

# FIRE SAFETY

## Protecting Against Fires

(NAPSA)—Recent innovations may help save lives and cut costs related to fire.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, last year alone nearly 4,000 Americans lost their lives to fire. In addition, direct property loss from fire was about \$9.8 billion. Perhaps surprisingly, much of this damage occurred during fires on or near water—that's why new types of fireboats have come to the rescue.

Fire departments across the country now use the boats to protect waterways, harbors and waterfront property. The boats are even being used in landlocked areas to patrol lakes and reservoirs. Some of America's busiest ports are patrolled in part by a vessel like one called Fireboat2, a 105-foot-long ship that can shoot a stream of water 600 feet. It can apply water or foam at waterline level or under docks and wharves.

The boat delivers enough to fill a 20 by 50 foot swimming pool to a depth of five feet—38,000 gallons of water a minute. Of course, that water needs to be delivered to the right spot. That's why the fireboat was designed with 360 degree maneuverability. It can go forward, backward, sideways or at almost any angle with relative ease.



**Fireboats play an important role in saving lives across the country.**

The key to all this maneuverability is the use of two special propellers that handle propulsion and control at the same time (other boats handle those two functions separately). That makes the boat equally effective from any position. The propellers were created by a company called Voith, long known for setting standards in paper technology, power transmission, engineering, power generation and industrial service.

As the fireboat continues to protect important waterways, it's believed that similar systems will help communities all over the country guard against fire, wherever it may occur.

For more information, go to <http://www.voithturbo.com/firefighting/>.