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From: FFUS-Comments
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2008 2:15 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR); Doyle, Glenn (CDC/NIOSH/EID)
Subject: 141 - FFUS Comments

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Comments

You should consider including the recommendations from NIOSH - Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Investigative Report #99F-47:

"Recommendation #10: Fire departments should identify dangerous vacant buildings by affixing warning placards to entrance doorways or other openings where fire fighters may enter.1

"Discussion: Vacant buildings can and do pose numerous hazards to fire fighters' health and safety. Hazards should be identified and warning placards affixed to entrance doorways or other openings to warn fire fighters of the potential dangers. Hazards can be structural as the result of building deterioration or damage from previous fires. Structural hazards can occur when building owners or salvage workers remove components of the building such as doors, railings, windows, electric wiring, utility pipes, etc. Abandoned materials such as paper and flammable or hazardous substances and collapse hazards constitute additional dangers fire fighters may encounter. Collapse hazards can be chimney tops, parapet walls, slate and tile roof shingles, metal and wood fire escapes, advertising signs, and entrance canopies. For example, a warning placard may be a 12-inch-square piece of metal painted reflective yellow so that it glows in the dark and indicates to fire fighters that hazards exist inside the building. Following are examples of warning placards developed and used by the New York City Fire Department."

The NIOSH text included a diagram, which will not import into this document. You should refer to the NIOSH report for the original diagram.

"REFERENCES

1. Dunn V [2000]. Vacant building fires. Firehouse Magazine. May 2000, pp. 20-26."

These markings not only warn firefighters, but also put those persons seeking shelter on notice of the dangerous condition of the building, and that the firefighters will not routinely search this building for possible occupants.