

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

July - August 2019
No. 215

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association



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Bracing Standard**
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Review**
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ON THE COVER

2018 Golden Sprinkler Award Recipient Jay Livingston (l.) presents award to 2019 recipient Buck Buchanan.

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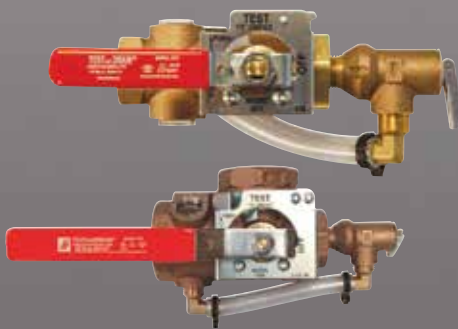
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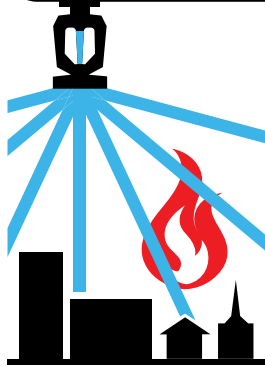
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Fire is fast. Fire sprinklers are faster.

Creating the "More"

Innovating, researching, developing, promoting, and most of all, sharing our success with simple, straightforward facts. This is all a result of our most successful conference in NFSA history and it's thanks to you, our members. Yes, the economy is strong, some of our regions are better than at the height of the industry in 2007, but I still say it is the engagement level of our members that creates the "more." Your involvement and energy is contagious; to your competitors, to your teammates, and to our staff.

The energy of the fire sprinkler industry was apparent in Nashville. To be in a city with so much growth all around and with so many people enjoying the environment and one another was a plus. Downtown Nashville wasn't always like you witnessed it. Growing up and working in the area, I have seen it at it's lowest, and perhaps now, on a new high. Being part of that requires a shared vision, a focused mission, committed values, perseverance, and continual investment.



"We will learn from and honor the past. We will encourage members to support members who support this industry. We will drive those who don't know this industry to it. Through these efforts we will take aim at the future. I encourage you to "Buy NFSA" and educate everyone that "Fire Sprinklers Buy Time and Time Buys Life."

Not only has it been great to be a small part of Nashville's success, it is an absolute honor to serve NFSA and be part of our Association's success. It wouldn't be possible without your investment in the NFSA. However, all the investment you make would have no return without staff to execute and that is exactly what happened at the NAFSE. Navy Seal Chad Williams inspired the crowd to take aim, zero in on that goal and go after it.

We are focusing and taking aim at increasing the awareness of the fire sprinkler industry, internally, with our campaign to "Buy NFSA," and externally, with our national marketing campaign "What Used to Be," a professionally produced television commercial with focused ads for all other types of media. This commercial is to heighten the awareness of both the benefits of fire sprinklers from homes to high-rises, and the destruction of fire. Visit www.firesprinklersbuytime.com to see the awesome new website that will generate us leads for targeted education and advocacy.

A very special thank you to the NFSA staff for their commitment to service and doing whatever it takes to serve this industry. Also, a very special thank you to all member employees who serve on our Board of Directors, Councils, Committees, Chapters, and special task groups. It is the thousands of hours these volunteers give that provides our staff with the guidance and direction to meet the needs of the industry.

Thank you to our Chair of the Board Kent Mezaros for his vision on these conferences. Kent served for many years as the Chair of the Seminar Committee with Co-Chair Chuck Kitts. It is through years of tweaking the contracts for these venues and a remarkable staff to execute that you are seeing the remarkable outcome.

The awards banquet was off the charts with adding chairs to a room already set for 600. This says a lot for the fire sprinkler industry, but it says more for the people who receive the prestigious awards. The level of commitment and lifetimes of service to this industry deserves way more attention than one night, but I assure you the recognition will live on. Those that remember the old format can remember when the Leadership and Public Safety Award and Hall of Fame Awards that were given on the last opening morning session of the seminar would normally not have 100 people in attendance. To see such recognition from the Golden Sprinkler Award (congratulations and well-deserved Buck Buchanan) to the Leadership in Public Safety (congratulations and well-deserved Vina Drennan) is greatly heartwarming for me.

To see Wayne Gey, Barry Waterman, Dennis Coleman and Jim Dalton inducted into the

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Thank You!

As Chair of the Board, I'm incredibly excited to share the amazing success of NAFSE. Nashville proved to be an outstanding location for this event, and the venue was certainly up to the task. More so, as a Contractor member, my own team and I were blown away with the outstanding lineup of guest speakers and break out classes that made the whole experience something that we will never want to miss again. Kudos to NFSA staff and leadership for a job incredibly well done. NFSA has reset the bar for future conferences for all of those attending in Nashville during this record-setting event.

For those of you that were able to attend the North American Fire Sprinkler Expo, I venture to guess that you enjoyed yourself and learned something that made you a tad better at what you do since returning. Kudos to Vickie Pritchett and staff, as well as Sean Heskett and the Seminar and Exhibition Committee for putting it all together. Vickie was correct in stating our crowd would come to Nashville in Las Vegas type numbers and she has definitely made me a believer.

I knew that as long as you came to Nashville with a relatively good hangover remedy for the morning hours you were bound to have a good time. No surprise so many of our Canadian friends made it down to Nashville with all the local watering holes within walking distance from our host hotel. Channeling my best inner Shane Ray here, of course you enjoyed the Expo and program, "Cause we done did it good!" A special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors for the investment in the Expo and our industry. Without the sponsors digging deep into their pockets NFSA could not provide us with the quality program that they do. Same is true for all the exhibitors at our expo, your dedication to the industry does not go unnoticed and is certainly appreciated.

Since I personally had a few minutes in front of the crowd I took the opportunity to remember our late President John Viniello. We all owe John a huge thank you for how his vision and hard work contributed to the growth and success of the fire sprinkler industry. John served as President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association 1984-2012. For his many contributions and accomplishments, John received the Golden Sprinkler Award in 2004 and was elected into our Hall of Fame in 2013.

John spent the majority of his life promoting the fire sprinkler concept. Back in 1982 John penned an article while he was Manager of Residential Fire Protection for Grinnell Fire Protection titled "An Old Idea with a New Technology." John said he wrote it at a time "when quick response technology was in its infancy and the first sprinklers we now call 'residential' had just received laboratory listing. The age of residential fire sprinkler protection had begun, sparking an irreversible revolution to bring tried and proven technology to bear on a nation's tragic history with fire. While the struggle has really been more of a slow but steady evolutionary process, great strides have been made in the battle to get lifesaving fire sprinklers into places where people are most vulnerable – residential occupancies. Ironically, these are the places where people feel safest. John realized the need and saw the opportunity to expand fire sprinklers into residential occupancies.

John was able to think outside of the box. His creation of Industry Promotion Funds allowed the NFSA to hire Regional Managers, Code Specialists, Public Fire Protection Personnel, ITM Specialists, as well as fund and contribute to many other worthwhile programs. He always came equipped to our Board meetings with fresh ideas and a game plan. John saw the benefit of a group of advocates assisting with our cause and Common Voices, the brainchild of past Chairmen Wayne Guy, Aus Marburger, Gregg Huennekens and their wives, was born. John saw the 'great recession' coming and prepared NFSA for its wrath as early as the end of 2006. John saw this as a time when members needed NFSA most, explained to the Board of the need to spend reserves to continue to promote, but took measures to limit expenses, all at the same time. As you are all aware, the fire sprinkler industry



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From the President's Desk

Shane Ray

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Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame was also tremendously heartwarming for me because I have had the chance to work with or for each of these gentlemen in my short number of years in this industry. Wayne was Chair of the Board when Jim Dalton first hired me for Fire Team USA and Dennis Coleman was the first to call me with encouragement to apply for the position as Executive Vice President. Barry Waterman was the first to reach out with support when I started in the role as President.

Chair Mezaros shared a fitting moment of memory for John A. Viniello during the opening day of the conference and it was John's support to commit to Fire Team back in the day. It was Fred Benn who chaired the Residential Committee that worked so hard to give guidance and resources to accomplish the end goal. Fred has also served many years on the Engineering and Standards Committee and is still active in supporting the industry. Congratulations Fred Benn, well-deserved, on the Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award.

I will close out the column as I did the conference. We will learn from and honor the past. We will encourage members to support members who support this industry. We will drive those who don't know this industry to it. Through these efforts we will take aim at the future. I encourage you to "Buy NFSA" and educate everyone that "Fire Sprinklers Buy Time and Time Buys Life." Thank you for the chance to serve this great industry that is committed to "saving lives and protecting property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept".



Shane Ray, *President*

From the Chairman's Desk

Kent Mezaros

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has come back well from those difficult times, and residential fire protection helped lead our recovery.

I'll leave you quoting John and ask you to please be sure to share these thoughts with those who work for or with you in our industry. *"You know, the business that we have chosen is a noble one. Each and every person in this room, either directly or indirectly, has saved the life of someone they never met; a mother, a father, a child or someone loved by another. I think that is something for which we should all be justifiably proud."*

Thank you, Mr. Viniello.

Respectfully yours,



Kent Mezaros, *Chairman*

#fastestwater

Fire Sprinklers Save Lives!

Properly Calculate Your Lien!

By Stuart Zisholtz

Editors Note: Stuart Zisholtz comments on New York State Law

Over the years, I have emphasized the importance of properly calculating the amount of your lien in order to avoid the harsh remedies associated with an exaggerated lien. You must lien for the work performed and materials furnished. Filing a Mechanic's Lien for future amounts due, the total contract sum when all of the work has not been performed, interest, service charges and legal fees could render the lien exaggerated.

Recently, we were retained to foreclose a Mechanic's Lien. The client provided us with back-up documentation which he felt supported his Mechanic's Lien. Unfortunately, the claim consisted of costs associated with medical bills, service charges and anticipated legal fees. If we had commenced a foreclosure action, the owner or general contractor, could have interposed a counter-claim for an exaggerated lien.

The penalty for an exaggerated lien is the reduction of the amount awarded by the amount of the exaggeration. Thus, if you have a lien for \$100,000 that is willfully exaggerated and you are awarded \$70,000, the \$30,000 spread is reduced from the \$70,000 and your recovery is \$40,000. From that you are charged legal fees which could be \$25,000 and you wind up with a \$15,000 net recovery.

Similarly, if you have a lien for \$100,000 and it is exaggerated by \$60,000, that \$60,000 will be deducted from the \$40,000 and you will owe the owner \$20,000 plus legal expenses. The penalty for exaggeration, therefore, is very severe and must be avoided at all costs. This does not mean, however, that failure to prove the full value of your lien is a willful exaggeration. Suffice it to say, however, for purposes of this article, a willful exaggeration means throwing things into the lien that do not belong there and are not legitimate. •

Discover the Six Critical Attributes of a Difference Maker

By Dr Maree Harris Ph.D.

It was Steve Jobs who famously said: "We are here to put a dent in the Universe." To make sure, that when we leave, our dent will still be there with our unique name on it is a somewhat of a big challenge. It's an even bigger challenge to do what we need to do to put the dent there in the first place. This is what being a difference maker is about.

I came up with 6 attributes that characterize a Difference Maker in this 21st century.

Difference Makers are big picture people. This doesn't mean that they have to do big things because sometimes it's the small things that make the biggest difference. Big picture people are open to seeing the world in all its facets. They don't sweat the small stuff;

they don't get stuck in being judgmental or moralistic; they value and appreciate diversity. They think globally, while acting locally. They have a panoramic view of whatever it is they are contemplating or taking action on. They live, breathe, think and act in a wholistic way.

Difference Makers are inclusive. They don't create barriers through which people have to jump if they want to interact or work with them. Instead they are open to all people of good will. They value the diversity inherent in being inclusive. They value connectedness.

Difference Makers have a multi-disciplinary approach in their thinking and their action. They don't operate out of one theoretical, ideological or professional mindset. They recognize that truth cannot have boundaries placed around it, nor does it have any closure. They have an ability to hold, contain and synthesize many different ideas from many different disciplines and philosophies in a way that creates new meanings.

Difference Makers are reflective by nature. They value the exploration of experience, the looking back at it either alone or with others. They see value in the contemplation that stills the noise in their world and allows them to discover deeper meaning and purpose. They are not, in essence, contemplative, but rather, action oriented. Their reflection is dynamic and alive and guides their future action. They are problem posers, not just problem solvers.

Difference Makers embrace, rather than be threatened by, a worldview characterized by uncertainty, unpredictability, ambivalence and paradox. They accept this is reality without being completely comfortable with it. They have developed the self-mastery to live creatively in the tension, straddle the ambivalence and grow stronger. They lead with acquired wisdom, not merely strategy.

Difference Makers acknowledge, work with and honor complexity. They see it as inherent to their world today. They do not try to control and escape it by reducing everything to its lowest denominator whereby in the process they remove the essence. Instead, they draw on all the other qualities of Difference Makers above to creatively and innovatively create new solutions.

So the challenge is go forth and make your mark on the world. Be courageous. Take risks and change the world for the better. •

Dr Maree Harris, Ph.D. is the Founder and Director of People Empowered, a leadership development company. She works with highly motivated leaders and managers developing and enhancing the self-leadership skills, the soft skills needed for leadership in these unpredictable and changing times. She is the author of *Soft Skills - The Hard Stuff of Success*. Visit her website to access free resources for leaders and aspiring. <http://www.peopleempowered.com.au>

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What's the Hang Up?

The New NFPA Hanging and Bracing Standard

by Mark Hopkins P.E., NFSA's V.P. of Engineering



Why is there a need for a new Hanging and Bracing Standard? Hanging and bracing requirements have been part of NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, essentially since the first edition was released in 1896. Why now after nearly one and one quarter centuries is there a need to shake things up?

The technical committee for NFPA 13 is actually composed of five separate sub-committees.

1. The Correlating Committee on Automatic Sprinkler Systems
2. Technical Committee on Hanging and Bracing of Fire Protection System
3. Technical Committee on Private Water Supply Piping Systems
4. Technical Committee on Sprinkler System Discharge Criteria
5. Technical Committee on Sprinkler System Installation Criteria

Each of these committees are responsible for portions of NFPA 13, except the Correlating Committee which has overall responsibility for ensuring that NFPA 13 and other water-based fire protection system requirements correlate.

The Technical Committee (TC) on Hanging and Bracing of Fire Protection Systems, is the obvious committee responsible for sprinkler system hanging and bracing requirements. The chairman of this TC, James Biggins of TUV SUD America Inc./ Global Risk Consultants Corporation, requested that the NFPA Standards Council consider formation of a new standard regarding hanging and bracing requirements for fire protection systems as part of the A2018 code cycle leading to the 2019 edition of NFPA 13 (NFPA 13-2019). However, the Standards Council suggested that this request be held until after publication of NFPA 13-2019.

A "New Project Initiation Form," (NPIF) had been completed in 2017 which identified that many other standards (covering systems other than sprinkler systems) were referencing the hanging and bracing requirement of NFPA 13. The document requested the

expansion of the Scope of the Technical Committee on Hanging and Bracing of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (AUT-HBS) to include ALL water-based fire protection systems not just NFPA 13 sprinkler systems.

Mr. Biggins suggested that consideration be given to providing requirements for NFPA 14, NFPA 15, NFPA 16, NFPA 20, NFPA 22, NFPA 24, and NFPA 750. The NPIF also explained that the AUT-HBS TC included structural engineers, technicians, fire protection engineers and others having knowledge and expertise regarding sprinkler systems. As appropriate, NFPA 13 provides requirements focused on sprinkler systems. Subsequently, a task group was formed to look at how many other NFPA standards referenced NFPA 13 requirements for support of piping and equipment. Surprisingly, the task group identified at least 11 NFPA standards; however, the scope of NFPA 13 is limited to the hanging and bracing of sprinkler systems.

Other TCs have been attempting to develop criteria for these other systems and many have been simply referencing NFPA 13 requirements. The AUT-HBS TC had begun making public inputs to some of the other NFPA standards. However, there was no assurance that the other TCs would accept the requirements. It was also identified that the requirements of NFPA 13 might not be appropriate for these other applications. System designs, pipe sizes, material properties, operating pressures, and reaction forces are different for other systems making NFPA 13 requirements impractical or inappropriate; especially systems having two-phase flow or extremely high operating pressures. The AUT-HBS TC had suggested that the unique loads for these other systems be considered and covered in these other standards.

NFPA staff had indicated that if multiple TCs for different standards were developing parallel requirements that it would be difficult to ensure consistency and harmonization of requirements. As a result, it was suggested that a single committee to address hanging and bracing requirements for fire protection systems be developed. The specific details regarding the development of the document have not been established at this time, but it was suggested that the idea would be for the requirements to be extracted into NFPA 13 similar in the way that the underground piping requirements are extracted into NFPA 13 from NFPA 24.

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Immediately after NFPA 13-2019 was ready for publication, the NFPA 13 TCs were asked to vote on whether or not a separate standard should be developed. This was brought to the NFSA E&S Committee for discussion. Although the preference of the E&S Committee would have been to keep the sprinkler system hanging and bracing requirements within the scope of the AUT-HBS TC as part of NFPA 13, ultimately the E&S Committee decided to be active in the development of this new standard. Most other NFPA TC members voted in support of this new standard as well.

The development of this new standard should not be viewed as a bad thing. The experience and expertise of the NFPA 13 AUT-HBS TC will in most cases remain in place. Many of the existing AUT-HBS members have been accepted to the TC developing this new standard. Others will likely apply. It is critical for the AUT-HBS members to provide direction to the new members representing other industries. While these other experts have experience with the many other systems, the collaboration should provide the needed discussion leading to appropriate requirements for these other systems.

The 2022 edition of NFPA 13 will be handled in the same way that it has always been handled; the AUT-HBS TC will remain throughout the next code development cycle to ensure uniformity. Discussions regarding the new Hanging and Bracing Standard have just begun, with the first conference call being held on June 10, 2019. The initial schedule indicates that the goal for the TC is to develop and make the new standard ready to be published between the development of the 2022 and 2025 editions of NFPA 13. The intention is for the new standard to be available to allow

requirements for sprinkler systems to be extracted from this new standard into NFPA 13.

The proposed topics for inclusion include provide requirements for the following types of systems:

1. Automatic sprinkler systems,
2. Water mist systems,
3. Standpipe systems,
4. Foam-water sprinkler systems,
5. Fixed spray systems,
6. Fire pumps,
7. Private fire service mains,
8. Foam systems, and
9. Water storage tanks.

While the NFPA standard number has not been released as of this time, I am sure that it will be discussed during the June 10th TC conference call. There is nothing to panic about since the requirements for hanging and bracing of sprinkler systems will likely remain relatively unchanged, barring the routine changes experienced from one edition to the next. The intention of this new standard is to provide appropriate requirements for other types of systems rather than having simple references to NFPA 13 which do not provide information necessary to properly hang and brace these systems. Change is always a challenge, so don't get hung up the fact the requirements will be contained within a separate document. There are many TC members involved that will keep the best interests of the sprinkler industry in mind. •

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NFSA Retrofit Guide

ICC–International Fire Code– Existing Occupancy Requirements

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



The following is a short excerpt from the newest edition of NFSA's Retrofit Guide. The chapter on "Codes" provides guidance on the retrofit requirements in the NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the International Fire Code (IFC) and the International Existing Building Code (IEBC). This resource is available for all NFSA members at <https://nfsa.org/guides/>

The International Fire Code (IFC) requires the maintenance of existing building fire protection systems and contains fire sprinkler and standpipe retrofit regulations in Chapter 11. The IFC also has an adoptable Appendix M for retrofitting sprinklers in existing high-rise buildings. NOTE: the 2021 edition takes the high-rise provisions out of the appendix and places them in the main body of the code.

Unlike the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) where an activity such as new work is being done, the IFC requirements in Chapter 11 are triggered for all buildings when the IFC is adopted locally. There is some correlation between the IFC and IEBC, meaning, work done through one code will comply with the other code. This provides some continuity between the fire department and the building department.

EXISTING A-2 OCCUPANCIES – 2018 IFC, Section 1103.5.1

Automatic sprinkler systems are required to be retrofitted in A-2 fire areas with an occupant load 300 or more where alcohol is consumed.

EXISTING I-2 OCCUPANCIES – 2018 IFC, Section 1103.5.2

Automatic sprinkler systems are required to be retrofitted in I-2 fire areas, throughout the floors containing the I-2 fire area and on all intervening floors to the level of exit discharge. I-2 occupancies are classified as:

- Foster care facilities
- Detoxification facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Psychiatric hospitals

EXISTING I-2 CONDITION 2 OCCUPANCIES – 2018 IFC, Section 1103.5.3

Automatic sprinkler systems are required to be retrofitted through-

out I-2 Condition 2 buildings. I-2 occupancies Condition 2 include all the I-2 facilities but provide:

- Surgery
- Emergency care
- Obstetrics
- In-patient stabilization

CELLULOSE NITRATE and PYROXYLIN PLASTIC BUILDINGS – 2018 IFC, Section 1103.5.4

Automatic sprinkler systems are required to be retrofitted throughout all buildings with cellulose nitrate film and pyroxylin plastics manufacturing, storage or handling.

A-2 occupancies with fire areas having more than 300 occupants consuming alcohol to retrofit with sprinklers. This requirement is not a blanket A-2 retrofit, but only those A-2 fire areas where alcohol is consumed that exceed 300 occupants will require fire sprinklers.

ALL HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS – 2021 IFC, Section 1103.5.x

The 2021 IFC will require automatic sprinkler systems to be retrofitted throughout all high-rise buildings with:

An occupied floor located more than 120' above the lowest level of fire department access.

High-rise buildings (2021 IFC) with occupied floors more than 75' but not more than 120' above the lowest level of fire department are exempt from retrofitting throughout an automatic sprinkler system in the following conditions:

The building has at least two 2-hour interior exit stairways, or a fire alarm system that includes smoke detectors in mechanical equipment, electrical, transformer, telephone equipment and similar rooms; corridors, elevator lobbies, and at doors penetrating interior exit stairway enclosures.

STANDPIPE RETROFIT – 2018 IFC, Section 1103.6

Buildings with occupied floors more than 50 feet above (or below) the nearest level of fire department access are required to retrofit with standpipes.

Buildings with existing helistops or heliports that are over 30 feet above the lowest level of fire department access shall be retrofitted with standpipes. •

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JG Innovations offers three different concealment systems, the Soffi-Steel®, JGI Interlock™ and AlumA-Fit™ Concealment Systems. Each one of these has the unique ability to enclose an exposed sprinkler pipe or mechanical.

The Soffi-Steel® Concealment System is produced from A60/G90 galvanized steel and possesses the unique CON-SEAL-IT™ caulk retaining groove. The groove serves to feed and firmly retain the sealant along the length of the soffit/construction surface, ensuring a clean, tightly-sealed and contraband-resistant system. This reliable and simplistic enclosure is FM Approved as well as UL/ULC Listed.

The JGI Interlock™ Concealment System is much the same as the Soffi-Steel® Concealment System, with a few design modifications for the purpose of greater economy. The JGI Interlock™ Concealment System is a more economical alternative to typical drywall applications and carries the FM Approval.

The Soffi-Steel® and JGI Interlock™ Concealment Systems come with all the hardware necessary for you to professionally install the system. Spring steel shield clips are provided for the purpose of securing the concealment system to the substrate. They provide a snap-lock connection which renders the system virtually irremovable once installed. If access to your pipe or mechanical is needed, we can accommodate with access panels/doors.

The ALumA-Fit™ Concealment system is an aluminum designed soffit that can be fabricated directly on-site by a member of our professional installation team. This on-site adaptability allows for any last-minute dimensional changes at the job site. Being made of aluminum, it's a much lighter material, but works very well in

both commercial and residential applications.

The Soffi-Steel® and JGI Interlock™ Concealment Systems are available in 24, 20 and 16 gauge galvanized steel in a variety of finishes such as Sherwin Williams Powder Coat, Primed, Paint-grip (treated for field paint) or a 304 Stainless Steel with a #4 finish. These systems are backed with a 10 Year limited warranty. The AlumA-Fit Concealment System is manufactured in a .030 aluminum material and available in both a smooth or textured finish. The aluminum is installed exclusively by our experienced installation team and carries a 1-Year warranty.

Over the decades there has been a need and use for our systems in applications such as Universities, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Communities, VA Hospitals and clinics, PK-12 Schools, residential properties, college dormitories, student housing, psychiatric facilities, detention centers, jails and prisons and commercial buildings. We have been providing the solution to protect people from pipe and pipe from people, something the NFSA is all too familiar with.

JG Innovations, Inc. have been NFSA members since 2012, however our Soffi-Steel® Concealment System brand has been known in the industry and available to NFSA members for decades. Being members of the NFSA gives us the ability to network with contractors that are genuinely involved in the day-to-day work directly related to the fire sprinkler industry. Those that are familiar with the inner workings of fire protection also know our products as a solution amongst NFSA members. The NFSA provides a way for us to connect at annual conferences and reach out to each other to discuss common issues in the industry. Our membership is a value add to our business model.

JG Innovations Concealment Systems are truly a simple solution to a common problem for architects, engineers and contractors. One that is often over thought. It's manufactured to any size, any dimension for any situation and application. It's just a matter of providing the JG Innovations design team with the dimensions you require. We offer complimentary take-offs of your plans and free design-aid when requested. If it makes it easier for your company, our staff can provide an on-site take off of your project for an additional fee. The installation process is simple for any trade

continued on page 23

The Suppliers' Showcase feature is available to any NFSA Supplier and/or Manufacturer member in good standing. If you are interested in having your company featured here, please contact Joanne Genadio at genadio@nfsa.org or 845.878.4200 x118. Features will be published on a first come, first serve basis.

to administer. All of the hardware necessary to install the product is supplied at the time of shipment. However, if you would prefer, JG Innovations has a professional installation team that travels nationwide to either install the system or they can assist your crew in the installation process.

JG Innovations understands the Fire Protections/Mechanical Industry and is here to support at local, regional and national levels. Please consider the Soffi-Steel®, JGI Interlock™ or AlumA-Fit™ Concealment Systems as the simple solution for your complex issues. •



Typical Soffi-Steel® Commercial Application”



Typical Soffi-Steel® Institutional Application”



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*Reddi-Pipe may require minor touch-up after fabrication.



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NOTES
FROM THE

Fire Scene

From Nashville, With Love!



by Vickie Pritchett, **Director of Outreach & Government Relations**

WOW!

I feel like we really did just have one BIG family reunion in my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee! For all who made the journey to Music City USA to be part of our record-breaking Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo, we say THANK YOU! The energy, the opportunities for us all to realize that they really were “playing our tune” of “Fire Sprinklers Save...” What a special time we shared! We created an awesome event, and I’m so proud to be part of our fire sprinkler family that makes it happen every single day! Did you love Mike Snider as much as we locals do? We were so happy to bring the “Grand Ole Opry” to our stage and give you an official welcome like none other! The jokes, the music, the message... and he liked our commercial and had great insights!

For those of you in Nashville, you realized from our guests from the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation report (and blowing of the conch shell) that the week before our conference we had been part of another home run – the 17th Annual Truman Legacy Symposium – which this year focused on fire prevention and historic preservation. As Jeanna Garrido and Clinton Curry shared with us on stage in Nashville, “It’s not preserved until it’s protected!” What an awesome collaboration and partnership. There is more to come from this event, and we look forward to the opportunities on the horizon. A big thank you to Clinton for that awesome conch shell welcome on stage!

During our conference week, we saw the official launch of

“What Used To Be!” I hope you were able to catch it on TV, or have viewed it at www.firesprinklersbuylife.com, We have a lot to be excited about moving forward with our marketing campaign and rallying cry! Fire sprinklers save lives and we need to shout that from the mountaintops! *#fastestwater* is a real deal and everyone should understand what that means! We hope you’re sharing the commercial and the website on all your social media platforms. It really is true that we are able to create the ripple effect. If you need our help, please reach out. We have campaign graphics sized for all of the social media platforms and we would love for all of our members to be helping us spread the message!

So, what’s next? Those of you who know me know that there is always something next! What’s next is Phoenix, Arizona and the JW Marriott Desert Ridge! I can’t wait for us to gather there in 2020 for our Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference. This award-winning, family-friendly hotel has so much to offer, including an on-site spa, championship golf at Wildfire Golf Club, five pools, a lazy river and exquisite dining, all set within the background of breathtaking views. When you get a moment, take the time to check out the resort’s website and get ready for another NFA member gathering that meets and exceeds the bar we’ve set for ourselves. Remember, we couldn’t do what we do without you. Thank you one and all!•

FUTURE DATES FOR NFA ANNUAL SEMINARS AND BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

April 29–May 2, 2020

JW Marriott Desert Ridge, *Phoenix, AZ*

May 1-4, 2021

Cosmopolitan, *Las Vegas, NV*

May 3-6, 2022

Sheraton Sand Key, *Clearwater Beach, FL*

May 3-6, 2023

Marriott Marquis, *Washington, DC*

May 7-10, 2024

Wailea Beach Resort, *Maui, HI*

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).

 CommonVoices1

 CommonVoices1

fireadvocates.org
Fire Sprinklers Save Lives



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



FOX & friends

abc GOOD MORNING AMERICA



MEMBERSHIP

*Common Voices: An Advocate's Coalition
Determined to Create a Fire Safe America*



Individual memberships are set forth in the by-laws as described below:

FRIEND (FREE)

Free to everyone who signs up at www.fireadvocates.org (includes electronic access to *Common Voices News* on quarterly basis).

ADVOCATE (4 LEVELS)

For those affected by fire who wish to support the purpose of Common Voices:

- **Platinum** \$1,000+
- **Diamond** \$500
- **Gold** \$250
- **Silver** \$100

SUPPORTER (4 LEVELS)

For individuals who wish to support the purpose of Common Voices:

- **Platinum** \$1,000+
- **Diamond** \$500
- **Gold** \$250
- **Silver** \$100

CORPORATE (4 LEVELS)

For associations, corporations, agencies, etc. that are interested in supporting the purpose of Common Voices:

- **Platinum** \$25,000+
- **Diamond** \$5,000
- **Gold** \$2,500
- **Silver** \$1,000

Please mail completed form (and check) to:

Common Voices
P.O. Box 162
Pleasant View, TN 37146

ANNUAL DONATION FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

First Name _____

Middle Name _____

Last Name _____

Title _____

Title 2 (if applicable) _____

Professional Designation (Dr., EFO, CFO, etc.) _____

Organization Name (if applicable) _____

Email Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Province/Region _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Telephone Number _____

ANNUAL DONATION LEVEL

FRIEND - This FREE level of membership support is available to everyone who signs up and includes electronic access to *Common Voices News* on quarterly basis.

FREE (Sign up at www.fireadvocates.org)

ADVOCATE - This level of membership support intended for those affected by fire. (Burn survivor or family member of someone lost to fire)

Platinum (\$1,000+) **Diamond** (\$500) **Gold** (\$250) **Silver** (\$100)
 OTHER - Amount \$ _____

SUPPORTER - This level of membership support intended for individuals who wish to support advocates and their mission.

Platinum (\$1,000+) **Diamond** (\$500) **Gold** (\$250) **Silver** (\$100)
 OTHER - Amount \$ _____

CORPORATE - This level of membership support intended for companies and organizations who wish to support the advocates and their mission.

Platinum (\$25,000+) **Diamond** (\$5,000) **Gold** (\$2,500) **Silver** (\$1,000)
 OTHER - Amount \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check

Credit Card



Payable to:
Common Voices

Name on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date (mm/yy) _____

CW Code (3 digit code on back) _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/INFORMATION

Thank you for your support! Your continued support will help us expand our efforts to create a Fire Safe America, turning tragedy into advocacy. You are appreciated, we are glad to have you on our team! LOOK UP for safety... your life and the lives of your family could depend on it.

These Incentives Improve Community Safety and Provide Developer Savings

In exchange for installing home fire sprinklers in entire developments, authorities having jurisdiction can offer locally negotiated trade-ups as incentives to developers. These incentives may include:



- Street-Width Reduction
- Longer Dead-End Streets
- Tee Turnarounds Permitted
- Increased Street Grades and Building Setbacks
- Additional Units Permitted
- Expansion of Existing Water Supply May Not Be Needed
- Increased Hydrant Spacing
- Subdivision Single Access Point
- Gated Communities

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT*

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 98%

Reduce fire damage by up to 97%

Reduce water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%

Reduce water pollution

* Environmental Impact of Automatic Fire Sprinklers, FM Global, 2010



For more information about home fire sprinkler incentives, including case studies, video testimonials, fact sheets and NFPA 13D information, visit our website at HomeFireSprinkler.org/crr.

Home Fire Sprinklers: A Win-Win for Your Entire Community

Home fire sprinkler incentives can reduce construction costs, while protecting residents and firefighters, and help to protect the environment.

NFSA Retrofit Guide

US Experience with fires and fire sprinklers

by Vince Powers, *NFSA's ITM Specialist*



The following is a short excerpt from the newest edition of NFSA's Retrofit Guide. The chapter on "Why Retrofit Programs are Needed" gives up-to-date reasons for the importance of inspection, testing and maintenance of automatic fire sprinkler systems. This resource is available for all NFSA members at <https://nfsa.org/guides/>

Based on national fire incident reporting, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has estimated that there were 1,345,500 fires in the United States during 2015, an increase of 3.7% from 2014. This meant that a fire department was responding to a fire somewhere in the United States on an average of every 23 seconds. These fires were reported to have resulted in total of 3,280 civilian fire deaths, 15,700 civilian injuries, and \$14.3 billion in property damage. Of these fires, more than half a million were structure fires. It is widely acknowledged that fire sprinkler systems have helped reduce these losses over the past few decades and could reduce them even further.

In addition to statistics regarding fires, the NFPA has compiled statistics on the performance of automatic fire sprinkler systems and has concluded that they are "highly reliable and effective elements of total system designs for fire protection in buildings" that "save lives and property, producing large reductions in the number of deaths per thousand fires, in average direct property damage per fire, and especially in the likelihood of a fire with large loss of life or large property loss."

While modern building codes require the installation of auto-

matic sprinklers in almost all new construction of size, there have been many buildings constructed over the years without sprinkler protection. The NFPA sprinkler performance report stated that, based on fire department data for the years 2007 to 2011, sprinkler systems were present in only 10 percent of reported structure fires.

Due to their potential in reducing fire loss, many communities have enacted fire sprinkler retrofit requirements, especially for the occupancies that, based on experience, present the greatest risks to civilians. In many cases, the communities have addressed multiple occupancies at the same time by adopting a code that contains occupancy-based requirements for sprinkler retrofit. As stated previously, this Retrofit Guide envisions a dual approach that essentially overlays the code-based consensus provisions for sprinkler retrofit through the adoption of a special ordinance. In this manner there can be a clear understanding of the need and plan for implementation that simultaneously applies to all dangerous existing occupancies in need of fire sprinkler retrofit.

Fire dynamics, the study of fire behavior in the built environment, has shown that the time to reach flashover has shortened to a critical point; a point that demands a fresh look at how and when water is applied to the burning material. Old buildings or new, traditional design or modern, the age of the building is immaterial; it's the contents that take us to flashover and the time we must get water on the fire prior to flashover is so short that successful fire department intervention is unlikely.

Our fire problems have been identified and, through the consensus method, model codes have been modified to address the changing fire environment. •

1 Haynes H. (2015). *Fire loss in the United States during 2015*. Quincy, MA: NFPA.

2 Hall, J. (2017). *U.S. experience with sprinklers*. Quincy, MA: NFPA.

Top Tech Competition-2019

by Roland Asp,
NFSA's Manager of Installation Standards



We have a Winner! The 2019 Top Tech Competition was held in conjunction with the 2019 North American Fire Sprinkler Expo in Nashville and was, by all accounts, a rousing success.

This competition was a long time in the making and preparation for this game began as soon as the last Top Tech Competition was completed in 2017. The 2019 version of Top Tech featured a new format an entirely new set of questions.

As written in Mark Hopkin's article "Top Tech 2019: Who, Where and When" in the May/June 2019 issue of **National Fire Sprinkler Magazine**, The preliminary examination round began in December of 2018 and nearly 150 contestants enrolled in the competition and over 100 completed the preliminary examination for the Top Tech Competition. The top fifty competitors (listed in the above referenced article) were invited to Nashville to continue the competition. This competition was a true North American event with members of; NFSA representing the United States, CASA representing Canada and AMRACI representing Mexico all participating in the preliminary rounds.

The preliminary exam was not easy and the 50 technicians who were invited to participate in the next round in Nashville deserve to be applauded for their accomplishment.

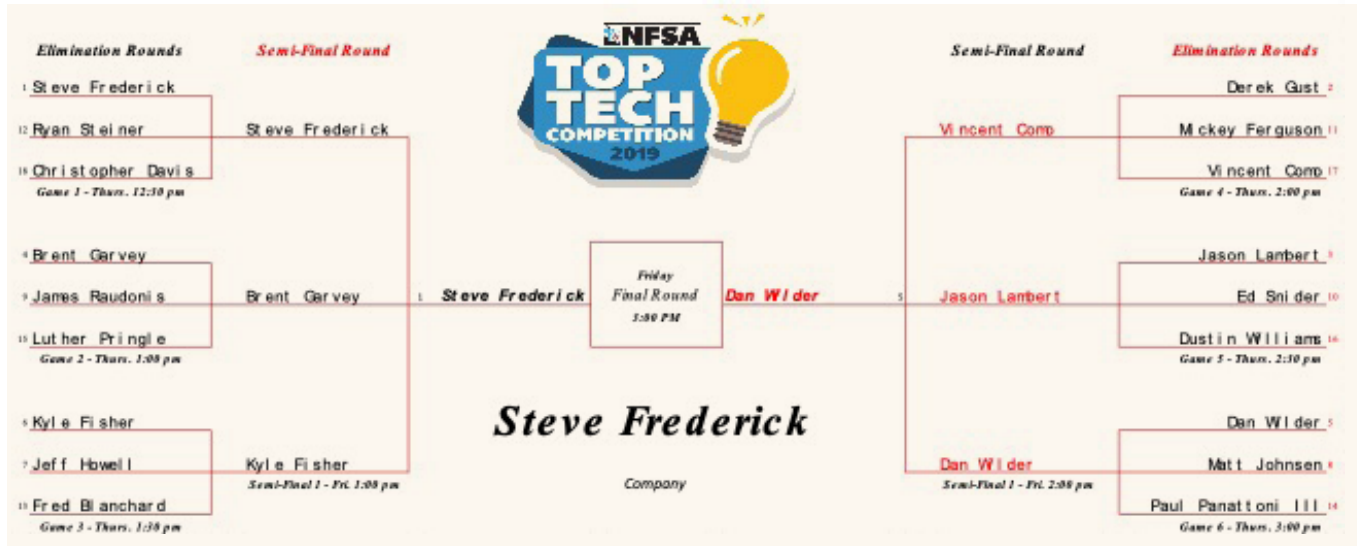
The next step in this competition was an onsite written qualification exam which was held on Wednesday May 15th in Nashville with the purpose of narrowing the field to 18 contestants who participated in the live rounds of a game show style competition in the expo hall. This onsite qualification exam consisted of ten multiple choice questions and two layout exercises. The participants were given one hour to complete this exam. The exam was intentionally difficult and was aimed to challenge the participants knowledge of the 2016 edition of NFPA installation standards and to test their skills as a layout technician.

The contenders who did not make the top 18 are certainly among North America's top layout technicians and although they did not move on to the live rounds, their competition was not over. They were invited to compete in the "Poker Run". The competitors visited and the vendors on the expo floor and collected playing cards. The player with the best hand was the winner. The winner of the Poker Run was Mike Miller of SRI Fire Sprinkler, LLC. Congratulations Mike!



The top 18 contestants from this exam who moved onto the live rounds were as follows:

Seed	Name	Company
1	Steve Frederick	Rioux Fire Protection Ltd
2	Derek Gust	Patriot Fire Protection, Inc.
3	Jason Lambert	JCI / Grinnell Fire Protection Solutions
4	Brent Garvey	Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc
5	Dan Wilder	Western States Fire Protection Co.
6	Kyle Fisher	Ryan Fire Protection, Inc.
7	Jeff Howell	Western States Fire Protection Co.



8	Matt Johnsen	<i>United States Alliance Fire Protection</i>
9	James Raudonis	<i>Ryan Fire Protection, Inc.</i>
10	Ed Snider	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.</i>
11	Mickey Ferguson	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.</i>
12	Ryan Steiner	<i>BDR Services Ltd.</i>
13	Fred Blanchard	<i>BCE Engineers, Inc</i>
14	Paul Panattoni III	<i>API GROUP, INC</i>
15	Luther Pringle	<i>American Fire Protection Group, Inc.</i>
16	Dustin Williams	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.</i>
17	Vincent Como	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.</i>
18	Christopher Davis	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.</i>

These 18 contestants moved on to the live rounds of the competition. The live rounds consisted of a “Jeopardy” type game show format and generated a lot of excitement. Coworkers, families, and attendees gathered round the Top Tech stage to support the contestants.

On Thursday, May 16th, six preliminary rounds were held on the expo floor each with three contestants competing. The schedule for these preliminary rounds was as follows:

Round 1:	12:30 p.m.
Round 2:	1:00 p.m.
Round 3:	1:30 p.m.
Round 4:	2:00 p.m.
Round 5:	2:30 p.m.
Round 6:	3:00 p.m.

The winners of each of the six preliminary rounds moved on to the two semifinal rounds which were held on Friday, May 17th as follows:

Semi-final Round 1:	1:00 p.m.
Semi-final Round 2:	2:00 p.m.

Like the preliminary rounds, the two semifinal rounds each had three contestants competing. *The semifinalists were:*

Name	Company
Steve Frederick	<i>Rioux Fire Protection Ltd</i>
Brent Garvey	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc</i>
Kyle Fisher	<i>Ryan Fire Protection, Inc.</i>
Vincent Como	<i>Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc</i>
Jason Lambert	<i>JCI / Grinnell Fire Protection Solutions</i>
Dan Wilder	<i>Western States Fire Protection Co.</i>

The six semi-finalists battled it out and, in the end, there were *two finalists left:*

Name	Company
Steve Frederick	<i>Rioux Fire Protection Ltd</i>
Dan Wilder	<i>Western States Fire Protection Co.</i>

The Final Round was held at 3pm on May 17th. Steve and Dan competed, and, in the end, Steve Frederick was crowned NFSA’s Top Tech of 2019. It should be noted that this is the second time that Steve was the Top Tech. He was also the winner of the 2015 competition.

2019 TOP TECH WINNER	
Name	Company
Steve Frederick	<i>Rioux Fire Protection Ltd</i>

continued on page 32

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The following photo shows Dan Wilder and Steve Frederick after the completion of the final round. As Steve Frederick stated to me, the expressions on their faces captures the spirit of this competition perfectly:



As a layout technician myself, I have a lot of respect for all the contestants. This was not an easy competition, and every one of the participants truly are some of the best of the best in the industry. There really were no losers in this competition, and all have proved that they are an asset to our industry. As we repeatedly told all the contestants, this competition is intended to be fun and to highlight the skills of the layout technician. Regardless, the good-natured competitive spirit of all involved was gratifying to see.



The fifty technicians who were invited to Nashville deserve Kudos for their achievement. The 18 contestants who made it to the live rounds truly were impressive and the six semifinalists were amazing. The knowledge shown by the two finalists was humbling

and Steve Frederick's mastery of the skills of the layout technicians was truly awe-inspiring.

Congratulations to All!

Finally, I believe that the contestant's companies also deserve praise for supporting their employees in this competition and for providing a work environment that allows their employees to nurture their skills in the industry and rise to the level of the top layout technicians in the industry. Thank you! •

Steve Frederick — 2019 Top Tech

I have been in the fire sprinkler industry for just over 10 years. I graduated from the Fire Protection Engineering Technology program at Seneca College in 2009, and have been a sprinkler system designer ever since.

I currently work for Rioux Fire Protection Ltd., in Edmonton, Alberta. We have offices in three cities (Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg), and serve clients across the western Canadian provinces. In addition to my duties as a sprinkler system designer, I serve on CASA's Technical Committee as a representative for the Alberta Regional Group.

I would have to say that my favorite part of the fire sprinkler industry is what we accomplish as a whole. No matter how difficult or stressful the workday is, we can still be proud of the fact that when we go home for the day, we've left the world a safer place than when we started.

I have been competing in the Top Tech competition since 2011 (*Baltimore*), when it was team-based. I am still humbled by the fact that a small-town Canadian guy like me gets to rub shoulders with the best designers in the industry. I love the fact that the competition encourages excellence. Our industry needs people who aren't satisfied with anything less than excellence, and the Top Tech competitors are all proof that that spirit is alive and well.

It seems that with every passing competition, the questions get steadily more difficult, and come from increasingly obscure and seldom-used corners of the NFPA standards. That being the case, it's extremely difficult to 'study' for the competition. You just need to know the books inside and out. I am fortunate to have been involved in the design of every type of project from NFPA 13D residential systems, to massive 10,000 gpm foam-water deluge systems, and just about everything in between. The variety and complexity of the jobs has forced me to be very familiar with quite a few different standards, which has helped me greatly in the competition.

Both CASA and NPSA have been a great benefit to me over the years. From technical seminars, to friends and business contacts made through the annual conferences and regional group meetings, I can't imagine that I would have progressed as far in my career without either one.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank two great people in this business. The first is Micheal Rioux P.L.(Eng), my friend and employer, who has given me endless opportunities to succeed in this business and is a constant source of encouragement. The second is Rick Arsenault, P.Eng, who has been a mentor to

me for almost all of my career, and instilled in me from the very beginning that there is only one way to do things in this business, and that is the right way. •

Dan Wilder — 2019 Top Tech Runner-up

I started in fire protection in 2000 at RCI Systems, Inc working on a drafting board and providing design for tenant improvement and residential projects. I then moved to AutoCAD and HASS for small preaction systems and new construction projects. Started on Hydra CAD around 2002. In 2006 I took a position with Desert Fire Protection in Las Vegas working on projects such as Aria Casino & Convention Center, the Cosmopolitan, Queens Ridge Residential Unit. In 2010, I started with Western States Fire Protection as a Project Manager & Design Tech where I am currently then Design Manager.

Notable projects include Maricopa County Downtown injustice court (5 story jail house court as an administrative building), Aria Tower (50 story hotel high-rise); included roof, fire pump, stand pipes, penthouse, executive suites, NAU Sky dome (502 foot wood dome) retrofit, Intel Ocotillo fab 42, Mesa Apple Global Data Center, and currently working on the Desert Diamond Casino.

• **Your Company's background**

Western States Fire Protection Co. (WSFP) is a fire protection company that delivers quality fire protection systems and solutions. We protect lives and property while providing an exceptional value to our customers. This is accomplished by the focus and delivery of the WSFP values: integrity, commitment, professionalism, quality, and safety. The company originated from two offices in Colorado and Minnesota and now encompasses over 60 locations and 8 Operating Divisions across 21 states.

• **What is your role in the fire sprinkler industry?**

My role in the Fire Sprinkler Industry is I am a current Design Manager for Western States Fire Protection Phoenix Branch, member of NFSA Future Leadership Committee, NFSA Engineering and Standards Committee Area 10 Principal, NFSA

Arizona Chapter Member, and I Admin a couple forums and groups pertaining to fire sprinkler design.

• **How did you get into this industry?**

I got into this industry when I was working towards an architectural degree but needed to start my work experience, I answered an ad in the help wanted section for a CAD drafter with RCI systems. The rest is history!

• **What is your favorite part of the fire sprinkler industry?**

My favorite part of the fire sprinkler industry is the diversity of projects. There are several similar methods for fire protection and types of buildings, but there is always something changing (for better or worse) and trying to make a better design than previous iterations keeps things interesting.

• **What is your impression of the Top Tech Competition?**

I enjoy the arrangement and competition aspect of Top Tech. Meeting others within the industry in a fun but competitive manner while testing both my knowledge against a written format but from a memory standpoint. I'm fairly certain the NFSA staff try to put out some curveballs in the mix which adds another layer to the competition.

• **How did you prepare for the Top Tech Competition?**

The best preparation has been work experience. While I did review some major but far less used areas of the standards for my area, hitting the books for some of the more specific common knowledge areas also helped out.

• **How is NFSA a benefit to you in this industry.**

The NFSA benefits me in this industry in many ways. The varied backgrounds and areas of expertise within the staff including their accessibility, Expert of the Day, online and classroom trainings including Tech Tuesday's, continued work for advancement and outreach, and the overall knowledge base and resources to help with any type of project that continues to be open and available source knowledge are all excellent resources available. •



Find Yourself If You Were There... See What You Missed If You Weren't!

Thank you to Chief John Buckman and Rick Dunn for delivering the best photos and videos we've ever had of our Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo! Contained in the following pictorial are great shots of our opening reception, general sessions, a busy and invigorated expo hall, award recipients, closing banquet and our Common Voices Golf Tournament.

We are thrilled that this record-breaking annual seminar has been captured in such great detail. Please take the time to browse through the photos. They are sure to bring back some great memories of our time together for those who joined us, and for those who didn't, an incentive to be sure to not miss our *Annual Seminar and Business and Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in 2020!*

AWARDS

GOLDEN SPRINKLER AWARD

Buck Buchanan

RUSSELL P. FLEMING TECHNICAL SERVICE AWARD

Fred Benn

PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Vina Drennan

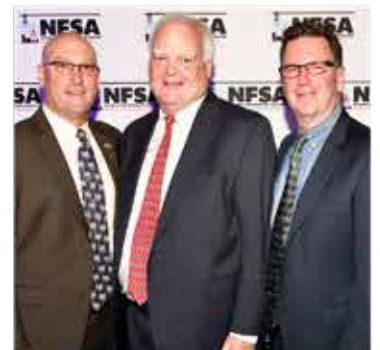
HALL OF FAME

Dennis Coleman

Jim "JD" Dalton

Wayne Gey

Barry Waterman





2019 | NFSA Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo





Opening Day





General Session



Top Tech 2019



Southern Hospitality



CASA NFSA AMRACI



CASA NFSA SEMINAR & EXPO AMRACI



THANKS FOR ATTENDING! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!





NFSA Retrofit Guide Alternatives—Engineered Life Safety Systems

by Terin Hopkins, [Field Service Coordinator](#)



The following are short excerpts from the newest edition of NFSA's Retrofit Guide. The chapter on "Alternatives—Engineered Life Safety Systems" provides key facts and guidance on life safety system alternatives. This resource is available for all NFSA members at <https://nfsa.org/guides/>

Whenever discussions are held regarding the retrofit of sprinkler systems in buildings, the question of "alternatives" is always asked. As seen in the economics section, the retrofit of sprinklers into existing buildings can be costly, so there is always the question of cheaper alternatives, something that is equivalent to sprinklers, but less expensive.

Such systems go by any number of names, such as Engineered Life Safety Systems (ELSS), or Fire & Life Safety Systems (FLSS), etc. NFPA 101 requires automatic fire sprinklers in all existing high-rise buildings; however, there is an exception for an Engineered Life Safety System for ambulatory health-care, apartments and business use occupancy. Such systems must be designed by a registered fire and life safety professional engineer and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Such systems shall include any, or all, of the following:

- Partial automatic sprinkler protection
- Smoke detection systems
- Smoke control systems
- Compartmentation
- Other approved systems¹

All codes have a section addressing alternatives or equivalencies; they recognize that the code cannot describe all designs and methods and provide for a means for approval for those systems not mentioned in the prescriptive requirements. As for equivalencies, if lives are to be saved, we must develop a system that will cool the fuel package in buildings before enough energy is generated to result in flashover. Any evaluation of an engineered life safety system must be judged on that system's ability to stop flashover. To put it succinctly, an Engineered Life Safety System must prove that it can, in the compartment of origin:

- Prevent ceiling temperatures from reaching 6000C or,
- Mitigate the effects of a radiant flux of 20kW/meter² reaching fuel packages other than the material originally involved.

As we revisit the concept of an "engineered life safety system," which acceptable alternatives will prevent flashover?

- Partial automatic sprinkler protection-only if that partial sprinkler system is installed in the compartment of origin, near the fuel package, without obstructions.
- Smoke detection systems-such systems do not interrupt the combustion process and, therefore, will not prevent flashover. Their purpose is notification only.
- Smoke control system-depending on the design, such systems might exacerbate the situation by allowing fresh air to the fire.

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¹ National Fire Protection Association. (2018). NFPA 101 Life safety code. Quincy, MA: author

One of the most effective methods of smoke control is to limit the size of the fire. “Limiting the fire size can be accomplished by controlling the type, quantity and arrangement of fuel. In addition, the fire size can be controlled through an automatic suppression system.” In the December 2014 issue of Consulting – Specifying Engineer Magazine, William Koffel, PE, wrote “Effective smoke control starts with providing automatic sprinkler protection. Properly designed, installed and maintained automatic sprinkler system will assist in accomplishing any smoke control, by limiting fire growth and therefore the quantity of smoke produced.” There is no better smoke control systems than sprinklers.

Compartmentation

Fire-rated assemblies may delay the spread of fire, both horizontally or vertically, but they do not interrupt the combustion process; they do not prevent flashover within the compartment of origin and those trapped within that compartment will not survive.

Other approved systems-

There are other approved systems, such as misting systems, common on cruise ships, but they are exceedingly expensive.

One such “alternative” is the “Dorothy Mae” sprinkler system; such a design was the result of a fire at the Dorothy Mae Apartments at 821 West Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, California in September of 1982. This fire resulted in the loss of 24 lives. The Dorothy Mae system is, essentially, a partial sprinkler system.

The system consists of sprinklers installed in the corridors of a residential apartment or condos, and a single sprinkler, through the corridor wall into the apartment or condo, installed just above the corridor door.

Risk-based decision-making demands that we evaluate the risk and determine that risk which we are willing to tolerate, the “acceptable level of risk.” Note that the “acceptable level of risk,” in the fire safety arena, is also the “acceptable level of loss.”

A system, such as the Dorothy Mae, could be acceptable if it was the first step in a phased installation:

- System designed and calculated as a full NFPA 13- complaint system
- Installation of sprinklers in common areas including all the corridors
- Corridor piping teed-off to provide a pipe into each apartment or condo, sized for complete protection
- One sprinkler over the corridor doorway during this phase
- Extension of full coverage, as per NFPA 13 within each apartment or condo upon change of occupant or sale of the condominium.

Any alternative to a fully compliant NFPA 13, 13R or 13D system, depending on the application, should be looked upon with a degree of skepticism if it is being considered as an equivalent to a full automatic fire sprinkler system. •

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Spotlight on Fire Sprinklers has Industry news from around the internet and the latest Association happenings! **Don't Miss It!**



Send us your Sprinkler Saves and we'll get them in Spotlight!

email Joanne Genadio at genadio@nfsa.org

New Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Guide-Introduction

by John R. Waters, EFO, MA, MS

The devastating fire on April 15th at the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris has ignited numerous discussions regarding the retrofit of automatic fire sprinklers in existing buildings.

This is not a new subject for your Association.

In 2006, Jim Dalton, then Director of Public Fire Protection for the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), compiled a best-practices document to help local and state authorities in their efforts to improve fire protection in their cities and towns. It was entitled *Fire Sprinkler Retrofit – A Step-By-Step Approach for Communities*.

The newest edition of that document is now called the **Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Guide** and is the result of collaboration of many individuals and includes details of current and proposed code requirements, retrofit case studies and highlights the impact of the 2018 Tax Reform Bill. Many people contributed to this including:

Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO
Director of Codes and Public Fire Protection NFSA

Terin Hopkins
Field Service Coordinator NFSA

Vincent Powers
ITM Specialist NFSA

Joanne Genadio
Marketing Manager and NFSM Editor NFSA

Derrick Sawyer, EFO
Director of Fire & Emergency Services Trenton, NJ

Chase Browning
Deputy Fire Marshal Medford, OR

The federal government expressed their acknowledgement of the value of fire sprinklers in nursing homes, passing rules stating all nursing homes must be fully sprinklered in order to participate in Medicare or Medicaid.

The hospitality industry also found the value of sprinklers after several disastrous fires in the 1970's and 1980's, including:

FATALITIES:			
Pioneer International	1972	Tyrone, PA	12
Hotel Pathfinder	1976	Portland, OR	11
Coates House	1978	Kansas City, MO	20
MGM Grand	1980	Las Vegas, NV	85
Stouffer's Inn	1980	West Chester, NY	26
Westchase Hilton	1982	Houston, TX	12
Dupont Plaza	1986	San Juan, Puerto Rico	98

As a result of these fires, and the damage to their reputations, every major hotel chain has required the retrofit of sprinklers in all their hotels. In addition, these fires were the impetus behind the federal Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990. The Act requires that federal employees, when traveling, stay in lodging that is protected by fire sprinklers.

This new edition, available on our website, includes such subjects as:

- Defining retrofit
- Why retrofits are needed
- Codes and retrofits
- Retrofits – the process
- Historical structures
- Alternatives – Engineered Life Safety Systems
- Retrofits – the economics and tax incentives
- Resources to help you through the process

The articles in this issue from Jeff Hugo, Terin Hopkins and Vince Powers and I are excerpts from that document. In addition, a separate document called Historical Retrofits is also available on our website.♦

¹ Department of Health and Human Services - retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-55.pdf>



Have You Been Reading Your Spotlight?



SPOTLIGHT ON FIRE SPRINKLERS

A NEWSLETTER OF POPULAR FIRE SPRINKLER ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE WEB

As you well know by now, NFSA had become the go-to source on social media for reporting on industry news and sprinkler saves. Our social networks are monitored and updated 24/7, making them the place to go to see late-breaking fire sprinkler news.

Don't follow our social media, you say? Your NFSA President came up with a solution for that years ago, and we deliver on his vision every Friday at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time. That vision is Spotlight on Fire Sprinklers, an e-newsletter that encapsulates current fire sprinkler industry news, sprinkler saves and NFSA outreach initiatives, on a weekly basis.

Shane's vision was to deliver this news, to every member, every week, while keeping it as fresh as possible. We don't start to assemble Spotlight until Thursday, guaranteeing that you will be on top of the latest and greatest this industry and your Association has to offer. Often, when we thought we'd put the newsletter "to bed", we've unscheduled it, added breaking news, then rescheduled to ensure our 7:00 a.m. deadline was met. Although I try to keep my personal life personal, I'll let you in on a little secret, there were times when I've had to get out of bed and redo Spotlight in my pajamas... and I don't go to bed early!

Spotlight is sent out through Constant Contact. The nice thing about Constant Contact is the analytics it provides for each communication. We are provided with how many opens, bounces, unsubscribes and link clicks each piece of email generates. While we are thrilled with the compliments and positive responses we've received about Spotlight, we know that there are quite a few members out there that have not taken the time to open the email. Open it! Just once, do yourself a favor and take a look at what is going on around the U.S. as it pertains to our industry.

Our latest edition of Spotlight focused on quotes from Fire Chiefs who were commenting on sprinkler saves. To open up this email first thing on a Friday morning and see these quotes is a great way to start the day and reinforce the "Why We Do What We Do" theme that makes us proud to be a part of this great industry that saves lives and property.

Here are some examples:

"Everything in the house from the furniture to the carpet is made of plastic. We like to call that solidified gasoline."

"That sprinkler system saved lives tonight. There's no question about it."

"In a downtown where there's no separation, (fire sprinklers) are crucial... to buying time for emergency services to get there."

"This building was built before sprinkler systems were required. It did not have sprinkler systems; if it did, damage would have been a lot less."

These quotes come from fire chiefs from New York to California and showcase the value of our Partners in Life Safety. We thank them and feature their stories in every issue of Spotlight. The newsletter, which was created to both inform and inspire our members, fulfills its mission every Friday. Please take the time to start your Friday with Spotlight on Fire Sprinklers. You'll be glad you did, and we'll be watching our open rate on Constant Contact. We're averaging around 29% now, and I know we can do much better. A lot of work, dedication and pride go into this e-newsletter every week. If you read it, let us know. If you've opened it for the first time, we'd love to hear your opinion. Feel free to pass it on. We are proud of what we do, as an association and as an industry. We know you are too, and Shane's vision is the perfect showcase for the difference fire sprinklers make, the advocates that sing our praises around the country, and the phenomenal outreach your Association engages in on a unrelenting and consistent basis. •



Pre-shoot meeting with Chad Huennekens, Oscar Mike Foundation Founder Noah Currier and Designing Space Host Jennifer Bertrand

Team NFSA Sponsors Install of Fire Sprinkler System Featured on Designing Spaces

NFSA was proud to sponsor the fire sprinkler installation at Oscar Mike, a home that helps disabled veterans stay physically active.

We called upon long-time NFSA member USA Fire Protection to do the install. They will be featured on the June 6th episode of Designing Spaces, filmed at the Oscar Mike compound in Poplar Grove, Illinois. The fire sprinkler system was installed to protect the veterans who live and work there.

USA Fire Protection president Chad Huennekens was interviewed during the program (*see photo above*).

Thanks go to USA Fire Protection, Tom Lia and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board for their help in making this project a great success! The episode aired on the Lifetime Channel on June 6th!

National Fire Sprinkler Association Launches National Marketing Campaign

On May 10th, NFSA launched our “Fire Sprinklers Buy Time, Time Buys Life” campaign, which includes a new website, www.firesprinklersbuylife.com, and a national TV commercial, titled “What Used To Be.”

“Our NFSA Board deserves the credit for authorizing and supporting this campaign,” explains NFSA President Shane Ray. “Their leadership has made it possible for NFSA staff to implement this campaign, which is a great example of our mission in action.”

“NFSA is an association that works hard daily for all of us in the fire sprinkler industry,” added Kent Mezaros, NFSA Board Chair. “The creation of a professional television commercial was not an

easy assignment, but I’m proud of the team who made it happen and look forward to seeing the results — our goal is to share this information with potential homeowners so that they’ll understand the importance of fire sprinklers in their homes.”

The campaign focuses on “homes to high-rises,” and spotlights the importance of fire sprinklers to protect our family, pets and most treasured memories. The commercial also underscores the reality of today’s fire, the impact that modern furnishings have on the time to flashover, and the potential devastation that fire poses.

NFSA Participates in Home Fire Sprinkler Week Demo at NFPA

In recognition of Home Fire Sprinkler Week, NFPA hosted a live side-by-side burn demo in conjunction with the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition on Wednesday, May 22.

Both local media and the public were able to take a closer look at the unrelenting power of fire and the lifesaving benefits of home fire sprinklers.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services conducted the burn with a burn demo/training unit donated by NFSA. A special thanks to Massachusetts DFS, and our Boston IP Committee, who supports the unit throughout the year.

The event resulted in an excellent news piece by local Fox affiliate Boston25. The segment intertwined the story of Fire Lieutenant Paul Machado, who had to jump out of a window to save his life when fighting a fire in a home without fire sprinklers with footage of the side-by-side demo, making an excellent and supportive segment about the difference fire sprinklers make in a fire. Well done!

NFSA’s New Super Side-by-Side Burn Unit Put Through Paces at UL Lab



continued on page 47

Tests conducted in May will confirm and gather scientific data regarding all aspects of the burn. The units will be mounted on trailers to get them around the country. Many more features of fire will be able to be demonstrated with a lot more scientific flare.

NFSA thanks FEMA for the funding grant that made this possible. We'd also like to thank Underwriters Laboratories Firefighter

Safety and Research Institute for their efforts in giving us the latest information on home fires and how fast fire burns.

This unit will demonstrate that fire sprinklers will contain a fire to the unit of origin. Firefighters are needed to completely extinguish the fire and to make sure all occupants are out of the building.

This unit is a true example of our Partners in Progress Initiative.



Asp Presents NFPA 13D Overview in D.C.

Roland Asp, NFSA's Manager of Standards, presented "Residential Fire Sprinkler NFPA 13D Overview" in the Nation's Capital. The presentation was well attended with 80 local plans reviewers, third party inspectors, construction contractors, fire/building inspectors, property managers, all in attendance. This program was presented in partnership with the National Capital Building Code Academy and hosted by Washington D.C. Inspections of Consumer Administration.



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Viking SupplyNet Announces Promotions and Additions Within Sales Team

Viking SupplyNet, a global leader in the distribution of fire protection and life safety systems, announces several changes and additions to its sales personnel throughout the United States and Latin America.

Adam Owens, Viking SupplyNet's previous Director of Inside Sales and Customer Service, has been promoted to Director of U.S. Sales and Customer Service. In his new role, Owens will be responsible for all sales functions in the United States. Having spent the past 14 years in various sales-related roles with Viking SupplyNet, he brings a thorough understanding of the company's products, sales approach and distribution model.

Ben Johnson has been promoted to the role of Regional Sales Manager for the Eastern United States. Johnson has more than 15 years of sales experience in the fire protection industry, most recently as territory sales manager for Viking SupplyNet's Virginia and Maryland markets. His new assignment will capitalize on an exceptional understanding of Viking's product line as well as a thorough knowledge of fabrication.

Other recent additions to the Viking SupplyNet sales team are:

- **Alejandro Garcia** – Territory Sales Manager for South Florida and South America
- **Adam Nunnally** – Territory Sales Manager for Central and South Texas
- **Rob Sell** – Territory Sales Manager for Virginia and Maryland
- **Jerry Sisson** – Territory Sales Manager for Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida Panhandle
- **Pedro Valdez** – Territory Sales Manager for Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
- **Danna Wells** – Territory Sales Manager for Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri

A full listing of Viking SupplyNet locations and sales team members can be found at www.vikinggroupinc.com/locations.

IN MEMORIAM

William Bowe, ABCO Peerless Sprinkler Corporation

William Bowe passed away at age 90 on April 26, 2019. He was born in Flushing, NY in 1928. The ABCO Automatic Sprinkler Corporation was established in 1958 by Bill and his father-in-law, Anthony Robilotta, after Bill worked in the small, but growing New York sprinkler industry as a sprinkler fitter. ABCO was awarded its first contract on August 15th of that year, a fitting 30th birthday present for Bill, who would continue to grow the company in the coming years from ABCO's first office in Flushing, New York.

In 1961, ABCO moved its operations to Port Washington, New York, where it continued to thrive and in 1972, acquired both the Peerless Automatic Sprinkler Company and Modern Sprinkler Corporation, which is still in operation today. After this acquisition, ABCO Automatic changed its name to ABCO Peerless Sprinkler Corporation, where it operated in Garden City, New York until early 2001. During this time, the ABCO family umbrella grew with the addition of ABCO Peerless Fire Suppression, which was dedicated to serving the special hazard fire protection market, and ABCO Peerless Engineering, P.C., which provided professional design services for the ABCO Peerless operation.

In 2001, ABCO Peerless moved its corporate headquarters to its current home in Hicksville, New York. As the needs of the now large fire protection market changed throughout the early 2000s, ABCO also added New York Fabrication & Supply to its family, enabling ABCO to produce pre-fabricated material for use on its projects.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife of 63 years, Marie C. Robilotta (d.2014), and by his sisters Catherine, Julia (Robert) Stoffel, and Mary (Michael) Conlin. Beloved father of Paula (Gregory) Mondloh, Peter J., Timothy W. (Ann), Martin A. (Diana), Rosemary (John Jeffrey, d. 2010) Kracke, and Elizabeth (Damir) Plisic. Loving grandfather of sixteen and great-grandfather of eight.

FUTURE DATES FOR NFSA ANNUAL SEMINARS AND BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

April 29–May, 2, 2020

JW Marriott Desert Ridge, *Phoenix, AZ*

May 1-4, 2021

Cosmopolitan, *Las Vegas, NV*

May 3-6, 2022

Sheraton Sand Key, *Clearwater Beach, FL*

May 3-6, 2023

Marriott Marquiss, *Washington, DC*

May 7-10, 2024

Wailea Beach Resort, *Maui, HI*



The Florida Fire Sprinkler Association would like to say THANK YOU to our Diamond Elite Sponsors at the 25th Annual Buddy Dewar Golf & Skeet Tournament held on April 8, 2019.



CHAPTERS in ACTION

NFSA Empire Chapter Vendor Show & Day at the Races

This Empire Chapter tradition will again take place on a Thursday evening, August 22nd at the Courtyard Marriott near the Rivers Casino in Schenectady, New York!

Thursday evening will be our Vendor Show and then continue Friday morning, August 23rd with guest speaker, Top Meyers. Also, we will have a handicapper speak on making the most of your time at the Saratoga Race Track.

Approximately 10:45 a.m. on Friday morning, you are on your own to travel at your leisure to Saratoga Springs to join us at the "Paddock Tent" at the historical Saratoga Race Track!

This is an all-inclusive event, one price; \$200

For those staying a night or two, a special room rate is available until July 16th at the Courtyard by Marriott, Schenectady at Mohawk Harbor @ \$149.00 +tax per night.

Itinerary:

Thursday: 5:30 — ?

Cocktails, Buffet, and Vendor Show

Friday: 8:30am - 10:30am

Guest Speakers, Breakfast Buffet, Saratoga Race Track Paddock Tent

COST: \$200/person

Visit www.SaratogaRaceTrack.com for parking, gates, maps, and track info.


Feel free to contact Regional Manager Dominick Kasmauskas with any questions: Kasmauskas@NFSA.org / 518.937.6589

Buddy Dewar Golf and Skeet Classic A Huge Success!


Over 350 Golfers and Shooters participated in the 25th Annual Buddy Dewar Golf Classic which was held on April 8, 2019 at Mission Inn. It was a great day of networking with Contractors, Suppliers and Manufacturers, AHJ's and other industry professionals. FFSA Executive Director Lorrell Bush welcomed everyone to the event. She also recognized a few special people Clint Decuir, JCI a long-standing golf committee member, Bob Poulton, Reliable a great supporter of our association and our industry and Buck Buchanan, Globe Sprinkler and this years recipient of the NFSA Golden Sprinkler Award all of which are retiring this year.

FFSA President Clark Gey presented Fire Marshal Jeni Pierce with the highest award offered through the FFSA, the 2019 Champion of the Industry.


The event exceeded all goals with record attendance and sponsorship's It was a great day full of many celebrations that wouldn't happen without the industry support!



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continued on page 52

All are invited to take part in the NFSA Empire Chapter Summer Outing with an evening Vendor Show, Presentations, and a Day at Saratoga Race Track on **Thursday evening, August 22nd and Friday, August 23rd, 2019**

Please contact Event Coordinator, Eric Townsend 518.767.3700 at any time with any questions.



The Florida Fire Sprinkler Association would like to say THANK YOU to our Diamond Sponsors at the 25th Annual Buddy Dewar Golf & Skeet Tournament held on April 8, 2019.



NFSA's CRFSA, AFSA Chesapeake Chapter Hold Joint Meeting



NFSA's Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association Chapter (CRFSA) held its first joint meeting with the American Fire Sprinkler Association Chesapeake Chapter (AFSA) in Maryland. The 50 plus attendees were welcomed by CRFSA's new Chair Josh Shapiro (Reliable) with opening remarks made by the former CRFSA Chair, Terry Victor (JCI/Grinnell Fire Protection). Andrew Lock from the Consumer Products Safety Commission was the guest speaker. Lock talked about the federal recall process. Jay Strickland (Strickland Fire) and Shane Ray (NFSA President) provided the group with national updates on the industry for both organizations. Maryland State Fire Marshal Chief Brian Geraci was also on hand to provide the group with a Maryland legislative update. The evening was wrapped up with a great desert bar and lots of great discussions on what the future holds for the industry.

Side-by-Side Demonstrates Power of Fire and #Fastestwater in Madison, Wisconsin

What do you get when you mix a Memorial Day weekend with 80-degree weather in Madison, Wisconsin, along with the World's Largest Bratfest? A great opportunity to show off the NFSA Wisconsin Chapter's newest mobile side-by-side trailer. Bratfest was established in 1983 as a festival that features donating its profits to Madison area charities. This event donates to over 100 charities raising almost \$4 million over the past 35 years. The event is free to the public and features music, food, amusement rides, family activities and exhibits for the estimated 100,000+ that attend the annual event.

The Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition, comprised of the Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association, Wisconsin State Fire Inspector's Association, Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Firefighter's Association and NFSA's Wisconsin Chapter, provided fire safety education and a side-by-side demonstration on Saturday May 25th as part of NFPA's National Home Fire Sprinkler Week. The trailer was set up by the City of Madison Fire Department and reset by the Town of Madison Fire Department. Guy Santelli, Kenosha Fire Department, provided information to the crowd.

The demo was presented at 12:30 and 3:00 PM to estimated crowds of over 250 people at each demonstration. The first demonstration was covered by Madison's NBC TV 15, who interviewed Guy Santelli, as well as various onlookers about the demonstration. Many people came forward after the demonstration to pick up fire safety information and information about fire sprinklers. The demonstration worked as usual with the smoke detector sounding at about 18 seconds from first flame, fire sprinkler activation at 25 seconds and flashover in the unprotected space at 1 minute 42 seconds.

Contractor Members of NFSA assisted with sponsorship of this event. H.J. Pertzborn was one of the major sponsors for Bratfest and JF Ahern sponsored the exhibit space for the event.

NFSA Wisconsin Chapter



Fire Sprinkler Demo at Illinois State Capitol Building

Illinois lawmakers got to see, in person, how much sprinkler systems can help put out fires. NFSA paired with local firefighters to conduct a live demonstration outside the State Capitol Building. Be sure to watch and share this great news feature from Madison O'Brien, a reporter with NBC affiliate WAND. Illinois Regional Manager Bob Tinucci does a great job of driving home the life-saving difference fire sprinklers can make in home fires. Thanks to all who took part in putting this exemplary demo together. Please share and help us spread the word! Fire Sprinklers Save Lives and Property!



NFSA At The Minnesota Fire Marshals Conference

On April 16 and 17, NFSA staff members attended a 2-day conference of the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division and the Fire Marshal Association of Minnesota. The annual conference draws over 200 local Fire Marshals and fire officials. NFPA President, Jim Pauley, delivered this year's keynote address, and delegates had the opportunity to attend a dozen different training presentations and a Fire Inspector II preparation course and certification exam.

NFSA Field Operations personnel Tom Brace, Joel Hewitt, and Tim Butler staffed an information booth on the first day of the conference and prepared for a side-by-side burn demonstration on day two. Although "booth traffic" was light, the conversations were plentiful, warm, and personable, given the close affinity between NFSA staff and the conference delegates. We had the chance to connect with a number of NFSA members among the delegates, including a wonderful contact with Scott Hansen, the Technical Service Manager for the Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company.

A side-by-side live-fire sprinkler demonstration was planned for the second day of the conference. Unfortunately, a major storm system moved through the area on the morning of the scheduled demonstration, and by "show time," nearby lightning strikes and heavy rain forced a cancellation of what would have been the initial burn of the season for the Minnesota NFSA Chapter's demonstration trailer.



NFSA State Coordinators for Minnesota, Joel Hewitt and Tom Brace, at the FMAM Conference.

SPRINKLING OF NEWS

■ Anvil International and Smith-Cooper International Complete Merger

International (“Anvil”) and Smith-Cooper International (“SCI”) announced the completion of their merger. While the companies are now under the same corporate ownership, Anvil and SCI sales, customer service, and fulfillment will continue to operate separately for the foreseeable future. The combined company is majority owned by Tailwind Capital, a middle market private equity firm focused on growth-oriented investments in targeted sectors within industrial services, business services and healthcare.

With the completion of the merger, the combined company serves the industrial, commercial, fire protection, energy and mining end markets with a portfolio of high-quality, global brands including AFCON, Anvil, Anvil EPS, AnvilPress Anvil-Strut, Basic-PSA, Beck, Catawissa, Cooplok, Cooplet, FlexHead, FPPI, Gruvlok, J.B. Smith, Merit, Megawatt, North Alabama Pipe, SCI, Sharpe, SPF/Anvil and SprinkFLEX.

Jason Hild, who served as Chief Executive Officer of SCI, will be the Chief Executive Officer of the combined company, and Tom Fish, who served as President and CEO of Anvil, will act as its Chairman. The combined company will leverage its broader strengths and capabilities to provide a more comprehensive product portfolio and premier service level to its national, regional and local distributor customers.

■ Zurn Dedicates Jon Everett Training Center in Memory of Associate

Zurn Industries, LLC announces the opening of its Jon Everett Training Center at its Paso Robles, CA location. The company held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 8th to dedicate the newly remodeled training center in memory of Zurn associate Jon Everett.

Everett was an employee for Zurn Industries at the Zurn Wilkins location for 34 years before his passing in November 2018. With his extensive product knowledge, he was the utmost authority on backflow and pressure regulation and a proponent of product training. He was a respected and beloved coworker.

“Jon had a major impact on our business, our customers, and our associates,” said Ed Stettler, Director of Operations for Zurn Wilkins. “The Jon Everett Training Center will be a reminder of his passion for our industry and his commitment to our customers.”

The Jon Everett Training Center now features product displays and new state-of-the-art restrooms. The center accommodates a 36-student capacity and is expected to be used for training weekly. A dedication plaque graces the entrance of the training room in his memory. Everett’s family, friends, and Zurn associates attended the ceremony, as well as members of the Paso Robles City Council, Mayor Steve Martin, and Zurn’s President, Craig Wehr.

■ ARGCO Announces Release of New Outstanding Jaws

Turn 2-1/2” to 6” pipe with your RIDGID® 300 Machine, allowing the easiest and fastest roll cutting of large diameter pipe.

Each set of three Outstanding Jaws will grip 2-1/2” to 6” pipe and fit over existing chuck jaws by easily clipping into place.

They work by expanding the three jaws until they evenly grip the inside wall of the pipe.

The power drive does all the work, make roll cutting easy.

Each set comes with a convenient case that clips onto the leg of the machine stand.



Available at ARGCO.com 800.854.1015.

■ Johnson Controls introduces non-magnetic sprinkler for healthcare MRI environments

Johnson Controls introduces the Tyco® RFII-MRI 5.6 K-factor Non-Magnetic Concealed Pendent Sprinkler, developed for use in Magnetic Resonance (MR) system rooms in healthcare environments. The sprinkler is acceptable for use under a static magnetic field strength of up to 7-Tesla, more than twice the magnetic strength of standard MRI equipment, which are typically around 3-Tesla.

The RFII-MRI sprinkler is available in both standard and extended coverage options. With a quick response extended coverage (QREC) rating of up to 400-square-feet (20 feet by 20 feet), the extended coverage model helps protect MRI rooms with up to five fewer sprinklers than the standard coverage option. Both models feature a flat cover plate designed to conceal the sprinkler.

The sprinkler is offered in two temperature options: a 155°F



(68°C) sprinkler with a 139°F (59°C) cover plate, and a 200°F (68°C) sprinkler with a 165°F (59°C) cover plate.

For additional information on the Tyco® RFII-MRI 5.6 K-factor Non-Magnetic Concealed Pendent Sprinkler, including technical data sheet and installation guidelines, visit www.tyco-fire.com/MRI.

■ Viking Introduces New 3.0 K-Factor Residential Concealed Sprinkler

The Viking Corporation has added a new 3.0 (43) K-factor residential flat plate concealed pendent sprinkler to its leading Freedom® residential product line. The new model VK496 is cULus Listed with a flow rate of only 8 GPM (30 L/min), and a pressure requirement of only 7.1 PSI (0.49 bar) in a 12 x 12 ft (3,7 x 3,7 m) room size.

With its smaller K-factor and lower flow rates, the new glass bulb sprinkler is appropriate for NFPA 13D residential systems where the available water supply is a concern. In these systems, the VK496 could allow for reduced pipe sizes, a smaller water meter, and/or the elimination of a tank and pump. In addition to the 12 x 12 ft (3,7 x 3,7 m) room size indicated above, the new sprinkler is also cULus Listed for 14 x 14 ft (4,3 x 4,3 m) and 16 x 16 ft (4,9 x 4,9 m) coverage areas.

The Model VK496 features a flat cover plate and is well-suited for residential applications where a concealed appearance is desired. The new sprinkler joins Viking's industry-leading line of flat plate concealed residential sprinklers which now includes three pendants (3.0K VK496, 4.9K VK494, 5.8K VK498) and two sidewalls (4.0K VK480, 5.8K VK490). The VK496 replaces the previous Viking Model VK488.

Available in both 155°F (ordinary) and 200°F (intermediate) temperature ratings, the Model VK496 has three cover plate styles (standard diameter, large diameter, and square). In addition to nine standard finishes and unlimited custom color options, the sprinkler is also available with an ENT finish for installation in certain environments where corrosion is a concern. The VK496 has a ½" (15 mm) NPT thread, and uses the same installation wrenches as Viking's Mirage® commercial concealed pendent sprinkler.

For more information please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800.968.9501.

■ Potter Announces Release of Nitrogen Air Maintenance Device

Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC of St. Louis, Missouri, announces the release of the Nitrogen Air Maintenance Device (NAMD). The NAMD is a field adjustable pressure regulating device used to keep nitrogen or air pressure at the correct level in dry pipe and preaction fire sprinkler systems. It can also be used to control pressure in dry pilot line systems of dry pilot actuated deluge or preaction valves. The NAMD is the only Air Maintenance

Device on the market that uses all brass fittings, making it the most corrosion resistant device of its kind.

Andy Kaempfer, Director of Product Management at Potter said, "We're happy to offer a product that makes it easy for our customers to regulate the operating and maintenance pressure of their Potter IntelliGen® Nitrogen Generator. This will allow for maximum control in ensuring the correct pressure is present within the sprinkler system."

■ Knox and Brooks Equipment Expand Availability of Safety Products Through Fire Equipment Distributors and Sprinkler Contactors

The Knox Company is pleased to announce the execution of a distribution agreement with Brooks Equipment. The synergy of the relationship will expand and accelerate the installation and use of locking fire department connection (FDC) caps that protect the integrity of fire sprinkler systems from coast-to-coast

FDC locking caps protect fire sprinkler systems from vandalism that creates potential risks to firefighters during an emergency. Additionally, the caps reduce opportunities for terrorism, theft and other types of damage that result in higher risks and expenses for building owners.

Robert Bell, Jr., General Manager, Brooks Equipment stated, "Our customers have incredibly strong relationships with building management personnel and the addition of FDC caps to their current inventory creates turnkey opportunities!" Contractors will work with property owners/managers to provide education on the value and benefits of Knox FDC locking caps and they will have the qualifications to complete the installation process.

■ Potter Announces Addition of New Website Tool

Potter is excited to announce new functionality on our website. Users can now add any documentation resources to a Download Folder as they browse through the site! As a user browses, they can just click the icon next to the product documents and they will appear in the folder at the top right-hand corner of the screen. When done, all the files that have been compiled can be downloaded to their hard drive with one click. This feature makes it simple to download a variety of documents such as:

- Data Sheets
- Manuals
- Engineering Specifications
- Product Drawings
- Approval and Listing Information

We are happy to offer this useful addition to the website. It's just one more way we're making it easy to do business with Potter!

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■ Potter Announces Release of Flowswitch Bypass Switch (Fsbs)

Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC of St. Louis, Missouri, announces the release of the Flowswitch Bypass Switch (FSBS). The FSBS is a key operated switch, which when turned to the Bypass position, will disconnect the flowswitch from the fire alarm panel and/or local alarm while simultaneously lighting an amber LED on the switch plate to indicate that the waterflow alarm has been bypassed. This allows the sprinkler contractor to bypass/disable the flowswitch without involving the alarm contractor or electrician, saving money and filling the system without activating the alarm. When the FSBS is in bypass mode, the fire panel will be in a trouble condition until the switch is restored to normal.

■ K28 ESFR Sprinkler Now FM Approved to Protect

Viking Corporation announced that its K28 ESFR sprinkler is now FM Approved to protect high-piled storage up to 50 ft (15,2 m) in storage facilities with ceilings as high as 55 ft (16,7 m), without requiring an in-rack sprinkler system. As a result, the Model VK514 pendent sprinkler can significantly reduce installation and maintenance costs while increasing racking flexibility in warehouses as high as 55 ft (16,7 m).

The new FM Approval is offered in addition to the sprinkler's existing UL Listing, which provides ceiling-only sprinkler protection in warehouses up to 48 ft (14,6 m) in height. The FM Approval classifies the Model VK514 as a Quick Response Storage sprinkler, approved to protect Class 1-4 commodities and Group A, cartoned unexpanded plastics. The FM design specifies a design pressure of 80 psi (5,5 bar) with a remote area consisting of nine sprinklers, installed with three sprinklers on three adjacent branch lines. The K28 ESFR sprinkler is available in both ordinary and intermediate temperature ratings – 165°F (74°C) and 205°F (96°C) – and with a 1" NPT or 25mm BSP thread size.

For more information please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800.968.9501.



■ Johnson Controls introduces non-magnetic sprinkler for healthcare MRI environments

Johnson Controls introduces the Tyco® RFII-MRI 5.6 K-factor Non-Magnetic Concealed Pendent Sprinkler, developed for use in Magnetic Resonance (MR) system rooms in healthcare environments. The sprinkler is acceptable for use under a static magnetic field strength of up to 7-Tesla, more than twice the magnetic strength of standard MRI equipment, which are typically around 3-Tesla.

The RFII-MRI sprinkler is available in both standard and extended coverage options. With a quick response extended coverage (QREC) rating of up to 20-square-feet, the extended coverage model helps protect MRI rooms with up to five fewer sprinklers than the standard coverage option. Both models feature a flat cover plate designed to conceal the sprinkler.

The sprinkler is offered in two temperature options: a 155°F (68°C) sprinkler with a 139°F (59°C) cover plate, and a 200°F (68°C) sprinkler with a 165°F (59°C) cover plate.

For additional information on the Tyco® RFII-MRI 5.6 K-factor Non-Magnetic Concealed Pendent Sprinkler, including technical data sheet and installation guidelines, visit www.tyco-fire.com/MRI.

■ Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. and Zurn Industries Announce New Multi-Year Sponsorship

Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. (MWF) today announced a new multi-year sponsorship agreement with Zurn Industries, a Rexnord Company, which includes an investment in the new American Family Insurance Amphitheater. As part of this partnership, Zurn will also be named the Official Water Solutions Partner of Summerfest.

Support from Zurn Industries will play a valuable role in the construction of the new American Family Insurance Amphitheater, particularly through new and updated restroom facilities throughout the venue. Zurn products will be featured throughout the restrooms in the Amphitheater during both phases of construction. Phase One of the project will open in June 2019 and will feature Zurn shower heads, control valves and trim, sinks and faucets, toilets, flush valves and support carriers, as well as miscellaneous site drains. These products are being utilized in the 19 state-of-the-art performer backstage dressing rooms, as well as production spaces and offices. During the second phase of construction, which will begin immediately after Summerfest, work will focus on remodeling existing restrooms and adding new fixtures, which will be distributed throughout the building. As the Official Water Solutions Partner of Summerfest, Zurn Industries is providing toilet fixtures, urinals, flush valves, hand-washing stations, and storm water drains in the seating bowl and roof areas.

For more information, visit www.summerfest.com.

We Here to Help!

Have you been receiving NFSA eNewsletters and notifications when you should?

Please log into your member account at www.nfsa.org and check your profile settings. If you experience any issues, contact Member Services at memberservices@nfsa.org.

KEEP THE "LIFE" IN YOUR NIGHTLIFE



Happy Land Social Club Fire — **87 Dead**
Station Nightclub Fire — **100 Dead**
Ghost Ship Fire — **37 Dead**



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Don't Become a Statistic - Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

REMEMBER: **#NOSPRINKLERSNOGO**

www.nfsa.org



From Maine to California, and every place in between, NFSA Regional Managers bring the best of the Association right to your doorstep. Helping our members is Job #1.



New England Region

MICHAEL YOUNG
Regional Manager

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

Hyannis Sprinkler Saves

Thanks to Lieutenant Tim Lanman of the Hyannis, Massachusetts Fire Department for sending in these Sprinkler Saves!

7/07/2018 – 331 Main Street, Hyannis. An overheated laptop computer battery that was charging caused a fire that involved the computer, a desk and a chair. One sprinkler head activated and held the fire in check until HyFD crews arrived.

8/17/2018 – 45 Plant Road Suite 104, Hyannis. A pile of rags saturated with cleaning solvents left on the floor ignited by spontaneous combustion. One sprinkler head activated and held the fire until HyFD crews arrived.

4/30/2019 – 105 Ferndoc Street, Hyannis. Embers created from an automated router were sucked into the sawdust collection system. This caused a fire in the room at the termination of the system, where the sawdust was being deposited into bags for disposal. Two sprinkler heads activated. The fire was essentially out upon arrival of HyFD crews.

Wounded Warrior Home Protected by Fire Sprinkler System

Nonprofit Jared Allen’s Homes for Wounded Warriors turned over the keys to disabled Iraq War veteran Cpl. Paul Skarinka, his wife, two kids and service dog. It’s a mortgage-free, injury specific accessible home in Hanson, undertaken by the nonprofit in partnership with Commodore Builders, New England Regional Council of Carpenters, and the Home Depot Foundation.



The home is protected by residential fire sprinklers courtesy of local 550, TG Gallagher, Ferguson Fire & Fabrication, Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition and NFSA.

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New York Region

DOMINICK KASMAUSKAS
Regional Manager

NEW YORK

Mother and Four Children Perish in Unsprinklered Apartment Fire in New York City

A Harlem mom and her four youngest children were killed in the flames of a kitchen fire in their New York City apartment. The building is owned by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The close-knit family was asleep early on May 8th when flames raged inside their three-bedroom apartment on the fifth floor of the Frederick E. Samuel Houses at Adam Clayton

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Powell Jr. Blvd. and W. 142nd St. — and they couldn't reach a door or fire escape.

At the funeral service for the victims, New York State Sen. Brian Benjamin (D-Harlem) vowed to work with Diane Blackwell, the tenant association president of Frederick E. Samuel Houses, and NYCHA to pass legislation to ensure there are fire sprinkler systems in all public housing buildings. "Enough is enough," Benjamin told mourners. "Buildings built before a certain year have to have a fire sprinkler system."

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Mid-Atlantic Region

DELAWARE, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA,

NJFSAB Attends Town Hall Meeting Regarding Fire Safety Risks in Construction

NJFSAB Executive Director Dave Kurasz attended a town hall event sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Weinberg. The goal of the town hall was to discuss the fire safety risks associated with large wood-frame construction. The panel consisted of a New Jersey Fire Code Member, a concerned citizen from Princeton, a gentleman from the Masonry craft, the president of the New Jersey Homebuilder's Association, the Fire Chief from Teaneck and the Fire Chief from Edgewater, where the Avalon Bay fire occurred. There were over 80 people at the meeting. The main theme of the meeting was to express concerns regarding wood as a building material for large structures, including high-rises.

The meeting was constructive, and it is hoped that the dialogue from that night will promote fire sprinklers, regardless of what materials are being used in building.

Philadelphia's historic Christ Church Shows It's Protected

In the wake of the tragic Notre Dame fire, the administrators at Philadelphia's Christ Church decided to conduct a flow test of the Church's external sprinkler system located on the Church's spire. The system, which was installed and tested by NFSA member Oliver Fire Protection and Security, worked well for all to see. Numerous media outlets and citizens attended the event, and helicopters flew overhead to capture footage that would later be played on local news outlets that night.

The demonstration was a resounding success and NFSA staff were present to conduct interviews with media and answer any questions the public had about the system and the nature of the test.

Capital Region



TERIN HOPKINS
 Field Service Coordinator

MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON D.C.

Busy Times in Capital Region

The Capital Region has had a lot of activity with the closing of state legislative sessions and several significant fires.

MARYLAND

Maryland's session closed without any bills filed to challenge the state residential fire sprinkler requirement but still struggles with two local jurisdictions with enforcement of the state mandate.



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Maryland also suffered a significant three-alarm fire in an unprotected residential high-rise. Firefighters arrived to find heavy fire and smoke conditions throughout the building. The fire occurred on the ninth floor and was most likely started by an unattended candle.

The fire was exacerbated by hoarding conditions in the apartment of origin. Maryland's State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci was quoted stating "Residential high-rise fires present a unique challenge to the occupants of the structure and to our firefighters. Automatic fire suppression systems to protect the occupants and our firefighters are needed before we have a significant event that involves the loss of life. Over the last year the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Prevention Commission have been working to find fire safety solutions to the issue of non-protected high-rise residential structures that are located throughout the state. That work is still ongoing with a final document to be produced this year". This fire is estimated to have exceeded a \$2 million loss in damages.

VIRGINIA

Virginia legislative session closed without any additional fire sprinkler mandates, but new requirements prohibit anyone from conducting inspections of automatic fire sprinkler systems unless they have or are accompanied by a person who maintains a level II or higher NICET certification. This mandate will become effective July 1, 2021.

Virginia also suffered a very tragic loss of life as an early morning two-alarm fire ripped through a garden apartment damaging over a dozen units. After making a rescue, crews found one person deceased in an apartment. The apartment buildings at the complex are equipped with a very limited partial fire sprinkler systems. The limited partial system was not in the vicinity of the fire.

WASHINGTON D.C.

The District of Columbia hosted the 31st Annual Congressional Fire Service Institutes, National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner. This event was attended by well over 1,500 fire and emergency services leaders from across the Nation. NFSA's mission was highlighted by Senator Tom Capen (D) of Delaware calling for national mandates for residential fire sprinklers as being a right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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Southeast Region



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

Sprinklers Control Third-Floor Apartment Fire in Augusta, Georgia

Augusta, Georgia Fire Chief Roger Audette said the quick response from city firefighters and an operational fire sprinkler and alarm system quelled a potentially dangerous downtown fire in June.

There was heavy smoke on the third floor, Audette said, but it was not visible from the street.

He said the fire started in a third-floor apartment's closet after rags, coated with a combination of wood stain and polyurethane used to finish hardwood flooring, spontaneously combusted.

Audette said the fire was not suspicious. "It was in a bad spot," he said. "It could have gone up into the attic, (where it would have been more difficult to fight)." He credited a fire sprinkler in the closet with keeping the fire down until crews could extinguish it completely. No one was hurt in the fire.

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Florida & Puerto Rico



LORRELL BUSH
Regional Manager

FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO



Hawk's Cay 2019/October 20-24

Check Out our Speaker Lineup:

- Shane Ray, President NFSA
- Jim Pauley, President NFPA
- James Golinveaux, President Viking
- Wes Baker, FM Global

- Tim Meenan, Meenan Firm
- Matt Klaus, NFPA
- Jack Carbone, Victaulic
- Kevin Maughan, Globe
- Cary Webber, Reliable
- Mark Fesseden, JCI

This is just some of the great talent we will have at this years conference. Register at the FFSA website. Early Bird prices available until July 15 so register early. Contact Lorrell for more information.

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Great Lakes Region

RON RITCHEY
Field Service Coordinator

INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA,
KENTUCKY

Indiana Changes Variance Application Process

The Governor of Indiana introduced legislation this past session to help “streamline” government services in House Bill 1269 that included a significant change to the state’s variance appeal process. IC 22-13-2-11 was amended to allow “emergency rules” to be implemented by the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (“The Commission”) that will now permit the “department” (or Indiana Department of Homeland Security internal staff) to issue rulings, in place of the current process which is conducted in a public hearing by a Governor appointed commission.

The Commission was created more than 30 years ago to allow business owners who incur an “undue hardship” in meeting minimum code requirements to appeal their legal responsibility to do so. The overwhelming majority of these “undue hardships” are based upon what the owner believes are “excessive costs” which include appeals to eliminate fire sprinklers. Unfortunately, the cost considerations for non-sprinklered variances approval are typically based solely upon construction costs, with little to no consideration for the cost of human life and safety.

The “emergency rules” were presented before the Commission on June 4, 2019 and are scheduled to be officially adopted at their next public hearing on July 2, 2019. You can rest assured that your NFSAs team is fully engaged in the ongoing deliberations and oversight of these new rules and policies to “protect lives and

property from fire through the wide-spread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.”

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Illinois Region

BOB TINUCCI
State Coordinator

ILLINOIS

Legislative Event at Illinois State Capitol Building

On May 1st, in excess of 200 people attended our legislative event at the Illinois State Capitol. Both legislators and staffers witnessed repetitive fire sprinkler demonstrations in our sprinkler demo trailer throughout the event. We had 50+ in attendance to witness a side-by-side burn. The local media captured this burn demo. All those attending received a Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition hand bag loaded with fire sprinkler information and trinkets. All attendees received a voucher for lunch from the food truck we arranged.

It was a huge success with great media coverage and attendance. Tom Lia, Erik Hoffer, Fire Marshal Chris Richmond and Bob Tinucci coordinated the event with help from many others. Springfield Fire Department engine crew did a great job and Chief Allen Reyne, along with Fire Marshal JC Richmond, were present to speak with the media and legislators. Our NFSAs contractor member F.E.Moran was present with several reps to assist for the day.

Our lobbyist was present and informed us that there was considerable talk in the Capitol about our event. The House and Senate were both in session. Check out photos from the event in our Chapters in Actions section.

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Missouri Region



PAUL RICHARD
Area Coordinator

MISSOURI

The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum in St. Louis experienced a four-alarm fire in May. It was called in about 7:00 pm when two people in the building discovered a fire in the basement. The fire quickly spread up the open stairwells and burned through the roof. The museum contained not only St. Louis area artifacts, but international archives and displays as well.



A news channel pointed out that firefighters raced to physically remove some of the priceless items from the building before they were forced out. These included the original map from which a copy was made for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The building was not equipped with a fire sprinkler system.

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North Central Region



TIM BUTLER
Regional Manager

IOWA, MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN

NFSA Presents at Polk County Fire Chiefs Meeting

On April 8, NFSA Field Operations personnel attended the Polk County Fire Chiefs Association meeting hosted by the Indianola Fire Department. NFSA staff presented on the mission, goals, and

work efforts of the NFSA, as well as the resources available to local fire officials and the benefits of NFSA membership.

The Polk County Fire Chiefs serve a population of roughly 500,000 people spread out over 600 square miles in and around the Iowa capital of Des Moines. The Association is composed of more than 30 Fire Chiefs and Public Safety agency directors from fire, EMS, dispatch, sheriff, and emergency management organizations. There were representatives of a dozen agencies present for the April 8 NFSA presentation.

The mission of the Polk County Fire Chief's Association is: "To provide the citizens of Polk County the best protection of life and property by working together to promote excellence in Fire-EMS leadership, shared training opportunities, cooperative operations and joint economic ventures

Two local fire officials joined NFSA as a result of our discussions, and we welcome Assistant Fire Chief Troy Harmison of Bondurant Emergency Services and Fire Marshal Craig Ver Huel of the Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department. We also sincerely appreciate the invitation to attend the Association's meeting from NFSA member Fire Chief Jim Clack of the Ankeny Fire Department, and the hospitality extended to us by the members attending and by presiding Association President Fire Chief Craig Leu of the West Des Moines Fire Department.

New Sprinkler Save Data Collection Form

Minnesota-based NFSA staff and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal have recently developed a sprinkler save data collection form to better document life- and property-saving sprinkler activations. The new form captures information about the fire, the building, and the sprinkler system and contractor responsible for the installation of the system. The data collection form is available on line for use by either sprinkler contractors or fire officials to report saves. Minnetonka Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Luke Berscheit (an NFSA member) was the first official to use the form to report a sprinkler save. An early evening fire occurred in a dry cleaner shop in a strip mall. A single sprinkler activated and contained the fire until Minnetonka Fire Department arrived. Over \$1.3 million dollars in building and contents were saved.

Sprinkler Save in Lino Lakes

Another sprinkler save was reported by Lino Lakes Fire Chief and NFSA member Dan L'Allier. Lino Lakes Public Safety responded to a fire in a 4-story multi-purpose building with retail establishments on the ground floor and 60 occupied residential units on the upper floors. The seat of the fire was found to be a dumpster burning in the underground parking garage. A single sprinkler head had activated and was controlling the fire. Lino Lakes Fire quickly removed the dumpster and completed operations.

These saves offer powerful testimony to the life- and property-saving value of fire sprinklers and the firefighters who respond to

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conduct critical rescue, extinguishment, and overhaul operations. NFSA staff in Minnesota is working on a recognition program that would include both firefighters and the sprinkler fitters involved in these fire suppression successes.

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North Central Region

MARTY KING
State Coordinator Wisconsin

Crunchy Noodles Spontaneously Combust, Fire Sprinkler Extinguishes the Fire!

A single fire sprinkler protected the Fujiyama Sushi and Hibachi Restaurant from a tragedy in the kitchen. Fire companies responded to a report of a fire sprinkler activation alarm in the middle of the night and found a light haze of smoke and a single fire sprinkler activated. The fire was in the kitchen on a prep table.

Fire investigation found that the crunchy noodles used for the sushi topping had spontaneously combusted after sitting in a colander. A video showed the fire start and fire sprinkler activation. The restaurant was closed for cleaning the next day and opened soon after. Damage was limited to some smoke throughout the restaurant.

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North Central Region

TOM BRACE
Minnesota State Coordinator

Regional Happenings

- Our save the date card for the 23rd Burn Aid Golf Classic has gone out. It will benefit the Regions Hospital Burn Center in St. Paul. Since its beginning, \$930,000 has been raised. Our event will take place at the Dellwood Country Club

on September 9, 2019. One goal this year is to expand our mailing list.

- We are going to have a new site location at the Minnesota State Fair this year and plans are being made to try and expand our Minnesota Chapter footprint. We are looking at the question of a side-by-side demonstration at the Fair, and then let the trailer be a static display for the rest of the day.
- The Minnesota Chapter had the opportunity to tour the new Local 417 site where we had our latest chapter meeting. We were also honored to have NFSA's Senior VP of Industrial Relations and General Counsel Fred Barall in attendance.
- Our AIA seminar currently has 23 students signed up. This course will be taught by our own Jeff Hugo. Our goal was to get 25 architects to attend. Regional Manager Tim Butler has done a great deal of work to accomplish attendance for this course.

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Kansas Region

GARY L. WEST
Director of Field Operations

KANSAS

109-Year-Old Kansas City Museum Gets a Facelift for the Future

Lumber baron R.A. Long built Corinthian Hall, a stately four-story mansion at 3218 Gladstone Boulevard and named for its six Corinthian columns, in 1910. The Long family lived there for more than two decades. The property was then donated to be used as the museum, which opened in 1940.

The museum is now undergoing major renovations. In order to protect and preserve the museum and its historic contents, it will be retrofitted with a fire sprinkler system. In the wake of the devastating fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in France, we have seen a reawakening of efforts to protect historic buildings in the U.S. with fire sprinklers. NFSA welcomes these initiatives and stands at the ready to aid in any way possible to be sure our historic treasures are preserved.

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South Central Region

CYNTHIA GIEDRAITIS
Regional Manager

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Best Little South-Central Events Coming Up

July 30-August 1, 2019 – Advanced Tech Training – Dallas, TX

August 14-15, 2019 – Coordinating NFPA 25 & 72 & Hydraulics – Springdale, AR

August 20-22, 2019 – Oklahoma Fire Marshals Conference – Quartz Mountain, OK

September 18, 2019 - NFSA North TX Chapter/FPANT Meeting: NFPA 291 Hydrant Flow Testing

September 18-20, 2019 – Arkansas Fire Marshals Conference, Mount Magazine, AR

October 21-24, 2019 – Texas Fire Marshal's Conference/Annual Fire Sprinkler Saves Austin, TX

October 28, 2019 – FSCATX Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Bear Creek, DFW Airport

November 21, 2019 - NFSA North TX Chapter Meeting (Joint with FSCATX) DFW Airport

Best Little Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Ordinances In Texas

Did you know that several Texas Cities have adopted Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Ordinances?

• High Rise Retrofit –

- San Antonio Assistant Fire Chief Christopher Monestier and Chief Charles Hood spearheaded a local and statewide ordinance in response to the Wedgwood Tower Fire - *Adopted November 2015*
- Houston Fire Department developed this ordinance partly in response to the Four Leaf Towers Fire that killed Fire Captain Jay Jahnke in 2001 - *Adopted November 2005*

• Historical Downtown Retrofit –

- Lewisville Fire Marshal Tim Ippolito Adopted January 2018
 - Fire Marshal Tim Ippolito has reported The Lewisville Texas City council has made the decision that fire sprinklers were needed in their historic district. Our city council believes in them so much that they allocated close to \$900,000 to pay for the entire installation at no cost to our business owners. Additionally, the City of

Lewisville will be paying for the fire alarm monitoring as well as the annual required inspections/ certification.

- Grapevine Deputy Fire Marshal Bryan Parker reported that the City of Grapevine Building Department has updated its codes to include retrofit of its historic downtown – *Adopted 2016*

• Burn Me Once; Don't Burn Me Again

- Plano Assistant Chief David Kerr developed this ordinance to protect buildings that have suffered a fire. Once a building has burned; it must be retrofitted with fire sprinklers. *Adopted March 2016 (Plano has now adopted the 2018 IFC)*

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Great Plains Region

ROBERT GEISLINGER
Field Service Coordinator

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

Sprinkler Save at Fort Collins, Colorado High School

A dust collection system caught fire at Fossil Ridge High School in Fort Collins, Colorado. The school's fire sprinkler system controlled the fire until firefighters arrived on the scene. Students and staff were evacuated safely from the school for about an hour while firefighters stopped the fire and began their investigation into its cause. One student reported experiencing smoke inhalation and a shop teacher was examined and released by the medical unit, according to a PFA news release. District spokesperson Madeline Noblett said in an email to the Coloradoan Friday that one student was sent home as a precaution but that there were no injuries.

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Southwest Region

BRUCE LECAIR
Regional Manager

CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, NEW MEXICO,
NEVADA, ARIZONA

NFSA Chapters Meet in March and April

The Arizona State Chapter held their March meeting at the Phoenix Fire Department Headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona on March 16th. The meeting was an open forum style event sponsored by NFSA SAM member AGF. The group also held a discussion on local issues related to the fire sprinkler industry and a report in absentia from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair who was in California at the CFPI Conference. The next meetings will be held on July 9th, September 10th, and concluding the 2018 schedule on November 12th.

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter held their meeting on March 28th in Fremont, California. at the Saki's Spin a Yarn Restaurant and Grill. Chapter President Dave Scherson led a lively meeting with topics ranging from local issues to the creation of a Chapter Education Committee. Bruce Lecair gave a roundup of topics and information from throughout the state including training OSFM: Committees and NFSA projects nationwide. Area Director Peter Hulin gave a report on the recent Board Meeting.

Future meetings for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter are planned for, July 25th, and September 26th.

The Los Angeles Chapter met on April 18th at the Rio Hondo Golf and Event Center in Downey, California for a great dinner meeting that began with drinks and conversation and later found members in attendance receiving a report from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair on the Office of the State Fire Marshal NFPA 25 Work Group project for adoption of the next edition of NFPA 25 in California. Lecair also reported on the OSFM Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee meetings being held at the State Fire Marshal's Office, as well as NFSA and FPO news and events throughout the state. Future meetings are scheduled for August 15th, and October 17th.

California Fire Prevention Institute Holds One Week Training Event!

The California Fire Prevention Institute (CFPI) was held March 11-15 in at the Santa Ynez Marriott for a week of classes, committee meetings, and Board member Installation and Awards Banquet and a California Fire Sprinkler Coalition Meeting. Yes, this was a very productive and busy week for attendees and organizers of the event that included Associate Director Bruce Lecair who is the newest member of the planning committee and the new training and education coordinator. In addition to his duties as a member of the planning team, Bruce also led the Wednesday Fire Sprinkler Hot Topics sessions and hosted a booth at the conference with a

huge assist from Terri Leyton and Julia Winslow who redefined hosting a booth with "Can I make you a gift bag?" with NFSA information and booth items.



NFPA's Ray Bizal and Associate Director Bruce Lecair



Sharing time at the CFPI Booth with the Rick Rodewald, Julia Winslow and Former State Fire Marshal Dennis Mathisen

In addition to the two Fire Sprinkler Hot Topics sessions, other fire sprinkler related sessions held were; Understanding Fire Sprinkler Hydraulics Without Anxiety, CPVC Inspection and Plan Check, Fire Protection Systems and the I-Codes, Fire Protection Systems for Storage Systems in NFPA 13, Protecting Elevators and Welding and Material Inspection for Fire Sprinkler Systems.

As you have noted, the CFPI was a very productive week of training for fire sprinkler related topics that ultimately benefit the California Fire Sprinkler Industry by increasing the knowledge of fire prevention officers in fire sprinkler education as well as in other areas of fire prevention. NFSA was a Silver Sponsor of the Conference.

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Northwest Region

SUZANNE MAYR
Regional Manager

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON,
WASHINGTON

Sprinkler Save at Kent, Washington Apartment Building

A family evacuated safely from a burning Kent apartment with the help of the unit's smoke alarm and fire sprinkler system.

The fire started in the bathroom then burned through the door

into the bedroom, causing the sprinkler to activate along with the fire alarm.

After evacuating, a family member called 911. Upon arrival, Puget Sound Fire units saw smoke coming from the front door. Entry into the home was quickly made, and the fire extinguished in the bathroom.

Thanks to the sprinkler in the bedroom, the fire did not get beyond the bathroom door, Puget Sound Fire said.

No injuries were reported. •

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It happens fast!



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

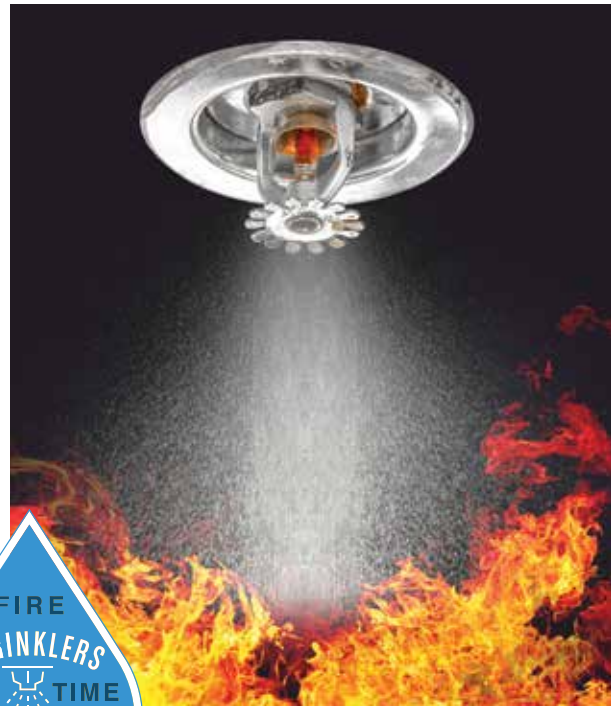
On average, seven people per day die in U.S. home fires where fire sprinklers are not present.

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

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

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

Luckily, so does this!



www.nfsa.org





TO JOHN CORSO

John,

I want to thank you again, for the 3-day ITM class you put on at our place last week. As always, you never miss a beat and you never miss an opportunity to make your attendees “understand” the subject matter. You are one of a kind and I truly thank you for your part in making our industry the best!

I also thank you for your input on developing a few short classes for our “new friends” in the home building industry. As an industry, we have to begin showing an interest in their world and look for small opportunities to show case our world.

Until next time... MB

Mike Brown

Advanced Fire Protection Services Inc.

TO LORRELL BUSH

Hi Lorrell,

I hope all is well with you. I'm writing to let you know that I retired last summer and that my son Courtney now owns the company. I enjoyed Fire Protection and was proud of the accomplishment of passing the exam, getting the license, and adding it to a plumbing business that is (now) 35 years old. I'm just a happily retired old guy now, so I'm no help to the Association by myself. I also want to say that I think you are phenomenal at what you do, and that I enjoyed, and benefitted, from being a member. I enjoyed every conversation you and I had and was fortunate to attend the various functions you put on.

With Thanks,

Guy Guerra

Coastal Plumbing, Inc.

TO TOM BRACE

Tom:

The EFT Firefighters cannot thank you enough or express our gratitude in a way that would convey how much we appreciate you (NFSA) being part of our Safety Team.

The messages you give, the things you show people, and the way

you interact with our guests when they visit your booth makes a lasting impression and will make a positive difference in their lives.

Thank you for giving up a day in October and sharing your knowledge with our Citizens. You are definitely a spoke in the wheel of our success.

The EFD Fire Prevention Team

Excelsior Fire & Rescue-Minnesota

TO DOM KASMAUSKAS

Dear Dominick:

Thank you for partnering with NFIB to host Small Business Day on March 19th! We truly appreciate the effort of all organizations involved and believe that the collaborative effort strengthens our message. Additionally, the business community is more likely to succeed when we work together toward our aligned priorities!

With Small Business Day and the FY 2020 State Budget behind us, we look forward to continuing to work with you on issues that impact the business community.

It was a pleasure meeting you and we hope to see you soon.

Thanks for everything, Dominick!

Greg Biryte

New York State Director, NFIB

Ashly Ranslow

New York Assistant State Director, NFIB

TO CINDY GIEDRAITIS

Cindy,

How are things going? Last we talked I was struggling to get my RME-I. Well, I managed to pass the test and have had my license for six months now. Thank you for helping me through it! Now I just need to make sure I keep it by doing continuing education.

Thank you so much! You have been essential in improving my life by improving my status at my company. I'm forever grateful.

Thanks,

Trey Bentley

Custom Fire Protection

Houston, Texas



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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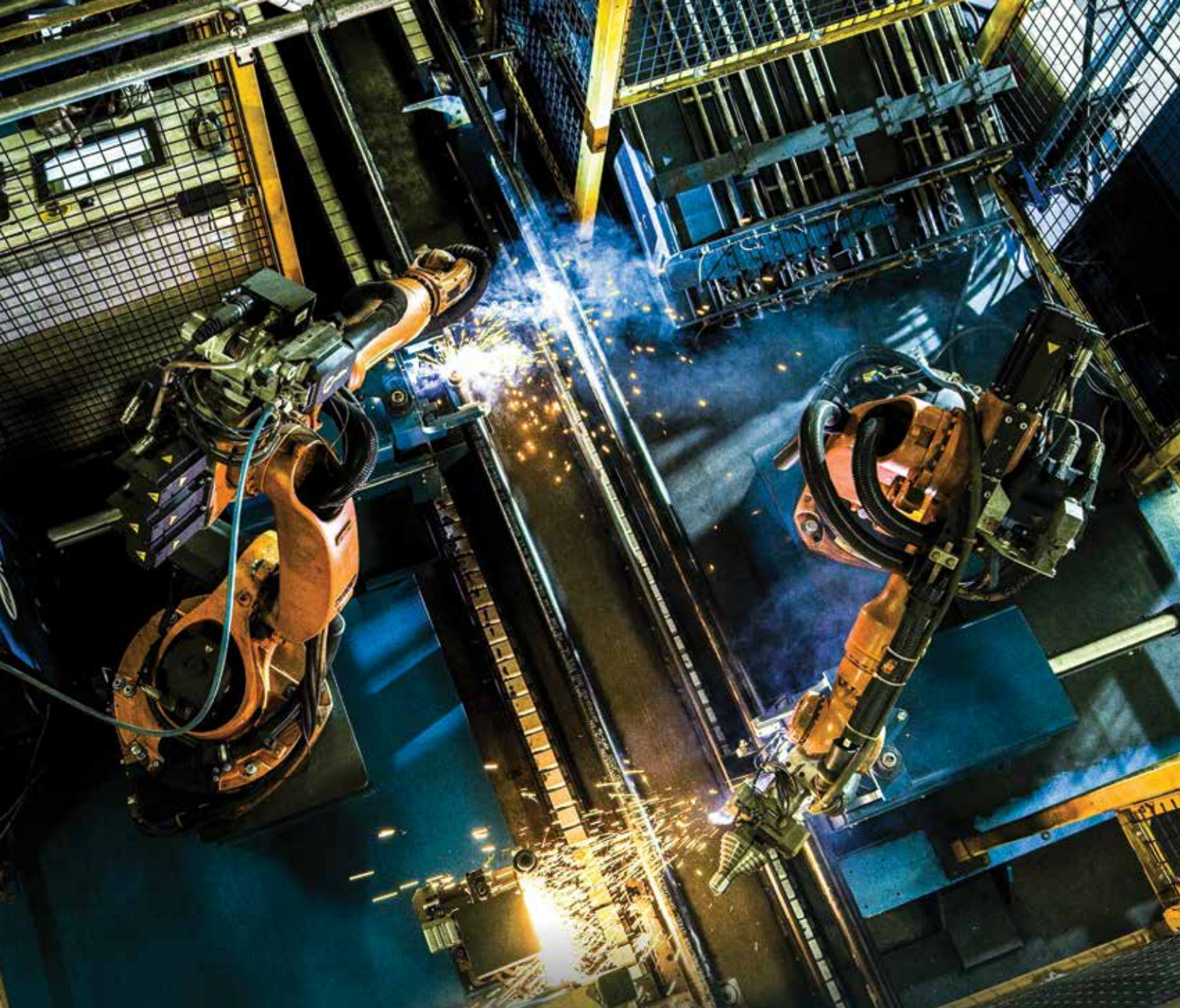


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