

# National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association



**Inside this issue:**

**What is NFPA 13E and How to Support It**  
page 11

**Fires in Sprinklered Buildings**  
page 25

**Are Your Business and Personal Brands Prepared for AI?**  
page 9



# MODEL KFR-CCS

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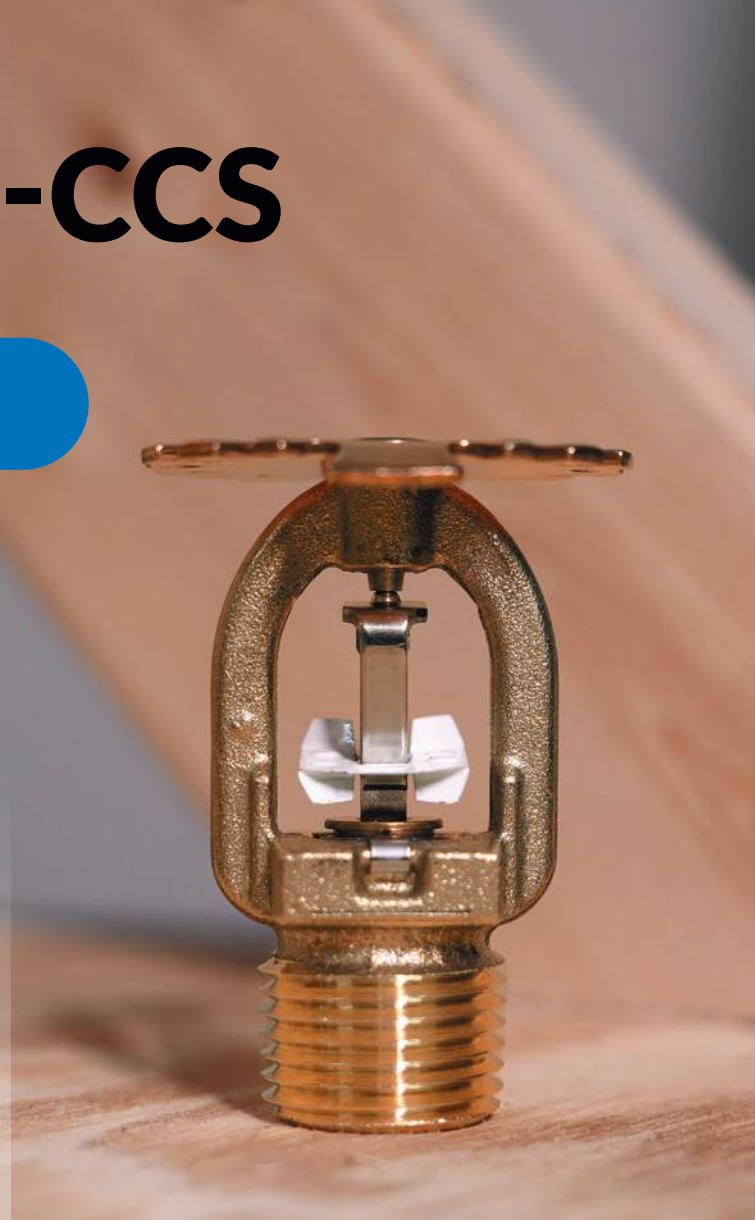
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#### ON THE COVER

*#FastestwaterRoundup was a huge success! Team NFSA was thrilled to finally be back together with our fire sprinkler family! Check out this issue's great pictorial!*

#### ADVERTISERS

AGF	72
American Backflow	77
Argco	71
Core & Main	24
Dyne	74
Eaton B-Line	6
Ferguson	BC
Harrington	18
JCI-Xaap	IBC
Metraflex	70
Potter	3
Reliable	IFC, 40-41
Talco	4
Victaulic	14
Viking	10

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# National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

July/August 2023 • No. 240

#### FEATURE:

**27 North American Exhibition and Seminar Pictorial: Austin '23**

**58 CPVC Chemical Compatibility, Antifreeze Among Key Topics at NFSA Seminar & Expo**

*by Lainey Liotta*

#### DEPARTMENTS

**2 Calendar**

**5 From the President's Desk** *-by Shane Ray*  
*Gathering is Good*

**7 From the Chair's Desk** *-by Jim Boulanger*  
*Thank you, Austin Was a Great Success!*

**9 Contractor's Cue** *-by Karen Tiber Leland*  
*Are Your Business and Personal Brands Prepared for AI? Expert Says Most Aren't*

**11 Tech Speaking** *-by Michael J. Joanis, PE*  
*What is NFPA 13E and How to Support It?*

**15 Code Corner** *-by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO*  
*TopTech 2023*

**19 Notes from the Fire Scene** *-by Vickie Pritchett*  
*2023 is Our Year!*

**20 Fire Sprinklers in Action**

**25 ITeM** *-by Vincent Powers*  
*Fires in Sprinklered Buildings*

**60 Social Scene** *-by Joanne Genadio*  
*Creative Ways to Use Social Media to Promote Your Business*

**62 HQ News**

**66 Chapters in Action**

**72 Sprinklering of News**

**75 Area News**

CONTENTS



**VISIT THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION PAGE OF THE NFSA WEBSITE TO VIEW THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF UPCOMING CLASSES.**



## TECH TUESDAY CALENDAR

Tech Tuesdays earn CE Credit and are free as a benefit for NFSA members. They are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 PM eastern time. For further information and a complete listing of all NFSA seminars, go to <https://bit.ly/IdNFSA>.

JULY 18, 2023

**Fires in Sprinklered Buildings**

AUGUST 15, 2023

**Gaps in Sprinkler Rules**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**Common Questions from AHJs**

OCTOBER 17, 2023

**Notes from the AHJ to the Sprinkler Industry**

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

**Technical Paths for Careers in Sprinklers**

DECEMBER 19, 2023

**Codes and their Standards**





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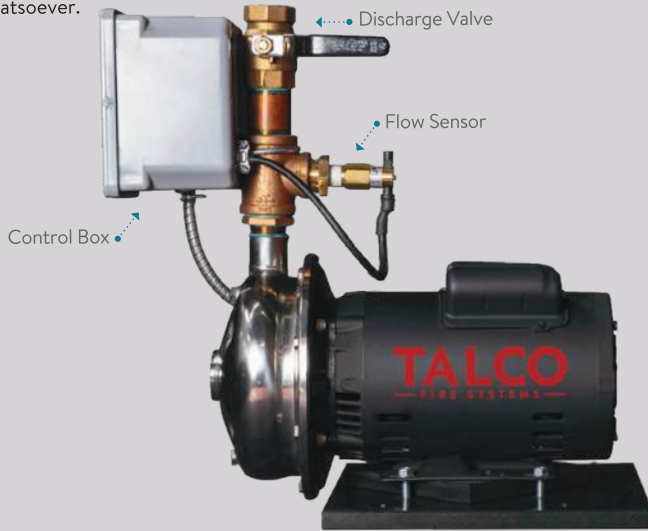


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## Gathering is Good

Being together in Austin, Texas for the North American Fire Sprinkler Expo with an amazing turnout of the most diverse audience in the fire sprinkler industry was incredible. The seminars were the best, Top Tech was the best I had ever experienced with the engagement of the contestants and the crowd, and the food and beverages flowed constantly. Congratulations to all the industry's highest award recipients, three years of awardees at one event with their families was special, especially as we celebrated being back in person together.

It was also great to gather on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. for the 33rd Annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Symposium and Dinner. This year NFSA, Common Voices, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs representatives walked the Halls of Congress promoting the *High-Rise Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act and the Public Housing Fire Safety Act*.

Despite all the losses and tragedies of those we loved during the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, the overwhelming synergy of gathering again is good.

After skipping three national conferences, annual seminars, an international exhibition from 2019 until 2023, what will take us from “good to great”? Those of you as old as me remember Good to Great as a book written by



Jim Collins, published in 2001. I remember it not only because I was seeking what it took to get from “Good to Great”, but also because it came out right after September 11th, 2001. The whole country was seeking greatness then and we later realized what we had before 9/11/01 was great.

The political environment in those times were the best in my life. How did we get here? A loss of values? A loss of work ethic? A loss of patriotism? I was a mayor of a small town in Tennessee and Rudy Giuliani was the Mayor of New York City. There was a book published in 2000 titled *Rudy Giuliani, Emperor of the City, The Story of “America’s Mayor”*,

by Andrew Kirtzman. After all that has happened in recent years, I thank God I was a small-town mayor serving the American people.

When people realized how young I was and found out that I was mayor, their first question was, “How big is your city?” I would reply, 2,500. Then they would laugh. I would reply I’ve got the same problems as Rudy Giuliani, and they are proportional. Most would walk away, but the ones that stayed, I would share with them that it’s all about perspective, not judgment.

As I write this, the 29th firefighter has died this year in service to his community. Firefighter James Muller died on May 26th, 2023, while fighting a fire in Columbia, South Carolina, a place very near and dear to my heart. Firefighter Muller died in a fire at an apartment complex built in 1985. The untold story is the amount of money made on that property and its occupants, since 2006. There were jurisdictions in this country at the time requiring automatic fire sprinklers in three-story apartments and hotels.

“It’s Time”. That was the campaign we used to get fire sprinklers in the national and international codes. In 2030, no firefighter should die in any residential property, or any property built after that year. It’s Time that our elected officials make death by fire unacceptable. If they want to save the planet with all their public policy on energy, it’s time they let our industry solve a known problem that we already have the solution to. Are we ready as an industry to protect all new construction and retrofit all high-risk occupancies?

*continued on page 6*

## From the President's Desk

Shane Ray

*continued from page 5*

I just reported at a gathering called by our U.S. Fire Administrator, Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell in Washington, D.C. that it's sad in 2023 that California, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, are the only states that require all new homes to be protected with automatic fire sprinklers. I also reported we estimate over 400 jurisdictions have what we refer to as "zero square foot" ordinances or requirements that all new construction in the community is built with automatic fire sprinklers.

It's Time for NFSA to put more pressure on public policy makers to require all occupancies to be protected with fire sprinklers. Success at changing the minds and hearts will take us all, but doing the work will take us all as well.

This is the best industry in the country, and we are celebrating record times. The first quarter of 2023 was the best quarter in recorded history. Please remember that you are making a difference every day and that the difference we make will live beyond our lives because we are in the fire sprinkler industry. There is no other product in any building installed by better people that will be in-service long after we are dead.

Let's continue to educate and advocate for the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. Also, let me encourage you to realize you don't have a job, you have a calling. Keep up the great work and may God bless all that serve in all capacities to save lives, protect property, and protect our homeland. •

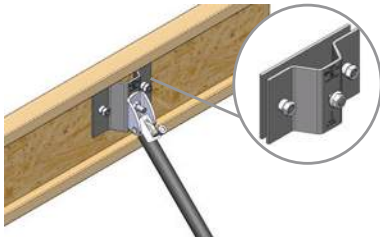


Shane Ray, President

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**Fig. 74 upper attachment**

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# Thank you!

### *Thank you Staff, Thank You Seminar Committee and Thank You Attendees, Austin Was a Great Success!*

On the Wednesday morning of the NFSA Conference in Austin, schedule conflicts had us promoting the Common Voices Golf Tournament at the same time as multiple educational sessions. Your Chairman of the Board feared empty rooms at the hotel with a full field of golfers on the sunny course. I worried about disappointing our presenters and possibly empty 8 a.m. gatherings. To my surprise and relief, we accomplished both, a record number of golfers and outstanding attendance at our sessions. I walked into one of our several 8 a.m. sessions and there were over 100 attendees actively participating. I can tell you it went on that way for all four days.



We witnessed instruction on lithium battery protection, general liability and loss control, presentations by NFPA on new standards and experts from Lubrizol on CPVC compatibility. We heard users discuss laser scanning and 3D models adaptive to Revit or wildfire protection of homes. In all, over 20 different subject matters were well-received and fully attended.

The exhibition hall was sold out with Suppliers and Manufacturers displaying their wares to attendees while all enjoying live country music at the grand opening Wednesday evening. Thursday and Friday, large crowds continued to attend and were in attendance to cheer on the TopTech competition. Austin was truly a great and long-awaited, in-person industry get-together delivered exceptionally by NFSA, the Voice of the Sprinkler Industry. If you missed this year's North American Exhibition and Seminar, we are doing it again in Nashville, in May of 2025. We will hold our Annual Seminar and Business and Leadership Conference, May 2024 in Maui, Hawaii. Hope to see you there.

### *Fires in Sprinklered Buildings That Get Out of Control.*

I would like to say that the above statement is an oxymoron, that doesn't happen. We are confident we have the perfect solution when properly designed, installed, and tested, fire sprinklers are the answer! Unfortunately, our industry mantra is not always correct, accidents happen. By good fortune, we have not been dealing with loss of life of occupants or firefighters, but property damage and recent resulting environmental destruction has been unacceptable. The overall instances are extremely rare, but a handful of large distribution centers were lost in the last couple of years burning completely to the ground. These incidents were primarily in modern buildings with newer sprinkler systems. We can and do argue commodity or storage heights changed significantly or control valves were left closed, but it does not change the result. The latest fire, a 1.2 million square foot modern distribution building witnessed the arriving Fire Department mistakenly turning off multiple systems along with the fire pumps prior to full extinguishment. Our detractors in the codes, and there are many, continue to argue sprinklers are not fully reliable, and they use these examples to make a point.

NFSA understands this, and through the leadership of President Ray and the Board we are committed to continue working with and supporting our nation's fire departments with education on these modern systems. Rural areas with wide open land and minimal fire department resources attract these massive facilities.

NFSA has recently constructed and delivered dozens of fire education trailers, some with valves and pumps and FDC connections, to requesting fire services across the county in the ongoing attempt to educate. Our job is not done when we walk out the door with an occupancy certificate, education of occupants and first responders must continue aggressively to be able to write, *Fire sprinklers in buildings never get out of control.*•

*Thanks for your continued support,*

*Jim*

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*Fire is fast. Fire sprinklers are faster.*

# Are Your Business and Personal Brands Prepared for AI? Expert Says Most Aren't

by Karen Tiber Leland

Online competition for attention and engagement has never been more intense. And the rapid rise of AI is exponentially increasing the tension, bringing things to a game-changing level. To stand out from the crowd and compete, leaders need to get their personal and business brands AI-ready.

"Any CEO or entrepreneur who is not preparing their personal and business brands for the coming AI tidal wave is in a dangerous place," says Karen Tiber Leland, founder of Sterling Marketing Group and author of *The Brand Mapping Strategy: Design, Build and Accelerate Your Brand*.

Leland explains that AI language models (such as the hyper-popular ChatGPT) rely on large datasets of text from the Internet to learn and generate responses. "You have to teach Google who you are and what your company is about — across the net," says Leland. "If you don't have online discoverability, credibility and reliability, you can't compete."

Leland says that not having enough quality content that Google can find creates AI generated generic responses about a brand based on the limited information available. "I asked AI about a few new CEO clients recently," says Leland. "Because they currently have very little online presence, the response was, 'I don't have enough information to provide an accurate response,' or, 'I'm sorry, I don't know much about this person.'"

Leland explains that if you are looking to build thought leadership, do a capital raise, find investors, sell your company, entice potential employees or convert customers, not being on the radar becomes a huge opportunity cost. She recommends taking seven essential yet straightforward steps to prepare personal and business brands for AI.

- 1. Stop Avoiding AI and Embrace Education and Experimentation.** The more you avoid AI, the further behind you will get. One way to stop avoiding AI and prepare your brand is to educate yourself with the abundant online resources and experiment to see how it could work for your personal and business brands.
- 2. Accept the Need to Create a Parallel CEO Brand.** 82% of all Americans (88% of Older Millennials) agree that companies are more influential if their CEO and executives have a personal brand. Despite this, Leland says many C-suite leaders still believe they don't need to create a parallel brand. "What they fail to understand," says Leland, "is that they already have one. It is just a matter of if they want their brands to be by default or design."
- 3. Consistently Create an Abundance of Online, High-Quality Content.** AI models can better understand and

generate contextually relevant and accurate responses as they become more advanced. If your content is visible on Google and considered an authoritative source, it is more likely to be referenced by AI models when generating answers to relevant queries. Content can be articles, blog posts, podcasts, media interviews, social media posts, videos, etc.

- 4. Take a Fresh Look at Your Target Audience.** Knowing whom you are trying to reach and their concerns is critical in being AI-ready. AI itself can be a good source of gaining data and insights about what your target audience is now wanting and needing. This allows you to create brand messaging and content that resonates with them.
- 5. Monitor Your Online Reputation Monthly.** Keeping track of when you are mentioned online, by whom and what is said is necessary in today's wired world. A whole host of AI online reputation management tools can help you stay on top of your personal and business brands and allow you to address any issues sooner rather than later.
- 6. Flip the Focus of Your Social Media.** A robust social media presence is undoubtedly essential in building a brand. Leland says the problem is that 80% of most companies' posts focus on the company, with only 20% being educational or entertaining. "The key is to flip that and start having 80% of your posts written around keywords, industry topics, trends, customer interests and thought leadership," says Leland.
- 7. Teach Google Who You Are and What You Stand For.** "If you want to be an authority, you must author something," says Leland. Leland suggests writing at least one long-form (600-1000 words) social media or blog post a month is the minimum you should go for. In addition, she says measuring social media solely through the lens of "engagement" is a mistake. "Part of the purpose of today's social media posting is to make yourself discoverable to Google and to teach it who you are and what you stand for."

Leland says the bottom line is that ignoring the trend of AI and chatbots in business and personal branding is a significant mistake. Remember that even if you are not preparing your personal and business brands for AI — *your competitors are.* •

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Karen Tiber Leland** is the founder of Sterling Marketing Group, a branding and marketing strategy and implementation firm specializing in personal, business and CEO branding. She is the bestselling author of 12 books, including *The Brand Mapping Strategy: Design, Build and Accelerate Your Brand*. She writes regularly for Inc.com, Entrepreneur.com and others. Learn more at [www.karenleland.com](http://www.karenleland.com).

## VK449 Residential Dry Horizontal Sidewall Sprinkler



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# What is NFPA 13E and How to Support It?

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



## Do you know what NFPA 13E is?

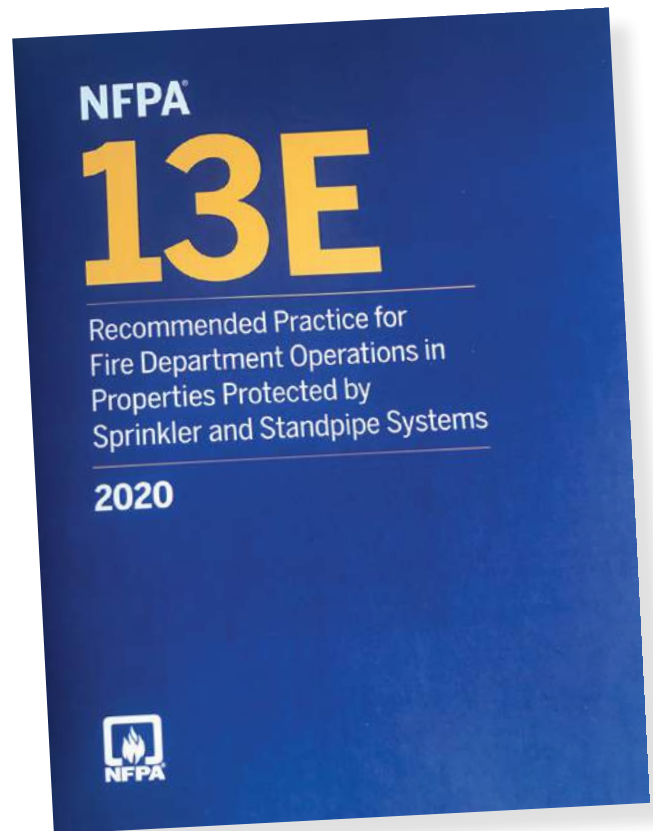
The overwhelming response I receive to this question is no. NFPA 13E is titled *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*. The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is represented on the technical committee for this document by NFSA staff members, Terin

Hopkins and Tim Butler.

The origin of this document goes back to 1933 when NFPA published a brochure titled *Use of Automatic Sprinklers by Fire Departments*. This eventually led to publishing a recommended practice in 1966. The scope includes basic information and procedures for fire department use during operations in properties with sprinkler and standpipe systems. The document's purpose is to assist fire departments in developing training programs and planning effective operations that support fire protection systems.

NFPA 13E is a recommended practice and not an enforceable standard adopted by the model codes or referenced by NFPA 13. It is a short document by NFPA standards (no pun intended). I encourage you to read it and gain a better understanding of how fire departments operate in buildings with sprinkler and standpipe systems. Here is an outline of the topics addressed in the document:

- Supporting, maintaining performance data, and promoting fire protection systems
- Training on the fundamentals and how to handle causes of unsatisfactory sprinkler performance
- Inspections and pre-incident planning
- Water supply for firefighting and how this affects system performance
- Sprinkler system fire ground operations, pumping the fire department connections (FDC) visibility, ventilation, post fire operations, and reporting
- Standpipe system fire ground operations for both manual and automatic standpipe systems
- Impairment procedures
- Buildings under construction



There are many design, installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements in the NFPA standards that directly support fire department operations and the recommendations found in NFPA 13E. This includes properly documenting our systems with working plans, as-built plans, test certificates, operation manuals, and permitting. These documents provide the fire department with valuable information on how our systems are designed and laid out. They use this information during inspections, to develop pre-plans, and for reference when operating on site.

We provide signage for control valves, drain valves, sprinkler rooms, pump rooms, general information, hydraulic design criteria, storage plans, and inspection tags. Signage helps the fire department locate and operate our equipment and identify their status. It also provides contact information for the sprinkler contractor that can be used during an emergency.

*continued on page 12*



Fire pump status, water flow switches, low air switches, and control valve supervisory switches are connected to the fire alarm system. This gives the fire department annunciation and notification of system status during an emergency. When the fire department arrives on site and views the fire alarm control panel, it is important for them to know if the fire pump is running, that a system has water flowing, or that there are closed valves. Pressure gauges also provide the system pressure at several points in the system for their review. This information helps guide their response and operations.

A fundamental recommendation in NFPA 13E is that the fire department pumps the FDC. It is important to ensure they are properly located and sized, and they have the proper hose threads and required signage. FDC signage is required to indicate the type of system(s) it serves, the building(s) it serves, and the minimum operating pressures for standpipe systems. This ensures the fire department is pumping the proper system, in the proper building, and at the required pressure for their operations.

Our systems include main drains, auxiliary drains, low point drains, and drains for testing pressure regulating valves. Providing signage and locating these drains where the fire department can find them helps to quickly drain water from the system once it is taken out of service. This limits unnecessary water discharge when the system has been damaged or after a fire has been completely extinguished. By providing the required stock of spare sprinklers, the fire department and sprinkler contractor are able to quickly place systems back in service and avoid long impairments.

The authority having jurisdiction is required to be notified of the date and time for acceptance testing. Having the fire department witness acceptance testing provides them with an opportunity to become familiar with the systems and how they operate. NFPA 25 requires systems to be inspected, tested, and maintained to ensure they are ready to operate when needed. It also requires records of inspections, inspection tags, impairment tags, and impairment procedures that include notifying the fire department.

We can always do more than the minimum standard. Layout technicians should actively seek input from the fire department

to better understand their operations and how this affects our system designs. Control valves and equipment should be in locations that not only meet the requirements of the standard but are intuitive to where the fire department would look to find them. Fire department connection piping for sprinkler systems can be sized to not only supplement the system(s) but to provide the full system demand. See my article titled *Does One Size Fit All* in the *National Fire Sprinkler Magazine*, Issue 233, July-August 2022 on this topic for more information. Consider including a walk through and orientation for the fire department's operational units during acceptance testing of the systems. Working with your local fire departments to provide service call response during an emergency will assist their operations. There are many other examples that will improve the performance of our systems during fire department operations.

I encourage layout technicians to review NFPA 13E and become familiar with its recommendations. Ensure you comply with requirements that assist the fire department on site during an emergency. Consider the value of providing more than the code minimum. Educate the fire department on how our systems operate. Fire departments need this information to effectively operate in properties with sprinkler and standpipe systems. This directly supports the NFSA mission to protect lives and property from fire through the wide-spread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. •

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May 7-10, 2024



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# TopTech 2023

by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO, [Vice President of Codes, Standards and Public Fire Protection](#)



**TopTech 2023** was held in Austin, Texas during the May 2-5 *North American Fire Sprinkler Expo*. Over 1,000 fire sprinkler industry professionals attended NFSA's first in-person seminar since Nashville in 2019.

This TopTech competition started in 2020 with over 100 NFSA members taking a written exam.

From that exam, the top 28 layout technicians and designers were invited to the 2021 competition in Las Vegas, eventually cancelled from the COVID pandemic. From there, the top 28 were invited to compete in 2023 in Austin, Texas. The competition started on Wednesday, May 3rd with a written exam, with the top 18 scorers making it to the show floor for the initial six rounds of elimination using a game modeled after Jeopardy. On May 4th, the top 18 started on the expo show floor with **Jeffrey Hugo, CBO**, *Vice President of Codes and Standards* and **Michael Joanis, PE**, *Chief Engineer* as the show hosts and **Jeff Dunkel, PE**, *Fire Protection Engineer*, as the official show judge.

## And the winner is...

The competition was fast paced, fun, and fierce. In the end, the NFSA's TopTech 2023 is **Mickey Ferguson** of *Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.*, Florida, with runner up **Eric Ginder** of *Hill Fire Protection*, Illinois. Congratulations Mickey and Eric! Next is TopTech 2025 in Nashville, Tennessee!

TopTech 2023 Mickey Ferguson, had this to say, *"Thank you to the NFSA and the NFSA Supplier and Manufacturer (SAM) Council for sponsoring this fantastic opportunity to meet and compete against other great technicians across the country. Many thanks to Wayne Automatic for the support and on-site cheer team."* Mickey has been in the industry since starting as a fitter for Wiginton Fire Systems in 1993, to a designer for Wayne Automatic from 2002 to today. This is Mickey's fourth attempt at TopTech, and his secret was his intense studying of the 2022 edition of NFPA 13 and the support of the Wayne Automatic team of Justin Gey, Bobby Dewar, Pete Schwab, and fellow TopTech competitor, Brent Garvey.

## The Brackets

The semi-final and final rounds were also held during the expo on May 5 in the following brackets:

**Michael Newell**, NFSA Professional Member, Texas  
**Mickey Ferguson**, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc., Florida  
**Caleb Demree**, Oliver Fire Protection & Security, Pennsylvania

**Mark Metzger**, Patriot Fire Protection, Inc., Washington  
**Eric Ginder**, Hill Fire Protection, Illinois  
**Daniel LeFave**, SRI Fire Sprinkler LLC, New York

The final round for the TopTech 2023, on May 5, was:

**Mickey Ferguson**, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc., Florida  
*versus*

**Eric Ginder**, Hill Fire Protection, Illinois.

## Top 18 for 2023 Top Tech

1. **Mickey Ferguson**, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc., Florida
2. **Eric Ginder**, Hill Fire Protection, Illinois
3. **Mark Metzger**, Patriot Fire Protection, Inc., Washington
4. **Michael Newell**, NFSA Professional Member, Texas
5. **Caleb Demree**, Oliver Fire Protection & Security, Pennsylvania
6. **Daniel LeFave**, SRI Fire Sprinkler LLC, New York
7. **Jimmy Twining**, Patriot Fire Protection, Inc., Washington
8. **Joseph Plattner**, Patriot Fire Protection, Inc., Washington
9. **Tom Olita**, Oliver Fire Protection & Security, Pennsylvania
10. **Michael LaBanca**, Ryan Fireprotection, Inc., Indiana
11. **Kyle Fisher**, Ryan Fireprotection, Inc., Indiana
12. **James Raudonis**, Ryan Fireprotection, Inc., Indiana
13. **Mike Morey**, Shambaugh & Son, Indiana
14. **Brent Garvey**, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc., Florida
15. **Ryan Steiner**, Rioux Fire Protection Ltd. Alberta, Canada
16. **Justin Feters**, Ryan Fireprotection, Inc., Indiana
17. **Michael Russell**, RCI Fire Systems, Arizona
18. **Sean Van Gaal**, NFSA Professional Member, Arizona

*continued on page 16*

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Semi-finalist, Caleb Demree, of Oliver Fire Protection & Security, Pennsylvania



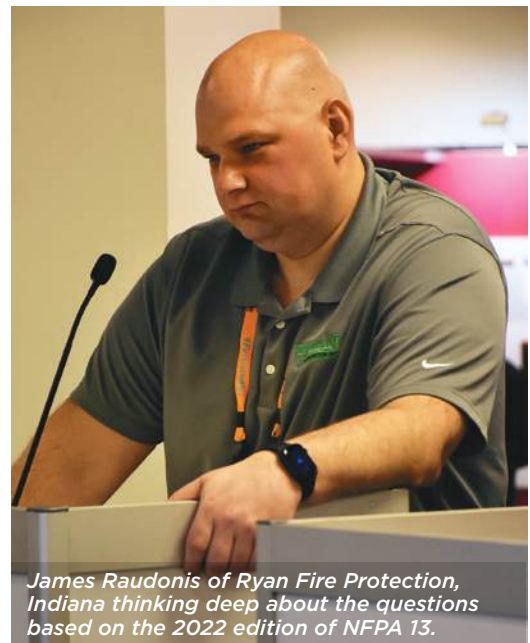
Semi-finalist, Daniel LeFave, of SRI Fire Sprinkler LLC, New York



Semi-finalist, Mark Metzger, of Patriot Fire Protection, Inc., Washington



Semi-finalist, Michael Newell, a NFSA Professional Member, Texas



James Raudonis of Ryan Fire Protection, Indiana thinking deep about the questions based on the 2022 edition of NFPA 13.



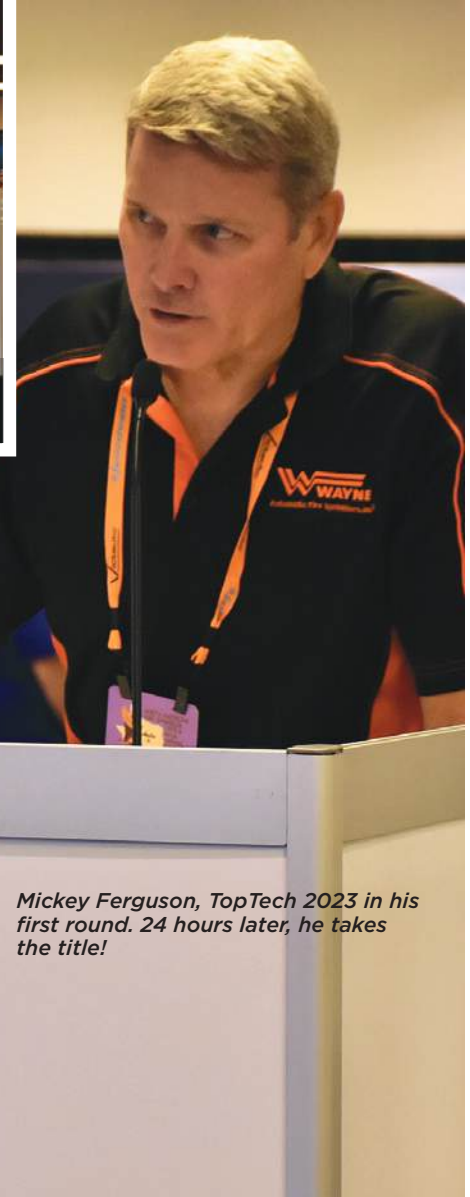
TopTech 2023 Runner-up Eric Ginder of Hill Fire Protection, Illinois getting some words of encouragement from NFSA Chief Engineer Mike Joanis



Tom Olita, of Oliver Fire Protection & Security, Pennsylvania having fun with TopTech 2023



Top Tech Final Round Ferguson: Final Round of TopTech 2023 with (on left) Eric Ginder of Hill Fire Protection, Illinois versus Mickey Ferguson, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc., Florida



Mickey Ferguson, TopTech 2023 in his first round. 24 hours later, he takes the title!



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The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

2023  
Date 05/05/2023

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Two-thousand and No/100 Dollars

Memo 2023 Top Tech Champion Shane Kay

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**MICKEY FERGUSON**



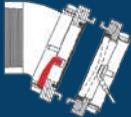
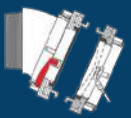
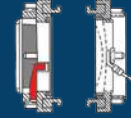
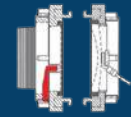
NFA's TopTech 2023 Mickey Ferguson of Wayne Automatic Sprinklers with (on right) NFA Vice President Jeffrey Hugo and (on left) NFA Chief Engineer Mike Joanis





NFAA's TopTech 2023 Mickey Ferguson of Wayne Automatic Sprinklers with (on right) NFAA President Shane Ray and (on left) NFAA Vice President Jeffrey Hugo

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F.D.C. Quick Connections	Description	Stand Pipe	Wall Mount
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	30° Elbow, NPT Male Rigid x Storz: Threads into NPT Female Pipe Thread	✓	✓
	Straight, NPT Female Rigid x Storz: Threads onto NPT Male Pipe Thread	✓	✓
	Straight, NPT Male x Storz: Threads into NPT Female Pipe Thread	✓	✓

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by Vickie Pritchett,  
Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach

## 2023 is Our Year!

*Thank you, Austin, Texas...* for a week filled with learning, energy, networking, and *family!* If you missed our *2023 North American Fire Sprinkler Expo and Annual Seminar*, you missed a week of renewal and more. Y'all, it's been four long years since we've gathered in person! 2019 in Nashville was an amazing time, then 2020 and 2021 were interrupted by the pandemic and our destinations of Arizona and Las Vegas were cancelled. 2022 saw a hurricane interrupt our Business & Leadership conference scheduled for Clearwater Beach, Florida.

But 2023 is proving to be our year! From Fire Stop Tours on the East Coast and West Coast with U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, we are feeling the momentum of a true, united *one fire service voice!* Fire sprinklers are included in this initiative, and it is so exciting to be a part of this significant movement! A great way to better understand how it's all fitting together is to check out our official kick-off of Home Fire Sprinkler Week! You can view the event that was broadcast LIVE nationally on May 15th here: <https://bit.ly/Sprink2023>.

I don't know of a better way to give you a snapshot of how codes, standards, and yes, fire sprinklers are plugging into this national strategy. It's an exciting time to be involved, and we are so grateful for all our Board, Council, and Committee members who support NFSA staff as we work hard to make sure we are included in these national opportunities.

But, back to Austin. What an amazing week we shared May 2-5, 2023! First and foremost, I would like to thank all members of Team NFSA, this event takes all of us pulling in the same direction, and giving our all. You all hit it out of the park this year!

To the 2020, 2021 and 2023 NFSA award recipients, we congratulate you! What fun it was to weave these awards throughout our week.

### GOLDEN SPRINKLER AWARD:

Larry Thau (2020), Ray Fremont, Sr. (2021), Bruce LaRue (2023)

### RUSSELL P. FLEMING TECHNICAL SERVICE AWARD:

Pete Schwab (2020), Jeff Shapiro (2021), Top Myers (2023)

### 2020 LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD:

Jim Ford (2020), Kevin Reinertson (2021), Brian Geraci (2023)

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:

(2020) Kevin Ortyl, Norm MacDonald, Top Myers, Harold Nothhaft  
(2021) Dick Oliver, Tom Deegan, Tom Multer  
(2023) Buddy Dewar, Ray Fremont, Sr., George J. McHugh

Many of our award recipients have been a part of my fire & life safety journey and I would like to acknowledge them with a few personal comments. Larry Thau (*our 2020 Golden Sprinkler Award recipient*) I thank you for your calm leadership, your vision, and the way you challenged us all to reach higher as an association during your tenure as Chair of the Board. To the Fremont family, your dad, Ray Fremont, Sr., holds a special place in my heart. He always supported ideas that were akin to coloring outside the lines, and his steadfast support of advocacy and big heart made a difference to a long list of many in our fire sprinkler industry. And, lastly, to our 2023 Golden Sprinkler Award recipient Bruce LaRue, I want to offer a sincere thank you. Thank you for giving, thank you for serving, thank you for pushing us to reach for the next level. All these gentlemen highlight the aspects of the fire sprinkler industry that I am most in awe of and proudest of too! We are family! We are servant leaders! We have each other's backs, and we know that working together there is nothing we cannot do!

I hope that many of you are already planning to join us in Maui in 2024, we are so looking forward to weaving a little *"aloha"* into our lives. I think we deserve it after the three years of cancelled conferences. We are so happy to be back in person! I'll close by saying thank you to all that joined us in Austin, it is you that make these events so special. It is our relationships that add to all our lives, and it is the combination of all of that that keeps the fire sprinkler industry moving forward.

*Stay Safe, Until Next Time,*

*Vickie*



*These two guys are legends! Chief Ron Siarnicki and Chief Dennis Compton. Chief Siarnicki delivered the keynote address and is retiring at the end of the year, Chief Compton is retired as NFFF Chairman of the Board and former Mesa Fire Chief.*



# 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](mailto:genadio@nfsa.org). Please include photos if available!*



## Alaska



### Hotel Disaster Averted by Fire Sprinkler System

*Thanks to Kraig Bryan, Captain at Fairbanks Fire Department in Alaska for sharing this sprinkler save with us. The photo really illustrates how fire sprinklers limit damage to the area of origin!*

Guests on the fifth floor at the Fairbanks Westmark Hotel were recharging their heated gloves when a “catastrophic failure” of the glove’s lithium-ion battery started a fire at approximately 2:00am. The resulting fire activated the hotel’s alarm system, and guests began to evacuate. When firefighters arrived on the fifth floor, they found that the fire had been suppressed by the building’s sprinkler system. After confirming the fire was extinguished, fire crews worked to ventilate the building.

During the investigation, the fire department found that the lithium-ion battery was left plugged in while the occupants were gone from the room. The failure of the battery resulted in a nearby mattress catching fire and spreading the flames up the wall. The occupants were gone at the time of the reported fire alarm. Guests, staff and firefighters safe!

## Illinois



### Fire at High School

*Thanks to NFSA Member Ellie Boyer of Boyer Fire Protection for sending us the sprinkler save!*

On May 24th, NFSA member Boyer Fire Protection responded to an emergency call at East St. Louis High School. The fire started on the exterior side of the building around 10:45 pm last night. Flames broke through glass and entered the classroom. The fire sprinklers kept the fire from entering the school and contained it to the outside wall. It took approximately 20 minutes for the fire department to put out the fire on the exterior of the building. Graduation ceremonies were able to go on as schedule that same night!

### Fire Sprinkler System Extinguishes Fire in High-Rise Apartment Building

*Thanks to Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board's Erik Hoffer for providing more information on a high-rise apartment sprinkler save that was barely reported by media!*

**You can fix wet.**

**You can't fix burnt.**

**FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES**

continued from page 20

On March 20th, the fire sprinkler system extinguished a bedroom fire on the 10th floor of the Faust Landmark residential high-rise in Rockford, IL. This comes a few weeks after the sprinkler system extinguished a rubbish fire on the fourth floor, and four months after another sprinkler save on the eighth floor. The building is registered as an historic landmark and was built in 1929 as a hotel.

**Fire Sprinkler System Contains Warehouse Fire**

*Thanks to Skokie, IL Deputy Fire Chief Nick Eschner for sending us this sprinkler save.*

On April 12th, exterior roofing work caused a fire in the bowstring truss area of a 116,700 sq ft warehouse. The fire was not identified inside the structure until the sprinkler system/fire alarm system activated, which notified occupants of the fire.

Although the fire burnt through the roof, the sprinkler system functioned as designed and kept the fire in check and to the area of origin until firefighters arrived and extinguished remaining hotspots. The fire sprinkler system provided early notification and potentially prevented a significant fire loss.

The fire sprinkler system in the building performed as was designed and did an excellent job in protecting lives and preserving property in a very large warehouse with an extremely dangerous bowstring truss roof. Due to the sprinkler system and efforts of the Skokie Fire Department, the business was able to remain open with minimum damage or loss of property. Without a fire sprinkler system, the fire would have likely spread rapidly throughout the bowstring truss roof, causing significant damage to the building and extremely hazardous conditions for the occupants and fire department personnel.

**Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Fire in Townhouse Garage**

*Thanks to Lake Zurich, IL Fire Rescue Dept. Fire Prevention Specialist Bob Kleinheinz for sending in this sprinkler save!*

Last Friday, a single fire sprinkler extinguished a garbage can fire in a two-car garage of a Deer Park, IL townhouse. The residents were notified by the audio/visual alarm device and escaped unharmed.



Due to limited damage, they were able to stay in the home that day. No other units in the attached townhouse were affected. According to Bob Kleinheinz, the fire sprinkler activation "demonstrates the power of a single sprinkler as it threw the [water] pattern almost 20 feet to the origin area."

**Maryland**

**Fire Sprinkler System Saves Apartment Building & Residents-not reported by media**

*Thanks to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office for issuing the following information and accompanying photo in a recent press release. Unfortunately, as far as we can tell, this great save was not picked up by any local media. Good news is no news?*

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION**

Date:	April 22, 2023
Time:	1:16 am
Type of Incident:	Structure Fire
Description of Structure / Property:	3 Story, Apartment Building
Injuries or Deaths:	None
Estimated \$ Loss:	Structure: \$0 / Contents: \$250.00
Smoke Alarm Status:	Present, Activated
Fire Alarm / Sprinkler Status:	Present, Activated
Arrests(s):	None
Primary Responding Fire Department:	Salisbury Fire Department
# of Alarms:	1
# Of Firefighters:	10
Time to Control:	20 Minutes
Discovered by:	Occupants
Area of Origin:	Exterior Balcony
Preliminary Cause:	Accidental, Juvenile Fire Play

**Minnesota**



**Sprinkler System Contains Fire in Dust Collector**

*Thanks to Fire Marshal Terry Johnson, of Minnesota's South Metro Fire Dept., for sending us this sprinkler save.*

On April 21st at 10:49, crews were dispatched on a water flow alarm at a commercial building. Upon arrival, crews found cold smoke venting from the building. Crews entered and found a

*continued on page 22*

## Fire Sprinklers in Action

continued from page 21

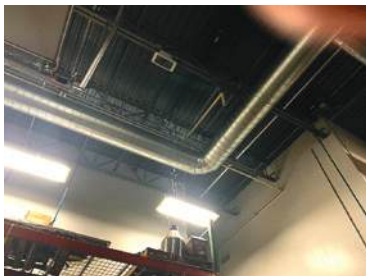
working fire in a dust collector. The fire sprinkler system had activated and kept the fire in check. Employees had discharged multiple extinguishers. Crews stretched a handline for final extinguishment and overhaul. The business owner stated no dollar loss to the property, but he would be replacing the dust collector, which he estimated at \$20k.

## Arson Fire in High-Rise Apartment Building Contained by Fire Sprinkler System

*Thanks go to Brooklyn Park, MN Deputy Fire Marshal Daniel Krier for sending us this sprinkler save.*

On April 8th, Brooklyn Park firefighters were called out for a fire involving titanium shavings. Upon arrival, crews found the fire was controlled by the sprinkler system and only needed to extinguish minimal fire and hot spots.

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION  
Value of Building: \$5,723,100  
Value Saved: \$5,723,100



## Sprinkler Save at Assisted Living Facility



*Thanks to Local 417 Sprinkler Fitters Business Agent Craig Bistodeau for sending in this sprinkler save!*

On April 10th, at approximately 9:00pm, a kitchen fire in a Minneapolis assisted living facility was extinguished by a single fire sprinkler. The complex is made up of a building that is three, four and five stories. The building was in the process of being retrofitted. The first floor was pressure locked when a fire occurred in a unit on the first floor activating the sprinkler extinguishing the fire. The lone occupant was rescued by Minneapolis Fire and was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

This facility is owned by the Minneapolis Public Housing Agency (MPHA) and provides residents with comprehensive home health services. MPHA also owned the high-rise building where five people died in the November 2019 fire. They are in the process of retrofitting sprinklers into several of their buildings.

## New York

### Sprinkler Save at Bowling Center and Great Quote by Fire Chief!

*Thanks to NFSA Member Inspect Point Sales Engineer Jeff Pirro for sending in this sprinkler save!*

On the morning of March 30th, Defreestville, NY Fire Department (DFD) firefighters, along with mutual aid partners, responded to a reported structure fire at an apartment complex. Crews arrived to find smoke showing from the front door of the property's club

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**Crews cooperate to re-pack the main engine after the sprinkler save.** (Photo credit: Keith A. Bradt)

house. Crews stretched a handline, entered the building, and found several lithium-ion batteries had caught fire in a storage closet. Thankfully, the building's fire sprinkler system successfully confined the fire to the room of origin. Companies remained on scene for two hours assisting the Rensselaer County hazmat team in securing the damaged batteries.

DFD 2nd Assistant Chief Dan Sheehan, incident commander, said "This fire demonstrates the importance of building owners keeping their sprinkler systems inspected and compliant. We encourage all building owners to have their systems regularly inspected, to reduce danger to firefighters and occupants' safety, as well as property damage."

### Oregon

#### Single Fire Sprinkler Extinguishes Condominium Fire

*Thanks to Lake Oswego, OR Fire Marshal Gert Zoutendijk for sending us this sprinkler save!*

On March 11, 2023, around 7:45pm, firefighters responded on a report of an apartment fire. The location is only three blocks away from the main fire station. When firefighters arrived, the fire was extinguished by the residential fire sprinkler system.

The unit was located on the top (4th) floor of a condominium complex and occupied by two elderly adults. Firefighters entered the unit and had to escort the two out of the building that was filled with smoke. The cooking fire was extinguished by one single head in the kitchen.

In the opinion of Fire Marshal Zoutendijk, "These two residents most likely would have had some kind of injury or worse, had it not been for the presence of the sprinklers."

### Washington

#### Fire Sprinkler System Extinguishes Fire at Car Dealership

*Thanks to Clackamas Fire District #1's PIO Izak Hamilton for letting us know about this sprinkler save!*

In April, the staff working into the evening at a Gladstone, Oregon Chevrolet dealership smelled smoke but could not locate the source. Eventually, the sprinkler water flow alarm triggered a 9-1-1 dispatch to Clackamas Fire District #1.



The car dealership staff eventually figured out the smoke was coming from an empty office. When fire crews arrived, they saw that a small fire had been extinguished by the fire sprinkler system. They shut off the water and provided fans to clear out the smoke and dry things off. The dealership continued to operate.

The fire was caused by a "jump box," a small portable battery/air compressor device used to help start the cars that the dealership had recently purchased. The device overheated, causing the fire. Luckily, the dealership had a well-maintained fire sprinkler system that helped avert major damage and business interruption.

### Wisconsin

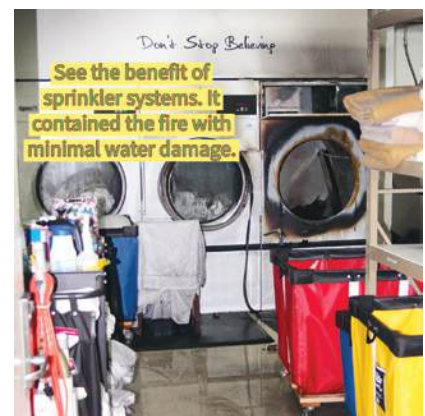
#### Fire Sprinkler System Contains Hotel Fire

*Thanks to Grand Chute, WI Fire Marshal Kelly Hanink and West Bend, WI Captain of Fire Prevention Kenny Asselin for sending in this sprinkler save that was also posted on the Grand Chute Fire Dept.'s Facebook page.*

On Saturday, March 25th the Grand Chute Fire Department (GCFD) was dispatched to a Hampton Inn for the report of a structure fire. 911 Dispatchers provided information stating that an employee found a fire located in the hotel's main laundry room.

First arriving GCFD personnel found a fire in the first-floor laundry room, which was being controlled by the building's automatic sprinkler system. Fire crews worked to locate and extinguish the remaining pockets of fire.

No civilian or responder injuries were reported, and fire investigators are continuing the investigation into the cause of the fire. •





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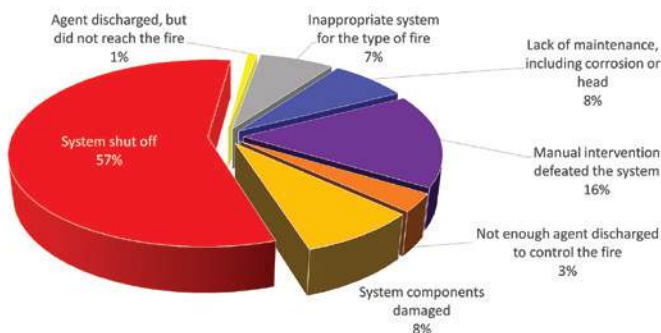
# Fires in Sprinklered Buildings

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



Just because buildings are sprinklered doesn't mean things can't go wrong. Occasionally the news will report a story regarding a sprinkler system that "failed" during a structure fire. Unfortunately, most times they don't report the important backstory. This article will hopefully shed some light on why, although not often, sprinklered buildings sometimes burn.

According to the 2021 US Fire Experience report posted by NFPA Research, sprinklers are effective at controlling fires 96% of the time in which the sprinklers operate, see the following link for the full report. That is a pretty good percentage, but why are they not effective the remaining 4%? The simple answer is human error. Looking at the pie chart, the number one reason for sprinkler system failure is a closed control valve and this contributes to 75% of sprinkler system failures. 57% of the time the control valve was already closed, and 18% of the time the control valve was closed after the fire had started, either by maintenance personnel or the fire department. In accordance with NFPA 25, control valves are to be inspected weekly if supervised with a seal (zip tie), monthly if supervised with a chain and lock, or quarterly if electrically supervised. This is just one of the several reasons for sprinkler system failure and quite possibly the easiest inspection to complete of all inspection requirements.



NFPA US Experience with Sprinklers: <https://bit.ly/SprinkEXP>

The remaining reasons for system failures are:

- (1) Inappropriate system for the fire- 6%
- (2) Lack of maintenance- 10%
- (3) System components damaged- 9%

The report also provides percentages and reasons for why fire

sprinkler systems are ineffective.

Let us discuss some these reasons and how they relate to *NFPA 25, The Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*. 50% of the time, water did not reach the fire. Clearly it is difficult for a sprinkler system to perform properly if water is not reaching the fire. There could be several reasons for this, such as internal obstructions, closed control valves, or external obstructions. Two of these items are addressed by NFPA 25, as stated above, control valves require more frequent inspections and internal obstructions are addressed in Chapter 14 of the standard. Most know that an internal assessment is required every five years, but what most do not know is that an obstruction investigation is based on sixteen triggers that are found in Section 14.3.1 and not only when stuff is found in the pipe during the five-year internal. These triggers include but are not limited to clogged inspector's test valves, an increase in water delivery time for dry pipe systems, leaks caused by corrosion, material discharged during routing testing, and false tripping of dry pipe systems just to name a few.

The one item of the three not addressed by NFPA 25 is obstructions. Yes, there is one obstruction rule that applies to NFPA 25, but that is only for storage directly below the sprinkler deflector. Any side obstructions are outside the scope of the standard and cannot be cited in an inspection report.

Other reasons for system ineffectiveness are damaged system components, inappropriate system for the fire, and not enough water discharged. Other than system components being damaged, the inspection contractor cannot cite the remaining items. As noted above, there could be many reasons for not enough water being discharged that could include things such as internal and external obstructions or water supply issues. The inappropriate system for the fire is not something most inspection contractors will identify nor are they required to, this falls on the responsibility of the building owner. Section 4.1.1 of NFPA 25 states that the building owner is responsible for properly maintaining the fire protection systems in their building. This includes ensuring all the proper Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) in accordance with NFPA 25 is completed, as well as ensuring that when modifications are made to the building in any way the system is evaluated to verify that it will still protect the contents within the building.

Like all NFPA standards, NFPA 25 is a minimum standard. The way to ensure a reasonable degree of protection is to conduct

*continued on page 26*

continued from page 25

all the ITM tasks required by this standard. This is where it can get complicated, as most building owners are not truly aware of what their role is when it comes to maintaining their systems properly. Also, it is sometimes unclear what the requirements are. As an example, most Authority Having Jurisdictions (AHJs) only ask the building owner to see their annual inspection, so the owner assumes they only need annual inspections. This happens most of the time because the AHJ usually works out of NFPA 1, *The Fire Code* or *The International Fire Code* (IFC), which states that the water-based fire sprinkler systems must be maintained in accordance with NFPA 25. These codes do not provide the details contained in NFPA 25. Depending on the jurisdiction and type of building, the AHJ may only visit a building once a year or every few years, and this assumes in most cases that the “annual” inspection is the most comprehensive inspection, so this is why they ask the building owner for their annual again, in turn the owner assumes this is all that is required. This could lead to damaged components and closed control valves among other system deficiencies that could lead to impairments not being identified. A quick reference guide is found in the beginning of every chapter of NFPA 25, based on the system in question is the 1.1.2 table as we call it. These tables can be very useful to building owners and AHJs to verify the frequency of an ITM task. Below is an example of Table 13.1.1.2 from NFPA 25.

Table 13.1.1.2

Inspection	
<b>Alarm Valves</b>	
Exterior	Quarterly
Interior	5 years
Strainer, filters, orifices	5 years
<b>Backflow prevention assemblies</b>	
Reduced pressure	Weekly
Reduced-pressure detectors	Weekly
Interior	5 years
<b>Check valves</b>	
Interior	5 years
<b>Control valves</b>	
All valves except locked or supervised	Weekly
Locked or supervised	Monthly
Electrically supervised	Quarterly

When the building owner makes any modifications, such as use, occupancy, water supplies, process, material, or any change in the building, they are required to complete a hazard evaluation in accordance with Section 4.1.7 of NFPA 25. In most states a building permit is required to make these changes, but this does not always happen, and the hazard evaluation is not completed. Many AHJs look to the inspection contractor for this information, but in these situations, the inspection contractor may not know any changes were made. Even if they did, they still cannot cite them on a report. Just for information, the inspection contractor cannot cite any material in Section 4.1 or the annex of NFPA 25. Occasionally the contractor may make a note or recommendation, but nothing officially can be cited in accordance with NFPA 25.

**SPRINKLER SYSTEM — GENERAL INFORMATION**  
for \_\_\_\_\_

---

Pipe schedule system <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No High-piled storage <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Rack storage: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Commodity class: _____ Max. storage height       _____ ft m Aisle width (min.)         _____ ft m Encapsulation <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Solid shelving: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Flammable/combustible liquids: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Other storage: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date: _____ <b>Flow test data:</b> Static: _____ psi bar Resid: _____ psi bar Flow: _____ gpm lpm Pitot: _____ psi bar Date: _____ Location: _____ Location of aux/low point drains: _____ _____ _____ Hazardous materials: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Idle pallets: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Antifreeze systems <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Location: _____ Dry or aux systems <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Location: _____ Dry pipe/double interlock preaction valve test results Original main drain test results: Static: _____ psi bar Residual: _____ psi bar Venting valve location: _____ Where injection systems are used to treat MIC or corrosion: Type of chemical: _____ Concentration: _____ For proper disposal, see: _____ Name of contractor or designer: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

A simple change from using wood pallets to using plastic pallets for storage could have a great impact on the ability of the fire protection system to be effective.

In the end, it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that all ITM requirements are being met and that the systems are compliant with NFPA 25 and/or the local/state codes. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders and contractors to ensure that the fire protection systems are installed, inspected, tested, and maintained properly to ensure to a reasonable degree that the system will be effective at controlling a fire should it ever be needed.

*Advocating to protect lives and property through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.* •



# NORTH AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER EXPO & NFSA ANNUAL SEMINAR

## Austin



# WELCOME

NFSA 2023 | AUSTIN, TX



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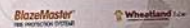


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*"It was wonderful to meet with our customers and business partners after a three-year absence from the expo. I must emphasize the NFSA staff's attention to detail; the entire NFSA crew deserves tremendous KUDOS!"*

**- Zeke Bochenek, Metraflex**



*“The 2023 NFSA expo in Austin was a big success and a great reminder of the important role that fire sprinklers play in protecting lives and property. It was inspiring to see the latest technology and innovations in fire sprinkler systems, and to connect with professionals who are dedicated to ensuring safety in our communities. The entire event was well organized and executed and the venue did not disappoint.”*

**–Blake Tyler, Potter Electric**



*“This year’s NFSA Event was great for us as exhibitors. A steady flow of contractors all three days. I appreciate that lunch was served in the Expo Hall which really helped drive more traffic to our booths.”*

**–Russ Bryant, ARGCO**





*"I love the Expo set up"*  
 – Bob Knose,  
 Ferguson Fire



*"I appreciate NFSA for a great opportunity like this. It was a wonderful experience meeting great people, learning from them, and acquiring expertise information from our industry professionals. I look forward to next year."*



– Christy Caldwell,  
 Southern Fire Protection of Orlando



*“Well Done! If you are a part of the fire sprinkler industry and did not attend the NFSA conference in Austin, TX, then you missed an opportunity to be informed, enlightened, educated, and to socialize with people who make this industry great! It really reminds you that as an industry, we save lives!”*

*– Judd Mickler, VP of Construction, Advanced Fire Protection Services, Inc.*





“While it was a long time coming, four years to be exact, the 2023 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition was well worth the wait. It seemed everyone in attendance were genuinely delighted to be able to get together again in person to share ideas and to see the many new products being introduced. As a Platinum sponsor of this year’s conference and exhibition, the Winsupply family of fire companies was very pleased with traffic throughout the exhibition hall on all three days. The Top Tech competition, conducted in a “Jeopardy” style game show format, held right on the show floor, boosted traffic and raised the energy level throughout the show. An unexpected highlight for Winsupply during the exhibition, was the presentation of a 10-year membership anniversary plaque by NFSA President Shane Ray. With next year’s Annual Seminar and Leadership conference being held in Maui and the next exhibition being held in Nashville the following year, the Winsupply team can’t wait to see what NFSA has on tap for each event. **Aloha y’all!!**”



– David J. Vandeyar, Senior Account Representative, Newburgh Windustrial





“Viking Group, Inc. was thrilled to be back as a top sponsor at the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) Expo & Seminar. The week was filled with valuable experiences including social gatherings, educational sessions, and golfing in the Common Voices tournament.

During the expo, Viking showcased their latest products and solutions, including a new state-of-the-art gasketed weldolet. Viking team members also participated in several educational sessions during the event, sharing their expertise and insights on a range of topics related to fire protection. Viking was also proud to celebrate the induction into the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame of two former executives: Kevin Ortyl and Tom Deegan.

The 2023 NFSA Expo & Seminar exceeded expectations and served as a valuable opportunity for Viking Group, Inc. to connect with other professionals in the fire protection industry and showcase the latest innovations from Viking. The event provided attendees with a wealth of information and resources that will help them better protect people and property from the dangers of fire.” – **Nancy Houghton, Sr. Director Marketing & Communications, Viking Group**





*“Great show as always NFSA! Lots of energy, great learning sessions and informative general sessions as well.”*

*– Jim Lake, VP-Training Viking Corporation*





*“Gene Marks covered the current economic conditions and strategies to address future pinch points pertaining to small to medium-sized businesses that the fabric of this country is made of in such a fun and easy-to-understand way. Everyone attending his presentation walked away with a substantially better understanding of where we are and what lies ahead of us.”*

**–Zarko Ognjenovic, Milton J. Wood**



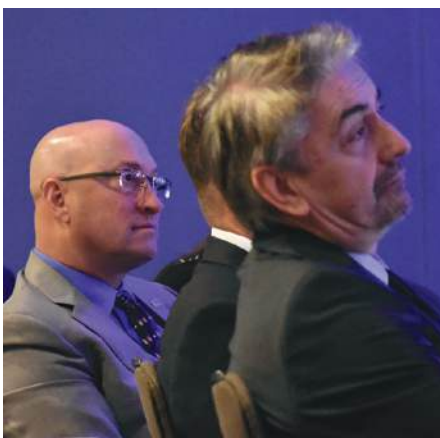




**So good to be back!**

*...with all our NFSA friends and colleagues IN PERSON.  
...with Tom Multer for his induction into the Hall of Fame.  
...four days of learning, sharing, and collaborating.  
...sights, sounds, and tastes of Austin.  
Thanks to team NFSA for this joyous reunion!*

*—John Corcoran, Marketing Director  
The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co*





# WORKSHOPS



# INSTALLER

## Wrenchable Cap

Intermediate  
Temperature

212°

165°

Ordinary  
Temperature

Cap color  
indicates  
temperature

## When you Expect the Unexpected

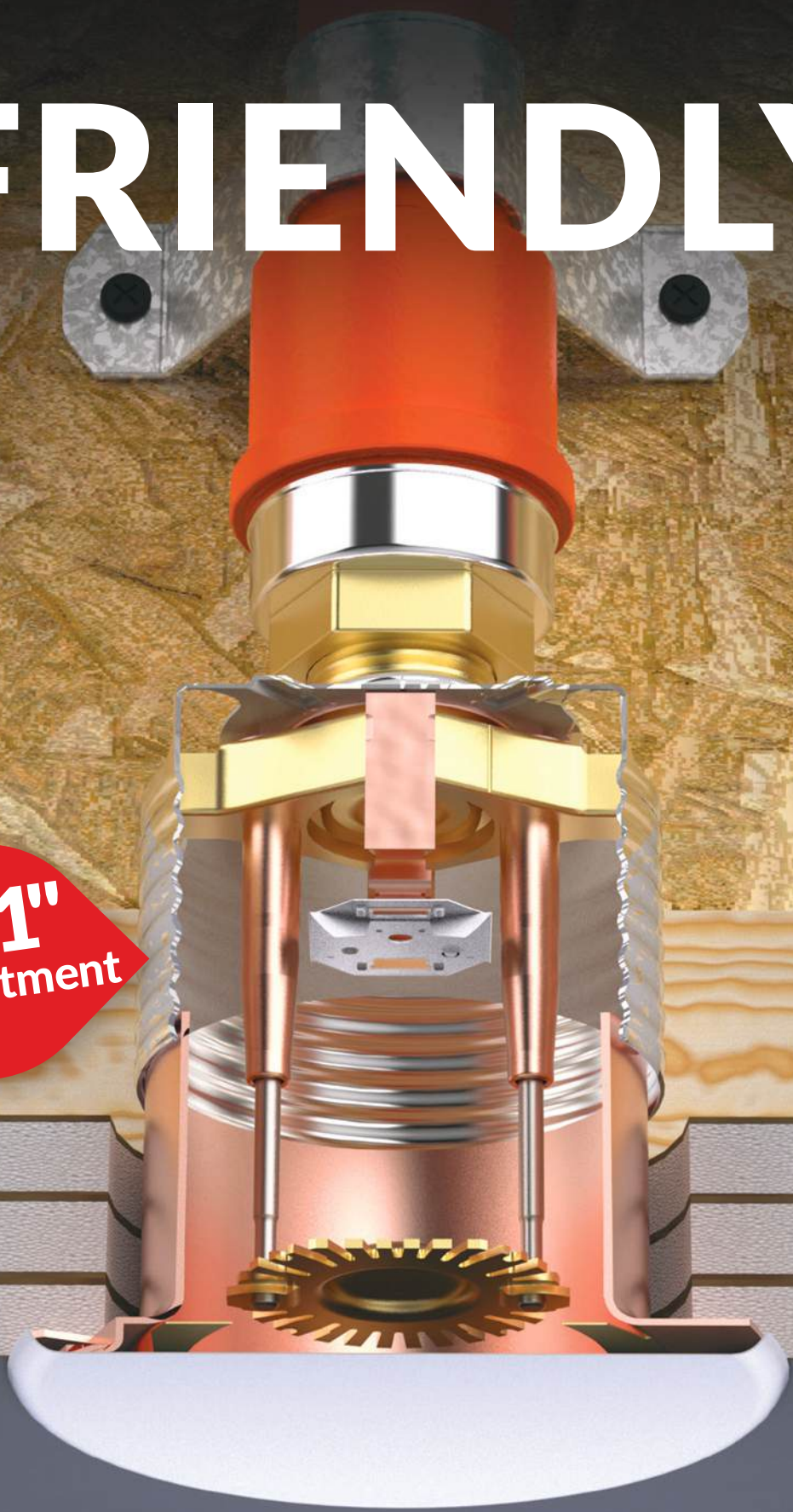
Now you can master the unexpected for whatever jobsite surprises might come your way. Introducing the Reliable® RFC49**plus** Residential Flat Plate Concealed sprinkler.

Great Reliable flows, now with a *full 1" vertical cover plate adjustment.*

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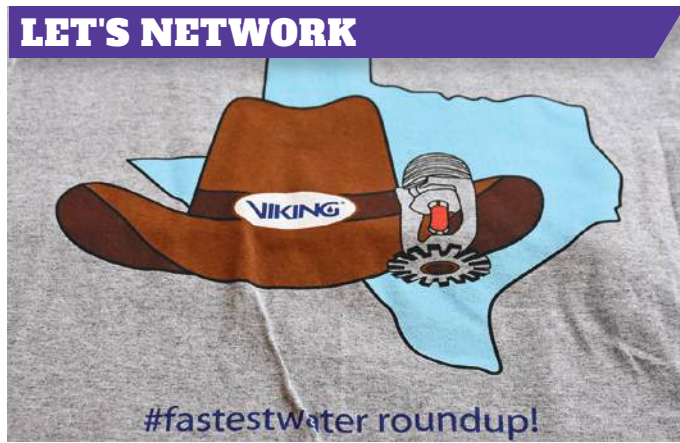




*"It's great to gather with our extended sprinkler family to learn, connect, and have fun!"*

*—Mark Metzger  
Senior Project  
Manager, Patriot Fire  
Protection*







*“So glad I got to go and be a part of everything. I think it was a great event! Everyone said it was one of the best they’ve been to. Y’all did a great job.”*

*– NFSA Texas Chapter Board Member  
Danna Wells, Viking*





*“Thank you! We had a great time. Learned a lot that is for sure. It was a great week.”*

*–Ken Fish, Patriot Fire Protection*





**GOLF OUTING**



***“Thank you! Great job in Austin!”***  
***– Randy Voorhies, Nelson Fire Protection***



## TOP TECH COMPETITION

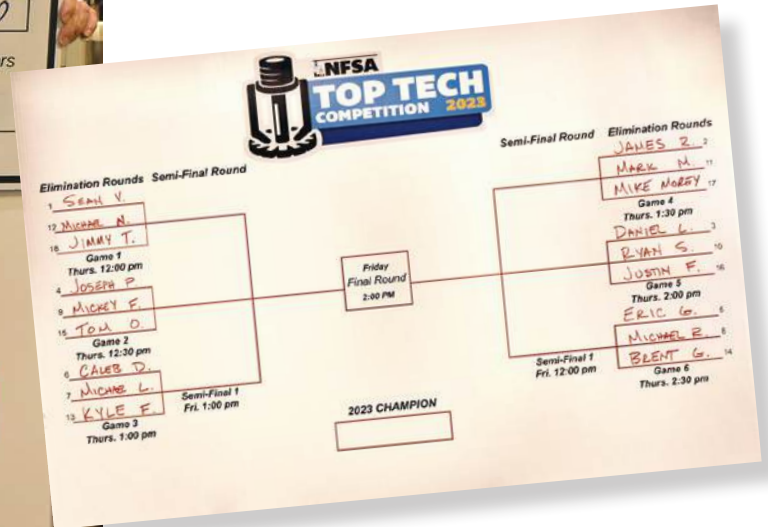


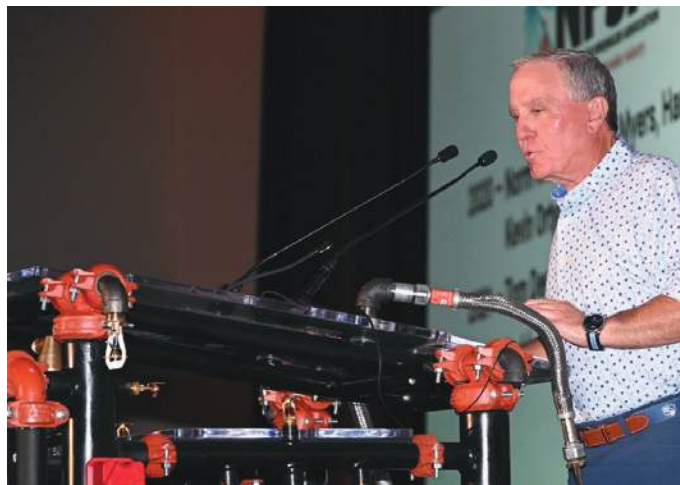
*TopTech “Another terrific NAFSE!! Thank you to NFSA and all the presenters for keeping our community connected and informed. It can be daunting to try and keep up with all innovation and emerging technologies in our industry. Industry leaders like Zarko Ognjenovic, Michael Greiner, as well as the manufacturers, provided valuable information and lessons regarding the ever-changing fire protection landscape. The more we share and learn from one another, the better we will be. A huge shout out to all the TopTech contestants! If you made it to Austin, you are the best of the best!! I hope you see you all again in a couple of years.”*

**– Brent Garvey, Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.**



















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# What's Cooking?

*In many homes, the answer may be FIRE!*



Did you know cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Never leave your cooking unattended.

Remember, home fire sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a cooking fire in seconds, saving lives and property! Find out more at [www.firesprinklersbuylife.com](http://www.firesprinklersbuylife.com).



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**#fastestwater**

*Fire is fast. Fire sprinklers are faster.*



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# 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/>

 CommonVoices1

 CommonVoices1

**fireadvocates.org**  
*Fire Sprinklers Save Lives*



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



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

# CPVC Chemical Compatibility, Antifreeze Among Key Topics at NFSA Seminar & Expo

by Lainey Liotta, *Senior Marketing Manager, Lubrizol Advanced Materials*

It was great to see everyone at NAFSE. This was NFSA's first in-person conference since 2019, and I enjoyed renewing contact with so many fire safety professionals who make our industry so enjoyable. As Chair of NFSA's Future Leadership Committee, I am especially excited about the turnout we had at our mixer where we officially launched our Legends and Leaders series. It was great to see a packed room of people spanning across generations networking and learning from each other.

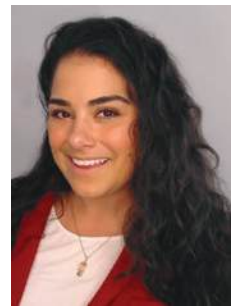
Lubrizol was privileged to participate in two educational seminars this year. During our CPVC Compatibility workshop, Michelle Knight, a Lubrizol chemist with deep expertise on the subject, reviewed the science behind CPVC and how it differs from other polymeric materials. She also touched on the types of chemicals used in construction products that can have an adverse effect on CPVC, such as some plasticizers, lubricating oils, and synthetic detergents.

We also reviewed the resources available to the construction industry to ensure successful projects and inform trades and building owners about properly working with or around CPVC piping systems. We discussed best practices that include:

- Check the CPVC manufacturer's website for compatibility information.
- Educate the general contractor so all tradespeople are informed.
- Post multiple notices, available for download on all CPVC manufacturers' websites, around the jobsite in high-visibility areas.
- Provide the building owner with a turnover letter, available for download on all CPVC manufacturers' websites, outlining CPVC compatibility and how to properly care for their system.

We provided a demonstration of how to use Lubrizol's FBC™ System Compatible Program website and app. The FBC System Compatible Program is the oldest and most comprehensive program in the industry and applies only to Lubrizol brands of CPVC, which in the fire sprinkler industry are Tyco, Viking, and IPEX BlazeMaster pipe and fittings. Most people are aware that the program includes a list of products compatible with BlazeMaster CPVC, but less are aware of the other helpful resources like a list

of products known to be incompatible with BlazeMaster. Another particularly insightful tool is the Other Compatibility Topics section, with guidance on determining compatibility of construction materials such as cable, leak detectors, mold inhibitors, spray foams, and more.



## Panel Discussion Highlights Antifreeze Best Practices

I participated in an insightful panel discussion on the use of antifreeze in fire protection systems along with Manny Silva from Johnson Controls, George Rudolph from Noble Company, and Jeff Hebenstreit from UL Solutions. We covered listing to the UL 2901 standard, compared requirements in different editions of NFPA 13 and 25, as well as best practices for installing, testing, and maintaining antifreeze systems.

In fielding questions from the audience, it became clear that there is a lot of gray area around antifreeze requirements, especially in the retrofit and replacement market. That is understandable given that listed antifreezes are relatively new in the market. The entire panel agreed that, as with any new product segment, listings and standards will continue to evolve. It will be important to continue to share feedback to NFSA and antifreeze manufacturers so that together as an industry we can work to provide solutions.

Thank you to NFSA for hosting this important event, and we look forward to meeting again in Hawaii next May!•

*Lainey Liotta is Senior Market Manager for Fire Protection at Lubrizol Advanced Materials, which includes BlazeMaster® Fire Protection Systems and UL listed freezemaster™ antifreeze for fire sprinkler systems. She is Vice Chair of SAM Council and Chair of the Future Leadership Committee and sits on various other committees. She can be reached at [blazemaster@lubrizol.com](mailto:blazemaster@lubrizol.com).*



**< Knight reviews chemical products**

Lubrizol Chemist Michelle Knight reviews the types of chemicals used in construction products and how they can affect CPVC piping systems.

**Antifreeze in fire > sprinkler systems**

A panel consisting of Johnson Controls' Many Silva, Noble Company's George Rudolph, Lubrizol's Lainey Liotta and UL Solutions' Jeff Hebenstreit discussed best practices for installing, testing, and maintaining listed antifreeze solutions in the field.



**< FBC program resources**

Lubrizol Senior Market Manager Lainey Liotta shares resources associated with Lubrizol's FBC™ System Compatible Program



## Creative Ways to Use Social Media to Promote Your Business

Even though it has taken awhile (especially in the Fire Sprinkler Industry!), I think we can all agree that in today's digital age, social media has become a powerful tool for businesses to connect with their audience and promote their products or services. With millions of users engaging on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, it's essential to utilize social media effectively to stand out from the competition. I am constantly reading about new trends and attempting to apply them to NFSA's social media accounts. I thought I'd share some great ideas to boost your presence and promote your brand!

Here are some creative ways to leverage social media to promote your business and increase brand visibility.

1. **Collaborate with Influencers:** Influencer marketing has gained immense popularity in recent years. Partnering with relevant influencers in your industry can give your business a significant boost. Look for influencers whose values align with your brand and collaborate with them to create engaging content. Whether it's through sponsored posts, product reviews, or giveaways, influencers can help you reach a wider audience and build credibility.
2. **Run Exclusive Social Media Contests:** People love freebies and contests. Running exclusive contests on your social media platforms can generate excitement and engagement among your followers. Encourage participants to like, share, and comment on your posts to increase visibility. You can offer prizes like discounts, free products, or even a chance to win a grand prize. The more creative and enticing the contest, the more likely it is to go viral and attract attention to your business.
3. **User-Generated Content:** Encourage your followers to create and share content related to your brand. User-generated content (UGC) is a powerful way to showcase real people using your products or services. It not only promotes authenticity but also builds a sense of community around your brand. You can create branded hashtags and ask your followers to use them when sharing their experiences. Repost and highlight the best UGC on your social media platforms to engage with your audience and show appreciation.
4. **Live Video Streaming:** Live video streaming has become increasingly popular on platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Take advantage of this trend by hosting live Q&A sessions, product launches, behind-the-scenes glimpses, or even tutorials related to your industry. Live videos offer a unique opportunity to interact with your audience in real-time, answer their questions, and create a sense of urgency and exclusivity.
5. **Storytelling:** People are drawn to stories. Use social media platforms' storytelling features, such as Instagram Stories or Facebook Stories, to showcase your brand's narrative. Share behind-the-scenes moments, highlight employee stories, or showcase customer success stories. By weaving an engaging narrative, you can create an emotional connection with your audience and make your brand more relatable.
6. **Engage with Micro-Influencers:** While influencers with millions of followers can bring visibility, don't overlook the power of micro-influencers. These individuals may have a smaller following, but their audience is often highly engaged and niche specific. Collaborating with micro-influencers allows you to target a more focused audience, resulting in better conversion rates and engagement.
7. **Social Media Takeovers:** Collaborate with industry experts, influencers, or even employees to take over your social media accounts for a day. This fresh perspective can bring new insights and engage your audience in a unique way. It also helps in cross-promotion, as the individual taking over your account will likely promote their participation to their own followers.



Today's social media platforms provide countless opportunities for you to promote your products and services. By using creative strategies such as collaborating with influencers, running contests, leveraging user-generated content, utilizing live video streaming, storytelling, engaging with micro-influencers, and hosting social media takeovers, you can effectively enhance your brand's visibility and engage with your target audience.

Now, speaking of takeovers...don't forget our next issue is our long-awaited, yearly *Member Takeover* issue! I'm expecting my inbox to be flooded with submissions! Don't miss out on your chance for some free publicity and a once yearly chance to get fellow members focused on your products and services in an up close and personal way, for FREE! *The deadline is July 13th!*



# 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](https://HomeFireSprinkler.org/VR).



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more.



## Busy Times on Capitol Hill

Team NFSA was thrilled to be in Washington D.C. for the Congressional Fire Services Institute Symposium this week. As NFSA is a founding member of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC), we were happy to see HFSC's Communications Manager **Peg Paul** awarded the Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education. NFSA President **Shane Ray** was honored to present the Mason Lankford award to the Fire Safety Research Institute's **Dr. Dan Madrykowski**. Dr. Madrykowski is the first scientist to receive this award recognizing his 30 years of contributions made to fire service research. He has always included us, welcomed us, and his research has helped the fire sprinkler industry in too many ways to count! It was also great to see our fastestwater message on the doors of the Washington Hilton and to have both of our commercials played during the main program! What Used To Be always gets the conversation going and Something to Think About always gets a chuckle with the "everything will dry out, but nothing will unburn" line!

We were able to spend time walking the halls of Congress with Common Voices advocates and met with 14 congressional representatives to discuss fire sprinklers and advocate for the support of the High-Rise Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act and the Public Housing Fire Safety Act. It was truly a successful and inspiring time on The Hill. The power of having a team that includes an advocate, a fire chief and representatives from our industry is a positive strategy that produces solid results.





**Team NFSA  
Participates in U.S.  
Fire Administration's  
West Coast Fire Stop  
Tour**

Team NFSA was both thrilled and honored to have participated in the U.S. Fire Administration's West Coast Fire Stop Tour during Earth Week in April. NFSA President **Shane Ray** and Vice President of Advocacy & Outreach **Vickie Pritchett** traveled to Boise, Colorado Springs and Sacramento to highlight America's Wildfire Challenges.

During the visits, U.S. Fire Administrator **Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell** held press conferences to acknowledge America's fire problem, share steps to reduce the risk of fire in local communities and talk about the Administration's whole-of-government strategy to respond to wildfires.

We were happy to be joined by our Partners in Progress to further the #FireServiceOneVoice initiative, including FEMA, NFPA, NIFC, IAFC, FSRI, NVFC and NFFF.



# NFSA Featured in Community Associations Institute Newsletter

## Q&A with The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry A National Perspective on Fire Sprinkler Retrofits

Guests by: David D. Lutz, Esq.  
Author: Dr. NFSA National Fire Sprinkler Association

1. Q: What is the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)? And how does NFSA work with our local authorities to help us live safely?

A: The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) was founded in 1950 and serves members that are fire sprinkler manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, professional engineers, engineers, designers, insurance agents, lawyers, etc.). Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) which are fire officials, building officials, or as well as any elected and appointed officials. NFSA works with all persons and companies interested in the fire safety. NFSA works with federal, state, and local officials to ensure the best possible fire protection possible in accordance with the latest national codes and standards that are applicable to the built environment. NFSA is proud to have served members for 73 years, and have brought people together to "spread fire and passion from the through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept."

2. Q: Are there any advocacy efforts or opportunities in the 2023 legislative session for related funding and/or incentives for the fire sprinkler retrofits?

A: The NFSA remains engaged at the local, state and federal level with advocacy and outreach efforts. Current federal legislation includes the High-Rise Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act which will include tax incentives for building owners to retrofit high-rise residential occupancies. Current legislation provides for high-rise commercial buildings and small businesses. NFSA is also supportive of the local level efforts that include HUD, and the Public Housing Fire Safety Act, which will provide retrofit funding for HUD housing.

3. Q: What can we do locally to help with federal or local advocacy for tax incentives and/or other funding assistance?

A: Participate with NFSA by engaging our national staff with programs and projects in the community

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"The National Fire Sprinkler Association"

for coordinating outreach and supplying materials for Home Fire Sprinkler Week. We are thrilled at the amount of Fire Departments and Fire Sprinkler Advocates that are taking part by hosting side-by-side demos and posting fire sprinkler facts on social media. The number of involved departments grows every year, and we sure see this trend continuing.

Thanks also go to the Fee Family and the entire Reliable Team, the South Carolina State Firefighters Association, the Liberty Fire Department, and Common Voices advocate Pam Elliott, who spoke at the demo regarding her experience as a home fire burn victim and the difference fire sprinklers could have made.

# Cleveland School Fire 100th Anniversary



On May 17th, NFSA President **Shane Ray** and Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach **Vickie Pritchett** were honored to be part of the Remembrance Ceremony of the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland School Fire in Camden, SC.

The Cleveland School was a rural school that was constructed in the early 1900s. The school was two stories and contained three classrooms.

The fire occurred during an annual play that signified the end of the school year. That night, nearly 300 people were estimated to be present on the second-floor assembly area when fire broke out. As the only exit, a single stairway became jammed with people and eventually collapsed, many jumped from the windows to survive. 77 people lost their lives. This fire impacted local, state, and national codes regarding school safety.

Ray and Pritchett joined in a recognition service that was held at the memorial site and a processional to the mass grave site at Beulah Church. SC Governor Henry McMaster, State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones, Chief Carter Jones and the Superintendent of the SC Fire Academy Jason Pope were among those in attendance.

*"It truly was a moving experience we won't soon forget, and also an inspirational reminder of why we do what we do."* stated President Ray. •

NFSA was highlighted in the Spring 2023 Hawaii newsletter of the Community Associations Institute (CAI). The article, entitled, Q & A with the Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry: A National Perspective on Fire Sprinkler Retrofits, touched on what NFSA was all about, our advocacy efforts and how interested parties can get involved with our cause.

CAI is an international membership organization dedicated to building better communities. CAI has over 40K members and 63 chapters worldwide. CAI provides information, education and resources to the homeowner volunteers who govern communities and the professionals who support them. CAI members include association board members and other homeowner leaders, community managers, association management firms and other professionals who provide products and services to associations.

# Home Fire Sprinkler Week



Team NFSA was thrilled to be at Reliable Automatic Sprinkler's Liberty, SC facility to kick-off Home Fire Sprinkler Week. We executed a flawless fire sprinkler burn demo using a trailer that was then donated to the South Carolina Fire Sprinkler Coalition. The event was broadcast live on YouTube.

Our thanks to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and NFPA

## NFSA Announces New Team Members

**Jeni Pierce** has recently joined the National Fire Sprinkler Association as the Manager of Training & Education. While Jeni is new to the NFSA team, she has been active with the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association for over 15 years, conducting side by side demonstrations and actively advocating for important legislation that impacts fire and life safety. For the past 19 years, Jeni has served in the fire service, most recently serving as the Division Chief/ Fire Marshal for the City of Marco Island (FL). She is currently finishing her term as the Vice President of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. Jeni looks forward to serving the Association and bringing dynamic training and education to all our members and industry partners!



**Adolf Zubia** has joined Team NFSA as our Manager of Government Affairs. Adolph is a retired Fire Chief from Las Cruces, NM. He has over 27 years of fire service experience with over 22 years in fire service management. He graduated from the National Fire Academy, Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) and the Harvard Fellowship Annual Program for Senior Executives.

Adolf served on a number of National Boards, including the Board of Directors for the International Fire Chief Association (IAFC) and the IAFC's Fire Life Safety Section (FLSS) Board for almost 20 years. He served as the President of the International

Code Council (ICC) in 2008-09. Adolf was appointed by the Governor of South Carolina as the State Fire Marshal. Adolf has also been a Fire Chief in Grass Valley, California and an Assistant Fire Chief in Clark County, Nevada. As an Assistant Fire Chief in Clark County, Adolf supervised 43 Fire Inspectors whose jurisdiction included the Las Vegas Strip. Overall, he has served in the capacity of Fire Marshal for over ten years. As a Fire Chief, he has extensive and diverse experience leading jurisdictions in State, Municipal, County and Special Fire Districts. In addition, Adolf has assisted and participated in numerous labor/management negotiations.



While serving as Fire Marshal, Adolf was law enforcement commissioned in the State of New Mexico for over ten years. He was the President of the New Mexico Fire Chief's Association for four years and charter member and president of the New Mexico Fire Marshal's Association for five years.

Adolf has significant experience in the development of strategic plans for public sector organizations at the local and state level. He has vast experience in the adoption and amending of Building and Fire Codes for Municipal and State jurisdictions. He has served as a Code Consultant since 2010 for approximately ten years. Adolf obtained his bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University and completed work for his MPA. •

### Fire happens fast...thankfully, so does this.



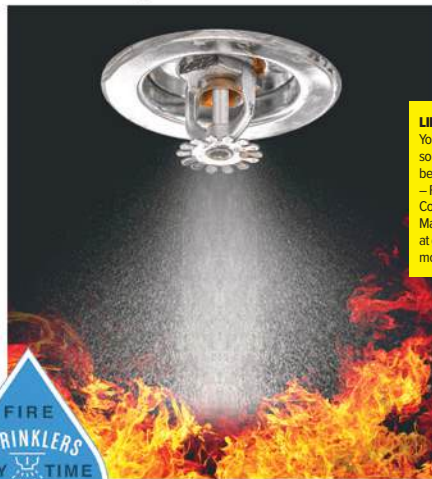
U.S. fire departments respond to an average of one home fire every 86 seconds.

On average, seven people per day die in U.S. home fires where fire sprinklers are not present.

Fire sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.

In a home with sprinklers, the average property loss per fire is cut by about 70% compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.

Residential fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a fire by about 80%.



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# CHAPTERS IN ACTION

## Boston



### **Boston Chapter Meeting and Bowling Extravaganza!**

On March 9th, the Boston Chapter had their quarterly meeting at Kings Restaurant and Entertainment. 26 attended. **President Cook** welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out. He gave an update of the meeting schedule and said he was working on guest speakers. As always, if anyone has suggestions the Board is open to them.

There was a lengthy discussion on electric vehicles fires. The Chapter is discussing having a speaker on this issue in the future. The President also gave the update on the Annual Golf Tournament. The group agreed to a corn hole tournament with the Connecticut Chapter. The Connecticut Chapter accepted the challenge. The event is being planned!

Following the meeting was a fantastic evening of team bowling, pizza, and libations! This was the first time the Chapter had a bowling event and by the amount of laughter and camaraderie, it won't be the last.

## Capital Region

### **Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association Chesapeake Challenge**

The CRFSA hosted their second annual Chesapeake Challenge on May 25th with 90 anglers taking on the Chesapeake Bay.

While we endured a windy 20 mph start, the day was successful. Congratulations to all the anglers. The top dog of the day was **Greg**



**Stoner** from Capital Sprinkler, who snagged a 29-1/4" rock on CoolBeans for the grand prize. This was a very close call with **Ralph Fuchs** from Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. reeling in a 28-1/2" on Plumb Crazy for the photo finish.

We want to thank our captains/mates, and our boat sponsors: Continental Fire Sprinkler, Core & Main, Ferguson Fire & Fab, Reliable Automatic Fire Sprinkler Co., Victaulic, Johnson Control and NFSA, along with our Prize and appetizer sponsors: Potter Signal & Zurn. *Looking forward to next year's event!*

*continued on page 67*

continued from page 66

## Connecticut

### Golf Tournament Success!

This May, the Connecticut Chapter held their most successful golf tournament ever! With 80 golfers registered, the Chapter nearly doubled last year's attendance.

It was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze on the rolling terrain of the Glastonbury Hills Country Club. After an early lunch, the golfers were welcomed by Chapter President **John Abbate** before hitting the links.



After what all said was a great day on a great course, attendees enjoyed a fantastic buffet dinner. Following dinner first and second place team prizes were awarded, then longest drive, closest to the pin and the \$500 prize for the Putting Challenge sponsored by Ferguson Fire and Fabrication. Closing out the evening was the raffle with over a dozen great prizes.

Special thanks to NFSA's **Caleb Armbrust** and **Michael Philip** for joining us, and to Steve Cook and Nick Stevens, Boston Chapter officers who attended. This Annual Tournament to benefit the Connecticut Burn Foundation has grown to such a successful event because of the hard work and dedication of the coordinators. Thank you, **Secretary Kacey Paige**, **Treasurer Jay Kurtz**, **Vice President Ed Carvalho** and **President John Abbate**.



continued on page 68

# CHAPTERS IN ACTION

continued from page 67

## Florida

### Seas the Day 2023

We are open for registration for *Seas the Day 2023*. The week will start with the one and only Fire Product Challenge on Sunday night followed by a week full of workshops delivered by some of our industries best. 32 CEUs available including Florida mandated courses. A week at the beach, great classes and networking. We are so excited to get together with everyone in beautiful Clearwater Beach FL. Please plan to join us for what will be a spectacular conference made possible by our many sponsors!



**32 CEUs!**  
(Including mandated)

Room rates starting at \$269.00 per night  
Register at [www.floridafiresprinkler.com](http://www.floridafiresprinkler.com)

## SEAS THE DAY

October 22–26, 2023  
Wyndham Grand, Clearwater Beach

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND			
5:00 – 9:00	Lorrell Bush	FFSA	Fire Product Challenge
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23RD			
8:00 – 9:30	Kevin Oser Michael Glantz	Merrill Lynch Merrill Lynch	A Year Ahead: Investing in Your Future
9:30 – 10:30	Shane Ray	NFSA	State of the Industry
10:30 – 11:30	Eric Morris	WAFS	The Dirty-Dozen ERP System Conversion Traps
12:30 – 1:30	Joanne Rice John Gatlin Catherine Thrasher	SEM SEM SEM	Updates from the State Fire Marshals Office
1:30 – 2:30	Lainey Liotta	Lubrizol	How Emerging Leaders can Learn from the Legendary Leaders
2:30 – 4:00	James Gollivieux George Stanley	Viking Wiginton	Sail or Row You Always Have a Choice
4:00 – 5:00	Phil Gunning	Victaulic	Does Size Really Matter
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH			
8:00 – 9:00	Vickie Pritchett	NFSA	How the Truth Burns Helps us Seas the Day
9:00 – 10:00	Brian Scarborough	HUB	The New and Exciting topic of Workers Comp
10:00 – 12:00	Susan Constabile	Speaker	How to Identify Persons of Threat in the Workplace
1:00 – 2:00	Robby Dawson	NFPA	Emerging Electrical Technologies and Fire Protection
2:00 – 3:30	Jim Lake Jason Webb	Viking Potter	Developing Targeted & Effective Training
3:30 – 5:00	Johnathan Carl	Victaulic	NFPA 14, 13 and 25: Acceptance: testing & ITM of Standpipe
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH			
8:00 – 9:00	Jeff Hugo Roland Asp Vince Powers	NFSA NFSA NFSA	Surf the Waves with NFSA Training
9:00 – 11:30	Mike Joanis Zarko Ognjenovic Tony Apfelbeck Pete Schwab	NFSA MJ Wood City of Altamonte Wayne Automatic	NFPA 241: Under Construction and At Risk
12:30 – 2:00	George Nicola Cary Webber	Reliable Reliable	A Residential Rumble in the Sunshine State
2:00 – 3:00	Sean Rogers	Potter	Sprinkler Industry in the Age of AI
3:00 – 4:00	Kyle Curran	General Air	New Corrosion Inhibiting Technology
4:00 – 5:00	Terry Victor	JCI	NFPA 25 – An Interactive Evaluation of I&T Results
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH			
8:00 – 12:00	Robert Cariveau	Wiginton	Contractors Forum

continued from page 68

## Illinois



Cybor Fire Protection company was presented a 30-year membership award by Chapter Vice Chair Matt Clegg, Valley Fire protection and IL State Coordinator James Brown.



Former IL Chapter Secretary Dave Rosso, Reliable Automatic Fire Sprinkler, was presented a plaque for his years of service on the chapter board. Pictured L to R James Brown, IL State Coordinator, Vice Chair Matt Clegg, Valley Fire Protection, Dave Rosso, Matt Campbell, AMS Industries Fire protection Group, and Secretary Shaun Maher, USA Fire protection.



The Chicago high-rise billboard campaign continues for the next few months. Locations of the billboards are Fairbanks and Grand (Streeterville), and North and Cleveland (Old Town).

## New Jersey

### Enhancing Fire Protection in Jersey City-The Crucial Role of Fire Sprinklers and Standpipes



Jersey City, renowned for its vibrant community and urban landscape, faces the constant challenge of ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents and businesses. With a rapidly growing population and diverse infrastructure, the Jersey City Fire Department (JCFD) plays a pivotal role in safeguarding lives and property. One of the key elements contributing to fire safety in the city is the implementation of fire sprinklers and standpipes.



During the first two weeks of May, the NPSA Mid-Atlantic Team was honored to present fire sprinkler and NFPA 13e training to the largest fire department in the state of New Jersey. JCFD, a 700-firefighter strong department, hosted the team for eight days, where 16 classes were held to capture all 700 firefighters. At the conclusion of the two weeks, 16 classes and 16 live burn demonstrations were delivered for the city. The command staff reported the class was well received and want us back for more! Fire safety and firefighter training is the department's top priority.

JCFD works in close collaboration with building owners, developers, and residents to ensure the effective implementation and maintenance of fire sprinklers and standpipes. It also plays

continued on page 70

continued from page 69



a pivotal role in enforcing compliance with fire safety codes and standards, conducting inspections, and providing guidance on the proper functioning and upkeep of these systems. By fostering partnerships and promoting fire safety awareness, the JCFD strives to create a safe and resilient city.

The commitment to fire protection measures and constant training ensures that the city remains resilient, prepared, and capable of mitigating the devastating impact of fires. Thank you, JCFD, for having us!

## Wisconsin

### Area Interest Meetings

The Wisconsin Chapter has initiated a way to reach more members on a regular basis. In March we started offering area interest meetings in addition to the quarterly chapter meeting. This allows us to interact with members in different areas of Wisconsin. Interest meetings were held in Appleton and Madison with great attendance by members within those areas. We will continue this practice in June and September.

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Utilize The *Seismic Breakaway Hanger*, an engineered release mechanism, to ensure full-rated movement.





continued from page 70

## Texas

### What A Wonderful Week in Fort Worth!

The NFSA Texas Chapter hosted its First Annual Texas Shootout on Monday, April 3, 2023, in Fort Worth, Texas. Chair **Tate Hitzeman**, Treasurer **Daniel Merritt**, Secretary **David Welcher** and Board Officer **Danna Wells** all gave this event their very "best shot"!

The Winners – Victaulic and Firetrol teamed up to win first place with Super Shooter **Gar Brammer**. Raffle Winners were **Dave Arme**y of Victaulic and **Kyle Gist** of Reliable!

Thank you to everyone who participated and/or donated to the Texas Fire Sprinkler Shootout! Funds raised will be used for fire sprinkler scholarships. •



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# SPRINKLERING OF NEWS

## ■ Potter Celebrates 125 Years of Innovation, Quality, and Service

Potter Global Technologies celebrates its 125 years in the fire and life safety industry. The company started based on an idea that would have an immediate impact on saving lives and infrastructures. In St. Louis, Missouri in 1898, Charles E. Potter developed products that sent electronically coded signals—allowing fire and police officials to be instantly notified of fire

or security emergencies. He strengthened fire safety by pairing state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment with dedicated people to provide St. Louis with the best night watchmen service in the metropolitan area.

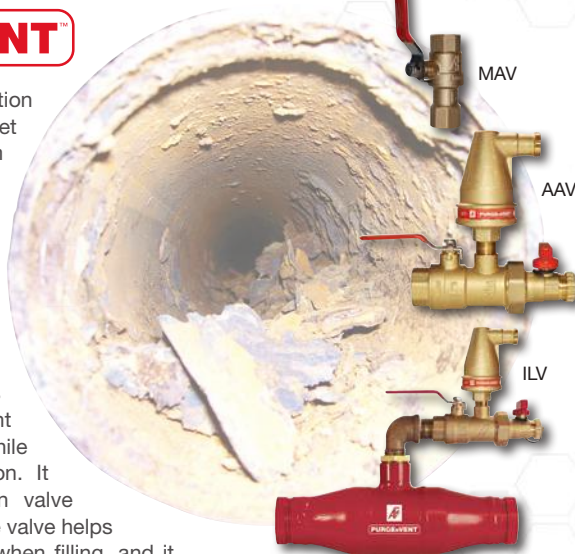
Potter's telecommunications equipment became the important foundation for the later development of sprinkler supervisory devices, switches for intrusion protection, vault and safe protection systems and fire control panels.

In addition to expanding the Potter product offering, taking advantage of growth opportunities has enabled the company to provide comprehensive solutions to customers and enter additional marketplaces. Today Potter remains focused on fire, life safety and critical communications. Multiple divisions including Sprinkler Products, Fire Alarm, Elmdene Power Solutions, TowerIQ Emergency Wireless

# VENT TO PREVENT CORROSION

## PURGE<sub>n</sub>VENT™

NFPA 13 requires the addition of an air vent on each wet pipe fire sprinkler system that utilizes metallic pipe to help mitigate internal pipe corrosion. PURGE<sub>n</sub>VENT valves come in a variety of styles. The 7910MAV is a manual air vent that has the smallest footprint on the market. The M7900AAV features an 7900V automatic air vent that releases excess air while the system is in operation. It also includes an isolation valve and purge valve. The purge valve helps air exit the system faster when filling, and it can be used as a vacuum break when draining the system. The vacuum break helps the system drain faster and protects gaskets from being dislodged on other system components when draining. The M7930ECA includes a pipe cap for easy installation, and the M7950ILV features an air separation chamber that installs into the main branch line for applications with difficult to reach system high-points.



Communications and Valcom Mass Notification Systems —together— can holistically address customer and emergency situational needs locally and around the world.

“We are proud of the lives saved and important impact our products have globally,” said Gerry Connolly, Potter CEO. “As safety requirements in emergency situations increase or change, we use our wealth of experience and innovation to address the customer needs of today and the future.”

Potter continues the legacy of Charles E. Potter by combining the latest in technology with dedicated and passionate employees for which they have been known for 125 years. Through unwavering commitment to innovation and customers, Potter remains dedicated to shaping the future of fire and life safety, prioritizing the safeguarding of lives and properties.

[www.agfmfg.com](http://www.agfmfg.com)

continued from page 72

## ■ NIBCO Offers Free Specification Review Service

NIBCO is offering its free specification review service, a one-on-one individualized resource that offers customers the opportunity to have their specifications reviewed by industry professionals to ensure that they meet the most current industry standards.

Targeted to consulting specifying engineers, design build contractors and building owners, fire protection, mechanical and plumbing specifications are reviewed by industry professionals at NIBCO to ensure that they are not outdated.

To use the free specification review service, users start the process by completing a form on the NIBCO website. Typically conducted within two days, the review process provides users with recommendations on how specifications should be revised, and if necessary, will optimize the specifications, which can be accepted and approved by the user. Finally, the consultant will educate users on new industry standards, product offerings and provide training on key issues affecting selection considerations.

*NIBCO encourages users to visit [NIBCO.com/resources/specification-tools/](https://www.nibco.com/resources/specification-tools/) for more information.*

## ■ NIBCO Announces its BenchPressG® Product Line Expansion

NIBCO INC. expands its BenchPressG® carbon steel fittings line to include 2" sizes to its existing product assortment, bringing press technology to fuel and gas carbon steel pipe applications.

Allowing for fast and economical installation of residential, commercial and industrial carbon steel piping systems, BenchPressG press technology gives users consistent joint integrity and a professional appearance. Since it requires no threading equipment and lubricants, it offers easier, cleaner and faster installation.

Available in 1/2" to 2" sizes, the fittings provide a safer installation and eliminate the materials required for threading. The BenchPressG fittings feature a yellow HNBR (hydrogenated nitrile butadiene rubber) seal that provides a permanent leak-proof connection to support a wide range of fuel and gas applications.

*For more information, visit <https://www.nibco.com/benchpressg/>*

## ■ New C-Aire Air Compressor for Victaulic's FireLock NXT Dry Pipe Valve

C-Aire's S418 riser mount fire protection air compressor is the perfect fit for Victaulic's FireLock NXT™ Dry Pipe Valve. FireLock NXT Valves offer streamlined set-up, simplified maintenance, and dependable operation. The pressure switch comes preset for the FireLock NXT at 13-18 psi. Our S418R is ETL Listed to comply with NFPA requirements and utilizes the same convenient mounting bracket as our other riser mount compressors.

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- Pressure switch preset at 13-18 psi
- Fills a 418-gallon dry pipe system in 30 minutes or less (18 psi)
- In Stock!
- ETL Listed
- Conforms to UL Standard 1450 and Certified to CSA Standard C22.2 No. 68-92
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- Ultra-compact design
- 10" x 9.5" x 14"
- 21 lbs.
- Competitively priced
- Oil-free and low maintenance
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- 12-month warranty
- 2D & 3D CAD files available

*Learn more at [cairecompressors.com](http://cairecompressors.com).*

## ■ AGF Unveils the Updated 3011A INSPECTORSTEST™ Valve

AGF Manufacturing is proud to introduce the updated 3011A InspectorsTest Valve.



This cutting-edge design features an integrated sight glass and relief valve drain access port to combine of the best features from the 3011A and 3011ASG valves, plus the new 7000L Pressure Relief Valve.

By integrating the sight glass and drain port into a single fitting, AGF Manufacturing has eliminated extra pipe fittings and the need for a separate

*continued on page 74*

### LABORATORY TESTING



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sight glass, providing a more streamlined and efficient solution for testing and maintenance of fire protection systems.

Furthermore, AGF Manufacturing is pleased to announce that the 3011A Inspectors Test Valve will now include the new 7000L Pressure Relief Valve. The 7000L offers a lockout feature for hydrostatic testing and is available in 175, 200, 225 and 300 psi. This combination provides customers with a comprehensive and integrated solution for fire protection systems, ensuring optimal maintenance and testing.



The updated 3011A Inspectors Test Valve, along with the 7000L Pressure Relief Valve, are now available for purchase. For more information and to find new part numbers, please visit AGF Manufacturing's website at [www.agfmfg.com/inspectorstest](http://www.agfmfg.com/inspectorstest) or to find a distributor in your area. •

### NFSM Article Submission Guidelines

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

#### Query

Send an e-mail or letter briefly describing your article proposal, why the topic is important, and how it is relevant to our audience. Say something about the sources of your information (personal involvement? interviews?) and about your present position and background. Tell us what types of photographs and graphics are available to illustrate your story. Be sure to include an email address and a daytime phone number. NFSM runs full-length feature articles of approximately 800-1200 words.

#### Illustrations

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

#### Copyrights

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

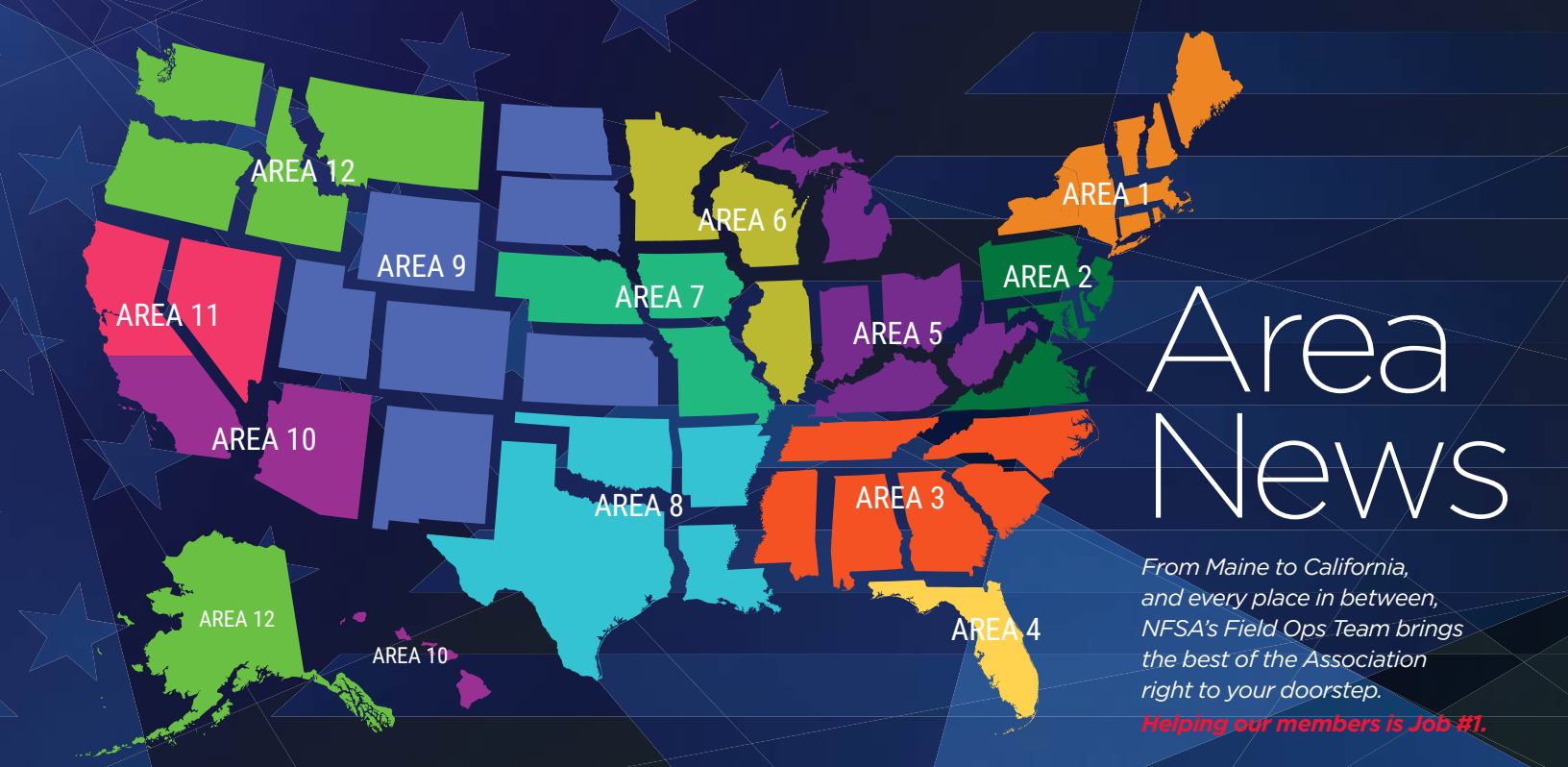
#### Payment

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

**NFSM EDITOR:**

**Joanne Genadio**

[genadio@nfsa.org](mailto:genadio@nfsa.org), 443.863.4399



# 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 2

DELEWARE, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, DC

### Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci Receives the NFSA 2023 Leadership in Public Safety Award



Brian Geraci, Maryland State Fire Marshal, received the Leadership in Public Safety Award in May at the North American Fire Sprinkler Expo & NFSA Annual Seminar in Austin Texas.

Brian has been a strong advocate for life safety throughout the State of Maryland. Under his tenure, Maryland adopted the requirement for all new one- & two-family homes and townhouses to be protected by automatic residential fire sprinkler systems. Only Maryland, California and the District of Columbia have adopted this minimum model code life safety requirement.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Maryland Developed for the Inspector training series that has provided high level training for well over a decade. His passion and actions have saved countless Maryland lives and we appreciate his dedicated service and commitment to public safety.

*Congratulation Marshal Geraci*

## AREA 4

FLORIDA

### AIM to Learn Coming to a Town Near You

#### Updates from the 2023 Legislative Session!

Starting in July and ending in August we will once again be traveling the state with updates. The topic will be Industry Updates from the 2023 Legislative Session! Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as we address some changes that directly impact the fire sprinkler industry. Breakfast or Lunch is included and one CEU.

DATE	LOCATION	MEAL
July 12	Sanford	Breakfast
July 12	Sanford	Lunch
August 1	Ft Myers	Lunch
August 2	Miami	Breakfast
August 2	Plantation	Lunch
August 3	West Palm Beach	Lunch
August 8	Ft Walton Beach	Lunch
August 9	Tallahassee	Lunch
August 15	Jacksonville	Lunch
August 16	Tampa	Lunch

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these meetings at a location near you. We are always striving to keep you up to date on the latest industry developments. You MUST register to attend.

*continued on page 76*

continued from page 75

**AREA 6**

ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN,

**Illinois Legislative News**

**HB 2221 UPDATE Fire sprinkler income tax credit**

The state revenue numbers have been revised downward so much that the projected budget surplus reported in January 2023 is now effectively gone. Legislators and the Governor had been expecting to use the January surplus for many initiatives - including a potential for various tax credit initiatives like our fire sprinkler tax credit. Those initiatives are looking less likely to move due to the decline in expected state revenues.

**HB 3714 Fire sprinkler contractor licensing act**

OSFM indicated that the rules to implement HB 3714 are almost complete and ready for filing. We may see them published for public review in about 3-4 weeks. THE OSFM will request a public meeting be held on the rulemaking so all parties can ask questions of the OSFM and any concerns about the rules.

**Minnesota**

**NFSA Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo**



More than 900 people registered for NFSA's Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo in Austin, TX. Attendees included some notable personalities from the North Central Region!



*Brent Kotula (L) and Matt Novak from Uponor outside the technical sessions at the Seminar. 39 different tech sessions were presented at the conference covering a wide range of code, standards, management, and engineering topics!*



*(L-R) David Ybarra, President Minnesota Pipe Trades; Trinidad Uribe, Business Manager Sprinkler Fitters Local 417; Sean Flaherty, Director of Business Development Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company at a reception hosted by NFSA's Future Leadership Committee.*



*NFSA President Shane Ray presenting APi Senior VP of Safety Services Steve Ulmer (R) and Sean Flaherty with a plaque recognizing Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company's 55 years of NFSA membership.*



*West Des Moines Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Mike Whitsell (L) and Grapevine TX Division Chief and Fire Marshal Bryan Parker presented a technical session on Historic District Retrofit Projects.*

continued from page 76



*Melisa Rodriguez and Daniel Wilder present a technical session on the relationship between Technicians and Engineers. Melisa and Daniel are members of NFSA's Future Leadership Committee, and Melisa is the Vice Chair of that Committee.*

**NFSA Supports Construct Tomorrow Events**



NFSA staff members **Jon Nisja**, **Joel Hewitt**, and **Tim Butler** conducted two side by side demonstrations for the Construct Tomorrow events in Hinckley and Forest Lake (MN) in April. These events engage young high school students in hands on introductions to the industrial trades including sprinkler fitting. Sprinkler Fitters Local 417 invited NFSA to participate, and we were welcomed by **Gene Stevens**, Business Agent, District 28, Local 669, Local 417 Business Agent **Craig Bistodeau**, and retired Local 417 Sprinkler Fitter **Joe Laumeyer** in Hinckley MN on April 12 for the first event. Viewed by 300 and faculty the Hinckley burn was controlled by the sprinkler in less than a minute, while the unsprinklered side reached flash over in 3-1/2 minutes.

The demonstration in Forest Lake took place on a cold and rainy day – April 20. The soaking rain held off until just after the burn, and 225 students and faculty witnessed a single sprinkler suppress the fire in less than 30 seconds and a very mature flash over in the unprotected side in just 2 minutes!



*(L-R) Joe Laumeyer, Gene Stevens, Tim Butler, Jon Nisja, Craig Bistodeau (seated), and Joel Hewitt at the Hinckley Construct Tomorrow Sprinkler Fitter information booth.*

**NFSA at the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association Spring Training Series**



On April 25, 26, and 27, NFSA codes and Standards Specialist, **John Swanson**, presented 7 hours of training to the members of the Hawkeye State Fire Safety association. The class – Chapters 8 and 9 of the IBC – was repeated in Sioux City, West Des Moines,

*continued on page 78*

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continued from page 77

and Coralville. A total of 47 members of Hawkeye attended the training. A big NFSA thank you to *JF Ahern and Fire Protection Professionals* who sponsored the classes.

**NFSA and Waukee Fire Department Kick off Home Fire Sprinkler Week**

The Waukee (IA) Fire Department helped kick off Home Fire Sprinkler Week with a side-by-side demonstration at their annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast. NFSA staff members **Jon Nisja** and **Tim Butler** teamed up with Waukee Fire Marshal **Justin Frederick** and a superb suppression crew to conduct the demonstration for 150 community members and families. The side-by-side trailer – managed by the *Minnesota Chapter of NFSA* – is an outstanding means of educating families about home fire safety and residential sprinklers!



*Jon Nisja (left) and Waukee Fire Marshal Justin Frederick (right) pose with the Waukee fire crew following the demonstration for Home Fire Sprinkler Week. All photos in this article were taken by Tim Butler, NFSA*

**AREA 8**

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS



**What A Wonderful Week in Austin!**

NFSA hosted its North American Fire Sprinkler Expo in Austin, Texas, May 2-5, 2023. Over 900 folks attended.

**Here are the Texas Based Speakers:**

- Austin Fire Department Graduate Engineer **Scott Stookey** and NFSA Engineer **Jeff Dunkel** presented *"An AHJ's and Engineer's Perspective on Lithium-Ion Fire Protection"* on Friday, May 5th, 2023.
- *"Burn Me Once – Don't Burn Me Again"* featured a panel of multi-family fire survivors from Central Texas and the Fire Marshals who responded to their fires. Three Multifamily Texas Fire Survivors shared their stories with the Fire Sprinkler Industry including **Kim Denson** from Houston, **DJ & Zach Sutterfield** from San Angelo. Fire Marshals included Chiefs **David Kerr** of Plano, **Kelly Kistner** of Frisco/San Marcos and **Valerie Frausto** of San Antonio.
- **James** and **Justina Page** attended the Awards Banquet. Justina, our own Common Voices Advocate/Fire Survivor from a single-family fire in Houston, gave a wonderful Texas Welcome at the NFSA General Session and presented for the Common Voices Panel Presentation.
- **Jeff Broadway** of American Fire Systems, **Tara Hagood** of NCCER and **Abbie Gunnels** of NFSA shared their best tips for Fire Sprinkler Industry Recruiting and Retention in their session, *"Where is the Next Gen?"*
- Chief **Glenn Trubee**, Texas Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chair, and **Peg Paul**, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Communications Manager, presented National and Texas Home Fire Sprinkler Updates and Considerations.

**What A Wonderful Week in Oklahoma!**

Oklahoma Fire Sprinkler Association hosted its 5th Annual Boondoggle at the Grand Casino in Oklahoma May 10-12, 2023. NFSA provided Workshop Sessions and a Vendor Table.

**New NFSA Side-by-Side Trailer Donated to Texas Fire Sprinkler Coalition!**

NFSA donated a new side-by-side fire sprinkler demonstration trailer to Lake Travis Fire & Rescue Department who will coordinate fire sprinkler demonstrations for the Texas Fire Sprinkler Coalition in the Central Texas region. The Texas Fire Sprinkler Coalition's first burn demonstration happened on May 17th.

**AREA 9**

COLORADO, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, UTAH, WYOMING

**Regional Side-by-Side Trailer Fleet Doubles!**

A second side-by-side sprinkler demonstration trailer has been introduced to Area 9. After a demonstration by NFSA President **Shane Ray** for Leadership Loveland (CO) on March 14th, the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office took possession of the new unit. State Fire Marshal **Byron Matthews** confirmed that the trailer would be available to Northern Colorado and Eastern Nebraska



continued from page 78

when it is not being used within the State.

In addition to Wyoming's new trailer, the trailer stationed in Colorado was also replaced. The new unit has been specifically designed to withstand Colorado's rough weather conditions, which took its toll on previous units.

Between the two trailers, we are hoping to provide more than two dozen demonstrations in 2023, with many already scheduled in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico.

### NFSA Showcases Fire Sprinkler Careers at Several Career Fairs

As part of our mission to our members, your local staff has been busy attempting to recruit students into the fire sprinkler industry. We have been taking advantage of any opportunities that are made available. When possible, we are joined by member contractors who set up their own booths at these events.

One significant career fair was offered by the Building Futures Committee of the Colorado Chapter of ICC (CCICC) and was held in Montrose on March 16th. The Building Futures Committee puts on several such events each year at various locations. These fairs are unique in that they focus strictly on construction careers and are geared towards students who are already involved in trades classes. This event in Montrose was special as NFSA was invited to present a side-by-side sprinkler demonstration allowing students to see how they can work in an industry that will protect lives and property. This event was the last time that Colorado's old side-by-side trailer was used, before returning East for a total refit.

In addition to this event, we have participated in several other events. Members are encouraged to reach out to NFSA staff if you are aware of similar events in your area. Even if we cannot be attendance, we can certainly provide resources to members who might be there.

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## AREA 12

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, WASHINGTON

NFSA's North American Fire Sprinkler Expo and Annual Seminar in May provided a great way for more than four dozen Northwest NFSA members to get more involved in the fire sprinkler industry.

The Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound hosted a get-together for all Northwest attendees. Redmond Fire Marshal Todd Short, Moore Fire Protection owner Tracy Moore, and NFSA Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr presented a breakout session on building partnerships, focusing on the years-long evolution of our Washington Best Practices Guide and quarterly forums. The trio highlighted how these conversations help reduce barriers to the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Northwest Area 12 was well-represented in the NFSA Annual Seminar's Top Tech competition with three contestants, all from Patriot Fire Protection in Washington state. Congratulations to Mark Metzger who made it to the semi-finals in the Jeopardy-

style fire sprinkler trivia game. Also making the cut to compete in Austin were Jimmy Twining and Joseph Plattner.

With pent-up demand, plus plenty of new staff to train, NFSA members have been clamoring for in-class training. The Washington State Fire Marshals Association, the Oregon Building Officials Association and the City of Hillsboro partnered with NFSA to bring plan review and other training to the Northwest in May and June. The Missoula branch of Western State and Missoula Fire Department also teamed up to host three days of advanced training.

The Washington Fire Sprinkler Coalition continues its focus on facilitating conversations between fire sprinkler contractors, fire and building officials and builders at its quarterly forums. The Best Practices Forums focus on issues that face stakeholders as they work for more efficient, cost-effective installation of residential fire sprinkler systems. The June forum focuses on builders and looks at how the new legislation affects new housing.

It was a mixed legislative session in the Northwest states. The Washington state governor vetoed a provision in the budget that would have ordered a study on increasing the state building code adoption cycle from three to six years (a change that NFSA has always opposed), citing the decreased ability to apply the newest and best technologies for safety, health and efficiency to new construction, as well as creating gaps in code adoptions would require a greater amount of change at each code cycle, increasing challenges for designers, builders and building owners. A Washington state bill supported by U.A. Local 699 to increase compliance enforcement by the State Fire Marshal's office was signed into law, with the subsequent rulemaking process to begin soon.

In Montana, several bills concerned the sprinkler industry. NFSA opposed a bill to exempt certain structures from building code fire sprinkler requirements; the bill was eventually amended to only apply to religious buildings in certain specific situations. Another troubling bill, SB 406, was signed into law. This bill prohibits local governments from adopting building codes that are more stringent than the state building codes.

*If you have any questions about legislative or other issues in Area 12, please contact Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr.*

### Training



Fire sprinkler training is in high demand in the Northwest Area 12. NFSA had 14 days of training scheduled in three states (Montana, Oregon and Washington) during May and June. The City of Hillsboro and the Oregon Building Officials Association teamed up with NFSA for a series of classes taught by Ron Ritchey (shown above) and Chase Browning. If you want to bring fire sprinkler training to your community or your company, contact your area NFSA staff. •



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