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## Fire and Life Safety Education in Pennsylvania Fire Departments

Study ID # \_\_\_\_\_

This survey asks about your department's fire and life safety education (FLSE).  
**FLSE is defined as community fire and injury prevention programs and activities designed to eliminate or reduce situations that endanger lives, health, property, or the environment.**

DIRECTIONS: Check the correct answer or write in your answer, as requested.

### SECTION I: The purpose of this section is to describe you and your fire department.

1. How long have you been the fire chief here? Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you been in the fire service? Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your department's overall annual operating budget (including both personnel and non-personnel)? Budget:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. What percentage of this budget is devoted to FLSE (including both personnel and non-personnel)? Percent budget: \_\_\_\_\_ %

5. Do you have any other sources of financial support for your FLSE (ex: grants or donations)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

6. Do personnel in your department conduct FLSE activities?  
\_\_\_\_\_ No → **Go to Question 27**  
**Personnel = all paid and/or volunteer staff.**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes → **Answer 6A below**

A. Who conducts FLSE activities? Check all that apply.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Uniformed personnel assigned exclusively to FLSE
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-uniformed personnel assigned exclusively to FLSE
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uniformed personnel assigned to both FLSE and other responsibilities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-uniformed personnel assigned to both FLSE and other responsibilities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Corps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

7. On average, what is the total number of hours of FLSE per week conducted by your department?

- Less than 5 hours
- Between 5-9 hours
- Between 10-19 hours
- Between 20-29 hours

- Between 30-39 hours
- Between 40-49 hours
- 50 hours or more

8. How familiar are you with NFPA 1035: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator job performance requirements?

- Never heard of it/don't know
- Heard of it, do not know details
- Somewhat familiar
- Very familiar

9. Does your department require general training in FLSE for **all new department recruits** (not just FLSE personnel)?

- No
- Yes

10. Does your department require specialized training for any personnel whose primary responsibility is FLSE?

- No → **Answer 10A below**
- Yes → **Answer 10B below**

A. Why is training not required?  
Check all that apply.

- No FLSE educators in department
- Not a priority
- No funds available
- No training programs available
- Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

B. Who conducts this training?  
Check all that apply.

- National Fire Academy, on/off campus
- State agencies or organizations
- Your department
- Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does your department require certification for any personnel whose primary responsibility is FLSE?

- No → **Answer 11A below**
- Yes → **Answer 11B below**

A. Why is certification not required?  
Check all that apply.

- No FLSE educators in department
- Not a priority
- No funds available
- Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

B. What certification is required?  
Check all that apply.

- NFPA 1035
- Child passenger safety training
- Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

12. How is FLSE positioned in your department?

- Not important part of department activity
- Supplementary to other department activity
- Important part of department activity
- Critical part of department activity

**SECTION II: The purpose of this section is to understand the range of Fire and Life Safety Education (FLSE) activities offered by your department.**

13. What FLSE activities does your department participate in or provide? Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary school presentations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Home safety inspections  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle or junior high school presentations | <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace safety inspections   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school presentations                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Prevention Week/Fire Safety Month events                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College/university presentations           | <input type="checkbox"/> Babysitter preparation training  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older adult presentations                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Child passenger safety seat checks/installs                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Watch®                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood canvassing or sweeps to promote smoke alarms                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn Not to Burn®                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other smoke alarm programs (maintenance, installation, response to requests) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent-Teacher Association presentations   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile firesetting programs              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General health and/or safety fairs         |   |

14A. About how many FLSE activities does your department do in a typical year? *(Please write in an actual number, not a range.)* Number: \_\_\_\_\_ per year

14B. About how many people does your department reach with your FLSE activities in a typical year? *(Please write in an actual number, not a range.)* Number: \_\_\_\_\_ per year

- 14C. About what percentage of FLSE activities are:
- i. In response to requests (from individuals or groups within your community)? . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ % per year
  - ii. The result of your fire department's outreach?. \_\_\_\_\_ % per year

15. What is the focus or content of your FLSE activities? Of the time your department spends on FLSE, what percentage is spent on each topic? Check all that apply.

	Focus?	Percent of time?
a. Fire prevention. . . . .	_____	_____
b. Burn prevention. . . . .	_____	_____
c. Fire escape planning. . . . .	_____	_____
d. Carbon monoxide detectors. . . . .	_____	_____
e. Fire extinguishers. . . . .	_____	_____
f. First aid or CPR. . . . .	_____	_____
g. Smoke alarms. . . . .	_____	_____
h. Home fire sprinkler systems. . . . .	_____	_____
i. Juvenile firesetting. . . . .	_____	_____
j. Disaster preparedness. . . . .	_____	_____
k. Public health emergencies. . . . .	_____	_____
l. Technology issues (ex: interconnected alarms). . . . .	_____	_____
m. Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____	_____	_____

16. Does your department provide FLSE activities that target any of the following specific **high- or special-risk** audiences? \_\_\_\_\_ No → **Go to Question 17**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes → **Answer 16A below**

A. Which **high- or special-risk** audiences do you target? Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children under the age of 5        | <input type="checkbox"/> People living in poverty                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College/university student housing | <input type="checkbox"/> People with low literacy skills              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older people                       | <input type="checkbox"/> People for whom English is a second language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People with disabilities           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____                 |

17. Does your department partner with any of the following community groups to support, deliver or promote FLSE?  No → **Go to Question 18**  
 Yes → **Answer 17A below**

A. Who do you partner with? Check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/classroom teachers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Police departments                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals and/or burn units   | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic organizations (ex: Kiwanis, Rotary)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public health departments     | <input type="checkbox"/> Community coalitions (ex: Safe Kids, Injury Free) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and safety researchers | <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing authority/apartment managers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based leaders           | <input type="checkbox"/> Community agencies (ex: Red Cross, AHA, ALA)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses/employers          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth groups (ex: Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior centers                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____                      |

18. Does your department develop or distribute educational materials (ex: brochures, videos, flyers, posters)? Check all that apply.  No → **Go to Question 19**  
 Yes, We distribute others' materials → **Answer 18A below**  
 Yes, We create/distribute our own materials → **Answer 18A below**

A. About how many materials do you distribute? Number: \_\_\_\_\_ per year

19. For each of the following safety products, please tell us if your department distributes and/or installs them and about how many your department distribute and/or installs per year. Check all that apply.

	<b>Distribute</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Install</b>	<b>#</b>
a. Lithium battery smoke alarms.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Conventional smoke alarms.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. 9-volt batteries (replacement batteries).....	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Smoke alarms for deaf/hard-of-hearing.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Carbon monoxide detectors.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Fire escape ladders.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. Fire extinguishers.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Car safety seats or booster seats.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. Bicycle helmets.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

20. Does your department charge a fee for any of your FLSE activities, educational materials, or products? Check all that apply.  No  
 Yes, for activities  
 Yes, for materials  
 Yes, for products

21. How does your department work with the news media (including newspapers, television, and radio)? Check all that apply.

- We do not work with the media
- We have a public information officer (PIO) who handles media contacts
- Fire personnel, other than a PIO, work with the news media
- We conduct media campaigns on FLSE
- We partner with other groups to conduct media campaigns

22. Does your department promote fire-related laws, ordinances, or regulations by testifying, presenting information to legislators, working with coalitions, or in any other ways? Check all that apply.

No → **Go to Question 24**  
 Yes, at the local level  
 Yes, at the state level  
 Yes, at the national level

23. What topics does your department promote? Check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke alarms                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s sleepwear              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home fire sprinkler systems                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary seat belt laws            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire sprinklers for non-residential settings | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle or motorcycle helmet laws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building or fire code provisions             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon monoxide detectors                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Child passenger safety seats      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire safe cigarettes                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____      |

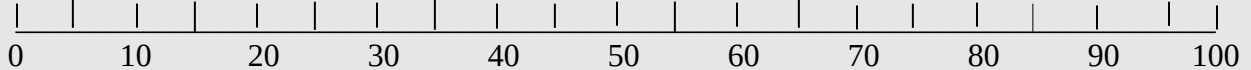
24. Does your department evaluate your FLSE activities in any of the following ways?

No → **Go to Question 25**  
 Yes → **Answer 24A below**

A. How do you evaluate your FLSE activities? Check all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debriefing after FLSE activities    | <input type="checkbox"/> Injury/loss statistics                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal feedback from participants | <input type="checkbox"/> Tracking number of participants or activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-/post-tests of participants     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tracking number of materials or products      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public opinion surveys              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home safety observations            |  |

25. Overall, how satisfied are you with the FLSE conducted by your department? (Place an “X” anywhere on the line that best represents your satisfaction; 0 = very dissatisfied and 100 = very satisfied.)



26. How does your department use local or state fire incident data for your FLSE activities? Check all that apply.

We do not currently use it  
 We use it to identify neighborhoods at high-risk  
 We use it to identify people/groups at high-risk  
 We use it to plan programs and outreach  
 We use it for evaluation purposes  
 We use it for public presentations  
 Other, **Specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

27. Does your department participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)?

No  
 Yes

**SECTION III: The purpose of this last section is to find out what would make it easier for your department to conduct Fire and Life Safety Education (FLSE).**

28. Please tell us how helpful each of the following would be to your department.	<b>Not at All Helpful</b>		<b>Very Helpful</b>	
a. Information about funding FLSE activities.....	1	2	3	4
b. Continuing education for FLSE programs and policies.....	1	2	3	4
c. Directory of “best practice” FLSE programs and policies.....	1	2	3	4

d. Free community educational materials.....	1	2	3	4
e. Free safety products to distribute.....	1	2	3	4
f. Partnerships with national health and safety organizations.....	1	2	3	4
g. Partnerships with local or state public health departments.....	1	2	3	4
h. Information about NFPA 1035 requirements for FLSE.....	1	2	3	4
i. Website for FLSE ideas, model programs, evaluation ideas, etc.....	1	2	3	4
j. Listserv (email communication program to discuss FLSE ideas with other depts)....	1	2	3	4
k. Access to experts on implementing proven educational programs.....	1	2	3	4
l. Access to experts on program evaluation.....	1	2	3	4
m. Access to experts on new fire safety technologies.....	1	2	3	4
n. Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____	1	2	3	4

29. Below is a list of possible barriers to conducting FLSE identified by other fire departments. Please tell us how much of a barrier each would be for your department.	Not a Barrier		Significant Barrier	
a. No FLSE specialist in my department.....	1	2	3	4
b. Not enough FLSE personnel in my department.....	1	2	3	4
c. Not enough training/expertise among FLSE personnel.....	1	2	3	4
d. Not enough known about FLSE programs that work.....	1	2	3	4
e. Lack of mandate to do FLSE.....	1	2	3	4
f. Lack of time to do FLSE.....	1	2	3	4
g. Little commitment to FLSE by department superiors.....	1	2	3	4
h. Little commitment to FLSE by department personnel.....	1	2	3	4
i. Not enough funding for FLSE.....	1	2	3	4
j. Lack of recognition for doing FLSE.....	1	2	3	4
k. Too many competing priorities in the department.....	1	2	3	4
l. Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____	1	2	3	4

30. How interested are you in FLSE training for your department? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Not interested

\_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat interested

\_\_\_\_\_ Very interested

31. Please write in the **three FLSE topics** for training that are of most interest to your department.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

32. Please tell us how desirable each training format would be for your department.	Not Desirable		Very Desirable	
a. Printed materials (ex: curricula, books, articles).....	1	2	3	4
b. In-person presentation by FLSE expert.....	1	2	3	4
c. Workshop at your department.....	1	2	3	4
d. Video, CD or DVD.....	1	2	3	4
e. Internet course.....	1	2	3	4
f. National Fire Academy course, on campus.....	1	2	3	4

g. National Fire Academy course, off campus.....	1	2	3	4
h. National training conference with networking opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
i. State or local training conference with networking opportunities.....	1	2	3	4
j. Other, <b>Specify:</b> _____	1	2	3	4

33. Would your department be able to pay for any of these types of training? \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not sure  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

34. Please describe any additional prevention activities that your department does.

35. In completing this survey, did you \_\_\_\_\_ Complete it by yourself → **Go to Question 35**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Complete it with input from another → **Answer 34A**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ask someone else to complete it → **Answer 34A**

A. Please write in that person's job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this survey!  
 Using the stamped envelope provided, please return to:  
 Jennifer Piver-Renna, JH Bloomberg School of Public Health, 624 N. Broadway, Room 531,  
 Baltimore, MD, 21205  
 – or – fax to (410) 614-2797.  
 You may also request an electronic copy of the survey from [jpiver@jhsph.edu](mailto:jpiver@jhsph.edu)