

Day & Night Solar Premiers Continuing Education to Address the Need for Code Enforcement and the Dangers of Photovoltaic Systems for First Responders

Media coverage of terrorism, mass shootings and natural disasters blanket the news channels. All of this exposure has made society aware of the contributions and sacrifices that first responders make putting themselves in harm's way. While expertly trained in dealing with such disasters, a hidden danger exists. That hidden danger is a lack of awareness in the rapid advancement of technology.

With escalating energy costs, America has turned to alternative energy sources. The most prevalent is becoming solar energy.

The days are long gone when first responders just rushed into a situation without first making an assessment. However, firefighters in particular need to be aware of the dangers of dealing with a solar system when responding to a fire.

Melinda Kershaw, Director of Marketing for Day & Night Solar said, "Firefighters don't know what they don't know in order to fight a fire involving a photovoltaic system and avoiding danger. That's why we created this continuing education."

Code enforcement was included in the training because municipalities need to work together with first responders to provide the best information to be able to assess a situation. "Firefighters need to know everything about a facility and a solar array should be a part of that data," stated Bob Eaton, Managing Partner for Day & Night Solar.

Some of the many unknown dangers addressed in the training include:

- Added weight on a roof - A 20 panel array can add 1,600 pounds of dead load weight
- Trip hazards - Due to conduits and wires mounted on a roof
- Shock is the primary danger dealing with photovoltaic systems. Even with the primary power source being disconnected, a secondary source is usually still in place. Light, even lights used at night time can activate the solar panels causing a shock risk.
- Explosions can occur from batteries and hazardous chemicals can be released as a result of a fire.

Feedback from the training has been very positive and Day & Night Solar has requests for the training in other cities across the United States. Here's what attendee, John LaVenture - St. Louis Fire Sprinkler Alliance had to say:

"On behalf of the Metropolitan Fire Marshals Association and the Jefferson County Fire Marshals Association I would like to thank you and everyone at Day & Night Solar for the great presentation. That was great information and it came at the right time. These systems are popping up everywhere."

Not only did participants receive valuable safety training, but firefighters also received accreditation for four hours of continuing education from the Missouri Division of Fire Safety - Office of the State Fire Marshal.

To view a class outline and to contact a representative from Day & Night Solar, please visit our website: <http://dayandnightsolar.com/media/>.