

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

November-December 2024

No. 248



ITM IN EXISTING BUILDINGS

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Expanding Fire Protection: External Wildfire Sprinkler Systems
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NFSA
The National Fire Sprinkler Association

ON THE COVER

This issue delves into the subject of fire sprinklers in existing buildings. You'll learn about who the responsible parties are, how to evaluate existing buildings, addressing the differences in buildings with and without fire sprinklers, and more.

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SERVICE, We're All About SERVICE

The theme of this issue is Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) and I can't think of a topic that highlights NFSA's service more! I began my career at the K-25 Fire Department as a Fire Protection Specialist in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This was a job where I was an employee of Lockheed Martin because that was the Department of Energy contractor for that facility, which was part of the original Manhattan Project.

Yes, when the movie Oppenheimer came out, I was happy to tell that *"I worked on the Manhattan Project."* Of course, no one believes me because I'm old, but not that old. I recommended they watch the movie Fat Man and Little Boy that starred Paul Newman and Dwight Schultz, and Fred Thompson, my former senator. What a lot of great history.

There is no greater service than that to our country. God bless our veterans! There is also NO greater fire protection than that with a fire sprinkler system that was properly designed, installed (by qualified and certified fire sprinkler fitters and contractors), and maintained with all domestic products that are UL Listed and FM Approved.

When we think about service provided to our members, we automatically think about how our members serve their customers. The beauty of ITM is this is an opportunity for us to touch our systems and products again and again. The reason ITM is such a driver in this industry now is because of the efforts put into NFPA 25 nearly 40 years ago. I know NFPA 25 was introduced in 1992, which is when I was in college at Eastern Kentucky University. Since then, there has been an 80% increase in the number of buildings required to be protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems.

I couldn't let this edition go by without acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the patent of what we know as the "automatic fire sprinkler." Thanks to Henry Parmelee wanting to protect his piano factory, hundreds of thousands of people live today and billions of square feet of property are still standing because of our members and fire sprinkler systems. I want to say thank you to Jon Nisja, NFSA's Data Specialist, for reminding us of this occasion and I'm sorry Jon that we didn't have a big celebration for it.

Instead, Team NFSA was working tirelessly and nearly around the clock because the headlines read as I'm finishing up this article, Georgia Chemical Lab Prompts Evacuations. The first reports from an emergency management agency, which was probably talking to the building staff while the fire department was actively fighting the fire, said the fire was "caused by a malfunctioning sprinkler head". The fire started on the roof, and I said in our press release I have never known in my career or history in fire protection that a fire sprinkler device ever caused a fire.

NFSA is in service every day for this great industry. We have been in service for 119 years with this edition of the magazine and as my mentor Jim Dalton always reminds us, "institutions are stronger than people because they come and go."

Speaking of this edition and SERVICE. Let's think about the life of a fire sprinkler system. Our manufacturers and suppliers make and supply the components necessary to protect lives and property across our nation, our contractors provide a quality installation...and then, well, there is where the magic of service surfaces. We all understand the importance of NFPA 25, and in recent years we have watched the ITM/Service part of our work become larger and larger. That work results in property and lives protected. This saves our economy and mitigates risks. Just think of the impact of the fires in Georgia, California, Indiana, North Carolina, and on and on. The lawsuits will go on for years and the preventable will continue to be predictable.

Last year, I shared some stats with you about the number of fire sprinklers installed. I want to re-visit that number now, as a challenge to us all to realize the potential work that is there.



continued on page 6

From the President's Desk

Shane Ray

continued from page 5

From the Jan/Feb 2023 issue of NFSM:

Looking Forward—with Statistics to Back Us Up

Let me start 2023 with reporting a 240% increase in fire sprinkler shipments in the United States since 1980 (more now). Let me also report at 42% reduction in fire deaths since 1980, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report, Fire Loss in the United States During 2021 (Shelby Hall and Ben Evarts,

September 2022). I would also like to brag about Maryland. The state has reduced fire deaths by 52% because they adopted residential fire sprinkler requirements through local and state adoption.

Codes and standards created through a consensus process by professionals who give of their own time and money, coupled with progressive public policy adopted at the local and state level saves lives, protects property, ensures business continuity, and preserves the environment. As one of my mentors, Chief Alan Brunacini used to say, “fire sprinklers save people, pets, and pills, which is what we all care about.”

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The Importance of ITM in Existing Buildings

Welcome to the Fall of 2024. I am going to start by thanking those members who stepped up and “took over” our September/October issue of the National Fire Sprinkler Magazine. A lot of great contributions from the “take over” article writers, well done. A special thanks to James Lewis of American Fire in Kansas City who wrote such a wonderful article in my absence, thank you, James! It was inspiring reading articles from so many new individuals, I promise we will do it again next year.

It was in the Fall of 1980, 44 years ago, that one of the worst fatality fires in US history took place. On November 21st, a fire started in the kitchen of the MGM Grand Casino Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Before the fire was controlled, 85 guests lost their lives. The 26-story hotel. Most of the victims in the 26-story hotel succumbed to smoke inhalation in upper floor rooms in the tower. Following the MGM fire, February 10th, 1981, the Hilton Hotel across town was the site of a huge arson fire. Exterior flames at the Hilton curled up the entire side of the 22-story facility just as firefighters arrived. Eight guests lost their lives in the second Las Vegas high-rise fire in less than 90 days.

By the mid-1980s, Hilton, Marriot, and several other US based hotel chains were no longer adversaries to our industry, they had seen the light and had become positive fire sprinkler advocates. Not only were they going to install fire sprinklers in their new facilities, but they were also starting to retrofit their existing properties around the world with automatic fire sprinkler systems.

So, what do the high-rise fires of the 1980s and the retrofitting of existing structures have to do with our subject this issue, *ITM In Existing Buildings*? I am getting there, I promise.

As a result of those fires, and at that time, our sprinkler company was asked to provide a bid to retrofit fire sprinklers in the very similar 22-story, downtown Portland, Oregon, Hilton Hotel. There were no sprinklers above street level in those days. We were asked to conceal the pipe, asbestos abate where needed, and keep the hotel running. Since I lived two hours north, I decided the best thing to really understand the building was to book a room, spend the night and educate myself. So, there I was, checking into my room on the 18th floor of a non-sprinkled high-rise. Do you have any idea how hard it is to go to sleep in a non-sprinkled high-rise when you are fully educated to the risk you are taking? I was staying on the 18th floor in a room that was already proven to be a fire trap. Personally, it was a strange, sleepless feeling as I slept very little that night. Nine months later, after successfully completing the sprinkler project, I spent another night at the facility and I can assure you I actually slept.

Today when anyone stays in a high-rise hotel in most of our country, the majority are fire sprinkled and there is nothing to worry about, right? For most people there is nothing to worry about, smoke detectors and fire sprinklers are very effective. Unfortunately, in my case, I still have a few concerns. These are multi-floor buildings with very complicated fire systems. I tend to worry whether those responsible for our safety take fire sprinkler ITM as seriously as I do. If these systems, when called upon, do not perform as planned, we are no better off than we were in the 1980s when we did not have them. ITM is the most important thing we can do as an industry to ensure that we never go back to the days where adversaries proclaim, “compartmentalization is much better than those sprinklers that do not always work.”

To those of you that are in companies who perform significant ITM work, please make sure it is done correctly and regularly. In the present absence of mandating codes, you must convince the customer of the importance of maintaining their systems as if it were an airliner just before takeoff.

I do not want to be on the 18th floor of a hotel trying to go to sleep wondering if the building has had a five-year. We have the greatest product in the world protecting lives and property, let us continue to push for ITM everywhere on all systems. Let's do it right, so we all can get some sleep.

Thanks for your continued support,

Jim



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Evaluating Existing Systems

by Michael J. Joanis, P.E., **Chief Engineer**



The 2025 edition of NFPA 13 introduces significant changes to how existing fire sprinkler systems are evaluated. Concepts previously considered best practices are now included as requirements of the standard. These updates are found in Chapter 30, marking a shift in how existing systems must be reassessed and evaluated when changes occur. The revision emphasizes a more structured approach to ensure fire sprinkler systems continue to function effectively even as buildings and their uses evolve over time.

Why This Change Matters:

Fire sprinkler systems are designed and installed based on the conditions and hazards understood to be present at the time of installation. This includes factors like the building's occupancy, hazard classification, commodities, storage arrangements, and water supply. However, as buildings age and undergo modifications, such as changes in occupancy or storage configurations, the initial design may no longer provide adequate protection. For example, increasing the storage height, changing the storage arrangement (e.g., adding racks or solid shelves), or modifying the product packaging to include plastic or encapsulated materials, can significantly increase the fire risk. In these situations, the existing fire sprinkler system may no longer meet the necessary requirements for effectively controlling or suppressing a fire.

The 2025 update to NFPA 13 explicitly addresses these concerns by introducing a formal requirement to evaluate existing systems when modifications occur or when there are changes that could impact the system's effectiveness. This means that if a building's usage changes, or if fire sprinkler systems are altered, an evaluation must be conducted to ensure the system can still provide adequate fire protection under the new conditions.

Key Updates in Chapter 30:

1. Mandatory System Evaluations: One of the most significant changes is the requirement for mandatory evaluations of existing fire sprinkler systems. This is encapsulated in Section 30.4, which outlines when and how existing systems must be evaluated. Previously, evaluating systems after modifications or changes was not a formal

requirement. Now, the standard requires evaluations anytime the system is modified in a way that affects the system's performance.

2. Common Triggers for Evaluation: The new standard provides a list of specific scenarios that would necessitate a system evaluation. These include:

- a. Tenant changes or process changes: If the building's tenant or usage changes, the fire sprinkler system must be reevaluated to ensure it still provides adequate protection.
- b. Occupancy or storage changes: Changes in how space is used, including changes in the storage configuration (e.g., increased storage height, new commodities, or new storage methods) can impact the system's effectiveness and require a reassessment.
- c. Fire pump replacements or water supply changes: If a fire pump is replaced, or if there are changes in the building's water supply, an evaluation is necessary to ensure the system can still provide the necessary water flow and pressure to meet or exceed system demand.
- d. Backflow preventers replaced or added: Replacing or adding backflow preventers can affect water supply characteristics, necessitating a system review.
- e. Replacing missing hydraulic information signs: If the hydraulic information signs are missing and no records are available, a reevaluation of the system must be conducted to ensure proper function.

General Evaluation Process:

Section 30.4.1 outlines the general process for evaluating existing systems. It requires that when changes are made to the occupancy, hazard classification, water supply, or other conditions that could impact the system's design, the system must be reevaluated based on the current conditions and hazards. Some key considerations include:

1. Water Supply: The evaluation should assess the current water supply, ensuring it meets the necessary requirements for the system's operation.

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2. Occupancy/Commodity Classification and Storage

Arrangement: The evaluation should verify the current occupancy/commodity classification, maximum storage height, and storage configuration. Changes in these factors could significantly impact the system's ability to control or extinguish a fire.

3. Hydraulic Calculations: Hydraulic calculations should be reviewed to ensure that the system still meets the required performance criteria, based on the existing piping layout or any updates.

Evaluation Methods:

Section 30.4.2 provides two methods for evaluating existing systems:

- 1. Treating the System as New:** One option is to evaluate the system as if it was being designed for the first time under the current edition of the standard. This approach ensures the system meets the latest fire protection requirements but could be more stringent than the original design.
- 2. Using the Original Edition of NFPA 13:** The second option allows for evaluating the system based on the edition of NFPA 13 that was in use when the system was originally designed and installed. This method ensures consistency with the original design intent while providing flexibility for older systems that may not meet the latest standards.

This dual option approach is intended to provide flexibility for system owners and engineers, allowing them to balance compliance with current standards and the original design requirements. For instance, in some cases, a complete overhaul to meet current standards may not be feasible, so using the original NFPA 13 design criteria may provide a more practical solution.

Practical Implications of the Change:

The key takeaway from these updates is that building owners, engineers, and fire sprinkler contractors must now formally evaluate fire sprinkler systems whenever changes that affect performance are made. This is a shift from previous editions of the standard, where such complete system evaluations were not explicitly required. Now, if you modify the system or if conditions in the building have changed, such as a shift in occupancy or storage, you must evaluate the system according to the latest standards or the standards under which the system was initially designed.

The intent behind this update is to ensure that fire sprinkler systems continue to function as intended, even as buildings evolve. By formally incorporating these evaluation requirements into the standard, it creates a structured process for identifying and addressing potential deficiencies in existing systems before they become critical issues. This enhances overall fire safety and ensures that buildings remain adequately protected over time.

In summary, the 2025 edition of NFPA 13 makes it clear that whenever a fire sprinkler system is altered, or the conditions affecting its performance change, the system must be evaluated to confirm it meets current requirements or remains effective under the original design criteria. This update formalizes a requirement that ensures changes or modifications to building use do not compromise system performance and that existing systems continue to deliver the minimum required protection. •

REFERENCES:

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, 2025 edition*, National Fire Protection Association, Inc. Quincy, MA 2024.

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Addressing Existing Buildings With and Without Fire Sprinklers

by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO, Vice President of Codes, Standards and Public Fire Protection



Fire protection in buildings is crucial for safeguarding lives and property, and understanding how to address existing buildings with and without fire sprinklers is essential. It is widely recognized that when fire sprinklers are installed, fires are controlled, lives and property are saved, and businesses continue to operate. Owners of existing buildings with well-maintained fire sprinkler systems can have peace of mind knowing that they are significantly better protected against fire-related losses. However, buildings without sprinkler systems face all the negative consequences of fire, such as fatalities, injuries, loss of property, and often, the closure of the business. Statistics show that approximately 25% to 45% of businesses do not reopen after experiencing a major disaster like a building fire, and those that do may take 6 months to 2 years to rebuild before resuming operations.

It is important to note that not all existing buildings are required to have fire sprinkler systems. This can be due to the building codes in place at the time of construction not requiring sprinklers, or because the current fire code does not mandate retrofitting. This article addresses fire sprinklers in existing buildings, including considerations for states that adopt and enforce the International Fire Code (IFC) and NFPA 1, while incorporating provisions from NFPA 13's Existing System Chapter.

Understanding the Regulatory Framework

In the United States, fire codes are enforced either at the state or local level. The International Fire Code (IFC) is adopted in approximately two-thirds of the states, while the NFPA 1 Fire Code is used in the remaining states. The National Fire Sprinkler Association's (NFSA) Code Tracker (<https://nfsa.org/code-tracker/>) is an excellent online resource for identifying which codes and key standards are adopted in each jurisdiction. Below is a list of states adopting each code (*see below*).

Addressing Buildings Without Fire Sprinklers - Retrofit

The IFC applies to all existing buildings. While one might assume that the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) or the International Building Code (IBC) would be more appropriate for existing buildings, the IEBC only applies to construction projects within these structures. Although there are fire sprinkler triggers in the IEBC, the IFC's Chapter 11, "Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings," provides comprehensive guidance on lifting all buildings in the community to an acceptable level of fire and life safety. Section 1103 of the IFC addresses retrofit requirements for fire sprinklers (Section 1103.5), standpipes (1103.6), and fire alarms (1103.7), among others. This section also includes passive

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States Adopting the IFC			States Adopting NFPA 1	
Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Connecticut	Maryland
Arkansas	California	Colorado	Delaware	Massachusetts
Georgia	Idaho	Indiana	Florida	Nebraska
Iowa	Kentucky	Minnesota	Hawaii	New Hampshire
Mississippi	Missouri	Montana	Illinois	Rhode Island
Nevada	New Jersey	New Mexico	Kentucky	Vermont
New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	Louisiana	West Virginia
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon	Maine	Wisconsin
Pennsylvania	South Carolina	South Dakota		
Tennessee	Utah	Virginia		
Washington	Washington DC	Wyoming		

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fire protection requirements that offer several trade-offs, such as the option to reduce the fire-resistance rating of passive elements when sprinklers are retrofitted.

IFC – Existing Occupancy Retrofit Sections for Fire Sprinklers	
Group A-2 (bars, restaurants)	1103.5.1
Group I-2 (hospitals, nursing homes)	1103.5.2
Group I-2 Condition 2 (emergency care)	1103.5.3
High-rise buildings (any occupancy)	1103.5.4
Pyroxylin plastics	1103.5.5

The NFPA 1 *Fire Code* applies to all new and existing buildings. Specifically, its scope (Section 1.1.1) states it applies to:

Existing occupancies and conditions, the design and construction of new buildings, remodeling of existing buildings, and additions to existing buildings

Chapter 13 contains all of the fire protection requirements for new and existing buildings. Standpipe rules for existing buildings are in Section 13.2. The rules for retrofitting existing buildings with fire sprinklers are in Section 13.3 and are based on the occupancy of the building. The structure of this section has rules for new occupancies first, then rules for existing occupancies. For example, the sprinkler thresholds for a new assembly building are in Section 13.3.2.5 and retrofitting an existing assembly building is in Section 13.3.2.6. Each new occupancy typically has an existing occupancy sprinkler system requirement, as noted in the table below.

NFPA 1 – Existing Occupancy Retrofit Sections for Fire Sprinklers	
Existing Assembly	13.3.2.6
Existing Educational	13.3.2.8
Existing Health Care	13.3.2.10
Existing Detention and Correctional	13.3.2.12
Existing Hotel and Dormitories	13.3.2.14
Existing Apartments	13.3.2.16
Existing Residential Board and Care Facilities	13.3.2.20
Existing Mercantile	13.3.2.22
Existing High-Rise Buildings	13.3.2.24.2
Existing Day Care	13.3.2.27.2

Addressing Buildings with Fire Sprinklers

Buildings with existing fire sprinkler systems must also be properly managed. Both fire codes require all standpipe and fire sprinkler systems to be inspected, tested, and maintained according to the referenced edition of NFPA 25. This standard applies nationwide, wherever the IBC, IFC, NFPA 1, and NFPA 101 are adopted. Proper maintenance ensures that these systems function effectively in the event of a fire.

If the occupancy, use, or materials stored in a building change, Chapter 4 of NFPA 25 mandates that the owner upgrades the fire protection system accordingly. Any modifications to existing sprinkler systems must comply with Chapter 30 of NFPA 13 (or Chapter 29 in the 2019 edition). This chapter governs the modification, evaluation, or addition to existing systems and applies different rules than those for new installations.

For a more detailed article on change of use, see my article in the March/April 2021 NFSM edition, titled “Change of Use – What Does it Mean?”. For more information on NFPA 13’s Chapter 30, see the Mike Joanis article in this edition titled, “Evaluating Existing Systems”.

Conclusion

Ensuring fire protection in existing buildings is a complex yet essential responsibility that requires a thorough understanding and application of various codes and standards, including the IFC, NFPA 1, NFPA 13, and NFPA 14. Decision-makers—such as building owners, design professionals, and authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ)—play a critical role in implementing and enforcing these standards. Properly maintained fire sprinkler systems provide significant protection against the devastating effects of fire, safeguarding lives, property, and business continuity. For buildings without sprinkler systems, it is vital to understand local and state code requirements, as retrofitting may be necessary to meet current safety standards. The guidance provided by these codes, along with resources for evaluating existing systems, enables building owners and authorities to maintain high levels of fire and life safety, ultimately contributing to safer communities. •



by Vickie Pritchett,
Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach

Partnerships and Collaboration

I'm writing this article as I travel home from an Underwriters Laboratory Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) Public Education Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting at FSRI's Maryland Headquarters. It's exciting to see the partnership and collaboration with this team in action! As a relatively new committee member (my service began in May of 2023), I am in awe of the work being accomplished by Dr. Steve Kerber and his team. We know more about fire and how it reacts in modern environments than ever before. As an Advisory Board Member, I am honored to champion the work of this team of professionals, and it's so rewarding to be an ambassador on their behalf. The research that has been conducted was very helpful to the fire sprinkler industry over the past decade, and the current work holds much opportunity as we all work to better understand the impact that modern furnishings, including lithium-ion batteries, EV vehicles and all things surrounding those items has on America's fire problem.

I remember years ago standing in the street in Spartanburg, SC as we conducted tests with a grant program called "Spartanburg Burns." This program was a grant awarded to the International Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) and it brought together many fire service leaders to explore the concept of "Thinking Firefighters" and the fact that firefighters need to think differently due to all

the circumstances that impact the modern fire environment. It was in the middle of that street that I listened to former Phoenix Fire Chief Alan Brunacini declare his delight that we were "finally listening to the fire." We were able to learn so much from Dan Madrykowski and Steve Kerber and their research. I recall watching as they conducted experiments that included fire sprinklers, and I loved seeing fire sprinklers in action.

As the reports were written for this research, the fire service agreed that it was time for "thinking firefighters, and that thinking firefighters do it different!"

During our Advisory Committee Meeting I watched as the researchers shared recent tests that include e-scooters and their impact on fires where we live. From high-rise buildings in our cities to dorm rooms across America, it's a reality that these batteries are now interwoven into our daily lives. Do you make sure that you know all the safety advisories regarding these products? I encourage you to visit UL FSRI's website to see the latest research.

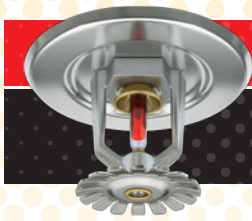
I also challenge you to ask yourself if you can perhaps think of yourself as an ambassador for our industry. We have a cause worth believing in, we have resources to help us share the story of how fire sprinklers work and why they are so important for a communities quality of life.

Let us enter this season of thanksgiving and family holidays with a renewed sense of service to the fire sprinkler industry. An industry that saves lives and property on a daily basis is an industry that is so easy to be an ambassador for! Please join with me and champion for fire sprinklers across our nation!

Until next time,

Vickie





FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ACTION

Editor's note: The following saves were submitted by our members. If you have a save you'd like to see featured, use this QR code or email me at genadio@nfsa.org. Please include photos if available!



DELAWARE



Multi-Residential Sprinkler Save

Thanks to Laurel, DE FD Deputy Chief Mike Lowe and Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chair Paul Eichler for reporting on and sending in this sprinkler save.

On September 10th, the Laurel FD was alerted for a multi-residential structure fire.

The FD arrived to find a multi-residential unit with smoke showing from the front door. Occupants had safely evacuated. Firefighters made entry into the apartment and found a cooking fire that had been extinguished by a single fire sprinkler in the kitchen.

Crews checked for extension and found none. The sprinkler was secured, and the scene turned over to maintenance with only some damage to the outside of cabinets and water on the floor.

High-Rise Apartment Building Saved by Single Fire Sprinkler

Thanks to Battalion Chief Robert Pryor of the Wilmington, DE FD for passing along this press release regarding a recent sprinkler save, and to Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chair Paul Eichler for sending it to us.

At 1457 hours on Saturday, September 7th, Wilmington Fire Department units were dispatched for a fire alarm activation in a residential high-rise building.

Upon arrival, units checked the fire alarm panel in the lobby and were directed to the 7th floor for a reported water flow alarm from the sprinkler system. When firefighters entered the 7th floor, they found water in the hallway and determined the sprinkler was activated in an apartment. After entering the apartment, firefighters found a fire on the stovetop that had been extinguished by the sprinkler system.



Personnel immediately secured water to the activated sprinkler and shut down power to the affected apartment. Water was also found in several apartments below the fire apartment, and power was secured to those apartments until the water could be removed. Building management was contacted, along with the Department of Licenses and Inspections to ensure that the water was removed, and all utilities are safely restored.

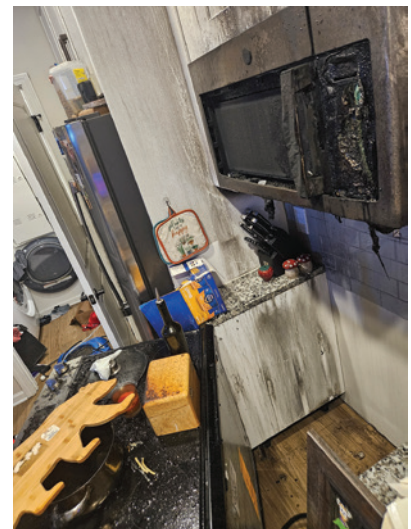
Without a sprinkler system, this fire could have been much larger and caused extensive damage.

FLORIDA

Sprinkler System Saves Apartment Complex

Thanks to Advanced Fire Protection Services, Inc.'s Dana Sudheimer for sending in this sprinkler save.

Sprinkler save at an apartment complex in Panama City, FL on Sept 16th. The tenants were frying fish and went to another apartment while the grease was still hot on the stove. It caught on fire and, thankfully, there was a fire sprinkler system to extinguish the fire!



MARYLAND

Sprinkler System Saves School from Spontaneous Combustion Fire

Thanks to Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chair Paul Eichler for alerting us to this sprinkler save.

On August 10th, the Salisbury, MD FD responded to a call at the Wicomico Middle School. Officials say both the smoke alarm and the fire sprinkler system were activated.

State Fire Marshal investigation found the fire was accidental and began in a janitorial closet after the spontaneous combustion of rags used for cleaning. No injuries, minimal damage.

Nuts and Bolts:	
Type of Incident	<i>Structure Fire</i>
Description of Structure / Property	<i>Two-story masonry educational building</i>
Owner / Occupants	<i>Wicomico County Board of Education</i>
Injuries or Deaths	<i>none</i>
Estimated \$\$ Loss:	<i>Structure: \$1,000.00 Contents: \$1,000.00</i>
Smoke Alarm Status	<i>Present / Activated</i>
Fire Alarm / Sprinkler Status	<i>Present Activated</i>
Arrests(s)	<i>None</i>
Primary Responding Fire Department	<i>Salisbury Fire Department</i>
Number of Alarms 1	<i>1</i>
Number of Firefighters	<i>15</i>
Time to Control	<i>60 min.</i>
Discovered by	<i>Automatic Fire Alarm</i>
Area of Origin	<i>Janitorial Closet</i>
Preliminary Cause	<i>This was accidental due to spontaneous combustion of rags used for cleaning.</i>

Fire Sprinkler System Saves Senior Living Facility from Spontaneous Combustion Fire

Thank you to the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal for issuing this Notice of Investigation regarding this great save. Unfortunately, as far as we can tell, the story was not picked up by the media.

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION	
Date	<i>July 19, 2024</i>
Time	<i>12:41 A.M.</i>
Type of Incident	<i>Structure Fire</i>
Description of Structure / Property	<i>Senior Nursing Facility</i>

Injuries or Deaths	<i>None</i>
Smoke Alarm Status	<i>Present & activated</i>
Fire Alarm / Sprinkler Status	<i>Present & activated. The automatic fire sprinkler extinguished the fire prior to the fire department's arrival.</i>
Primary Responding Fire Department	<i>Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company</i>
Number of Alarms	<i>1</i>
Number of Firefighters	<i>10</i>
Time to Control	<i>5 minutes</i>
Discovered by	<i>Fire alarm activation</i>
Area of Origin	<i>Kitchen</i>
Preliminary Cause	<i>Spontaneous combustion of kitchen rags</i>

MICHIGAN



Church & School Saved by Fire Sprinkler System

Thanks to Wyoming, MI FD Fire Inspector/Investigator Brad Dornbos for sending us this great account of a recent sprinkler save.

On August 12th, a fire began in a Wyoming, MI church. The fire started in a waste basket near a sound board in the sanctuary, damaging the equipment. Fortunately, it was put out quickly by firefighters and fire sprinklers.

From Brad:

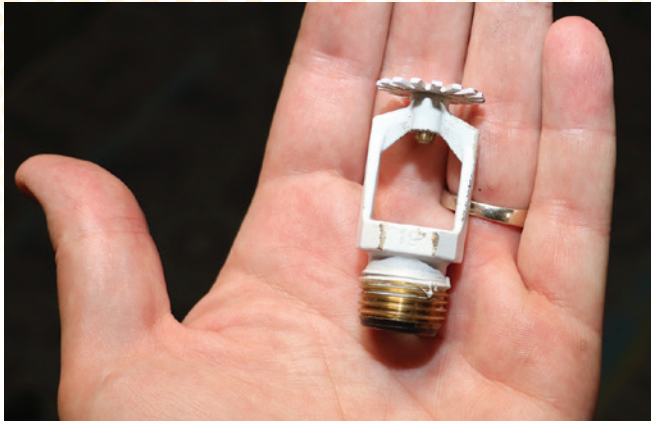
A potentially devastating fire was averted at The Potters House School/Church because of a properly installed/maintained fire sprinkler system. The fire activated two fire sprinklers, preventing the fire from spreading to other parts of the building and causing significant damage.

The Wyoming Fire Department was notified by the fire alarm system and people at the church who called 911. The fire department arrived and extinguished the remaining fire and assisted

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Fire Sprinklers in Action

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with water cleanup.

The Potters House had installed the fire sprinkler system as part of a major renovation a few years ago and recognized the importance of safeguarding the students, congregation, and the historic church building. The quick activation of the sprinkler system highlights the critical role these systems play in fire prevention.

With school starting next week, damage was minimal, and water mitigation happened almost immediately after the fire was out. The school and the church were very thankful for the good outcome as we are reminded about fire safety systems and ensuring the public's safety.

MINNESOTA

Vacant Public School Saved by Sprinklers

Thanks to Minnesota Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Jensen for sending in this sprinkler save.

On July 6th, Minneapolis firefighters responded to a report of a fire at a vacant public school slated for demolition. Crews found miscellaneous storage items that were ignited by intruders. Upon arrival, crews found the fire contained by two fire sprinklers.

Single Sprinkler Saves Apartment Building

Thanks to Eden Prairie, MN Fire Inspector Dave Shepard for reporting this sprinkler save.

On September 2nd, a bathroom exhaust fan in a unit of a multi-family building failed and caught fire. The plastic fan cover fell and ignited the shower curtain and towels. The bathroom fire sprinkler activated and extinguished the fire.

Nuts & Bolts	
Type of building	20-unit apartment building
Type of system	13R
Sprinklers activated	1
Value of building	\$3M
Value of contents	\$10K

NEW JERSEY

Fire Sprinkler Prevents Major Incident at Distribution Center

Thanks to NFSA NJ State Coordinator Dave Davis for gathering the information on this sprinkler save!

On August 27th, at 7:51pm, a fire broke out in a newly renovated distribution center located in Union, NJ. The fire originated in a converted bathroom and was attributed to an electrical issue from recent renovation work. With a high fire load of rack-stored electrical equipment, the situation could have escalated rapidly. However, thanks to the swift activation of a single fire sprinkler, the fire was quickly brought under control.

The Chief of the Union Fire Department praised the sprinkler system for preventing what could have been a dangerous and potentially disastrous fire, ensuring the safety of both the building and his team.

TEXAS



Single Sprinkler Saves Apartment Complex

Thanks to Farmers Branch, TX Assistant Chief of Prevention/ Fire Marshal Tim Dedear for sending in this sprinkler save.

On August 20, 2024, at approximately 8:19 pm, Farmers Branch Fire Department and Carrollton Fire Rescue were dispatched to a structure fire. Crews arrived on scene with light smoke showing from an apartment. Upon investigation, they found a single sprinkler-controlled fire in the kitchen.

Occupant stated she was cooking pizzas in the oven when the grease from the cheese dripped on the heating element and ignited. Occupant had opened the oven door and flames extended out of the oven and activated one fire sprinkler in the kitchen. No injuries were reported for civilians or fire personnel.

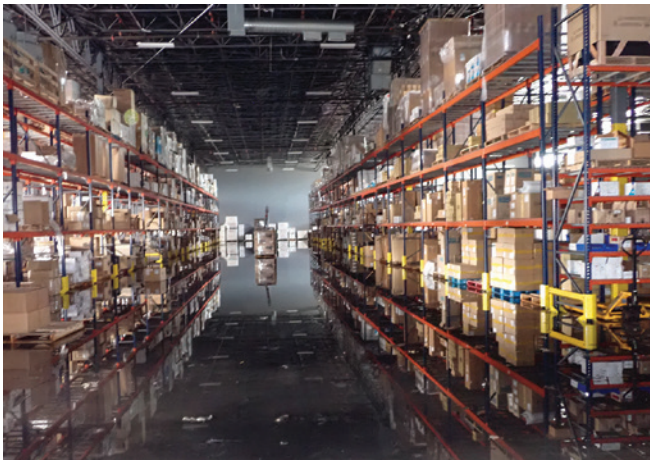
Single Sprinkler Saves Apartment Complex

Thanks to Farmers Branch, TX FD Assistant Chief of Prevention / Fire Marshal Tim Dedear for sending us this sprinkler save.

On July 14, at approximately 16:47, Farmers Branch Fire Department was dispatched for a miscellaneous fire. While enroute, dispatch notified crews that they were getting a call from the alarm monitoring company for a waterflow.

Crews arrived on scene with nothing showing. Fire alarm panel indicated waterflow 4th floor. Occupant met crews on the first floor and notified them that the fire sprinkler activated in his apartment while he was cooking oil. Investigation of the unit found no fire. There was evidence that the hot oil in a pan was brought to the sink for extinguishment, and it heated up vertically on the wall and then along the ceiling where one sprinkler activated. Loss was held to only \$1500.

Sprinkler System Limits Interior Damage When Fire Hits Pool Chemical Warehouse



Thanks to Chief Kelly Kistner, Fire Marshal, Frisco, TX Fire Department not only for alerting us to this sprinkler save, but for his great quote in the article!

On September 25th, a three-alarm chemical fire occurred at a pool chemical warehouse in Frisco, TX.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation; however, Fire Marshal Kistner is looking into whether a pallet of chemicals stored outside the building may be to blame.

“A company employee noticed a vapor,” said Kistner, “A fire and explosion followed. A nearby truck and the company’s building caught fire. But it’s important to note, damage to the interior is limited thanks to the building’s sprinkler system.”



The company employee reported the fire at 7:44 a.m. Seventy-eight first responders – including employees with Frisco Fire, Police and Public Works departments – reported to the scene. By 9:28 a.m., the fire was called ‘out’.

The Kistner said chlorine and ‘pool shock’ (Trichlor & Sodium) were involved. As a result, a ‘shelter in place’ advisory was issued (at approximately 8:25 a.m.). The ‘shelter’ advisory was lifted around 9:30 a.m.

WISCONSIN

Single Fire Sprinkler Saves Restaurant

Thanks to Apple Valley, WI Fire Inspector Colleen Elvin for sending in this great report of a recent sprinkler save!

I was called to investigate a fire at a local restaurant. Arrived to fire out. One fire sprinkler at the base of the basement stairs had activated and put out the fire.

Firefighters made entry to the front doors of the restaurant and were directed to the basement. The fire door at the bottom of the stairs was in the closed position. Firefighters were met with smoke, limited visibility, but no heat. They had brought extinguishers but found the fire out.

There was little damage to the wall but a distinct burn pattern. There had been plastic bags filled with clothing on the floor, and cardboard and menus on the top of a cooler, that had been burned. The cooler had been pushed against the wall and the fire appeared to have started behind it.

Restaurant staff and firefighters safe! •

ITM Roles and Responsibilities

by Vince Powers, *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Specialist*



Inspection and testing of fire sprinkler systems in existing buildings is essential for ensuring functionality in case of a fire. Fire sprinkler systems are designed to control fires by releasing water when heat activates the sprinkler. Regular inspection and testing are mandated by various fire codes, insurance requirements, and standards such as those from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This article will focus on roles and responsibilities of the parties involved and provide a few inspection and testing requirements.



Fire codes, such as NFPA 1 Fire Code and the International Fire Code (IFC), mandate when a sprinkler system is required to be installed and the requirements for maintenance. On the other hand, standards like NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems and NFPA 25 Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, provide specific instructions on how to install and the maintenance requirements for these systems. A standard becomes enforceable once adopted by a jurisdiction through its fire prevention codes which are adopted into law.

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) enforces compliance with these codes and standards. The AHJ can include fire marshals, code enforcement personnel, insurance companies and, in some cases, the building owners. Their role is to ensure that building owners or designated representative follow the requirements of NFPA 25 for inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM). While the AHJ is not typically present during ITM tasks, they review reports to ensure all necessary tasks have been completed and any outstanding deficiencies are addressed.

Building Owners and/or Designated representatives

The building owner or a designated representative, such as a property manager, is responsible for ensuring compliance with ITM

requirements of NFPA 25 and other applicable standards. Section 4.1.1 of NFPA 25 states that the owner or their representative must ensure all tasks are completed to keep the system compliant.

A common issue arises when building owners believe only an annual inspection is necessary, if that is all the AHJ is requiring. However, NFPA 25 provides the absolute minimum requirements and mandates various tasks at different intervals, such as weekly, monthly, quarterly, and semi-annually, which are often overlooked if only an annual inspection is performed.

Contractors

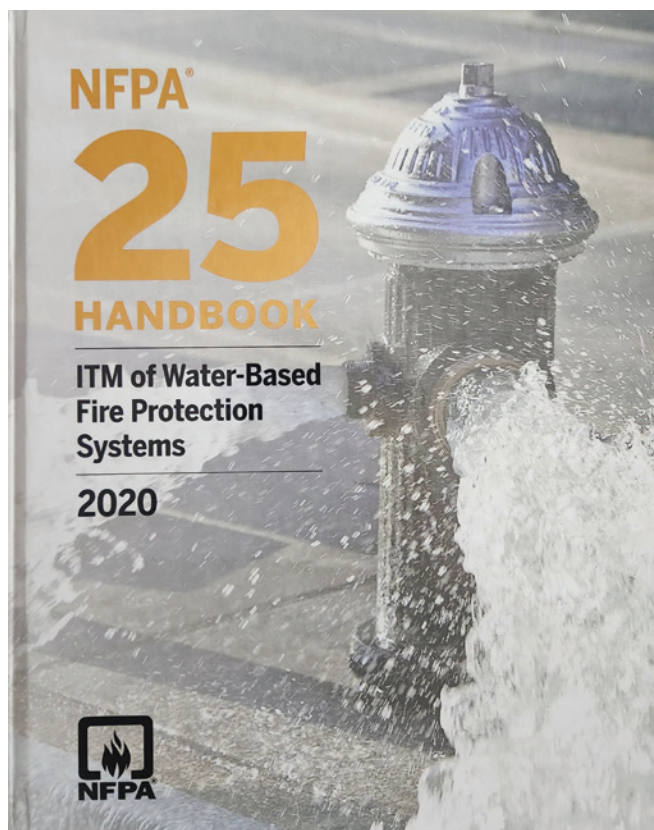
The contractor, hired by the owner, is a service provider that is responsible for completing the ITM tasks requested but does not enforce standards.

Communication

This is where the communication breakdown happens. Typically, the building owner only contracts the service provider to do what the AHJ asks for. Seems simple, but often the AHJ only asks the building owner to provide an annual inspection report, so the building owner contracts the service provider for an annual inspection. There are many more tasks required based on the type of sprinkler system involved, and these other tasks are usually not completed, which leaves the building out of compliance. Remember, everything that is required by the standard must be completed for the system to be compliant with NFPA 25. Understand that it is not the intention for the system to not be compliant and the AHJ is not allowing the building owner not to complete all the tasks. In most cases, the AHJ simply does not have the work force to visit every building every year, let alone multiple times per year. The AHJ's intent is to ensure the building owner has completed all tasks that are required annually. Unfortunately, the owner assumes that an annual is all that is required. There are also many tasks that can be completed by the building owner which do not require a service provider to complete.

The NFPA 25 handbook provides a great deal of additional information that is not found in the normal NFPA 25 standard. Most of this information explains how to perform different tasks and provides information on why many of the tasks are required. It also provides additional explanatory information.

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Following is explanatory material from the NFPA 25 handbook Section 3.7, the definition of frequencies. This explains that there are more frequent tasks beside annual inspections and that the AHJ should be asking for the annual frequency inspections, this would imply that all tasks within the annual period are completed.

All the inspections, tests, and maintenance required by NFPA 25 are frequency-based. The term frequency was added beginning with the 2014 edition to clarify that frequency represents an elapsed time, not a definition of a task. For example, when referring to the inspections that are due to occur on a yearly basis, it would be appropriate to refer to them as annual frequency inspections as opposed to annual inspections. Inspections, tests, and maintenance that are more frequent than annual (weekly, monthly, etc.) should be repeated during the annual frequency event. In other words, an annual frequency inspection should include the 52nd weekly, the 12th monthly, the 4th quarterly, and the 2nd semi-annual frequency tasks.

Qualified Personnel

NFPA 25 defines "qualified" personnel as individuals who are competent and capable, having met the training requirements acceptable to the AHJ. While some tasks require minimal training, others, like fire pump testing, demand more extensive knowledge and experience.

Most of the tasks that require someone physically touching the system are typically completed by qualified service providers. More frequent tasks such as inspection of gauges and alarm devices can be completed by a qualified employee of the building owner.

The definition of qualified in NFPA 25 is someone who is competent and capable who has met the requirements and training for a given field acceptable to the AHJ. This is a broad definition and can be applied in many ways. Some of the required tasks can be completed with minimal training while other tasks may need many hours of on-the-job and classroom training such as testing fire pumps.

This also means that the contractors need to know what the scope of their work is, to properly conduct the ITM requirements. Some states have strict requirements for qualified technicians, whereas some states have no requirements at all. It is up to the service provider to ensure that the level of competence of their technicians is where it needs be. Too often technicians are taught by someone that has not received proper training promoting poor ITM habits and this information gets passed down from one technician to another.

Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance Frequencies

The building owner needs to be aware of the different types of systems in their buildings and ensure that all required tasks are being performed within the required frequencies.

NFPA 25 outlines inspection and testing, tasks based on frequency:

Visual Inspection:

Frequency: Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on type of system

Operational Testing:

Frequency: Usually conducted quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

What is tested: System components, such as valves, alarms, and water flow switches, operate as designed.

Water flow test:

Measures the water pressure and flow to ensure the system can discharge sufficient water to suppress a fire.

Alarm tests: Verifies that alarms tied to the sprinkler system (such as water flow alarms) function correctly.

Trip Test:

Frequency: Partial trip test annually for dry-pipe system and pre-action systems, with a 3-year full flow. Full flow annually for deluge systems.

What is tested: Ensures water reaches the sprinkler heads in a timely manner by intentionally tripping the system and observing its response time.

Hydrostatic Testing:

Frequency: Generally required every 5 years.

What is tested: Involves pressure testing pipes and components to ensure there are no leaks or weaknesses in the system that could fail during a fire.

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Gauge Testing and Replacement:

Frequency: Pressure gauges must be inspected monthly or quarterly depending on the system, and typically replaced or recalibrated every 5 years.

What is tested: Ensures the accuracy of the pressure readings which are critical for system performance.

Inspection of Fire Department Connections (FDC):

Frequency: Usually quarterly or annually.

What is checked: Ensures that FDCs are easily accessible, not obstructed, and in working order so that the fire department can augment the system's water supply during a fire.

What is tested: Piping between the FDC and the FDC check valve

Antifreeze Solution Testing (if applicable):

Frequency: Annually.

What is tested: Verifies that the antifreeze concentration in certain types of systems remains within the specified range to prevent freezing without compromising the system's effectiveness.

Documentation and Compliance

Inspection reports: Detailed documentation is required after each inspection, including any deficiencies or repairs needed.

Compliance with local codes:

Inspections must comply with local fire codes and regulations, such as NFPA 25

Documentation History:

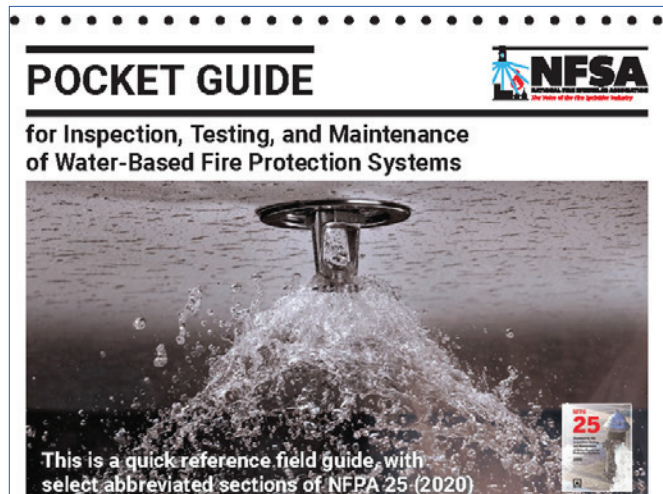
The owner must have all the original acceptance tests, as-builts, hydraulic data, and manufacturer data sheets.

The documentation history is far from all-inclusive to the required tasks within NFPA 25, they are some of the most well-known items. It is up to all parties involved to do everything they can to ensure the operational readiness of the fire sprinkler systems.

NFPA 13 requires that a copy of NFPA 25 be given to the building owner when a new installation is completed, it should be a priority of the building owner to familiarize themselves with their role and responsibilities according to the standard. A quick

reference table is in all NFPA 25 system chapters (5 through 13) that provides most ITM requirements. Every standard is free to view online at NFPA.org.

NFSA quick reference pocket guide



bit.ly/NFSAguide

Summary

All parties, including building owners, contractors, and AHJs, must collaborate to ensure fire sprinkler systems are operational and compliant. Misunderstandings between building owners and contractors, especially concerning task frequency, can lead to non-compliance. By understanding NFPA 25 and using proper ITM programs, fire sprinkler systems can maintain their reliability and effectiveness in protecting buildings and occupants.

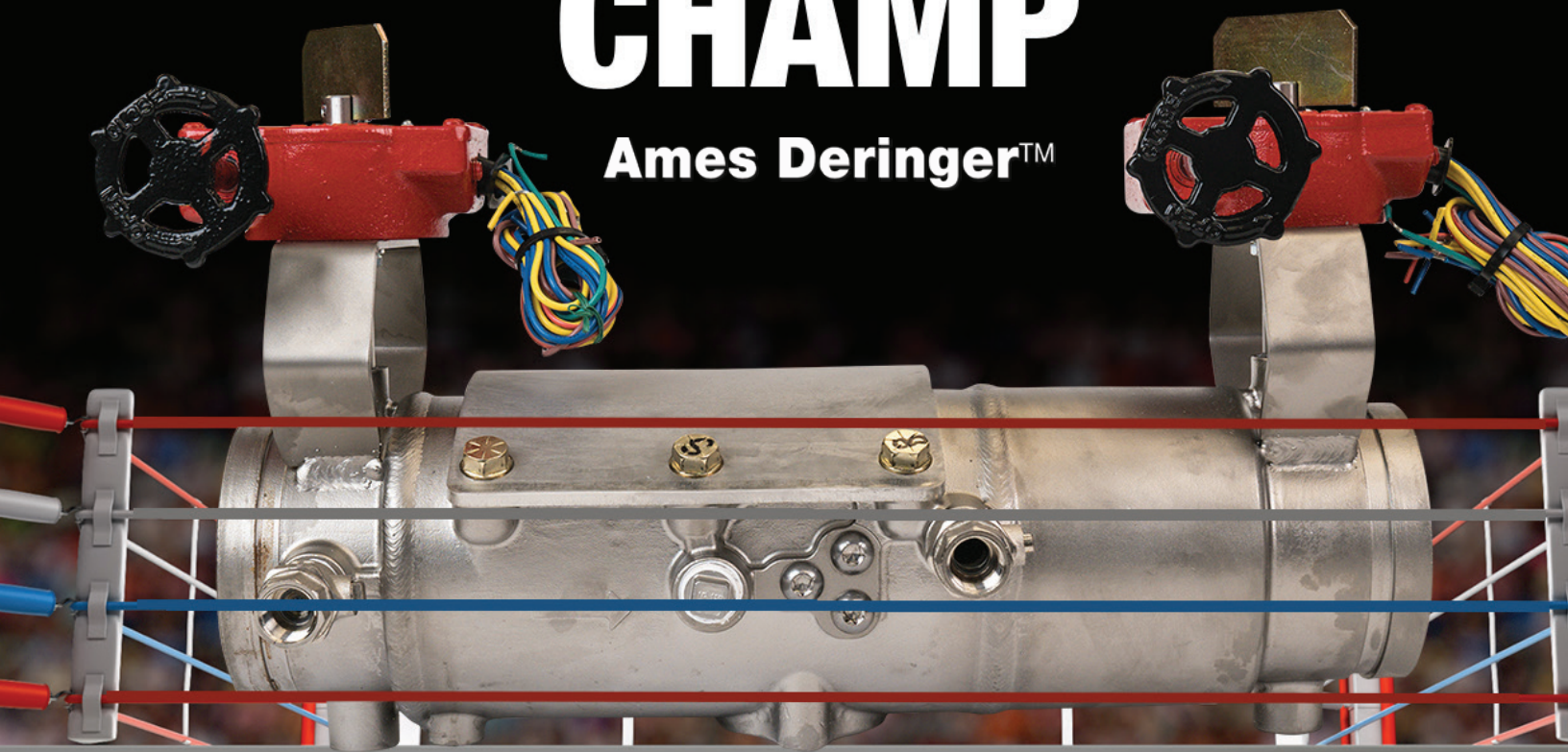
Along with the use of state-of-the-art equipment and system components, water-based fire protection system effectiveness and reliability continues to improve upon what is already considered to be a stellar track record. Even with this data and the latest products on the market, however, a system is only as effective as the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) program that is used to keep it running once a building is occupied. •

COURTESY OF NFPA 25 HANDBOOK



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Member Spotlights

by Caleb Armbrust, *Director of Membership*



Boston Chapter Golf Tournament

There was a large crowd on hand for the 7th Annual Boston Chapter Golf Outing. Since its inception, the tournament has donated more than \$150,000 to the Shriners Burn Center in Boston. This year was another record, with \$34,000 donated to the burn center from the tournament proceeds. These events would not be possible without the vision and effort of dedicated Chapter leaders like

Chapter Chair and Area 1 Director Steve Cook and the entire Chapter board of directors. If you have ever wanted a reason to go play golf in New England for a good cause with great people, now you have one.



NFSM staff members Michael Phillip and Paul Z were on hand for this year's event.



Check presentation to Shriners Hospital for Children

NFSA Visits Wheatland Tube

I was raised in central Ohio and as such always knew of “Steel Country” just to the north and east of where I lived but did not understand what happened in those massive facilities. When I had the chance to visit a mill with Wheatland Tube a few years ago I jumped at the chance and the visit did not disappoint. President Ray and I went back a couple of years ago and it is safe to say both left with a new appreciation for the effort that goes into ensuring the quality of American Metal.



In mid-September, I had the good fortune to join President Ray and some colleagues in northeastern Ohio for the grand opening of Wheatland Tube's newest fully automated and indoor pipe storage facility.

If you were in the panel presentation on AI/Machine Learning during our annual seminar in Maui, you know that I asked George Rabideau to share some of the ways the team at Wheatland/Zekelman is using this innovative technology. A steel company at the bleeding edge of technology? Yes! To hear Barry Zekelman talk about the way technology has changed his business and will continue to do so is awe inspiring. However, it is one thing to talk about it and quite another to invest tens of millions of dollars in making sure his team is at the leading edge, which is exactly what he has done. If you have the chance to visit the facilities in OH/PA, do not pass it up. If you cannot make it there in person, go check out Wheatland Tube's website or social media.

Metal with a purpose

To see the pipe come off the end of a mill is a remarkable sight. Where does it all go? In the case of Wheatland Tube, a lot of it

goes to fire sprinkler systems. For the grand opening, we wanted to help provide a little bit extra and a chance for the production teams to really see what their product does. We brought our valve trailer and one of our side-by-side trailers to the event and burned both for the team. For most in attendance, it was the first time they really connected with the reality of the significance of the work they do everyday. Steel pipe, yes, but more than that. The steel produced in that facility and others like it will go into all sorts of buildings in this country to protect the property and people that matter most to each of us. It really does not get much better than American steel made with American hands protecting Americas greatest assets.

At the golf tournament the following day, Zekelman Industries donated \$10,000 to Common Voices on behalf of the second-place team. •



Barry Zekelman cutting the ribbon on brand new facility to store steel pipe 100% indoors and fully automated.



Wheatland Tube team and customers on hand for the side-by-side burn event



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Expanding Fire Protection: External Wildlife Sprinkler Systems

by Luke Maher, *Chief Marketing Officer, Frontline Wildlife Defense*

As wildfire seasons grow longer and more severe, the need to protect homes and businesses from fire hazards has grown more urgent. Contractors specializing in residential fire sprinkler systems are already at the forefront of safeguarding lives and property. However, with the expansion of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), addressing external fire threats, particularly from wildfires, has become increasingly critical.

The WUI refers to areas where human development meets or intermingles with wildland. Building in the WUI brings unique fire hazards, such as increased exposure to windborne embers, which are responsible for 90% of structure loss during wildfires, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. These embers can travel miles ahead of a wildfire, igniting homes and structures. Addressing this unique threat requires proactive fire protection that extends beyond internal systems.

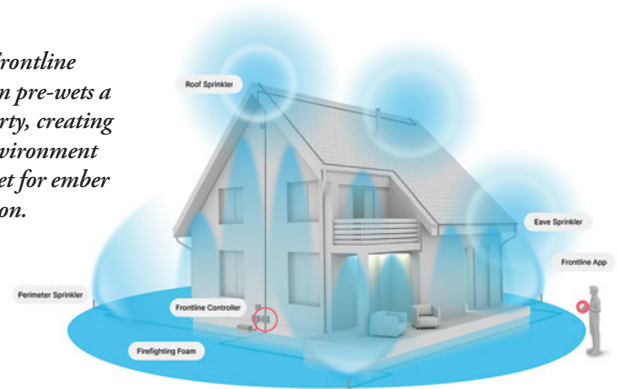
The Role of Exterior Wildland Sprinkler Systems

To address the risks posed by windborne embers, exterior wildland sprinkler systems are gaining traction in high-risk areas. These systems defend against embers, direct flames, and radiant heat by wetting combustible materials around a property before fire reaches it. This proactive measure helps reduce the risk of ignition. For contractors experienced in residential fire sprinkler systems, this external solution offers an opportunity to expand services and address the increasing wildfire risks in WUI areas.

These systems have proven effective in real-world scenarios. For example, during the 2007 Ham Lake Fire in Cook County, Minnesota, every home equipped with a working external wildfire sprinkler system survived the fire. Out of 104 total structures, 46 with working sprinklers all survived, while 38 of the structures with no sprinklers were lost. Their success saved over \$42 million in property value and highlighted the systems' effectiveness at protecting homes from wildfire threats, particularly embers that can travel over 24 miles.

Similar success has been seen in Canada, where exterior sprinkler systems have helped safeguard properties even when defensible space was not properly maintained. Case studies across Canada emphasize the importance of these systems in protecting homes and communities in wildfire-prone areas.

The Frontline System pre-wets a property, creating an environment too wet for ember ignition.



Fire Control vs. Fire Prevention: Complementary Approaches

Residential fire sprinkler systems are highly effective at controlling fires inside buildings after they have started. These systems activate when heat is detected, releasing water to contain the blaze. While vital for life safety, they are not designed to prevent external fires caused by windborne embers.



The Frontline Controller offers WiFi, cellular, and satellite connectivity with five days of battery backup.

“dry” approach, filling only when needed.

This preventive approach offers an essential layer of protection in wildfire-prone areas. By pre-wetting roofs, gutters, and landscaping, the system helps stop embers from igniting the property.

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www.frontlinewildfire.com

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Active roof sprinklers on a new home in Northern California

Exterior Sprinkler Systems	Interior Sprinkler Systems
Rely on automated, manual, or smartphone activation based on fire proximity and direction of spread	Activate when exposed to certain levels of heat
Designed to prevent ignition of the exterior of the structure and the defensible space	Excellent at protecting lives and contents inside the home
Interior of the property is immune from water and/or foam damage	Are only capable of combating fires after they have entered the building or home

Both internal fire control and external prevention are crucial for protecting homes and businesses. Each complements the other, creating a comprehensive approach to fire protection that addresses both internal and external fire hazards.

Opportunities for Fire Sprinkler Contractors

Fire sprinkler contractors bring invaluable expertise to the field of fire protection. With experience installing, maintaining, and servicing residential sprinkler systems, contractors are well-positioned to integrate external wildfire sprinklers into their offerings. As WUI areas continue to expand and wildfire seasons become longer and more intense, the demand for external wildfire prevention systems is rapidly increasing.



Eave sprays protect the most vulnerable areas of a home

Frontline Wildfire Defense is the leader in advanced wildfire sprinkler systems, designed to prevent structures from igniting

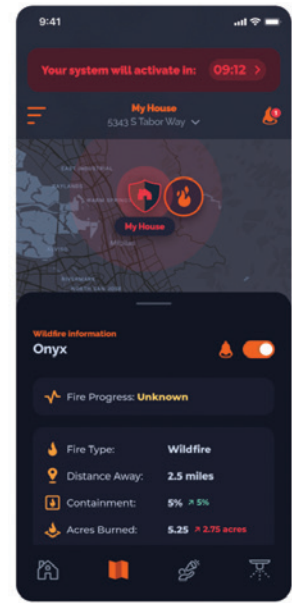
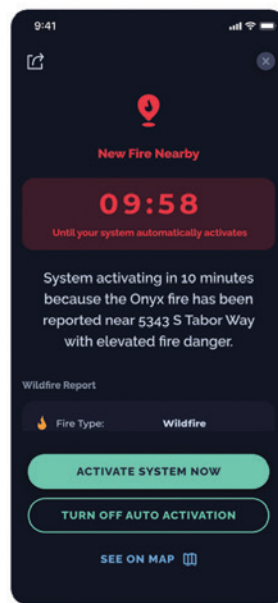
by neutralizing the ember threat. Frontline offers a seamless way for contractors to diversify their services by providing external wildfire protection. By handling sales, system design, and training, Frontline allows contractors to focus on installation while benefiting from a new revenue stream. This partnership creates a natural extension of services for those already established in fire protection.

Deploying exterior wildland sprinkler systems is a proactive measure that mitigates wildfire risk. This self-defense mechanism has a more expansive area of protection than interior systems, reduces reliance on active firefighting while promoting a safer firefighting environment, and offers an innovative approach to an increasingly common problem.

Frontline looks forward to collaborating with contractors to meet the growing demand for wildfire prevention systems and to provide homeowners and businesses with the protection they need in today's increasingly fire-prone environment. We are actively installing in high-risk states, including AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, and WY. Together, we can create safer, more resilient communities in the face of escalating wildfire risks. •



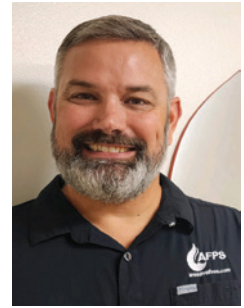
Frontline System installed by Jason McDonough with SoCal Wildfire Defense Systems



The Frontline System activates automatically when a fire is detected within six miles of a home.

The Five-Year Plan

by Michael Sudheimer, *Advanced Fire Protection Services*



I was thrust into the fire sprinkler industry, but in a good way. I learn faster and retain more information that way. Prior to my ten-years in the life safety industry, I was an Aviation Electronics Technician in the world's finest Navy. I worked on F-14 Tomcats, MH-53E helicopters and UH-1 Iroquois Helicopters. I was also a government contractor. While on active duty I met Mike Brown's (MB's) youngest daughter Dana and thus began my knowledge of this industry. MB and I would sit at his fish camp on Bunker creek drinking beer and talking about life and sprinklers. I, knowing nothing about sprinklers and alarm industry, but loved listening to a man as passionate as MB "teach" me about the industry. We would spend many weekends together at Bunker, discussing life and making plans for me to come to work at AFPS, even before Dana joined the family business. I would go to my job as a government contractor on Monday and he would call and ask where I was.

Fast forward to early 2016, Dana and I were expecting our second child in July. I was driving every day to/from Panama City Beach for work, and it was taking a toll on both of us. MB invited me on a boat ride one evening with some adult beverages and we discussed my "five-year" plan. I didn't know what I was doing in the next five days let alone the next five years. He laid it out like this to me. You are going to come work for the family business, you are going to start in the alarm construction department, in five years, you are going to get your fire alarm EF license. Well, anyone that knows MB, knows he is a calculated man with a vision. I worked on industry certifications, factory training and when the time came, state licensing. MB started taking me along to industry events. Specifically, the Buddy Dewar Golf/Skeet Classic,

which I have won twice in a row. He introduced me to peers and partners, and relationships grew. I was moved around AFPS to different departments within the company. Alarm construction, sprinkler construction, alarm service technician, sprinkler service technician, then into the office as service sales advisor.

Here we are eight years later. Dana is at the helm of AFPS, guiding our ship through expansion and growth. MB's five-year plan was a success, I earned my state EF license within that five-year timeline. I am a NICET Level III in FAS. I am considered one of the subject matter experts within the company on the fire alarm industry and keeping up to date on codes. I sit on the IAF BOD and many committees. I assisted in creating a Fire 101 course with the IAF to offer industry-wide to new hires that have zero experience to boost green techs knowledge when they start. I am asked to help layout and quote fire sprinkler work when estimators are behind. With the guidance of industry leaders, I have been fortunate to grow and learn from the best. I am always learning and eager to learn new things.

I credit 90% of my success to MB, without him, I would have never considered this industry as a career field. I credit my wife Dana with the rest. She is a smart woman and makes me want to work harder and be better. Lots of things MB has said to me over the last 18 years I have known him stick with me. Many are not appropriate to repeat, but amazing, nonetheless. The one that sticks with me the most is this " That license does one thing, gives you a license to learn."

Michael Sudheimer is the Low Voltage Project Manager/Estimator for NFSM Member Advanced Fire Protection Services. •

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SAM Members- Thought About Sponsoring our Annual Conference & Expo in Nashville? Here's why you should...

Our Annual Conference and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo (NAFSE25) is set for Nashville, TN May 7-9 (*please hold your applause 'til the end!*) Sponsorships and booth spaces are on sale now. While our booths are headed for a sellout, we have unlimited sponsorships that are still available. Sponsoring a conference and expo is a powerful marketing tool that has many benefits. NAFSE25 offers a unique opportunity for our SAM members to connect with their target audience, increase brand visibility, and foster relationships that will drive long-term growth. Besides supporting your association in delivering a premier event for both exhibitors and attendees, here's some advantages to becoming a sponsor:

NAFSE25 attracts a concentrated number of industry professionals, decision-makers, and potential customers. Our attendees span the North American continent, with our partnership with CASA and AMRACI leading the way. Sponsors' brands are prominently displayed in marketing materials, banners, event programs, and online promotions. This elevated exposure ensures that your brand stands out to attendees both before and during the event. Sponsorships include much more than signage! We will promote your brand and sponsorship with mentions on our social media platforms, which have a combined audience of over 70,000, shout-outs at the conference, and post-event follow-up communications, keeping the brand at the forefront of attendees' minds.

Did you know a sponsorship can give you an edge over competitors who are not participating at the same level? Being a visible sponsor signals strength, industry leadership, and commitment to the NFSA, and the fire sprinkler industry. This perception can set your organization apart from competitors and attract more attention from attendees who are evaluating

multiple solutions. Only our Platinum and Gold Sponsors can place a giveaway or printed material in the conference bag that is handed to attendees at the registration desk, giving you a one-up opportunity to connect with potential customers. If you decide to sponsor an event, we encourage you to place advertising materials, table tents and other promotional items at the site of the event. Your exposure level is up to you! Make the most of your sponsorship by making your presence known.

Conclusion

Sponsoring NAFSE25 can be a game-changer for our member organizations looking to increase brand visibility, connect with a targeted audience, and establish themselves as industry leaders. The benefits of sponsorship extend well beyond the event itself, often resulting in long-term business growth and competitive advantage. For SAM members seeking to make an impact, NAFSE25 sponsorship is a smart investment that yields measurable and lasting results. We have sponsorships to fit any budget and are happy to work with you to come up with a custom sponsorship that will best portray your organization and its goals.

Feel free to contact me at genadio@nfsa.org. I'll be happy to work with you to maximize your visibility as a sponsor of NAFSE25! (*Who doesn't love Nashville? You can applaud now!*) •



Colorado Fire Sprinkler Demo

Special thanks to Bozeman Fire & Chief Josh Waldo for sharing the message of **Fire Sprinkler Buy Time... Time Buys Life**, by hosting a textbook fire sprinkler burn demo in Bozeman on September 19th. *#FireSprinklers* save residents, property AND *#firefighters!*



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

CAPITOL REGION



CRFSA Elects New Chapter Officers For 2025-2027

Please welcome:

James Turcotte, Continental - Chair

Bob Linkins, Eastern Fire - Vice Chair

Noah Koski, Reliance - Secretary/Treasurer

Big shout out to our outgoing Chair **Josh Shapiro**, Reliable, and Vice-Chair **Brent Luers**, Continental, for their six years of dedicated service to CRFSA Chapter.

What a Day! 500 Bluefish!



The third annual CRFSA Chesapeake Challenge was a huge success with nine fishing boats and 80+ anglers from across the region raising over \$3,000 for the Anne Arundel County Professional Firefighters Burn Foundation Kids Burn Camp!

We would like to thank our boat sponsors: Victaulic, Reliable, Ferguson, Continental, Core & Main, Eastern Fire, Johnson Controls and NFA. And also our prize/catering sponsors: Potter Signal, Zurn and BlazeMaster, and our logo sponsors:



General Air Products and SFPE Chesapeake Chapter. All the boat captains /mates (Lead Captain Chris Mills), North Beach VFD and Sassafras Farms for the amazing food. Congratulations to our top prize fish, a whopping 23lb bluefish caught by Brent Luers, Continental.

FLORIDA

Legislative Day 2024 a Huge Success!



The Florida Fire Sprinkler Association began our day with a Board of Directors meeting, followed by Legislative Day 2024 in Fort Lauderdale, which drew over 80 registered attendees. Legislators provided valuable insights into the current legislative climate, while lobbyists helped demystify the legislative process. The day brought together representatives from the State Fire Marshals Office, Florida Fire Marshals, Florida Fire Chiefs, Integrated Alarm Association, AFSA FL, and various Florida contractors,

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CHAPTERS IN ACTION

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engineers, and inspectors.

These groups were divided into smaller teams to identify the top five priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The discussions were both passionate and professional, fostering an understanding of how our paths intersect in the legislative arena and highlighting the strength in unity. The event was a success, yielding practical and achievable outcomes. Working together benefits us all.

ILLINOIS



The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) recognized the efforts of fire, building, and elected officials at Richton Park and Waukegan – two communities that have recently adopted home fire sprinkler requirements for new homes per the International Residential Code. Illinois has more than 110 communities with similar requirements.

Busy Fire Prevention Week in Illinois!

This fall, as part of National Fire Prevention Week education efforts, the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) partnered with greater Chicago area fire departments throughout September and October to present live burn demonstrations at their open house events. These dramatic burns are remarkably effective at showing people how fast fires can become deadly and the crucial, life-saving benefits of home fire sprinklers.

Chicago area fire departments discussed the importance of early warning with working 10-year-sealed-battery smoke alarms, typical 9-1-1 dispatch and fire department response times, and well-practiced escape plans for families.

More than 110 Illinois communities have adopted national model codes requiring fire sprinklers in all new construction homes. Leaders in those communities recognize that fire sprinklers not only help safeguard residents and property, but they also protect the lives of first responders from fire and cancer-causing carcinogens associated with the smoke.

Following is a list of our Fire Prevention Week fire and sprinkler burn demonstrations.

Saturday, September 7:

Elgin Fire Department
Inverness Fire Protection District
Lake Villa “Celebration of Fall” (Lake Villa Fire Protection District)

Tuesday, September 10:

Will County Public Health/Safety Committee
(Joliet Fire Department)

Saturday, September 14:

Batavia Fire Department

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MAAC Foundation’s “First Responder Appreciation & Demonstration Day” (Valparaiso, Indiana)

Wednesday, September 18:

Elk Grove Village Fire Department – Citizens Fire Academy (Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer)

Saturday, September 21:

Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District
 Buffalo Grove Fire Department
 Des Plaines Fire Department (*Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer*)
 Glenview Fire Department
 Plainfield Fire Protection District
 Pleasantview Fire Protection District
 West Dundee Fire Department
 Wheeling Fire Department

Sunday, September 22:

Roselle Fire Department

Saturday, September 28:

Fox River Grove Fire Protection District
 La Grange Park Fire Department (*Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer*)
 Naperville Fire Department
 St. Charles Fire Department

Sunday, September 29:

Mundelein Fire Department

Wednesday, October 2:

Warrenville Fire Protection District

Saturday, October 5:

Aurora Regional Fire Museum’s “Community Hero Day”
 Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District
 Elk Grove Village Fire Department (*Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer*)
 Hammond (Indiana) Fire Department
 Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District
 Hobart (Indiana) Fire Department
 Homewood Fire Department
 Lake Bluff Fire Department
 Lansing Fire Department
 Lemont Fire Protection District
 Northbrook Fire Department
 Norwood Park Fire Protection District
 Palatine Fire Department

Sunday, October 6:

Belvidere Fire Department
 Countryside Fire Protection District (*Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer*)
 Lake Zurich Fire Department
 Lockport Township Fire Protection District
 McHenry Township Fire Protection District
 Merrillville (Indiana) Fire Department

Monday, October 7:

Lake Villa Village Board Meeting (Lake Villa Fire Protection District)
 Moraine Valley Community College – Fire Science Program
 Westchester Fire Department
 Western Springs Fire Department

Thursday, October 10:

La Grange Fire Department

Friday, October 11:

Beecher Fire Protection District
 Richton Park Fire Department (*Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer*)

Saturday, October 12:

Berwyn Fire Department
 Hillside Fire Department
 Hinsdale Fire Department
 Hoffman Estates Fire Department – Station 24
 Rolling Meadows Fire Department
 Romeoville Fire Department (*Fire Sprinkler Demo Trailer*)
 Waukegan Fire Department
 Streamwood Fire Department
 Wauconda Fire Protection District
 Waukegan Fire Department

Sunday, October 13:

Evanston Fire Department
 Roberts Park Fire Department

Wednesday, October 16:

Chicago Ridge Fire Department

Saturday, October 19:

Bloomington Fire Protection District
 Hoffman Estates Fire Department – Station 23

Monday, October 21:

Hampshire Fire Protection District

Saturday, October 26:

Oswego Fire Protection District

Sunday, October 27:

Forest View Fire Department

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MICHIGAN



NFSA Michigan Chapter Partners with Viking Corp. and Underwood Fire for Training and Media Outreach

On July 8th and 9th, President Shane Ray and the NFSA Michigan Chapter teamed with the Michigan Community Risk Reduction to provide two great days of learning and burning, six hours per day, educating our Partners in Progress on fire sprinklers and fire pumps at two of the most advanced training facilities in the country at Viking Corporation in Caledonia, and Underwood Fire in Wixom! We were able to partner with and educate 140 fire training and prevention officers from all over the State of Michigan over those two days. We also showcased our calve and side-by-side burn trailers at each of these events.

President Ray said it best, “NFSA couldn’t do any of this without our members...and I love serving our members. Thank you to Underwood Fire Equipment for hosting day one at their great facility. A special thanks to Damon and Chris Pietraz and their entire team for letting us take over their facility for a day. Bringing the fire service and the fire sprinkler industry together at the greatest fire pump room in the country was an honor. With fire pumps running and the fire department pumping the connection, all eyes were opened to the powerful display of pumping over 1,500 gpm, with the fire sprinkler system and the fire department working together. That’s our Partners in Progress.

“Day two was at Viking Headquarters in Caledonia, Michigan. Talk about bringing the fire service and the fire sprinkler industry together! We burned with over 200 people in attendance, which included all Viking’s staff. A special thanks to Jim Lake, Nancy Haughton, President/CEO James Golinveaux, and the entire Viking team!” stated President Ray

Thanks to State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier, we were able to receive great media coverage from Grands Rapid WOODTV of the Viking side by side burn event. Viking Corporation uploaded a nice video of the side-by-side burn on to YouTube.



MINNESOTA

NFSA at the Minnesota State Fair



NFSA’s Minnesota and Wisconsin Chapters teamed up to staff a promotional booth and conducted live fire sprinkler burn demonstrations at the Governor’s Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair. The event is billed as the World’s Largest Fire Prevention Event. This year, attendance topped 173,000!

Dozens of NFSA volunteers from across Minnesota and Wisconsin helped staff the live-fire demonstrations and promotional booth, including: Ray Bolger (J.F. Ahern); Nikki Nipp (Summit Companies); Melisa Rodriguez, Jeff Hemenway, and Martin Nelson (JCI); Tim McAllister, Bronte Gardner, and Colby Johnson (Viking Automatic); Bret Evers and Jill-Larson Vito (Siemens), Joe Laumeier, Craig Bistodeau, and Brad Hopping (Sprinkler Fitters Local 417); and Jon Nisja, Steve Howard, Tom Brace, Joel Hewitt, and Tim Butler (NFSA).

Trellis Fire Safety Day

The Minnesota Chapter assisted the Trellis Property Management Company in conducting a fire safety day for more than 150 of the company’s property managers and maintenance staff. Attendees received training on CPR, fire extinguishers, kitchen fire safety, ladder and elevator training, sprinkler operations, and OSHA training. NFSA staff conducted a side-by-side demonstration and

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pitched in to teach the fire extinguisher portion of the event, giving attendees a first-hand look at fire sprinklers, fire propagation, and fire sprinkler operation.

NFSA President Ray and Area 6 Director McCleery at the Minnesota Chapter Retreat

NFSA national leaders Shane Ray, Mike Joanis, Jeff Hugo, and Jon Nisja joined Area 6 Director Andy McCleery and over two dozen members attending the Minnesota Chapter Retreat. Attendees heard national and local updates on the state of the industry, discussed important updates and program initiatives, developed a proposed 2025 budget and Chapter objectives, and had a chance to network, relax, and re-energize. This is the second year the Chapter has held a retreat in recent years.



TEXAS CHAPTER

Contractors, Designers and all fire protection professionals, please Join the NFSA Texas Chapter for a lunch and learn meeting focused on fire sprinklers. You can choose your closest location in San Marcos or Houston.

November 5, 2024

Central Texas Chapter Meeting - Winterization & Insulation, Central Texas, NFSA Engineer Mike Joanis

November 21, 2024

Houston Area Texas Chapter Meeting – Houston, Ask the NFSA Expert - Roland Asp

Winter 2024 – 2025 NFSA Texas Chapter

Feb 5-7, 2025 –NFSA Texas Dallas Chapter Meeting

April 11, 2025 – 3rd Texas Sprinkler Shootout 2025

May 7-10, 2025 – NFSA National Seminar, Nashville, TN

Register Here for All NFSA Texas Events –

<https://member.nfsa.org/events/nfsa-event-calendar/TX>

NFSA Contact: Cindy Giedraitis - cindy@nfsa.org

979-324-8934

WISCONSIN

A side-by-side demonstration was presented by Wisconsin State Coordinator Steve Howard at the Grand Chute Fire Department’s Open House on September 7th to a crowd of around 500.



This project, and one in the Madison area, would not have been possible without the new partnerships with Paul Davis Restoration in Wisconsin. They have helped expand our outreach not only to fire department open houses, but now include training to the insurance industry on the advantages of fire sprinklers within business and residential properties, helping to dispel myths. •

SPRINKLERING OF NEWS

■ Fayette Pipe Completes \$1.4 Million Expansion



Fayette Pipe has announced the completion of a \$1.4 million expansion at its facility in Lemont Furnace, PA. The expansion includes a new 23,000-square-foot truck loading and unloading facility with additional warehousing space designed to improve operational efficiency and enhance the experience for truck drivers and the warehouse team. This new space allows Fayette Pipe to load two trucks simultaneously, with ample room for drivers to pull forward and tarp their loads while the next trucks are prepared for loading. This efficient traffic flow streamlines the process, improving both safety and productivity across the property.

www.fayettepipe.com.

■ Viking Group Debuts New FM Approved VSF303 UV/IR Flame Detector

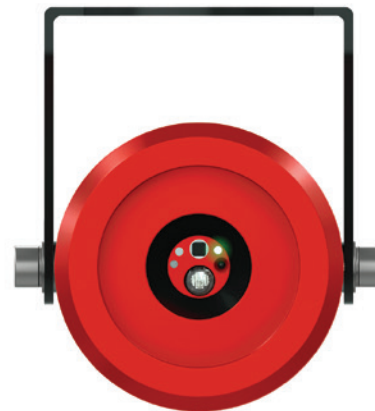
Viking Group, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of a new ultraviolet infrared flame detector to its alarm and detection portfolio. The new detector takes at most only five seconds to detect dangerous hydrocarbon pan fuel fires from up to 128 ft. away.

The FM Approved VSF303 UV/IR Flame Detector is an explosion proof ultraviolet (UV) infrared (IR) flame detector. The device delivers superior performance, responding to hydrocarbon liquid fuel and gas fires at long distances. Utilizing the latest IR flame detection algorithms, the VFS303 UV/IR detector ensures maximum false alarm immunity in markets like oil and gas, chemical, manufacturing, recycling plants, storage, aviation and more!

Additional features from the FM Approved VSF303 UV/

IR Flame Detector include convenient and continuous optical testing, adjustable sensitivity levels for application flexibility, microprocessor-controlled heated optics for operation through harsh weather events, and significantly enhanced false alarm immunity through multi-spectrum IR design.

Learn more about the VSF303 UV/IR Flame Detector and the rest of the alarm and detection portfolio offerings at www.viking-groupinc.com.



■ Zekelman Donates \$35,000 to Local and National Charities as Part of Customer Appreciation Event.

Zekelman Industries' annual Customer Appreciation Event took place over two days in Warren, Ohio, and concluded with a golf outing held at The Grand Resort at Avalon Golf & Country Club on Sept. 17th.

On behalf of the winning team, Zekelman donated \$20,000 to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, an organization dedicated to ending veteran homelessness and aiding victims of major U.S. disasters. Some of the organization's initiatives include providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and building custom smart homes for injured veterans and first responders.

Additionally, Zekelman donated \$10,000 on behalf of the second-place team to Common Voices, an advocates' coalition that works to spread fire safety awareness across America with the message that "fire sprinklers save lives."

The third-place team's donation was \$5,000 to Prince of Peace, a non-profit social service agency. This agency works to build community and reduce poverty throughout Mercer County and provides support through education, empowerment and advocacy.

This year's Customer Appreciation Event began on Monday, Sept. 16, with factory tours of Wheatland Tube's new Matter automated warehouse in Warren. Tours started at 1 p.m., followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m., where Barry Zekelman, executive chairman and CEO (Zekelman), spoke about the company's continuing technology investments and focus on world-class service excellence.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, NFSA President Shane Ray conducted a fire sprinkler burn demo showcasing the importance of fire sprinklers for effective safety precautions.

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■ New Tyco ESFR-25 Dry-Type Sprinkler Streamlines Cold Storage Fire Protection

Johnson Controls launched the new Tyco® ESFR-25 Dry-Type Pendant Sprinkler offering efficient, FM Approved fire protection for commercial refrigerated and frozen storage areas. The dry-type sprinkler is used in applications where the water is supplied from a wet system in an adjacent conditioned space. It is designed for dependable operation in cold storage areas up to 50 feet (15.2 meters) in height with temperatures as low as minus 60 F (minus 51 C). The ceiling-only, lower-pressure sprinkler provides flexibility and efficiency by reducing the need for a fire pump and eliminating the need for in-rack sprinklers when protecting high-piled storage within these box-in-box applications.

While an effective solution, traditional in-rack sprinkler systems can be complex and expensive. Obstructions and tight clearances can make installation difficult while daily operations such as shelving and retrieving products can damage in-rack sprinklers, resulting in potential downtime.

Innovative ceiling-only cold storage protection, like the Tyco ESFR-25 Dry-Type Sprinkler, operate without the need for in-rack sprinklers for an overall simpler and more affordable solution. And as box-in-box freezer storage facilities become taller to accommodate more product, reliable performance at ceiling heights of up to 50 feet offers greater peace of mind. This new Tyco cold storage sprinkler is also designed to operate at lower-end head pressures, reducing or even eliminating the need for a fire pump.

With the flexibility to meet a wide range of cold storage applications, the ESFR-25 sprinkler is the only early suppression, fast response dry-type sprinkler with a nominal K-factor of 25.2 that comes in both threaded connections (1-1/4-inch NPT or ISO 7-1) and grooved 2-inch connections. It's also available with:

- Ordinary (165 F/74 C) and intermediate (212 F/100 C) temperature ratings
- 23-, 30- and 36-inch barrel lengths

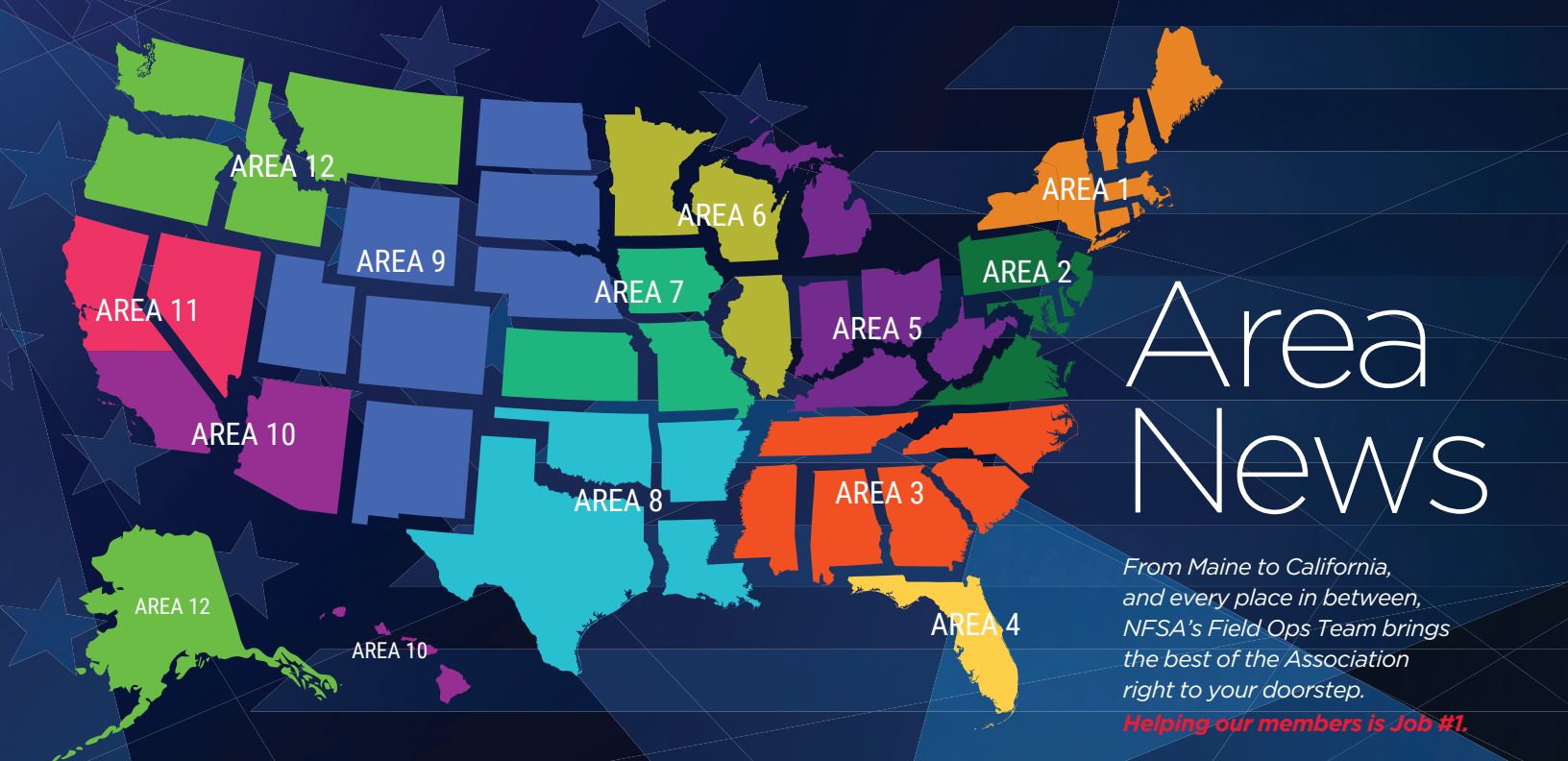
- Included insulating seal assembly kit to help minimize the condensation and ice buildup

To learn more about protecting your cold storage operations, visit tyco-fire.com/products-and-solutions/sprinklers-nozzles-and-accessories/storage/.

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**DON'T REPLACE ANOTHER
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The AGF **FLOODELIMINATOR** is a fail-safe that stops the flood of water caused by auxiliary drains that freeze and break, are maintained improperly, vandalized, or broken by accidents. They enable facilities to recover faster with less clean-up and expense. Why would you ever replace another auxiliary drain without one?



Area News

From Maine to California, and every place in between, NFSA's Field Ops Team brings the best of the Association right to your doorstep. *Helping our members is Job #1.*

AREA 6

ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN

Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference



NFSA expertise was on the stage for presentations to more than 150 attendees at the Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference. NFSA's Fire Protection and Data Specialist Jon Nisja presented the results of NFSA's live-fire field testing and demonstration projects and a separate class on occupant load and exit capacity calculations. Missouri State Coordinator KJ Spurlock presented on NFPA 13e, which is a much-needed topic for fire departments in the Region and across the country.

28th Annual Burn Aid Charity Golf Classic Raised \$75,000

Area members and sponsors teamed up to raise \$75,000 for the Regions Hospital Burn Center at this year's Burn Aid Golf Classic. Burn Aid has raised over \$1.5 million for the Burn Center over the past 28 seasons, supporting burn victims, their families,



and the camps and recovery programs at the Center. The event is truly inspirational and lifesaving. Burn Aid is a core program of the Burn Aid Foundation and was originally started as a cooperative effort between the Burn Center, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division, and the Minnesota Chapter of NFSA. All three organizations still form the hard nucleus of the Burn Aid Event planning team. This year, NFSA, the State Fire Marshal Division, and the White Bear Lake Fire Department conducted a live-fire demonstration using the Wisconsin Chapter Valve Trailer and the Minnesota Chapter Side-by-Side Trailer to a crowd of 143 golfers before tournament play began.

AREA 8

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Installation and Winterization of Fire Sprinkler Systems

NFSA will be hosting two presentations in Texas that focus on Installation and Winterization Fire Sprinkler Systems in Areas Subject to Freezing." The goal is to promote discussion of fire protection system winterization issues, to support the design, installation, and maintenance of robust systems going forward.

The two winterization presentations will take place:
November 5, 2024 – NFSA Texas Chapter, San Marcos
November 6, 2024 – Texas Fire Marshals Association

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MAJOR EVENTS

November 5-8, 2025 – Texas Fire Marshals Association Conference & Fire Sprinkler Saves Annual Award

November 19-20, 2024 - Fire Sprinkler Installation & Advanced Hydraulics Trainings

November 19-21, 2024 – Greater Houston Fire Marshals Conference

November 21, 2024 – NFSA Texas Chapter, Houston – Ask the NFSA Expert!

December 4-6, 2024 – Association for Career & Technology Education

December 9-11, 2024 – Arkansas Fire Marshals Conference, Sprinkler & Fire Alarm Acceptance Testing

December 18, 2024 – Texas State Fire Marshal Discussion Meeting

February 3-4, 2025 – NFSA Master Class - Estimating Proposals/Project Management

February 5-7, 2025 – NFSA Texas Chapter Meeting Dallas

February 11-12, 2025 – Texas Construction Association Legislative Day at the Capitol

April 2-5, 2025 – OFSA Boondoggle

April 11 or 14, 2025 – Texas Fire Sprinkler Shootout

May 7-9, 2025 – NFSA Annual Seminar

Texas State Fire Marshal Discussion Series

Join the Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office for three upcoming 2024 open forum discussions between the State Fire Marshal’s Office & industry partners. For more information or to register, please visit the Texas State Fire Marshal website: Fire Marshal Discussion Series.

Upcoming discussion series dates.

- December 18, 2024 – Rio Grande Valley

Check the NFSA Calendar on our website for more information on events.

NFSA South Central Regional Manager
Cindy Giedraitis, cindy@nsfa.org/979-324-8934

AREA 12

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, WASHINGTON

Northwest Area 12 Update

The Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board’s media campaign surrounding Fire Prevention Week was a huge success. We again hit the radio airwaves with ads featuring a 9-1-1 emergency call reporting a fire that ends when the sprinkler activates. The campaign featured sponsor tags for the popular TV shows “Hell’s Kitchen” and “9-1-1 Lonestar.” Eighteen billboards across the Puget Sound region featured a bold design of a sprinkler extinguishing a blaze designed by local contractor Kris Hillstrom of Emerald Fire. The marquee digital billboard on I-5 was seen by thousands of motorists a day.

Hillstrom also represented the sprinkler industry in the media campaign on a segment on King 5’s Evening Magazine where he walked host Jim Dever through a side-by-side fire sprinkler demonstration with the Northwest new demo trailer. As with last year’s wildly popular Evening segment, Hillstrom and Dever discussed the importance of fire sprinklers while working in a few humorous moments. The affable Dever even suited in turnout gear to assist Tacoma Fire Department in putting out the fire in the unsprinklered room. (You can watch both segments on YouTube by searching “King 5 Jim on the Job fire sprinklers.”)

Groundwork is being laid for the 2025 legislation sessions in all five Northwest states. NFSA Regional Manager and our national NFSA staff will be monitoring all legislation affecting the fire sprinkler industry. In Washington state, watch for updates to the contractor licensing rules. Check your email inbox for updates at the sessions roll out.

Locally delivered fire sprinkler training continues to be in demand. This fall, NFSA staff delivered training at the Alaska Fire Conference, the Washington Fire Prevention Institute, through partnerships with Redmond Fire in central Oregon and with the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals. If you have training requests, please contact Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr. NFSA offers both open registration classes, and classes tailored specifically to your organization’s needs.

The Puget Sound and Columbia-Willamette NFSA Chapters are in the process of setting up their 2025 meeting schedules. Members should watch their inboxes and check the NFSA event calendar for meeting announcements. •

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NORTH AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER EXPO
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Music City Center
Nashville, Tennessee
May 7-9, 2025
Register now at: <https://nsfa.org/seminar>

Check out the Northwest Area 12's new sprinkler education tool!

Thanks to a partnership between NFSA and Pierce County, Washington, the northwest has a new side-by-side burn demonstration trailer to help spread the word about the effectiveness of fire sprinklers. The trailer made its debut at the Pierce County Emergency Management Open House on Sept. 28. NFSA President Shane Ray gave the minute-by-minute commentary to the crowd of about 150 people, sharing insights as we demonstrated a sprinkler activation in a fully furnished room, and a fire in a room with no sprinklers that went to flashover in just minutes.

The demonstration trailer was also featured in a KING 5's Evening Magazine segment aired during Fire Prevention Week in October. Emerald Fire's Kris Hillstrom walked host Jim Dever through a side-by-side fire sprinkler demonstration, highlighting the importance of fire sprinklers while working in a few humorous antics.

NFSA appreciates the support and enthusiasm of Pierce County Fire Marshal Ken Rice, who has been instrumental in facilitating the many details of hosting the fire sprinkler trailer, including hosting the first few events. "This new educational tool is only possible because of the support of our local fire officials combined with so

many contractors stepping up to the plate," Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr said. "The Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound committed to funding many of the expenses associated with fire sprinkler demonstrations that will help gain acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept in our area."

Tacoma Fire Department was on hand to provide suppression at both fire sprinkler trailer inaugural events, with one fire fighters weighing in on the importance of fire sprinklers in the Evening segment.

A local team is being assembled to manage, transport, and refurbish the demonstration trailer at future engagements. NFSA staff members Brian Biggs and Marty Blackwell worked with several local sprinkler fitters and contractors, including Bob Beck, recently retired from Patriot Fire Protection; Kenny Domino of Fire Systems West; Radu Haitu of Moore Fire Protection; David Fox of Red Hawk Fire Protection; Kris Hillstrom of Emerald Fire LLC; and Donnie Reese of Fire Sprinkler Local 699.

If you are interested in helping out with future fire sprinkler demonstrations, please contact Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr.





National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

NFSM Article Submission Guidelines

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine (*NFSM*), a members-only publication of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, is published six times a year. It offers Fire Sprinkler Industry news and articles of interest to Association members.

Query

Send an e-mail or letter briefly describing your article proposal, why the topic is important, and how it is relevant to our audience. Say something about the sources of your information (*personal involvement? interviews?*) and about your present position and background. Tell us what types of photographs and graphics are available to illustrate your story. Be sure to include an email address and a daytime phone number.

NFSM runs full-length feature articles of approximately 800-1200 words.

Feature Articles

Articles for *NFSM* should be on a topic of significant interest to the industry. Articles promoting a specific product or service will not be published. We have advertising opportunities available to boost your sales.

Writing Guidelines

NFSM tries to maintain a straightforward style. Accuracy is vital. All facts should be double-checked before a manuscript is submitted. All manuscripts must be submitted as Word docs, single-spacing between sentences. Images must be submitted as separate hi-res jpegs. Charts and tables must be submitted as separate pdfs.

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a list of resources on the topic at hand: relevant books and reports, conferences, and/or contact people and their phone numbers. To settle points of style, use *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press).

Illustrations

NFSM uses a variety of photographs, line art, charts, and maps.

We prefer to receive artwork electronically, and all illustrations should include credit and caption information.

Copyrights

Articles must be exclusive to *NFSM* magazine and not submitted to any other industry publication, unless prior agreement has been reached. Author is responsible for the accuracy of article and that it does not infringe on any other copyright. All published submissions become the property of NFSA.

Payment

NFSM does not pay for articles; we do recognize an author with a byline and credit. NFSA reserves the right to reject any submission at its own discretion.

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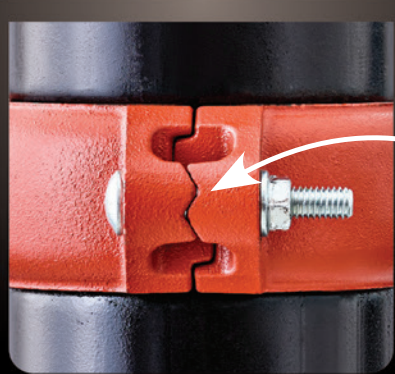




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