

## Department of Community Affairs

**Division of Fire Safety**

**Office of the Director**



**TO:** Fire Chiefs and Fire Officials  
**FROM:** William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director/State Fire Marshal *WK Jr.*  
**DATE:** July 20, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Photovoltaic (Solar) Training Program

---

As the result of a grant provided to the Division of Fire Safety from the Board of Public Utilities a training program developed by Underwriters Laboratories has been made available through NJ Learn.

This program, which is approximately 70 minutes in length covers:

- Research Project Overview
- An Introduction to Photovoltaic Systems
- Electricity and Hazards
- Shock Hazards during Suppression Activities
- Shock Hazard and Fire Service Equipment
- Emergency Disconnect and Disruption Techniques
- Alternate Photovoltaic Light Sources
- Severing Conductors
- Shock from Mechanically Damaged Photovoltaic Equipment
- Shock from Fire Department Damaged Photovoltaic Equipment
- Fire Service Tactical Considerations

As New Jersey is one of the largest users of solar electricity it is very likely that this power source exists in your community. Therefore, I encourage you to require all members of your department to complete this training program by logging on to [www.NJLearn.com](http://www.NJLearn.com). New users can create an account by following the directions on the bottom right side of the webpage. Please contact the NJLearn technical staff at 609-588-2123 should you need further assistance to create your account.

In addition, this program could be delivered as a company drill by projecting the presentation in a training room. This way you could inject information that is specific to your community during the presentation.

**You should be receiving information from your local construction office anytime a permit is issued for the installation of a photovoltaic system. The purpose of this is twofold. The first is that you “flag” these addresses so that your companies are made aware that the building they are responding to hosts or is supplied by a photovoltaic system. The second is to give you the opportunity to preplan these systems as they are being installed so that you will know where critical components are, such as combiner boxes, converter boxes, conduit, etc. If you are not receiving this information please contact your local construction official or the Division of Fire Safety at 609-633-6106.**

**If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact our Office of Fire Department Preparedness at 609-292-4109.**