

Fire Prevention Contest Canceled

Due to declining entrants and a lack of feedback from WSFA members, the WSFA Board has decided to cancel its Fire Prevention Contest for the coming year.

The contest basically consisted of documenting your department's fire prevention and safety education efforts in a scrapbook.

Judges looked at the amount of fire safety education involvement and how photographs, articles and notes about those efforts illustrated your department's efforts. Jim Flanagan, of Flanagan Insurance and a member of the Plymouth Fire Dept., has graciously sponsored the contest for a number of years. But there was concern that only a handful of departments were entering the contest and, as a result, many of the same departments were winning year after year.

WSFA Board member Barry Johnson said the board just was not getting any feedback about how to inspire more involvement.

Even an article in the April/May issue of the Fire Journal asking for suggestions generated zero response.

Johnson said that perhaps the contest could be revived in coming years and, in the meantime, he encouraged departments to share fire prevention education and safety tips with one another.

"Fire prevention education is one of the most important things we do," Johnson said. "If we can stop fires before they happen, everyone is better off." And those departments documenting their public education efforts shouldn't stop because there is no contest at the moment. Such scrapbooks serve as important historical record for your department and may also come in handy when making presentations to your local officials or for displays at your open houses. Remember to identify the events and the date on which they occurred.

Johnson said the WSFA Board thanks Jim Flanagan for all his generous support of the contest over the years.