



**State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control**

- 1. At-Home Drug Disposal Kits Now Available at Pharmacies Across Connecticut**
- 2. Application Dates Announced for 2016 SAFER Grants**
- 3. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week**
- 4. NFPA Issues TIA on PASS Alarms**
- 5. FOOLS Class**
- 6. CFA EMT Course**
- 7. Situation Unit Leader Class**
- 8. CFA Bookstore - 20% OFF – Holiday Sale Extended Till 12/24/16**

1. At-Home Drug Disposal Kits Now Available at Pharmacies Across Connecticut

Kits Donated to the State as Part of Efforts to Combat Ongoing Crisis of Prescription Opioid Misuse

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and Attorney General George Jepsen today announced that – as part of the state’s ongoing efforts to combat the misuse of opioids – 80,000 drug deactivation kits capable of safely disposing unused prescription medications have been donated to the State of Connecticut and are now available free-of-charge to residents at over 600 pharmacies throughout the state. The biodegradable Deterra drug disposal kits were donated by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and can deactivate and destroy up to 45 pills each simply by adding warm tap water and then disposing the kit in the trash.

With excess prescription opioids known to contribute to misuse, abuse, and addiction, these kits will allow Connecticut residents to safely dispose of these drugs at home without contaminating water sources or harming the environment. In order to get the kits into the hands of consumers, state agencies have partnered with pharmacies throughout the state to help distribute the packets. Individuals seeking a drug disposal kit can visit their local pharmacy and obtain one free of charge. Participating pharmacies include Big Y, CVS, Price Chopper, Rite Aid, Shop Rite, Stop and Shop, Walgreens, Walmart, and other independent outlets.

“Opioid misuse from prescription drugs can effect anyone of any age or background – nobody is immune. We’ve unfortunately heard many stories from residents whose addiction began when they were prescribed a few pills to help with a certain medical condition, and then led them down a path of addiction and overdose,” Governor Malloy said. “Addiction is a disease. By educating residents on the potential danger of these medications and how to safely dispose of any pills that may no longer be needed for their intended purpose, we can help prevent potential harm or even tragedy from occurring. I urge any

Connecticut resident looking to dispose of unused medication to visit their local pharmacy and ask for one of these packets.”

“Properly disposing of leftover prescription drugs is one way to help stem the overdose epidemic and save lives,” Lt. Governor Wyman said. “Innovations like these pouches address the a very real threat of unused meds being abused, and give consumers an easy opportunity to do the right thing in a way that is healthier for the environment.”

“The opioid epidemic is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted solution,” Attorney General Jepsen said. “No one, single measure or initiative is going to solve the problems with opioid abuse, addiction and overdose that we face as a state and a community, but every step that we take will help to address an aspect of the epidemic and, hopefully, save lives. I believe access to these disposal kits will help to reduce the amount of unused prescription medication in home medicine cabinets and help to reduce the potential that these drugs – especially opioids – will be diverted and potentially lead to greater addiction problems in the future. I would urge Connecticut residents to take advantage of this free and convenient opportunity to dispose of unused medications and to join us in addressing this continuing problem.”

Each of the at-home, Detera drug disposal kits contains a water-soluble inner pod containing MAT12® activated carbon (charcoal). When medication is placed inside of the pouch, warm water should be added, which will dissolve the inner pod releasing the activated carbon. The resulting solution will then dissolve any prescription pills, patches and liquids that were placed inside of the kit, allowing them to be adsorbed by the carbon, and rendering them inert and irretrievable.

“As a company focused on the health and well-being of our patients and communities, Mallinckrodt has long been a strong advocate of addressing the complex issues of opioid misuse and abuse that cause so much harm to families,” Mark Trudeau, Mallinckrodt President and CEO, said. “Providing patients with a safe, environmentally responsible way to dispose of unused medications is critical in this fight against prescription drug abuse. Mallinckrodt is committed to working with policy makers, community leaders, law enforcement and industry partners to ensure the responsible use of pain medication and to prevent unused medications from being misused or abused.”

Any pharmacy in the state that has not received kits or would like to request additional ones should contact the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection’s (DCP) Drug Control Division at dcp.drugcontrol@ct.gov or 860-713-6065.

In addition to the at-home kits, DCP operates a drug disposal program that provides over 71 unused medication disposal drop boxes for Connecticut residents, which can be found at many local and state police departments across the state. A full listing of these drop boxes, as well as instructions for alternate means individuals can safely dispose of unused medication, [can be found on DCP’s website](#).

“Our agency is pleased to see this safe drug disposal pouch program launch and that it’s been made available to all pharmacies in the state,” DCP Commissioner Jonathan A. Harris said. “We’re excited to add this to the efforts we’re already collaborated on, such as drug drop boxes and education about safe medication disposal. I know the fight against the opioid crisis is personal to so many of us. As a state, we need to continue taking every opportunity we have to keep unsafe drugs out of the hands of people they can hurt, and those who suffer from addiction.”

“Prescription medications can contain heavy metals, toxins, acids/bases, high alcohol content, and other materials that when used properly in small dosages are safe,” Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert Klee explained. “When misused or disposed of in bulk, these prescription medications can create significant hazards to the environment, the quality of our waters, and public health – that is why it is so important that we are all here working together on this important issue.”

Since taking office, Governor Malloy has enacted several policy changes to combat the opioid epidemic. These include:

- the 2011 adoption of Good Samaritan laws protecting individuals from prosecution for minor drug crimes who seek medical attention for a friend experiencing an overdose ([Public Act 11-210](#));
- the 2012 adoption of third party prescriber laws allowing the prescription of naloxone to an individual who is not the direct user of the drug ([Public Act 12-159](#));
- the [2014 expansion](#) of Good Samaritan protections for any person who, in good faith, administers naloxone to save a life. Previously, only licensed health care practitioners were allowed to administer the medication without being civilly or criminally liable for the action. Following the law’s adoption, all Connecticut State Police Troopers completed a training program providing them with the skills to administer the medication. ([Public Act 14-61](#));
- the [2015 adoption of legislation](#) that expanded prescriber education, made use of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) mandatory for all prescribers of controlled substances, expanded the scope of practice for pharmacists to allow them to directly prescribe naloxone and reconstituted the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) as a statewide coordinating body to fight the spread of substance abuse and overdose ([Public Act 15-198](#)); and
- the [2016 legislative package](#) that, among other things, limits the prescribing of opioid drugs to seven days (with certain exceptions), and requires municipalities to update their medical service plans to ensure first responders are equipped with Narcan ([Public Act 16-43](#)).

2. Application Dates Announced for 2016 SAFER Grants

The FY 2016 SAFER application period will **open on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 8 am ET** and will **close on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 5 PM ET.**

As you begin preparing your application, it is important to be sure to thoroughly read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) as there are substantial changes to the FY 2016 SAFER Grant Program. The SAFER Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will also be an important tool as they provide more detailed information on the changes and new requirements.

- [FY 2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [FY 2016 Application Checklist](#)
 - This checklist will help you prepare your SAFER grant application
- [FY 2016 Self-Evaluation – Hiring of Firefighters](#)
 - Career, combination, and volunteer fire departments
- [FY 2016 Self-Evaluation - Recruitment and Retention - Fire Departments](#)

- Combination and volunteer fire departments
- [FY 2016 Self-Evaluation - Recruitment and Retention – Interest Organizations](#)
 - National, State, Local, or Tribal Volunteer Firefighters Interest Organizations
- [FY 2016 SAFER Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- Economic Hardship Waivers - **COMING SOON**

SAFER Grants Help Desk: If you have questions about the technical assistance tools listed below, call the toll-free number at 1-866-274-0960; or send email questions to firegrants@fema.dhs.gov.

3. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week

Electrical Power Line Contacts Fire Engine

SUMMARY

Dispatched to investigate downed power lines, an engine crew responded to find the lines draped over a bus-stop shelter. As the crew maneuvered its apparatus to identify the pole location, another line failed and contacted the rear of the vehicle. The crew recognized they had made contact with the line and left the immediate area.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

An engine company responded to down power lines, where the wires fell on top of a bus-stop shelter. The calling party reported that a transformer had blown. The engine arrived and staged away from the covered bus stop. They reported high-voltage lines down across the shelter and the high-voltage conductors had dropped away from their power line next to the transformer.

The apparatus operator was turning the engine around to obtain a pole number from the previous power pole when a large blue flash occurred towards the rear of the engine. An additional transformer had blown, dropping unseen power lines on the rear of the engine. The occupants of the engine experienced tingling sensations for about 15 minutes after the fact.

The apparatus moved away from the scene to safety, reporting their location and the situation. It was later discovered that debris from the power lines had fallen into the hosebed. The utility company said it was likely a 4,800-volt energized line dropped on the apparatus as it pulled away.

View the Report: [Electrical Power Line Contacts Fire Engine](#)

TAKE-AWAYS

The source of power-line failures that aren't related to an event like adverse weather are hard to determine. Unless the reason for the lines down is apparent, you must consider the possible causes and effects of the failure.

It isn't enough to identify what has already happened in these types of electrical events; we must try to predict the risks and plan how to minimize them. Keep in mind that electrical hazards are unstable and can repeat themselves.

Knowing the limitations of your training and equipment, contacting the utility company for this type of incident is essential. Most of the time, the best option is to stand by until the power-company crew arrives.

DISCUSSION

- Responding to electrical emergencies requires fire crews to respond and move cautiously. Is there a safe way to determine the type of utility line that is down?
- If you have determined that a line down is a television cable, is it safe to move it?
- Lines that make contact with other objects pose a significant threat. Discuss with your crew how you would attempt a rescue when people are trapped in a vehicle with lines contacting it.
- Describe why fences pose a significant threat during a power-line emergency. Do you have a written policy on electrical emergencies?
- What is the minimum distance from energized power lines when working from an elevated platform or ladder? What's the best way to determine if they're energized?

LEADING PRACTICES

Arriving on scene of an incident involving power lines should be treated like most other emergencies. Situational awareness in locating hazards, creating a safe area, securing the scene and determining what additional resources are needed should be a first priority.

Beyond these steps, most fire departments aren't trained or equipped to address high-voltage events. Power companies have trained personnel who can respond when these types of emergencies are encountered.

In addition to the possibility of electrocution, downed power lines disrupt the expected flow of electricity into the buildings nearby. In most cases, this simply means the power will be off in these structures, but it's also possible that heat can be created by an unbalanced electric flow. This is particularly noticeable in older structures where the wiring may have been installed or modified without adequate building code inspection practices. Being watchful of the surrounding structures while the power company manages the downed line can help reduce the chance for fires in buildings due to electrical brownouts or surges.

RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS

- [Powerlines Arc Following Rescue Attempt](#)
- [Downed Powerlines Cause Potential Hazard at Traffic Accident Scene](#)
- [Electricity Conducted Through Damp Vegetation Contacts Firefighter](#)
- [Aerial Ladder Has Encounter with Electrical Lines](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Suggested Guidance for Supervisors at Disaster Rescue Sites](#)
- [NIOSH Report: Career Fire Captain Electrocuted After Contacting Overhead Powerline from the Platform of an Elevating Platform Fire Apparatus](#)
- [Fireengineering.com: Three Firefighters Injured Due to Downed Power Lines in Long Beach, CA](#)
- [Electrical Safety Foundation International Overhead Powerline Safety Webpage](#)

4. NFPA Issues TIA on PASS Alarms

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a Tentative Interim Amendment that requires PASS manufacturers to change the PASS alarm sound required in the current edition of NFPA 1982–2013 for PASS devices manufactured after December 21, 2016, **to a new, more audible PASS alarm sound.** This impacts stand-alone PASS devices and PASS that are integrated with SCBA. Please see the attached information.

5. FOOLS Class

The Charter Oak F.O.O.L.S is hosting an FDIC presentation by Jason Rivera of New Haven Fire. His program, Overcoming Common Engine Company Mistakes and Fireground Problems will focus on topics that many of us face. It was designed as a result of a close call he received at a fire where he was burned due to complications on the fireground, yet the decisions and actions of crews on scene created a positive outcome.

Please join us on January 4th at the Simsbury Fire Clubhouse on Town Forest Rd. at 6:00PM for food and refreshments, and 7:00PM for the presentation. There is a \$10 entry fee at the door.

Please send questions to Jay Dixon @ coachjaydixon@yahoo.com

Thank you for your interest.

6. CFA EMT Course

Volunteers looking for Career Jobs? Training Required

Many Career Departments are looking to hire Firefighters that are already trained and ready to go to work. Most of these departments require **Completion of the Recruit Firefighter Program** at the Connecticut Fire Academy and **Emergency Medical Technician.**

The Connecticut Fire Academy runs two (2) Recruit Programs a year and now wants to run EMT between recruit classes ... *One Stop Training*

Seats Available:

Emergency Medical Technician at the Connecticut Fire Academy January 03, 2017 through February 03, 2017

This class will be four days a week starting Tuesday; January 03, 2017

An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a person that has received training to render care to the sick and injured. The job of an EMT, will present you with numerous challenges in a variety of both emergency and nonemergency situations. This course meets the newest National EMS Educational Standards and is designed with both cognitive and practical skill applications. Students will be required to complete all necessary course work including internship with an Ambulance and/or Hospital Emergency Room. Prior to

conducting internships proof of immunization is required. Minimum age with parental permission is 16 years of age. Once meeting the necessary course requirements, students shall be allowed to sit for the state practical and written examinations. Those under 18 will be CT certified only ... all others will be Nationally certified.

Class hours: 160

CFA Course Number: **17208**

Course fee: **\$ 800.00**

Tuition includes Text, BP Cuff, Stethoscope.

Does Not Include Fee for National Registry Testing

<http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?Q=574030&A=832>

7. Situation Unit Leader Class

The Connecticut Fire Academy will be running a Situation Unit Leader class January 10-12, 2017 at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. Please complete an application and fax it with your payment to CFA. The course information and cost is listed in the 2017 calendar. All-Hazards Position Specific Situation Unit Leader Course helps participants establish the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the Situation Unit Leader (SITL) in an all-hazards incident. This course addresses all responsibilities appropriate to an SITL operating in a local- or state-level All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT). These responsibilities include processing information and intelligence and developing displays. The course is an instructor-led training that supports learning through discussion, lecture, and active participation in multiple exercises.

For further information please contact Program Manager Jason Decremer at 860-264-9242 or jason.decremer@ct.gov

<http://www.ct.gov/cfpc/cwp/view.asp?Q=574030&A=832>

8. CFA Bookstore - 20% OFF – Holiday Sale Extended Till 12/24/16

The CFA Bookstore is having a **Holiday Sale starting November 30th ending on Dec. 24th**. All apparel. (including CFA Instructor and Cert. Proctor apparel), collectibles, gift items, toys, all BOOKS, DVD's and USB's are 20% OFF. CFA bookstore items make unique holiday gifts for all the firefighters on your list, big or small!!!

The CFA Bookstore 20% off Holiday Sale has been extended to Dec. 24th. The Bookstore will be open all day Saturday, until 4:30 p.m.

FREE GIFT WRAPPING is available. We can ship your holiday gifts for you!!! Stop by, give us a call or order by email. The bookstore is open 6 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 8:00 p.m.

every Tuesday. Pam Cooney 860-264-9271, pam.cooney@ct.gov or Karen Junguzza 860-264-9244, karen.junguzza@ct.gov.

Thanks, Pam and Karen
CFA Bookstore

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL