

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

July-August 2022

No. 233



The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association



NFSA Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference September 28-30

Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater, Florida



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JULY

Learning Branches: Understanding & Applying NFPA 25
Jul 7, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM (ET) Online

Standpipes for Fire Protection – NFPA 14
Jul 12, 2022, from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM (ET)
Where: NFSA Headquarters, 514 Progress Drive, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: NFPA 13 – Installation Rules
Jul 19, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online

Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review (1-day)
Jul 26, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Construction Education Foundation, 101 S Royal Ln, Coppell, TX 75019

Sprinkler Selection for High-Piled Storage
Jul 27, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Construction Education Foundation, 101 S Royal Ln, Coppell, TX 75019

Coordinating NFPA 25 & 72 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance Requirements
Jul 28, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Construction Education Foundation, 101 S Royal Ln, Coppell, TX 75019

AUGUST

Rough and Final Inspection of Fire Sprinkler Systems
Aug 11, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (ET)
Where: NFSA Headquarters, 514 Progress Drive, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: NFPA 13 – Discharge Rules
Aug 16, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online

SEPTEMBER

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: NFPA 14 – Standpipes
Sep 20, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online

Design Advantage – Fire Sprinkler Systems and the International Building Code
Sep 21, 2022, from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM (ET)
Where: NFSA Headquarters, 514 Progress Drive, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

OCTOBER

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: Model Codes – ICC and NFPA
Oct 18, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online

CRFSA Developed for the Inspector
Oct 19, 2022, from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM (ET)
Where: Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, 4500 Campus Dr, College Park, MD 20742

NOVEMBER

Rough and Final Inspections of Fire Sprinkler Systems
Nov 8, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Broken Arrow Public Safety Complex, 1101 N. 6th Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Fire Sprinkler System Plan Review (2-day)
Starts: Nov 9, 2022, 08:00 AM (CT)
Ends: Nov 10, 2022, 05:00 PM (CT)
Where: Broken Arrow Public Safety Complex, 1101 N 6th St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: NFPA 25 – ITM
Nov 15, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online

Understanding, Applying and Enforcing NFPA 25
Nov 16, 2022, from 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM (ET)
Where: NFSA Headquarters, 514 Progress Drive, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

DECEMBER

Tech Tuesday: Best of NFSA's Expert of the Day: NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps
Dec 20, 2022, from 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM (ET) Online



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Against Our Mission

In the last few years, I have written about record years in the fire sprinkler industry. Well, we just had our record first quarter of fire sprinkler shipments. We have also made the news with buildings burning down that were protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Let me just say that our record stands for over 100 years, fire sprinkler systems that are properly designed, installed, and maintained are over 97% effective. In the cases you see on the news, the fires were either outside in (started on outside of building and burned in or down from the roof), arson, and/or the systems were turned off, before or during the fire.

Over 75 years ago, NFSA was publishing documents that included data involving “Fires Which Defeat Progress.” In those days, we had a very strong relationship with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Nearly all our documents, which were *News Bulletins* from the “National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association” (our legal name then), referenced NFPA data and included quotes, articles, and yes, fire sprinkler saves submitted from fire chiefs or news clipping services. These stories, much like the fire sprinkler saves I share every Friday morning in *Spotlight on Fire Sprinklers*, were positive and demonstrated the effectiveness of automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Today, very little has changed, fire sprinklers are still very effective, fire sprinklers save lives and property every day, and NFSA still has a strong relationship with many fire organizations. We will continue to provide training across the country, our Board has invested significantly into learning and development, and our team at NFSA is doing a great job ensuring member value and outreach. If you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns about any of these fires or our programs to assist members, please reach out.

Stories from the late 40s through the 60s were “supermarkets” being at great risk without automatic fire sprinklers because of their size, which was less than 10,000 square feet in most cases. I served in a fire department where most of the houses in the community were more than 10,000 square feet. I also recently toured a distribution center that was 1,300,000 square feet and 50 feet in height. As the old television commercial said, “but wait, there is more,” the distribution center across town was over 2.5 million square feet with an 80 foot ceiling height. Well, let me just say, America has the most well trained, well equipped, fire departments in the world. However, I don't think any could possibly be properly prepared for a fire in these types and sizes of facilities with the amount of content involved and the configuration of the product and materials.

It seems that I have been traveling more now than before COVID, which is hard to believe, and I don't want to believe that is possible. In my travels, I have visited many members, NFSA Chapters, local and state governments, and fire departments. It is obvious that everyone is concerned with the effectiveness of fire sprinklers and the capabilities of the fire department. While recently visiting with fire departments in Texas and members in California, I related the situation from my simple perspective to a 25-story high-rise I have a picture of in Nashville, Tennessee being laid on its side in the middle of a cornfield near any interstate exchange in America. However, I added that you must remove all the ceilings, walls, and floors to even begin to compare to one of these distribution centers. Then a much younger person and much smarter than me added, “if the average square footage of a high-rise building is 20,000 square feet per floor, that building would only be 500,000 square feet.

I certainly don't have the answer, but I do know we all have to come to the table and figure out how to prevent the conflagration of communities or economies. Thanks to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for hosting the Truman Fire Forum with the Harry S. Truman Little White House Foundation, we have learned that in the last three years we couldn't have imagined having a “suburban conflagration” or having a billion-dollar loss in a single building in a single day. My thanks to them, and my sharing to you, is so that you know we are actively engaged in the process of studying the challenges facing today's fire service and our world. I believe that we will address the issues that need addressing and ensure that fire departments are as prepared as they can be across America.

The fire sprinkler industry continues to innovate to address the fire problem in America and around the world. It is a pleasure to serve such a great industry and we will continue to assist in solving the fire problem in America.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Shane Ray, President



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Fire Sprinklers are Green

To our Fire Sprinkler Family out there, your new Chairman of the Board was asked to use this column space to communicate to our membership on a subject we hear every day in the news - the environment. I would hardly call environmental discussions my expertise, plus this Chairman's technical credentials on how to save the planet are pretty limited. However, since I have the soapbox, here we go. (Did I just date myself with the soapbox remark?)

This country and pretty much the entire Western World has become obsessed with the stewardship of our planet; which certainly has many levels of merit. Clean air, clean water and sustaining all of God's gifts on this beautiful planet are essential and noble pursuits. How do we do it? What is most important? Who ranks the priorities? How does everyone come together? How do we develop the third world with decision makers residing in the first world? The complexities are endless.

In February of 2021, the Seattle City Council unanimously banned natural gas from entering new buildings. Chefs in restaurants along with homeowners in their condos are learning to deal with the new realities placed upon



*“Fire Sprinklers are Green!
There is nothing greener than
eliminating large combustible fires
with their tons of contamination
to our air and water.”*

them by first world decision makers. A lot of rules are being written in this country to save the planet, but unfortunately most of the world ignores them. The environmental damage caused by coal burning for electricity all over China does significantly more damage to our environment than a chef grilling salmon in a newly developed Seattle restaurant. To many extremists, the burning of any fossil fuel - regardless of the quantity - has been determined to cause irreparable harm to the environment, they conclude the argument is over. Are we making the right decisions?

What we do know, and there should be no argument, if you really care about the planet, never construct any structure in the world without fire sprinklers. Fire Sprinklers are Green! There is nothing greener than eliminating large combustible fires with their tons of contamination to our air and water. Attempt to fight a fire after flashover and millions of gallons of clean, scarce water may be used. That doesn't even factor the tons of carbon and overall pollution released over the skyline.

For the last 30 years our governments and institutions have been pushing for environmentally sustainable construction and developing programs like LEED to achieve it. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. My first experience with LEED buildings was 18 years ago when we were invited to participate in a design-build partnership for a large tech company. The architect looked over at me and asked about our LEED Points and what a fire sprinkler system offered for environmental sustainability. I immediately went off explaining how green fire sprinklers truly were.

The best pitch I could muster, yet at the end of the day still no LEED Points. NFSA has easily spent 15 years addressing the Green Council and lobbying for proper environmental recognition but unfortunately there has been no luck. The most very basic life- and property-safety product - the fire sprinkler - still does not receive acknowledgement for LEED award points. We have the product and a small part of the solution; we just have to continue beating the drum.

On the bright side, our Fire Sprinkler Family is still better off installing green fire sprinklers everywhere, even without the political LEED points we are missing.

I would rather be a fire sprinkler contractor than working for the gas company in Seattle.

—Jim

SIMPLE MATH: Fire Sprinklers + Firefighters = Unbeatable Team!



+



An Unbeatable Team!

Fire Sprinklers control and can often extinguish fires prior to firefighter arrival, allowing time for occupants to escape safely, limit property damage, and give firefighters the chance to finish the job safely. It really is that simple!

The more you know, the more you'll ask for **#fastestwater!**



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Networking Tips: The Art of Storytelling

By Chi Chi Okezie

Networking is such an exceptional tool for establishing relationships, advancing in your career and academics and developing your business. One of the many ways to be successful in networking is to have strong, effective communication skills. Equally verbal and non-verbal, savvy networkers can relay their personal brand, share their passions and demonstrate good business ethics. A unique component of this type of communication is storytelling. Being able to engage and connect with your counterpart can serve many useful benefits. Following are ways that individuals and organizations can market and bring awareness to their initiatives.

Set the Scene

When sharing a story or interaction with someone, set up the background of the story. Talk about information that is relevant for them to understand and grasp the narrative. Spark their interest and curiosity to further the engagement. Highlight key factors which relate to your career, profession, business, academics etc. Be clear and concise while being creative.

Make the Connection

Do not tell a story just to tell a story. Have a purpose, meaning or lesson which reflects the narrative. Be sure to have an outline in mind and a method toward explaining details and other important aspects which can be memorable. Make links, comparisons, and other correlations so that your story adds value and relevance. Make sure to tie it into your passions, endeavors, future goals etc.

Open Discussion

Once you have shared your story, give room to promote additional dialogue and conversation. Involve your counterpart with feedback, questions, or another story. Deepen the interaction by reinforcing the morals, lessons, or actions in the story and how they are applicable in business, academic or life in general.

Use these dynamic tips to build quality relationships and extend your personal or professional brand. Draw upon this form of communication to market, explain and bring awareness to your initiatives for networking or building quality networks.

Article Source: https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Chi_Chi_Okezie/154937

Networking and Advocacy

By Chi Chi Okezie

Networking is such a useful tool for building relationships. It is also an excellent way to develop communication skills, build your brand and bring awareness to initiatives and meaningful causes. Lending support and using a platform for change is both powerful as it is effective. Listed below are helpful ways that savvy networkers can influence, promote and encourage various endeavors.

Be Heard

Using your voice to support a worthy cause can have tremendous effects. Being able to have conversations and dialogues within your networks can be a strategic method of generating awareness. Another great way to bring attention to your cause is to transfer your voice onto social media. Post regularly with a consistent message to your online community. Of course, do your due diligence and post ethically and show professionalism and responsibility.

Be Seen

Take it a step further and create a public platform to promote initiatives. Exhibiting in trade and industry shows, presenting workshops or talks and doing training can gather a lot of interest. Also, aligning with bigger organizations and associations as a spokesperson can significantly impact your networks.

Be Accessible

In your methods of being an advocate, make it easy for people to connect with you. Use apps and technology which allows seamless scheduling for meetings and presentations. Update your social media profiles on a regular basis and offer your direct contact information. Make sure that you check your messages frequently and respond in a timely manner to inquiries. Finally, be open to expanding your networks through introductions, referrals and leads.

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Does One Size Fit All?

by Michael J. Joanis, P.E., **Director of Contractor Services/Chief Engineer**



In the case of fire department connections, size matters. There have been several recent large-loss fires in sprinkler protected warehouse buildings. With these events, industry concern over a fire department's ability to work effectively with sprinkler systems is rising. To that end, the use and capacity of fire department connections should be examined. Is it possible to use the fire department connections to overcome the most common reasons sprinklers systems are not effective? If so, should changes to how they are designed and sized be considered?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13E, *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*, provides guidance in Chapter 5 for fire ground operations in sprinkler protected buildings. The intent is to have fire companies take prompt action to supply the sprinkler system through the fire department connections.

NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, Section 16.12 addresses fire department connections. This section makes it clear that the intent is to supplement the pressure to an automatic fire sprinkler system. It is not the intent to size the fire department connection and piping based on the sprinkler system demand. A minimum of two 2 ½ in. connections are required regardless of sprinkler system demand. The fire department connection piping, when supplied by fire engines, does not have to be greater than 4 in.

NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*, takes a different approach to fire department connections. Based on the use of manual standpipe systems and the fire department's reliance on standpipe systems for firefighting operations, the intent of NFPA 14 is to size the fire department connection to supply the required standpipe system demand. The requirements for the design are outlined in Section 7.12. One 2 ½ in. inlet per every 250 gpm of the standpipe system demand is required. Two fire department connections on opposite corners of the buildings, or where not possible, physically separated to the greatest extent possible, are required for both high rise buildings and buildings exceeding 900 ft. of perimeter distance.

For sprinkler systems, it is assumed the required automatic water supply is available and adequate to control the fire. Given this assumption, the fire department connection is not intended to supply the sprinkler system demand. It is only there for the fire department to potentially supplement the automatic water supply.



NFPA reports that from 2015 to 2019, fires in sprinkler protected buildings, where one sprinkler activated, were 98% effective. However, when 11 or more sprinklers were activated, the system was effective only 84% of the time. Warehouse fires present a greater challenge to sprinkler systems and require more sprinklers to activate. Based on the commodity classification, storage height, and storage arrangement, the minimum design criteria will include the operation of 11 or more sprinklers.

The same NFPA report shows that 80% of fires with ineffective sprinkler system operation had problems getting water to the fire. In half of the fires in which sprinklers were ineffective, the water did not reach the fire at all. In nearly one-third of the fires, not enough water was discharged.

Given the larger sprinkler demands associated with warehouse fires and the concern for ensuring adequate automatic water supply to those sprinklers, should the fire department connections be arranged and sized to overcome potential impairments to the automatic water supply?

The number of inlets and pipe size required to supply the water volume and pressure at the fire department connection is dependent on several variables. These include the performance of the water supply at the source, the distance from the source to the location of the inlets, the diameter of the hose used, the size of the fire department pumper, and the required water volume and pressure at the base of the riser(s).

For example, assume we have an Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) warehouse with a sprinkler demand of 1,500 gpm at 140 psi at the base of the sprinkler riser. The fire department connection consists of two 2 ½ in. inlets with 4 in. piping as allowed by the standard. The 4 in. piping is 15 ft. in length and with fittings (four elbows and a check valve) has an equivalent length of 77 ft. If the fire engine discharges 150 psi at 1,500 gpm with 100 ft. of 3 in. hose to each connection, the available pressure at the base

continued on page 12

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of the riser at 1,500 gpm would only be 80 psi. Using the same example, when delivering the minimum required system pressure of 140 psi, the fire engine could only supply 350 gpm.

Applying the requirements of NFPA 14 to the example above, six 2 ½ in. inlets would be required and the piping to the connections would be hydraulically sized to supply the system demand. Using 6 in. piping, the available pressure at the base of the riser at 1,500 gpm would be 141 psi. To deliver the required minimum system demand pressure of 140 psi, the fire engine could deliver the minimum system volume demand of 1,500 gpm.

How would applying the NFPA 14 requirements for fire department connections affect the design of sprinkler systems only? For sprinkler systems with a demand of 500 gpm or less, there would be no change because two 2 ½ inch inlets meet the current requirements of both NFPA 13 and NFPA 14. For fire department connections that serve combination standpipe sprinkler systems, there would be no change as the requirements of NFPA 14 are already applicable. For sprinkler systems only with demands greater than 500 gpm, additional inlets would be required, and the piping would be hydraulically sized. For buildings exceeding a 900 ft. perimeter distance, a second fire department connection would be required.

In the event the automatic sprinkler system's water supply is impaired or partially impaired, as is the case with 80% of ineffective sprinkler operations, sizing the sprinkler system connections to accommodate the system demand is beneficial. Fire department operations may be able to overcome the impairment. It may not provide a means to defeat closed valves in all system arrangements, but it will ensure the fire department can provide the minimum system demand through the fire department connections.

While not currently required by NFPA 13, it may be good practice to consider sizing fire department connections for warehouse occupancies to meet the minimum sprinkler system demand. This will give the fire department an opportunity to truly improve the effectiveness of the sprinkler system's performance. •



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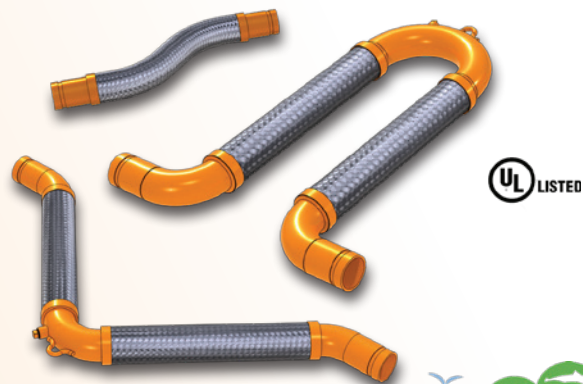
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Grandfathering has Social and Environmental Impacts

by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO, [VP of Codes and Standards](#), and [Learning and Development](#)



The fire sprinkler industry can attribute much of its current day success, market, and acceptance of the past 50 years to the impact of the 1973 *America Burning* report. This report established state fire marshal offices, state-wide code applications, and recommendations that model building codes allow fire sprinklers to offset passive fire protection. Soon after, the legacy model codes published require-

ments with fire sprinklers as economic drivers to encourage active fire protection systems to reduce fatalities, injuries, and property damage. From then to today, the *International Building Code* (IBC), now the predominate model building code in the US, has over 125 tradeups for automatic sprinkler systems and a 65% increase in mandatory sprinkler protection for new buildings. Retrofitting existing buildings, such as high-rises, bars, restaurants, and nightclubs is also on the rise through the adoption of NFPA 1 *Fire Code* and the *International Fire Code* (IFC). Work on existing non-compliant buildings has also had a slow increase of retrofitting sprinklers when certain thresholds are triggered. All these fire- and life-safety improvements started with *America Burning* and are increasing with every code edition update.

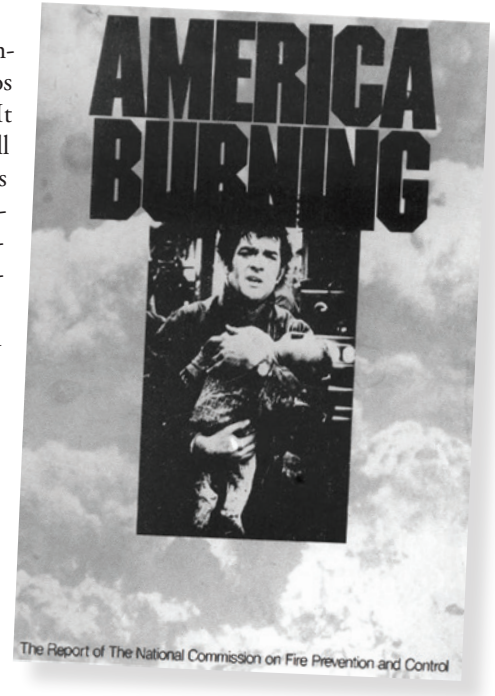
Model code improvements and increases are only good when adopted as such on the local level. Often, when an updated code is adopted locally, a local review board removes updates, such as retrofitting an existing building with sprinklers, allowing existing buildings to be “grandfathered.” Generally, grandfathering means the status is permitted to continue until it ceases to exist. For example, an existing unsprinklered building, otherwise required to have sprinklers if built new, is allowed to remain unsprinklered until it’s gone (demolished or burned), or changes use. Grandfathering also exists in the fire protection industry, such as when new licensing requirements are enacted. Usually in this licensing context, it allows for those currently in business to remain until a certain point, such as the next license renewal or another point in time. Using the term “grandfather” invokes some wisdom and experience to excuse one from current day requirements, with the unspoken caveat that gramps will someday biologically time out. Grandfathering is intended to provide a transition period that eventually has 100% compliance in mind.

Grandfathering an existing building from the modern-day new building requirements does have some benefits. First, it becomes a slowly evolving change of what is to come, allowing recognition of the need. When the MGM fire occurred in 1980, it triggered ret-

rofitting of sprinklers in all casinos in Las Vegas. It also prompted all the model codes to reevaluate allowing new unsprinklered high-rises. Since 1973, model codes had dual requirements for sprinklered versus unsprinklered high-rises. Eventually, starting in the 1980 NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, to the 2000 IBC, the 20-year span

ended an exception to exempt a new high-rise from sprinklers. Second, grandfathering puts owners and occupants on notice. Installing sprinklers undoubtedly increases property value, life safety, and diminishes business downtime. A sudden mandate catches owners unaware and often underfunded, however, using the grandfather strategy is a slow ratchet to an acceptable level of safety. The fire codes, NFPA 1 and the IFC, recognize this by allowing an extended period after adoption of the updated code, such as a 12-year period to plan and install sprinklers. Last, grandfathering gives time for codes and communities to catch up to one another. Codes are usually developed at a pace that local communities cannot match. For example, at this time, only two states have adopted the latest 2021 building and fire codes, while twenty-two states are still on the 2012 or 2015 editions.

Grandfathering existing buildings has several negative points, some of which did not exist, or were not considered, when contemplating grandfathering in the 1970s (or even today). First, grandfathering needs a sunset date. Cited as an advantage above, we see that model codes, such as the 2021 NFPA 101, dropped the 12-year window to retrofit existing high-rise apartments and applied a January 1, 2033, date for compliance. Grandfathering and extended compliance timeframes can provide for procrasti-





Flames leap from 11th floor apartment of 16-story building at 6730 South Shore dr. Fire was touched off by grease. (TRIBUNE Photo: By Jonathan Marples)

continued from page 13

nation, and as seen in Florida, repeated extensions to avoid retrofitting existing high-rises. This strategy is often effective because the turnover in politicians and residents provides renewed economic and other unsound concerns versus the life-safety of future residents. Second, there are numerous environmental concerns when unsprinklered buildings burn. Since the 70s, there have been several improvements that benefit natural air and water resources, such as the elimination of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) in fire service and fire protection systems, the implementation of several regulatory air and water quality updates to industrial/manufacturing processes, and fire protection run-off from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also, since the 70s, fire loads, even with fire sprinkler systems, have increased, including increased use of lithium-ion batteries, increased plastic-induced fuels, and increased population density that challenges fire response time, access, and exposure concerns. Socially, grandfathering buildings as unsprinklered, affects and changes entire communities when the buildings burn.

When communities allow exceptions to model codes that do not include fire sprinklers, the cost benefit goes to the owner, but the risk is to the community. For example, a suburban or rural warehouse or factory can often be a major employer to a community. However, when it burns, the effects last months to years beyond the newsworthy event. Post fire, the community suffers from the fatalities and injuries, the loss of employment, the added charitable or governmental aid, the cleanup, loss of tax revenue, and the unknowns, like the effect of the toxic runoff to groundwater supplies and other natural resource impacts for years to come. The byproducts of fires are recognized in cancers of humans and animals, whereas in the 70s, it was not. Grandfathering is different today from the 70s, or, put another way, this is no longer your grandfather's grandfather. When sprinkler systems continue to be the exception and not the rule, communities suffer. The last 50-years have added a lot to fire sprinkler design, options, and applications. Grandfathering-out sprinklers today increases the burden to those managing, operating, and living in buildings in the future. •

“...since the 70s, fire loads, even with fire sprinkler systems, have increased, including increased use of lithium-ion batteries, increased plastic-induced fuels, and increased population density that challenges fire response time, access, and exposure concerns. Socially, grandfathering buildings as unsprinklered, affects and changes entire communities when the buildings burn.”

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES CITY
 Vol. 22, No. 207 Phone 321-3000 MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1970 100 Pages—10 Cents

2 killed, 36 injured in Hilton fire
 By James Campbell

The hotel was involved in a fire at 8:18 p.m. A fire was called at 7:15, and a fire engine arrived at 7:30, working over the fire for an hour.

Scenes of the Fire
 Fires in ruined 6th floor lobby. Blaze apparently started in adjacent stairwell. The 5-11 alarm fire caused death of two guests and injured at least 28 others. Hundreds were forced to flee.

Chief gives tips
How to stay alive in a hotel fire
 By Philip J. O'Connor

A fire official said Monday that most hotel guests should remain in their rooms when a fire breaks out in a hotel.

Chief Francis Murphy, head of the Fire Prevention Bureau, said two teen-age deaf mutes killed in the Conrad Hilton Hotel fire would be alive if they had done this.

MURPHY OFFERED these tips on what to do if you're a guest in a hotel that catches fire:

• Don't panic. Don't open the door and dash out into the hallway.

• Put your hand on the door leading to the hallway to see how hot it is. If it is too hot to the hand, don't open it.

• If it's not too hot, open the door slowly, bracing your foot against the bottom, so it won't get away from you if there is a draft in the hallway.

• If you see dense smoke in the hallway, close the door. Take wet towels and put them against the base of the door to keep out the smoke.

• Close up any other openings or cracks to the smoke won't get in to you.

• Then call the fire department.

• GO TO THE window and open it at intervals. Don't leave it open, if you can avoid it, because this may create a draft.

• If the smoke gets real strong, though, leave the window open and stick your head out to get fresh air. Bury there until the firemen come to rescue you or the fire is out.

• If you decide you must leave your room and the door to your room is not too hot to the hand, go immediately to a stairwell and descend to the base of the building.

• Stairwells and the doors leading to them are provided with four-hour fire-resistor construction. So you can walk right by the floor on which the fire is centered in such a stairwell.

• Take your time. Don't run.

• DON'T USE the elevator.

• In the Hilton fire, a fellow, his wife and children took the elevator down from an upper floor.

• The elevator stopped on the sixth floor, where the fire was centered right in front of the elevator shaft. They were lucky the doors closed again.

• The fire, which was fought under control for 4 1/2 hours, reached the main of the corridor but did not change the pattern of the main.

• A hotel, general manager of the Hilton, said in a statement, "If these fatalities had occurred in our rooms, the results would have been disastrous."

• The hotel's general manager, Michael Quinn, said, "It was our hope that the guests would be able to get out of the hotel safely."

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

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

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

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

Visit HomeFireSprinkler.org/VR.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to learn more.



Is Increasing the Rigor of Qualifications a Good Thing?

by Evan Combs, **Manager of Learning & Development**



Rarely do we find an update to a set of professional qualifications lessen the amount of content knowledge required for a job or task. The trend across governing bodies that manage the requirements and maintenance of licenses is to first consider requiring more knowledge, more credited classes, and/or more difficult assessments to ensure individuals performing those duties are prepared to face a variety of challenges and maintain the integrity of the industry. At face value, this is great and helps ease our concern of the responsible parties in those positions. However, what really happens when you require an industry to have more skill or learn more to perform successfully?

Understanding why entities touch the professional qualifications first is important. The industry is perpetual, meaning that every few years we grow our understanding of how to protect lives and property in the event of a fire. In response, the industry needs to provide workers with the skills to implement and utilize this growing knowledge. This might be technology innovations requiring more intricate designs for more effective fire sprinkler systems, or recognizing that current systems have flaws and identifying critical modifications. Developing the industry to implement these changes is driven through qualifications like licenses, certifications, and other knowledge recognition. Another factor that influences the makeup of qualifications is roles and responsibilities. If an accrediting body juggles the requirements of a fitter, layout technician, and inspection and testing personnel, they might remove one task from one role, but it must still exist in another. One other catalyst for increase in qualification rigor is a single or series of events. For example, there may be an increase in the number of fires due to improper interactions with a sprinkler system, so the fire service might expand on the topic's knowledge in professional requirements.

In each case, the ripple effect splashes individuals pursuing careers aligned to these qualifications. Positively, there becomes more opportunity for an individual to develop holistically. Requiring more learning provides additional instances to grow from failure, and to better identify challenges and how to overcome them. This also makes the industry think more critically about how to educate in line with a larger body of requirements. More organizations and businesses are finding the value in focusing on curriculum incorporating instructional design and educational philosophy, and it benefits on investing in a confident and strong employee. The National Fire Sprinkler Association is a strong advocate for this type of learning as we shift the focus from “teaching to the

test” (or teaching to the set of required knowledge standards) to incorporating professional qualifications into applicable experiences. i.e., letting context for job requirements drive the style of education, rather than just speaking directly to the standards, sets an individual up for a stronger start in the role.

Negatively, increasing the rigor means higher expectations for an individual. This could mean that intimidation of pursuing the role or career turns away strong potential, the amount of failure in pursuit of the certification may increase, and the work and expectations for those that pass and perform the duties increases. The other major impact is time. Years ago, you may have been able to fully perform the duties of a given role with 4-6 months of training with some mentorship. Today, large organizations, to be sure their employees are successfully transitioned into a role, are requiring a much longer period ramping up before trusting an employee with full responsibility. It is simply unfair to provide the same six months of time to learn a job with a set of 50 content standards with one that may have upward of 100-200. And to effectively incorporate a wholistic learning approach, mentioned above, requires time as well, something few stakeholders want to devote to development.

The time to effectively develop an individual is one of the greatest challenges a learning and development team faces, like NFSAs, in an industry that grows in its requirements for workers, has many classes that still leverage lecture-based information delivery, and seeks to increase the quality of learning. Transforming an older NFPA 13 class that taught a handful of standards in two hours into a more effective project or context-based experience, could take six hours to deliver and effectively meet the same content standards. Those developing, delivering, and digesting the content surrounding new job requirements must balance the desire to learn more and learning more effectively.

Increasing the rigor of qualifications can be a good thing, but has repercussions, and it is important that the community driving the decisions involving qualifications consider all factors when looking to update requirements. This includes what it takes to achieve mastery of those qualifications, including time, resources, and expectations of those entering the industry.

For more information about the quality development programs NFSAs has to offer, aligning to a variety of licenses and qualifications, visit our website ([community.NFSA.org/learning](https://community.nfsa.org/learning)) or reach out to us at learning@nfsa.org.

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Arapahoe Fire
Protection, Inc.
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Jan Gwozdzik

Bay State Fire Sprinkler
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Ortiz Fire
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Kelly Robertson

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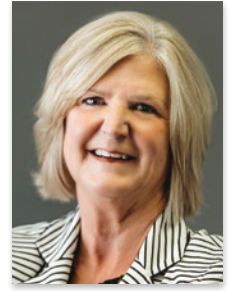
Steven Welsh

Hazelwood, MO

Kurt Zellmann

Mequon, WI

Counting the Days!



by Vickie Pritchett, **Vice President/Executive Officer**

Finally! I am counting down the days and can hardly contain my excitement for **NFSA's Business & Leadership Conference in Clearwater Beach at the Sheraton Sand Key September 28-30, 2022**. Check out all the details contained within this mailing, and please join us at the beach this September! If you can't be there in person, I hope you'll consider joining us virtually. A big thank you to our Seminar Committee for all their vision and steadfast work to make this conference happen! From the virtual option to the speaker selection, we appreciate the service of our committee members, and we are better because of their input and hard work.

We are happy to be able to present the past two years of awards! We will be honoring both our Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 recipients and what an awesome two classes they are! As a recap, here's our honorees:

2020 Golden Sprinkler Award:
Larry Thau

2021 Golden Sprinkler Award:
Ray Fremont, Sr.

2020 Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award:
Pete Schwab

2021 Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award:
Jeff Shapiro

2020 Leadership in Public Safety Award:
Jim Ford

2021 Leadership in Public Safety Award:
Kevin Reinertson

2020 Hall of Fame Inductees: **Kevin Ortyl, Norm MacDonald, Top Myers, Harold Nothhaft**

2021 Hall of Fame Inductees: **Dick Oliver, Tom Deegan, Tom Multer**

Take note that the **Common Voices Golf Classic** will occur on Wednesday afternoon, September 28th at the beautiful Cove Cay golf course. What a great way to support a great cause and network with your fire sprinkler friends! You'll also note the opening reception occurs on Wednesday evening. There's no better way to kick off the conference than outside! Check out the general session speakers (President Truman's grandson and Gene Marks) and the awesome line up of workshop speakers! The details are many, and too much to squeeze in my article, so please check out the conference booklet and get your team signed up and your travel plans made!

At the Sheraton Sand Key, we are going to feel like the resort is ours, and this helps us create an even better experience for all of our fire sprinkler family. *(I always prepare the hotel staff for us by saying they will think it's one big family reunion)*. We are also excited to have 30 vendors in our tabletop area, so it will be easy to see the latest and greatest from our Supplier and Manufacturer members, another highlight for sure! Let's call it mixing and mingling with a purpose!

I sure hope I see you in Clearwater Beach! *#fastestwateronthebeach* is a much anticipated event that allows us to finally be together again in person! Can't wait, hope to see you there!

Stay Safe, Until Next Time,





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 below to send, or email me at genadio@nfsa.org. Please include photos if available!



Delaware

Townhouse Sprinkler Save

Thank you to the Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition's Chair Paul Eichler for sending us this sprinkler save.

Annapolis, MD firefighters responded to a 911 call reporting a dwelling fire with an occupant trapped. First arriving firefighters reported smoke from the front of the one-story, middle-of-the-row townhouse. They entered and quickly removed a female occupant and extinguished a small fire that the residential sprinkler system had contained.



Illinois

Single Fire Sprinkler Extinguishes Fire in Home Under Construction

Thanks go to Lake Zurich, IL Fire Dept's Fire Prevention Specialist Bob Kleinheinz for sending in this sprinkler save that was not reported in the media!

We had a single fire sprinkler activate in a home under construction in the Avery Ridge subdivision in Lake Zurich. The fire was in the basement and involved construction material too close to a space heater. The single sprinkler activated and completely extinguished the fire. Some minor smoke and water damage occurred but has already been cleaned up and replaced, keeping the home on its construction schedule. The system had just been hydrotested by my office a couple of weeks ago.



The photo shows the sprinkler activated, keeping the fire contained to the area of origin. You can still see the heater burning.



On May 12th, we were called at 2:00pm to assist with assessing the damage and getting the systems back in service. We were onsite within a half hour and learned it was a roof fire. One sprinkler went off inside, preventing the fire from spreading to the rest of the interior. We replaced the head, and the sprinkler system was back online that evening. The Fire Alarm Team were able to take care of most of the troubles on the alarm system to the extent that fire watch was no longer needed by the next day.

Fire protection buys time and, in this case, contained a fire that could've been a lot worse. What we do matters - Protect. Prevent. Preserve.

Indiana

Single Sprinkler Saves Apartment Complex

Thanks to NFSA member Ryan Fire Protection for sending us this great save!

There was a fire at The Congress at Library Square Apartment Complex in Indianapolis, IN, which is a few blocks from Ryan Fire Protection. We did not install the system, but we recently secured the inspection service agreement.

Maryland

Sprinkler Save at Commercial Laboratory

Thanks to Maryland's Office of the State Fire Marshal for reporting this sprinkler save!

On April 9th, a fire occurring in the ceiling area of a commercial laboratory in Hampstead, MD was discovered by fire crews and

continued from page 20

was controlled by the structure's fire sprinkler system. Crews extinguished what remained of the fire in 15 minutes!

Investigators determined the fire cause was accidental. No injuries were reported.

Massachusetts

Sprinkler System Saves \$9M Building, Multiple Businesses

Thanks to the Westborough, MA Fire Dept. for posting this save on their Facebook page!

On May 14th, at 0622, Town of Westborough Firefighters responded to 30 Lyman Street for an automatic fire alarm.

First due companies arrived to find smoke visible within a restaurant and located an active sprinkler keeping a fire small at the rear egress. Because of the protective measures in place, damage was limited to the area of origin and a \$9 million dollar building (with numerous businesses) was not significantly damaged and there were no injuries. Businesses will be allowed to open same day as soon as the sprinkler system is put back in service.



likely accidentally bumping the burner control knob, resulting in a fire. A single fire sprinkler controlled and almost completely extinguished the fire.

Very minor damage resulted. No injuries were reported. The single sprinkler and firefighters saved the \$40 million building and its vulnerable occupants!

Restaurant Sprinkler Save in Strip Mall

Thanks to Richfield, MN Assistant Fire Chief Jenell Wood for sending in this great account of a sprinkler save!

On April 14th, around 3:25am, Richfield Fire was dispatched for a fire alarm. Upon arrival, there was nothing found at the dispatched address of a strip mall.

After further investigation, crews located water coming from the back door of the property. Crews forced the exit only door between the back hallway and the space leading into the tenant space, El Tejaban Mexican Grill.

There, they located an activated sprinkler and a small fire that was extinguished by the sprinkler system.

There was no extension into the wall space. Crews were not able to isolate that tenant space with the sprinkler system but were able to stop water flow by shutting down the main system valve. The tenant space and basement had very little fire damage and some water damage they are working on cleaning up.

The kitchen area remained untouched by water or fire. Building maintenance arrived on scene and helped with a fire watch and cleanup crews arrived. The crew did an excellent job finding and isolating the problem and the sprinkler did what it was supposed to! A great save!



Minnesota

Single Sprinkler Save at Senior Living Facility

Thanks go to Eagan, MN Deputy Chief - Fire Marshal Darrin Bramwell for sending in this sprinkler save that went unreported in the media!



On April 13, a fire was reported at a Multi-Family Senior Living Facility with 150 living units.

An employee had set some cardboard boxes on the countertop and one on the stove's cooktop in the facility's activity room, most

Fire Sprinkler System Saves Grocery Store and Apartments Above

Thanks go to MN Deputy State Fire Marshal Daniel Kaiser, MN State Fire Marshal's Fire Safety Supervisor Jon Nisja, and Deputy Chief Roy Mokosso for providing information on this sprinkler save!

A fire at the entranceway of a St. Paul, MN grocery store that fire officials believe was intentionally set was kept at bay by the store's fire sprinkler system, preventing significant spread to the interior and possibly several apartments that are above the store.

Details:

Fire under exterior canopy / overhang. Mixed use building (mercantile, apartments, and parking). Fire extended upwards with some interior extension into the building. Three sprinklers operated and prevented additional interior damage. Fuel load ignited:

continued on page 22

Fire Sprinklers in Action

continued from page 21

garbage and recycling containers. Some fire damage to seating space in this area of the building interior.

Of the many media outlets that reported on this story, not one focused on the fact that the fire sprinkler system saved this building and its residents. Our Minnesota team is working on ways to educate the media.

NFSA Regional Manager Tim Butler discussed media education on “water damage” statements with the team. “We’d like to hold a media day later this summer for the purpose of educating media and Fire Department PIOs on sprinklers, the damage they prevent, and reporter questions that would get to a more comprehensive picture of what occurs and the damage that is prevented by ‘all this water.’”



Sprinkler System Extinguishes Warehouse Fire

Thanks go to Bloomington, MN Firefighter/Fire Inspector Peter Müller and Jon Nisja, Supervisor at Minnesota State Fire Marshal, for sending us this sprinkler save.



The Bloomington Fire Department responded to a report of a fire out on 04/21/2022 at 08:04 at a local business. The fire sprinkler system in the warehouse was still active when BFD crews arrived and shut down the system.

The fire began on a work bench of the warehouse. The workers had placed a wax candle on the work bench and forgot to properly extinguish it before leaving for the day.

Missouri

Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Kitchen Fire in Senior Apartment Building

Thanks go to Hazelwood, MO’s Robertson Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Todd Phillips for sending us this great account of a recent sprinkler save!



On April 12th, firefighters were dispatched to the Santa Maria apartments, a fixed-income, multi-story complex with a mostly elderly population. Upon arrival, crews were met by a resident stating that one of the apartments on the first floor was on fire. A first alarm was called and crews entered the building, finding smoke conditions in the hallway. They made their way to apartment 141 and noticed water flowing from the apartment.

After entering, they determined that the fire was out and the resident needed only minor medical attention. The resident stated she was cooking on her stovetop and had fallen asleep on the couch. These apartments are very small with the kitchen and living room in one room, and the bedroom/bathroom in the other.

The 13R system not only suppressed the fire, it extinguished it as well. Crews did some overhaul of the kitchen cabinets and ceiling for extension and put out some hot spots with a water cannon but otherwise the fire was completely out due to the activation of the sprinkler.

Without the sprinkler activation this would most certainly have been a very well-involved fire with smoke conditions. It would have more than likely been a fatality to an elderly person sleeping on the couch in very close proximity to the fire. Also, this is a three-story wood-frame constructed building built in the early 70s. Need I say more about the potential for further life safety issues? Hope this can be used to reinforce that sprinklers do save lives!

New York

Sprinkler Save in Group Home for People with Disabilities

Thanks go to Smithtown, NY Fire Marshal Matthew Raia for sending in this sprinkler save!

We had a group home fitted with an NFPA 13R system. A fire occurred within the basement due to an electrical appliance.



The fire alarm system activated and the local fire department was alerted. The call was upgraded to a structure fire once a call back was received from the group home manager stating that there was smoke in the building and they were evacuating. The occupants within this group home are disabled and require assistance.

Upon arrival, FD had a heavy smoke condition in the basement with rushing water from an activated fire sprinkler. There was no visible fire as the fire sprinkler system had extinguished it. No injuries were reported and the occupants were relocated to a different location.

The fire sprinkler system bought the occupants more time to evacuate, in addition to extinguishing the fire. The results of this fire could have been significantly worse if it wasn't for the fire sprinkler system.

Texas

Single Fire Sprinkler Stops Apt Kitchen Fire from Spreading

Thanks go to Merit Ossian, McKinney Fire Dept. PIO for sending us this sprinkler save!



The McKinney, TX Fire Department responded to a report of a water flow alarm at an apartment building on March 19th. Firefighters arrived to find that a fire sprinkler in the kitchen activated and successfully extinguished the fire – keeping the flames from spreading to the rest of the apartment. There were no injuries reported and damage was limited to the area around the stove.

Sprinkler Save at BBQ Restaurant

Thanks to Rachel Neutzler of the Harris County, TX Fire Marshal's Office for sending us this sprinkler save.

On April 15th, the Atascocita, TX Fire Department arrived to find fire damage around a large BBQ pit inside a local restaurant. The temperature was accidentally turned up higher than normal, igniting grease buildup inside the pit. Two fire sprinklers were activated and controlled the fire. No injuries were reported.

Fire Sprinklers Buy Time!

Thanks to McKinney, TX Fire Dept. Public Information Officer Merit Ossian for sending us this sprinkler save!

On May 13th, the McKinney Fire Department (MFD) was called to a gated rental community. Crews arrived to find fire and heavy smoke coming from one home. Firefighters went on a fast attack, quickly bringing the fire under control.

The home was equipped with a 13D fire sprinkler system that gave the resident inside the time to escape. No one was injured. The resident told Fire Investigators a battery charger for outdoor power tools was plugged into an outlet and the outlet started sparking.

“While the cause of this fire is still under investigation, it is a good idea to unplug all battery chargers when they are not in use,” said McKinney Fire Marshal/Asst. Chief Mike Smith.

Second Sprinkler Save at Apartment Complex

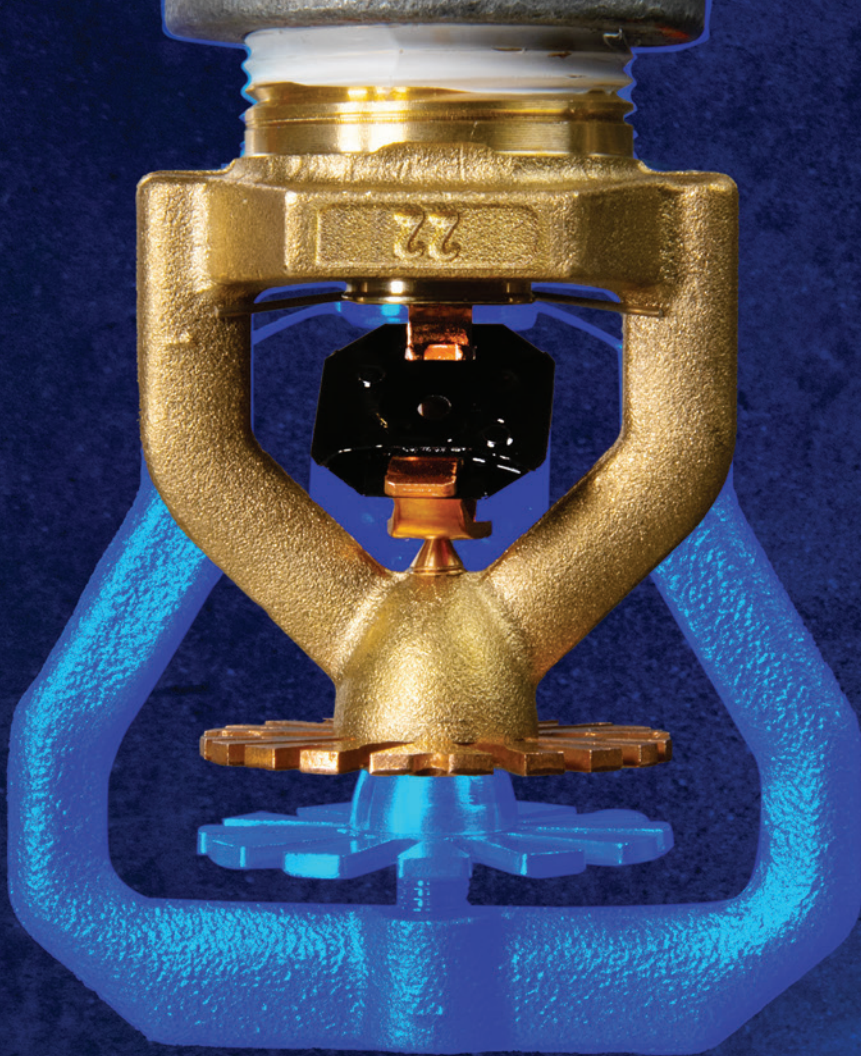
Thanks to Frisco, TX Fire Marshal Kelly Kistner for sending in this sprinkler save!

We had a sprinkler save this morning in a large multi-family property. The sprinkler controlled and extinguished the fire. This is the second sprinkler save at this property in recent years.



continued on page 26

OUR LI JUST SMA



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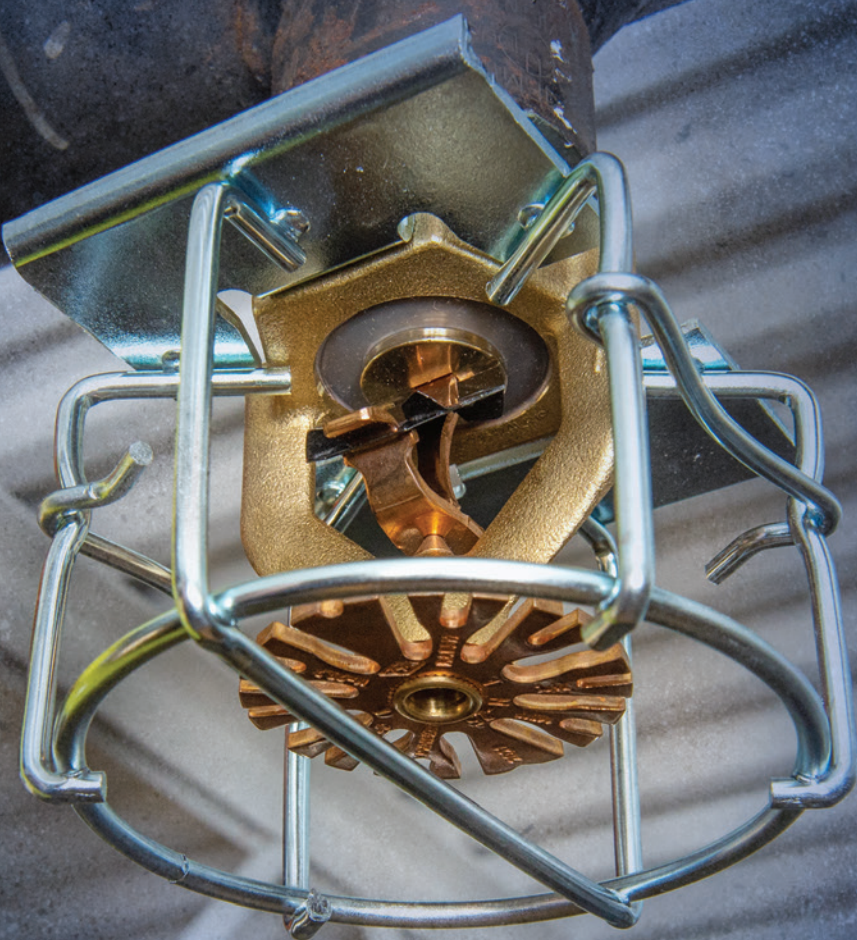


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Fire Sprinklers in Action

continued from page 23

Utah

Single Fire Sprinkler Saves Eight-Unit Apartment Building

Thanks to Sandy Springs, UT Deputy Fire Marshal Gerald Strebler for sending us this sprinkler save!



A single sprinkler extinguished a fire in the kitchen of an apartment building in Sandy, Utah. On April 28, 2022, an unattended pan with cooking oil was left on a stovetop with the control knob on. Occupants of the apartment building were alerted to the fire by the activation of the fire alarm triggered by the fire sprinkler deployment.

Fire crews made entry into the apartment and found the fire had been not only controlled by the single sprinkler deployment, but fully extinguished. The fire sprinkler system was shut down and drained. The sprinkler water was contained in the single ground-level apartment.

The fire sprinkler system was repaired and placed back in working order within two hours. The apartment owners were displaced for two days with help from the Red Cross, while the disaster company cleaned up the water and dried the carpets.

A few years earlier, a neighboring apartment building of the same size, without fire sprinklers, was almost a total loss. It displaced five of the eight apartment owners and totaled over \$1M. This fire, by comparison, displaced only one of eight for an estimated \$10-15K. No one had to move or relocate because of fire, smoke, or water damage. A big win for building owners, occupants, and our fire prevention efforts.

Wisconsin

Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Apartment Kitchen Fire

Thanks to Madison, WI Fire Marshal Ed Ruckriegel for sending us this sprinkler save!

An automatic fire sprinkler is credited for quickly controlling a fire, minimizing damage, and preventing injury inside a downtown apartment.

On May 2nd, the Madison Fire Dept. responded to an apartment building to investigate a fire alarm activation. Residents were evacuating as firefighters arrived at the multi-story building. The alarm panel indicated a problem on the fourth floor. Firefighters proceeded to the fourth floor and noticed a slight haze in the hallway. They came to find an activated sprinkler in one of the apartments with someone inside collecting their things. A charred plastic bag of groceries was found on the stovetop.

The occupant explained they had just gone grocery shopping and set some bags of groceries on the stove. They went back downstairs to move their vehicle and when they returned, the fire alarm was going off. The occupant was unsure how the burner got turned on but surmised they may have bumped it when they set down the groceries.

A single sprinkler just above the stove activated and put the fire out. The groceries were the only items damaged by the flames. Fire did not extend beyond the stovetop or damage the kitchen cabinets. The occupant did not suffer any injuries as a result of the incident. •



Inspection, Testing, and Industry Trends

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



There are many discussions about happenings in the fire sprinkler industry, from new methods of installation to old ways of getting the job done. This article will focus on a few topics that will have an impact on inspection, testing, and maintenance, as well as other disciplines in the industry.

Antifreeze

As many know, NFPA has not allowed new antifreeze installations since September of 2012. The reason for this is in 2010, in Truckee, CA, a cooking fire set off sprinklers in an apartment with an antifreeze system installed. The antifreeze solution was at a high percentage by volume and when the sprinkler activated the elevated mixture caused an explosion. There have been other instances where a high mixture of antifreeze solution contributed to the fire as well. This caused changes in NFPA 25, The Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Sprinkler Systems. In NFPA 25 all editions since 2011 there is a sunset date of September 30, 2022, for all existing legacy (glycerin and glycol) antifreeze solutions to be replaced with a listed antifreeze.

The NFPA 25 committee has voted in the second draft for the 2023 edition of NFPA 25 to allow legacy antifreeze to remain provided it meets the percentage requirements currently listed in the standard (38% by volume for glycerin 30% by volume for propylene glycol). There have been many discussions among the committee members on how to address the antifreeze solution and sunset dates. This edition, currently in development, should be released sometime in late 2022, after or near the sunset date requirements.

Foam

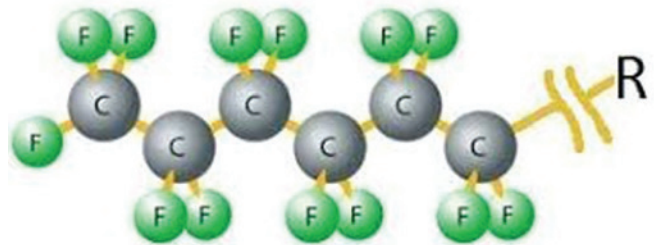
We have used Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) in the fire protection industries since the 1960s. Over the last few years, many laws have been passed prohibiting the sale and use of these foams. The focus is to eliminate some of the chemicals used in these foams that have gotten into some food and water supplies and pose a significant risk for humans and wildlife. They are not removed during waste-water treatment process and have been linked to cancer.

Not being a chemical engineer, I will not try to speak to these

terms. Following is a link to better describe what these chemicals are and the impact they have.

<https://bit.ly/AFFF123>

The fire protection industry is transitioning, or already has transitioned, to a more environmentally friendly foam. The traditional AFFF foams were also known as perfluorinated carbon chains which range from C4 to C24. C8 was the traditional AFFF foams and C6 is what we will now see in the fire protection industry. The EPA created a stewardship program to eliminate these chemicals by Dec. 31st, 2015.



There is an uptick in the fire protection, as well as the fire service industries, to move away from the traditional foams used for training and firefighting. Maryland is the first state to ban the use of PFAS foams for training and testing effective October 1, 2021 and will require all AFFF to be replaced by 2024. This is directed mostly at the fire service, but eventually could affect the fire protection industry as well. Most suppliers of foam for the fire protection industry have already stopped the sale of C8 foams.

For existing systems in the fire protection industry care should be taken when making the transition from C8 to C6 foams as they may or may not be compatible with existing system components such as existing proportioners. As always, consult with the manufacturer to determine what is or is not compatible.

Water

Another concern on the horizon for fire sprinkler contractors is the containment or recapture of water. There are several jurisdictions across the country that are requiring some sort of dechlorination or reclamation process when fire protection water is being discharged.

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Here is an example from the California State Fire Marshal:

<https://bit.ly/CAFMH2O>

This does not seem to be a state-wide requirement in many states, but several smaller municipalities may be adopting similar requirements. Some may require complete reclamation, while others only require that the discharged water be dechlorinated. There are manufacturers on the market that offer tools to dechlorinate the water. When the water must be contained, some contractors are calling in companies to provide tanks or reservoirs, while some contractors are buying their own.

This article is only intended to bring awareness to things that may be coming to your locality. Many contractors and AHJs in the industry usually find these things out after an incident has occurred. This is not a deep dive into each of the areas discussed for locations and enforcement. As always, it is particularly important to know your local laws and to abide by the rules that have been established in your municipality. •



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RISE ABOVE THE REST

CPVC Provides Greener Solution for Light Hazard Fire Protection Systems

by Sean Pearce, *Fire Protection Business Development Manager at Lubrizol Advanced Materials*

Green building practices are an important consideration in building or renovating many facilities today, and fire sprinkler systems play an important role in helping developers and building owners achieve sustainability goals.

According to the World Green Building Council, a ‘green’ building reduces or eliminates negative environmental impacts through its design, construction, and operation. Green building is more than a trend – it reflects a deeper, more sophisticated understanding of manufacturing’s environmental impact. It’s still about what comes out of smokestacks and sewer pipes, but it also includes ensuring efficient use of energy, water, and other resources; limiting pollution and waste reduction; using fewer toxic materials; and more.

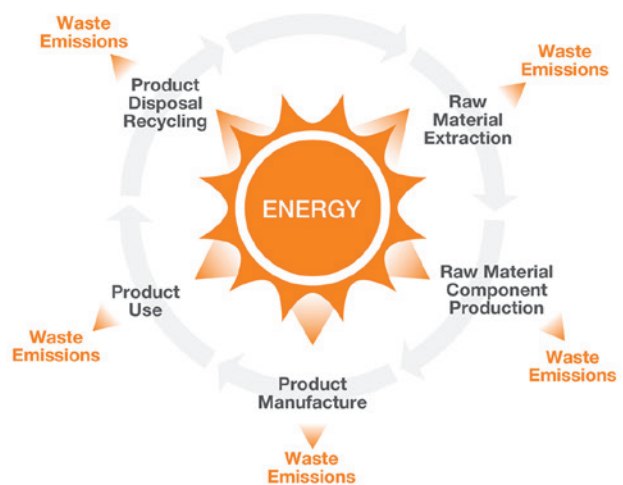
To support sustainability, builders, building owners, contractors and homeowners carefully choose products and materials that do the least amount of damage to the environment. That includes choosing pipe and fittings for fire sprinkler systems.

To better understand environmental impacts, Lubrizol Advanced Materials, creator of a leading brand of CPVC for fire sprinkler systems, authorized an independent, ISO-compliant Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). An LCA is an environmental assessment of all materials and the energy input and output associated with all phases of a product, from the raw material through manufacturing, use and ultimate disposal. It goes beyond carbon emissions and energy usage to include resource depletion and human toxicity. It is, in short, a “cradle to grave” evaluation of a product’s environmental impact.

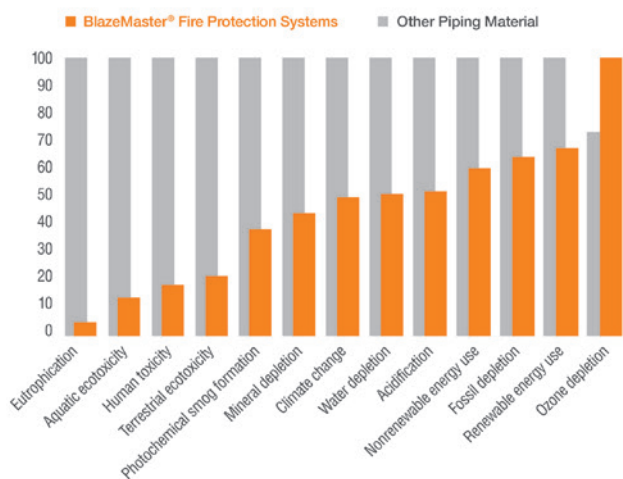
The peer-reviewed LCA found that the leading brand of CPVC for fire sprinkler systems comes out on top versus other piping system material in 12 of 13 categories. The study found that the CPVC brand:

- Requires less energy consumption than other approved pipes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.
- Causes less toxicity impacts on people, aquatic life, and terrestrial organisms and plants.
- Generates less pollutants that cause smog formation.
- Contributes less to acidification that can lower the pH of fresh water, oceans, and soil.
- Depletes less resources such as iron ore, crude oil, coal, and others as well as minerals.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)



Environmental Performance Gap



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CPVC: A Recyclable Resource

CPVC is readily recyclable. Piping material can be collected on the jobsite by specialized recycling firms (country specific) and ground into pellets and granules. These can be mixed into different applications such as:

- Window profiles
- Floor fillings
- Floor coatings
- Car mats
- Cable trays
- Speed bumps

As CPVC recycling infrastructure grows and the recycling rate increases, CPVC can be expected to widen its environmental performance gap.

Supporting Sustainability in Commercial Buildings

While there is a lingering myth that CPVC is only for residential buildings, in fact, it is approved for use in any light hazard application as defined by NFPA 13. That means CPVC provides a strong option for a wide range of buildings, including offices, high-rise towers, schools, hospitals, and more. Sustainability is an important factor for all these facilities, and CPVC provides superior environmental metrics that can help facilities achieve LEED certification.

Five More Reasons to Choose CPVC for Light Hazard Fire Protection

CPVC is better for the environment, and it also delivers a variety of other benefits that support successful fire sprinkler system projects. Specifying CPVC can help:

1. Save on material costs. Contractors can save on material costs because CPVC offers a smooth interior surface that improves hydraulics. That means system designers can specify smaller diameter pipe while ensuring the same level of flow.
2. Reduce labor costs through easy installation methods. Lightweight CPVC pipe and fittings are easy to move around a job site, and a one-step solvent cement welding process means fabrication and installation is a one-person job, reducing labor costs. For instance, a Sacramento area contractor chose CPVC for a three-building office retrofit and saved the building owner \$21,000.
3. Streamline installation with on-site fabrication and easier rework. CPVC can be fabricated on-site without the use of hot work and messy cutting oils. If plans change, there's no need to wait for new pieces from an offsite fabricator.

4. Ensure long-term performance and reduce maintenance costs. CPVC pipe and fitting systems naturally prevent problems such as corrosion, scaling and Microbiologically Induced Corrosion (MIC).
5. Minimize disruption during retrofits. The clean, quiet installation method for CPVC fire sprinkler systems ensures contractors can complete work with limited disruption to ongoing operations. CPVC eliminates noise, equipment, machinery and large work crews often required for other types of fire sprinkler systems.

When combined with the sustainability benefits, these factors make a compelling case for choosing CPVC for a wide range of light hazard fire sprinkler systems. Using CPVC fire sprinkler systems allows developers to meet green building goals while saving money, speeding installation, and reducing maintenance.

Sean Pearce is Fire Protection Business Development Manager at Lubrizol Advanced Materials, which includes BlazeMaster® Fire Protection Systems and UL-listed freezemaster™ antifreeze for fire sprinkler systems.



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#Fastestwater on the Beach!

The Resort

Who doesn't love a laid-back beach vibe and sugar white sand beaches? That's what you'll find when you attend NFSA's Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference at the gorgeous Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, FL! Clearwater Beach is known worldwide for its white sands and clear turquoise waters on Florida's Gulf Coast. We know you won't be able to resist taking some shots of the incredible sunsets. Get ready to change your Facebook cover photo!

The Sheraton Sand Key boasts private access to its 13-acre guests-only beach and is close to many of Florida's finest attractions. The resort has outdoor pools, tennis courts and a state-of-the-art fitness center. So go ahead, indulge yourself in some great seafood and a few tropical drinks! For those of you that prefer to keep your sandals sandless, the Beachfront Pool offers stunning views of the gulf waters from a spacious pool deck populated with sun loungers and tables topped with umbrellas. Be sure to try some light bites from the Poolside Café and refreshments from Slo Joe's Turtle Bar.

Sand Key's signature restaurant, Rusty's Bistro, features fresh Florida seafood and local produce from Clearwater Beach providers. The delicious menu is based on Caribbean and Southwestern cuisines and is the perfect venue for dinner after a day of networking, sun, sand, and hopefully a few educational sessions thrown in! Insider tip: We have it on good authority that the crab cakes cannot be missed!

For bar snacks and some after-hours fun, be sure to check out the Mainstay Tavern, where you can cheer on your favorite team, shoot a game of pool and enjoy one of the Tavern's craft beers. For those of you that come alive when the sun goes down, the Tavern is open until 1:00 a.m.

Time to explore!

You can't miss Pier 60, featuring a 1,080-foot fishing pier and recreational park, with a bait house, telescopes and six covered pavilions. If fishing is your thing, the Pier 60 bait house offers a complete line of fishing tackle, as well as rental equipment and bait. One of the reasons Pier 60 is such a popular spot for anglers is its many lights, which make it ideal for night fishing. And remember those sunset pics you wanted to take? Key West ain't got nuttin' on Clearwater! The pier is where you'll get that money shot! "Sunsets at Pier 60," a Clearwater Beach tradition, offers a variety of crafts and entertainment from 6 - 9 p.m. each night. Insider tip: Be sure to be at the pier when the sun begins to set on the horizon. You will be transfixed by the technicolor pink sky!



A visit to Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a must-do for the whole family. This is not your typical aquarium! This marine life rescue center is home to sea turtles and dolphins, including Winter the Dolphin, star of the popular Dolphin Tale movies, filmed on location in Clearwater! Winter is an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin who lost her tail fluke and joint due to an injury from a crab trap line and now uses a prosthetic tail to preserve her spine. There are presentations every 30 minutes, so you'll get to experience the sea life up close and personal! Insider tip: To avoid long ticket sales lines buy your tickets online in advance and pick them up at will call.

Avast ye swabbies! Yer can't miss Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise! We recommend the sunset cruise. You'll have a front row seat to the scenic views of Clearwater and the gorgeous sunset as you scan the horizon in search of dolphins. Get lost in the pirate antics during the two-hour trip including a treasure hunt, face painting, water gun games, stories and dancing for all ages. The pirate crew can't wait to welcome you aboard! Private charters are available. Insider tip: Reserve your cruise well in advance of your desired cruise date. During busy season(s) cruises sell out two to three days in advance, if not more. If weather should cancel your cruise, you would be able to rebook prior to leaving the Clearwater Beach area.

This is just a small sampling of all that awaits you! Be sure to make your reservations for the seminar and book your hotel early, as this premier destination is sure to sell out quickly. We can't wait for you to join us for *#fastestwater on the beach!*

Joanne

NFSA on Capitol Hill



Spending time in our Nation's Capital is part of our service to you, our members. We have a year-round presence in Washington D.C., with Andy Quinn working with Vickie Pritchett on legislation throughout the year. We have a lot to be grateful for with fire sprinkler incentives and funding opportunities for HUD housing being part of recent legislation success.

On April 6th, we were honored to spend time with U.S. Fire

Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell at her office at FEMA Headquarters prior to the start of Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) events. It is exciting to listen and learn from Dr. Moore-Merrell. Her leadership strengths will do much to advance our cause and the impact of fire sprinklers across America.

NFSA Reps Fire Sprinklers at Future Builders of America Summit



Team NFSA at the Future Builders of America Leadership Summit. Vince Powers, Lorrell Bush, Glen Painter (Milton J Wood), Dave Haney (Wayne Automatic), Abbie Gunnells

A four-day camp where kids learn about different trades and opportunities/ jobs available in those trades.

Shoutin' About #Fastestwater from the Rooftops... And the revolving doors of the Washington DC Hilton!

We took advantage of our visit to DC by gracing the revolving doors of the Washington DC Hilton with all things #fastestwater!



NFSA's Codes and Standards Team at ICC Hearings

The 2024 ICC code development of the IRC, IEBC, and more, was held in Rochester, NY, March 27 – April 6. The NFSA Codes and Standards team was on site with Vice President Jeffrey Hugo, CBO, Regional Field Service Coordinator Rob Geislinger, and Codes and Standards Specialist John Swanson.

The team worked with code officials and other industries to advance and defend fire sprinkler systems in the development of the next edition. Changes such as preventing seismic bracing in the IRC, correlating supervision and monitoring requirements, and defending high-rise fire sprinkler retrofit, were a few of the issues on which the NFSA was active.



NFSA Exhibits at AFAA's Annual Meeting and Codes Conference



NFSA's Michael Wilson and John Swanson were present at the Automatic Fire Alarm Association's (AFAA) Annual Meeting and Codes Conference last week in Palm Coast, Florida. This was the AFAA's first conference since 2019 and attendees were more than excited to be there to meet face to face and shake hands once again!

The NFSA's goal at this conference was primarily to network with members and potential members and discuss the NFSA's role in NFPA 72 and other standards relevant to attendees.

Over 60 professionals from all over the country attended this conference. Keynote speakers included Shawn Simmons and Alvaro Llanos, who shared their inspiring story of survival and healing in

the wake of the Seton Hall fire. There were also several educational sessions relevant to the alarm industry that NFSA staff attended.

NFSA spent quality time with members who attended the conference, including Inspect Point, Armstrong Pumps, and Potter Electric Signal—to name just a few. NFSA staff also enjoyed catching up with our Mexican counterpart association, AMRACI.

The combined efforts of the Membership and Codes and Standards Teams made this conference a success. The departments look forward to more opportunities to serve NFSA members in the future.

Team NFSA Pounds the Pavement During Home Fire Sprinkler Week!

Team NFSA took full advantage of Home Fire Sprinkler Week (HFSW) to demonstrate and convey the life- and property-saving benefits of home fire sprinklers. For those of you that follow our This Week in Social Media post in every issue of Spotlight on Fire Sprinklers, you'd have noticed that at the end of HFSW, there was a huge uptick in post engagement across all channels!

SIMPLE MATH:
Fire Sprinklers + Firefighters = Unbeatable Team!

An Unbeatable Team!

Fire Sprinklers control and can often extinguish fires prior to firefighter arrival, allowing time for occupants to escape safely, limit property damage, and give firefighters the chance to finish the job safely. It really is that simple!

The more you know, the more you'll ask for **#fastestwater!**



This is an example of one of our outreach ads that was shared countless times across our social media platforms. We are happy to customize these ads for your use. Contact Marketing Manager Joanne Genadio at genadio@nfsa.org with your requests.

Burn demos, public safety announcements (PSAs) and customized messages on social media garnered tons of attention across the country...and we're not done! Several more burn demos are in the works soon!

In Wisconsin, both radio and television PSAs graced the airwaves. Between radio and tv, 400 PSAs ran in Wisconsin throughout the week.

We'll be sharing more as we continue to spread the #fastestwater word! •

CHAPTERS IN ACTION

Boston Chapter



The NFSA Boston Chapter was back in action last month for the first time since the pandemic. 25 attendees from several contractor, and supplier and manufacturer companies from the area met at Trillium Brewing in Canton, Massachusetts, to break bread and discuss what's changed in the industry in the past two years and what's to come.

Present at the meeting was NFSA's Michael Wilson who gave a brief demonstration on what's new at NFSA, including the new member experience. Area Coordinator Paul Zbikowski spoke about the upcoming state fair this summer, which will include several side-by-side burn demonstrations. Devin O'Leary from JCI/TYCO, the night's guest speaker, gave a very detailed and informative presentation on sprinkler system antifreeze.



onstration with local Fire Marshal Keith Flood emceeding and State Fire Marshal William Abbott speaking. There was also a two-hour training seminar on the variety of services provided to a homeowner post fire incident. The people at United provided a fantastic BBQ meal for everyone. There were approximately 75 people in attendance. An NFSA display table was set up, where we had pamphlets and booklets for those interested in seeking more information. The evening ended with a CT Chapter meeting and of course dessert!

United Property Restoration Hosts Connecticut Chapter Meeting



We had a fantastic afternoon and evening at United Property Restoration Services in Middlefield, Connecticut. They hosted the CT Chapter meeting, where we had a side-by-side burn dem-

Empire Chapter Happy to Get Back to In-Person Meetings



The Empire Chapter was thrilled to meet in person at the Mill House Brewing Company in Poughkeepsie, NY on May 11th to discuss their upcoming Saratoga Raceway event. Members contributed some great ideas to make the event the best one ever. NFSA Director of Field Operations Gary West attended and spoke about making future chapter meetings hybrid (both in-person and

continued from page 35

online) to increase attendance and allow more members to join in. We are also looking forward to bringing the home fire sprinkler virtual reality demo to a future meeting. Stay tuned for more info regarding Saratoga soon. Exciting times are ahead for this chapter!

Florida Fire Sprinkler Association Premier Sponsor at FBA Leadership Summit

What a privilege it was to be a part of the Future Builders of America Leadership Summit. We spent four days working with about 100 high schoolers and teaching them lifesaving careers in the fire sprinkler industry.

We started the week with a side-by-side fire sprinkler demo supported by Polk County Fire Rescue and Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, and then continued with classes all week showcasing opportunities that awaited the students if they were to choose a career in our industry.



We were joined by other trades such as home builders, carpenters, welders, landscapers, and HVAC. Not only did students spend 75 minutes with each trade, asking unbelievably advanced questions, they also attended classes on etiquette, learned marketing techniques, and listened to motivational speakers.

Everyone should have this opportunity to invest in these kids. It was a memorable experience. FFSA was there as a

Premier Sponsor for the second year in a row and we can't wait to sign up for 2023! If you are a Florida contractor member and would like to be a part of this very important program, we are already making plans for 2023, reach out to us via email bush@nfsa.org and join the fun!



NFSA Capital Region Chapter Hosts Fishing Event



On May 19th, the National Fire Sprinkler Association Capital Region Chapter was proud to host the association's first ever fishing event. Member employees from all over the region gathered for the event that featured eight boats.

The boats set out early in the morning from the Rod and Reel Marina in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. The target species was striped bass, or—as the locals called them—rockfish. Anglers pursued these fish through trolling, a method that involves letting lures trail behind a slow-moving boat. The fleet experienced varying degrees of success, with some boats catching no fish while others completely limited out for the day.

There were some impressive catches amongst the anglers, with some rockfish measuring from 20 inches all the way up to 30! Jerry of Clark Fire Protection brought in the day's winning catch with a 32-inch rockfish!

After the boats came in for the day, anglers attended a brief awards ceremony and lunch. Chapter Chair Josh Shapiro thanked all those who attended and added that the chapter hopes to host more events like this in the future. The chapter gave away numerous awards, including small coolers as a conciliatory prize to the boat with no fish and a large personal cooler for the angler with the largest rockfish.

Dozens of anglers attended this event from several companies throughout the region, from Maryland and all the way up to New Jersey. The chapter raised thousands of dollars that went to the chapter and its efforts to advance the industry in Maryland.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association would like to thank those who participated in this event, especially the following

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Jerry and the 32" "Rockfish"

sponsors: Continental Fire Sprinkler Company, Core & Main, Ferguson Fire & Fabrication, General Air, Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company, and Victaulic.

Texas Chapter

Chat With the Local Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex AHJs NFAA Texas Chapter Meetings

July 27, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join FSCATX, FPANT and NFAA Texas for a Joint Fire Sprinkler Discussion Meeting about local code amendments, state fire sprinkler rules and how Fire Sprinkler Contractors can be best prepared to design, install and inspect/maintain fire sprinkler systems.

NFAA Texas is also hosting 3 days of NFAA Training:

Sprinkler System Plan Review

July 26, 2022, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This course will provide best practices for reviewing fire sprinkler plans. Attendees will learn what documents to accept to start a review, what steps to take through the fire sprinkler design and systems review, and how to review hydraulic calculations.

High Piled Storage

July 27, 2022, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The course addresses the influence of various commodity and ceiling heights in sprinkler selection and system design, where solid-pile, palletized, bin-box, shelf or rack storage commodity configurations exceed twelve feet.

Coordinating NFPA 25 & 72 ITM

July 28, 2022, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NFPA 25 and NFPA 72 require coordination of the testing of the sprinkler systems and the fire alarm systems. Participants will develop strategies to coordinate the work required by these two important standards.

Register for all events here: <https://community.nfsa.org/events/calendar>

Puget Sound and Columbia-Willamette Chapters

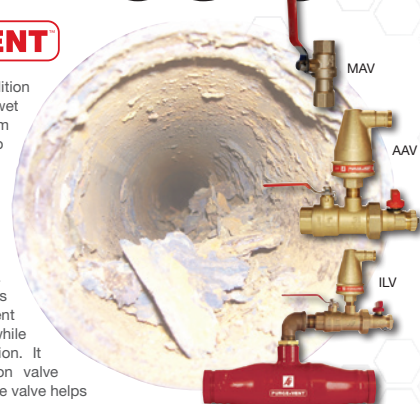
-New Websites Await!

Northwest members are encouraged to log onto the newly launched Puget Sound and Columbia-Willamette Chapter websites on the NFAA Communities webpage for details on our meetings through the end of the year. Highlights include an August visit with NFAA President Shane Ray and our annual fall Fire Marshal Forums. •

VENT TO PREVENT CORROSION

PURGE_nVENT

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_nVENT 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.



www.agfmfg.com

Wisconsin Firefighter/Paramedic Receives National Award for Longstanding Home Fire Sprinkler Advocacy

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Sprinkler Initiative and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) have awarded **Michael Vos** with the 2022 Bringing Safety Home Award. Vos is the executive director of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation.

This award recognizes outstanding efforts by a safety advocate who diligently promotes the importance of home fire sprinklers. It honors members of the fire service and other fire sprinkler advocates in North America who use HFSC educational material, NFPA data, and Fire Sprinkler Initiative resources to educate decision-makers about the importance of home fire sprinklers.

Vos, who is also a firefighter/paramedic with the City of Oshkosh, chairs the Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition and has been a champion for the lifesaving benefits of fire sprinklers for many



years. He was nominated by City of Madison Fire Department Fire Marshal Ed Ruckriegel, also an active member of the Coalition. Specifically, Vos is recognized for his efforts educating state agencies responsible for the development of building codes and increasing agency personnel interest in learning more about fire sprinklers.

“Mike’s varied public educational efforts and his work with coalition partners demonstrates his commitment to making new homes safer from fire,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy and HFSC president. “There are so many stakeholders who aren’t aware of the role home fire sprinklers play in saving lives.”

Vos has steered the Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition through educational and legislative activities in many communities. Among his advocacy work, he has included home fire sprinkler information in the Newspapers in Education program every year, reaching more than 500,000 readers, including students in 2,000 schools. He worked with coalition partners to build a 700-square foot educational structure with installed home fire sprinklers at the Metropolitan Builders Association Home Show. Vos has conducted live fire sprinkler demonstrations at the State Capitol and at Madison’s Brat Fest, which is attended by more than 150,000 people.

“Vos works hard to keep the Coalition active,” Carli added. “Home fire sprinkler advocacy work is challenging but Mike remains undaunted by this. His determination ensures that Wisconsin will ultimately have safer communities.”

As the Bringing Safety Home Award recipient, Vos was awarded a \$1000 grant to further fire sprinkler advocacy and educational efforts throughout Wisconsin. •

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APPROVED & EVEN PREFERRED BY THE MOST DISCRIMINATING PIPEFITTERS

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Did you know NFSA's LinkedIn Group has more than 11,000+ members? It's a great place to showcase your products and services.

Join today!

SPRINKLERING OF NEWS

■ New K25 ESFR Dry Pendent Sprinkler Offers Advanced Protection in Potentially Freezing Storage Applications

The Viking Corporation announces the availability of a new FM Approved fusible link ESFR dry pendent sprinkler that provides protection for box-in-box storage facilities with very cold or freezing temperatures. The new VK512 K25 ESFR dry pendent sprinkler offers ceiling only protection for applications over 40 ft and up to 50 ft without the use of in-rack sprinklers.

The new sprinkler allows for protection with a wet system, located in an adjacent heated space, versus the use of a double-interlock preaction system – saving on installation costs and offering an easier-to-maintain system.

The sprinkler is FM Approved as a quick response pendent storage sprinkler, is available with a 1-1/2" grooved connection in both Ordinary 165°F (74°C) and Intermediate 205°F (96°C) temperature ratings and features a maximum working pressure of 175 psi (12 bar).

The VK512 sprinklers come with optional insulating seal assemblies, which isolate the clearance space around the dry barrel sprinkler. These assemblies provide many benefits, including mitigating condensation, humidity, and temperature differentials to prevent ice buildup that can lead to inhibited sprinkler performance.

Want to learn more about the FM Approved K25 ESFR dry pendent sprinklers? Visit www.vikinggroupinc.com where you can also view our entire line of leading storage and dry sprinkler options.



■ Simplex ES Net Life Safety Network Now Combines Digital In-Building Emergency Audio and Firefighter Communication for Simplicity and Cost Savings

Johnson Controls announces a money-saving enhancement to the Simplex ES Net Life Safety Network that simplifies how emergency audio and firefighter telephone communication is distributed throughout buildings and campuses. The IP-based network will now allow in-building emergency alert audio such as alarms and voice evacuation messaging for building occupants, as well as in-building firefighter-to-firefighter telephone communication to be sent digitally over the life safety data network.

As codes like Life Safety 101 and NFPA 72 begin to mandate voice evacuation messaging in more types of facilities, this update to the Simplex ES Net Life Safety Network makes it easier and more cost effective for users to implement audio messaging throughout their facilities. Included firefighter telephone support simplifies wiring infrastructure and provides crucial communication capability for first responders.

A singular shared pathway for these audio communications, as opposed to multiple separate pathways, eliminates wiring, and can help substantially reduce hardware and maintenance costs. Overall, ES Net provides a more efficient way to broadcast voice, emergency messages and firefighter telephone communication across an entire network.



■ Zurn Expands Partnership with Stone-Drew/Ashe & Jones

Zurn Industries, LLC is pleased to announce an expansion with Stone-Drew/Ashe & Jones (SDAJ), a leading commercial plumbing sales agency, effective May 1, 2022. SDAJ will take over for Mechagents, which spans Zurn's portfolio of finish plumbing, water safety and control, and drainage solutions, and has represented Elkay for 66 years. Together, Zurn and SDAJ will be positioned to grow market share across the Pacific Northwest to meet the needs of customers with an expanded portfolio.

SDAJ will become the sales representative for most of the Zurn portfolio, including Finish Plumbing, Drainage, Water Safety and Control as well as smart restroom solutions. Headquartered in Seattle, Washington, SDAJ is a multi-line manufacturers' representative organization that spans Washington, Oregon, Western Idaho, and Alaska. The partnership will support all regions. J.R. Ashe is the principal and can be reached at jr@sdajnw.com.

A proven life safety solution

Simplex ES Net is an IP-based fire and life safety network that optimizes system design and installation flexibility with impressive network capacity, speed and performance. Supporting up to 687 nodes, ES Net is scalable, highly resilient and has the capacity to handle even the largest multi-building campus environments. ES Net provides data rates up to 100 Mbps and allows a range of network media including Ethernet, DSL and fiber, giving building owners a platform for future growth and integration.

Simplex ES Net provides advanced supervision and diagnostics to reduce system troubleshooting time. Better fault tolerance and pathway resilience help ensure consistent, reliable performance. The life safety network complements a full line of Johnson Controls fire detection products. Together, they help serve the Johnson Controls mission of reimagining building performance to serve healthy people, healthy places and a healthy planet. •

We hope you'll choose to support our Advocates' Coalition as we work to create Fire Safe Homes

Working together, we can create resources to educate those who make the decisions regarding community fire protection. Our goal is to be a go-to resource for community leaders who need a first-person account of the devastating impact fire can have on a community and a family. We can prevent future tragedies, and we believe that our stories help everyone understand in a way that makes a difference. Visit our website for additional resources and information. Order our Media Kit for a complete package of PSAs, media information, talking points, statistics and actual examples of resources used in communities. Your support is greatly appreciated, and as a non-profit 501(c)3 we are now ready to grow our mission and expand our efforts. We hope you'll support our team as an Advocate, Supporter or Corporate member (details on reverse side, along with form).



Did you see us on Fox & Friends and Good Morning America?



FOX & friends

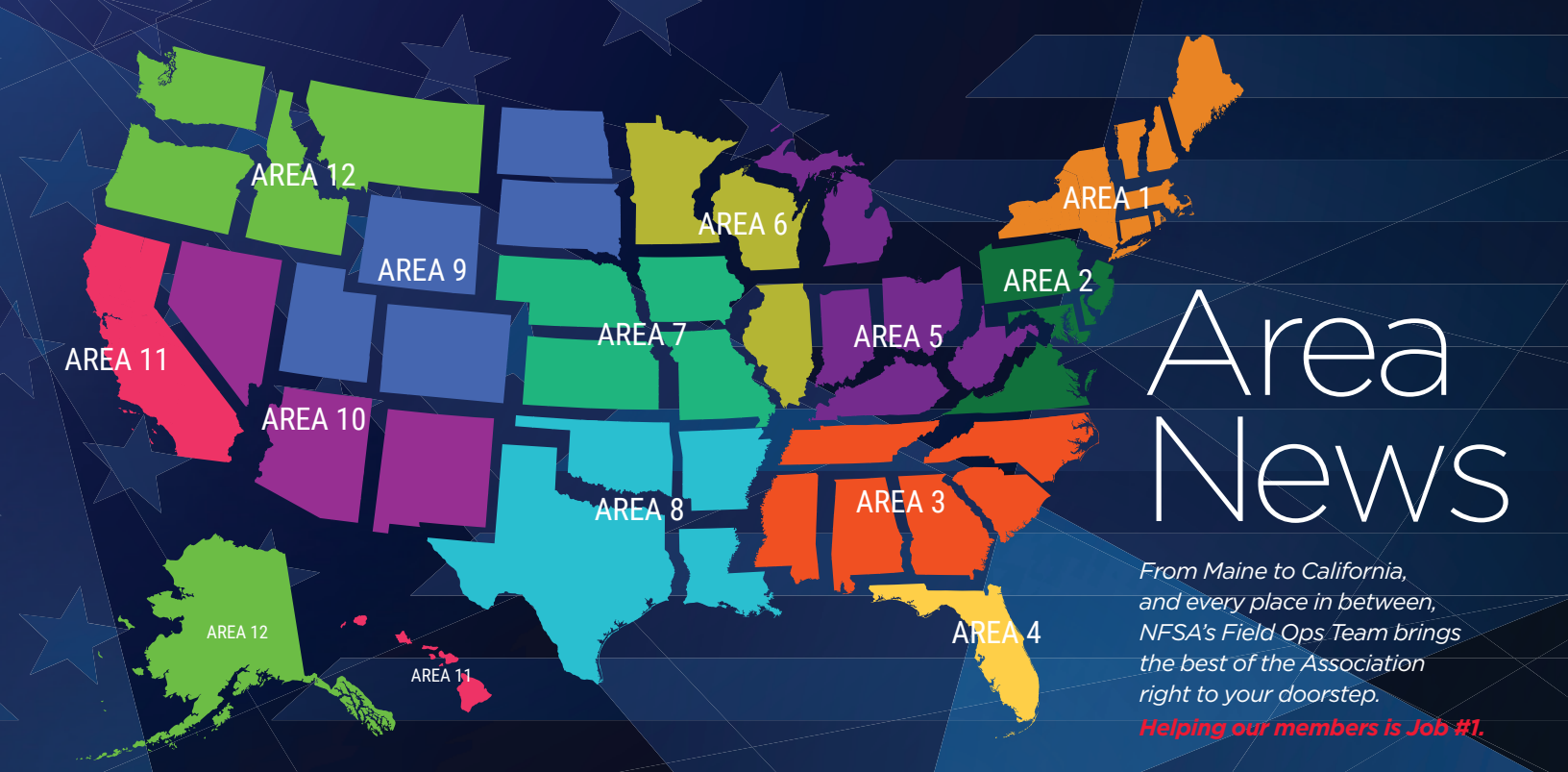
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 CommonVoices1

 CommonVoices1

fireadvocates.org
Fire Sprinklers Save Lives



Area News

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

AREA 1

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

Sprinklers Helped Avert Major Fire at New London Waste Facility

On May 18th, New London, CT's fire marshal said a sprinkler system helped to avert what could have been catastrophic fire at the Connecticut Waste Processing Materials facility.

Fire Marshal Vernon Skau said the cause of the early morning fire will remain undetermined because of the amount of construction debris at the transfer station and difficulty in pinpointing the fire's origin.

Firefighters had responded to a 3am fire alarm at the facility to find smoke showing at the large-scale transfer station. Firefighters described the two-alarm fire as "deep-seated" in the construction material.

Skau said the fire was held in check by the fire sprinkler system until firefighters arrived. The building was not damaged.

Residential Code.

The 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021 editions of IRC, along with the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code and NFPA's Building Code, all require installation of fire sprinklers in new homes.

Further, under the ordinance, where IRC and county code conflict, the "provisions contained in the Sussex County Code shall control."

Sussex County's last IBC and IRC update was in 2012. "I am not here to comment on whether they do or do not save lives. I just want you to take consideration of the facts of the incurred costs," a local home builder stated.

Area resident Eul Lee said she believes the county should consider fire sprinklers, adding that it's her understanding there is much less time to escape a fire nowadays given more petroleum-based materials used in construction.

"I think we need to think about the fire danger seriously," Ms. Lee said.

AREA 2

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

Fire Sprinkler Exemption Remains for Sussex County, DE

On May 23rd, Sussex County, DE approved its International Building Code and International Residential Code updates, with continued exemption of the fire sprinkler requirement for single-family, duplex and town houses.

Council voted 5-0 to approve a proposed ordinance amendment that continues the smaller-scale residential exemption to the 2021 editions of the International Building Code and the International

AREA 3

ALABAMA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE

Nolensville, TN Burn Demo

NFSA Southeast Regional Manager Brian Biggs was happy to be joined by NFSA Vice President Vickie Pritchett and Special Projects Coordinator Marty Blackwell on May 10th to do a side-by-side burn demonstration for the Town of Nolensville's planning commission, city manager and town council.

Nolensville has had a fire sprinkler requirement for all new homes since 2004, and NFSA's team was instrumental in helping them get it and keep it. "We were happy to be able to respond to Fire Chief David Windrow when he began facing some efforts to remove

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the fire sprinkler requirement,” explained Vickie Pritchett. “How exciting to see the side-by-side help those who didn’t understand how fast fire is, and how efficiently fire sprinklers work in action. A picture may be worth 1,000 words but feeling and seeing it live is worth a million.”

The Town of Nolensville fire sprinkler ordinance remains intact!

Ashland City, TN Community Outreach



NFSA President Shane Ray was joined by several NFSA team members in a community outreach event for Ashland City Fire Department. Ashland City has required fire sprinklers since 2001, and it was fun to help educate those living with fire sprinklers how they work!

“The number one myth that 90% of the residents (over 100 who attended) shared is that they thought they all go off at once,”



explained NFSA Vice President Vickie Pritchett. “We loved being able to dispel the myths with this community. The other myth was how much fire it takes to activate the fire sprinklers, many believed that burning the toast would do so -- seeing the fire sprinkler demonstration showed them it takes a lot of fire to reach 155 degrees!”

NFSA is committed to do more of these types of community outreach, as we understand direct education of the public shows our NFSA mission in action, “To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.”

Go Team NFSA!

AREA 4

FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO

Florida Legislation and Regulation

With the 2022 Legislative Session complete we were able to pass our modified trunk slammer language, cracking down on unlicensed fire sprinkler contracting in the State of Florida. The bill has yet to be delivered to the Governor, but we fully expect him to sign it and the language will become effective July 1st. Once the bill is signed the Meenan Firm will work with the Chief Fire Marshall’s Office as they promulgated rules to enforce the new law. Looking forward to the summer, we will be meeting with legislative members to educate them on the high-rise condo retrofit sunset date, as this will be a big priority for the 2023 legislative session.

AREA 5

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA

Valparaiso, IN Fire Department Home Fire Sprinkler Open House

Valparaiso Indiana Fire Chief Chad Dutz and Division Chief Tim Stites presented new homeowner Celina Weathermax, a certificate of recognition on her installation of a home fire sprinkler system in her new home on April 26th, and for her willingness to hold an open house for their community and showcase her new sprinkler system.

Ms. Weathermax is the President

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of the MAAC Foundation, a state-of-the art training facility in Indiana which has trained over 200 fire departments since its founding. Ms. Weathermax decided to sprinker her home after attending a side-by-side burn demonstration led by Division Chief and Fire Marshal Tim Stites at the MAAC.



L to R: Valparaiso Fire Chief Dutz, Homeowner Celina Weathermax, and Division Chief Tim Stites.



Valparaiso Division Chief Tim Stites shows Indiana State Senator Ed Charbonneau components of the home sprinkler system.



(Pictured L to R) : Valparaiso Fire Engineer Adam Lara, NIFSAB Ex. Dir. Erik Hoffer, Division Chief Tim Stites, NFSA -Ron Ritchey, NFSA Member- Valley Fire Protection

Pat Kistler, Homebuilder & President of Custom Home Consultants Dean Carter, Senator Ed Charbonneau, Engineer Robert Cree, Captain Bob Schulte, Battalion Chief Jack Bryan.

The open house was very well attended, and several key leaders in the community attended this event, including State Senator Ed Charbonneau. NFSA Contractor Member Valley Fire Protection installed the system.

AREA 6

ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN



Sprinkler Fitters Host Training

On April 5th and 6th, Sprinkler Fitters Local 417 hosted two days of NFSA training at their Shoreview Training Center for fire service and sprinkler industry professionals. Ron Ritchey, NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Lakes Region, presented the NFSA class, “Understanding, Applying, and Enforcing NFPA 25” and “Sprinkler Installation Requirements.” The 22 class participants had the opportunity to tour the Local 417 sprinkler lab and watch the light off/shut down of the lab’s diesel fire pump. They also had the opportunity to see the Minnesota-based NFSA conduct a side-by-side demonstration.

Minnesota Side-by-Side Demo



Minnesota-based NFSA staff conducted a side-by-side demonstration for the Minnesota State Fire Department Association’s 145th Annual Conference & Fire School. 165

delegates from fire departments across the state visited the NFSA information booth. Many of them brought their family members along to learn more about fire sprinklers and our life-

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saving industry.

The side-by-side burn kicked off in the evening under the threat of heavy weather, but we successfully executed the demonstration to an audience of about 70 people. “Each time we do this demonstration, I continue to be struck by how fast things happen,” stated NFSA North Central Regional Manager Tim Butler. Smoke alarms activated in just over ten seconds, with sprinkler activation occurring in less than 30 seconds. The single sprinkler completely extinguished the fire. On the non-sprinklered side of the trailer, flashover occurred in less than three minutes. The Willmar Fire Department provided the suppression crew for the burn, and they did an outstanding job – proving again the essential partnership between firefighters and fire sprinklers.

AREA 7

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI



Fire Safety Association Attends NFSA Training

NFSA Manager of Codes and Standard Roland Asp, taught three days of training to the members of the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association in Iowa on April 19, 20, and 21. The “Hawkeye” Board of Directors voted on holding an 8-hour update class on the 2019 changes to NFPA 13/13D/13R, 14, and 20 and chose three separate locations across the state for training venues: Sioux City, Ankeny, and Coralville. A total of 54 Hawkeye members – many of the who are also NFSA members – attended the classes.

AREA 8

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Recent Fire Sprinklers Saves Are the Real Data

Arkansas, Oklahoma, & Texas Fire Departments Excel! Eight April 2022 Fire Sprinkler Saves in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas are the real data that show fire departments in these South-Central states are adopting and enforcing fire protection codes that work! All eight fires, which include a heavily occupied nightclub, two college dormitories and public housing did not kill any occupants and many of the buildings are already back open and operating!

Houston, Texas

April 30, 2022

Houston Firefighters responded to a fire at the nightclub at around 3 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 2022. As they arrived, they saw swarms of people rushing out of the building with heavy black



smoke billowing out. Four victims were found huddled behind the bar inside the building. Many suffered from smoke inhalation and three were sent to the hospital for injuries. Within thirty minutes, the firefighters had the fire under control. They believe it stemmed from an unspecified electrical malfunction, noting the club’s sound system as a possibility. HFD found fire in the back of the building and were able to control it with the help of the building’s fire sprinkler system

College Station, Texas

April 30, 2022

College Station firefighters had to force their way inside an apartment to get to a fire. Four people living in two units at the Zone apartments were displaced by the Saturday afternoon fire. A fire sprinkler system was going, which kept a kitchen fire in check. The firefighter’s work included rescuing a dog. No one was inside the apartment where the fire took place.

Oklahoma City Public Housing

April 26, 2022



Oklahoma Firefighters Crews responded to a fire the Oklahoma City Housing Authority complex - Andrews Square Apartments on SW 22nd Street and Robinson Avenue Tuesday morning in southwest Oklahoma City. Authorities said firefighters went to the fourth floor and learned the flames were contained in one room. The room’s sprinkler head activated and put out the fire, officials said.

Dallas Arson Fire

April 26, 2022

Dallas Fire-Rescue says investigators are looking for the arsonist who tried to torch a leasing office in Old East Dallas before dawn Tuesday. The automatic fire alarm sounded at a 12-story build-

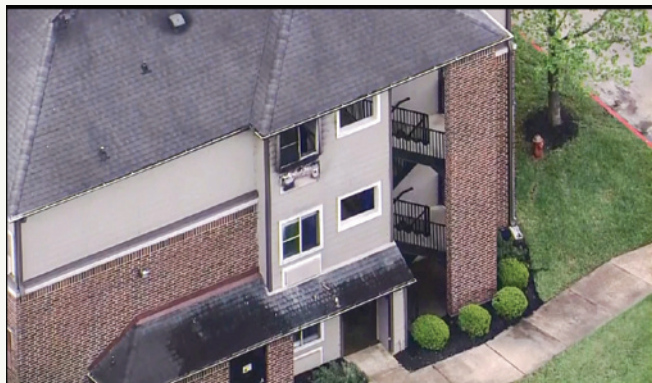
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ing in the 4100 block of North Central Expressway, just south of Fitzhugh and U.S. 75, just before 5 a.m. As firefighters went inside, they discovered the building's automatic sprinkler system had put out the fire, according to Dallas Fire-Rescue.

Two Texas Dorm Fires That Didn't!

April 20, 2022



Dorm 40 at Prairie View Texas A&M University suffered a HVAC wall unit fire in the hallway early in the morning of April 20, 2022. Fire Sprinklers were installed and worked to keep the building and students safe. Four students were injured.

On April 6, 2022 - Around 7:15 p.m., a small fire broke out at Stephen F. Austin University in a single room in Lumberjack Landing. Nacogdoches Fire and EMS promptly responded, the university said. The flames, which originated in Room 308S as a result of a charging plug issue, activated the fire alarm and sprinkler system. No one was injured.

Professor Bowl, Little Rock, Arkansas

April 13, 2022

Firefighter Ben Hammond reported a sprinkler save. The fire occurred from greasy cleaning rags.

Multi-Family, Frisco, Texas

April 6, 2022

On April 6, 2022, Frisco, Texas Fire Marshal, Kelly Kistner, reported an apartment sprinkler save at 4800 Printers Way. This is the second sprinkler save at this property in recent years in this large multi-family property. The sprinkler controlled and extinguished the fire.

AREA 9

COLORADO, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, UTAH, WYOMING

Sprinkler Regulations Change After Urban Conflagration

On December 30, 2021, the Marshall Fire swept through Boulder County, CO driven by strong and enduring winds. By the time the fire was fully extinguished, over 1,00 homes and several commercial structures were destroyed or damaged.

At the time of the fire, all jurisdictions within Boulder County

had ordinances requiring residential sprinklers. As homeowners faced rebuilding, many of them realized they were underinsured and petitioned their cities to eliminate this requirement as they also faced significant costs due supply-chain issues. The fire departments within these communities made impassioned pleas to leave the provisions intact, using data provided to them from NFSA, NFPA, and other entities. The result, unfortunately, was that Louisville – with about 500 homes destroyed – repealed its sprinkler ordinance. Superior – also with 500 destroyed – repealed it only for previously unsprinklered homes destroyed by the fire but retained it for all new construction. Boulder County – with only a few homes destroyed – did not modify its regulations.

Colorado Sprinkler Fitter Renewal Exam

The committee developing the State's new fitter exam finished its work in early May. The exam was beta-tested and then deployed to be offered in several regions throughout Colorado. The test is seen as a significant benefit, especially for sprinkler fitters operating in rural areas. The exam will not replace other exams currently accepted by the Division of Fire Prevention & Control: the UA-Star, CSA ASCR2, and Denver Fire Department exams.

Utah to Adopt 2021 I-Codes

NFSA staff has been working with the Code Committee of the Fire Marshals Association of Utah to review the 2021 I-Codes in light of the State's currently adopted amendments. There have been over a half-dozen virtual meetings to develop proposed modifications to the State's building legislation. The amendments are expected to be reviewed and adopted by the end of the year.

Demand for Side-by-Side Sprinkler Demonstration is Exploding!

After two COVID-limited years with only a couple demonstrations each, 2022 appears to be getting ready for a significant number of demonstrations. As of early May, 13 demonstrations had been confirmed. Additional requests had been coming in at the rate of 203/month. The trailer, housed in Colorado, will this year be visiting two new locations: Death Valley, CA and Socorro, NM. There will also be three events surrounding National Home Fire Sprinkler Week.

If you have never witnessed one of these events in person, please check your monthly report to identify demonstrations near you.

AREA 10

ARIZONA, NEVADA, NEW MEXICO

Bullhead City, AZ - Sprinkler system activated for fire at condominium; No injuries reported

On April 19, 2022, at approximately 6:07pm, several BCFD units were dispatched to a report of a possible structure fire. The first arriving crew reported a multi-story condominium with smoke

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showing from a single unit. Crews quickly confirmed that the unit was unoccupied and were able to gain access through the front door. Fortunately, the building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system, which properly activated, contained, and extinguished the fire before it was able to spread. No injuries were reported during this incident, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

AREA 11

CALIFORNIA, HAWAII

Man Killed in Fire at Unsprinklered Music Studio in Hollywood

On May 19th, one person was killed, and two others injured when fire ripped through a building that has rental studios for artists in Hollywood.

“Not a one sprinkler, not a smoke detector, nothing,” said a survivor. “And I was the one who was running -- I was the smoke detector. Me.”

The Los Angeles Fire Department confirmed to that the building had no sprinklers. There were some smoke alarms or detectors, but it’s unclear whether they were working or not.

“You have an abundance of individual studios in there, and they all have sound deadening, so very thick walls, thick insulation, double drywalls, double-paned windows,” said LAFD Captain Erik Scott. “And what that did is it made the fire hold in that heat. Extremely intense.”

The city of LA is investigating whether the building was approved to be converted into recording studios in the first place.

AREA 12

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, WASHINGTON

Nancy Hammond Becomes Area Director

NFSA Northwest Area 12 welcomes newly appointed Area Director **Nancy Hammond** of Reliance Fire Protection. She will be serving on the Board representing Area 12 while Jim Boulanger serves as Chair of the NFSA Board of Directors. Nancy has been an owner of Reliance Fire Protection for 33 years, served on the State of Washington Joint Apprenticeship Committee for ten years, and as Chairperson of the Puget Sound Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board for the past six years. Nancy has also represented management during Local 699 labor negotiations. Her plans to meet with as many contractor members as possible and ensure the Northwest Area 12 is well-represented within NFSA.



Sprinklerman Lives!

The 2022 **Sprinklerman Shootout**, co-sponsored by Sprinklerfitters Local 699 and the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound, took place a new venue in Auburn, Washington in July. Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors!

Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr has been working with the national Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition to bring “Virtual Reality” side-by-side burn demonstrations to stakeholders and policymakers across the northwest. This valuable tool provides a cost-effective and streamlined educational tool for jurisdictions considering adopting home fire sprinkler requirements. Please contact Suzanne if you have a venue for showcasing this exciting tool.

NFSA brought its new Estimating and Proposals for Installation of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems to both the Seattle and Portland areas in June. If you have any training needs, be sure to contact Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr. NFSA is willing and able to bring training throughout the Northwest!

New Training Space for Alaska Firefighters

Work continues on the new training wet lab at the Central Mat-Su Fire Department north of Anchorage. This project is creating an innovative training space for fire fighters, fire protection contractors and the community. Equipment will be mounted on specially-designed skids to facilitate moving different components throughout the lab. According to project lead Jeffrey Anderson, Deputy Fire Marshal at Central Mat-Su Fire Department, the lab is drawing on the generosity of local contractors, Local 669, fire sprinkler suppliers, and NFSA.

“We will continue to build more skids and now need more individual parts from contractors and vendors,” Jeffrey said in a recent update. He is maintaining a spreadsheet of needed parts. If your company is interested in joining this effort, please contact Jeffrey Anderson at Jeffrey.Anderson@matsugov.us or (907) 861-8033.



Central Mat-Su Fire Dept. personnel take a break from working on installing equipment on a new training lab designed to be used by fire personnel, fire protection contractors, and the community. The innovative space located just outside Anchorage will allow hands on training on fire protection equipment, including pumps, valves, and various panels.



National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

NFSM Article Submission Guidelines

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

Query

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

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

Feature Articles

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

Writing Guidelines

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

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

Illustrations

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

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

Copyrights

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

Payment

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

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