

2016 UPDATES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- New for 2015 IFC and IEBC: Fire Sprinklers Eliminate Existing Fire-Resistance Ratings
- Testing and Replacing Sprinklers
- NFSA's Social Networks – Are We Preaching to the Choir?

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- cULus Listed and FM Approved, Bulletins 358 & 359

ON THE COVER

The National Fire Sprinkler Association Board of Directors, Future Leadership Committee members, and Common Voices advocates were joined by other allied national fire service organizations to canvas Capitol Hill with 41 specific meetings with Congressional leaders sitting on the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees in support of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act.



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Discover Viking's Innovative Storage Sprinkler Line

New options can reduce water supply requirements, enhance racking flexibility, and lower the overall cost of storage fire sprinkler systems.

The latest advancements in ESFR sprinkler technology include Viking's K22 and K28 ESFRs. The UL Listed and FM Approved K22 pendent (Model VK506) enables a lower total water demand in buildings up to 45 ft high with storage heights up to 40 ft. Additionally, Viking's new K28 ESFR (VK514) is UL Listed for 6 ft aisle widths in 48 ft high warehouses with storage up to 43 ft. These new ESFRs are offered in addition to Viking's existing K14, K17, and K25 ESFR sprinklers, as well as the K19 CMSA pendent, all of which can eliminate the need for in-rack sprinklers in many storage arrangements.

Cutting-edge innovations for freezer and cold storage environments provide new solutions for one of the most challenging fire protection applications. Viking's pioneering UL/FM dry ESFR sprinkler line, which includes K14 and K17 pendants, provides ceiling-only ESFR protection for "box-in-box" cold storage construction. Viking's new K25 upright storage sprinkler (VK598) is FM Approved for use in dry or preaction systems in warehouses as high as 45 ft, without the need for additional in-rack sprinkler protection.

Additionally, the new K11 "ELO" dry sprinklers are FM Approved for storage occupancies and feature a fusible-link operating element, preferred by the food processing and distribution industries.

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Business & Leadership
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MAY 3 – 6, 2016

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training calendar

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO NFSA MEMBERS



January 12, 2016

Understanding, Applying and Enforcing
NFPA 25
HUMBLE, TEXAS

January 13, 2016

Sprinkler System Installation Requirements
HUMBLE, TEXAS

January 14, 2016

Standpipe Systems for Fire Protection
Systems
HUMBLE, TEXAS

January 16, 2016

NFPA 13 Hanging & Bracing Updates for the
2016 Edition
ONLINE

January 26, 2016

Pumps for Fire Protection
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

January 27, 2016

Rough & Final Inspections of Fire Sprinkler
Systems
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

February 1-12, 2016

Two Week Layout Tech Training
DALLAS/FT. WORTH, TEXAS

February 5, 2016

NFPA 13, 13R, 13D, 14 Update 2013
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

February 16, 2016

Commodity Classification Updates for 2016
& Beyond
ONLINE

February 16-18, 2016

Inspection & Testing for the Sprinkler
Industry
ELMIRA, NEW YORK

February 16-17, 2016

ITM: Navigating through the Liability
Minefield
MELVILLE, NEW YORK

February 23-24, 2016

Sprinkler Protection Of Storage
PHARR, TEXAS

February 25, 2016

Pumps for Fire Protection
PHARR, TEXAS

March 15, 2016

NFPA 13 Discharge Criteria Updates for the
2016 Edition
ONLINE

March 23-24, 2016

Sprinkler System Plan Review
PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

April 4-15, 2016

Two Week Layout Tech Training
PATTERSON, NEW YORK

April 8, 2016

Understanding, Applying and Enforcing
NFPA 13D Concord
NEW HAMPSHIRE

April 13, 2016

Rough & Final Inspections of Fire Sprinkler
Systems
MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

NFPA 13, 13R & 13D Residential Updates for the 2016 Edition

April 19, 2016
Online

May 17, 2016

NFPA 13 Installation Criteria Updates for the
2016 Edition
ONLINE

June 3, 2016

Intro to Sprinkler Systems, Fire Pumps
& Standpipe Systems
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

June 21, 2016

NFPA 20 Updates & Highlights
ONLINE

August 1-12, 2016

Two Week Layout Tech Training
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

These seminars qualify for continuing education as required by NICET. Meet mandatory Continuing Education Requirements for Businesses and Authorities Having Jurisdiction. To register or for more information, contact: Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207, E-Mail: seminars@nfsa.org. Or register ONLINE at www.nfsa.org.



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Fire Sprinkler Anchoring Solutions

	Bang-It™	Wood-Knocker™	Power-Stud+® SD1	Power-Stud+® SD2	Snake+™	Vertigo™ +	Steel Vertigo™	Wood Vertigo™	Smart DI+®	Hanger Mate+
	✓ File No. EX1289 Also UL listed and recognized for use in air handling spaces	✓ File No. EX1289 Also UL listed and recognized for use in air handling spaces	✓ File No. EX1289	✓ File No. EX1289			✓ File No. EX1289	✓ File No. EX1289	✓ File No. EX1289 (N)	
	✓ File No. J.I. 3015153	✓ File No. J.I. 3015153	✓ File No. 3033795, 3/8" and 1/2" dia. pipe hanger components for automatic sprinkler systems	✓ File No. 3033795, 3/8" and 1/2" dia. pipe hanger components for automatic sprinkler systems	✓ File No. 3038104 Pipe hanger components for automatic sprinkler systems	✓ File No. 3038104	✓ File No. 3015153	✓ File No. 3015153	✓ File No. 3042006	✓* File No. Pending
	ESR-3657 for Steel Deck in Cracked & Uncracked Concrete	ESR-3657 for Steel Deck in Cracked & Uncracked Concrete	ESR-2818 Cracked & Uncracked Concrete	ESR-2502 Cracked & Uncracked Concrete	ESR-2272 Cracked & Uncracked Concrete	ESR-2526 Cracked & Uncracked Concrete				ESR* Cracked & Uncracked Concrete
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓*
										
	Bang-It™	Wood-Knocker™	Power-Stud+® SD1	Power-Stud+® SD2	Snake+™	Vertigo™ +	Steel Vertigo™	Wood Vertigo™	Smart DI+®	Hanger Mate+
	Cast-in-Place Insert for Concrete Over Steel Deck	Cast-in-Place Insert for Wood Forms	Wedge Expansion Anchor for Concrete	Wedge Expansion Anchor for Concrete	Internally Threaded Self Tapping Anchor for Threaded Rod	Rod Hanging System for Concrete	Rod Hanging System for Steel Base Material	Rod Hanging System for Wood Base Material	Drop-In	Rod Hanging System for Concrete 1/4" Thread Profile vs. 3/8"

Coming Soon! Improved Thread Design. Contact Powers for more details.

* Pending



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Please join 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 will join our team as an Advocate, Supporter or Corporate member (details are on our website).



Our voices have joined to share our first-person real life stories... our hope is that future tragedies may be prevented by our sharing with you.

www.fireadvocates.org

Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

A New Day

Shane Ray



If you think 2015 was filled with positive changes, as the song says, “*you ain’t seen nothing yet.*” Many would say that phrase isn’t grammatically correct, or that it’s from a by-gone era (the song was a hit in 1974). Well, I would say, read Ecclesiastes; “there is nothing new under the sun.” This great Association has accomplished many great things since its inception in 1905 and will continue.

So, how do we create a new day? We adapt with the times and the changes we see ahead. That is what the visionary leadership of our Board does, because you elected them! They are the best, most inclusive group in our industry. Our Board is made up of some of the largest contractors in the United States, as well as some of the smallest. They represent the largest, most unique and the smaller, most specialized suppliers and manufacturers of fire sprinkler components in the world. Our board also includes representatives from all manufacturers of the most effective fire suppression device on the planet, the fire sprinkler.

This inclusive Association makes all types of fire sprinklers and touches nearly every component of a fire sprinkler system in all new and existing sprinklered buildings in America. Our Board of Directors, all of our councils and committees, as well as our staff at NFSA, are focused on a new day of service. A new day that includes education on the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinkler systems, as well as the fulfillment of our mission, the wide-spread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.

This past year, the Board of Directors worked through a successful transition of leadership while improving outreach and service. I appreciate their support and vision. On November 6, 2015 at the meeting in Washington, D.C., the Board of Directors voted to relocate our national headquarters and asked for a relocation plan that would build on the success of our Transition

Management Plan. This plan will be brought to the next Board meeting, which will occur in Nashville, Tennessee on March 10, 2016.

In continuing the spirit of my first “From the Presidents Desk,” I would like to share some history, since we are making history every day. At a specially called meeting of the National Automatic Sprinkler Contractors Association (keep reading, we have been inclusive for a long time) on April 21, 1914, the Board of Directors voted on many issues, but I would like to point out the following:

- An Establishment Committee was created to hire a permanent secretary and establish an office. This committee was “given full power to purchase necessary office furniture and rent proper office or offices for the conduct of the business of this Association.”
- An Executive Committee was also appointed that included W.G. Allen, Alfred Fritzsche, and Roy Ripple. “On motion of Geo. M. Myers, duly seconded, the Executive Committee was also appointed to act as the Finance Committee of this Association”. NOTE: Our current Chair Larry Thau has had the Executive and Finance Committees jointly meeting since the beginning of our transition.

At a meeting on May 6, 1914 in Chicago, the Board of Directors voted to change the name of the Association from the National Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association to the National Automatic Sprinkler Association... they had a vision for the future. In a reconvened meeting on May 18, 1914 in New York City, “F.H. Maynard maintained that, at first, the headquarters of the

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

from the **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Association should be in New York City."

The First Annual Meeting of the National Automatic Sprinkler Association was held on April 29, 1915, at 80 Maiden Lane, Borough of Manhattan, City of New York. This was the first office opened on June 1, 1914. Our office has moved several times since 1914, but never out of the New York area. In 2016 the National Fire Sprinkler Association will open an office somewhere in the Baltimore/Washington Airport, Washington D.C., or Northern Virginia area. This will be the beginning of a relocation plan that will be presented to the Board and refined throughout 2016.

My professional passion has always been one of service. My first love of work was for the fire service, my next was for professional growth in government service, especially land-use planning. I hope now to encompass it all into service to our industry with a pure mission of saving lives and property while influencing all levels of service. I believe the new day offers the chance for us to grow stronger together and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the most effective and most efficient industry in saving lives and property from fires. I look forward to continued service to our members and advancing the education of others while you serve us ALL. ①

In service,



Shane Ray, *President*

Let's stay in touch!

Are you aware that NFSA is very active on today's social networks? We feel that if you want to change public opinion, you've got to be a part of it. Join us, visit us, email us, facebook us and you'll get updates on what's going on in our industry, breaking news from across the country and, best of all, the chance to network with not only your industry peers, but the American public as well.



Join us

search: National Fire Sprinkler Association in "Groups"



Follow us

<http://twitter.com/NFSAorg>



Facebook us

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In the **Nov/Dec 2015 issue of SQ**, we listed our members who have been part of NFSA for 25 years or more. We are very sorry that two significant long-time members were not included when we compiled our list. That being said, allow us to take the time to honor two of our longest-tenured members:

CONTRACTOR MEMBER:

J.F. Ahern Co.

34 years

MANUFACTURER MEMBER:

Potter Electric Signal Company

31 years

Thank you once again to all of our long-standing members. You are the driving force behind the most inclusive and active Fire Sprinkler Association in the U.S.A.!

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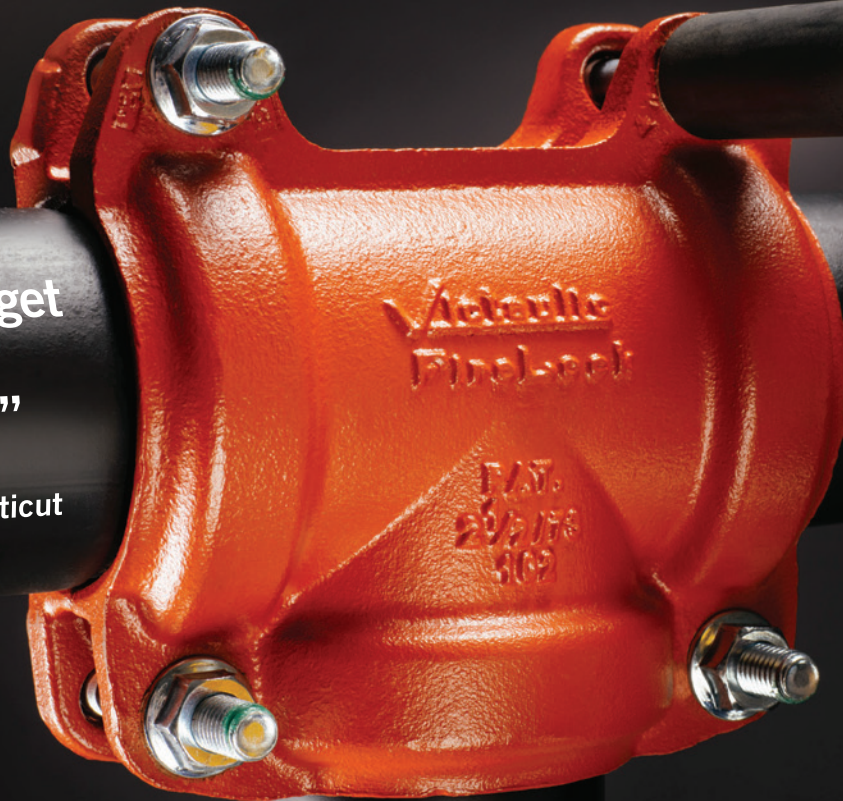
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Making a difference, Together....

Larry Thau



In November of 2015, some of us got to participate in a mission which added valuable understanding as to why NFSA is a unique, essential and influential force in expanding the use of fire sprinklers in the United States. A delegation of our members along with supporters from both public and private service visited various Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. to express our support for H.R. 3591 and S. 2068, a bipartisan bill to accelerate the depreciation of the costs associated with retrofitting fire sprinkler systems into existing buildings. What stood out to me wasn't so much the content of the bill, but the fact that we could mobilize such an effective team, present a focused message in the language of Congress and have us sitting together in Rep. Paul Ryan's office on his first day as Speaker of the House. Leaving with a positive outcome from each congressional visit was remarkable. Offering our message along with others whose lives have been permanently affected by fire tragedies and others whose entire careers have been devoted to public fire services was inspirational.


How does an industry association like NFSA make this happen?

- By being recognized as the "Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry" with a clear and consistent message for 110 years.
 - By being an association which accepts us all as members irrespective of the structure of our businesses, our competitive positions or our individual viewpoints on key issues.
 - By being an open, balanced and organized industry association formed of a diverse membership, including at our board level.
 - By being staffed by qualified and distinguished professionals who keep us aware of and in front of the right issues.
 - By being part of an industry association which maintains a respectful, structured process for identifying, debating and developing consensus on issues of importance to fire and life safety, while following through with the necessary notifications, training and regulatory improvements.
- All of this comes about in part by our working together as a

group. All of us have belonged to many other groups at various points of our lives. First, a few groups in which we have little choice in selecting, like our families, gender and grade schools. Later, we play an increasing role in deciding what groups we want to be associated with. Most of us take great care in selecting our employer or business, but we often allow the many options for professional and industry associations to happen by default. Many of us look at an affiliation with an industry association as we do for purchasing a service and evaluate the value by asking "What are we actually getting for our investment?"

In truth, some of the benefits aren't readily calculable directly, but indirectly, it's quite a different story. There are twice as many sprinklers installed each year in this country as there were 30 years ago. Each of those years (as well as the present year) had its share of innovation, controversy and commercial challenges, but our members directly participated in shaping their own business destiny while insuring the continued protection of lives and property. With the recent transformative changes in NFSA now largely completed, it's reasonable to expect an even higher degree of effectiveness.

We're now at a point where we can look at the state of our association and industry and be satisfied with the steady progress we've been making or look forward toward the "What could be?" and ask what we need to do to get there? First let's define "What could be?" I suggest it's Fire Sprinklers become an accepted part of construction similar to the use of GFI systems in the electrical code. What do we need to do to get there? Let's start by strengthening our association for this task by all of us speaking to someone not presently a member and ask them...

"Isn't it time for you to stop being passive about the future of your industry? Isn't it time to get off the sidelines and become an active part of your businesses future? Get in the game... Join NFSA." 

At your service,
Larry Thau, Chairman

Register today at
www.sprinklerworld.org



IFSA Fire Sprinkler Americas Conference in Medellin, Colombia February 24-25, 2016

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Understanding the UPS and FedEx Small Package Rate Increases

Every year small package carriers FedEx and UPS evaluate their shipping rates and make adjustments that can have a substantial effect on you and your business. The UPS rate increases will be effective December 28, 2015, while the new FedEx rates take effect on January 4, 2016. As always, how much more expensive your particular small package shipments will be in the new year largely depends on many factors, including shipment volumes, sizes, weights, and modes.

Here are some quick facts:

- FedEx Express package rates are increasing an **average of 4.9%** for U.S., U.S export, and U.S. import services.
- UPS Air and International package rates are increasing an **average of 5.2%**.
- FedEx Ground and FedEx Home Delivery rates are increasing an **average of 4.9%**.
- UPS Ground rates are increasing an **average of 4.9%**.

The important takeaway when thinking about your shipping expenses in 2016 is that the announced average increases paint an inaccurate picture of the true impact these new rates could have on your business. The small package shipping experts at PartnerShip® have dug into the details and analyzed the new rate tables to assess the true impact to shippers and

help you make sense of these changes. Learn more about how the 2016 rate increases will affect your shipping costs by downloading the free white paper at PartnerShip.com/RateIncrease.

This tip is brought to you by PartnerShip, the company that manages the NFSA Shipping Program. For more information or to enroll, visit PartnerShip.com/55nfsa, email sales@PartnerShip.com, or call 800-599-2902.

Financial Agility Improves With Age

When it comes to retirement, practice makes perfect.

Retirees become increasingly adept at managing their expenses and income as they age, according to new research. Retirees report becoming better at controlling spending, feeling more financially secure and finding creative ways to cut expenses without giving up activities they enjoy, according to a study by Mass-Mutual.

The study is part of a larger research project that culled information from 905 responses from retirees within 15 years of retirement. Respondents had a minimum of \$50,000 in retirement savings.


Of the study respondents who retired 11-15 years ago, 83 percent say they feel financially secure and 62 percent report being "very satisfied" with their lifestyle, the study found. Comparatively, 77 percent of respondents who retired fewer than five years ago say feel financially secure and 56 percent report being "very

satisfied" with their lifestyle.

In most instances, retirees' expenses are about what they expected or lower than expected before they retired, according to the study. In general, 40 percent of retirees say their expenses are lower than expected, with 30 percent reporting "much lower" expenses. One in five (22 percent) retirees report higher than-expected expenses, reinforcing the importance of sound financial planning. Pre-retirees are encouraged to work with a financial advisor to project their expenses and income in retirement to ensure they are not left with a gap.

Retirees say their ability to manage expenses improves the longer they are retired. Of those retired 11-15 years, nearly four in 10 (38 percent) report doing an "excellent" job of managing expenses compared to 23 percent for those retired for fewer than five years. Seventy-seven percent of longer-term retirees say they are doing an "excellent" or "very good" job handling expenses compared to 58 percent of more recent retirees.

Sources of income shift for retirees the longer they are retired, the study shows, and few retirees report actually working, especially in later years. Only 36 percent of survey respondents who retired within five years report working as compared to 21 percent of respondents who retired 11-15 years ago.

Many retirees say they deferred taking Social Security retirement income until 10-15 years into retirement, according to the study. Deferring Social Security benefits increases payments by 8 percent a year until age 70. 



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Another edition of the same standard published. There is always some excitement for what situations have now been addressed and what problems have the committees solved. However, it also means learning new section references and finding the nuances of revisions made to the documents. 2016 editions of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D, and NFPA 20 are now available to the public. This series will cover the major changes made to the standards during this revision cycle. A basic working knowledge of sprinkler installation standards is assumed.

January 19, 2016

NFPA 13 Hanging and Bracing Updates for the 2016 Edition

VICTORIA B. VALENTINE, PE

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Another edition of NFPA 13 hit the streets this past fall. Although gravity and seismic loads have been impacting fire sprinkler systems since the beginning, this program will discuss the modifications made to the hanging and support requirements. Properly supporting fire sprinkler systems, as well as other water-based fire protection, is instrumental to the system's function throughout its lifespan.

February 16, 2016

Commodity Classification Updates for 2016 and Beyond

JEFFREY M. HUGO, CBO

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

This online program will present the changes in the 2016 edition of NFPA 13 to Chapter 5, Classification of Occupancies and Commodities. NFPA 13 has new figures that include percentages of mixed commodities with Group A Expanded and Unexpanded plastics. Chapter 5 has also greatly changed how commodities are listed within the document. The layout with new figures and updated tables will assist in determining the appropriate commodity for the ever-changing world of storage protection. The discussion will also address commodity classification in the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC).

March 15, 2016

NFPA 13 Discharge Criteria Updates for the 2016 Edition

LOUIS GUERRAZZI, EIT

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Many changes for the discharge criteria for fire sprinkler systems were made to the 2016 Edition of NFPA 13 recently released. This seminar will focus on the major changes including the updates to design criteria for the protection of exposed expanded Group A plastics, guidance on the protection of columns within or near rack structures, handling idle wood pallets and more.

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April 19, 2016

NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, and NFPA 13D Residential Updates for the 2016 Edition

ROBERT UPSON, MS FPE

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

The new 2016 residential standards, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D, introduce some clarifications of existing requirements as well as some notable new ones such as bringing language regarding architectural features in NFPA 13D from the Annex to the body of the standard. Other key changes include language dealing with the replacement of residential sprinklers listed for design densities less than 0.05 gpm/ft²; reinstalling dry sprinklers; sprinklers outside of dwelling units; sprinkler-protected glass; and drains for trapped sections of pipe. This presentation will review these and other highlights of the residential updates from 2013 to 2016 editions.

May 17, 2016

NFPA 13 Installation Criteria Updates for the 2016 Edition

ROLAND ASP, CET

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

The installation chapters of NFPA 13 include chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 25, 26 and 27. Changes for the 2016 edition to these chapters will significantly affect the layout and installation of sprinkler systems and is a "must-know" for layout technicians, installers, AHJs and others in the industry. This seminar will focus on the major changes including new criteria for "Cloud Ceilings", new requirements for air venting of wet systems to prevent corrosion, changes in obstruction rules, new requirements for sprinkler protected glazing, main drain sizing and more.

June 21, 2016

NFPA 20 Updates and Highlights

LOUIS GUERRAZZI, EIT

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

The 2016 Edition of NFPA 20 is now available with many updates to the rules for the design and installation of fire pumps. This seminar will focus on the major changes including multistage multiport pump criteria, requirements for transfer switches, and there will be discussions on automatic testing, remote monitoring and more. This review will assist AHJs and installers alike in updating to the current material.

2015 Training By The Numbers

By James D. Lake

2 015 was another very successful year for NFSA training, so I thought it would be interesting to provide a breakdown of the numbers and show you just how busy your Association has been.

NFSA continues to develop and deliver technical and informational training seminars and speaker sessions geared towards the needs of contractors, engineers, architects and AHJs. As I have detailed before, NFSA delivers training both in-class and live on-line, we also provide recorded on-line sessions and produce numerous educational materials for purchase through our Resource Center.

The Numbers

240 – Approximate number of available training days in a calendar year. For this we removed holidays and weekend days even though some of our events were on weekends.

233 – The number of NFSA Training Days. A training day differs from the calendar day because it includes any training that occurred on that specific day. For example on October 14, (1 calendar day) NFSA was conducting four separate seminars (4 training days).

80 – The number of in-class seminars NFSA delivered in 2015. This is not train-

ing days, this is actual separate seminars. NFSA conducts single and multiple day seminars.

61 – The number of contract seminars conducted. Contract training seminars are specially tailored seminars for specific customers.

25 – The number of states in which we conducted training.

6 – The number of countries where NFSA provided training (Mexico, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Colombia and Sweden)

14 – The number of new on-line training events led by our Tech Tuesdays sessions and including a multi-week curriculum course on hydraulics.

130+ – The number of topics we currently have recorded and available in the NFSA.tv archive.

1300+ – The number of contact hours for training delivered in 2015.

5000+ – Individuals participating directly through our training and education seminars and products.

What We Trained

As important as where we trained is what subjects we conducted training in. Inspec-

tion, Testing and Maintenance continues to be the most popular subject area requested for training. With six different seminars providing a variety of perspectives and guidance on ITM, NFSA is far and away the leader in training on this topic.

The following table shows the topics of NFSA seminars and their popularity based on the number of seminars provided as either open registration or contracts.

(see table on next page)

These numbers do not include the numerous smaller presentations that NFSA has provided to allied groups and conferences.

It's clear to see that NFSA training and education was very successful at delivering our message in 2015! 🎯

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Vice President of Field Operations

James D. Lake

Seminar	Open Registration	Contract	Total
UAE NFPA 25	12	7	19
Rough & Final Inspection	16	3	19
Sprinkler System Plan Review	12	5	17
Standards Update	4	8	12
Pumps for Fire Protection	5	5	10
ITM Liability Minefield	2	5	7
Coordinating NFPA 25 & 72	5	1	6
Introduction to Sprinklers	1	4	5
Inspection & Testing	1	4	5
Protection of Storage	3	2	5
Specialized Topics	3	2	5
Layout Technician Training	4	0	4
Limited License	0	4	4
Advanced Hydraulics	2	1	3
Acceptance Testing & Hydraulics	2	1	3
NFPA 13	0	2	2
Hydraulics	2	0	2
Seismic Protection	2	0	2
Fire Service Mains	2	0	2
High Rise Systems	0	2	2
UAE NFPA 13D	1	0	1
Installation Requirements	1	0	1
Sprinklers in the IBC	0	1	1
ITM for Building Owners	0	1	1
Selling ITM	0	1	1

The Next Edition!

By Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

Although many are still acclimating to the 2013 edition of NFPA 13, the 2016 edition arrived in October (digital) and November (hard copy) of 2015. Another revision cycle is complete bringing with it some modifications and clarifications to the installation of fire sprinkler systems. Following is a selection of eight modifications to NFPA 13.

It is important to become familiar with the new edition as it may be able to assist on a current project, with approval by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, where the standard may have been previously silent on a subject, such as dealing with cloud ceilings. In many cases, some of the tweaks simply better explain the concept so that the rules of NFPA 13 are applied properly. Lastly, the revision cycles come quick and reviewing the new document is important so that any revisions or further clarification needed can be submitted to the committees in time for their next cycle. Public input for the 2019 edition of NFPA 13 will be due late spring of 2016.

2016 Edition Highlighted Updates for NFPA 13

Air Venting (7.1.5 and 8.16.6)

A new requirement to provide a single air vent on wet pipe systems utilizing metallic pipe has been added to the standard. In a wet pipe system, many assume that water fills all of the piping. In reality there are pockets of air in points of the system

and there are pros and cons to having air in the piping network.

The intent of this new requirement is to reduce corrosion in the system by removing air which contains oxygen. Section 7.1.5 requires a single air vent be installed and indicates that venting from multiple points of a system is not required. Section 8.16.6 provides design guidance for installing these vents. It states that this vent shall be installed near a high point in the system and shall consist of a manual valve at least 1/2 inch in size, an automatic air vent, or other approved means. The annex language (which was carried over from the 2013 edition) gives guidance on the purpose of these vents and suggests that an inspector's test valve may be used to comply with this section depending on its location.

The Committee sought to implement something to reduce corrosion in the sprinkler system without dramatically increasing the cost. Through their discussions, an air vent was the consensus decision. Using an air vent will not get every bit of air out of the system, but it will reduce the amount of air and thereby reduce the amount of corrosion. Having a little air in the system can also have benefits. One key example of this is that the air acts as a cushion so water pressure surges do not create a water hammer effect in the piping network.

Sprinklers under obstructions over 4 feet in width (8.5.5.3)

Obstructions to fire sprinklers are typi-

cally broken into two categories. The first is obstructions that disrupt the development of the spray pattern of the sprinkler (those close to the sprinkler). The second is obstructions that disrupt the spray from reaching the hazard (those farther from the sprinkler). For many editions, the guidance for obstructions that disrupt the spray from reaching the hazard is when it is more than 4 ft wide sprinkler(s) will be needed below it. However, little has previously been stated on where the sprinkler(s) below the obstruction need to be located.

Now, Section 8.5.5.3, which deals with sprinklers under fixed obstructions over 4 ft in width, indicates that sprinklers installed under obstructions may be located up to 3 inches from the outside edge of the obstruction. This is stating that the sprinkler is not required to be located directly under the obstruction and sprinklers within 3 inches to the side of the obstruction will activate with a fire under the obstruction without significant delay. When sprinklers are positioned adjacent to the obstruction, they will need to be of the intermediate rack type to protect it

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



NFSA's Director
of Engineering

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

from water spray from sprinklers above.

In addition to a horizontal dimension from the obstruction, the deflector of sprinklers installed under obstructions must now be positioned no more than 12 inches below the bottom of the obstruction. This keeps the sprinkler close enough to the obstruction so that it is within the hot gases of a fire that collect below the obstruction, similar to the ceiling.

There is now an exception to this rule. Sprinklers are not required under non-combustible obstructions over 4 ft wide when the bottom of the obstruction is no more than 2 ft above the floor. The Committee felt that when obstructions are close to floor the potential fuel load is small enough that supplemental sprinkler protection is not necessary.

Lastly, the type of sprinkler below the obstruction has been clarified. Sprinklers installed under obstructions shall be the same type (spray, CMSA, ESFR, residential) as those installed at the ceiling. Sprinklers protecting below overhead doors are an exception and may be spray sprinklers regardless of the type of sprinkler at the ceiling.

No Maximum Distance from an Obstruction in the Vertical Orientation (8.6.5.2.1.3)

When applying the rules of Section 8.6.5.2.1.3, commonly known as the “three times rule” for standard spray sprinklers, the maximum clear distance of 24 inches has been eliminated for obstructions in the vertical orientation such as columns. Work by the NFSA Engineering & Standards Committee task group on shadow areas along with fire testing has shown that there could be an issue with the maximum clear distance of 24 inches allowed by the “three times rule” when the obstructions are large. This testing showed that when this maximum clear distance of 24 inches is used to locate sprinklers from large vertical obstructions, the fire may not be controlled.

As this testing was limited to vertical columns, the elimination of the maximum clear distance is limited to obstructions in the vertical orientation. Similar changes were made to this rule (“three times rule”

or “four times rule”) for other sprinkler types as well.

It is important to note that this revision does not change the basic three times rule or four times rule but will only remove the maximum clear distance to obstructions in the vertical orientation such as columns. This change in NFPA 13 would only become applicable when applying this rule to large vertical obstructions in excess of 8 inches (or 9 inches for the four times rule). The three times or four times rule may still be applied to these large columns there is just no longer a maximum clear distance.

• *“Any ceiling system installed in the same plane with horizontal openings to the structure above on all sides. This does not include sloped ceilings as defined in 3.3.5.4.”* Therefore, the rules laid out in NFPA 13 would not apply to clouds that were installed with a slope.”

Cloud Ceilings (8.15.24)

Cloud ceilings have been discussed for some time, yet this is the first edition with criteria specifically for spacing sprinklers near cloud ceilings. However, the rules do not address every situation that will be found in the field with cloud ceilings. To begin, a cloud ceiling is defined in Section 3.3.5.1 as “Any ceiling system installed in the same plane with horizontal openings to the structure above on all sides. This does not include sloped ceilings as defined in 3.3.5.4.” Therefore, the rules laid out in NFPA 13 would not apply to clouds that were installed with a slope.

This new section provides guidance

on when sprinklers may be omitted from above a cloud ceiling. This section is based upon the results of a Fire Protection Research Foundation project on this subject. The basic premise is that under a certain set of circumstances, sprinklers located below the clouds only will provide adequate fire protection. Where the conditions are not met, then the clouds are treated as obstructions to the ceiling sprinklers above them and protected accordingly.

There are a few requirements worth noting here when using the rules to omit the sprinklers above the cloud level. First, all of the sprinklers must be quick response spray sprinklers (either standard or extended coverage) and they need to be upright or pendent sprinklers. Next, the cloud ceiling height cannot be more than 20 ft. Also, the “clouds” need to be smooth, which is defined as “free from significant irregularities, lumps, or indentations” (Section 3.3.5.5). Just remember, if the scenario at hand does not align with these requirements, then sprinklers will be located above the cloud ceiling level and installed as needed below the clouds based on the obstruction rules.

Trapeze Hangers with Slotted Holes (9.1.1.7.9)

Although it has been common practice to use slots on an angle iron to simplify the installation of a trapeze hanger, NFPA 13 has not previously discussed these slots. There are now specifications to make sure that the angle still has sufficient strength to support the intended load when these slots are used.

There is now a list of 7 requirements that have to be followed. One of the requirements is that the length of the slot cannot be more than 3 inches long. The rules go on to limit the number of slots to three per section of angle iron as well as setting distances from other slots and the distance from the edge. This maintains the integrity of the angle iron as a trapeze member. The width of the slotted hole is also set just over the bolt or rod diameter. In addition, washers and nuts are discussed. These items provide the quality control needed to make sure the load carried by the trapeze member is

transferred through its hanger components to the building structure.

Lateral Sway Brace Omission for Short Hanger Rods (9.3.5.5.10)

The allowance for omitting lateral sway bracing when using short hangers has been revised for the 2016 edition so that the bracing is permitted to be omitted depending on the severity of the loads expected. In order to omit the lateral sway bracing from branch lines (when required) the pipe has to be supported within 6 inches of the structure measured from the top of pipe to the point of attachment to the structure. There is an allowance for an occasional hanger to be longer than 6 inches, but the longer ones cannot be consecutive on the line and at least 75 percent have to comply with the 6-inch maximum.

For main piping, the base requirement of being supported within 6 inches measured from the top of pipe to the point of attachment to the structure is the same. Also, just like branch line piping, the hangers that are longer cannot be consecutive and those meeting the requirement must be at least 75 percent of all the hangers for that pipe. In addition to those requirements, the seismic coefficient (Cp) must not exceed 0.5 in order to use this omission. There are also now limits on nominal pipe diameter - 6-inch for feed mains and 4-inch for cross mains. Finally, if intermediate hangers are omitted in accordance with Sections 9.2.4.3, 9.2.4.4 or 9.2.4.5, the omission is not allowed.

Figures have been added to Annex A to depict where the 6-inch measurement is taken for a couple of common scenarios.

Concrete Anchors (9.3.5.12.8)

The information for the 2016 edition has been correlated with ASCE/SEI 7-16 (which is close to publication at this time). There have been adjustments to the load values from the previous edition for prying factors, overstrength factor, and ASD calculation methods. This means that when using post-installed anchors, the prying factor, which is based on the geometry of the attachment, will have to

be acquired from the manufacturer. Then the tables can be used. It is also possible to calculate the loads following the information laid out in Section 9.3.5.12.8.3.

As with earlier editions of NFPA 13 concrete anchors are required to be prequalified in accordance with ACI 355.2, Qualification of Post-Installed Mechanical Anchors in Concrete and Commentary. The section has also been clarified to acknowledge that software can be used to determine the loads based on the specific components being used as long as prying has been incorporated as appropriate, the components are seismically prequalified, an overstrength factor of 2.0 is

“There have been adjustments to the load values from the previous edition for prying factors, overstrength factor, and ASD calculation methods. This means that when using post-installed anchors, the prying factor, which is based on the geometry of the attachment, will have to be acquired from the manufacturer.”

used, and the appropriate capacities are considered as indicated in Sections 9.3.5.12.8.3(C) and 9.3.5.12.8.3(D). There is also the options for a registered professional engineer to certify the capacities based on the requirements of the building code.

For further details on the supporting information for the revisions related to concrete anchors, it can be found in TIA 16-2 on NFPA's website (www.nfpa.org/13).

Protection of Group A exposed expanded plastics on racks (17.2.3.5 and 17.3.3.5)

Ceiling only protection criteria has been

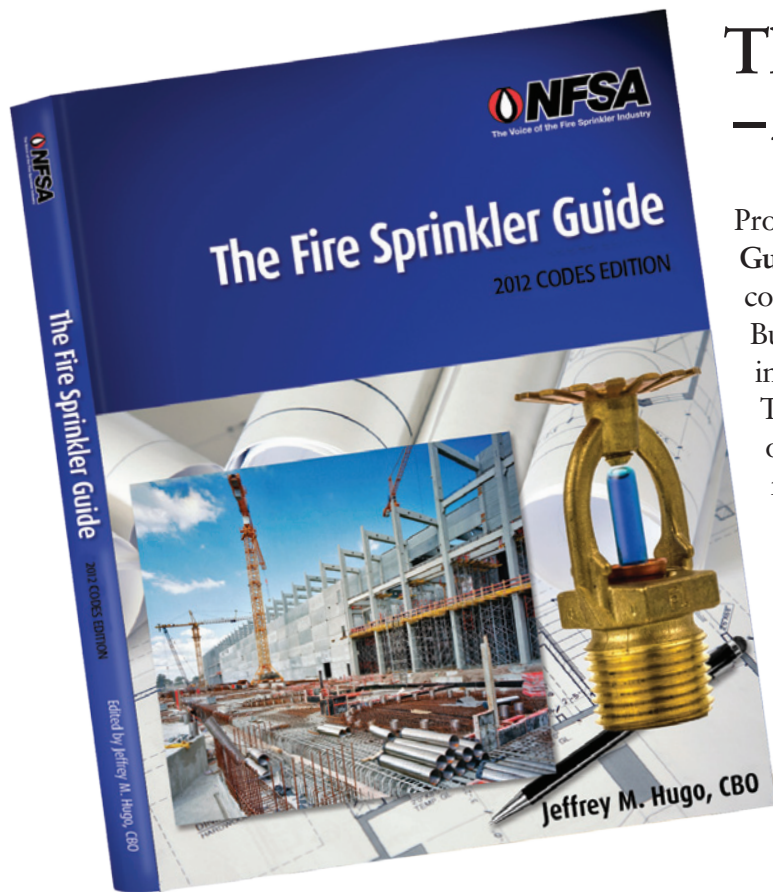
included for Group A exposed expanded plastics on racks based on full-scale fire testing provided by the Fire Protection Research Foundation. This is the first edition to offer guidance on exposed expanded plastics. There are two design schemes which now allow for a maximum ceiling height of 40-feet with either a maximum storage height of 25-feet with a minimum operating pressure of 30 psi or a maximum storage height of 35-feet with an operating pressure of 60 psi. A TIA was submitted in order to achieve the lower pressure requirements for the lower storage height based on additional testing that was completed after the second draft of the 2016 edition of NFPA 13.

Some requirements are that intermediate temperature-rated ESFR pendent sprinklers with a nominal K-factor of K-25.2 be used at the ceiling, with a design area of the most demanding 12 sprinklers consisting of four sprinklers on three branch lines, along with solid vertical barriers and 8-foot aisles.

As usual, if the field scenario does not fit within the prescriptive method, then an alternate protection scheme will have to be sought. If the product being stored is exposed expanded plastics, then this will mean working with the authority having jurisdiction to achieve a protection scheme. It may be possible to work with information from the insurance company. Another option would be to have a fire protection engineer analyze the space and develop a fire protection scheme.

Summary

With every edition, changes, clarifications and tweaks are done to improve the installation of fire sprinkler systems. As always, it will take a little time to learn all of the amendments that were made to the document. However, this article has highlighted some of them. In addition, NFSA's TechNotes issues #328 to #331 provides many of the technical changes that were made by the committees during this past revision cycle (and are available in the Members Only section of the NFSA website). Also, NFSA's Technical Tuesdays will be discussing many of these changes during the first half of 2016.📍



The Fire Sprinkler Guide -2012 Codes Edition

Produced by NFSA, this second edition of **The Fire Sprinkler Guide** defines those sections of the three model building codes, the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) and International Building Code where fire sprinkler systems are required, including partial requirements and construction incentives. The guide includes comparison tables to clarify many of the code requirements. The guide is a valuable tool for architects and engineers, plan reviewers, fire and building inspectors, as well as sprinkler contractors, and serves well as a workbook for students at the NFSA's Design Advantage Seminar. This book is a "must have" for anybody that performs hydraulic calculations of fire sprinkler systems or performs plan review and approval of hydraulic calculations.

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New for 2015 IFC and IEBC: Fire Sprinklers Eliminate Existing Fire-Resistance Ratings

By Jeff Hugo, CBO

The 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) and the International Existing Building Code (IEBC), have new text for existing buildings that are retrofitted with fire sprinklers. The fire safety requirements in these two codes have been revised to allow previously fire-resistance rated elements, which are no longer required to be rated under the current code, to no longer have to be maintained as rated assemblies. These changes will permit flexibility for renovations and relief for existing passive requirements, by permitting new building trade-offs when sprinklers are installed in existing buildings.

The primary reasons for these changes are for code officials to provide uniform requirements when existing buildings, that were compartmented with passive construction, are updated with fire sprinklers. Many times when buildings are retrofitted with fire sprinklers, it remains unnecessary, costly and difficult to maintain the passive measures that originally compartmented the building. The changes in the 2015 IFC and IEBC provide some direction.

IFC Section 1103.1

The majority of this article resides in the IEBC, however IFC **Section 1103.1** will be explained first. Chapter 11 of the IFC contains the construction requirements for existing buildings. Specifically, when the

IFC requires retrofitting of existing buildings, it occurs in this chapter.

Section 1103 states, "The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to allow the elimination of fire protection systems or a reduction in the level of fire safety provided in buildings constructed in accordance with previously adopted codes." This section safeguards what has been in place since the building was built and establishes a baseline for the chapter. In the 2015 edition an additional exception was inserted, which states, "Where a change in fire-resistance rating has been approved in accordance with Section 803.6 of the International Existing Building Code." This permits the new sprinkler system to eliminate the previous "fire protection system" of passive construction features.

IEBC Section 803.6

Section 803.6 of the IEBC is for Level 2 Alterations using the Work Area Method and while the 2015 IEBC limits this only to Level 2 Alterations, future editions may expand this to other methods of compliance in the IEBC. For example, at the time of this article, it is proposed to insert similar language in Chapter 4 for the 2018 edition of the IEBC. Regardless of future editions, it is accurate to state that the majority of the IEBC is used for the Work Area Method.

Section 803.6 of the IEBC is worth re-

producing in whole here, as it is the basis for the article, it reads as follows:

"Where approved by the code official, buildings where an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with **Section 903.1.1** or **903.3.1.2** of the International Building Code has been added, and the building is now sprinklered throughout, the required fire-resistance ratings of building elements and materials shall be permitted to meet the requirements of the current building code. The building is required to meet the other applicable requirements of the International Building Code.

Plans, investigation and evaluation reports, and other data shall be submitted indicating which building elements and materials the applicant is requesting the code official to review and approve for determining of applying the current building code fire-resistance ratings. Any special construction features, including fire-resistance-rated assemblies and smoke-resistive assemblies, conditions of

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



NFSA's Manager
of Codes

Jeff Hugo, CBO

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occupancy, means-of-egress conditions, fire code deficiencies, approved modifications or approved alternative materials, design and methods of construction, and equipment applying to the building that impact required fire-resistance ratings shall be indentified in the evaluation reports submitted.”

There are several areas to explain and the remainder of the article will address each sentence of the code text.

The entire process for approval hinges on the code official to allow the reduction. The reductions can only occur when the entire building is sprinklered throughout with a NFPA 13 or NFPA 13R system referenced through the IBC. There are three important points to note. First, the 2015 IBC references the 2013 NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R. The second important point is that these standards are referenced through the appropriate section in the IBC (903.3.1.1 and 903.3.1.2). This means any installation criteria in the IBC for fire sprinkler systems will overrule NFPA 13. An example: The IBC permits all residential occupancy bathrooms under 55 square feet to be exempt from sprinklers, whereas the 2013 NFPA 13 only excludes bathrooms in hotels and motels. Another example is the 2015 IBC requires sprinklers in open corridors whereas NFPA 13R does not. Third, in order for this section to be applicable, the sprinkler system must be installed throughout the building, not just throughout the floor or fire area.

When the building is sprinklered throughout, all of the fire-resistance ratings of building elements, such as walls and floors, and elements such as doors, dampers and hardware, can be eliminated or reduced according to the 2015 IBC. This enables building owners to essentially add a majority of new building fire sprinkler trade-offs to an existing building retrofitted with fire sprinklers.

Finally, in the last sentence of the first paragraph, “The building is required to meet other applicable requirements of the International Building Code,” is not a catch-all to bring all of the building up-to-code. It serves as intent to tie the previous sentence, “...meet the require-

ments of the current building code...” and the second paragraph together. The key word in this sentence is “applicable” in the context of a Level 2 Alteration. For example, a Level 2 Alteration with fire sprinklers throughout could reduce the fire rating of a two-hour fire barrier to a one-hour fire barrier. If the wall never had penetration protection to begin with, this sentence would require the penetration protection from Chapter 7 of the IBC.

The “how-to” get the fire sprinkler trade-offs comes from the step-by-step submittal list in the second paragraph.



“As with many new code changes, it may take a cycle or two to work out the discrepancies and intent, but for the most part this section provides economical and life-saving benefits for existing buildings.”

Note, the majority of this work is not the burden of the fire sprinkler contractor, but of the construction manager, architect, designer or owner who submits and requests these reductions.

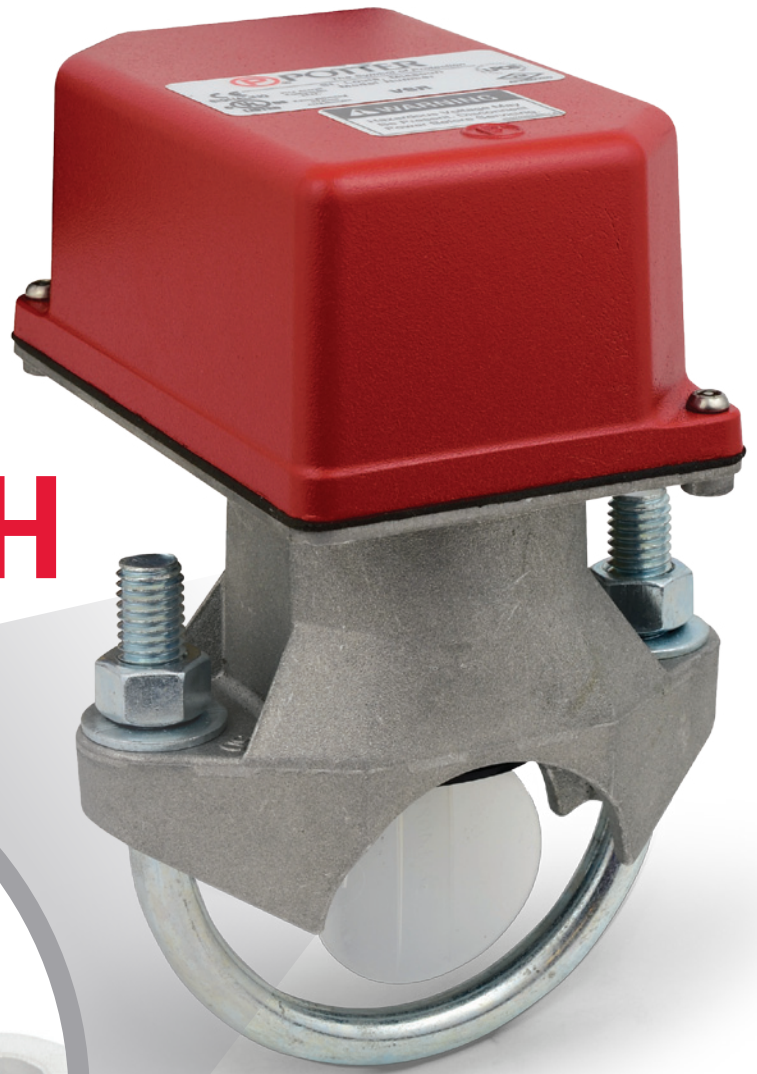
The second paragraph of Section 803.6 requires a paper trail to justify the trade-offs. This is really no different than in new construction, except the IEBC is going to require each reduced element to be noted in the construction documents for the code official to review.

It is important to explain that “plans, investigations and evaluation reports” are construction documents and similar requirements are found in the IBC. This is not to require a set of plans, an investigation and an evaluation report for each and every project, it only serves as examples of the data to show the code official. However, this also does not limit the amount of data or construction documents that are required for review by the code official. Extensive projects will need a substantial set of construction documents and this may be accomplished through many means whereas a smaller project seeking a specific reduction may not need elaborate documentation.

The next and last portion of the second paragraph goes into detail on what is required on the evaluation report. These are broad strokes in a laundry list that go beyond the scope of installing a fire sprinkler system and eliminating passive measures. Much of this is scope creep for a Level 2 Alteration and is out of place for this section. If sprinklers are added to replace some passive measures, does the evaluation report have to indicate fire code deficiencies? Does that mean that the building, prior to installing fire sprinklers, could operate with fire code deficiencies and mean-of-egress conditions? Ironic.

Regardless of some of the quirks in the text, these changes provide benefits and flexibility to existing buildings when fire sprinklers are installed. As with many new code changes, it may take a cycle or two to work out the discrepancies and intent, but for the most part this section provides economical and life-saving benefits for existing buildings. Fire sprinklers saves lives, and money, both in new and existing construction. ①

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Suppliers' Showcase


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Potter's Sprinkler Monitoring division is lead by Bruce LaRue, who has been with the company for 24 years and serves on the NFSA Board of Directors. Sean Heskett serves as the Executive VP while also handling Potter's international business and has been with Potter for 21 years. Tim Freiner is our VP of North American Sales and has been with Potter for 22 years. Potter also relies on its knowledgeable sales, customer service, and technical support staff to provide our customers with industry-leading products and support.

Potter has taken sprinkler monitoring to mean more than just our core line of flow, pressure and tamper devices. Monitoring what's in the system has become important due to the effect that corrosion has had on system performance and lifespan. Our team of corrosion experts have lead the way in educating the industry about fire sprinkler system corrosion and how to mitigate it. We have developed a suite of products to combat corrosion that includes everything from the industry's only UL and FM approved Air Vent to Nitrogen Generators specifically designed for fire sprinkler systems.

Potter has been a proud member of the NFSA since 1984 and considers NFSA to be one of the strongest fire sprinkler advocates in our industry. The NFSA is always evolving to meet the changing needs of the fire protection industry. We support their effort to reinvest in the resources and people who strive to protect life and property from fire disasters.

Potter is proud to call St. Louis, Missouri home, where we still manufacture the industry's highest quality products utilizing a local union labor force. All of our products are still manufactured and assembled in the USA. Our international office in Suzhou, China manufactures fire sprinkler monitoring devices specifically for the Chinese market, while our European subsidiary company, Elmdene, serves the security industry for the UK and international markets. 



Manufacturing at Potter "back in the day"



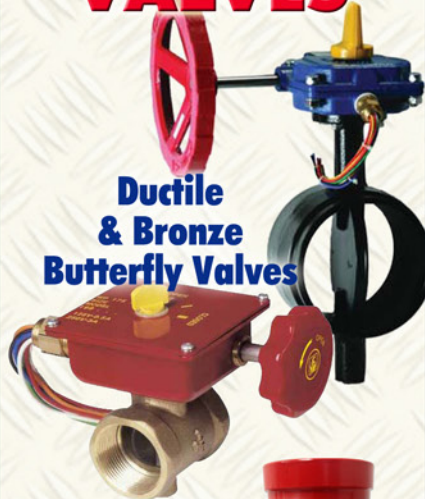
Potter's current manufacturing configuration

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.



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Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

By Vickie Pritchett

2016 NFSA Annual Seminar/ Business & Leadership Conference: Are you Registered?



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The Opening session on Wednesday, May 4th will feature a special talk show featuring Common Voices advocates, followed by Firehouse Editor-in-Chief **Tim Sendelbach**. Chief Sendelbach's high energy presentation will highlight leadership lessons that relate to the business of life safety. Engaging and interactive, the connections between the fire service and the fire sprinkler industry will be energizing and exciting.

On Thursday, May 5th, we are in for a special treat with the opportunity to learn from **Dr. Kevin Freiberg**. Dr. Freiberg is on a short list of global thought leaders that Fortune 1000 CEOs turn to for the kind of disruptive thinking that drives growth and gets people excited about the future.

NFSA is excited to have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Freiberg. His insights have helped ambitious leaders accelerate innovation, and stand out in a sea of sameness by building companies that are hungry for change. We believe the timing is perfect for us to welcome his message and evaluate the ways the fire sprinkler industry can learn from his strategies.



Bestselling Author...

With over 850,000 copies sold worldwide, Kevin is an international best-selling author. His award-winning books introduce you to revolutionary leaders who have disrupted their industries.

Kevin is the co-author of five books, including the international best-seller, *NUTS-Southwest Airlines' Crazy Recipe for Business and Personal Success*, the go to book on leadership, culture, service, and innovation.

Do Something Now! DSN Three simple letters. Three simple words that could change your organization—change your life. The scarcest resource in organizations right now is not money or talent or ideas or power; it's people who do, people who add value and get things done. This book will inspire dreamers to become doers. Everyone wants to add value! This book will show you how.

Kevin's most recent book is *Be A Person of Impact: 12 Strategies to be the CEO of Your Future*. Are you actively managing your brand or just letting it evolve? Is your brand, and therefore your impact, haphazard and accidental or intentional and maniacally focused? This book is an unapologetic kick in the butt to proactively build a reputation for being indispensable, for creating a pocket of excellence wherever you are.

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Magazine, Dr. Freiberg has appeared on CNBC, CBS Sunday Morning and the CBS Morning News for his views on the critical links between leadership, corporate culture, change, and innovation.

He has also appeared on the television series *Lessons in Excellence* for CNBC India. His articles and interviews have been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Washington Post*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *India's Economic Times*, *India's Business Standard*, *India's Financial Times* and *Capital Business & Finance Magazine* of Dubai.

The entire NFSA team is hoping you've already registered for this conference, and if you're not we hope you register soon! It's easy, visit www.nfsa.org and click on the conference icon. Early bird pricing is in effect through February 19, 2016... but we hope you don't wait that long because space is limited and we know you won't want to miss this opportunity!

So, as you make your New Year's resolutions make sure registering for the 2016 conference to secure your spot is at the top of your list! We really want to see you in Dana Point, California! 📍



Vickie Pritchett

Director of Outreach
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Registration is open at www.nfsa.org and we hope you'll sign up soon to secure your spot and receive early bird pricing. We do have limited space available, and first-come, first-served policy is in effect for this event. You won't want to miss it, and we hope you'll assemble your team and join our excitement!

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Notes from the Fire Scene

Story

There is power in story. We were able to see this power in action last November in Washington, D.C. - creating and mobilizing teams of people who centered our message around the power of story with our advocates created a winning day for all. It's always special when we bring key stakeholders together, but November 4, 2015 was especially so. With NFSA Board Members, Future Leadership Committee Members, Common Voices advocates and representatives from all of the national fire service organizations, we visited 41 Congressional offices with our message of united support and a request of them for theirs. We left each visit feeling positive and witnessing first-hand the power of story.

Now, we would like to share ways to join our effort. Phone calls and emails make a difference, and it doesn't take that long to do! Here's a summary of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act and a link that will make it easy for you to find your Congressman and Senators information: <https://www.opencongress.org/people/zipcodelookup>.

FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT (H.R. 3591, S. 2068)

Background

The cost of fire in America is enormous. Every year we suffer over 3,200 civilian deaths, 100 firefighter line of duty deaths, and over 18,000 injuries. The direct property damage caused by fire is over \$11.5 billion and the indirect costs, such as lost economic activity, are over \$107 billion.

One of the most effective ways to minimize the loss of life and property to fire is through automatic sprinklers. The National Fire Protection Association has concluded that in buildings that were sprinkled the death rate per fire can be reduced by at least 57% and the prop-

erty damage decreased by up to 68%. In fact, no fire fighter has ever died fighting a fire in a fully sprinklered structure.

Issue

Current building codes require sprinklers in many of the most vulnerable occupancies like student housing, high rise commercial and residential, and entertainment complexes. The problem, however, is there are thousands of structures that were built and put in service before sprinklers were required. In many jurisdictions, these structures are grandfathered from current standards even given the dangers of these occupancies.

The primary challenge to retrofitting these structures is the Internal Revenue Code. Under current depreciation rules, building owners have a strong disincentive to invest in a sprinkler system given the 39 year depreciation schedule for commercial buildings and 27.5 year schedule for residential structures.

Legislation

In order to most effectively and efficiently target the most high risk structures the legislation has two parts:

1. **Section 179 tax treatment** – Section 179 of the tax code allows small and medium sized businesses to fully expense certain types of equipment purchases like machines, equipment, vehicles, and computers. Fire sprinkler systems are not currently a 179 property and this legislation would make them eligible for 179 tax treatment.
2. **High-Rise Retrofits** – The most vulnerable structure not covered by section 179 tax treatment are high-rise structures (those 7 stories or higher). In the United States, there are nearly 10,000 high-rise fires annually and they are some of the most deadly fires for civilians and fire fighters.

This legislation will provide a financial incentive to high-rise building owners to install sprinkler systems by reducing the depreciation schedule from 39 years to 15 years. This reduction will also put sprinkler improvements more in line with the current tax code that allows 15 year depreciation for leasehold improvements.

To follow our outreach to our fire & code allies, keep an eye on the area created at www.nfsa.org that shares the latest code information. There's also updated information on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. We are steadfast in our effort to keep the latest information gathered for our AHJs and state & national fire service leaders. As an industry leader, it's good for you to be up to speed with this information as well! Working together we are not only changing the conversation, in many cases we're expanding it. Join with us as we build on our momentum!

I would be remiss to not to thank our NFSA Board of Directors. Your support of our outreach efforts makes it possible for us to be innovative with our outreach. We are working hard to turn adversaries into allies and our efforts are making a difference. This success is due to our collaboration – from the NFSA Board room to our allies across the nation. It's an honor to serve and engage. Let us know if you have opportunities for us to expand our outreach efforts. We are always looking for the next opportunity!

*Until next time, Stay Safe,
Vickie*



Vickie Pritchett

Director of Outreach
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Testing and Replacing Sprinklers

By Jason Webb

The requirements in NFPA 25 for the testing or replacement of sprinklers may seem a bit confusing, but it doesn't have to be that way. Taking a minute to understand them can help ensure that sprinklers installed many years ago are still likely to operate as they should, and help owners comply with fire codes and standards. On the other hand, misapplying the rules can lead to all sorts of problems, not the least of which is a lack of confidence in the overall goals of a successful ITM program.

The basic rules that NFPA 25 outlines are simply; once sprinklers have been in service for a period of time, they either must be replaced, or a representative sample removed and sent for testing. However, that sentence contains a lot of information.

First off, what does "in-service" mean? The clock starts for this period of time when the sprinklers are installed, not when the sprinklers were manufactured. This has been the subject of much debate, but for NFPA 25 compliance, that's the beginning point. Annex A does provide some guidance for what to do when no documentation is available regarding when sprinklers were installed, which is to use the manufacture date, but the intent remains.

Secondly, a decision about testing versus replacement must be made. Once sprinklers reach the time limits set out in the standard, there needs to be a decision made by the owner. Replace all affected sprinklers, or send a representa-

tive sample for testing. If only a handful of sprinklers meet the criteria, then the decision is relatively simple, just replace them. But what if all the sprinklers in the entire facility were installed at the same time and therefore all come due at the same time? NFPA 25 offers the option of testing a representative sample in this case.

The size of the representative sample is not less than four, or one percent of the


The basic rules that NFPA 25 outlines are simply; once sprinklers have been in service for a period of time, they either must be replaced, or a representative sample removed and sent for testing.

chosen individual sample area, whichever is greater. The sample area chosen is important because if any of the tested sprinklers fail, all sprinklers represented by that sample must be replaced. Little guidance is provided for how to choose this sample area but certain things should be considered; including whether or not all the sprinklers are from the same manufacturer, the environment that they are in, or perhaps, which floor that they are on.

If an entire facility were to be chosen as a single sample area and a sprinkler failed to meet the test requirements, all sprinklers in the facility would have to be replaced. That may not be the most accurate predictor of future performance. It may be more prudent to divide the sample areas into similar environments like the parking garage, the warehouse and the office area for example. A good option would be to involve all stakeholders (owner, AHJ and contractor) in this discussion.

Table 1 gives an overview of the testing and replacement requirements from the 2014 edition of NFPA 25. More information is available in the annex for certain specific cases. For example, sprinklers in "harsh environments" are required to be tested or replaced at five-year intervals. The term, however, is not defined in the standard. Annex A give some examples of what environments the Technical Commit-

tee felt met that criteria.

Testing and/or replacement of sprinklers is an important part of the overall ITM process. But because of the sometimes long-term frequencies involved, it can get lost in the mix. Compliance with the rules governing the process involves accurate record-keeping and an engaged owner. But by taking a little time to become familiar with the requirements and applying them correctly, you can take an important step towards addressing this critical concept. 

(see Table 1 next page)



Director of Public
Fire Protection

Jason Webb

Table 1

Sprinkler	Testing^{1,2} or replacement required at:	Repeat testing required at:
All sprinklers not specified below	50 years from in-service date	10 year intervals until 75 th year, then 5 year intervals ³
Quick Response	20 years from in-service date	10 year intervals
Dry sprinklers	10 years	10 years
Sprinklers in harsh environments ⁴	5 years	5 years
Extra high temperature or higher solder-type exposed to semi-continuous to continuous maximum allowable ambient temperature	5 years	5 years
Sprinklers manufactured prior to 1920	Replace	N/A

¹ Where historical data indicate, NFPA 25 permits longer intervals between testing.

² Testing of a representative sample (minimum of 1% and no less than 4 sprinklers) must be done by a recognized testing laboratory acceptable to the AHJ.

³ For example, testing or replacement is required at 50, 60, 70, 75, and 80 (and every 5 years beyond)

⁴ For guidance on examples of harsh environments, see annex section A.5.3.1.1.2 of the 2014 edition of NFPA 25.

By Dave Foley

What to Do About the Spaces Below Raised Homes?

Note: The following article is contributed by Dave Foley, of Allied Fire & Safety Equipment. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily the opinions of the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

Since Super Storm Sandy, the DCA issued several bulletins (13-1A, FTO-13, 14-1) to help explain the application of the codes with respect to homes effected by the storm. Now that many of the damaged homes are being repaired or replaced and in many cases raised above the flood level, owners and their architects are rebuilding as economically as possible. In most cases they are looking to avoid spending money on anything that they don't feel is needed. They are already spending a considerable amount on the raising of their homes and increased insurance, a nice deck and a beautiful kitchen. Typically, fire safety is on priority list.

The DCA's latest bulletin 14-1 now clarifies that NFPA 13D may be used for 2- and 3-story raised homes when exceeding the limits of height, stories or square footage. This is a step toward promoting the installation of fire sprinkler systems in homes because, as the bulletin explains, NFPA 13D is somewhat less stringent than 13R. This will hopefully translate into more systems being installed due to the lower cost and lower burden on installation and construction.

In the process of designing and or bidding several residential projects, the issue of 13R vs. 13D came up often, especially the issue of how to deal with the spaces


below raised homes. Since these spaces typically have unreliable heating conditions due to the varied designs (open areas, breakaway walls, totally enclosed), a wet residential sprinkler system is problematic. The idea of having a 13D system design is that the lower level of the raised homes (basement/crawlspace/garage/storage) is not required to be protected. What exactly does NFPA (13D & 13R) consider these spaces? Can these spaces be totally ignored when installing a 13D system? Some are quite large and broken up into separate areas.

Looking to the 13D code; garages, carports, porches and crawl spaces may be omitted, but can these (basement/crawlspace/garage/storage) areas be considered areas that can be omitted as a whole? Section 8.6 describes crawl spaces as "spaces not intended for living purposes" and no omission is listed for basements or storage areas. An article in the Construction Code Communicator Volume 25 #3 discusses the question of whether a raised home can have a basement. The information provided calls the lower flood level of a raised home a crawl space and points out that there is no height requirement for this level and that it can be used for building access, storage and/or parking.

There is certainly one good reason to omit sprinkler installation in the flood level of raised homes, the lack of reliable heat. However, there are reasons to provide sprinkler protection: the code does not clearly omit it, the area could have a considerable amount of combustibles

and sources to cause a fire to start. One or all of the accesses to the home can be contained within this space! The purpose of the NFPA 13D code is to aid in detection and controlling a fire to prevent flashover and to improve the chance for occupants to escape. Since these homes are raised and the exit may be through the flood level, it is most important to keep that exit available. If there is no sprinkler system in the flood level and also no requirement for detection at this level then a situation exists where there is storage to cause a considerable fire, no system to react to it, no detection to warn the occupants, an exit that passes through the fire and nothing to prevent flashover to all other possible exits. This situation is definitely not what the NFPA had in mind.

What then is a better solution to this situation? My suggestion is to require a combination fixed/ rate of rise spike detector(s) in the areas of the flood level. This will provide the early detection required for escape without the worry of frozen sprinkler piping or the cost of installing it.

I hope that you would see this as a reasonable solution to this situation and I welcome all input and comments that will aid in providing the best protection at a reasonable cost. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dave Foley is a Designer/Project Manager for NFSA member, Allied Fire & Safety Equipment Co., Inc. in Neptune, New Jersey. Dave may be contacted at 732.552.8077 or davef@alliedfiresafety.com



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What's New in the 2016 Residential Standards?

A brief summary of changes to the residential sprinkler standards, NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R, was presented in a Special Edition of NFSA's TechNotes, issue #331. Here we will take a more in-depth look at those changes and one that did not make it through the revision process.

Reinstallation of Sprinklers (NFPA 13R 5.1.1.1; NFPA 13D 5.1.1)

When the 2013 editions of all three NFPA sprinkler installation standards were published they contained unequivocal language prohibiting the reinstallation of sprinklers: "When a sprinkler has been removed for any reason, it shall not be reinstalled." The debate surrounding that requirement has centered on the intent of the word "removed" and whether it applies to the removal of an entire drop or sprig assembly without actually removing the sprinkler from its fitting. The concern expressed by sprinkler manufacturers has been that removing a sprinkler from its fitting risks hidden damage due to the torque applied in removal and reinstallation.

It has long been industry practice to permit the removal of sprinklers in some cases by removing whole assemblies without ever taking a wrench to the installed sprinkler itself. The 2016 editions of all three standards have clarified that the reinstallation prohibition only applies to removing sprinklers from fittings and welded outlets. Due care must still be

exercised when handling pipe assemblies with sprinklers attached, but it is now an officially accepted and noted practice to remove and reinstall sprinklers along with their fittings, as long as the sprinkler is undisturbed.

One specific exception has also been added to permit dry sprinklers to be removed and reinstalled from fittings and welded outlets as long as it is done in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. In most cases this will involve removing the dry sprinkler with a pipe wrench on the barrel as opposed to using a head wrench but this varies from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Replacement of Sprinklers with Low Densities (NFPA 13R 5.1.1.2; NFPA 13D 12.3.2.1)

Prior to 2003, residential sprinklers were produced and installed using densities less than 0.05 gpm/square-foot. As these sprinklers age, occasions increasingly arise where they are in need of replacement due to causes ranging from activation to accidental painting. Replacing these sprinklers in existing installations can be a challenge. Although the first choice remains to replace existing sprinklers with the same make and model as originally installed, many of these older sprinklers are no longer readily available. When replacement sprinklers are no longer available from the manufacturer, it is now permissible across all three sprinkler standards to substitute a replacement

residential sprinkler with an equivalent K-factor and comparable coverage area.

Obstruction within Closets (NFPA 13R 6.4.6.3.2; NFPA 13D 8.2.7)

The requirements governing the installation of sprinklers in small closets have been revised to allow greater latitude. The substantiation for this NFSA submitted proposal was adopted as the committee statement on this revision:

"Small closets, especially those housing mechanical equipment, frequently contain obstructions that make it difficult to place sprinklers within 12 inches of the ceiling. Allowing residential sprinklers to be located further down would allow adequate sprinkler protection of these small closets while avoiding ceiling level obstructions such as ducts and pipes. Based upon CFAST Computer Fire Model, an analysis was performed comparing the performance of sprinklers located 6 inch-

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



Manager of
Installation
Standards

Bob Upson, MSFPE

es down from a ceiling in a small room to the performance of sprinklers 18 inches down from the ceiling in an even smaller closet. Based upon this analysis it appears that residential sprinklers 18 inches down from the ceiling in a closet up to 400 ft³ react to a fire at least as quickly as residential sprinklers 6 inches down from a ceiling in a small room. Using equivalency concepts, residential sprinklers could be allowed to be installed within 18 inches of the ceiling in small closets.”

The revised sections have been expanded to permit a single sprinkler located either at the highest level without regard to obstructions or to be installed within 18 inches of the ceiling to avoid obstructions near the ceiling. It should be noted that these expanded provisions do not appear in NFPA 13.

Outside of Dwelling Units (NFPA 13R 6.2.2, 7.2, 7.2.2, & 7.2.4.1)

The installation and design criteria sections for sprinklers outside of dwelling units have had substantial editorial revision without introducing any technical changes. In the prior edition, some design criteria requirements that more properly belonged in section 7.2 were located in the installation section in Chapter 6. In an effort to make these sections more clear, duplicate language has been removed; design criteria requirements found in the installation sections have been relocated appropriately to Chapter 7; and the remaining installation requirements have been organized to be more user-friendly. Chapter 7 has likewise been reorganized to receive the requirements relocated from Chapter 6.

Aboveground Piping and Equipment (NFPA 13R 5.2)

This section has had several minor alterations to correlate with the corresponding language in NFPA 13, including language new to the 2016 edition. Two of the more notable alterations include:

- The addition of expanded language per-

mitting the use of additional listed fittings types provided that they are used in accordance with their listing limitations and manufacturer’s installation instructions.

- Clarification of compatibility requirements regarding nonmetallic pipe used in conjunction with internally coated steel pipe.

Miscellaneous Changes

Along with the usual reference standard edition updates and revised definitions, there have been a few specific changes worthy of note.

Definitions

Two definitions are worth pointing out. “Grade Plane” was revised in NFPA 13R for consistency with NFPA 5000. This is notable given that the scope of NFPA 13R is defined in part by building height which is, in turn, measured relative to the grade plane.

- **Grade Plane.** A reference plane upon which vertical measurements of a building are based representing the average of the finished ground level adjoining the building at all exterior walls. [See also 3.3.222, *Finished Ground Level Grade, of NFPA 5000.*] [5000, 2015] (NFPA 13R only)

The definition for “Standard” was updated in both NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R. This represents a global change to the NFPA’s universal definition of standard but is notable as a reminder that only the main body of text is considered suitable for mandatory reference.

- **Standard.** An NFPA Standard, the main text of which contains only mandatory provisions using the word “shall” to indicate requirements and that is in a form generally suitable for mandatory reference by another standard or code or for adoption into law. Non-mandatory provisions are not to be considered a part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note,

or other means as permitted in the NFPA Manuals of Style. When used in a generic sense, such as in the phrase “standards development process” or “standards development activities,” the term “standards” includes all NFPA Standards, including Codes, Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guides. (NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R)

NFPA 13R

- New language has been added in 6.5.4 to permit the use of sprinkler protected glazing in NFPA 13R. These requirements reflect similar language in NFPA 13 and permit the use of sprinkler protected assemblies as alternatives to fire-rated wall assemblies.
- The standard continues to permit underground piping to be any material acceptable to the prevailing plumbing code. Additional requirements have been added in 6.11.5 and 6.11.5.1 for underground piping serving the FDC; a minimum pressure rating of 175 psi, rated at no less than 120°F for nonmetallic pipe.

NFPA 13D

- It has been clarified in 5.1.2.1 that gauges are not required to be listed.
- The language providing for the evaluation of small areas created by architectural features has been relocated from Annex A into the body of the enforceable standard in 8.2.5.7.
- Substantial editorial revisions have been made to the pipe sizing techniques in 10.4.3 and 10.4.4 to make the requirements more user-friendly. The technical requirements from the previous edition have not been altered by these revisions.

Water Supply Adjustments

The NFPA 13 technical committees have been struggling with the issue of applying adjustments to waterflow test data for several revisions. The 2007



>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

edition of **NFPA 13** explicitly required adjustments to be applied “to account for daily and seasonal fluctuations, possible interruption by flood or ice conditions, large simultaneous industrial use, future demand on the water supply system, or any other condition that could affect the water supply shall be made as appropriate.” Subsequent editions have relegated that requirement to the Annex where it remains important but unenforceable.

During the 2016 revision cycle, both the Residential Sprinkler Systems Technical Committee responsible for writing **NFPA 13R** and the Private Water Supply Piping Systems Technical Committee responsible for **NFPA 24** approved a set of requirements that would provide for a 5 percent default water supply adjustment in the event that no other adjustment was provided by the water purveyor or the specifying engineer. Part of the committee statement reads as follows:


This revision aims to make the adjustment to the data from a waterflow test required instead of recommended. If the adjustment is not required, contractors that do the right thing and adjust the data from tests are at a disadvantage from contractors that don't make any adjustment. It is fundamentally wrong to not make an adjustment to the data due to daily and seasonal fluctuations. This makes a simple and easy to understand adjustment that is standardized so that there is no argument over what is supposed to happen. It is the intent to have

this be the only adjustment. If the water utility has already performed the adjustment, or if the AHJ has already mandated a safety margin or safety factor to the waterflow data obtained from the test, this adjustment would not apply.

Due to lengthy discussions on the value of the adjustment factor and when it truly needed to be applied, this approach was not approved by the Sprinkler System Discharge Technical Committee responsible for the corresponding requirements in **NFPA 13**. As a result, the Automatic Sprinkler Systems Correlating Committee elected to return to the previous consensus language and deleted the new water supply adjustment language from **NFPA 13R** and **NFPA 24** and reinstated the old Annex comments. The Correlating Committee cited three reasons for their decision:

- Removing the language maintains correlation with the more central document, **NFPA 13**.
- The selection of a 5 percent adjustment as an appropriate default has not been supported with technical data.
- The Fire Protection Research Foundation is currently studying this issue and may be able to provide a technical basis to support an appropriate adjustment in the future.

The end result is that the sprinkler standards will still contain Annex commentary recommending water supply adjustments but there remains no default adjustment for the system designer to

fall back on when no prescriptive requirement is supplied by the water purveyor, specifying engineer, or AHJ. Making reliable estimates of water supplies available for water-based fire protection systems is of special importance as those systems cannot function without it. We can all be sure that this subject will be revisited again during the next revision cycle. 

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Meet The PROs



Will Smith, PE, PEng.
Principal
Code Consultants, Inc.
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Code Consultants, Inc. (CCI), NFSA's longest-tenured Professional member, is an internationally recognized fire protection engineering and life-safety consulting firm, also specializing in accessibility consultation and low voltage systems design. Founded in 1973, CCI provides a diverse range of crucial fire protection, life safety and accessibility consultation, fire sprinkler, fire alarm and low voltage systems design services to the built environment.

Establishing and maintaining a reputation for excellence requires the unwavering provision of effective services and the ability to ensure complete client satisfaction. Since 1973, Code Consultants, Inc. has offered excellence to the point of setting industry standards in Building and Fire Code Consultation, Accessibility Consultation,

CCI's corporate headquarters, located in St. Louis and regional offices located in Los Angeles and New York conveniently serve international clients. Our clients believe that our centralized service approach offers many benefits, including allowing us to maintain a consistent level of professional quality, technology and expertise that translates into reliable client service. Our centralized locations offer the opportunity for participative management from CCI's Principals and administrative personnel, all of whom share and demonstrate a vested interest in ensuring each client's satisfaction.

Our mission is to provide our clients with innovative and practical solutions to

their Fire Protection, Life Safety, Accessibility, and Low Voltage needs.

CCI has been a member of NFSA for over 16 years and finds great value in its membership. NFSA provides great publications (magazine, newsletters and reports) that are good resources for our staff.

The online technical seminars offer great training for our design staff. The ability to ask the NFSA Expert of the Day a technical question or use as an informal interpretation is invaluable.

CCI Principals and Senior Technical Staff maintain Professional Engineer licenses in 49 of the 50 states, Puerto Rico and six provinces in Canada. Our fire sprinkler/fire alarm design staff is composed of NICET certified designers that work hand-in-hand with our professional engineers to deliver code compliant and economical systems design.

On the lighter side, I enjoy riding my motorcycle with my wife through the hills of Missouri and Illinois. Over the past three years, I traveled across 15 states on week long motorcycle trips with my step-father and brother-in-law. I have two great kids, one that graduated in December 2015 from Olivet Nazarene University and another that is a Youth



Pastor in Nashville. I never pass up a great hamburger. I'm a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan and St. Louis Cardinals fan. I have discovered that cruises are the way to travel. My wife appreciates the fact my phone doesn't get reception and I'm able to unplug. ☺

The Meet the PROs feature is available to any NFSA Professional 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.

NFSA's Social Networks - Are We Preaching to the Choir?

Followers of NFSA social networks grow in number on a daily basis. As of the writing of this article, our followers on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn number over 19,000! That figure represents our direct followers only, it does not include the additional exposure we receive by participation in other LinkedIn groups, retweets by our Twitter fan base or shares from our followers on Facebook.

While those of us that actively participant in NFSA's social networks have come to learn the value of the scope of outreach we have been able to attain, there are those that question the value of the audience we have acquired. Just who are we speaking to and, in reality, are we just preaching to the choir?

Instead of throwing statistics at you, I'd like to ask my own question. If we were just "preaching to the choir" (and I don't



believe we entirely are, but that's for another article), what's wrong with that? I'd like to challenge the long-held belief that there is no point in talking to those who already agree with us and that speaking directly to our adversaries is the only way to truly advance our message.

Reaching out to NFSA's social media "choir" gives us something of immeasurable value, a group of passionate advocates who share our story...and oh what beautiful music they make when they start to "sing!"

Don't get me wrong, reaching out to those outside the business of life-safety is of the utmost importance. However, that goal becomes much more difficult and costly to obtain without the support of loyal and impassioned advocates.

Let me throw in a little example for you here. The largest group of followers that we have are members of the fire service. Local fire departments from around the U.S. follow us on Twitter and Facebook. They retweet and share much

of the information we put out on a daily basis. Now, think for a moment, just who is following these local fire departments? Aha! The citizens that live within that fire district! Just one of the groups that we so desperately try to reach!

Giving our supporters valuable information, telling them "our story" will help us to meet our goals. Our supporters talk to their constituents and share our story with two key elements that they gain from our communication with them: enthusiasm and knowledge.

By inspiring NFSA's "choir" to raise their voices, by sharing our goals and successes, and in turn have them share these stories with others, we will reach our target audiences with ease.

NFSA's thriving social media platform has provided us with a network of engaged, passionate and inspired supporters. It is an excellent venue for an intelligent, ambitious and forward-thinking association such as NFSA to achieve its goals. 

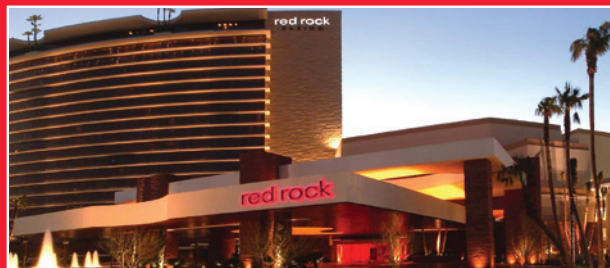


FUTURE NFSA ANNUAL SEMINAR SCHEDULE

May 3-6, 2016
NFSA Annual Seminar
Laguna Cliffs Resort & Spa
by Marriott, Dana Point, CA



MAY 3-6, 2017
NFSA Annual Seminar
and North American Fire
Sprinkler Expo®
Red Rock Resort
Las Vegas



New Team Members at Reliable

The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company announces the hiring of **Josh Shapiro** as their Mid-Atlantic Regional Sales Manager focusing on the Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. markets. Based out of Reliable's Lorton, VA Distribution Center, Josh will report directly to **Tom P. Field**, Territory 1 Sales Director.

Brandon Telford joins Reliable's Technical Services Team with over 18 years of fire protection industry experience. Brandon started his career working in fire sprinkler contracting for 9 years in the Mid-Atlantic region and followed that by spending 3 years working on projects internationally in Albania and Qatar. He is a NFPA Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) and has achieved NICET certification as a level III automatic sprinkler layout technician.

Danny Sanborn joins Reliable's Texas sales team as a Sales Representative, reporting to Dan Merritt, Regional Sales Manager. Danny has a sales background in both the power and water industries. Danny's sales territory includes Greater Houston, San Antonio and East Texas. He will be working out of the Houston office

The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc. Senior Management Changes

Michael R. Fee has been elected Executive Vice President, a role previously held by **Kevin T. Fee**, who is now President. Michael will continue to report to Kevin and have responsibilities for Sales Operations, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Advertising/Marketing.

Michael joined Reliable in May 1976. He is a graduate of Boston College and holds an M.B.A. degree from Hofstra University. Michael is a strong proponent of the fire sprinkler industry. He is currently serving on the American Fire Sprinkler Association's Manufacturer and Supplier Council, Legislative Committee, and Membership Committee. For many years, Michael has been on the Membership Committee and helped establish the local

chapter development programs. Michael has been Chairman (2000-2004) and Vice Chairman (1998-2000) of AFSA's Manufacturer and Supplier Council.

John M. McNamara has been promoted Vice President, Corporate Sales. John will be responsible for the sales and distribution of Reliable products worldwide and will report to Kevin T. Fee, President.

John graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration from Stonehill College in North Easton, MA. He joined Reliable in January 1988 as Regional Sales Manager for the Northeast and has successfully advanced through the sales organization. In 2001 he was appointed to the position of Eastern Regional Sales Director. Most recently in 2009, John was named Vice President of Sales Americas.

Kevin T. Fee, Jr. has been elected Vice President of Sales, Americas. Kevin's new responsibilities will include sales and distribution of Reliable products in North, Central, and South America. He will be reporting to John M. McNamara.

A graduate of Boston College, Kevin earned a B.S. degree and joined Reliable as a full time employee in March 2001 where he served as a material handler in the Los Angeles Distribution Center. Kevin played an integral role in the start-up of several distribution facilities before being promoted to outside sales. Prior to this promotion, Kevin served as the Director of National Accounts. He is an active member of the NFSA's Future Leadership Committee. With his new position, Kevin is now the fourth generation of Fee family senior management at Reliable.

Ahern Welcomes Annis as Director of Service for Fire Protection Districts

Ahern recently hired experienced sales professional **Rod Annis** as Director of Service for the Company's fire protection district offices. Annis will be responsible for service sales growth and development in the five Ahern Fire Protection offices in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. He will also oversee the sales function within Ahern's Fire Systems and Equipment (FSE) business unit across all

territories.

As Director of Service, Annis will work with Ahern Fire Protection District Managers and their teams to create and execute service sales plans and further develop relationships with general contractors as well as end users. He, along with FSE Vice President **Doug Lackey**, will be responsible for integrating Ahern's non-sprinkler product lines - including fire alarms, special hazards systems, and fire extinguishers - into each district's service offerings.

Tolco's George Von Gnatensky Retires

After nearly 46 years as TOLCO Director of Sales, **George Von Gnatensky** has officially retired. Many of our NFSA members have come to know George over the years and he wanted to inform his friends and supporters he has only retired - and was not dead.



He tells of how he started with TOLCO as part of a three-man operation and was proud of his contribution to have seen it grow into a company widely known and respected throughout the fire protection industry.

Says George, "I've had the great good fortune to have worked with the NFSA, representing that great organization on the NFPA Technical Committee on Hanging and Bracing as well as the prestigious Engineering and Standards (E. & S.) Committee - and I have been extremely proud to have worked with some of the greatest talent in both of those groups. I'd like to believe that I've brought dedication, integrity and trustworthiness to any contribution I've made."

There are so many wonderful stories and memories that remain with me from my long career and my hope is that many who will read this message will have similar memories and recall them with the same fondness as I have now.

I would like to again thank the many

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

NFSA's Russ Fleming and Jim Lake to Speak at Fire Sprinkler Symposium

The New England Association of Fire Protection System Designers, (NEAFPSD) an ASCET Chapter, will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in 2016. Based in the Boston metro area, NEAFPSD was founded in 1991 with a goal of "Dedication to Improve Life Safety Through Better Understanding of Codes and System Applications." Membership is comprised of fire protection system Contractors, Designers, Technicians, Engineers, Suppliers and Manufacturers.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held in conjunction with the 2016 Fire Sprinkler Symposium in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire on March 9, 10 & 11, 2016, at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center, where NFSA's own Russ Fleming and James Lake will speak.

If interested in joining a gathering of New England's Finest Fire Protection Professionals and Leading Industry Manufacturers and Supplier Presentations at a first class resort, contact Paul Taylor at ptaylor@trojb.com.

NFSA Board Meeting News

On November 4, 2015, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) Board of Directors, and Future Leadership Committee united with representatives from Common Voices, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) to visit congressional leaders who sit on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committees, respectively. 41 meetings were conducted throughout the day, with five teams canvassing the Capitol Hill offices. The purpose of these visits was to share information about the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (FSIA). The original legislation was introduced in 2004 following the tragic nightclub fire in

West Warwick, RI that claimed 100 lives.

On September 22nd, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Sen. Tom Carper (D-Delaware) filed S. 2068 and Rep. Tom Reed (R-New York) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-Rhode Island) introduced H.R. 3591, these bills known as the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. This is legislation that provides tax incentives to owners of buildings with occupants who are at risk from fire if they invest in life-saving fire safety upgrades.

Following the Day on the Hill, the NFSA conducted its scheduled Committee meetings and Contractors, Suppliers, and Manufacturer Council meetings. The final day brings all these groups together because they make up the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors had a busy agenda, which included approving the 2016 budget as well as developing a plan to relocate the Association's national headquarters from New York to the Baltimore/Washington D.C./Northern Virginia Area.

NFSA Announces 2016 NFSA Award Recipients

The Board of Directors of the National Fire Sprinkler Association held its year-end meeting at the Washington Court Hotel and accomplished many purposes during the time in Washington, D.C. The meetings included important business of the board, 2016 NFSA award recipient selection, Capitol Hill visits promoting the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, as well as all Committee and Council meetings of the Association.

The highlight of the board meeting was the selection of the 2016 NFSA Award recipients and inductees into the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame.

2016 Award recipients include:

Golden Sprinkler Award – **Kevin Ortyl**
 Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award – **James Golinveaux**
 Leadership in Public Safety Award – **Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki**
 Hall of Fame Inductees – **Sonny Scarff**, **Ed Rumble**, and **Charlie Miner**

"We congratulate all award recipients," explained NFSA President Shane Ray. "We are especially proud to recognize Kevin Ortyl, of Viking, with our highest award -the Golden Sprinkler Award. Kevin has dedicated himself to our industry and our Association, improving the industry and saving lives along the way with his service." 📞

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Members, send us your photos of installations, designs, work out in the field, any great action shots you can think of. We'll keep them on file for use as possible covers for SQ. If your photo is selected for use, you will be notified and given proper credit.

Send hi-rez photos to Joanne Genadio at genadio@nfsa.org

PEOPLE

Tolco's George Von Gnatensky Retires

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who have worked so closely with and supported me and TOLCO over the years. I am honored and extremely grateful to have been part of those enduring friendships and associations. Our industry is a great one and I'm sure the best is yet to come. I sincerely hope our paths will cross again. George can be reached at: e-mail: TolcoGVG@aol.com Satellite office: 714.526.0755 📞

People who know the facts want to live in a home with fire sprinklers



According to a Harris Poll, after learning the facts, 74% of U.S. homeowners said they would be more likely to buy a home with fire sprinklers than one without.

Education is the key to make sure more homes are protected. Share this **FREE** information with your fire department and community.

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Protecting Your Community with Home Fire Sprinklers DVD: Helps building officials understand why sprinklers are needed to protect occupants and firefighters.

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DAVE LAFOND
Regional Manager

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NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT

Connecticut Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board News

The Board recently sent a letter of concern to the Connecticut Codes and Standards (CAS) Committee regarding the inaction of not adopting the IRC relating to fire sprinklers in all newly constructed residential dwellings.

It reads in part:

"In 2008, the International Code Council (ICC) supported local level advocacy efforts with a vote to include a sprinkler requirement for new townhouses and one- and two-family homes in the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC), effective January 2011. With this code change, all national model-building codes require sprinklers in one- and two-family homes. This code offers a minimum standard for building safety, and provides a foundation for residential building codes nationwide. In some states, such as California, Maryland and South Carolina, policy-makers adopted the 2009 version of the IRC. CT. has not embraced the code changes, and instead has taken action to remove the sprinkler requirement from part of the building code.

A home designer's and builder's failure to provide sprinklers or to offer a sprinkler system as an option in the construction of a new home arguably could create liability, given the foresee-ability of house fires and the effectiveness of sprinklers as a lifesaving intervention. If a lawsuit is brought against a one- or two-family home designer or builder who did not provide or offer a sprinkler system in a newly constructed home, resulting in fire-related injuries to the occupants, the cause of action could be negligence per se if it is in a jurisdiction requiring the inclusion or an offer to include sprinklers.

Negligence per se refers to situations in which liability arises through the violation of a law. In jurisdictions that have not legally required the offering or inclusion of sprinklers in newly constructed homes, ordinary negligence or strict liability likely would be the theory on which an action is based. In these instances, negligence would be established by demonstrating that the home designer or builder had failed to exercise the standard of care that a reasonable person would have used in similar circumstances. A strict liability theory would argue that the home designer or builder had an absolute duty to use sprinklers to make the residence safe". (1)

Further... Fire sprinklers were added to all of the national model construction codes for a reason. There is a choice: ban lightweight construction products or require fire sprinklers. Choosing NOT to adopt the model building codes has now placed the CT. Homebuilders and Relators in a libelous situation. There is a fundamental issue missed by the realtors and homebuilders-homebuilder/realtor "liability".

The HB and Realtor knows or should know that new construction practices have created a less safe environment for the homebuyer- they should have an obligation to inform them of fast fire spread and early collapse.

The letter goes on with expressions of concern and asks the Committee to take a leadership role. The document was read in its entirety into the minutes of the meeting held October 14, 2015. After brief discussions from several Committee members, it was decided to have a legal opinion rendered from the Committee staff Attorney. More to follow. (1)

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NEW YORK REGION



DOMINICK KASMAUSKAS
Regional Manager

NEW YORK

NFSA Empire Chapter 2016 Meeting Schedule

The NFSA Empire Chapter Board has announced the 2016 meeting schedule. Thanks must be given to the various members of all categories for their input and concern for accommodating vendors. The meetings are scheduled to be on the third Tuesday of every other month, starting on January 19th. The Board is awaiting confirmation of a Speaker for January – stay tuned for announcements. Send RSVP to NFSA Regional Manager Dominick Kasmauskas. The meetings have often been a full house, so please RSVP at least 1 week before each meeting.

2016 NFSA Empire Chapter Meeting Schedule:

Jan 19, Mar 15, May 17,
2nd Annual Empire/CT Joint Golf Outing
– to be announced,
Sep 20, Nov 15.

Dinner meetings are still planned and to be located at the Charlie Brown's Restaurant, Library Room in Fishkill, NY.

Stay tuned for the Golf Outing date and announcement once the Golf Committee has settled arrangements. Since the 2015 Golf Outing was held in New York, the 2016 Golf Outing will be in Connecticut. (1)

Dominick Kasmauskas

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MID-ATLANTIC REGION




RAYMOND W. LONABAUGH
Regional Manager

DELAWARE, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY,
PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON D.C.

Sprinkler Save - Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Paul Eichler, Anne Arundel County, MD Fire Department Battalion Chief, reported a fire sprinkler save he responded to in Anne Arundel County. Paul responded to a fire where two sprinklers activated in the first floor of a townhouse residence. The sprinklers were credited with limiting heat and fire damage to the first floor. The fire had been smoldering for several hours with no one home and the neighbors on each side of the property commented that they had heard the smoke alarms going off but thought that the resident of the townhouse was still there and had just burned breakfast. Neither neighbor called 911.

As a result, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department wants everyone to know that they should call 911 if they hear an alarm activated. Paul also added that while operating on the townhouse fire sprinkler save, a second fire in an apartment was dispatched in his area. That fire, unattended cooking, was also controlled by a single sprinkler.

Paul Eichler lives in Delaware and is a member of the Robbins Hose Company in Dover, Delaware. He is also the Chairperson of the Delaware Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition. 

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SOUTHEAST REGION




WAYNE WAGGONER
Associate Director of Regional Operations - East

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

Sprinkler System Puts Out Cooking-Related Fire in Chapel Hill, North Carolina

A sprinkler system extinguished a cooking-related fire at a home in the Southern Village Neighborhood in Chapel Hill. The Chapel Hill Fire Department received a call from an alarm monitoring company reporting a fire at 500 Market Street. Six trucks responded to the call. The fire sprinkler system was able to put the fire out. Responding fire fighters worked to ensure the fire was extinguished. No one was injured in the incident.

The Chapel Hill Fire Department issued the following safety tips:

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop. 

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FLORIDA & PUERTO RICO




LORRELL BUSH
Regional Manager

FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO

Hawk's Cay 2015 Huge Success!

The Hawks Cay 2015 conference had record attendance from Florida contractors! The highlights of the week included the Fire Product Challenge and the Fastest Water Talk Show, as well as a full agenda of top notch topics and instructors!

The "Fire Product Challenge" required participants to learn from Suppliers and Manufacturers and included "Roadblocks" testing participants' knowledge in design, contracts and Florida Law. This was the first time this type of event has been held and the feedback from both the vendors and the participants was excellent! It will definitely be an event on the schedule for Hawks Cay 2017. The first presentation of the week was "From the Voice of the Advocate" which was presented as a talk show interviewing survivors of fire. The interviews were powerful and ignited a new passion for the importance of fire sprinklers.

Video clips will be available at:
www.floridafiresprinkler.com soon. 

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 **FIRE SPRINKLER INDUSTRY**
Business & Leadership
CONFERENCE
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LAGUNA CLIFFS MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA
DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA
MAY 3 – 6, 2016

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

GREAT LAKES REGION

TBA

Regional Manager

INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO,
WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY

Sprinkler Save at Erlanger, Ohio Candy Factory

Flames could be seen shooting out of the three-alarm fire at the Perfetti Van Melle plant. The factory makes all of the Airheads candy for North America. Officials said the silo that handles sugar for candy making exploded.

Hundreds of employees made it out safely as dust in the form of sugar filled the air.

Point Pleasant Assistant Fire Chief Bill Martin credited the fire sprinkler system with controlling the fire. "I think the sprinkler system did its job for the most part. The fire that we saw and that was extinguished with the ladder pipe that we had up. The involvement inside the building was actually very limited by the sprinkler system," said Martin.

No injuries were reported. Investigators are still trying to determine a cause. ①

ILLINOIS REGION



BOB TINUCCI
State Coordinator

ILLINOIS

Clarendon Hills, Illinois Fire Chief Recipient of 2015 Bringing Home Safety Award

Congratulations to Fire Chief Brian Leahy from the Clarendon Hills, Illinois Fire Department, recipient of the 2015 Bringing Safety Home Award. Chief Leahy received the award at NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative Summit, October 13th in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Bringing Safety Home Award annually recognizes the efforts of members of the fire service and other advocates who use the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's

home fire sprinkler educational materials and the resources of the Fire Sprinkler Initiative to ensure that decision-makers have accurate information as new or updated home fire sprinkler codes are considered.

Fifteen years ago, Chief Leahy took hours of personal time to meet with his mayor and elected officials to answer their questions about the benefits of home fire sprinklers. His village manager presented him with 33 "concerns" brought up by those who opposed a fire sprinkler requirement. With limited resources, Leahy answered all the questions. His efforts resulted in the passage of an NFPA 13D ordinance, requiring fire sprinklers in all new construction one- and two-family homes.

Clarendon Hills became the fifth community in Illinois to do so, but the ordinance was the first teardown/rebuild community in Illinois. The Clarendon Hills "List of 33" is still used as a resource in other communities. Today, more than 700 Clarendon Hills homes and the families that occupy them are protected with fire sprinklers. ①

Bob Tinucci

NFSA's Regional Manager / Illinois

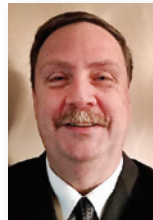
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WISCONSIN REGION



MARTY KING
State Coordinator

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Legislative Issues

Listed below are two recent legislative issues that were identified by our legislative liaison and they are working to educate Assembly and Senate leadership, as they have in the past.

LRB 3130 and 3968 – to eliminate fire suppression from fairground facilities.

The language in the sponsorship notice portrays fire sprinkler systems as costly and financially burdensome. This is extremely concerning in that DSPS was unaware of this legislation and the Building Code Committee had, over the past four months, reviewed the 2015 IBC and IEBC. They had no discussions regarding this issue, nor had they proposed any language addressing this issue.

LRB 3011 is being sent as a fix to some landlord and tenant issues outlined to protect both. Within the bill is language to prevent the current 16 municipalities from enforcing existing ordinances relating to multi-family buildings. This language was part of the past budget bill and was removed. It is concerning that it was hidden within a bill that did not address any building or fire code changes.

While our legislative liaison team is working on addressing these issues with the legislative leaders, we need your assistance in contacting your state representatives in the Assembly and Senate to voice your concern. We need to stand up as an industry that not only provides fire and life safety, but is a business and employer within the State of Wisconsin.

The position regarding 3130/3968 is that the Petition of Variance process within the Building Code addresses this issue and is best left to local officials to determine whether changes to the building code are appropriate and that the municipality has a voice in conditions placed to provide fire- and life- safety to the community.

The position regarding 3011 is that local municipalities should control protection of the structures and occupants. They chose to adopt additional requirements to protect the community and based upon available resources. While this will not affect new construction, it does affect existing structures. The example for the original legislation was a community's requirement to provide fire sprinklers to an apartment building that was gutted by fire and where there was a fire fatality. ①

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MINNESOTA REGION



TOM BRACE
State Coordinator

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Rule Requiring Home Fire Sprinklers Overtaken


A Minnesota Appeals Court panel threw out a state fire sprinkler requirement for larger new homes, saying a state agency failed to present enough evidence to justify the rule.

The rule, adopted in 2014, required all new homes bigger than 4,500 square feet to include fire sprinklers. While fire safety advocates widely supported the rule, the Builders Association of the Twin Cities, with backing from other construction and real estate groups, sued the state in January, saying the rule was too expensive and would price many buyers out of the market.

In throwing out the rule, the three-judge panel unanimously questioned the home-size criteria. Nothing in the ruling indicated that the court would have overturned a rule requiring all single-family homes to have sprinklers.

The judges said that previous court opinions required sections of the building code that contained the sprinkler rule "must be based on the application of scientific principles, approved tests and professional judgment."

A requirement that all twin homes -- even smaller ones -- require sprinklers contradicted the department's decision that single-family homes smaller than 4,500 square feet do not need them, the judges wrote.

In addition to not adequately proving the 4,500-square-foot requirement, the judges said the agency also violated state law by not adequately looking into the cost to small businesses and cities of implementing the rule. 

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CENTRAL REGION

TBA
Regional Manager


IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI

Residential Sprinkler Save in McPherson, Kansas

A fire was contained to the bedroom in which it started at a residence in McPherson, Kansas. The fire was extinguished by the home's sprinkler system. No injuries were reported and damage was kept to a minimum.

Estimated 4,000 pigs killed in confinement fire in Wellman, Iowa

Thousands of pigs died in a fire at a hog confinement in southeast Iowa's Washington County.

The December 1st fire at the unsprinkled facility killed an estimated 4,000 pigs. The damaged building is considered a total loss. 


SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



CYNTHIA GIEDRAITIS
Regional Manager

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA,
OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

San Antonio City Council Approves Sprinkler Installation In Old High-Rise Buildings

The San Antonio, Texas City Council has approved a retroactive ordinance requiring 36 to 48 high-rise buildings in the city to retrofit with fire sprinklers. The high-rises were built before 1982, when a fire sprinkler ordinance began requiring them. San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood says the building owners will have 12 years to comply. 

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GREAT PLAINS REGION




ERIC GLEASON
Regional Manager

Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Best Practices for Marijuana Grow Facilities

At the Denver Marijuana Management Symposium hosted by the City of Denver, the Denver Fire Department stated that the best way to protect a grow facility is to have a fire sprinkler system.

Given the immense investment in grow facilities and the rapid nature that fire spreads, a cost-benefit-analysis would be fascinating to determine the benefits of stepping up to a full 13 system on a H3 hazard classification. 

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SOUTHWEST REGION



BRUCE LECAIR
Associate Director of Regional
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CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, NEW MEXICO, NEVADA,
ARIZONA

California Sprinkler Saves

October was a good month for fire sprinkler activations in California. Four activations were reported throughout the state.

October 12, Redwood City, CA – Possible arson fire at restaurant contained with help from sprinkler system.

October 17, Half Moon Bay, CA – Overnight fire at hardware store contained by sprinkler system.

October 19, Anaheim, CA – Sprinklers help contain night club fire just before

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Snoop Dog performance. No injuries were reported.

October 22, South Lake Tahoe, CA – Fire at refuse center confined to garbage truck by sprinkler system. ☺

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NORTHWEST REGION



SUZANNE MAYR
Regional Manager

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON,
WASHINGTON

Alaska borough helps remove financial barriers to fire sprinkler installations

The borough of Petersburg, Alaska is starting a new program that could make it easier for downtown businesses to install fire suppression sprinklers. The borough's assembly committed up to \$200,000 from the borough's economic fund to guarantee low-interest loans for downtown building owners to put in sprinkler systems. The fire chief of this fishing town of 3,000, located on the northwest end of Mitkof Island midway between Juneau and Ketchikan, came up with the idea. The borough has seen several large fires in the past in its densely-built downtown business area. ☺

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■ NIBCO Expands Valve Offering Through Sure Seal Acquisition

NIBCO Inc. announced that it has acquired the assets of the Sure Seal product line from OPW Engineered Systems, Inc. The assets related to OPW's Transportation valve line will remain with OPW. The transaction was finalized on September 30, 2015.

Sure Seal specializes in the design and manufacture of industrial valves and components for any application requiring the safe and efficient processing, movement, control and storage of liquids. Sure Seal products include: high performance butterfly valves, lined ball valves, actuators, high-purity butterfly valves, sample valves and sanitary valves.

These products are used in the chemical, food processing, pulp and paper, water, high-purity liquids, brewery, steel processing, marine barge, ship building, and pharmaceutical industries.

Visit NIBCO.com for information on the complete line of NIBCO products.

■ Viking New FM Approved Dry ELO Pendent Sprinklers Reduce Costs of Cold Storage Fire Protection Systems

The Viking Corporation is pleased to introduce a new line of FM Approved, dry pendent sprinklers with a K-factor of 11.2 (161). As the only FM Approved dry pendent sprinklers with an extra-large orifice, these new sprinklers may allow for a reduced overall water demand in many cold storage applications, particularly where ceiling heights are 35 ft. (10.5 m) and below. By reducing water supply requirements, Viking's new dry ELO sprinklers can help lower system costs by possibly eliminating the need for a fire pump and reducing the size of system piping and related components.

The dry ELO sprinklers are approved for a wide variety of applications including "ceiling only" protection of freezers and refrigerated warehouses, as well as protection of non-storage facilities. Featuring a fusible link operating element, the new sprinklers are a good fit for the food processing industry. Each dry ELO

model is available in 165°F, 205°F, and 280°F temperature ratings (74°C, 96°C, and 138°C), with the higher temperature-rated sprinklers able to better accommodate defrost cycles that are typically part of the regular maintenance schedule for coolers and freezers.

The new sprinklers are offered in both standard and quick response and in three styles; plain barrel, standard adjustable, and recessed adjustable. Customers can order the new ELO dry sprinklers in 6 inch (153 mm) increments, from 12 to 48 inches (305 - 1220 mm). The new dry ELOs feature a 1-1/4 inch

NPT thread size (32 mm BSP). Standard finishes include brass, chrome, and white. As a convenience,

Viking will include one insulating boot assembly for each standard and recessed adjustable model ordered, and two insulating boots with the plain barrel version.

For more information on Viking's complete line of fire protection products and services, please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800.968.9501.

■ Potter Announces Acquisition

Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC announces the acquisition of three mainstay product lines in the fire alarm industry: Harrington Fire Alarm, Evax Systems, and CPG Signals. By incorporating the technologies of these products, Potter will expand its fire system and voice product lines, providing customers even greater access to the markets they serve.

Potter expects the transition of buying products from Harrington Signal, Inc. and Evax, Inc. to Potter to be relatively seamless. The customer service staffs of Harrington Signal, Inc., Evax, Inc. and Potter will be available to ensure that all new purchasing occurs without a glitch.

■ CASA – Ontario Regional Group 2015 Charity Golf

The 2015 CASA - Ontario Regional Group 2015 Charity Golf event was held on August 11th at the Cardinal Golf Course located in King, Ontario. The event gener-

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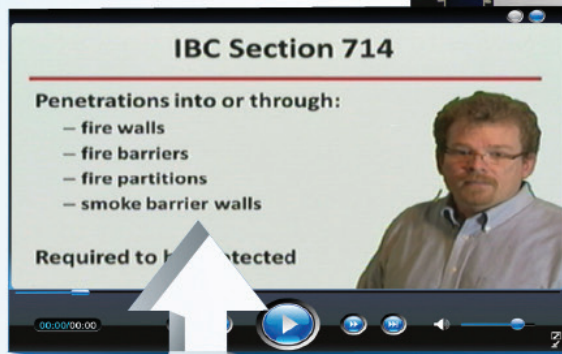
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SPRINKLING OF NEWS

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ated \$20,616.

The golf tournament in its 23rd year has raised over \$175,000 to support both Camp Bucko and SickKids Hospital Burn Unit.



(left to right) Scott Pugsley, Judy Lynch, Emily Clark, Debbie Tomasic, Patrick Howlett

■ Ferguson Fire & Fabrication acquires Atlantic American Fire Equipment Company and Action Fire Fab & Supply, Inc.

Ferguson Fire & Fabrication announces the acquisition of Atlantic American Fire Equipment Company.

Atlantic American Fire Equipment Company was founded in 1984 by Paul De Camara and Patrick Roche based on their vision of providing the best fire sprinkler system products and services in the market. Headquartered in Warrington, Pennsylvania, the company has grown to six strategically located warehouses serving a 13-state region from Maine to North Carolina.

Ferguson also announces the acquisition of Action Fire Fab & Supply, Inc. Ferguson Fire & Fabrication will conduct business from the former Action Fire Fab & Supply location as Ferguson Fire & Fabrication.

Action Fire Fab & Supply was established by fire protection contractor Ted M. Bolls, Sr. and his wife in 1986 in Fremont, California. They relocated the business to Tracy, California in 1990 after building the current facility.

■ Ahern Adds Fire Alarm Monitoring to Company Line

Ahern recently added fire alarm moni-

toring to the Company's line of facility fire protection services. The service is available to owners of all fire protection systems, regardless of who performed the original installation.

Ahern's fire alarm monitoring service includes a range of features that ensure quick response and comprehensive facility safety, including:

- 24/7 live monitoring
- Redundant, geo-diverse central stations across the U.S.
- Rigorous dispatcher training under supervision of an industrial psychologist
- UL-listed and FM-approved equipment and facilities

■ Powers® Announces Trak-It® C5 Pole Tool Accessory

The Powers C5 Trak-It Gas Operated Fastening System now offers the new C5 Pole Tool Accessory (56347) that will complement all Powers C5 tools. Predominantly used in the commercial carpentry industry for acoustical ceiling and ceiling wire installation, and by electricians for light fixture hanging, the C5 Pole Tool Accessory allows the use of the lightweight and quiet C5 gas concrete nailing system from Powers.

The C5 Pole Tool Accessory provides 8' of reach alone, while an extension (56348) is available for an extra 3' of length (sold separately). With a fully enclosed mechanism and no exposed wires, streamlined actuation of the C5 Trak-It nailer is achieved by squeezing on the handle of the Pole Tool Accessory. The C5 Trak-It nailer and Pole Tool Accessory are positioned so that the weight of the C5 Trak-It nailer is evenly distributed and well-balanced on the Pole Tool Accessory. The rigid construction of the Pole Tool Accessory helps to prevent bowing while a rubber over-mold handle and locking strap help to keep the tool secure in the user's hands. The Pole Tool Accessory can be stored conveniently in jobsite storage boxes in three pieces, making assembly and disassembly quick.

With the C5 Trak-It nailer, Pole Tool Accessory and a variety of Pins and Stick

E™ Clips available, Powers has the equipment to fasten to concrete, masonry, and steel. Available separately where Powers products are sold, the C5 Pole Tool holds 42 pins in the long track or 32 in the short track ranging from 1/2 - 1-1/2 inches in length for different types of concrete and substrates.

■ Victaulic Introduces FireLock® NXT Series 768N Dry Valve

Victaulic introduces the new FireLock® NXT Series 768N Dry Valve. Re-engineered by listening to customer's needs, the new dry valve provides simplified set-up and maintenance for fire protection contractors and fitters while still maintaining the core features and benefits of the original technology.

Continuing with Victaulic's NXT dry valve key features and benefits including low air pressure, single set points, smaller compressors and pre-set pressure switches, the following updates were made to the new and improved design:

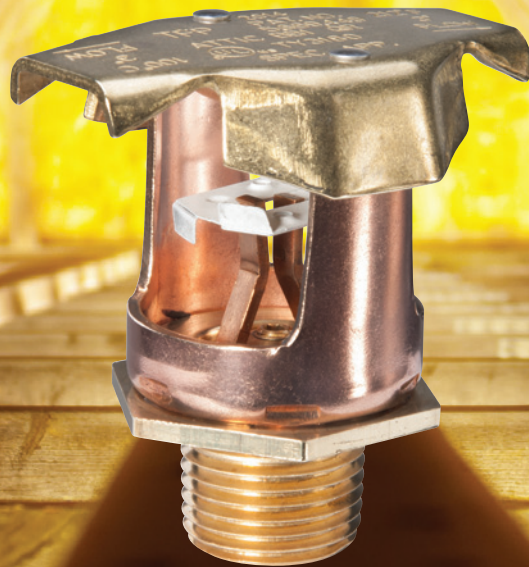
- Specifically engineered threads on the strainer cartridges for the air and priming manifolds make sure you never mix-up a strainer again.
- Trim divided by air (left) and water (right) lines, and brought to the sides to aide in accessibility.
- Clearly labeled manifolds reduce trim down to three manifold components - air, priming and alarm manifold, making it a simpler, lighter valve; including less components to install

In addition to the re-design, the new valve will also feature a QR code on the front of the valve, which will allow fitters to instantaneously access short videos on installation, set-up, and maintenance, complete installation instructions; and access to technical help with the push of a button (direct call linking to 1-800-Pick-Vic).

The FireLock NXT Series 768N Dry Valve is available in sizes 1 1/2 - 8 inches /40-200mm with up to 300 psi/2068 kPa /21 Bar.

For more information visit <http://www.victaulic.com>.

Knowledge You Can Count On. Pure Performance.

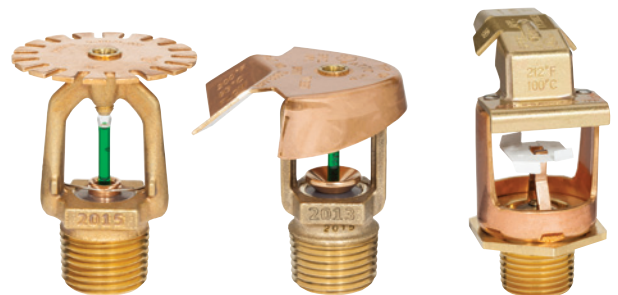


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Tyco's Specific Application Attic Sprinklers are the first sprinklers to be:

- Listed for extended coverage in combustible construction
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- Full-scale tested for use in wood truss construction
- Listed for specific roof slopes

For more information, contact your Tyco representative or visit www.Tyco-Fire.com/Attic.

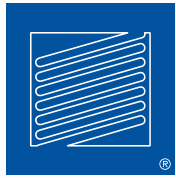


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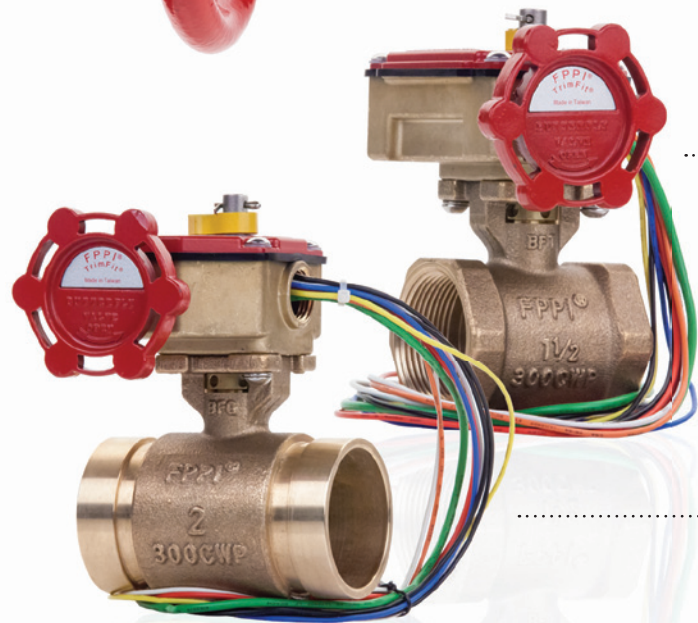


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*Model BFT 1¼ - 2½ are ULc listed.

California State Fire Marshal BML # 7770-2164:0100



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