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Vision 20/20

National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention

December 29, 2009

Dear Fire Prevention Colleague:

Vision 20/20 invites you to participate in a workshop to explore technological pre-ignition interventions for cook-top kitchen fires. The workshop will take place February 19, 2010 in Washington DC.

Kitchen fires are the number one cause of residential fires in the United States. According to the NFPA, during 2003 through 2006, "U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 150,200 home structure fires involving cooking equipment per year. These fires caused an annual average of 500 civilian deaths, 4,660 civilian injuries, and \$756 million in direct property damage. Ranges, with or without ovens, account for the majority (59%) of total reported home structure fires involving cooking equipment and even larger shares of associated civilian deaths (88%) and civilian injuries (77%). Unattended equipment is the leading cause of cooking fires [1]." The NFPA study also reports that the estimated direct property damage from unreported cooking fires is estimated at \$328 million per year. Therefore the estimated direct property damage from cooking fires exceeds one-billion dollars annually [1].

This workshop will provide a forum for representatives with specific expertise in fire technologies, cooking equipment manufacturing, research, and code enforcement to collaboratively address:

- 1) Current technology for preventing cook top fires.
- 2) Barriers that impede advances in the application of kitchen fire prevention technology.
- 3) Research needed to overcome the identified barriers.

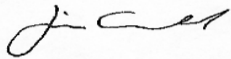
Twenty-five to fifty individuals will participate in a full-day session facilitated by Allan Freedman, Executive Director of SFPE.

To make the most efficient use of this opportunity, materials will be sent or made available for download for your review prior to the workshop. These materials include: Residential Kitchen Fire Suppression Research Needs: Workshop Proceedings (NIST Special Publication 1066), The Residential Fire Problem: A Statistical Look at Kitchen Fires from NFPA, and an Overview of Technologies in Use in Other Countries from TriData. You are asked to share additional documentation that you feel is pertinent to our deliberations for consideration.

Please confirm your intentions to participate with us by January 15, 2010 by returning the form that accompanies this letter. After notification, materials will be sent to you along with instructions for registration and travel.

This Vision 20/20 workshop is supported with funding from State Farm Insurance and in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Vision 20/20 provides a collaborative process for achieving actions that are targeted toward bridging gaps in our Nation's fire prevention efforts. The Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), US Branch is the founding sponsor. DHS/FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Prevention and Safety funding supports core activities that are advised by a Steering Committee representative of major national fire prevention organizations and agencies. This project carries out an action recommended in Strategy 4 of National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention. A report of those strategies and information about Vision 20/20 is available at www.strategicfire.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Crawford", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jim Crawford

1. Ahrens, M., *Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment*, National Fire Protection Association, November 2009.