1,803 juvenile set fires that accounted for 11 deaths and 91 injuries to civilians and fire service personnel, as well as $32,538,672 in property damage; and

WHEREAS, a formal risk assessment conducted by the State Fire Marshal's Office revealed that Maine has a juvenile fire safety problem; and

WHEREAS, literature on juvenile fire setting opines that fire setting behaviors associated with non-curiosity motivation can lead to other anti-social, negative behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Maine fire departments respond to several hundred incidents each year in which juveniles were involved with the ignition of a fire; and

WHEREAS, the risk to both civilian lives, the lives of fire service personnel and communities in Maine is a risk that can be mitigated through a reduction in juvenile set fires:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby create the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative (hereinafter referred to as the JFS Collaborative) as follows:

Purpose

The Maine JFS Collaborative is established for the purpose of preventing injuries, the loss of life, and the loss of property from juvenile-set fires.

Membership

The JFS Collaborative shall be comprised of representatives from the following departments, agencies, and providers:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or designee
- The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services or designee
- The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections or designee
- The Commissioner of the Department of Education or designee
- The State Fire Marshal or designee
- A representative from Maine Fire Training and Education
- A representative from the Southern Maine Community College Fire Science Division
- A representative from fire services
- A representative from the mental health services community
- A representative from law enforcement
- A representative from the Pine Tree Burn Foundation

The Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court is invited to designate a representative of the Judicial Branch to serve on the JFS Collaborative. In addition, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House are invited to designate a representative from each chamber to serve.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or designee shall chair the JFS Collaborative.

The participation and involvement of all disciplines involved in the assessment, intervention and/or treatment of at-risk juveniles with fire setting behavior is encouraged to further the establishment of a statewide safety program.

The JFS Collaborative shall meet at times and places called by the Chair. Technical assistance will be provided to the Collaborative by staff of the Department of Public Safety and other entities, as they are willing and able to assist.

Objectives

The JFS Collaborative will focus on the prevention of injuries, the loss of life and the loss of property. This will be accomplished by:

- Developing and institutionalizing effective juvenile fire safety programs statewide by educating the public regarding the dangers of children and fire;
- Increasing the percentage of departments reporting juvenile related incidents to the Maine Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Incident Reporting System;
- Strengthening existing juvenile fire safety collaboratives;
- Creating new collaboratives in areas of Maine where they do not exist;
- Developing and supporting effective intervention programs; and

- Institutionalizing and sustaining responsive services statewide.

Costs

Members shall serve without compensation. Costs associated with the administrative needs of the Collaborative shall be borne by the Department of Public Safety and/or by any grant funds awarded to participating entities specifically to accomplish the objectives of the JFS Collaborative.

Annual Report

The JFS Collaborative shall submit a report annually to the Governor and the Children's Cabinet by April 1 of each year.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is June 17, 2008.

John E. Baldacci, Governor