

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association



Austin, TX



NAESE23

MAY 2-5, 2023



Inside this issue:

Sprinkler System Zones in Healthcare Occupancies

page 11

Navigating Healthcare Facilities with Codes and Standards

page 15

Best Ways to Check Austin Off Your Bucket List!

page 36



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AGF	45
Argco	24
Core & Main	28
Dyne	46
Ferguson	BC
General Air	13
Harrington	18
JCI	IBC
Metraflex	3
Reliable	IFC
Reliable	26, 27
Victaulic	14
Viking	10

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FEATURES

32 Big Tech's Big Impacts: Developing Technology and its Effects on Fire Protection Solutions

by Darby Napieralski

34 #NAFSE23-Where the Greatest Innovators of the Fire Sprinkler Industry Come Together!

by Caleb Armbrust

DEPARTMENTS

2 Learning & Development Calendar

5 From the President's Desk -by Shane Ray

Join Us for The Fight and Victory

7 From the Chair's Desk -by Jim Boulanger

We Should be Proud

8 Contractor's Cue

11 Technically Speaking -by Mike Joanis, P.E.

Sprinkler System Zones in Healthcare Occupancies

15 Code Corner -by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO

Navigating Healthcare Facilities with Codes and Standards

17 New Members

20 Notes From the Fire Scene -by Vickie Pritchett

Fast and Furious-And We Love It!

22 Fire Sprinklers in Action

27 ITeM -by Vincent Powers

Sprinkler Inspection and Testing in Healthcare Facilities

36 Social Scene -by Joanne Genadio

Best Ways to Check Austin Off Your Bucket List!

38 HQ News

42 Chapters in Action

45 Sprinklering of News

48 Area News

CON
TENTS



VISIT THE LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PAGE OF THE NFSA WEBSITE TO VIEW THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF UPCOMING CLASSES.



MARCH

Sprinkler Selection for High-Piled Storage

When: Mar 15, 2023 from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Sprinkler Fitters Local 268, 1544 S 3rd Street, St. Louis, MO 63104

Tech Tuesday: ITM of Sprinklers in Healthcare

When: Mar 21st from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

APRIL

Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review (1-day)

When: Apr 4th from 08:00 AM to 04:30 PM (ET)
Where: Willoughby Fire Department, 37000 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby, OH 44094

Rough and Final Inspections of Fire Sprinkler Systems

When: Apr 5th from 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM (ET)
Where: Willoughby Fire Department, 37000 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby, OH 44094

Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review (2-Day)

Starts: Apr 10th 08:00 AM (MT)
Ends: Apr 11th 05:00 PM (MT)
Where: La Plata County Ambulance, 104 Shepard Drive, Durango, CO 81303

Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances

When: Apr 12th from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (MT)
Where: La Plata County Ambulance, 104 Sheppard Dr, Durango, CO 81303

Rough and Final Inspections of Fire Sprinkler Systems

When: Apr 13th from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (MT)
Where: La Plata County Ambulance, 104 Sheppard Dr, Durango, CO 81303

Tech Tuesday: Fundamentals for Layout Technicians

When: Apr 18th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

MAY

Tech Tuesday: Residential Sprinklers and Systems

When: May 16th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

JUNE

Tech Tuesday: Grandfathering and Partial Sprinkler Systems

When: Jun 20th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

JULY

Tech Tuesday: Fires in Sprinklered Buildings

When: Jul 18th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

AUGUST

Tech Tuesday: Gaps in Sprinkler Rules

When: Aug 15th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

SEPTEMBER

Tech Tuesday: Common Questions from AHJs

When: Sep 19th from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM (ET)

OCTOBER

Tech Tuesday: Notes from the AHJ to the Sprinkler Industry

When: Oct 17th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

NOVEMBER

Tech Tuesday: Technical for Careers in Sprinklers

When: Nov 21st from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)

DECEMBER

Tech Tuesday: 2024 Codes and Their Standards

When: Dec 19th from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET)



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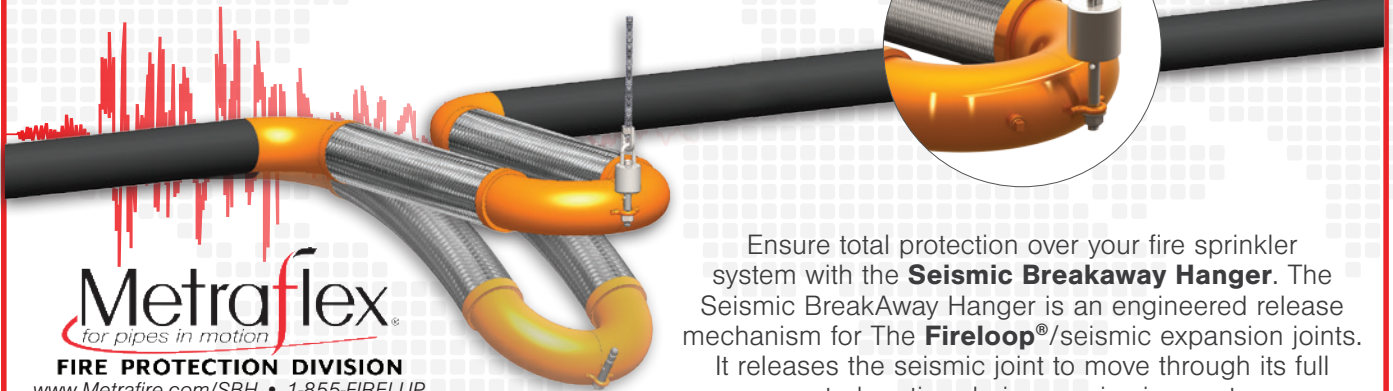
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Fire is fast. Fire sprinklers are faster.

Join Us for The Fight and Victory

Every morning, I start my day with a daily Bible reading, a daily leadership devotional, and firefighter history. All help me set a personal path for the future and help me set an organizational path by learning and envisioning a better future.

Every day of the year has a tragic past and there is a tragic day awaiting ahead. I am a positive person, so I don't worry about that day, but I have spent my entire professional career trying to minimize the number of tragic events in the future. That's what you do as well if you are in the fire sprinkler industry. You may not realize it, but every day you go to work, you ensure that there are less tragic days in the future.

I hope you will join us for our **Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo in Austin, Texas May 2-5, 2023**. This will be a great event to network with colleagues in this great industry, as well as learn the latest and greatest about fire sprinklers. Our suppliers and manufacturers, as well as our partner organizations, will ensure a great exposition encompassing the latest advancements in the fire sprinkler industry.

Back by popular demand as a keynote speaker is Economist **Gene Marks**. Gene appears regularly on *MSNBC* and *Fox News*, as well as *The John Batchelor Show* and *SiriusXM's Wharton Business Channel* where he talks about the financial, economic and technology issues that affect business leaders today. Gene will focus on upcoming economic trends and how they affect the fire sprinkler industry. Truly an important presentation you shouldn't miss!

We also need you to join us at our Chapter events, regional conferences, training sessions, charity events, etc. across the country. After recent Chapter events in Detroit, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, as well as speaking at fire service and fire protection meetings and conferences across the country, I realize there is no place you can gain as global of a perspective on this industry as at NFSA meetings and events. Our great staff, in partnership with our members, have a perspective like no other and we have the technical, political, and educational resources to help your staff, which in turn advances your companies.

Why should you be involved and ensure your staff is active in NFSA? The fire sprinkler industry is always under attack. As I write this, there are over 1,000 pieces of legislation introduced in states across this country that attack fire sprinklers and either attempt to prohibit them in certain occupancies or remove them from the codes. I have never observed a political climate like we are in now regarding the attack on fire sprinklers. Our team works diligently to defend and promote this industry. We are on the offense and defense in this process daily, as long as these state legislatures are in session.

You think if you look at the healthcare industry, we could prove the effectiveness of fire sprinklers over the past 50 years. As I read the daily firefighter history, there were days when tragic fires occurred in hospitals, "homes for the aged", "insane asylums", etc. When is the last time you heard of a hospital burning down? When is the last time you heard of a fire death in a hospital or a firefighter dying in a hospital fire?

According to NFPA's report, *US Experience with Fire Sprinklers 2021*, the top two facilities with the greatest presence of fire sprinklers is nursing homes and hospitals. This was no accident, but it was because of tragedies. From the 1940s to the 1980s there were very tragic fires with multiple fire fatalities in these facilities. Thanks to changes in building and fire codes and the adoption of them by local and state governments, the tragedies started to decrease. For those local and state governments that chose to remain ignorant, or to allow financial gain to reign, the federal government stepped in and said no reimbursement for those that don't comply with the latest codes and standards. These local, state, and federal public policies adopting codes and standards that include fire sprinkler requirements change our industry and save lives and properties.

NFSA has a rich history of shaping the built environment that we know today. Thanks to our members and staff who participate in our councils and committees, you are the ones that make the most contributions. We always need more participation and more members engaged in this great association. Join us and let's promote and defend this industry together.

Stay safe, stay well, and I look forward to seeing you at our conference and events.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" and "R".

Shane Ray, President

The National Fire Sprinkler Association Presents Our North American Fire Sprinkler Expo & Annual Seminar



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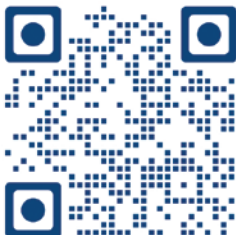
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We Should be Proud

Welcome everyone to 2023 and the New Year. Try to limit the news and all the excessive social media chatter and just make this year a great one!

As I prepare to put pen to paper, or apply keystrokes to MS Outlook, your Chair is again reflecting on what a wonderful and dynamic industry we are all part of. Never forget how fortunate we all are to make a living protecting lives and property from the ravages of fire! My assignment this quarter is to communicate from my desk about fire sprinklers and healthcare, here goes...

As I reminded you last year, "*Fire Sprinklers are Green*" and they are also essential to the healthcare system. What? I know I appear to be mixing subjects, Green is about the environment, which is about safety and good health for all of us. In this country we do not take our environment for granted, rules and regulations dominate the landscape to protect the planet. However, we all tend to forget about fire safety in hospitals and nursing homes, we just take it for granted. Why is that? Because almost all those institutional facilities in this country have been fully protected with our fire sprinklers for multiple decades. Can you imagine being lost in the maze of one of our inner-city major hospitals? Now add in the possibility of no fire sprinklers. Finding your way to the maternity ward is hard enough, just imagine exiting in a real-life fire smoke emergency. Envision if you or a loved one was non-ambulatory and unable to walk, it's a frightening thought.

With over 6,000 Hospitals and 26,000 nursing homes in this country, it's a blessing we do not hear every day of mass fatalities due to fires. It is not because the press does not like to report on disasters, we all know better than that. It is because NFSA, along with NFPA and the Firefighter Associations fought and won that code battle a long time ago. Today we have complete fire sprinklers protecting the most vulnerable lives and our essential healthcare facilities. It is the law of the land and fortunately has been for decades. Are there still some hold outs or converted buildings avoiding the science and not properly covered? Absolutely, but overall, these institutions are protected, and we should be very proud of that.

In this issue you can gain incredible insight with articles written by NFSA staff: *Healthcare Facility Codes and Standards*, by Vice President Jeffery Hugo along with *Understanding Smoke and Sprinkler Zones* by Michael Joanis PE. I encourage you to read all the articles front to back, not the cliff notes. Become an expert, we need more!

One final shout out to attend our NFSA Seminar and Exhibition May 2nd - 5th in Austin, Texas at the JW Marriott. Between Covid and the Florida Hurricanes it will be wonderful to finally bring our industry back together again.

All my best, see you in Texas in May

Jim



**CONFERENCE
& EXPO**

Look for us in **Booth #628** at the NFPA Conference & Expo at the beautiful Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas! Expo days are June 19-21. Stop by and let's talk **#fastestwater!**

Six Key Things Sub – Contractors Must Check Before You Sign That Contract!

by Barry Ashmore

1. Who Are You Actually Contracting With?

OK, I accept that this sounds obvious, but how much do you know about the organization that you are getting into a contract with? More importantly, will they be around to pay you when the time comes?

There will always be other factors to consider when deciding on whether to enter the contract. Not least of which will no doubt be your workload at the time. It is obviously much easier to be selective in times of plenty.

Being willing to place an order with you is only one small part of what you should be looking for in a relationship with a customer. A customer that is likely to become insolvent, or who can't or won't pay is worse than no customer at all, and a customer who takes too long to pay, makes unreasonable reductions, or sets off money unfairly, could turn out to be your worst nightmare!

You cannot rely solely on the apparent size of the customer. Not all large companies pay their debts on time and some national contractors are the worst payers of all.

If you have worked for an organization before, then you will have a pretty good idea as to whether or not they pay on time or are quick to make deductions or raise setoffs.

However, don't assume that because the New York office of XYZ national contractor is a good payer, the same will apply to the Los Angeles office. A lot will depend upon the circumstances within that company and within each branch. Whether things go well may come down to your relationship with individuals within an organization rather than the inherent culture of the organization itself.

As a minimum, bank and trade references should be followed up. However, I would advocate making as detailed an enquiry as possible from other specialist sub-contractors who have worked for this organization. Ask about the culture of the organization and whether they are helpful or unhelpful to their sub-contractors in respect of payment.

Ask about individuals involved and whom you can and cannot rely upon. Ask how easy it is to agree interim applications, variations etc. and whether they are prone to making reductions or setoffs. Most important of all, ask whether they always get paid on time.

Don't be shy about making these enquiries or concerned that making them might cause offence to potential customers. In well run, objective organizations nothing should be further from the truth and reputable companies will respect your professionalism.

2. Scope of the Works

You would be surprised how many disputes I have resolved for specialist sub-contractors where the sub-contractor and the contractor disagreed about the scope of the works included in the contract.

I accept that it is a chore, but you neglect this at your peril. Check carefully that what you thought had been agreed during the tender and negotiation pre-contract period, has been properly incorporated into the contract.

Check that the contractor or client hasn't added in references to documents or specifications you haven't seen and be wary of phrases such as "necessarily implied from".

I have seen this blatantly used by a contractor to deliberately add works into my client's scope that my client had not priced. And at a seminar where I used this example one of the delegates told me about his son who was training with one of the major contractors. His son had told him that he was trained how to use this very technique!

If in doubt, go back to the contractor or client and make sure the written document properly reflects what has been agreed. You must make it clear in writing to the contractor exactly what you have priced to do before you start work on site or do design work or anything else that could constitute acceptance. Don't sign any documents until you are satisfied that they only refer to the scope of works that you have priced.

3. Time

Time is a tricky little sucker to get right!

First, check whether you are going to have one start and finish date or are going to have to complete the work in sections. If the work is to be completed in sections, then you need to be especially careful. Make sure the start date and any notice to start period is what you agreed and be wary of large "windows" for starting the works. I have seen clients being asked to agree to a three-month window for starting the works on a week's notice!

Make sure the period for carrying out the works is clearly stated and confirms what has been agreed. Do not agree to "work in accordance with the contractor's program" or "as per our site requirements" or any other form of words that contractors can twist the meaning of and use against you!

If in any doubt get it clarified and agreed before you sign up or start any work.

continued from page 8

4. Price and Discount

I have resolved lots of disputes involving price and discount. It happens all the time, so please don't let it happen to you. Check that your price has been properly incorporated along with any tender summary or amendments and clarifications that have been agreed. If you are relying on any qualifications in your tender, make sure they are not "lost" because of terms like "...the sub-contractor acknowledges that all terms and conditions of his quotation are excluded."

If you negotiated a one-off discount on your price to win the job, then make sure the contract clearly states that this discount does not apply to the valuation of work instructed as variations. If the contract mentions discount, make certain you know what it applies to and how it will work in practice.

5. Payment Terms

Again, this might sound like an obvious thing to check but you might be surprised how many times this becomes a problem. Make sure that you understand how long the payment period is. These days, contracts normally refer to a "Due Date" and a "Final Date for Payment". You also need to be clear about what other events or circumstances have been linked to payment.

For example:

The first payment shall be due 30 days after the Sub-Contract Valuation Date next following the date of commencement of the Sub-Contract Works.

Interim payments after the first payment shall be due 30 days after the Sub-Contract Valuation Dates thereafter.

The final date for payment for the first and interim payments shall be 30 days after the date when they become due.

Now, you could be forgiven for having skim read this and thought it's a 30-day payment period.

What it says is that the first payment and the following interim payments shall be due 30 days after the Sub-Contract Valuation Date. That is not due in the sense that it is "due" for payment on that date!

So, the payment becomes "due" 30 days after the Sub-Contract Valuation Date. The final date for payment for the first and interim payments shall be 30 days after the date when they become due.

In other words, 30 days plus 30 days is 60 days from the Sub-Contract Valuation Date!

In this instance, you should also be clear that the contract sets out the Sub-Contract Valuation Dates, because that is what triggers the payment sequence. Make sure that these dates are only a month apart as they could quite easily be longer! You should also ensure that the Sub-Contract Valuation Dates go on beyond the end of the planned Sub-Contract Period, and if the works are delayed you should ensure that an extended list of dates is agreed.

6. Design Liability

As Specialist Sub-Contractor you will be liable for any design you provide if that design subsequently proves to be faulty. You need to be very clear that your design liability is restricted to reasonable skill and care, and that the far more onerous standard of fitness for purpose does not arise. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to get this wrong!

Similarly, this is one situation where it isn't necessarily what the contract says, but what the contract doesn't say that gives rise to the much more onerous standard! If the contract is silent about design liability, then your liability will be the far more onerous standard of fitness for purpose.

Why is this so important? Well, fitness for purpose basically means you are guaranteeing that your design will satisfy the end users' needs irrespective of what you did or didn't know about his business and irrespective of what it says in the enquiry or specification.

A major consequence of this liability is that it is highly unlikely that your professional indemnity insurance will reimburse any resultant losses where you have failed to provide the guaranteed result.

Your obligation to produce a design which is fit for its purpose is an absolute duty independent of negligence. It is a duty which is far greater than that imposed upon a professional designer employed solely to design, as the professional would only be liable if (in the absence of an express provision) he was negligent.

Express provisions to the contrary will obviously negate any implied terms. In other words, a specific clause which defines your liability must be incorporated into your contract and that clause must restrict your liability to reasonable skill and care.

The implied obligations of the professional have been developed in the medical and legal professions where a result cannot be guaranteed. The kind of liability that arises when a specialist sub-contractor designs and installs has its root in the law related to sale of goods where the law imposes an obligation to supply goods fit for purpose where the purpose is made known to the seller and the buyer relies upon the seller's judgement.

Most standard forms of building contracts provide a clear distinction between the duties of the designer and the duties of the builder, so that if a building proves to be faulty because of both design and construction faults the employer is faced with bringing an action against both the designer and the constructor.

The principle behind a design and build contract is that the contractor and his specialist sub-contractor are responsible for both design and construction. •

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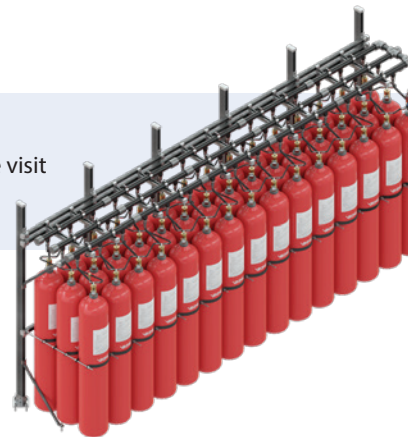
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To learn more about Viking's Oxeo extinguishing systems, including tank capacity, pressure ratings and more, please visit vikinggroupinc.com or scan the QR code.



Sprinkler System Zones in Healthcare Occupancies

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



We are all familiar with how to determine the maximum size of a sprinkler system. NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2022 edition, Section 4.4 provides the system protection area limitations. This section limits the maximum floor area on any one floor protected by a sprinkler system to 52,000 ft² for light and ordinary hazard and 40,000 ft² for extra hazard and high piled storage.

Section 16.9.10 for floor control valve assemblies goes on to require multistory buildings exceeding two stories in height are equipped with a floor control valve, check valve, pressure gauge, main drain valve, and flow switch for isolation, control, and annunciation of water flow for each individual floor level. By the Section 3.3.225 definition of a system riser, this creates separate sprinkler systems on each floor.

There are a couple of exceptions to this requirement. Floor control valve assemblies are not required for the top floor of a building when supplied by piping located on the floor below. Floor control valve assemblies are not required when the total area of all floors combined does not exceed the system protection area limitations of Section 4.4.1. However, if your building is a high rise, Section 16.11.10 also requires the sprinkler system zoned by floor, with no exceptions.

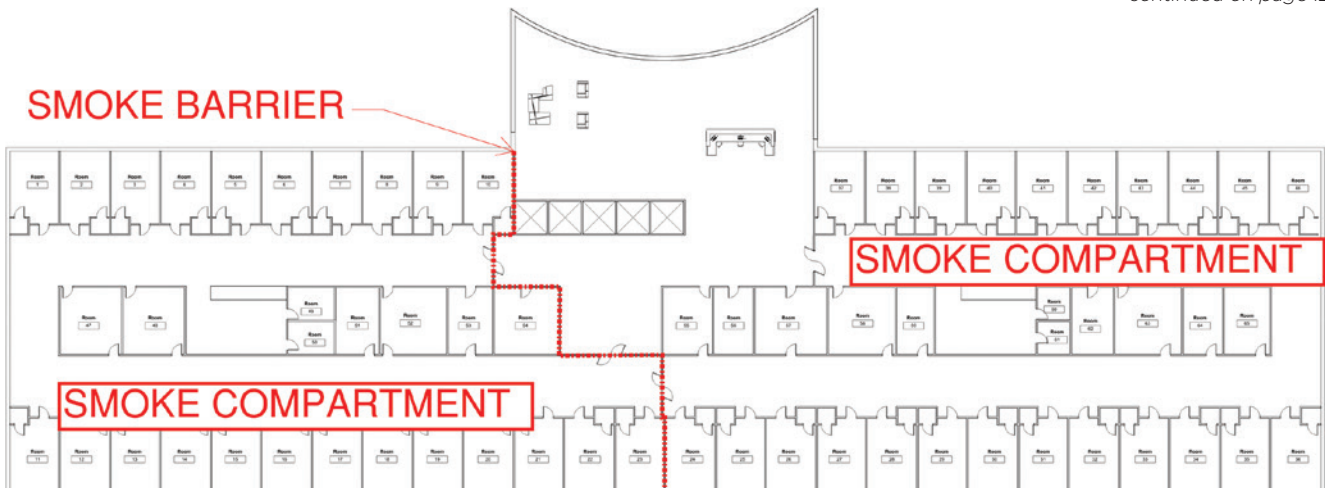
Section 4.3 provides guidance on how to classify the hazard. The annex material on this section explains that light hazard occupancies include hospitals, institutional, and nursing homes. So simply based on the requirements of NFPA 13, most healthcare occupancies are light hazard and permit sprinkler systems zones up to 52,000 ft² per floor.

However, Section 2.1 for referenced publications indicates, “the documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.” Section 2.2 references NFPA 99, *Health Care Facilities Code*, 2021 edition.

NFPA 99, Section 16.9.1.3, for features of fire protection and automatic sprinklers introduces the concept of defend in place and how it affects the zoning for the fire sprinkler system. For both new and existing facilities, where the response to a fire is to defend in place within a safe place in the building and not to automatically evacuate the building, sprinkler system zones shall coincide with smoke compartment boundaries or shall be in accordance with the facility fire plan. The annex goes on to explain it is not the intent of this paragraph to require sprinkler system zones to coincide with smoke compartment boundaries, provided the facility fire plan addresses the differences between sprinkler systems zones and building smoke compartments.

Evacuating all occupants in a hospital is difficult. Patients may be

continued on page 12



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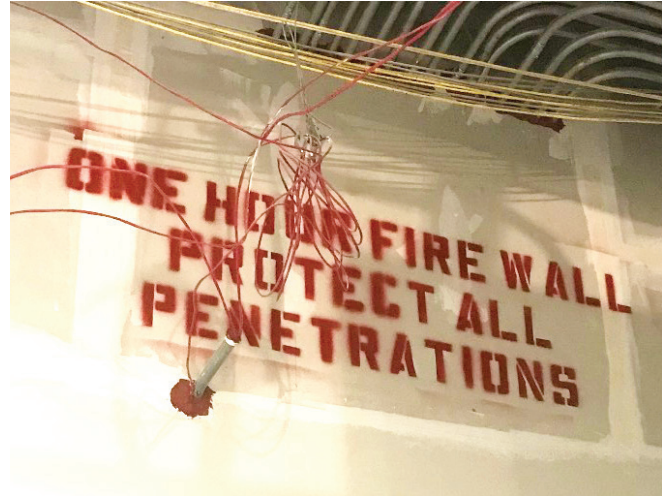
incapable of their own self-preservation and are reliant on hospital staff to evacuate. This can include patients that are on life support systems, in operating rooms, or have reduced physical or mental abilities. A defend in place egress strategy is used by the building and fire codes to allow staff to relocate in lieu of fully evacuating patients. Smoke barriers are provided to allow staff to relocate patients from the area where the fire originates to an adjacent protected smoke compartment.

The fire sprinkler system layout and zones must be coordinated with the smoke compartments and evacuation strategy. Staff needs to know the location of the fire, specifically which smoke compartment the fire is in, to initiate their fire safety plan. When a sprinkler system zone crosses a smoke barrier from one smoke compartment to another, the water flow alarm and annunciation on the fire alarm system will not be able to tell hospital staff which smoke compartment the fire is located in.

The *International Building Code (IBC) 2021 edition* Section 407.5 for smoke barriers and NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, 2021 edition, Section 18.3.7 for subdivision of building spaces both address the number and sizing of smoke compartments in healthcare occupancies. This includes the following requirements for smoke barriers in healthcare occupancies.

1. Two smoke compartments per story used by inpatients for sleeping or treatment or with an occupant load of fifty or more regardless of use.
2. Limit the size of each smoke compartment to an area not exceeding one of the following.
 - a. 22,500 ft² with patient sleeping room for two or more patients
 - b. 40,000 ft² where all patient sleeping rooms are for only one patient
 - c. 40,000 ft² with no patient sleeping rooms
 - d. 22,500 ft² in nursing homes and limited care facilities
3. Travel distance to the smoke barrier door shall not exceed 200 ft.

Based on the code requirements for smoke barriers in healthcare occupancies as noted above, the resulting fire sprinkler systems zones will be much smaller than those permitted simply by NFPA 13. It is important the fire sprinkler system layout technician



understands the requirements specific to healthcare occupancies and obtains the required information from the owner and/or architect to complete their design. This will allow proper execution of the defend in place concept and allow staff to implement the fire safety plan.

REFERENCES:

International Building Code, 2021 edition, International Code Council, Inc, Country Club Hills, IL, 2020.

International Fire Code, 2021 edition, International Code Council, Inc, Country Club Hills, IL, 2020.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2022 edition, National Fire Protection Association, Inc. Quincy, MA 2021.

NFPA 99, *Health Care Facilities Code*, 2021 edition, National Fire Protection Association, Inc. Quincy, MA 2020.

NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, 2021 edition, National Fire Protection Association, Inc. Quincy, MA 2020.

Steven Dannaway, *Understanding Hospital Defend-in-Place Egress Strategy*, 2021, Coffman Engineers, <https://www.coffman.com/news/understanding-hospital-defend-in-place-egress-strategy/#:~:text=A%20Defend%2DIn%2DPlace%20Egress,to%20patients%20in%20a%20hospital>.

“The fire sprinkler system layout and zones must be coordinated with the smoke compartments and evacuation strategy. Staff needs to know the location of the fire, specifically which smoke compartment the fire is in, to initiate their fire safety plan.”



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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Navigating Healthcare Facilities with Codes and Standards

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



Healthcare codes and standards can be complex and confusing. Knowing how to first categorize and then apply standards is often the first long step. In new construction, healthcare occupancies will likely be under local, state, and federal codes, standards, and regulations. Codes, like the *International Building Code* (IBC), the *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code* (LSC), *NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code* (HCFC) and standards, such as NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, and even NFPA 13D are applied and enforced by multiple authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ). This short article is not comprehensive or inclusive but a brief guide to the complexity of healthcare fire protection.

Finding local, state, and federal healthcare resources

Knowing which code and standards and their editions are being enforced are important. Here is a list of several digital resources that help users get to the right code quickly:

- NFSA Code Tracker: <https://nfsa.org/code-tracker>
- ICC Code Adoptions: <https://www.iccsafe.org/adoptions/code-adoption-map/IBC>
- NFPA CodeFinder: <https://codefinder.nfpa.org/>
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/CertificationandCompliance/LSC>
- Joint Commission Facility Design and Construction (FGI) Guidelines: <https://shop.fgiguidelines.org/products/list>

Local healthcare codes

Local jurisdictions such as the city, township, or county typically enforce building and fire codes with a plan review and permitting process. The IBC is the most commonly adopted new construction code in the US. The IBC has the Institutional Occupancy (designated as the letter “I”, followed by the grouping, such as I-1, I-2, etc) for hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living, etc., the Business Occupancy (B) for ambulatory care facilities (usually outpatient services) as well as Residential Occupancy (R-3 or R-4) for health care and custodial care that occurs in residential

homes and neighborhoods.

Fire protection standards and specific enforceable editions, such as NFPA 13, are found in the referenced standards chapter of the IBC, Chapter 35.

Editions of Codes and Referenced Standards		
IBC, NFPA 101	NFPA 13 series	NFPA 25
2021	2019	2020
2018	2016	2017
2015	2013	2014
2012	2010	2011
2009	2007	2008

Local health departments are also AHJs and are often city or county run departments that enforce a local or state-wide health code mainly for facility or patient operations.

State healthcare codes

State jurisdiction over healthcare construction usually is administered through the state health and human services (HHS) department and the state fire marshal (SFM). These departments also perform plan review and permitting services according to the state building code (IBC), state fire code (IFC or NFPA 1) but also apply an adopted LSC or HCFC with specific state or geographic rules for new construction. These state departments also become authorized state agencies often enforce federal healthcare rules from the CMS and HHS departments.

Federal healthcare codes

The US federal government is also an AHJ for healthcare construction through the CMS and HHS departments. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has adopted by regulation the 2012 editions of the LSC and HCFC, enforcing the 2010 edition of NFPA 13. CMS controls the funding of new and existing healthcare and is usually the highest AHJ on the project. The Joint Commission is another group that expects organizations to assess building design and construction requirements based

continued on page 16



continued from page 15

on local, state, and federal regulations and codes. Typically, the state health department licensing entity is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), so health care organizations should check that AHJ's licensing rules to determine the criteria for a facility. When state regulations are silent on particular design criteria, the Joint Commission recognizes the 2018 Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) Guidelines for Design and Construction documents for new construction and renovation.

Conclusion

Healthcare construction codes and their enforceable sprinkler standards and editions are often not coordinated. Fire sprinkler designers and contractors will often have to apply older fire sprinkler standards to new construction to meet CMS requirements as

well as newer standards to meet local building code requirements. When conflicts occur between editions of the standards, there are typically three paths for designers to follow:

1. Ask for a waiver or appeal through state and local code boards.
2. Apply NFPA 101A, Alternative Approaches to Life Safety
3. Approach the CMS regional surveyor and determine if it may be appropriate to ask for a waiver from CMS on the sprinkler issue.

An alternate path for contractors and designers who have trouble navigating this complex and multi-AHJ topic, contact NFSA Expert of the Day (EOD) <https://member.nfsa.org/My-Account/My-EOD> for assistance. •

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Jerry Allen

Madison, AL

Joe Basara

St. Anthony Fire Department
Saint Anthony, MN

Dorn Beddow

Fort Myers, FL

John Bourgeois

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Chad Branford

City of Palatka Fire Department
Palatka, FL

Austin Capell

Columbus, OH

Reinaldo Cartagena

Eastern Kentucky University
San Juan, PR

McKenzie Carter

Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY

Han Jie Chen

Woodhaven, NY

Bobby Chrisco

Barnhart, MO

David Cogan

Tampa, FL

Tana Damian

Orlando, FL

Nicole Desimone

Neptune Fire Protection
Engineering
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Menachem Deutsch

New City, NY

Ana Fatturi

Chanhassen Fire Department
Chanhassen, MN

Elizabeth Forbes

Orange County Fire Rescue
Winter Park, FL

Ashton Foster

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Anthony Gedris

St Augustine, FL

Sharon Gregory

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Kris Hansen

Martin County Fire Rescue
Stuart, FL

Lori Hastings

Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue
and Emergency Services
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Muhammad Jalani

The Vertex Companies, LLC
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Lou Jarvis

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Joseph Vertilus

Clermont Inspections/
Fire Prevention
Clermont, FL

Omar Kasso

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Jonathan Kenning

Marion County Fire Rescue
Ocala, FL

Ann Kinsey

Leesburg Fire Rescue
Leesburg, FL

Phillipe Lahens

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue
Fort Lauderdale, FL

John Lake

City of Gainesville - Dept. of
Sustainable Development
Summerfield, FL

Genevieve Latham

Orlando, FL

William Lehw

Fort Meade Fire & Emergency
Services
Fort Meade, MD

Chris Lingerfeldt

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Atie Makhoul

West Palm Beach Fire Rescue
West Palm Beach, FL

Hector Marin

Lancaster, TX

Anthony Marino

Ocala, FL

Kellie Martin

Kissimmee, FL

Dan McAvoy

Clermont Inspections/Fire
Prevention
Clermont, FL

Colin McCrystal

City of Altamonte Springs Building
and Fire Safety
Altamonte Springs, FL

Jacob McElroy

College Park, MD

Zachary Meek

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Jorge Megias

City of Miami Fire Department
Miami, FL

David Mixson

South Pasadena, FL

Yashica Monroe

Alachua County Fire Rescue
Gainesville, FL

Max Moody

Jacksonville, FL

Jeff Moral

City of Sunrise Fire Rescue
Sunrise, FL

Aida Moreno

Charlotte County Fire and EMS HQ
Punta Gorda, FL

Jay O'Connell

Lakeville Fire Department
Lakeville, MN

Clay Parker

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Girish Patel

University of North Texas
Denton, TX

Rafael Perez

Miramar, FL

continued on page 18

NEW MEMBERS

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College Park, MD

Scott Pieri

City of Dallas - Dallas Fire Rescue
Dallas, TX

Ryan Prather

Brentwood Fire and Rescue
Brentwood, TN

Gregory Pray

Burton, MI

Alberto Provence

The Pro Installer NV
Saint Maarten

Colm Quinn

Malahide, AL

Kristi Ramsey

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Robert Ratliff

Nassau County Fire
Marshal Yulee, FL

Nacole Revette

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
Tampa, FL

Rico Rey

Lubbock Fire Marshal's Office
Lubbock, TX

Amber Robertson

University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Brian Rose

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Morris Russell

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Scott Shillinglaw

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Mark Sitarz

St. Anthony Fire Department
Saint Anthony, MN

Kris Skow

Rogers, MN

Amanda Stevenson

Leesburg Fire Rescue
Leesburg, FL

Daniel Stoddard

York County Fire Department
York, SC

Terrence Swisher

NASA - Kennedy Space Center
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Joan Valasek

City of Miami Fire Department
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*Our 2023 North American Fire Sprinkler Expo and Annual Seminar will be held May 2-5 at the JW Marriott in Austin, TX! Get ready for great sessions lead by industry experts, a full-scale expo featuring the newest fire sprinkler innovations and our highly awaited Top Tech Competition, live on the expo floor! Check our seminar web page at <https://nfsa.org/seminar/> for the latest up-to-date info! *You can't miss this!**

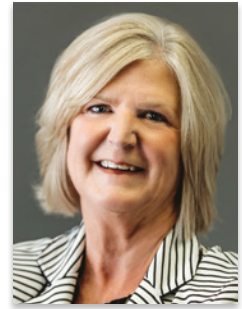


Austin



#fastestwater roundup!





by Vickie Pritchett,
Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach

Fast and Furious – And We Love It!

2023 is off to a fast and furious start and we love it that way! President Ray and I were talking a bit ago about the mileposts we have been blessed to be a part of this year already! The U.S. Fire Administrator's Fire Stop Tour was a special time for us to be with other national fire service leaders, and what a powerful message we were sharing. Fire is fast, America is still burning, and it's time for us to work together to STOP the needless deaths!

Thank you to U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell. Her leadership and vision, and pure grit, grace, and energy is inspiring to us all! We are always happy to stand with you and support your efforts. We especially enjoyed the live burn demonstration that we were able to share at the Washington, D.C. stop. From New York to Philadelphia, and wrapping up in Washington, D.C. – we sure loved the train “whistlestop” environment and we believe we made a difference. It was great to have live coverage from C-Span as well in Washington, D.C.

A big thanks goes to the other national fire service organizations who joined us on the tour, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, UL's Fire Safety Research Institute, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and Common Voices.

Switching gears, I'm hopeful that you've already registered for our upcoming 2023 North American Fire Sprinkler Expo and NFSA's Annual Seminar. The hotel room block is filling fast, and registrations are also rising. If you haven't booked and made your plans, I hope you'll do so today! You can find all things conference, from the schedule to registration and hotel room block information at www.nfsa.org/seminar – we hope to see you for #fastestwaterRoundup in Austin, Texas!

We are excited about all things conference, from the Common Voices Golf Classic to our Opening Reception and an Expo floor filled with Supplier and Manufacturers and their latest products! We all know the NFSA Top Tech competition will be in the center of the activity on the Expo floor, and we look forward to an amazing Awards Banquet on Friday, May 5th! So many fire sprinkler industry greats will be recognized, and we look forward to an amazing night! *Austin, here we come!*

Stay Safe, Until Next Time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



**NORTH AMERICAN
FIRE SPRINKLER
EXPO &
NFSA
ANNUAL
SEMINAR**

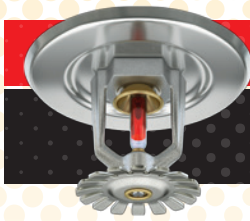
Austin ★

NFSA
NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry
#fastestwater roundup!

AUSTIN

TEXAS

TEXAS



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!



Arkansas

Sprinkler System Saves Senior Living Facility

Thanks to the Rogers, AR Fire Department for sending in this sprinkler save!

On December, 27th, a fire broke out at a senior living facility in Rogers, AR. The Fire Department responded to the call at 5:27 a.m., according to Fire Chief Tom Jenkins. Crews arrived at the facility at 5:32 a.m.

An improperly discarded cigarette was the cause of the fire, which started in and was confined to a bedroom on the third floor, Jenkins said.

Chief Jenkins credited the fire sprinkler system in the room with confining the fire until firefighters arrived.



Minnesota



Single Sprinkler Saves Senior Living Apartment Building

Thanks to Eagan, MN FD Battalion Chief TC Schellinger for sending us this save.

Date & Time of Incident: Thursday, December 8th, 2022

Type of Building: 55+ Multi-family Dwelling

If Residential, How Many Living Units: 174

Number of Sprinklers Activated: 1

Value of Building: 35,807,900

Value Saved: 35,297,900

Arriving crews found light smoke on the third floor and found a cooking fire occurred in an apartment unit. Fire was extinguished by a single fire sprinkler. Cause of fire was unattended cooking. There were no injuries resulting from this incident.

Florida

Single Sprinkler Saves Hotel

Thanks go to Triserve Fire Protection President Joey Hatfield for sending us this sprinkler save.

On January 29th, at approximately 6:15 p.m., a fire occurred in a skillet being used on a cooktop. The fire sprinkler in the kitchen area activated. The fire was out by the time the San Carlos Park, FL Fire Protection & Rescue Service District arrived.

Even with the fire happening in a second-floor unit, damage was minimal. There was a mechanical room on the floor below. Water was contained to that room and a few acoustical ceiling tiles got wet in the adjacent corridor. The hotel returned to normal operation the same evening.



continued from page 22

Texas



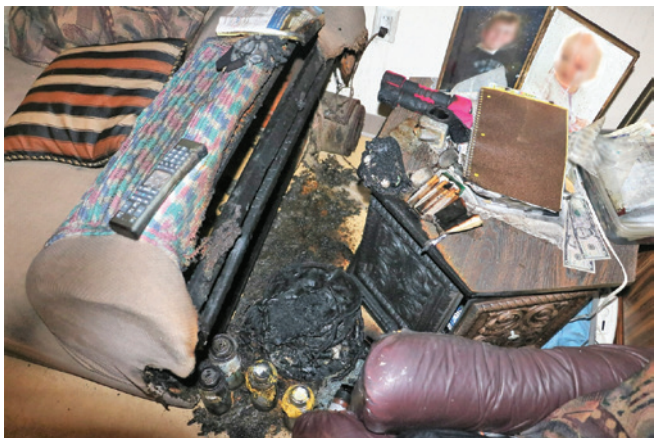
Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Apartment Balcony Fire

Thanks to Justin Jurek, Assistant Chief/ Inspections and Investigations of the Richmond, TX Fire Marshal's Office for sending in this sprinkler save.

On January 6th, a single fire sprinkler extinguished a fire on an apartment balcony. The fire originated from a container of hair products that was placed on a rug with an unattended candle.

Value of building: \$10M
 Value of contents: \$65K
 Value saved: \$9, 999,650

Washington



Single Sprinkler Saves Christmas

Thanks to the City of Vancouver, WA Fire Department Assistant Fire Marshal Chad Lawry for sharing this Christmas season sprinkler save!

An improperly placed cigarette almost ruined Christmas for a Vancouver, WA family. Thankfully, a single sprinkler quelled the Dec. 16th fire in the family's apartment. The fire department estimates that \$2.9 million in structural and property value were preserved because of the fire sprinkler system.

One elderly individual was transported to the hospital with minor injuries; no lives were lost, and no families were displaced. Even priceless family photos next to the fire were saved.



Two Sprinklers Save Apartment Complex

Thanks to City of Vancouver WA Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli for passing along this valuable sprinkler save!

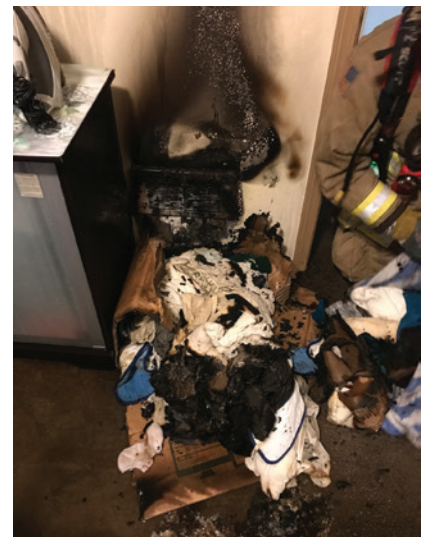
Two fire sprinklers contained a kitchen fire in the middle apartment of a 12-unit complex in Vancouver, WA on Jan.7th. According to Vancouver Fire Dept. Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli, an estimated \$3.1 million dollars in structure and content value were saved. "Not only was money saved but lives were preserved and risks to emergency responders were reduced," Scarpelli said.

There were no injuries; the cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Single Sprinkler Saves Duplex

Thanks to NFSA member Thomas J. Maloney, Fire Marshal at Marysville, WA Fire District Regional Fire Authority for sharing this save!

A single sprinkler extinguished a fire in a Marysville duplex on Dec. 21, preventing possible injuries and more damage. The likely cause - a heater too close to combustible materials. Fire officials state the value of the unit is \$582,000 with damages estimated at only a small fraction of that. The estimate to save Christmas for the residents? Priceless!



Fire Sprinklers in Action

continued from page 23

Wisconsin

Fire Sprinkler System Contains Apartment Fire

Thanks to Waukesha, WI Fire Chief Steven Howard and Battalion Chief Scott Purdy for sending us this sprinkler save.

On December 17th at 9:50pm, the City of Waukesha Fire and Police departments responded to a reported structure fire at an apartment building.

Crews on scene found a sprinkler-controlled fire in a third-floor apartment. Fire personnel were able to quickly extinguish the remaining fire and secure the sprinkler system. The fire was contained to the room where it started with no extension.

Tenants were initially evacuated but were later allowed back into their homes with 3 families being displaced due to water damage. No injuries were reported. The cause is still under investigation.

This fire was another example of the effectiveness of sprinkler systems which undoubtedly saved lives.

Sprinkler System Controls Fire at Facilities Maintenance Building

Thanks go to Madison, WI Fire Department's Bill Sullivan for sending in two sprinkler saves!

On January 15th, Madison, WI firefighters responded to a facility maintenance building for a report of an alarm sounding. After

investigating, crews noticed water flowing from under an overhead door at the back of the building. Upon opening the door, they found a single sprinkler activated and a small trash bag smoldering on the ground. Firefighters extinguished what remained of the fire and ventilated the space.

Sprinkler Save at Best Buy

On January 14th, a Madison, WI Best Buy experienced a fire in a trash compactor which was discovered by an employee. Prior to MFD arrival, the fire sprinkler system activated and prevented the fire from spreading into the building.

Following is the FD report:

Crews arrived on scene and went to the back of building. There was a light haze of smoke from trash compactor container. The large container was by loading docks and outside the building.

The building was evacuated prior to firefighter arrival. Sprinkler had activated inside the compactor chute and there was active fire in the compactor container.

Compactor was large and could not be moved away from the building. Crews made a hydrant and pulled a line to compactor and sprayed water in small opening by door. Comm Center was instructed to have a tow respond to tow the container away from the building. The container was pulled away from the building and the remaining fire was extinguished and container was overhauled.

All occupants safely evacuated the building, and no injuries were reported.

Apartment Fire Controlled by Single Sprinkler

Thanks to Wauwatosa, WI Fire Marshal Barbara J. Kadrich for sending in this sprinkler save!

On January 10, 2023, at approximately 9:30 p.m. Wauwatosa Fire Department responded to an automatic fire alarm at an apartment building. Firefighters were met by occupants evacuating the building due to the alarm.

As firefighters made their way to the apartment with the alarm, they encountered smoke and water coming from under a door. They forced the door open and found one sprinkler activated and an area of charring in the kitchen.

A cooking appliance in the kitchen area had ignited, leading to activation of the sprinkler. The sprinkler extinguished the fire, also activating the fire alarm for the building. Firefighters mitigated hot spots in the kitchen area and ventilated the apartment, also shutting off the sprinkler system to stop further water damage.

The apartment occupant was not home at the time of the fire. The automatic fire sprinkler system extinguished the fire and alerted other occupants of a potential hazard! •

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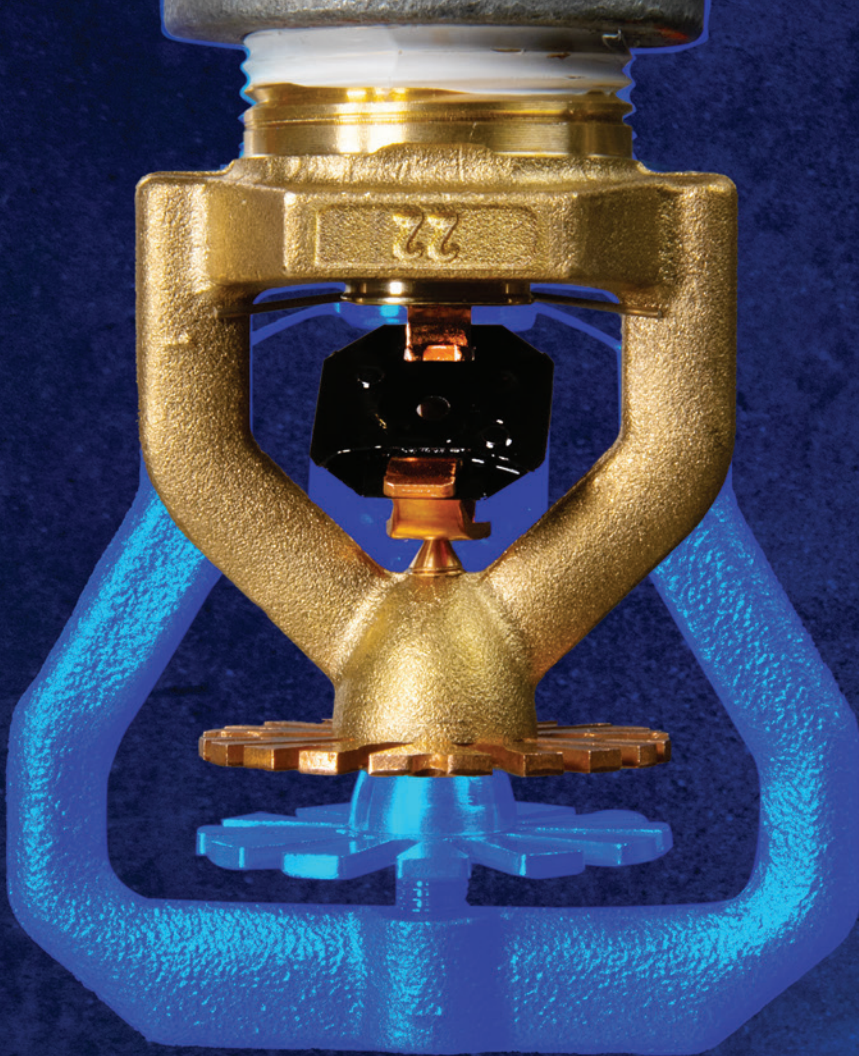
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private floating cabanas and a vibrant luau show. Refresh in the sparkling waters of five pools, featuring the longest hotel water slide in all of Hawaii. Punctuate your day with a relaxing evening on your large balcony or oversized lanai, and enjoy stunning views, including vibrant Maui sunsets and an occasional humpback whale!

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Sprinkler Inspection and Testing in Healthcare Facilities

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



If you are involved in the inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) of water-based fire protection systems, then you are most likely familiar with Joint Commission and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). There seems to be some heartache in the fire sprinkler industry when it comes to conducting routine ITM services in an accredited healthcare facility. Hopefully, this article will shed some light on what is required and who is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) when it comes to these facilities.

What and Who is CMS?

The CMS is part of the Department of Health and Human Services that oversee the administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance programs. CMS provides status to national health care accrediting organizations to deem which healthcare facilities meet or exceed the requirements set forth in accreditation in a specific area; in this case, fire and life safety, more specifically, water-based fire protection systems.



On the Healthcare Life Safety Services website (*QR code above*) there are seven accrediting agencies that are approved by CMS with Joint Commission being one of the most widely known in the fire sprinkler industry. The CMS has adopted the 2012 edition of NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code* which in section 9.7.5 requires all ITM sprinkler system to be maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, *The Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, 2011 edition. The Joint Commission is an organization that provides a service to the CMS by evaluating health care facilities performance and providing feedback to CMS. CMS uses this information to approve funding for healthcare facilities. This is, of course, the abbreviated version of what CMS and Joint Commission do.

Sometimes it can be confusing to determine who is the enforcer of NFPA 25 or any other NFPA standards when it comes to healthcare, essentially, who is the AHJ?

Authority Having Jurisdiction; An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment material, an installation, or a procedure.

This definition is defined the same across all NFPA codes and standards and means that anyone that has the responsibility of ensuring, in this case, that all ITM requirements associated with that building's fire sprinkler systems are completed. Typically, the enforcement is completed by the local fire marshal or fire inspector, but this could also include but not limited to the insurance carrier, Joint Commission, and possibly the building owner. In many cases, the local AHJ will use the reports gathered by the Joint Commission inspection to satisfy the local needs and requirements as the Joint Commission usually has the means to ensure that all necessary work has been completed. They will also make recommendations on repairs, upgrades, and maintenance of these systems to CMS.

How does the requirements of Joint Commission ITM differ from NFPA 25?

There are no differences. As stated before, CMS adopted the 2012 *Life Safety Code* (NFPA 101) and was effective July 5, 2016. Additional information can be found at <http://bit.ly/3I1m8X1>.

The requirements typically are the same for joint commission as found in NFPA 25 ITM requirements. Most of the difference is how the reports are requested to be presented and maintained. Technically the only information required according to The Joint Commission on a fire protection report is the following:

- Name of the activity
 - Date of the activity
 - Inventory of devices, equipment, or other items
 - Required frequency of the activity
 - Name and contact information, including affiliation, of the person who performed the activity
 - NFPA standard(s) referenced for the activity (including the edition and section)
 - Results of the activity
- NFPA 25-2011: 4.3; 4.4;
NFPA 72-2010: 14.2.1; 14.2.2; 14.2.3; 14.2.4.

However, most of the time it is requested that the report be

continued on page 30

continued from page 29

prepared and separated into a binder with all systems, main drain tests, and devices divided by type. For example, all wet systems would be in a section, all dry systems would be another section, then each device such as tamper switches would be in their own section.

EOD and Joint Commission

Requirements for ITM in compliance with The Joint Commission are no different than the requirements of NFPA. In fact, they specifically reference NFPA standards in all of their ITM rules. As a member of The National Fire Sprinkler Association, one of the most used benefits is the Expert of the Day (EOD) program. This program is used to provide informal interpretations to questions asked about who, what, when, and why, for fire sprinkler systems. A question was received in reference to forward flow testing of backflow devices. The member was completing a forward flow test on a pipe schedule system in a healthcare facility and the Joint Commission Representative required the member to flow the system at a minimum of 500 gallons per minute. The member sent in an EOD question to verify if this was required. The answer is yes. NFPA 25 requires the system to be flowed at a minimum of system demand. Since this was a pipe schedule system there was no hydraulic design information plate with this information. The information can be found in NFPA 13 2010 edition Table 11.2.2.1. This table provides the system demand for light and ordinary hazards for pipe schedule systems.

The reason for telling this story is to show that The Joint Commission does not typically just pull requirements out of the air or make them up. Their requirements are based on generally accepted practices and can be found in several NFPA standards. •

Additional Information for reporting:



The Joint Commission separates disciplines by Environment of Care codes, below is a link to The Physical Environment with information to each discipline such as fire sprinkler, fire alarm, dampers etc.:



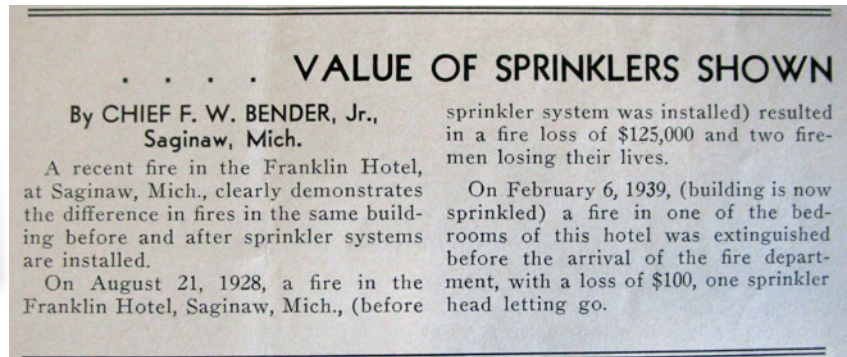
Following is a link to a presentation by The Joint Commission regarding ITM of several fire protection systems:



Nothing Better Than an 84-Year-Old Sprinkler Save... and in a retrofitted hotel to boot!

This is a great piece of fire sprinkler history! Not only does it detail a sprinkler save, it mentions that hotel was retrofitted with fire sprinklers after a fire that resulted in the deaths of two firefighters.

Thanks go to Maurice Majszak, Tallahassee Fire Department Historian who realized the significance of this find and sent it to NFSA's Lorrell Bush.





Virtual Reality Reveals the Speed of Fire and the Power of Fire Sprinklers

Exposure to home fires puts responders at risk from fire, collapse and health hazards. Each new home built without home fire sprinklers makes the community less safe for all.

With HFSC's new virtual reality video you can help decision makers, stakeholders and others in your community understand what you know all too well: today's home fires are fast and deadly.

With user-controlled 360-degree full-room views, they'll experience actual house fires in virtual reality, feeling as if they are in the rooms. They'll see flashover in the unsprinklered room in

real time and watch a sprinkler automatically control the blaze in another.

This new resource lets you share your knowledge with convincing evidence of the need to protect new housing stock with sprinklers. It can be watched with 3D glasses/headset for an immersive experience or in 2D on HFSC's website.

Installed home fire sprinklers support Community Risk Reduction. Our new virtual reality video is an effective resource to help you achieve your CRR goals.

Visit HomeFireSprinkler.org/VR.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more.



Big Tech's Big Impacts: Developing Technology and its Effects on Fire Protection Solutions

by Darby Napieralski, *Viking's Marketing Communications Manager*
with contributions by Martin Workman, *Vice President of Product Management*

As industry professionals, we're no strangers to emerging technology, their unique applications, and the fire protection requirements and demands that follow. But in a world where technology research and revenue are advancing exponentially, and society relies more on the production of tech such as semiconductors or massive energy production, we often find ourselves energetically asking, "*What new innovation can we provide?*"

Last month, The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) declared global semiconductor industry sales were over \$47 billion by the middle of the third quarter – that's up by over 29% as compared to 2020's Q3¹. To illustrate this uptick in chip manufacturing, Intel, the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer by revenue, is partnering with industry giants to provide advanced integrated circuits for the United States government². This is just one example highlighting the impact that the semiconductor industry has on society across the globe – its continued innovation is crucial to our connectivity and networking capabilities.

There are plenty of other technology progressions and industries growing diligently, as well. Just some of these exclusive applications include batteries so large, they can support grids massive enough to power tens of thousands of homes. Additionally, cutting-edge, automated storage solutions from the industry's most nascent companies provide a level of storage convenience so revolutionary, it's hard to argue that their philosophy is the future of storage.

It's projected that by 2030, there will be about 125 billion connected devices across the globe³. With this rate of growth, it's important we consistently raise the bar for our own manufacturing and development standards. What ground-breaking solutions are we, as fire protection experts, considering to keep these advancing applications safe for our technology-reliant civilization?

Well, for starters: research. Protecting ever-progressing applications require fire protection manufacturers' continued exploration and learning. For instance, protecting board foundries, or basic chip manufacturing, relies on a sophisticated level of factory and production comprehension. Understanding the facility in which these products are made is the key to success in these scenarios. Said facilities are not similar to typical industrial assemblage plants; rather, their manufacturing / assembly areas are large "clean rooms." These clean room applications require air exchanges to

create a "pure" environment, and air exchanges are possible with duct work – duct work that is protected with fire sprinklers.

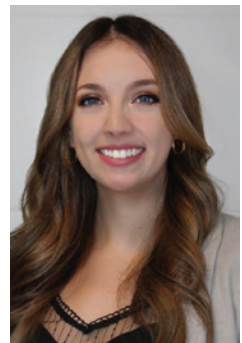
In the past, a convenient fire sprinkler duct installation didn't really exist – the trade would instead "hard pipe" to said sprinkler, and a few resourceful contractors would provide an access door that allowed for sprinkler inspection and maintenance. Today, however, products have advanced, and our industry consistently proves that it's well prepared to take on these new and evolving protection challenges.

In our duct work scenario, for instance, products like FlexHead[®] Industrial / Duct Sprinklers make protection and installation much easier, while simultaneously providing installation requirement compliance for these fire sprinklers (such as the ability to easily remove the sprinklers for inspection purposes). Moreover, oftentimes the air exchanges that channel through these ducts are corrosive, making the selection of a corrosive-resistant fire sprinkler crucial – choices like Electrolys Nickel PTFE and stainless-steel sprinklers will likely be used in these applications to ensure that proper protection is provided.

Additionally

In addition to protecting the duct work for these clean room applications, there are other scenarios to consider when looking to safeguard semiconductor production environments. Silane, for instance, a pyrophoric gas (meaning that it ignites in the presence of oxygen), is used as semiconductor coating in chip manufacturing facilities. This gas is highly dangerous – methods of storage and transportation are meticulously detailed so problematic circumstances can be avoided when this gas is in use. Typically, these scenarios will see deluge systems where Silane exists – a good indicator that many of our existing and popular solutions are suitable and practical for new means of technology production.

While Silane gas itself is dangerous, its potential for leaks is just as (if not more) significant. Planning for leaks and being prepared to face them is crucial to a safe production environment. While there are a multitude of options available for gas detection, cutting-edge,





“Protecting ever-progressing applications require fire protection manufacturers’ continued exploration and learning”

sophisticated sensors are the most plausible options. Oftentimes, there are advanced visual detection devices used in these applications – innovative fire detection technologies include devices such as the FDS301 Intelligent Visual Flame Detector from Micropack, or Viking’s VSF Intelligent Video Flame Detectors. These types of explosion-proof detectors have transformed the way we think about protection for numerous high-risk applications.

As 2022 approaches, it’s perhaps clearer than ever that what we create not only protects critical applications and saves countless lives every year, but it ensures that the advancements of our civilization and the many technology platforms on which we rely can continue to work effortlessly.

So, in short, what are we doing as an industry to advance along with our changing tech? As researchers and pioneers, it’s clear that we can determine the foundations of a new challenge and subsequently develop solutions that meet the needs of its specific environment. Our groundbreaking research and development teams coupled with no scarcity of seasoned tradesmen have proven that we are already ahead of the game. Many existing solutions are proving to be the correct answer for new challenges, and when we are faced with something completely unique, we know that we can rise to the occasion with assurance and, most importantly, a novel solution.

To learn about Viking’s initiatives, product innovations and more, visit www.vikinggroupinc.com. To place an order for product delivered straight to you, visit www.supplynet.com.

¹ Semiconductor Industry Association. (2021, October 4). *Global Semiconductor Sales Increase 29.7% Year-to-Year, 3.3% Month-to-Month in August*. Semiconductors.org.

² intel. (2021, August 23). *Intel Wins US Government Project to Develop Leading-Edge Foundry Ecosystem*. intel.com.

³ Heslop, Brent. (2019, March 4). *By 2030, Each Person Will Own 15 Connected Devices – Here’s What That Means for Your Business and Content*. MTA.

LinkedIn

Did you know NFSA’s LinkedIn Group has more than 13,000+ members? It’s a great place to showcase your products and services.

Join today!

#NAFSE23—Where the Greatest Innovators of the Fire Sprinkler Industry Come Together!

by Caleb Armbrust, *Director of Membership*

The year was 2017 and I had been with NFSA for a mere two months, the place was Las Vegas, and the event was the **North American Fire Sprinkler Exposition (NAFSE)**. That show was one of the greatest learning experiences of my time at NFSA, in part because it came so early in my association experience and was the first exposure to a trade association event.

It is rare to see the industry come together in its entirety, but the NAFSE is certainly one of those times. I write this as someone that is, and has been, on the younger demographic side of our industry. I encourage those of you that may be on the fence about bringing some of the younger or “rising” individuals on your team to bring them. They will certainly take advantage of the opportunities to learn from the various sessions and wealth of potential relationships.

Perhaps the most important thing they will come to under-

stand from attending the show is that we are all individuals that come together to save lives and property through the development of products, installation and inspection of systems, or the advocacy thereof. Many of you are fierce competitors and that is one of the many things that makes our industry strong (great companies competing and driving innovation), but it is important for your people to experience the trade show, because it communicates that there is a mission we collectively share and it extends beyond the wins and losses in the marketplace.

Together we can all increase the size of the fire sprinkler market by working together. Take the time to share the stories about how the industry has grown and tell the stories of the people that made this industry what it is today. If there is someone on your team that has come to mind during this piece that you know you should bring, why not? You will both be better for the experience. I know that I am. •



AUSTIN, TX



**NORTH AMERICAN
FIRE SPRINKLER EXPO
& NFSA ANNUAL SEMINAR**

May 2-5, 2023
JW Marriott/Austin, Texas



The Truth Burns

Common Voices advocates set the stage for why a focus on the impact of fire is worth a glance. Pause and think about our instinct to survive and ask yourself why do we become complacent when it comes to fire safety? The myth “it’ll never happen to me”... sometimes, the truth burns.



In 2022, Common Voices launched a bold plan to capture the stories of all Common Voices advocates. The dream/plan is to have these stories provide the inspiration for a streaming service to create a Docu-series and/or a documentary called “The Truth Burns.” We believe that these stories are courageous, and that they can make a difference and prevent others from suffering similar tragedies. We hope you will join us in our efforts, share the links via all social media platforms, join our coalition with a donation. Working together, we can save lives, and we thank you for believing in our cause, supporting our advocates, and joining our movement for a Fire Safe America.

Our landing page for *The Truth Burns* can be found here:

<https://fireadvocates.org/the-truth-burns/>

Courageous stories that can make a difference and prevent others from suffering similar tragedies...



 CommonVoices1

 CommonVoices1

fireadvocates.org
Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

<https://fireadvocates.networkforgood.com/projects/125513-main-giving-page>





Best Ways to Check Austin Off Your Bucket List!

Austin, Texas is a city that truly has it all. Whether you're a foodie, a music lover, or just looking for a good time, there's something for everyone in this vibrant and eclectic city. Here are just a few of the many fun things to do in Austin:

1. Take a dip in **Barton Springs Pool**. This natural swimming hole is fed by underground springs and is a popular spot for locals and tourists alike. Plus, it's open year-round, so you can cool off on a hot summer day or take a dip on a chilly winter morning.
2. Visit the **Texas State Capitol**. This beautiful building is the seat of Texas government and is open for tours. You can even go up to the top of the dome for a panoramic view of the city. Just don't try to sneak in a "Don't Mess with Texas" tattoo or it'll be a short trip.
3. Explore the **Zilker Botanical Garden**. This beautiful garden features a variety of plants and flowers from around the world, as well as a Japanese garden and a butterfly trail. Plus, it's free to visit, so you can save your money for other fun activities.
4. Check out the bats at **Congress Avenue Bridge**. Every night at dusk, hundreds of bats fly out from under the bridge in search of food. It's a sight to see and a great way to get a different perspective on the city.
5. **Eat your way through the city**. Austin is home to a wide variety of delicious food, from Tex-Mex to barbecue to sushi. Some popular places to check out include Franklin Barbecue, Torchy's Tacos, and Uchi. And don't forget to wash it down with a Shiner Bock or a margarita.
6. **Listen to live music**. Austin is known as the "Live Music Capital of the World," and for good reason. There are countless venues and bars where you can catch a live show, from small clubs to large arenas. Some popular spots include the Continental Club, Antone's, and Stubb's BBQ.
7. Take a hike at **Mount Bonnell**. This historic spot offers a great view of the city and is a popular spot for picnics and sunset viewing. Just be prepared for a steep climb and pack some snacks.
8. **Visit the "I love you so much" mural**. This iconic mural is located on the side of Jo's Coffee and has become a popular spot for photos. It's a great way to show your love for the city.
9. Take a stroll through the **University of Texas campus**. The UT Tower is the most recognized photo spot on campus. The 307-foot-tall Tower was completed in 1937. It is hard to take a bad picture of the Tower. To capture one of the most photographed scenes on campus, go to 21st Street and University Avenue, with the Littlefield Fountain in the foreground.
10. Visit **Lady Bird Lake**. From 1960 until 2007, the body of water was known as Town Lake. It was officially renamed after First Lady Lady Bird Johnson because of her work beautifying the shoreline and creating the system of gorgeous hike and bike trails.

These are just a few of the many fun things to do in Austin. Whether you're a local or a visitor, you're sure to have a great time in this vibrant and exciting city. So, pack your bags, grab your sunscreen, and get ready for an adventure! •

Joanne

NFSM MAGAZINE UPCOMING DUE DATES AND THEMES

MAY/JUN

Buyer's Guide

Deadlines:

Insertion Orders: February 21, 2023

Materials: March 9, 2023

JUL/AUG

Fires in Sprinklered Buildings

Deadlines:

Insertion Orders: April 27, 2023

Materials: May 11, 2023

SEP/OCT

Member Takeover

Deadlines:

Insertion Orders: June 29, 2023

Materials: July 13, 2023

NOV/DEC

Advancing the Industry/Careers

Deadlines:

Insertion Orders: September 5, 2023

Materials: September 19, 2023

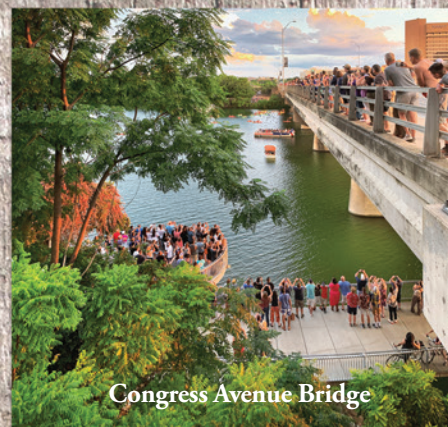
Austin, TX



Barton Springs



Zilker Botanical Gardens



Congress Avenue Bridge



Texas State Capitol



Lady Bird Lake



Mount Bonnell



LIVE MUSIC!



University of Texas Campus



USFA's Historic Fire Stop Tour an Unprecedented Success!

Held the second week in January, the U.S. Fire Administrator's Fire Stop Tour was an amazing success! NFSA is truly honored to have taken part and supported Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell on this three-city event that held press conferences in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. We are filled with hope and full of encouragement that the fire service united with #Fire-ServiceOneVoice hashtag and were truly energized by spending the week together. NFSA was especially grateful to be able to conduct a live fire demonstration at the culmination event/stop in Washington, D.C.

A big thanks goes to the other national fire service organizations who joined us on the tour, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, UL's Fire Safety Research Institute, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and Common Voices.

NFSA President Shane Ray remarked, "Never before in my 30+-year fire service career have I seen so many united and working together, and it is perfect timing, building upon the success of the U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control held last Fall. The momentum is real, and we are proud to stand with our national fire service organizations to see this effort through. Lives will be saved as a result."

President Ray was joined by NFSA's Vice President of Advocacy & Outreach Vickie Pritchett on the tour, and both agreed it was a highlight of their professional careers. Special thanks to Dennis Wood, NFSA's Director of Operations for bringing the Valve Trailer to Washington, D.C. and to everyone who made the week a success.



continued from page 38

National Fire Sprinkler Association Reps Fire Sprinklers at International Builders' Show

The NFSA booth at the National Association of Home Builders' International Builders' Show was a hub of activity. It seemed everyone in attendance stopped by to talk fire sprinklers and take a spin on the #fastestwater prize wheel!

The show took place Jan 31 - Feb 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Nearly 70,000 residential construction professionals attended.

Home builders took a true interest in learning of the benefits and advantages of home fire sprinkler systems. The good will and camaraderie we experienced between members of our two industries was heartening to say the least!

Team NFSA is so grateful to our Manufacturers Council for the support of this proactive outreach at both the national and international level. A big thanks also to our contractor members. We had our strongest showing yet of contractor members helping us staff the booth! Our Supplier and Manufacturer members also showed up in a big way! We appreciate all our members who helped us make this show a big success. *We look forward to IBS24!*



continued from page 39

A Letter from NFSA Member Jay Livingston

President Ray was honored to receive the following letter from our longtime member and friend, **Jay Livingston**. Jay served on numerous NFSA Technical Committees throughout the years, including Standpipes, Piers & Wharves, Residential Sprinklers and more. He was Regional Committee Chair from 1978 through 1986, Chair of the E & S Committee from 1987 to 1993, and a member of the NFSA Board of Directors from 1998 to 2000.

As a result of his involvement, Jay was a recipient of NFSA's Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award and the NFSA's highest honor, the 2018 Golden Sprinkler Award.



LETTER:

Mr. Shane Ray, President,

One of my fondest gifts after being honored by being awarded the Golden Sprinkler Award, and having retired from the fire sprinkler contracting business, is the continued copy of National Fire Sprinkler Magazine.

Each time my copy arrives, I immediately read each page with enthusiasm, even the ads, because it keeps me up to date with all that is happening, including the product advancements and the new products that are being offered that make our industry more advanced and improved.

As you are aware, I have been retired for two years now, after operating our company for more than 55 years. How time flies!

As I read through the magazine, I can't help thinking how our industry has improved since the beginning of our involvement. Our market when we started was underground parking garages and whatever we could sell. I remember contacting the local insurance underwriter when seeing a new structure being developed or underway and inquiring what the insurance cost for the finished product was estimated to be and what the cost reduction would be if the structure was equipped with fire sprinklers. I took that information to the property owner and amortized that cost over how many years the deduction would offer continuous net savings for as long as the owner continued to own the property. That endeavor offered many opportunities. Few fire codes contained requirements for fire sprinklers in the early 60s, so instead of merely bidding fire sprinklers, one had to sell fire sprinklers. The life safety value, unfortunately, was secondary.

We worked with the press, even developed a weekly radio spot reporting local fires and promoting the concept that fire sprinklers would have served an important difference with the actual outcome. We joined both fire sprinkler associations. We worked with local fire departments and code organizations and served on code development committees in order to get the fire sprinkler concept out to the public.

I particularly enjoyed reading (NFSA Chair) Jim Boulanger's article who says that he doesn't write well. Wrong, Jim! I have known him for many years and know that he writes very well.

I particularly enjoy the way you credit and respect those that work with you and think that Vickie (Pritchett) is a wonderful gift to your organization.

Keep up the good work, Shane, and give my best to all with whom you are working. You are truly doing God's work and doing it well.

With respect and friendship,

Jay Livingston



NFSA's Mike Joanis and Caleb Armbrust paid a visit to Sherman Davis, formerly of Landmark Sprinkler in Lexington, KY, with Dave English of General Air Products. Sherman recently completed building a new home protected with fire sprinklers. This makes the third home he has sprinklered over his years in the industry. Team is pictured with the General Air Products H2Home residential pump and tank system.

Connor Sweet to Entertain at NFSA Annual Seminar Opening Reception

We are excited to share that Nashville Recording Artist Connor Sweet will be entertaining attendees of our Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo in Austin! Our thanks go to NFSA member Wheatland Tube for sponsoring the entertainment.

At 16 years old, Conner Sweet began songwriting and playing music at local Honky Tonk Bars in Nashville, Tennessee. 7 years prior, Sweet picked up his first guitar igniting his passion for music which would take him to become a professional singer and songwriter.

Connor was influenced by country-music legends, Kenny Chesney, Alan Jackson and Luke Bryan.

His single, "Times Like These" was written after Nashville took a devastating hit when deadly tornados tore through the area. Sweet explained that he views the song as one that shows there is a light at the end of the tunnel and "that we are all on the same team," he said. •



CHAPTERS IN ACTION

Boston

Boston Chapter Donates Golf Tournament Proceeds to Shriners Burn Hospital

The Boston Chapter had their Annual Golf Tournament, and it was a great day and a huge success. A lot of planning went into making it the success it was as it was a month earlier than usual because of the NFSA Conference date change. President Steven Cook and his team planned and executed an amazing day capped off by a \$25,000. Check donation to Shriners Burn Hospital. This puts them at over \$100,000 in donations to Shriners in the 5 years of the tournament.

Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter Donates Golf Tournament Proceeds to CT Children's Burn Hospital

The Second Annual Connecticut Chapter Golf Tournament was held at the Indian Hills Country Club in Newington, CT. Fifty golfers took to the course led by NFSA President Ray and Chapter President Abbate. Though the weather looked a bit threatening all day there was just a sprinkle of rain and the afternoon, though overcast, was great. Everyone had a great time and money was raised for the Connecticut Children's Burn Hospital.

Florida

Walk The Halls with FFSA In Tallahassee

The Florida Fire Sprinkler Association is going to Tallahassee April 3rd & 4th. Our mission is to meet with our legislators and take every opportunity to educate them that fire sprinklers can make a difference between life and death. We need to educate them about the truths of how fire sprinklers work and to share with them the passion we have for keeping people safe. We can't expect them to understand what we do if we are not willing to put in the effort to educate them. Please join us, we will get you in front of your representatives and even give you talking points. We have a responsibility and an opportunity to make a difference.

Will you join us? If you would like more information or to sign up to attend, please email Kristi Mattson at mattson@nfsa.org or Lorrell Bush at bush@nfsa.org.

FFSA Welcomes Kristi Mattson

Kristi Mattson joined our NFSA team in Florida. Kristi will not only be assisting Lorrell Bush with Florida Training and Events but will also be touching base with members updating their information and making sure we have all information correct in our system. Her first big task is working with FFSA on the 28th Annual Buddy Dewar Golf/Skeet Classic on March 27, 2023. Kristi brings a lot of energy to FFSA and a desire to share the mission. You will probably be seeing Kristi around at AIM meetings and other events and if you do I hope you will take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome Kristi to the FFSA.



(left) Director Joanne Rice swearing in our new Executive Board. Secretary/Treasurer—Christy Caldwell, 2nd VP—Ryan Peterson and President—Robert Cariveau (not pictured 1st VP Greg Toledo)

Changes to Florida Fire Sprinkler Association Board

2023 Executive Committee sworn into office by Florida's new Director **Joanne Rice**. FFSA's new executive committee is: President **Robert Cariveau**, Wiginton Corp; 1st Vice President **Greg Toledo**, Epic Fire; 2nd Vice President **Ryan Peterson**, Wayne Automatic and Secretary/Treasurer **Christy Caldwell**, Southern Fire Protection. The Executive Committee will serve in this position for two years. They give of their time and energy to further our mission and dedicate themselves to making Florida a fire safe state. Along with our new executive committee we also welcomed two new board members **Glenn Painter**, MJ Wood and **Darrell Garner**, Dacar Fire. They won this seat in a very tight election held in October. All board seats are voted in by Florida NFSA members, each company gets one vote.

continued from page 42

Illinois

NFSA Member Jamie Reap Honored

Jamie Reap of United States Alliance Fire Protection in Lake Forest, IL, retired at the end of 2022 after 41 years of service in the fire sprinkler industry. His career began at Automatic Sprinkler Corporation of America on October 12, 1981. He moved to United States Fire Protection (now United States Alliance Fire Protection) in October 1988.

At the November meeting of the Illinois Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, Jamie was recognized for not only his time in the industry, but also his commitment to bettering the industry by serving on the NFSA-Illinois Chapter Board for more than five years as treasurer and on the Chicago Industry Promotion Committee, which oversees the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, for 17 years (more than four of which were as Chair).

Jamie's knowledge and expertise of the industry will certainly be missed, but we thank him for his leadership and wish him well in his retirement with more time to visit his children and grandchildren on both coasts.



Reap Group pic-Chicago Industry Promotion and NFSA-Illinois Chapter Officials (left to right): Dave Fisher, Dave Rosso, Ed Kadlec, Jamie Reap, Kim Prusa, James Brown, Erik Hoffer



NFSA-Illinois Chapter Chair Ed Kadlec recognizes Jamie Reap with a plaque on behalf of the chapter and the Chicago Industry Promotion Committee.

Minnesota

Fresh Start for '23

The Minnesota Chapter has replaced their outdated chapter by-laws with new operating policies and began forming a Board of Directors for the Chapter. Sean Flaherty, Viking Automatic, was re-elected Chair of the Chapter, and Jill Larson-Vito, JCI, was elected Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will be joined by a group of eight other Board members to direct the chapter's activities and direction.

Board members elected to date include Frank Doolittle, Summit Companies; Jim Kuempel, retired President of Midwest Fire Protection, and Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard, City of Cottage Grove. We hope to fill the remaining contractor and SAM positions on the Board at the March meeting of the Chapter.



New Jersey

Get Ready for the New Jersey Golf Outing

The NFSA Mid Atlantic Team will be ramping up for the 45th Annual NFSA NJ Chapter Golf Outing on June 16, 2023. We are very excited for the event as it has been a great success in the past. This year the NJ Chapter will be returning to Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes Township NJ. This course is a beautiful and timeless historic landmark. All who attend will enjoy a complete program of special events, 18 holes of golf (including cart), lunch, dinner, and door prizes for each player. This year all the proceeds will be split between the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association Foundation and the Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation.



continued on page 44

continued from page 43

If you are interested in attending and supporting the NFSA NJ Chapter, please help us properly plan for this event by pre-registering as soon as possible. Early bird pricing will be available for all that are registered on or before May 22nd, 2023. For more information, please email davis@nfsa.org or call us at 866.226.6006. Payments can be accepted via check, credit card or invoice. *Happy golfing!*

Northwest Chapters Chapter Updates

Both the **Puget Sound** and **Columbia-Willamette Chapters** are launching their 2023 set of meetings the second week in March, with NFSA's Mike Joanis as the guest speaker. Mike will be discussing "New ESFR Installation Rules for the Protection of Storage."

The chapters have set the June meetings for the annual Fire Marshal Forum and the October meetings for a Supplier Showcase. Other meetings will occur the second weeks of April, August and December.

The Northwest Region has requested that NFSA site one of its 2023 Layout Technician Trainings in our area. If you are a designer who wants to participate in NFSA's marquee training, be sure to watch your inbox for more information.



Sprinklerman Shootout

Each year the **Northwest Sprinklerman Shootout** designates a local charity to receive the proceeds. The 2022 event, sponsored by the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound and Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices UA Local 699, benefitted the Seattle Fire Foundation. The nonprofit Seattle Fire Foundation provides resources for Seattle first responders, including protective equipment and other necessities. Shown left to right: Stanton Bonnell, Busi-

ness Manager of Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices UA Local 699; Steve Elsoe, Board Chair of the Seattle Fire Foundation; Suzanne Mayr, NFSA NorthWest Regional Manager and Director of the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound; Bart Scherck, golf tournament director and retired Local 699 Sprinklerfitter; and Scott Peterson, Local 669 Organizer.

Texas

Texas Chapter Fundraising

NFSA Texas Chapter is hosting its first Training Scholarship fundraiser on Monday, April 3, 2023. The event is called the NFSA Texas Shootout. Please register using QR code:



Wisconsin



Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition Exhibits at Home Show

NFSA Wisconsin State Coordinator Marty King staffed a booth at the 2023 Metropolitan Builders Association's annual Home Show in Milwaukee. The booth was in partnership with the Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition and featured the Virtual Reality fire simulation. Many people tried the VR experience and note the difference between two fires, one with fire sprinklers, one without. It was great to see people with existing systems in their business and rental property who stopped by to ask maintenance questions. •

■ SFPE Foundation Awards Research Grant to Study Integration of Fire Protection Systems in Building Information Modeling

The SFPE Foundation announces the funding of research into integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM) for the design, verification, and maintenance of proper fire protection systems in buildings.

The primary objective of the research is to identify opportunities to update and develop new fire protection engineering data repositories that are available to all interested parties, while also identifying interoperability requirements that will help more fire protection engineering software tools better integrate with BIM. In addition, the research aims to identify opportunities for improved toolsets and workflows that integrate with BIM, with the end goal of making it easier for all stakeholders to design, verify, and maintain proper fire safety systems in buildings. Findings of the study are expected to be presented at the SFPE Annual Conference & Expo in Washington DC/Bethesda, in October 2023.

Additional information about the SFPE Foundation, its programs, and this research project is available at sfpe.org/foundation.

■ PVF Ring of Honor Inductee: ASC Engineered Solutions

In an industry where mergers and acquisitions often get a bad reputation, it's important to recognize the cases where the merging of two companies is of the best interest of each party and their respective customer bases. This was on full display in 2019 when two longstanding PVF product suppliers decided to merge into one powerhouse. 170-year-old New Hampshire based-Anvil International and 30-year-old California-based Smith Cooper joined forces to create what would soon become ASC Engineered Solutions — the PVF product suppliers with the largest spectrum of valve, fitting and hanger products and Supply House Times 2022 PVF Ring of Honor Inductee.

The PVF Ring of Honor was created to recognize PVF manufacturers and master distributors that have enjoyed recent success in the marketplace through the execution of progressive and cutting-edge best practices.

■ SFPE Research Report on Water Supply, Climate Change, and Water Stress on Fire Protection Systems

The SFPE Foundation is pleased to announce the completion and availability of a research report on water supply, climate change, and the impact of water stress on fire protection systems. The research was conducted by Virginia R. Charter, Ph.D., P.E., FSPFE and Justin Paul Fletcher of Oklahoma State University, and is available for free download at sfpe.org/foundation.

continued on page 46

AVERT DISASTER BEFORE IT BEGINS

FLOODELIMINATOR

The AGF **FLOODELIMINATOR** Model 5900 protects facilities from excessive flooding when a dry fire sprinkler system's auxiliary drain (drum drip, low-point drain) fails due to freezing and breaking, improper maintenance, vandalism, or an accident.

- Stops Flooding caused by Broken Auxiliary Drains due to Freezing, Improper Maintenance, Vandalism, or Accidents
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- No Power Required
- Automatically Resets
- Allows Condensation to be Drained Normally
- Retrofit onto Existing Auxiliary Drains
- Made in the USA



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continued from page 45

Water-based fire protection systems rely almost entirely on having an adequate water supply to aid in control or suppression of fire; plus, local fire departments also rely on the water supply as a part of their response. This research involved a detailed review of current water supply practices, design of suppression systems that depend upon the use of water supplies, and the impacts of water stress or scarcity on water supply systems. Additionally, the report includes case studies from water shortages/crises in diverse

locations from the USA, South Africa, Spain, and Australia. A final source of data includes plans for and experiences with water shortages. This report focuses on how fire protection system design and water supply system design must include the concept of climate change, specifically water scarcity or stress, in the discussion of reliability of systems.

■ Johnson Controls Recognized in the 2023 Global 100 Listing of the World's Most Sustainable Corporations

Johnson Controls has been recognized as one of the World's 100 Most Sustainable Corporations by Corporate Knights for the ninth year in a row. Companies on the Global 100 represent the world's top sustainability performers and are analyzed across 25 areas of performance, including sustainable revenue, capital expenditures, acquisitions, and research and development.

Johnson Controls is dedicated to continuing efforts to boost sustainability and tackle climate change, including its role in the following:

- Achieving Scope 1, 2 and 3 science based absolute carbon emission reductions by 2030.
- Reaching climate goals ahead of the Paris Climate Agreement goal of 2050 and achieving net zero operational emissions by 2040
- Sourcing 100% renewable energy by 2040
- Committing to invest at least 75% of new product R&D in climate-related innovation and sustainable products and services
- Increasing spend with diverse suppliers at a rate exceeding revenue growth
- Continuing to share critical knowledge on how to reduce carbon emissions and to transform the sustainable buildings industry through partnerships, events, and product innovations.

To read more about Johnson Controls commitment to sustainability, please visit: <https://www.johnsoncontrols.com/corporate-sustainability/environment>.

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■ Core & Main Opens New Facility in Springfield, Missouri

Core & Main, Inc. announced the opening of their newest facility located in Springfield, Missouri.

“The Springfield, Missouri location will better serve current customers and growth in southern Missouri and southeastern Kansas” said Jack Schaller, president of Core & Main. “This step in our growth strategy builds on our commitment to make our products and expertise more accessible nationwide.”

“While Core & Main has five branches in northern Missouri, the addition of this location will enable us to better serve our customers and continue our growth, in southern Missouri.” said Rich Schaefer, regional vice president, Central Region. “It will also allow us to expand our meter, pipe, valve, and fittings sales along with our high-density polyethylene products and fusion equipment rentals in southern Missouri.

Visit coreandmain.com to learn more.

■ Firefighters Take Aim at Toxic PFAS

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) announced a bold initiative to protect firefighters from toxic PFAS “forever chemicals” contained in turnout gear. The IAFF has engaged three nationally recognized toxic tort law firms to assist the organization and its members in ridding their protective equipment of cancer-causing chemicals. Collectively the firms have decades of experience representing union members and fighting for the health and safety of workers.

This important public safety initiative coincides with the release of “Burned,” an explosive documentary – executive produced by actor Marc Ruffalo and others – revealing the significant exposure of fire fighters to carcinogenic PFAS chemicals. <https://ethereal-films.org/burned/>

NFSM Article Submission Guidelines

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine (NFSM),

is 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

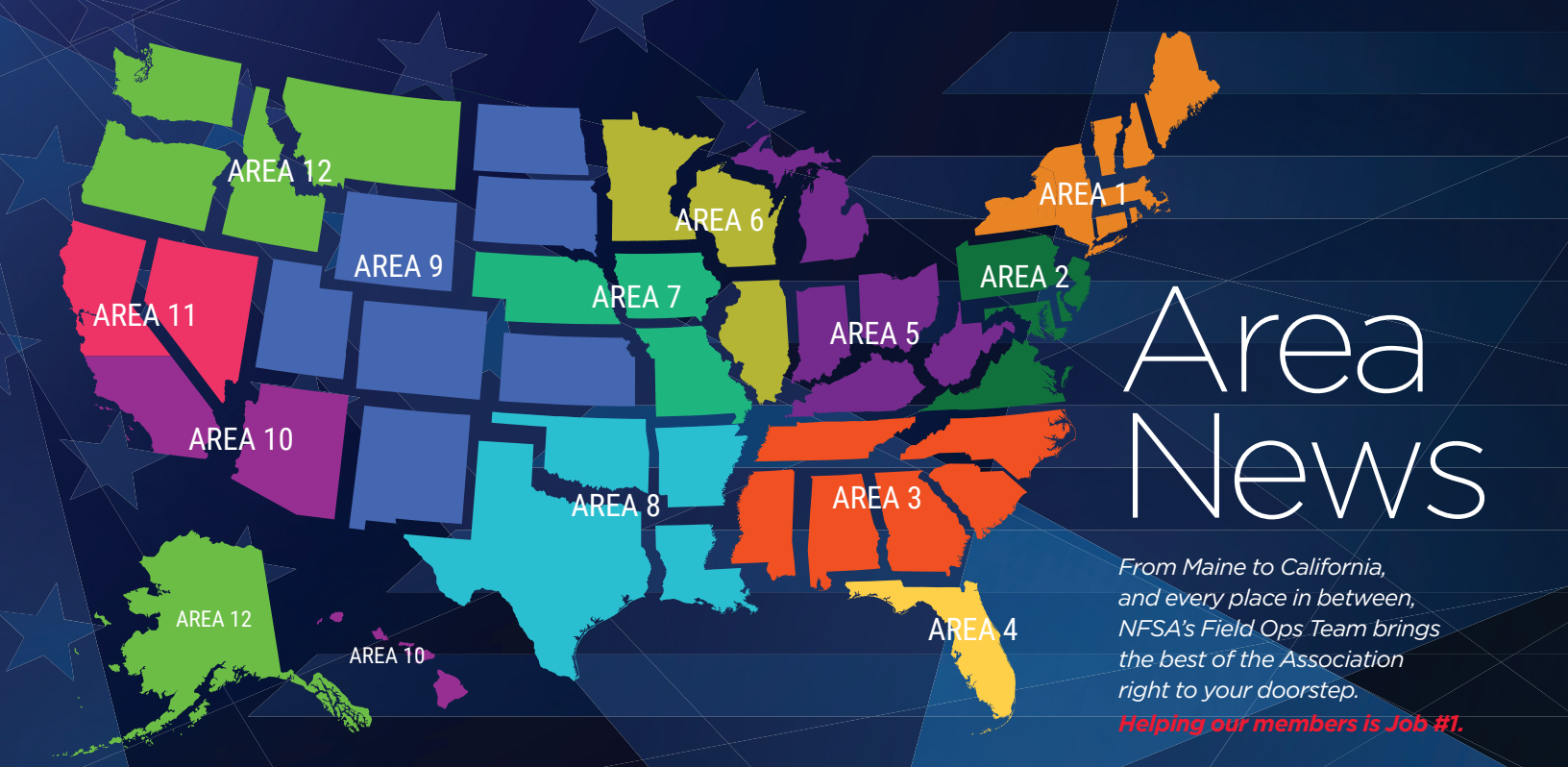
Articles must be exclusive to **NFSM** magazine and not submitted to any other industry publication, unless prior agreement has been reached. Author is responsible for the accuracy of article and that it does not infringe on any other copyright. All published submissions become the property of NFSM.

Payment

NFSM does not pay for articles; we do recognize an author with a byline and credit.

NFSM reserves the right to reject any submission at its own discretion.

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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 1

CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW YORK, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT

Honoring a Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Advocate

NFSA President Shane Ray visited attended the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts December General Membership Meeting. The meeting was held at the Devens Common Conference Center. At the start of the meeting, President Ray and New England Regional Coordinator Paul Zbikowski were invited to the podium to conduct a special presentation. They were joined by Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell.

President Ray presented Westborough School Superintendent Amber Bock with a framed certificate of recognition for her comments and advocacy on sprinklers. He also presented her with a special desk sprinkler award. Superintendent Bock spoke and again reiterated the success of sprinklers and the key to having a great fire protection system that includes the quick response of the fire department.

After the business portion of the meeting President Ray addressed the 75+ fire chiefs in attendance. He spoke on federal legislation and some of the larger commercial fires and their impacts on investigations. Chief Engineer Mike Joanis was also in attendance making new and old connections in the crowd of fire service professionals.



continued from page 48

AREA 2

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA,
VIRGINIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

High-Rise Retrofit in Philly

The NFSA PenJerDel Chapter has been working in lock step with Councilmember Mark Squilla on Bill 220299. If the bill passes, the city of Philadelphia will retrofit the residential high-rise buildings in the city limits affording fire protection to all the tenants that reside in those residential high-rise occupancies.

Having fire sprinklers in residential high-rise occupancies vastly minimizes losses by keeping fires small or putting them out altogether. Small blazes cause less direct burn damage and fewer interruptions, and require far less water to extinguish. The volume of water sprayed by a sprinkler can seem like a lot, but the 8-24 gallons per minute that's discharged from a residential sprinkler is nothing compared to the 80-125 gallons per minute that a fire hose puts out. Having fire sprinklers in the residential high-rise buildings of Philadelphia will be a huge win for the fire protection and prevention space and, in the end, save countless lives for years to come.

AREA 6

ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN

Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act

On January 1, 2023, the new language of Section 17 (b) of the fire sprinkler contractor licensing act requiring NICET Level III for routine Fire Sprinkler Inspections went into effect.

Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act [225 ILCS 317/17 (b) (1)]

“.....on and after January 1, 2023, an appropriate level in NICET certification in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems shall be Level III, ASSE 15010 certification; or completion of a certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program.”

Effective January 1, 2024 the Illinois State Fire Marshal will also accept the NFPA WBITM (National Fire Protection Association Water Based Inspection, Testing and Maintenance) as an equivalent.

Valve Trailer on the Move!

NIFSAB and NFSA have been busy getting the fire sprinkler valve trailer ready to bring to area fire departments to train first responders on various types of sprinkler systems. 2022 was the busiest year yet. The valve trailer and field personnel trained over 1,031 participants representing 34 fire departments in 23 locations over 69 days and 119 sessions. What a year!

Single Sprinkler Helps Save Bears' Practice Facility

On Wednesday December 14th, the Lake Forest Fire Department responded to our beloved Chicago Bears practice facility (The Walter Payton Center) for an activated fire alarm. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a furnace fire on the second floor of the complex was held in check with a fire sprinkler and was fully put out by a staff member with a fire extinguisher prior to the fire department's arrival. The Bears' practice was moved outside for the remaining of the day.

If you have an Illinois fire sprinkler activation, please email Illinois State Coordinator James Brown at jbrown@nfsa.org.

AREA 7

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI

Announcing the Twin Cities Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board!

NFSA contractor members based in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metropolitan area recently gathered with state and national NFSA staff to form the Twin Cities Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board. This board will supervise industry promotion in the Twin Cities area and manage the industry promotion funds in the Local 417 area of operations. The group formally adopted standard operating policies and elected a five-member Board and three officers.

Congratulations to newly elected Chair Sean Flaherty, Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company; Vice Chair Jill Larson-Vito, JCI; and Treasurer Steve Treptow, Nasseff Mechanical. These officers will serve on the 5-member board along with Ray Bolger, JF Ahern, and Frank Doolittle, Summit Companies. Future meeting of the Board will be announced on the NFSA homepage in the Events Calendar.



The Tipton building on the corner and the Camelot Theater 2 doors down in Nevada, Iowa's Historic Downtown District.)

Historic Retrofit Begins

Nevada, Iowa Fire Chief Ray Reynolds has announced that the sprinkler retrofit project in the city's historic district has begun with the installation of sprinklers in the renovated Tipton building. The installation, being done by Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company, will accommodate the four R-2 occupancies planned

continued from page 49

for the vacant upstairs portion of the building.

A shared sprinkler main will extend into the historic Camelot Theater building for their planned retrofit in the future. The historic district in Nevada consists of dozens of buildings built in the late 1800s – many with unused or underused upstairs. Nevada is working to bring increased residential occupancies to the district through renovations of the upstairs areas of these buildings and realize economic growth like that experienced in the historic Valley Junction area of West Des Moines. Officials from West Des Moines, Nevada, and NFSA have met several times to discuss historic retrofit strategies. NFSA conducted a Fire Team retrofit conference in Nevada in June 2020.

Educating Minnesota AHJs!

The City of Golden Valley, MN, hosted two days of NFSA courses in January. 45 AHJs attended the 8-hour Fire Sprinkler Plan Review Class, and 35 AHJs and contractor members attended the 8-hour Design Advantage Class. 17 of the AHJ attendees joined NFSA when signing up for the classes. NFSA Field Services Coordinator Rob Geislinger, based in Colorado, taught the classes.

AREA 8

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Texas Legislation

NFSA is monitoring and attending Texas Legislative Hearings. Below are 2023 Texas fire protection proposed bills of interest or concern.

- SB 149 – Local Ordinance Prohibition for Codes that affect Statewide Commerce
- SB 259 – Ability to Require Building Plans or Permits
- HB 152 – Authority of County to Adopt and Enforce WUI
- HB 195 – Emergency Provisions for People with Disabilities in School Multi-hazard Emergencies
- HB 717 – Fire Escape Exemptions for Certain Courthouses
- HB 739 – Affordable Housing in Certain Tax Zones
- HB 794 – Tax Appraisal of Homes Repairs/Replacement after a Disaster
- HB 860 – Repairs and Retrofit on Residential Buildings After Disaster
- HB 866 - Relating to approval of certain land development applications by a municipality or county
- HB 66 – Fire Alarms and Sprinklers in Kennels
- HB 288 – Fire Sprinkler Systems in Firework Indoor buildings
- HB 1205 – Applicability of a county fire code and the authority of a county fire marshal in certain areas subject to another fire code or certain interlocal agreements.

HB 1237 – Salary Reclassification of Texas State Fire Marshal Certain Positions

H 1246 – HB01246I DE annexation of areas that do not receive full municipal

NFSA & FDA

Did you know that NFSA is a member of the FDA Conference for Food Protection? In this role, we are advocating for clearer food codes that relate to fire protection inspections. NFSA has already proposed new code language and will be testifying about these code changes in April 2023.

NFSA & Oklahoma Department of Labor

NFSA staff has been assisting the Oklahoma Fire Sprinkler Association and the Oklahoma Department of Labor with Best Practice Contractor Licensing Rules developed by the NFSA Contractors Council. Oklahoma fire sprinkler contractors and the Department of Labor hope to strengthen the Oklahoma fire sprinkler industry with new rules for Inspectors and Technicians.

NFSA & Texas State Fire Marshal

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) proposed amendments to the State Fire Marshal rules are found in Texas Administrative Code, Title 28, Chapter 34, Subchapter C, Subchapter E, Subchapter F, and Subchapter G. The proposed amendments will adopt updated standards published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the State Fire Marshal rules.

City of Houston Construction Code Modernization

The City of Houston Construction Code Modernization project is now underway. Over a five-month period, the CCM project team will gather public input on the International Code Council’s family of 2021 I-Codes. The City of Houston plans to adopt new 2021 Codes by June 2023.

AREA 12

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, WASHINGTON

Legislative News

Many bills affecting the fire sprinkle industry are winding their way through Northwest state legislatures. As of the deadline for this issue of NFSA, Montana was considering a bill that would exempt a very specific type of dwelling from sprinkler requirements with little rationale. Washington state was considering bills that would move many of the functions of the State Building Code Council directly to the legislature, creating a situation in which many technical issues would not have a thorough vetting and

continued on page 51

continued from page 50

would be judged on politics rather than technical merits. Washington state is also being asked to pass a law assigning a specific ratio of apprentices to supervisors, as well as to commit the State Fire Marshal Office to consistent enforcement of the current

licensing/certification rules. NFSA Northwest Manager Suzanne Mayr is monitoring these and other bills that could potentially affect the sprinkler industry. •

Performance Systems Integration Hosts Classes



NFSA member Performance Systems Integration (PSI) contracted with NFSA to conduct an ITM training for its staff in January. NFSA ITM Specialist Vince Powers brought the two-day class to PSI's Portland-based staff.

Staff at NFSA member Performance Systems Integration (PSI) take a break from a 2-day ITM class. NFSA offers contract classes directly to members who would like to have their staff trained at their facilities. If you are interested in bringing a training to your Northwest organization, contact Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr to discuss the options.





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