

SQ



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- 2014 Annual Seminar Photo Essay
- State of the Industry
- Boat Storage Updated
- Attic Protection for Existing Board and Care

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ON THE COVER

This year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient Gregg Huennekens (I) of USA Fire Protection is presented with the award by the immediate past recipient Richard Ackley of Dalmatian Fire. The Golden Sprinkler Award is NFSA's highest honor and presented each year during the association's Annual Seminar.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



With this year's Annual Seminar now already in the rear view mirror and members all back to the business of, well, running a business, it's a good time to take a few minutes to reflect on the many memories forged in the Bahamas. Since this was the second time NFSA hosted an Annual Seminar at Atlantis, the first being back in 2008, the experience for many members in attendance this year was not a new one. But for those who made the visit for the first time, tell me, weren't you impressed by the magnificence, the enormity of the facility? Wasn't the water park one of the best you have been to anywhere, much less one at a hotel. And wasn't nature's beauty surrounding Paradise Island spectacular? I remember vividly my visit back in 2008 being quite awe inspiring, bringing a smile to my face as I write. To relive your experience, take a few minutes and visit the NFSA website where you'll find photos taken from all over the island throughout the conference. Enjoy them while you reflect on the time you spent there with family and friends.

While I have you thinking about the Annual Seminar, let me take time to remind you that it is not too early to start planning to attend next year's annual seminar. Even though by the time you are reading this letter the conference will likely still be nine months out, mark the calendar now for **April 30 - May 2, 2015**. That's when NFSA will be hosting its **Annual Seminar and 2nd North American Fire Sprinkler Expo®**. It will be held at Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort, a grand property located in Orlando, Florida, just minutes away from all the attractions that have made the area famous. Since this will be an exhibition year conference, right now is the time for all suppliers and manufacturers who are serious about reaching key decision makers in the fire sprinkler industry to reserve exhibit booth space in the show. Since space for the exhibition will sell out early, NFSA's show management firm Exhibit Promotions Plus is prepared to confirm your space right now. Don't be disappointed by waiting too long. Make plans now! 📅

David J. Vandeyar
David J. Vandeyar, Editor



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calendar

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July 15-17, 2014	Inspection & Testing for the Fire Sprinkler Industry	Woodland, California
July 30, 2014	Pumps for Fire Protection	West Haven, Connecticut
August 4-15, 2014	Two Week Layout Tech Training	Patterson, New York
August 12, 2014	Pumps for Fire Protection	Riverside, Missouri
August 13, 2014	Fire Service Mains & Their Appurtenances	Riverside, Missouri
August 19, 2014	Protecting Storage of Exposed Plastics	ONLINE
August 19-20, 2014	ITM: Navigating through the Liability Minefield	Shrewsbury, Missouri
Sep. 3–Oct. 29, 2014	Spacing & Location of Sprinklers Distance Learning	ONLINE
September 9, 2014	Sprinkler System Installation Requirements	Dayton, Ohio
September 10, 2014	Fire Service Mains & Their Appurtenances	Dayton, Ohio
September 11, 2014	Standpipe Systems for Fire Protection Systems	Dayton, Ohio
September 16, 2014	Room Design Method	ONLINE
September 19, 2014	Residential Homes to High-Rise	Vancouver, Washington
September 23, 2014	Understanding, Applying and Enforcing NFPA 25	Stow, Massachusetts
September 23-24, 2014	Sprinkler Protection of Storage	Rogers, Arkansas
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2014 NFSA State of the Industry Address



Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

Editor's note: This From the President's Desk article is an edited version of the State of the Industry Address delivered May 8th by NFSA President Russell Fleming during this year's Annual Seminar held at Atlantis.

In addition to congratulating all of this year's award recipients, I'd like to say a few words in particular about Joel Pastolove, one of our Hall of Fame inductees. In the lead-up to this conference I've mentioned that this will be my 40th consecutive NFSA Annual Seminar. In August I'll reach my 39th anniversary at the Association, but the seminar numbers are a bit higher because years ago we switched our annual seminars from the Fall to the Spring.

In spite of this longevity, I can tell you that Joel Pastolove's main involvement with the Association was before my time. He rose through the officer positions and completed his term as Chairman of the Board before I was ever hired. Most notable among his contributions is the fact that he chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Future Activities in the early 1970's, and was able to oversee implementation of the new plan when he was subsequently elected Chairman of the Board in 1972. The plan, which we can call the Pastolove Plan, set up separate Contractors and Manufacturers Councils with individual spheres of activities, but united in a single Association to represent the entire fire sprinkler industry. This set the stage for NFSA to serve as "the voice of the fire sprinkler industry." To a great extent, it was his foresight that established an organizational system that has allowed the NFSA to grow and prosper over the past 40 years. So thank you Joel.

One of the roles of the Contractors Council was to oversee a Field Representative program. The need for such a program was in recognition of the fact that we are an industry both regulated at the state and local level, and dependent at the state and local level for the building and fire code adoptions that have become

the main driver of the fire sprinkler market.

At the time the Pastolove Plan was implemented, it was hoped that the Association could grow to support the efforts of a field representative for each of seven geographical areas of the United States. Contractor dues in the form of cents per manhour were first introduced to fund the support of field representatives, later known as Regional Managers. In fact, we have gone on to far exceed the original expectations for this program. Today, our Regional Operations program involves 16 staff members, 19 if you count the three individuals wholly funded by local Industry Promotion Funds.

Let's switch gears for a minute and take a look at the economic activity of our industry over the past 25 years, using the indicator of total sprinkler shipments. I'm pleased to announce that our Sprinkler Manufacturer's Council recently agreed that, while the raw numbers will remain confidential, they are authorizing the release of a "sprinkler shipment index" that will be posted quarterly in the Members Only section of the NFSA website. It will use average sprinkler shipments from 2010, the worst year of the recent recession, as the base figures, and express each quarter in terms of that index, so that the percentage growth can be tracked for residential sprinklers, other types of sprinklers, and total sprinkler shipments. NFSA members will be able to compare their growth to the U.S. industry as a whole.

The total sprinkler shipments tell the story of the past 6 years, back to when NFSA was here at the Atlantis for its 2008 Annual Seminar. We followed the general economy down into the abyss, and are gradually working our way out of it, but we are still more than 20% below the industry activity levels of 2006 and 2007.

Because the NFSA income rises and falls with the level of industry activity, the Association is operating with 80% of the budget it had in 2008. Despite this fact, it is noteworthy that we have more "boots on the ground" in Regional Operations than

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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we did then or at any time prior. At the same time, we have been able to return NFSA finances into the black.

One of the benefits of a strong field program, and one of the best indicators of a healthy association, is a growth in chapters, and that is what we are seeing today. Earlier this morning you heard from some of our chapters, including some that are new or reactivated. In February the Board approved the charters for two new chapters, and we have two more on the agenda for our June meeting. This is a positive sign for the NFSA, and a tribute to how hard our Regional Managers are out there working on behalf of the fire sprinkler industry.

The NFSA Board is increasingly aware of the need to work with its chapters and local leaders in the development of policies and strategies for individual cities and states, and the current effort to develop local strategies for improving the adoption and enforcement of NFPA 25 is a prime example. Coming onto the staff as the Director of Inspection, Testing and Maintenance (ITM) at the beginning of 2013, Jason Webb has done a truly outstanding job in working with our Board's ITM Committee to map out a strategy for improving the adoption and enforcement of NFPA 25 around the country. I've had contractors tell me their companies would not have survived the recession without the growth in ITM work. At the same time, proper inspection, testing and maintenance is vital to maintaining confidence in sprinkler system performance among code writers and other regulators.

For this reason, I would list "Continuing the push toward proper system IT&M" as the first of our major industry opportunities.

The second major industry opportunity is "Realizing the potential of the dwelling sprinkler market." We have talked about this over the years, recognizing the potential to double the number of sprinklers installed in this country each year. We won the battle to require sprinklers in single-family dwellings in the International Residential Code back in 2009, but we underestimated the influence of homebuilders in the state-by-state adoption process. In some instances, the case of sprinklers was set back, as states enacted legislation preventing individual communities from adopting fire sprinkler ordinances.

The NFSA continues to fight this battle on a number of fronts. We were successful this year in maintaining the base requirement for dwelling sprinklers in the 2015 edition of the IRC, but may need to work even harder to defend it in the 2018 edition, when electronic voting procedures to be implemented by the International Code Council may make it easier for the homebuilders to rally the opposition.

This past Friday there was a meeting of the Residential Sprinkler Coalition's Summit Group in Washington, DC, the group in which NFSA works with allied fire organizations to plot a strategy for adoption of the dwelling sprinkler requirement. NFSA was represented by four of our most involved staff members, along with Kevin Fee of Reliable, who chairs the Board's Residential Committee. NFSA is playing a leadership role in this group, developing new strategies along with current ones.

We need to learn what works and what doesn't. It should not surprise us that the two states that have fully implemented the IRC dwelling requirement are states with a long history of working with residential sprinklers, a history of city-by-city and county-by-county adoptions: California and Maryland. Having

the infrastructure in place in the way of a delivery system not only helps assure legislators that the supply is there to satisfy the demand, but it also educates builders over time as to what is involved in fire sprinkler protection, lessening their anxiety and resistance. For this reason, we need to work to restore the ability of local communities in all states to have their home rule rights when it comes to residential sprinklers.

We also need to work harder to bring to the attention of lawmakers the fact that relaxations were made in the IRC on the basis that dwellings were going to be sprinklered. States that have adopted the IRC without the sprinkler requirement are actually allowing homes to be constructed less safely than in the past.

In spite of all the frustrations related to the IRC adoption battle, we should not lose sight of the fact that we are winning this war. Looking at the indices of sprinkler shipments, it can be seen that shipments of residential sprinklers are increasing at a much greater rate than other types of sprinklers, and at a rate

"One of the benefits of a strong field program, and one of the best indicators of a healthy association, is a growth in chapters, and that is what we are seeing today."

exceeding that for total spending on residential construction, housing starts, or single-family housing starts. The reason is that there has been tremendous growth in multi-family housing starts, a market in which the fire sprinkler industry made its greatest gains in the 1990s. In this regard the sprinkler industry is well-positioned, since there is a current demographic shift in the United States toward urban areas. For the first time in our nation's history, rural counties are losing population in spite of a growing total population.

A third area of opportunity is in the international arena, assisting the growing international acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. While you may think that this is an opportunity for manufacturers and suppliers more than contractors, I have been surprised by the number of NFSA member contractors who have told me they are now following their customers around the world as well as around the country. The effects of globalization are increasing the demand for fire sprinkler systems worldwide. While there has been much publicity regarding the pressures on the middle class in the United States, many countries in the world are seeing a growth in their middle class. As prosperity increases, less attention is paid to the base requirements of

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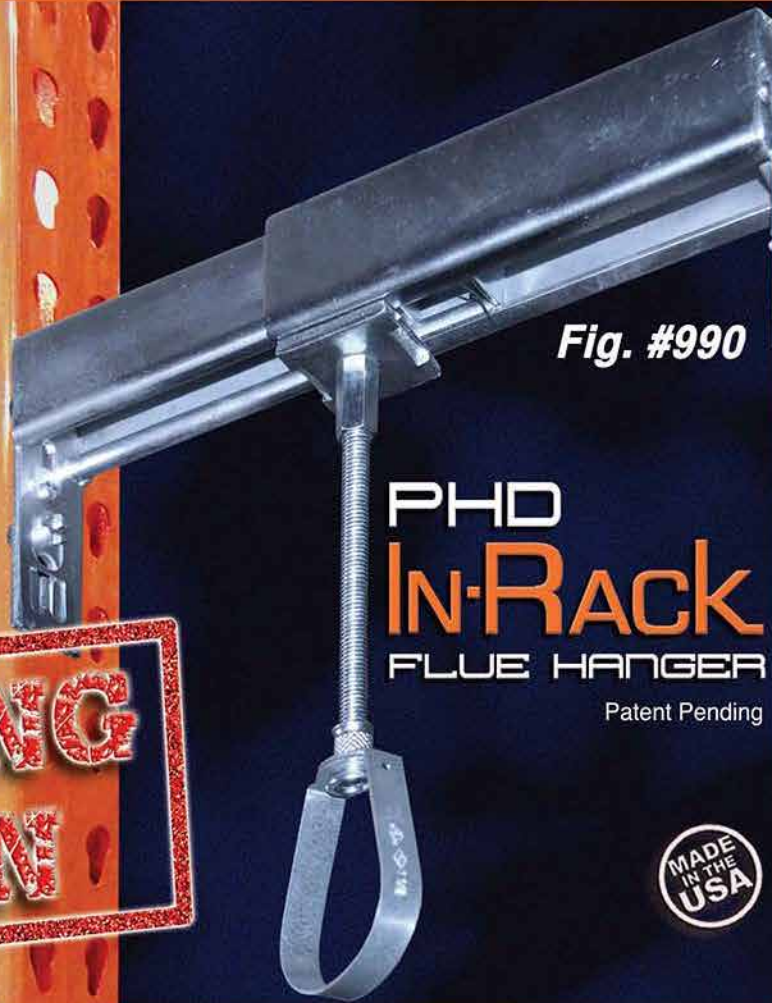
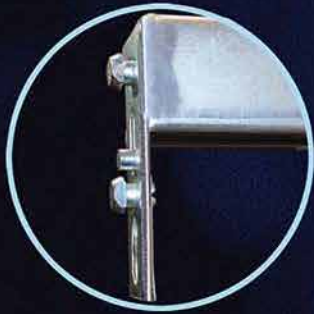


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physiological needs, and more to issues such as safety. Whether it is the nightclub fire in Brazil, the loss of the airliner in Malaysia, or the ferry accident in South Korea, we see news clips of the citizens of those countries demanding that their governments take action. Fire safety, and fire sprinkler systems in particular, are needed.

Finally, I believe there is a fourth major area of opportunity for the fire sprinkler industry: Capitalizing on the use of water as the natural solution to fire. Efforts to produce environmentally acceptable materials are increasingly relying on the use of chemical flame retardants, which are considered a major potential health hazard. Flame retardants are showing up in human breast milk, and have been linked to childhood hyperactivity and reduced intelligence.

Environmental concerns will have their challenges as well, such as more attention to the amounts of water used in system testing, especially in drought-stricken areas. Water conservation measures placed on sprinkler systems in Australia may hold a key to our own future, and it may well be that future system testing involves using water from on-site holding tanks. But in the long run, the fire sprinkler industry will benefit from environmental concerns, including the finding by FM Research that fires quickly suppressed by sprinkler systems generate 98% less greenhouse gases than nonsprinklered fires.

Some of our major challenges going forward, however, are in areas we have taken for granted. This year marks the 25th anniversary of NFPA 13R, the standard that bridged the gap between traditional NFPA 13 sprinkler systems and NFPA 13D dwelling sprinkler systems. Without NFPA 13R we would not be enjoying the surge in multifamily housing construction. But NFPA 13R systems are causing increasing concern for our friends in the fire service and elsewhere. While the goal of 13R systems has always been to provide life safety rather than property protection, the large number of property losses resulting from fire getting into nonsprinklered attic areas has led to at least one state, Massachusetts, limiting the size of buildings for which NFPA 13R can be used. A typical scenario involves smokers going outside a building and carelessly discarding cigarettes into dry mulch adjacent to the building, from which a fire develops to spread up the exterior of the building and into the attic. We have received information that a report will soon be forthcoming from the NFPA documenting the number of 13R fires nationwide and the losses involved in recent years.

In response to this concern, we have asked our friends at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to investigate the value of some type of exterior sprinklers to be used at the eave line, perhaps dry sprinklers extending from the interior sprinkler system, that could provide some degree of protection against the upward spread of fire. They are currently constructing a test house for the investigation of fire fighting techniques, and are looking into this additional testing possibility.

A second challenge is ensuring building owners and AHJs that sprinkler systems are not problematic. The number of freeze-ups of sprinkler systems during this past severe winter caught the attention of code officials and insurance industry representatives alike. While some of our members no doubt appreciated the extra work that the freeze-ups entailed, our

industry can not afford to allow a situation in which the costs associated with having a sprinkler system outweigh the costs associated with not having one. To that end we have begun reaching out to the insulation contracting industry, to ensure that they are aware of proper insulation techniques to be used with fire sprinkler systems. Many insulation contractors do not have a great deal of experience with fire sprinkler systems, and attempt to treat them like other piping systems that contain liquids normally under flow conditions.

We have reached out to various associations of insulation contractors to get on the programs of their own annual conferences, and will push for a greater degree of training and communication between the two industries, so that these problems can be reduced in the future.

A third challenge we will be facing is defending our nonresidential market. This surfaced at a conference of the Signaling Systems section of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association at which I was invited to speak. The question was raised as to how both the alarm and sprinkler industries were going to be able to defend their building code markets during a time in which fewer than 100 people per year die in this country in nonresidential fires.

To a great extent, we are victims of our own success, for it is true that the average number of civilian fire deaths per year in nonresidential structure fires has steadily dropped as we have achieved more and more building code mandates for sprinkler systems. Here are the statistics from the NFPA:

Late 1970's	247 deaths/yr
1980's	237 deaths/yr
1990's	177 deaths/yr
2000's	102 deaths/yr
2010's	82 deaths/yr

People, including code writers, have short memories, and we will need to remind them that it is because of the sprinkler systems that there aren't more tragic losses like the Station Nightclub fire in 2003 that claimed 100 lives and is included in the above averages.

What still does average above 100 deaths per year, however, are the number of firefighters that die in the line of duty in this country each year, most of which take place in residential occupancies. And while civilian deaths, especially in single-family dwellings, can often be attributed to personal responsibility, firefighter deaths cannot. While some decry dwelling sprinkler requirements as evidence of a nanny state at work, protecting firefighters is definitely in the public interest, since the burden of injured and killed firefighters is spread among all of society.

To that end, I was glad to have taken the advice of NFSA's Director of Public Fire Protection Vickie Pritchett and attended the "Tampa 2" conference recently hosted by the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. This conference was in follow-up to a conference held 10 years ago to reduce firefighter deaths and ensure that "Everyone Goes Home." Support of fire sprinklers was among the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives endorsed

at that time, and remains a priority with our friends in the fire service.

Those of you who have read the 2013 staff report, either in print or at the NFSA website, recognize that it was a tremendously productive year for the Association. I am extremely proud of the many accomplishments of our staff.


One of the many goals for the year that was achieved was the selection of a new Executive Vice President, filling a position that has been vacant since I was elected President of the Association in February of 2012. Nearly a hundred candidates applied for the position, a dozen of which were additionally screened as top prospects. Today I am pleased to announce that Shane Ray, NFSA's former Director of Public Fire Protection, will be returning to the Association in July to assume this role. Shane left the NFSA several years ago to serve as Training Director for the South Carolina Fire Marshal's office, and was elevated last year to the position of State Fire Marshal. What excites me the most about this appointment is that Shane has extensive roots in and contacts with the nation's fire service, which will allow the fire sprinkler industry to use its longstanding relationship with the fire service to best advantage.

Shane Ray will assist the effort to improve the Association in the three areas I identified when I was first elected President: transparency, simplicity and fairness. The NFSA has come a

long way in these areas over the past two years, but there is still progress to be made. The NFSA can only be great when every member of the Association is assured they are a valued partner, and that they are getting a positive return on their investment in this organization.

Which leads us to my fourth and final industry challenge: Finding the model for Association activities that will work for the next 40 years. We must use our knowledge of how the Association has benefitted the industry over the past 40 years to shape it in a way that will allow it to prosper and serve for the next 40 years.

As an Association, we are addressing both our opportunities and our challenges. And it can be easily seen that our opportunities are much greater than our challenges, which promises great things for the future.

Thank you for your continued support of this Association and the work it performs to advance the fire sprinkler concept. 



Russell P. Fleming, *President*



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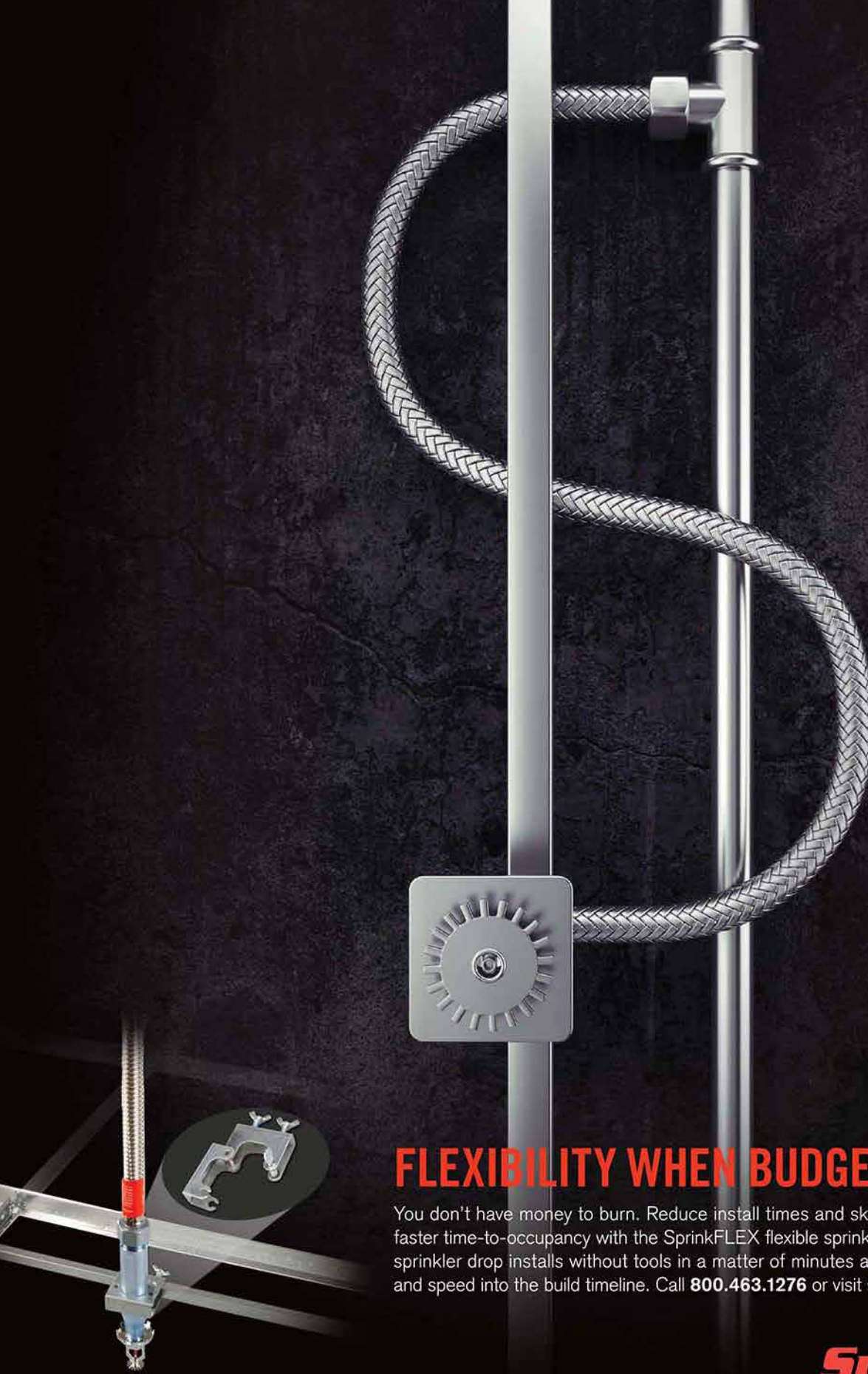
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7 Fun Tenets of Business That You Can Apply to Life

by David M. Smith

Within the first five years of a small-business venture, about half do not survive, according to the government's Small Business Administration. And after 10 years, only a third are still around.

Successful entrepreneurship hits the bulls eye of the American dream, but most simply do not make it.

You don't have to have extravagant wealth or a degree from Harvard to make it; a successful business requires essentially the same thing for a successful life – *perspective*.

Here are some common denominators for success:

- Aim at nothing and you always hit it. If you're like me - perhaps with a touch of ADD and someone who wants to do too many things than you have time for - this is a helpful aphorism. Not every idea that comes to mind should be pursued; be very selective with your time, and when you go after something, go full-throttle.
- You cannot win on the defensive in business or any other endeavor. Don't think in terms of defense; instead, think of counterattack. To take a defensive position on anything means that you have conceded at least some of your position.
- Work toward optimal employment for everyone in your company. At least once a year, I have a one-on-one discussion with every person in our companies - a renegotiation to hopefully renew employment for a longer period. This adds an important personal touch and attention to detail. Of course, the same approach will offer an excellent return in your personal relationships, too.
- Keep in mind Union Pacific's motto: "Safety is my responsibility." Safety should always rank high in your priorities; it's easy to take it for granted until

a catastrophe happens. Texmark celebrates more than 25 years without a production-halting accident - a remarkable record in the industry.

- Organize projects, planning and profit action with at least three people, but never more than five. You need a point person for the meeting and at least two compatible partners - more than five people gums up the process. Meet weekly; the point man should set priorities and is most responsible for action.
- People chemistry is more important than process chemistry. Just as you must have a process for making chemicals built around operating conditions that are best for the desired chemical products, so too should you have the right chemistry of people working together. The right chemistry is trickier than you think.
- Promote voluntary participation regarding medical benefits and thrift and savings plans. It's always best to put individuals in charge of their health and financial destiny - to let people consciously choose their plans. Monolithic systems arbitrarily imposed by institutions are the beginning of stagnated individual responsibility.

David M. Smith is the author of "The Texas Spirit," www.TheTexasSpiritBook.com (2014; Halcyon Press). He's the founder and owner of Chemical Exchange, Inc. and Texmark Chemicals of Galena Park, Texas. An El Paso native, he attended the University of Texas in Austin. Early in his career, he moved east to Houston and established himself in the petrochemical industry. His new book, "The Texas Spirit," features a series of essays about the ways in which the United States can benefit from Texas' example, including economic models and moral fiber. ①



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JULY 15, 2014

SHADOW AREAS

BY ROLAND ASP, C.E.T.

The NFPA sprinkler standards do not require water to physically spray on every square foot of floor area in a building. Obstructions such as columns, wing walls and partitions are allowed to exist which create small areas within the sprinkler's coverage area where water may not directly fall. This presentation will discuss the limitations and allowances of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D with respect to this feature that sometimes occurs in sprinkler system layout.

AUGUST 19, 2014

PROTECTING STORAGE OF EXPOSED PLASTICS

BY KENNETH E. ISMAN, P.E.

For many years, NFPA 13 has had criteria for protecting some arrangements of exposed plastics, but not for all storage heights and types of storage. In the 2013 edition, new criteria was added for protection of rack storage of exposed unexpanded plastics. For the 2016 edition of the standard, criteria for protecting exposed expanded plastics stored on racks is being discussed based on some new successful full-scale fire tests. This presentation will summarize the requirements as they stand now and provide a preview of the requirements likely to be in the 2016 edition of the standard.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

ROOM DESIGN METHOD

BY JEFF HUGO, C.B.O.

When performing hydraulic calculations, it is always important to answer the question, "How many sprinklers are going to open if there is a fire in this occupancy?" NFPA 13 provides a number of different ways to answer this question, including the Room Design Method, which basically assumes every sprinkler in the room will open. Of course, this assumes that the walls of the room will be sufficiently fire resistant to keep the fire in the room. This program will discuss all of the rules of the Room Design Method including the requirements for finding the most demanding room, the requirements for the fire resistance of the walls, and the allowances for openings to other rooms.

OCTOBER 21, 2014

HIGH CEILINGS, STEP CEILINGS AND CEILING POCKETS

BY VICTORIA B. VALENTINE, P.E.

Not every ceiling is a flat, smooth, horizontal ceiling. Those ceilings with unusual configurations need clear rules for where to place the sprinklers. This program will discuss the standardized method that NFPA 13 uses to determine sprinkler spacing and location for a number of unusual ceiling configurations.

NOVEMBER 18, 2014

PROTECTION OF AEROSOL STORAGE

BY BOB UPSON

NFPA 30B has its own rules regarding the protection of aerosol storage with fire sprinklers. Discharge criteria is provided in a series of tables that reference the level of hazard of the aerosol as well as the type of sprinkler at the ceiling and whether or not additional sprinklers will be needed in the racks. This seminar will explain the different levels of hazards of aerosols and summarize the information in the tables so that the user will be able to determine sprinkler discharge criteria for palletized, solid pile and rack storage of aerosol products.

DECEMBER 16, 2014

PROTECTION OF AIRCRAFT HANGARS - PART 2

BY JIM LAKE

Last year, the NFSA covered the water-based fire protection system (water only sprinklers, foam-water sprinklers, and foam system) criteria for Group I Hangars from NFPA 409. This program will pick up where the last program left off and cover the water-based fire protection system requirements for Group II, Group III and Group IV hangars. New to the 2011 edition of NFPA 409 was a separate chapter on the protection of hangars specifically designed for unfueled aircraft. This program will also cover that new chapter in NFPA 409.

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Plan Review and Final Inspection Seminars Provide Key Information for AHJs

By James D. Lake

As we know the key to any successful sprinkler system installation and the best possible way to ensure consistency in enforcement is to have a well-educated and informed code enforcer.

With that in mind, NFSA has developed two new seminars in 2014 that focus on the installation process before and after the installation. They are Sprinkler System Plan Review and Rough and Final Inspection of Fire Sprinkler Systems.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM PLAN REVIEW

This two-day seminar provides attendees with vital information on how to conduct the plan review process for water-based fire protection systems.

Utilizing the requirements of NFPA 13 the participant will be guided through an actual review of sprinkler system plans and calculations. They will discuss the importance of employing a systematic review process and identify the documents required for a complete plan review. Finally they will review a submittal of hydraulic calculations presented with the plans and discuss the process of hydraulic calculations and identify the key pieces of information presented and the common errors that are made.

At the conclusion of this seminar the participant will be able to:

1. Apply the requirements for Plan Review in NFPA 13
2. Discuss the importance of a

systematic review process

3. Identify the documents required for a complete plan review process
4. Correlate the requirements for plan review with the requirements in other chapters of NFPA 13
5. Evaluate the hydraulic calculations presented with a set of working plans submitted for review and approval

ROUGH AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

New for 2014 is this one-day seminar that provides attendees with vital information on how to conduct the field inspections for new fire sprinkler and standpipe systems.

Fire sprinklers and standpipes are installed in stages and inspections are required before commencing to the next stage. The codes require periodic on-site inspections as the work progresses, to be installed according to the approved construction documents. This work is required to be inspected and approved before being covered or before the system is commissioned. This course points out the visual and physical inspection requirements of the latest codes and standards.

At the conclusion of this seminar the participant will be able to:

1. Compare the actual fire sprinkler installation with approved construction documents and current codes and standards.
2. Recognize the duties of the inspector through on-site evaluations

of the installed systems.

3. Employ contemporary techniques of field inspections.
4. Understand the stages of fire sprinkler installation and the need to correlate and interact with contractors and the authorities having jurisdiction.

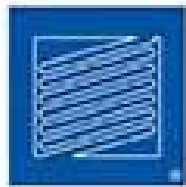
Taken individually each seminar provides a wealth of information for the AHJ in performing the tasks at hand. Taken as a pair the learning outcomes for each seminar complement each other and provide a complete overview of the process of ensuring that a sprinkler systems is both designed and installed properly. A balanced approach ensures fair enforcement, is good for business and is the key to the continued high level of success of fire sprinklers.

Check out our website www.nfsa.org to see when these seminars will be in your area.📍



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Boat Storage Updated

By Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

Many areas have facilities and marinas that store boats indoors. This may be during the off-season or just when the vessels are not in use. However, proper protection of this type of area has to consider that boats come in many shapes and sizes. In addition, boat storage can also occur in a variety of arrangements. When protecting a boat storage facility with fire sprinklers numerous variables need to be considered such as the materials of the boats themselves, if there is fuel stored in the boats, the geometry of the boats, and the arrangement of the boats in the building. An article "Storage of Boats" summarized the criteria based on information available in 2004 as many of the common sources for fire protection information do not explicitly discuss protection of boats. This article will update what has been modified in the last decade.

Commodity Classification

Questions regarding hazard or commodity classification are difficult except in those circumstances where some NFPA occupancy committee has specifically addressed the issue. This certainly is not a clear cut case for boats. As already noted, there are options for materials and an array of geometries that boats can have when stored. For this article, commodities will be discussed as the storage of boats indoors could be paralleled to other storage protection criteria. The authorities

having jurisdiction should be involved in the discussion of protecting boat storage facilities as there is not a single standardized protection scheme available.

Some storage areas may be all one kind of boat. Others could contain a variety of styles. However, even where similar vessels are stored there could still be differences among them such as length. Average recreational boats that get stored range from 20 feet long to approximately 80 feet long. The smaller end of this range can easily be stored in rack structures, whereas larger boats are often stored floor level on a supporting structure so that they sit upright. When rack structures are used, they can store the boats inverted or right side up. The planned arrangement will play a large role in selecting the fire protection scheme just as it does with other stored products. Depending on site specifics, parallels have been drawn to automobile parking garages or even aircraft hangars.

Historically, boats were wooden vessels. Yet, currently boats are made from wood, aluminum, fiberglass, amongst others, all with different flame spreads and heat release rates. These materials span those typically found in Class III through Group A plastics in NFPA 13 criteria for commodity classification. Technology has advanced through the applicability of materials and reinforcing products such that it may even be more common to see a combination of materials used in any single boat. This can make determining a commodity more challenging. The amount by weight

or volume of different substances may only be a portion of the challenge. Have additives been used? Have fire retardants been used? Will fire actually propagate through all of the layers? Will the same vessels be stored regularly? The options continue and present the difficulty in selecting the protection scheme for a building.

Another variable is the wrapping of a boat. It is common, especially in colder climates, to shrink wrap the top of the boat so that it remains clean during storage. Yet, this is additional plastic material being stored and alters the surface exposure of the boat should there be a nearby fire. One of the important considerations is the amount of fuel in the space. The less fuel in any compartment will produce a smaller and more finite fire.

The final discussion point for the commodity of the boats is their geometry. A vessel's geometry has many variables. Simple boats have a single plane and minimal depth. Their hull, or exterior surface that contacts the water when afloat, is often made of multi-layer construction incorporating materials

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



NFSA's Director of
Product Standards

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

that are lightweight for floatation. The other end of the spectrum has boats with cabins, interior spaces, and, in some cases, multiple levels. In the situation of a fire, this could lead to a deep seeded fire that would be quite involved by the time water or another agent was applied. Fixed seating, specifically on an exposed deck, can also increase the number of surfaces that would be exposed during a fire scenario. Sometimes coatings are applied to the exterior surface of a boat, which could impact how readily ignition and fire spread could occur. The variety of shapes and sizes shows that building owners need to know what will be stored in a building to ensure appropriate protection of it from fire hazards.

Storage Arrangements

Identifying the commodity alone is not enough. The manner in which the boats are stored will also impact the fire protection scheme needed. Larger boats that get stored indoors can often be correlated to other types of storage on the floor. One challenge with this arrangement is when the boats get larger there are often many interior compartments. If a fire were to begin in the interior compartments it could be shielded from the protection provided in the building. This may fit NFPA 13 Section 5.4.2, which describes extra hazard group 2 as "occupancies where shielding of combustibles is extensive."

There have also been situations where single layer floor storage with small to medium sized boats has been paralleled to automobile storage. One of the major differences is the construction materials of the building as a parking garage is typically concrete with specific requirements from the building codes for parking structures. Although some fuel is expected with automobiles, where this analogy is used, the boats being stored should be reviewed for the amount of fuel that they may be storing.

In other cases, larger vessels being stored have been compared to storing aircraft. Hangars often comply with NFPA 409, Standard on Aircraft Hangars. Yet again, aircraft hangars have varying classifications based on the size of aircraft being stored, whether or not there will

be fuel stored, and the function of the building. These variables should be considered if a parallel protection scheme is being planned to make sure the scenarios really align.

For those structures that are an open style with only a roof, found more commonly in warmer climates, there are additional environmental variables such as wind. These cases may be able to apply protection criteria from *NFPA 15, Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection*. The fixed spray systems are used in situations where protection is applied over surface areas such as with tanks or transformers. They are often used in outdoor situations. The necessary densities will still have to be determined, but the approach of using water spray nozzles on the surfaces is similar to water spray protection of other structures that contend with exterior conditions.

Another consideration with the storage arrangement is the orientation of the boats. Will they be stored upright or inverted? Although the amount of fuel in the space would be the same, the orientation of the boats could affect fire growth. In addition, where the boats are stored upright, water could be collected in the vessels when the sprinkler system discharges. In most cases, boats are stored with their drain plugs pulled so that moisture and water could drain as needed. However, it will not drain at an equal rate to the discharge of the system. Therefore, when stored upright in racks, the loads that the racks can support should be reviewed acknowledging that the water is not a permanent load for the rack, but collection could occur during a



fire incident.

Whether boats are arranged in a single layer across the floor of a space or stored in racks, one benefit for the fire protection is that large aisles are needed to accommodate equipment to move the boat from storage to the water, trailers, or other transportation modes. In the situation of rack storage, large aisles are still necessary so that the boats can be moved in and out of the racks. These aisle spaces help to minimize where the fire is able to spread should an incident occur.

Fire Protection Criteria

There are local regulations that require a building used for storage, including storage of boats, to have a fire sprinkler system. From the above, it is easy to see that the local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) will need to be involved in the dis-

cussions choosing the hazard/commodity and the appropriate water density. This is especially true because NFPA 13 has stated in Table A.5.6 that boat storage, specifically when stored on racks, is not a commodity addressed by the standard.

NFPA 303, *Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards*, states that boatyard buildings over 5000 ft² (465 m²) must have an automatic fixed fire extinguishing system. In addition, in-rack boat storage is noted to require an approved automatic fire extinguishing system unless it is less than 5000 ft² (465 m²) and meets specific fire alarm requirements. One option is to use a fire sprinkler system, but other types of automatic systems could be used as well. When a fire sprinkler system is selected, NFPA 303 advises in the annex that Group A plastics are the recommended commodity class when following the storage criteria in NFPA 13. This is a judgment of the materials currently used along with minimal loss experience data; no full scale testing was done to validate this recommendation. In addition, it is noted that where boats are stored on racks they should be treated as solid shelves in the racks.

If the boats are stored without racks, it may be possible to use the criteria in NFPA 13 for solid pile storage. Following the decision tree in Chapter 15 for Group A plastics, the type of boats will vary the path. It may be possible to use the concept of a "solid unit load" to represent the boats and then Column A would apply from Table 15.2.6(a) or Table 15.2.6(b). Depending on the heights of the boats and the ceiling height of the storage space the required density would be from 0.2 gpm/ft² (8.2 mm/min) to 0.6 gpm/ft² (24.4 mm/min). The minimum calculation area for these design densities would be 2500 ft² (232 m²). To use the solid unit load concept, the boats should be mostly solid. Larger vessels with interior compartments, which have the possibility of a deep seeded fire, should not be viewed as "solid."

The Fire Protection Research Foundation did study the subject of boat storage. The report "Marina and Boatyard Indoor Storage Sprinkler Protection" is available from their website. This literature review

provided insights on the fire risks of boat storage, but did not involve any full scale testing to provide specific design criteria for water-based systems.

Where boats are stored on racks, a Class I standpipe system is also required. The standpipe system needs to be in accordance with *NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*. This will assist the fire department should they be responding to a boat storage fire as many storage areas are remote and a standpipe system can reduce the time it takes to set up the lines to combat the impinging fire.

Other types of fire protection systems could be used, such as water spray systems, foam-water sprinkler systems, high-expansion foam, or clean agents. Determining the specific design criteria is no simpler when using these other protection methods. However, the guidelines for these systems are often more performance based. The performance goals determined by the project engineer and AHJ(s) lead to the needed densities and application rates. The objectives set by the engineer can alter the design criteria of the system. 

Summary

In general, the number of variations that are possible with the storage of boats means that working closely with the owners to set the goals and the local authorities to ensure an appropriate protection scheme are necessary. A case-by-case approach is the best protection as there is still not a standardized approach on the criteria for sprinklering boat storage facilities at this time.



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4. *NFPA 303, Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards, 2011 Edition*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA. 2010. NFPA 303 ROP



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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Attic Protection for Existing Residential Board and Care in NFPA 101

By Jeff Hugo, CBO

The 2012 NFPA 101 requires the attics in new and existing residential board and care occupancies to have attic protection in the form of heat detection, fire sprinklers or non-combustible (limited combustible and fire-retardant-treated wood) construction. For the purpose of this article, only the requirements for existing residential board and care occupancies will be covered.

Section 33.2.3.5.7 of NFPA 101 requires protection in the attic. The type of protection for the existing residential board and care attic is determined by Section 33.2.3.5.7.1 or 33.2.3.5.7.2.

Section 33.2.3.5.7.1 states that when a sprinkler system is installed (NFPA 13D or NFPA 13R) in the facility and the attics are used for living purposes, storage, or that have fuel-fired equipment, they shall be protected with fire sprinklers. If there is someone living, storing or if the fuel-fired (propane, natural gas, etc.) furnace/hot water heater is in the attic, this section is requiring sprinklers in the attic of existing board and care facilities. This really isn't new, as NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D already has some fire sprinkler requirements when the attics are used for living purposes, storage (except NFPA 13D) and fuel-fired equipment. This section is going to extend the system already required by the living space/storage/fuel-fired equipment requirement to the rest of the attic space. Naturally, this is not a major deal for facilities having a NFPA 13 system.

Section 33.2.3.5.7.2 states that when a

sprinkler system is installed in the facility and there is NO living space, NO storage, or if the fuel-fired appliance is NOT in the attic, then there are four options to protect the attic space:

1. Install a heat detection system throughout the attic per Section 9.6 of NFPA 101. The heat detection system shall be arranged to activate the building's fire alarm system.
2. Install a fire sprinkler system per Section 9.7.1.1. NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R or NFPA 13 are all permitted to be installed.
3. Construct the attic with limited combustible or non-combustible materials
4. Construct the attic of fire-retardant-treated wood.

There are many different options for existing facilities to choose from. While an existing attic with limited combustible, non-combustible or fire-retardant-treated wood would be difficult, and expensive for existing facilities, it is more of a viable solution for new construction.

Attic protection for existing residential board and care really comes down to two options. Heat detection system or fire sprinkler system. The heat detection option could be the more popular way to go for existing facility owners. In existing board and care facilities, the space in the attic used for living purposes, storage, or that have fuel-fired equipment is probably going to be removed, relocated or have

sprinklers installed and then partitioned off from the remaining attic area. The rest of the open attic would have heat detectors installed.

Installing sprinklers in an existing attic with a NFPA 13D or NFPA 13R system can be done. Obviously, there are several challenges that perhaps the original design did not anticipate. Many, or all of the choices may not be physically, economically or hydraulically viable. Without going into deep details, let's discuss some options for installing sprinklers in existing attics.

The first challenge for most of the country would be freezing. The existing fire sprinkler system would have to be extended into a freezing space. There are many ways to protect the fire sprinkler system below 40 degrees Fahrenheit: dry pipe system, antifreeze (according to the latest TIA's), listed (standard and residential) dry sprinklers, and listed heat tracing. Another way to protect the piping would be to condition the space to remain above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Another challenge is system design. The existing fire sprinkler system may not have the flow or pressure needed to

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



NFSA's Manager
of Codes

Jeff Hugo, CBO

supply the system in the attic. Increasing flow and pressure may need pipe sizes adjusted, device friction losses updated (new backflow/meter), or pump(s) up-sized. For design areas, NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R do not specifically have design criteria for attics. NFPA 13D, Section 10.2.4 (2013 edition) defers the number of sprinklers in the design area for attics

(and other conditions not found in NFPA 13D) to the authority having jurisdiction. NFPA 13R has criteria for compartments 500 square feet and smaller, but in cases where the attic is larger (or in cases where the attic cannot be reduced to compartments), Section 7.2.2 requires that NFPA 13 be used for the attic criteria.

Finally, the last challenge is financial. Installing fire sprinklers in the attic will add

cost, but so will all of the other options. Some insurance premiums go down drastically when the attic has fire sprinklers. However, the attic protection requirement is not about adding cost, it is about serving the intent of the Life Safety Code and the committees' intent to stop or drastically slow the fire deaths and fire injuries in these facilities. ①

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Did He Really Just Say That?

By Joanne Genadio

I've been managing NFSA's social media sites for several years now. One thing I must say is that the comments I receive from news stories regarding fire sprinklers never cease to amaze. I hope that by now, many of you are following our robust and lively group on LinkedIn®, our Nat Fire-sprinkler Facebook® page and our Twitter® feed. Links that make it simple are available on the NFSA home page. Please take advantage of their availability and take a few moments to subscribe.

If you are still not convinced that following social media is worth your time, I have excerpted some of the more "interesting" comments I receive through stories I post in LinkedIn Groups that I belong to. As much as you may want to laugh, scream or cry, as much as you'd like to shake your head in disbelief or bang it against a wall, it's important for you to know just what is said, believed and disseminated on social media. It takes every ounce of restraint that I have to know when to answer some posts and when to hold my tongue and let the idiocy of a remark stand alone, naked and unanswered.

And so, because misery loves company, following is a few of the better "gems" I've encountered lately. What makes this slightly scary is the sources of these comments. These are not Joe Schmoes off the street, in the majority of the cases, these are our fellow comrades in the wide and wonderful world of fire protection. If you've ever wondered how monumental a task educating the public about fire sprinklers is, just look at what the "profes-

sionals" believe!

- "The mandatory installation of sprinklers in homes will kill more people than fires," Director of Fire Consultant Company and Lecturer.
- "What about 911 and the 2900 deaths in two buildings that had properly operating sprinkler systems?" Security Consultant.
- "The reason not to install them (sprinklers) is that smoke kills between ambient and 68 degrees, sprinklers remain dormant whilst the by-products of the fire carbonization of the atmosphere claims its victims," CEO, Fire Management Company.
- "Fire sprinklers are not the solution... as any false alarm can trigger the system and flood an entire apartment and cause damage," CEO Fire Protection Company.

And, last, but not least, my personal favorite, a homemade substitute for a residential sprinkler system!

- "You have all seen the "expandable" or "in your pocket" hoses. Well, I have connected (them) to lever operated, quick opening ball valves and a variable hose nozzle on the other end," Fire Safety Consultant

Now, that's American ingenuity for you, isn't it? I'm sure your reaction is wavering between "Are these people for real?" to "Damn, this is scary," and let me tell you, I have felt both of those reactions, plus many in between. These are not isolated

comments. I see comments like these again and again and again. Some because they are promoting their own methods of fire protection. Some because they've seen too many Hollywood movies. And some, I've come to believe, because they were spending the first halves of their lives frolicking with a bunch of kangaroos in the outback and have for some thought we truly wish wouldn't have come to them, have recently decided to rejoin civilization.

You just can't make this stuff up...and I haven't! Take the time to check the social network. Get on LinkedIn and join some groups you'd think were "fire sprinkler-friendly," you should be quite surprised what you may find. Also, it would be a great boon to all of us in the fire sprinkler industry if we lent our voices to these forums and swayed opinion in favor of fire sprinklers. As I've said in past articles, to change public opinion, you've got to be part of it!

Now before you go shaking your head and asking what the point is to participating in social networks if these are the responses that result from posts regard-

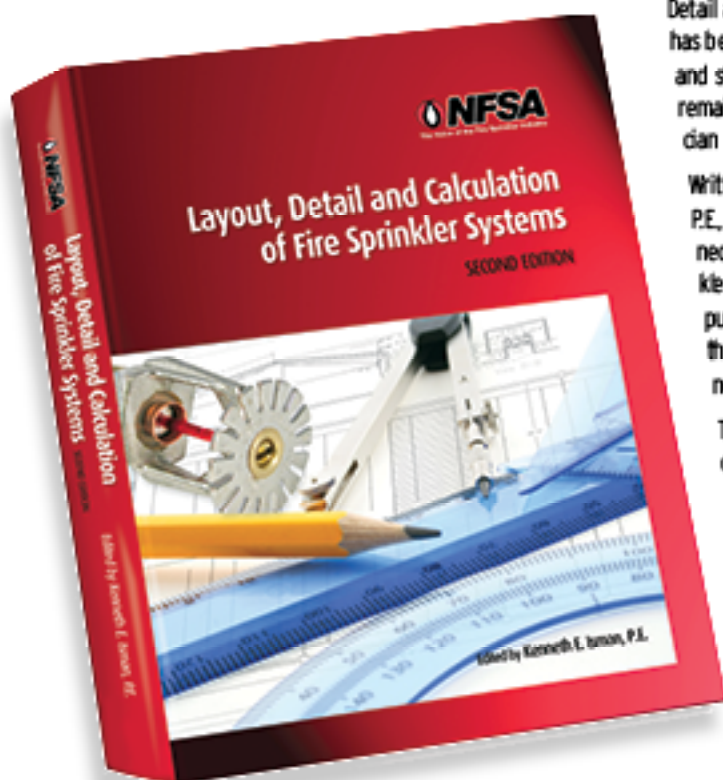
>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



NFSA's Marketing
Manager

Joanne Genadio

2nd Edition of Layout, Detail and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems



The NFSA announces the publication of the 2nd Edition of its popular textbook, *Layout, Detail and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems*. This newly revised hard cover textbook has been updated to reference the 2007 and 2010 editions of NFPA 13 with more examples and student exercises and new chapters on contract issues and stocklisting. This text remains the most complete book ever written for the fire sprinkler engineering technician and it's available now!

Written by the NFSA Engineering Department staff and edited by Kenneth E. Isman, P.E., Vice President of Engineering, this text covers every aspect of determining the necessary details for a fire sprinkler system including: hazard classifications, sprinkler spacing, hanger and brace requirements, hydraulic calculations, water supplies, pumps and tanks. The text also contains a review of basic math and physical science that is helpful in understanding the scientific principles behind the requirements that need to be followed.

This text makes an excellent self-study guide for the NICET Automatic Sprinkler Layout and Detail certification program and covers all of the work elements necessary to achieve Level 2 certification and many of the elements needed to achieve Level 3 and Level 4 certification. Even if you are not studying for a NICET exam, this text makes an excellent self-study guide for anyone wanting to know more about fire sprinkler systems.

The text retails for \$95 (plus S&H) to members of the NFSA and \$145 for non-members (plus S&H). However, as an extra added bonus, to reward the people that purchased the first edition of the book, if you clip Ken Isman's picture out of the 1st Edition back cover flap and send it back to us with your order (mail orders only, no fax orders for this offer), then you can take another \$10 off the price of a single book (\$70 + S&H for members and \$120 for non-members). To get your book, fill out the following form and return it with your payment.

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>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

ing fire sprinklers, take heart. Following are some wonderful comments that will warm your heart and give you faith in the human race;

- "I would rather build a fire safe house than something that is going to burn down to the ground before the fire dept. even gets there."
- "How many lives have to be lost to fires that can be saved by one very simple step... sprinkler systems! This (referencing an article regarding IRC adoption) is another example of a strong building association who pays to have states not only not adopt the IRC, but prohibits local cities within states from adopting their own additional Fire Codes. Very sad day for all family and friends of lost ones. Same old theme, money talks and bull walks, but in this case, people die and will continue to until we break the back of the builders association. All builders should take a good look in the mirror and ask themselves if they really want to be responsible for someone dying in a fire, when they could have taken control to prevent it."

So, you're thinking, it's got to be an NFSA employee who wrote these quotes, or a fire sprinkler contractor or manufac-

turer, right? These statements had to be made by a true fire sprinkler advocate!

Well, they were. The quotes are from Mr. Samuel Davis, President/CEO of Island Harbor Construction in Cape Coral, Florida. Sam offers a free fire sprinkler system in all new homes he builds. He says that the benefit to his company is that they are actively promoting a system that will save lives. "I'm waiting for the day, although I hope it never ever happens, that we get a call that one of our systems activates, and if it does, that it saved someone's life. A home fire sprinkler system is well worth the investment." His website includes a link to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, where consumers and others who visit, can receive information on home fire sprinkler systems.

So, there you go. Professionals in our own industry perpetuating myths and misinformation about sprinklers...and a homebuilder who "gets it!"

In an effort to share my daily "amazement" with the comments on social media discussions I initiate, I will be writing a new column in SQ called "The Pulse." I'll take you on a guided tour through the best and worst of what I've found on social media in the hopes that you will be inspired enough (or frustrated enough) to join in. I look forward to your comments!

One final note: THANK YOU Sam Davis!

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ATLANTIS ABSOLUTELY ASTOUNDING, AGAIN!



Putting the final punctuation on yet another successful Annual Seminar, NFSA wrapped up this year's conference hosted at Atlantis on Paradise Island, a Bahamian jewel surrounded by the warm, crystal blue waters of the Caribbean, with a poolside dance party that by all accounts was the fire sprinkler industry's social event of the year.

For those who were unable to attend, here are a few highlights:

To begin, the three-day event started with a picturesque 20-minute ride from the airport to the hotel. Savory sea air, swaying palm fronds, sandy white beaches and flat-calm blue tidal bays leaves first time visitors with a sense that, well, to quote an American icon, "We aren't in Kansas anymore..." Arrival at Atlantis is awe inspiring. It's the vision of a fabled utopian city resurrected from the sea floor to welcome the most discriminating vacation traveler. The lobby is grand, museum-like, with celestial adorned ceilings, leaving one to wonder what Atlantis' indigenous must have thought while gazing toward the heavens. Following the cosmos to the horizon draws one to the far reaches, where, quite unexpectedly, is a passage, a portal of sorts, where land meets sea. It's a magnificent floor to ceiling wall of water where just beyond countless sea creatures marvel at the terrestrials that have entered into their realm.
Welcome to Atlantis!

2014 NFSA ANNUAL SEMINAR Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas

**Chuck Kitts,
System Sensor/Honeywell Life Safety:**

"This was one of the best fire sprinkler gatherings in a non-exhibit seminar, GREAT Networking."

**Clark Gey,
Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc.:**

"I know of no other single source that one can go for the 411 on future codes, challenges and direction of the fire sprinkler industry. Great Event!!!"



NFSA Chair of the Board Larry Thau opens the conference with welcoming remarks



NFSA Vice President of Engineering Ken Isman presents Stephen Meyer with the Technical Service Award



Awards Committee Chair Buck Buchanan with Joel Pastolove, one of this year's inductees into the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame and Bill Barnard, the Leadership in Public Safety Award recipient

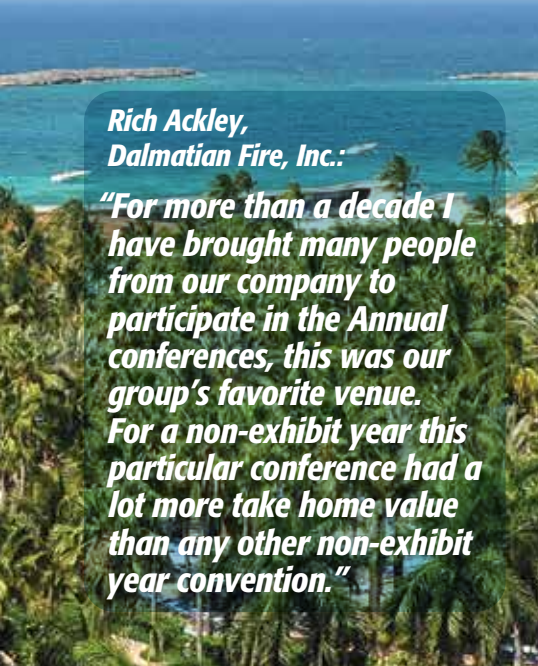


After getting checked in to the hotel and stopping by the NFSA conference registration desk where guests were greeted by any one of the number of NFSA staff who were on hand to help make the event run smoothly, it was off to the general session where Chair of the Board of Directors Larry Thau served as Chair of the Day for the day's events. As has become tradition, award presentations topped the slate. Ezio Angelini, Anthony Aven, Rollin "Buck" Buchanan, Chuck Hura, Joel Pastolove, Richard Sullivan and Woodrow "Woody" Wilson were all inducted into the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame. Stephen Meyer received the Technical Service Award and Bill Barnard was presented with the Leadership in Public Safety Award. A highlight of the awards ceremonies was the presentation of the Golden Sprinkler Award to this year's recipient, Gregg Huennekens.



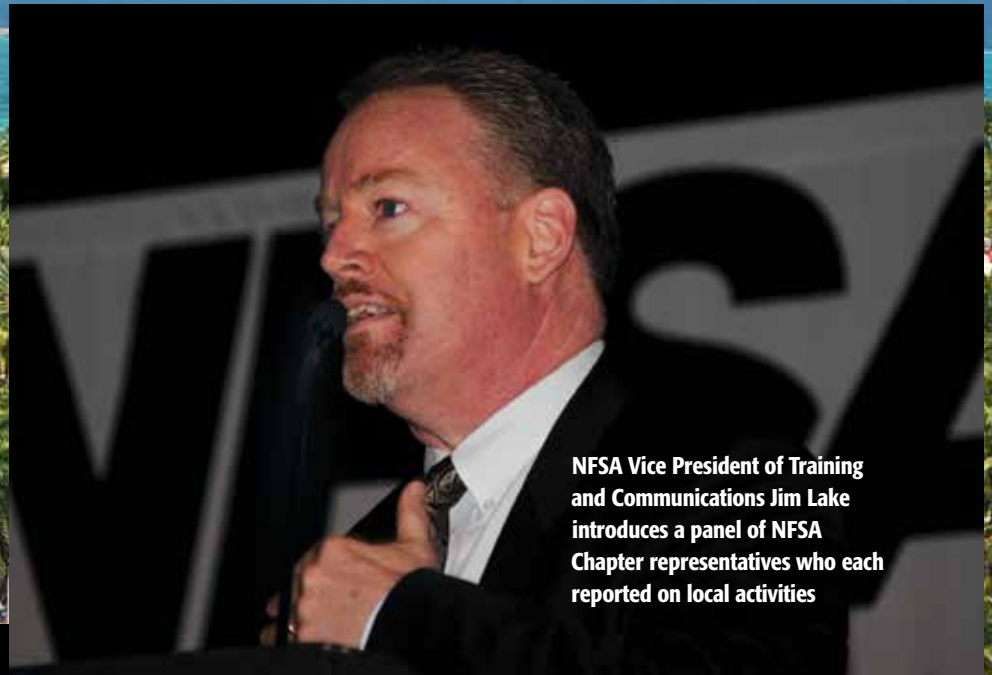
Gregg Huennekens is humbled by overwhelming applause and standing ovation as he makes his way down the aisle to receive the Golden Sprinkler Award

Last year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient Richard Ackley had the privilege of presenting the award to this year's recipient Gregg Huennekens



**Rich Ackley,
Dalmatian Fire, Inc.:**

"For more than a decade I have brought many people from our company to participate in the Annual conferences, this was our group's favorite venue. For a non-exhibit year this particular conference had a lot more take home value than any other non-exhibit year convention."



NFSA Vice President of Training and Communications Jim Lake introduces a panel of NFSA Chapter representatives who each reported on local activities



www.nfsa.org



Seminar Planning Committee co-chair Kent Mezaros thanks guests for their support of the conference and acknowledges members of the Seminar Planning Committee and NFSA staff



NFSA President Russell Fleming delivers the State of the Industry address



Shane Ray was announced as the association's incoming Executive Vice President



Much to his surprise, Russ Fleming was presented with a Lifetime Service Award. Posing with him is NFSA staff who were onsite to make the seminar run smoothly

New to the general session this year were reports from NFSA's Chapters around the country. Brief summaries of their activities included successes of regional conferences, fundraisers, legislative efforts and initiatives geared toward raising public awareness of fire sprinkler benefits. In all, 13 chapters reported. NFSA's President **Russell Fleming** delivered his State of the Industry address, highlighting direction the Association has taken during the last year and initiatives guiding the organization forward. At the conclusion of his address, unbeknownst to him, on behalf of the entire membership, on the occasion of his 40th consecutive annual seminar, Board Chair **Larry Thau** presented Russ with a Lifetime Service

award for his 40 years of dedicated service to the Association. To commemorate the event, all NFSA staff on hand were invited to join Russ on stage to capture the moment in history. Another highlight of the session was the highly anticipated announcement of the new Executive Vice President, **Shane Ray**, who had served previously as NFSA's Director of Public Fire Protection before going on to become South Carolina's State Fire Marshal. He officially starts with NFSA on July 16th. **Greg Coggiano** of CB Partners, who delivered the economic address and **Emily Adams** of USI, the country's #1 employee benefit communication and enrollment services provider, wrapped up the day's conference programming.

Quite aptly named, members gather on Royal Deck for the Welcoming Reception



Greg Coggiano of CB Partners delivered this year's Economic address



Nothing quite like good friends getting together again. Pictured are Alan Wiginton, Michael Fee, James Lewis and his daughter Emmerie. One can only guess what's going on in the background.



Emily Adams of USI talks about the Affordable Care Act



Matt Klaus, NFPA staff liaison to the sprinkler standards, talks about the importance of participating in the NFPA standards-making process



UL's Kerry Bell talks about NFSA's influence on fire sprinkler research



Tim Adams explains the importance of understanding the health care facility requirements in the Life Safety Code®



As Chair of NFSA's Engineering and Standards Committee, Terry Victor is uniquely qualified to speak to the industry's most pressing technical challenges



NFSA's Manager of Codes Jeff Hugo and NFSA's Manager of Installation Standards Bob Upson tag team a presentation on NFSA's influence in the building code arena and the fire service as allies



With names like Eagles, Aerials and Fire Dogs, volleyball teams from all over the country competed for beach supremacy.



Through all the digging and clawing, Team Anvil's Aerials emerged victorious



What's so funny?



Don Forbes, Kevin Fee and Bruce LaRue perform the little known "missing man" handshake



Taking first place in the golf tournament was the foursome of Alex Hernandez, John Berres, Ted Hanson and Phil Raya

And what conference at a Caribbean hot spot would be complete without an alfresco dining experience? Bringing everyone together on the first evening of the conference, NFSA hosted a welcoming reception at which renewing old acquaintances and making new ones were the order of the day. Excellent food, free-flowing favorite libations and light entertainment on the Royal Deck helped set the mood. Some even found fun in accessorizing with latex inflatables. Photos of the event posted at the NFSA website paint a much clearer picture.

As the conference reconvened the following morning,

the program picked up with technical presentations. NFSA's Vice President of Engineering, **Kenneth Isman**, talked about the State of the Technology, while other industry experts discussed a wide range of topics from *Why It's Important to Participate in the NFPA Standards Process* to *NFSA's Influence in the Building Codes*, all under the theme of "Why It's Good for Business."

As the afternoon progressed, teams assembled on the beach to test their prowess and endurance on the volleyball court. Ten teams battled through double elimination rounds and in the end, one team rose victorious, the Anvil Aerials.



As the conference concluded, members gathered on Ripples Pool Deck for a party



This year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient Gregg Huennekens with his wife Clairese



Ivan Pesante and Helen Sicardi



At-Large Director Clark Gey and Lisa Keene



A trio of cuties



Pen/Jer/Del Chapter Chair Rick Coppola and his wife Lisa



Manufacturers Council member James Golinveaux with wife Pamela



SAM Council member Cary Nicol with wife Jane



Rex Schwendiman with Dan and Holly Merritt



Great Lakes Area Director Rich Ackley and wife Renee



Special thanks goes out to Jimmy Archer and Buddy Dewar who took all the pictures used in this Annual Seminar photo essay

The prize? Signature velour turquoise striped Atlantis beach towels and a full two years bragging rights as masters of the beach.

Saturday morning found golfers rising earlier to catch shuttles to the One and Only Ocean Club Golf Course. It's a pristine, meticulously maintained course that challenges even the most skilled players. Constantly changing winds demanded proper club selection and laser accurate second shots. Adding to the challenge were the distractions of spectacular ocean views and historic landmarks. However, when the last putt was holed, one foursome found themselves at the top of the leader board. It was the team of John Berres, Alex Hernandez, Ted Hansen and Phil Raya, who each came away \$100 richer, and perhaps a little humbled by the experience.

.....

As the warm, amber Bahamian sun began to set on yet another successful NFSA Annual Seminar, guests gathered around Ripples Pool Deck in fellowship to share stories and memories of their time spent in paradise and to begin planning to attend next year's **Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo® April 30–May 2, 2015** at Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort in magical Orlando, Florida. ●

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The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

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New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board Rescues Joseph M. Lane American Legion Post 136

The Joseph M. Lane American Legion Post 136 was organized in 1919. The post is located at 41 Union Street in the Borough of Lodi, New Jersey with 72 active members. On December 14, 2005 the American Legion Post suffered a severe loss when their original building was totally destroyed by fire. The cause and origin of the fire was never determined because the building was razed right after the fire was extinguished. Since the fire the group has been working to rebuild their post. Unfortunately they were under insured with insurance only covering about 50% of their rebuilding costs.

The rebuilding got under way after loans were secured and with the help from Electricians' Union Local 164, Paramus, NJ and Plumbers' Union Local 24, West Caldwell, NJ pitched in and provided volunteer labor for the electrical and plumbing installation. Additional help came from Allied Building who donated plasterboard, Weir Welding who donated all the design work, steel and labor necessary to raise the building above the 100-year flood plain. The Saddle Brook VFW donated \$25,000 to our rebuilding fund, and American Legion Post 170, Rochelle Park, has been running monthly pancake breakfasts to the benefit of the Joseph M. Lane American Legion Post. This left the American Legion Post with the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system, driveway and parking lot paving, and some kitchen modifications.

The American Legion post hired a

sprinkler contractor to install the automatic sprinkler system. According to Vincent Martorano, Secretary and Treasurer for the American Legion Post, the Post was required to pay the fire sprinkler suppliers directly for materials, which they did. The contractor was not able to procure the materials needed but would perform the sprinkler installation once the materials arrived on site. Everything appeared to be going along fine until it came time for the final inspection of the sprinkler system.

Final Inspection

According to Vince the contractor was having a problem scheduling the final sprinkler system inspection with the local fire sub-code official. This went on for a while until the American Legion Post made the final inspection arrangements with the fire sub-code official themselves. On the day of the final inspection the contractor failed to appear and the fire sub-code official informed the members of the American Legion Post the automatic fire sprinkler system was far from complete. The American Legion Post could not get the sprinkler contractor to come back and complete the job. At this point the American Legion Post was without a certificate of occupancy because of the incomplete sprinkler system and the need for \$40,000.00 to pave the driveway and parking lot. It appeared the Joseph M. Lane American Legion 136 might become a thing of the

past. The American Legion Post had one last shot and that was an article that appeared in the Newark, New Jersey based newspaper, The Star Ledger on Monday August 20, 2012.

Mildred Bryant read the article describing the problems the Joseph M. Lane American Legion Post 136 was experiencing with an uncompleted automatic fire sprinkler system that was one of two issues preventing the post from receiving a certificate of occupancy. Mildred called her nephew Charlie Hamilton, President of Northeast Fire Protection, Inc. and alerted him to the American Legion Post's dilemma. Charlie brought the issue to the attention of NFSA New Jersey Chapter and the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NJFSAB) with military veterans David Kurasz, NJFSAB Executive Director and Kevin Belew, Business Manager of Sprinkler Fitters Local 696. The response was immediate as all felt something had to be done. Kevin felt this was a way for the union to give back to the community.

David Kurasz was the designee to coordinated efforts to see what the

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



Raymond W. Lonabaugh is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Mid Atlantic Region.

Raymond W. Lonabaugh

NJFSAB could do to help the American Legion Post. The first item on the agenda was to go to the Joseph M. American Legion Post in Lodi to survey what needed and could be done to resolve the fire sprinkler issue. On Wednesday morning August 29, 2012 David, Charlie and Kevin met with the leadership of the Post in Lodi. The first thing they learned was the American Legion Post was "flat broke" with no other option with regards to the project. They had a building, which included a banquet hall that they could not use to raise funds because of the lack of a certificate of occupancy. Bills were coming in with no income to pay them. It became immediately obvious that the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board was their last hope. David, Charlie and Kevin surveyed the fire sprinkler system and noted design problems and many missing components. Charlie Hamilton asked for, and was given, a copy of the original system plans to review so he could determine what could be done to complete the system.

Charlie Hamilton reviewed the drawings and gave an excellent in-depth report on the conditions at the Lodi American Legion Post during the September 11, 2012 NFSA New Jersey Chapter Meeting. Many NFSA Suppliers and Manufacturer Members expressed their desire to help as soon as Charlie had a list of materials that would be needed once the plans had been approved.

That approval came on Wednesday September 26, 2012 when the NJFSAB met with the local fire sub-code official to discuss the issue and local requirements. The Lodi Fire Sub-Code Official explained what he needed and said he would work with the NJFSAB to get the sprinkler system problems resolved and get the American Legion Post back in business. This was a welcomed response and a "go-ahead" allowing Charlie Hamilton to work up a list of materials Northeast Fire Protection would need to finish the sprinkler system.

At the October 9, 2012 NFSA NJ Chapter Meeting a list of materials needed for the job was presented to the members, including fittings, valves and etc. Without a second thought, Kevin Gallagher spoke up and said Atlantic American would do-

nate all the equipment on the list. Kevin explained that it would be better and more orderly if everything came from one supplier rather than different items coming from different suppliers. Wow! Needless to say this was totally unexpected and it seemed to catch everyone by surprise as the room went silent for a minute or two. Once realization set in everyone acknowledged Kevin and Atlantic American for their generosity. Charlie Hamilton, Northeast Fire Protection, Inc. was providing the fire sprinkler system redesign; Kevin Bellew, Business Manager Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 was volunteering the sprinkler fitters and apprentices; Kevin Galligan, committed Atlantic American to provide the material. We also note others who pitched in and provided supplies included Victaulic, Ames, Globe, and Fireguard whose shop was close-by and supplied whatever else was needed. The original sprinkler contractor left a large amount of glycerin anti-freeze on site that was no longer needed. Windustrial stepped in and took the antifreeze giving credit to the American Legion Post. No doubt we may have missed someone as many stepped up to the plate. Everything was coming together except for one last hurdle, "legal responsibility." Charlie approached his attorney who reviewed the issues and worked on a suitable agreement.

It was the intent to have the fire sprinkler system completed by the end of the year 2012; however, it took a little time to work out the legal obligation issues and also there was a delay waiting for the second telephone pair for the fire alarm system. Finally on January 2, 2013 supplies and materials arrived on site. The installation by Journeymen and Apprentices from Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 began shortly after and was completed during the following week under the direction of Gary Koenig, Apprentice Coordinator for Local 696. Gary was the acting lead foreman on the job.

The installation with the exception of acceptance tests came to a close with a media event on Saturday January 12th. Several media entities, including the Bergen Record, Star Ledger, The Gazette, and News 12 New Jersey came out to cover the story and interview the leadership of the American Legion Post, Kevin

Bellew and Dave Kurasz. Unfortunately Charlie Hamilton could not be at the media event as he was recovering from a skiing accident.

On February 8, 2013 backflow and trip testing was successfully completed and witnessed by the fire sub-code official. The successful testing completed the sprinkler system installation; however, it was not the end of the project. The fire code sub-official brought up problems with the fire alarm system. Kent Mezaros of Quick Response Fire Protection stepped up and provided the labor and material to install the alarm devices. Reliable Automatic Sprinkler provided the alarm panel. By the fall of 2013 the fire code sub-official returned and passed the fire alarm system. Was the project completed? No not yet, one more issue. Lox Box caps were required for the fire department connection. The cost was \$311.00 paid to the fire department and the American Legion Post didn't have the money for the caps. Charlie Hamilton took the \$311.00 out of his pocket and paid for the caps. All was left was to pave the parking lot for the certificate of occupancy.



Charlie Hamilton, Northeast Fire Protection, Inc. was recognized for his outstanding work in assisting the Lodi American Legion to obtain a certificate of occupancy and to get back in operation by redesigning their building's automatic fire sprinkler system. Dave Kurasz, NJFSAB Executive Director presented a well deserved recognition award at the NJ Chapters January 14, 2014 as many of Charlie's peers applauded. ①

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NAME: **RON BROWN**

TITLE: **NFSA REGIONAL MANAGER
GREAT LAKES REGION**

REGION: **INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO,
WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY**

BIOGRAPHY:

RON BROWN is a retired Fire Chief and Former Wisconsin State Senator. He is a thirty four year fire service professional that held many supervisory and leadership positions including Chief of the Fort Wayne Indiana and Eau Claire Wisconsin Fire Departments. He is a graduate of Purdue University and the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Ron served his country as a member of the United States Air Force. He has been a fire service instructor for many years teaching and developing courses for the National Fire Academy, and the Indiana Vocational and the Wisconsin Technical College Systems.

Ron is currently a Regional Manager with the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Providing Services and acting as a point of contact for Member Contractors as well as Fire and Building Officials in the states of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. Ron is currently a Commissioner with the Indiana Fire Prevention Building Safety Commission, appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels and Governor Mike Pence. •

SQ: Ron let's start with asking how you became involved with the National Fire Sprinkler Association?

The short answer to that is as a firefighter and fire officer I saw fire sprinkler systems operate in the real world a number of times and was very impressed with their performance and the safe environment they established for responding firefighters. I can recall one occasion in the early 1970's as a firefighter with only two years of experience where at a 3:00 AM fire in a five story warehouse the fire which had great potential for major property loss was controlled by the three operating fire sprinkler heads. A major error was made that evening by the command officers in that they directed the system be shut down and that fire overhaul be completed. They did not assign a fire watch or direct the property owner to reestablish the system prior to our leaving the scene. All units cleared the scene around 4:30 am and then at around 6:00 am the same warehouse with the system shut down was destroyed by the rekindled fire or a second intentional fire that evening. The second response to this structure was much more dangerous to firefighting personnel and was a total loss to the structure and the community. This loss could have been avoided had the system been properly re-established or had a fire watch been assigned until the system was back on line. There were three big career lessons for me from this experience. One, fire sprinklers work very well to protect life and property and two, do all you can to ensure the systems are properly inspected, tested and maintained as they are intended to be, third and finally never assume the incident is over until the system is back in service and ready to respond if called upon. From that experience forward in my remaining 34 years of fire service I was a committed advocate for fire sprinklers.

I became an even more inspired when I had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the great fire officers from across the nation who had the courage to stand up and advocate for the expansion of fire sprinklers in new and existing construction. Progress at times seems slow but when I look back across the past nearly fifty years I've been watching the industry there has been great progress and the future looks bright for further expansion of fire sprinklers as the absolute best in property and life protection from fire.

SQ: It sure sounds like you have a passion for fire sprinklers Ron, How do you organize your efforts for moving the fire sprinkler concept forward over the past year that you have worked for NFSA.

Thanks for asking first let me say as a Former President of the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Association and as a Former Wisconsin State Senator I worked very hard to pass fire sprinkler retrofit laws in the state of Wisconsin for hi-rise UW dormitories and I eventually worked with then NFSA Regional Manager Dan Gengler to pass a state wide Greek Housing fire sprinkler requirement. I have always looked for opportunities to do what I can at a state and local level to expand fire sprinkler coverage. My experience tells me you cannot get things like this done alone. It takes a network of people working together who understand fire sprinklers and know how effective they are if you are to be successful.

Using this knowledge as a Regional Manager I determined there were some basic things I needed to do if I were to be successful in the Great Lakes Region. The region is made up of the states of Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana; it is diverse from both political and cultural perspectives. This diversity causes you to respond differently depending upon which state you are working in today. First I had to understand and respond to the needs of the NFSA members within the region. Second, I had to build a network of local and state officials in each state that I might be able to call upon should something be happening with codes or standards in the state or should an op-

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

portunity become available to expand the fire sprinkler concept. You have to have some eyes and ears out there that you can trust and depend upon to let you know when things are falling apart. And you need to have key players who trust you who you can call upon to build and expand coalitions and rally the troops if necessary. I had to determine the political tone of each state (that changes with each election) and learn who the key insiders or keepers of the codes and standards are within each state and large communities within the state. I really believe this is the work that helps NFSA move the fire sprinkler concept forward. I think the industry must keep a face and voice in front of AHJ's, policy makers, elected officials and the building industry in order to continue its progress. The Regional Manager becomes a key link in a chain of contact and support. As you can imagine it is a big responsibility to balance your time and sort out the priorities when you have such a large and diverse area of responsibility.

SQ: Having served as a Regional Manager over the past several years what skill sets do you think you brought to the position in order to help you promote the fire sprinkler concept?

There is no question that interpersonal skills are the first and foremost important characteristic to success as a Regional Manager. You have to build extensive and dependable support networks very early on and you have to be a person of your word who can elicit trust in order to build the relationships necessary to succeed. Knowing something about fire sprinkler standards and the building codes that either require or exempt fire sprinklers and other fire sprinkler components is certainly helpful but there is plenty of support within of the various departments of NFSA that you can and should call upon to help sort out code and standards issues you and the members struggle with. You have to be an organized self starter and a person who can listen to others, take in large volumes of diverse information then sort out and prioritize that information in order to formulate an action plan the will help address some of the top issues you have identified, turning the information into an action plan for improvement. The action plans can be regional, state or local in nature. Trust me when I say there are many more issues than there is time to address them. This is where prioritization is so important. It's all about Listening, Learning and Leading on the part of your Regional Manager.

SQ: We understand you have done a few things in the Great Lakes Region to bring contractors together with AHJs. What is that all about?

While I understand our members are very busy running their businesses and promoting fire sprinklers in their identified geographic area of service, it is also very important that they all understand there is the big picture of raising the tide across the nation so that all ships may rise. On several occasions I have attempted to bring contractors, policy makers and AHJs together in hopes that conversations regarding the bigger picture of

broader fire sprinkler coverage would develop and new and innovative ideas for expansion would result from the gatherings. The Mid-West Fire Sprinkler Summit, the Fire Team USA event held in Indianapolis at the National Association of Fire Marshals Annual Conference, Meetings with Citizens Water in Indianapolis and American Water Works in Charleston, West Virginia are examples of these initiatives. There were many more on a smaller scale such as the Columbus, Ohio area contractors and building officials meeting held semiannually. These are activities that may or may not produce the break through idea but it takes this type of activity and involvement to get people knowing one another and feeling comfortable with discussing issues and concerns related to the bigger picture. Unfortunately, it is a difficult task of helping the contractor who has little time to understand that building relationships with their competitors and mining for new ideas will serve their company and broader industry well if they would carve some time out the get involved at this level. Having said that, the meeting and events I describe above have been successful in bringing people together and helping me and some of our members focus on and address issues at a broader level.

SQ: Is there anything else you would like to add to this interview Ron?

Yes, as you know I stepped down from my Regional Managers position effective May 30, 2014. I did so because I wanted to spend more time at home with my family. I want all to know that my support and enthusiasm for the fire sprinkler industry and movement remains with me now and will likely be with me to the end.

It has been an honor to work with and for the members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity this position offered me. The NFSA is made up of a Board of Directors who truly care about the industry as a whole and a Staff of highly skilled and talented people who are committed to the fire sprinkler concept. I was especially blessed to have had the opportunity to work with the NFSA Great Lakes Region members and their elected Area Director Richard Ackley of Dalmatian Fire, Inc. Mr. Ackley is truly a man who can set aside the fear of a competitor taking business away from him and reach out to help that competitor when they stumble. He recognizes and supports the bigger picture of the value of raising the tide for all. I appreciate all of the support he has provided me in the performance of my duties as a Regional Manager.

In closing I will tell you that it is vital that a face and voice be present in every state of this nation representing the fire sprinkler concept and industry. By having a presence we will be aware of the attacks being formulated against the industry and we will be in a position to capitalize on opportunities to advance the concept when the conditions are right. The industry must be there during good times and bad. Local officials, administrators and policy makers should know who the fire sprinkler industry is and that NFSA is the voice of the industry. The regional manager is a key link in that chain of communications and influence. 🙏



NAME: **DAN GENGLER**
TITLE: **REGIONAL MANAGER
WISCONSIN**
REGION: **WISCONSIN**

BIOGRAPHY:

DAN GENGLER returned as Regional Manager for the State of Wisconsin on January 1, 2014 after serving as a consultant for three years. He was the Midwest Regional Manager for the NFSA for the previous 11 years. He is actively involved in industry related activities, training and meeting with members and non-members to keep all informed. Dan's relationships with Wisconsin fire service groups will continue to keep lines of communications flowing positively. Dan is married to his bride of forty-five plus years and has two sons and three fantastic grandsons. Dan spent 26.5 years with the Milwaukee Fire Department and received valuable experience in the art of firefighting and personnel management. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and has studied for a master's degree at Marquette and Concordia Universities. Dan has served for 23 years as Chairperson of the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety, a non-profit organization with statewide outreach and beyond.

SQ: Tell us a little about yourself.

A quick review of my background will explain my passion for fire safety and how I was able to transition into the regional manager's position. Getting past my resume, I spent more than 26 years as one of 1,100 members of the Milwaukee Fire Department. I served twelve years in the busiest companies in the state and learned the trade from some of the best mentors. I also learned how not to do the job from those who may not have been up-to-speed with their physical or mental skills. That trait helps me to better understand who I am dealing with yet today.

During those years in the inner city, I witnessed and survived situations that make it hard to believe that some of humanity's worst do what they do. I could fill this magazine with anecdotes and tragedies of the worst day of someone's life. I will review two that helped make me what I am.

On January 5, 1978, a re-occurring dream I have often, I was stationed as a firefighter at Engine 30 on Milwaukee's north side. We were called to a fire about a mile away after 1 AM. When we arrived, the first arriving crew had already gone into the building. On the front porch, I was approached by a tall 14-year old boy who had chunks of skin falling off his body. He looked at me and asked, "Am I gonna die?" We got him to medical personnel and moved into the two-story home that was fully involved with fire on the second floor. The boy died in hours.

The gang in front of us had problems entering the bedroom at the top of the stairs. I was able to beat down the wainscoting wall with my fist as it was so badly burned. We poured water into the room until it was alright to reach in for whatever we could find. There was a bed with what I thought was a large rubber doll on it. Instead it was a boy the same age as my youngest son and so badly charred and lifeless that we knew what happened. I said a quick prayer for him and his two other brothers in the room who too were obviously dead. Two sisters in the next bedroom suffered the same fate. This fire initiated the city and state's efforts for our first smoke alarm legislation. It also happened to be about the time that Wisconsin's homebuilders started their two year campaign to keep residential fire sprinklers from being in state or local codes.

I progressed through the promotional ranks serving as a lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and ultimately reaching the number three position on the department as Deputy Chief of Administration. Some of my duties in that tenure included public information and fire prevention outreach, department training coordinator. I had also been actively involved with the Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters Local 215. I enjoyed being on the bargaining team and working for safer working conditions.

The second incident I want to convey was on Christmas Eve morning when I was coming onto the shift to command 284 firefighting and emergency medical personnel. We had a 5-Alarm fire going on when I heard a firefighter was down while in transit to relieve my DC partner. I found out who the injured person was only to quickly recall that he had dated my sister, was an all-state gymnast with a state championship team with a brother and a close social friend with another brother. I knew him since grade school and swore him in to serve the MFD. My next move was to pick up his wife and take her to the hospital. I can't explain the hurt one feels when they witness a wonderful physical specimen of a man lying on a gurney with no life. We were able to get his wife with the hospital chaplain. I knew he had be married previously with children. Having to tell them dad was not going to see them for Christmas because he was killed in a fire was the hardest thing I had ever had to do. The investigation indicated the fire to be arson and a review of the fire indicated that if fire sprinklers would have been installed and operating, the fire would have been held in check by up-to three fire sprinklers and our friend would not have even responded to the fire. This made it murder and that angered the whole city. Firefighter funerals are spectacular and it was my job to coordinate much of it. Firefighter funerals are also senseless when an investment could have prevented the outcome.

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

During my tenure, I responded with crews to at least twenty-five fatal fires that killed approximately sixty citizens and one firefighter. Fire sprinklers would have made a difference in all but one, a self-inflicted suicide.

I also had my supportive wife engage me in plenty of volunteer work that lead me into another venture. I am so blessed with my two sons, a daughter-in-law and three energetic, wonderful, talented and handsome grandsons. Life can be too good sometimes!

SQ: How did you come to the NFSA and what keeps you?

During my duties as training coordinator, I was lucky to have served on the Burn Center Golf Invitational (BCGI) committee that raised money for our mid-west regional burn center. After three years on the committee I became the chair. I am currently in my twenty-third year as chair of an outstanding committee and with the superb support of the fire sprinkler industry can tout we are the benchmark outing for the industry in the country by raising well over two million dollars and climbing.

Since those early years, I was encouraged to start a non-profit organization that was similar to one in Illinois by then Regional Manager Tom O'Connell. We were able to grow that program into a national influence for fire safety and burn prevention. The Wisconsin Alliance for Fire safety is now twenty-three years old and is proud of our programming; the Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth celebrates its twentieth camp this August and the difference it has made in nearly every camper has been more than satisfying. Our Newspapers-in-Education Fire safety Program has reached more than two million students in its 18-year run. Fire sprinkler educational outreach has been a feature each of those additions. We are major supporters for burn survivors of all ages with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors World Burn Congress being one of the few. Again the fire sprinkler industry is a catalyst for these efforts and whenever possible, we highlight the benefits of the optimum in fire safety protection. Why wouldn't I want to be associated with them?

Because of the BCGI, I was able to fool someone into thinking the NFSA was a good place for me to be. My gain but also my passion to help educate my region and its occupants of the value of automatic fire protection.

Working with a professional organization that's goal is simple, "save lives and property," as explained above, right up my alley. I cannot express the gratitude I have for every aspect of this great agent to make the difference in our nation and beyond. Every NFSA department offers the best of the best. Anyone not understanding the value of NFSA membership deserves not to maximize their business, their com-

munity's safety and that generosity that makes us who we are. My dad always told me and my siblings that we should not just take and run but to learn how to "give back." That has become my mantra and when you work for someone who personifies that civic commitment, it's not work anymore but a pleasure to serve.

SQ: What initiatives will the Wisconsin Chapter be seeking this next year?

Keeping the great relationship with the state's fire service is always a priority as they are the people that "carry our water." I have been fortunate to have become a resource for chiefs, inspectors, union and non-union firefighters statewide. I know NFSA influences these valuable partners. Expanding our member base is always a chore that offers an opportunity to showcase the talents and benefits of NFSA membership. The Wisconsin Chapter of the NFSA is active in our state and we look to produce many more side-by-side demonstrations as we have not been a slouch in that arena. We look to encourage residential fire sprinkler education as the enemies of the movement have tied our hands in the state house, sad ole so sad! We are pursuing high-rise retrofit ordinance through-out the state and would rather it become a state requirement. I can't express the wonderful feeling it is to have the support of the many I serve in my region. I am proud to be the NFSA Wisconsin Regional Manager and are even more proud that I will never have to apologize for what I do. 🇺🇸

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Frequency

By Jason Webb

The term frequency has a number of different meanings. But in the context of inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems, NFPA 25 defines frequency as “the minimum and maximum time between events.” Annex language (A.3.7.1 in the 2014 edition) provides even more guidance by adding that the frequencies in the standard are designed to establish an “optimal time between tasks.” Much thought and debate has gone into refining these frequencies since NFPA 25 was first published, and that debate continues today.

Frequency is an important concept to the ITM process. Too long on an interval between inspections of a critical component, like whether or not a control valve is kept open, can have catastrophic consequences. On the other hand, discussions about frequency also include wear and tear concerns. If something is operated more frequently, like a fire pump for example, how does that contribute to its ultimate lifespan?

How often inspections or tests need to be done can obviously affect the cost of the ITM program. A simple change from a weekly frequency to a monthly frequency, or vice-versa, can instantly add or remove 40 inspections or tests per year with the adoption of a new edition of the standard by the AHJ. So how can something as seemingly simple as “how often” cause confusion? Sometimes it is in the way NFPA 25 is applied and enforced.

In agreements between the owner

and ITM contractor, it is common to see the term “annual inspections and tests” used to describe what work is included. Likewise, AHJ’s commonly require that the documentation of “annual inspections and tests” be submitted for their review. NFPA 25, however, doesn’t define “annual inspections” or “annual tests.”

It may be a simple matter of semantics, but semantics are what fuels disagree-


pipe inspections or full-flow trip testing of dry-pipe valves, will not be enforced in that jurisdiction. It might also encourage the practice of switching inspection companies between 3- or 5- year frequency inspections or tests to avoid any record of the failure to perform these functions.

If the owner and the ITM contractor agree that the intent is to perform the inspections and tests NFPA 25 requires

“The purpose of an ITM contract, after all, is to eliminate gray areas and ensure both parties concur on certain items. The frequency of the inspections and tests is perhaps the most important term on which those parties need to agree.”

ment. The purpose of an ITM contract, after all, is to eliminate gray areas and ensure both parties concur on certain items. The frequency of the inspections and tests is perhaps the most important term on which those parties need to agree. The ITM contract should clearly spell out which inspections and tests are included or excluded and who is responsible for each. The best practice is to avoid using contract language that doesn’t match the standard.

From an enforcement perspective, if an AHJ requires documentation of “annual” inspections and tests, this can also be interpreted in different ways. For example, some might construe this to mean that the less-frequent inspections or tests required by NFPA 25, like internal

on an annual frequency, then the contract should be worded that way. If it’s the goal of the AHJ to ensure compliance with NFPA 25 in their jurisdiction, their requirements may also need to be clarified. Either way, it is important to remember that frequency isn’t meant to define the *type* of an inspection or test, but rather the time elapsed between them. 

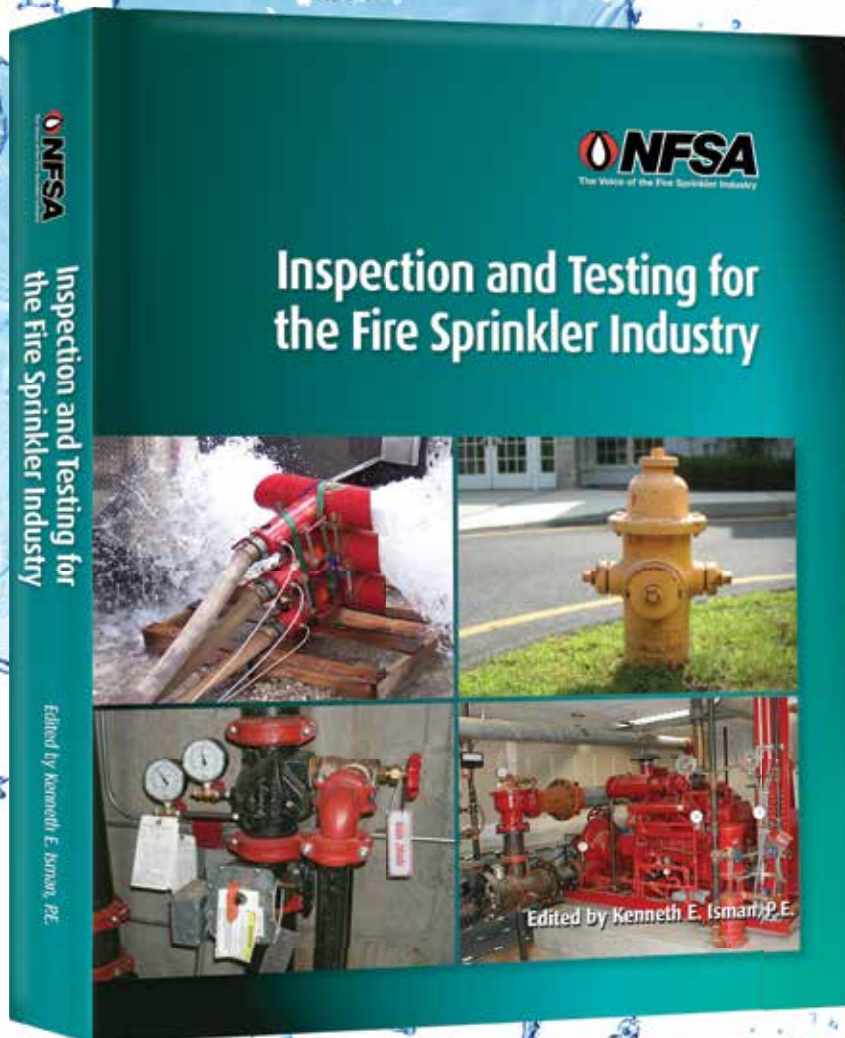


Jason Webb

Director of
Inspection, Testing
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Massachusetts Residential Sprinkler Bill in Play

The "local option" residential sprinkler bill has been given new life through the legislative process. Massachusetts Senator Steve Brewer, who is the Senate Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, has included the bill language in an outside section of the budget.

Currently, after the Senate budget is passed by the Senate, the Conference Committee will meet. It is here that the residential sprinkler bill will be debated. Undoubtedly the opposition will be active in the lobbying effort and continue to inject the usual myths and misconceptions about the effectiveness of automatic fire sprinkler systems.

So you are aware, the President of the Massachusetts Water Works Association, Jennifer Pederson, crafted a form letter that was sent to the state's local water authority's urging them to contact Senate members in opposition to the residential sprinkler bill. In brief, she states that local adoption of residential sprinklers will negatively impact water utilities.

However, the facts are; back flow is not required by NFPA 13D. Connections will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, so realistically no water connection would be available without someone, homeowner, builder, developer having direct consultation with the local water purveyor.

Where water is available and the water purveyor costs are excessive and cost prohibitive, such as in the City of Boston, the solution is to install a tank and a pump, which is an inexpensive and viable option.

Further concerns with stagnate water in sprinkler systems are unfounded. Research sponsored by the USFA and conducted by WPI showed water that sits for long periods of time in fire sprinkler systems is not hazardous as long as the pipe is an approved potable piping mate-

rial. This study demonstrated that water quality in sprinkler systems (CPVC and copper) that sits for a long time is no worse than water that sits in your domestic water system for a few days.

Once the House members are selected for the Conference Committee, they will be reported in the New England Regional Report posted under "Regional News" at the NFSA website.

Dave LaFond is NFSA's New England Regional Manager. He can be reached at Lafond@nfsa.org or at 2 Burns Way, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Phone: 413.244.7653.

NEW YORK REGION



DOMINICK KASMAUSKAS
Regional Manager

NEW YORK

New York State Code Council

Discussion is under way in the State of New York about "air movement" through concealed fire sprinklers and how it relates to the Energy Conservation Construction Code (ECCC). Air movement through the ceiling via the concealed fire sprinkler shroud is necessary for actuation from passing heat. If insulated improperly and airflow is halted, a concealed fire sprinkler may not operate and would also be considered installed contrary to manufacturers' specs. Testing has been done by UL in past years regarding this subject.

New York State has just released their proposed 2014 ECCC adoption along with the New York State Supplement, which includes the same 4 cfm/ft² air movement noted in the model codes. Regional Manager Kasmauskas will collaborate with NFSA California Regional Manager Bruce Lecair and NFSA Manager of Codes Jeff Hugo to monitor discussions and decisions that may be made. Kasmauskas has already had informal discussion with staff in the New York Department of State offices that are involved in developing the

ECCC of New York State.

Existing installations of concealed fire sprinklers in New York State may be an issue if this CA discussion gains traction in a bad way and then moves east. It is possible that future installations may not allow concealed fire sprinklers.

Dominick Kasmauskas is NFSA's New York Regional Manager. He can be reached at Kasmauskas@nfsa.org or 1436 Altamont Ave. Suite 147 Rotterdam, New York 12303, Phone 518.937.6589, Fax 518.836.0210.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION



RAYMOND W. LONABAUGH
Regional Manager

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

New Jersey Eyes Elementary and Secondary Schools Sprinkler Requirements

Senate Bill 2094, An Act concerning school fire safety and supplementing chapter 33 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes was introduced on May 19, 2014. The bill if passed into law requires fire suppression systems in elementary and secondary schools 12,000 square feet and larger. The bill is sponsored by Senator James W. Holzapfel (District 10 Ocean County) and Senator Christopher J. Connors (District 9 Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean Counties). No doubt the bill is a result of the James Monroe Elementary School Fire in Edison, New Jersey in March of this year.

The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NJFSAB), many of whom are NFSA members, met with the New Jersey School Development Authority (SDA) on April 21st to discuss the school sprinkler issue and also with the New Jersey Board of Education on May 29th. The SDA appeared to be enthused on the idea of fire sprinklers. The New Jersey Board of Education was concerned about system costs and from where the money to pay

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for them would come. The Board of Education suggested working with the local school boards through their associations.

The NJFSAB did learn that the Edison, New Jersey School District intends to retrofit all their schools with automatic fire sprinkler protection.

For those of you that are too young to remember it was on Monday December 1, 1958 in which a fire claimed the lives of 92 of the 329 students and three Teaching Catholic Nuns in a school fire in Chicago, Illinois. The fire began at the basement level of a stair well in a trash container of the Lady of Angles Elementary School. The fire resulted in many fire safety changes in schools including the closing of stairway doors but fell short of requiring automatic fire sprinklers, which came many years later in the model building and NFPA Codes.

Raymond W. Lonabaugh is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Mid Atlantic Region. He can be reached at: lonabaugh@nfsa.org or P.O. Box 126, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, 19078. Phone: 610.521.4768. ☎

SOUTHEAST REGION



WAYNE WAGGONER
Associate Director of Regional
Operations - East

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

La Verge, Tennessee Passes Fire Sprinkler Requirement

In June, the city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen stood by its position to require new homes be built with sprinklers in a final 4-1 vote.

"It saves lives," said Mayor Senna Mosley, who is the daughter, granddaughter, wife and mother of firefighters.

"Coming from a firefighting family, I understand what these guys and girls have to go through in having to fight these fires and having to pull out bodies of burnt children," the mayor said in an interview after the vote. "They have seen first-hand what

these sprinklers can do. I've seen roofs fall on my father as a child first-hand in Martin, Tennessee. I was 6-years-old."

Only Alderman Dennis Waldron opposed after previously joining the other board members in a unanimous vote of the initial reading of the ordinance.

He only questioned if the ordinance would cover modular homes, but La Vergne Codes Director Randolph Salyers said the regulation only applies to new home construction and not factory-built houses.

Rutherford County Home Builders Association President Steve Jensen was disappointed because he said the ordinance will mean his typical custom-built home customers will face paying \$5,000 more.

"How many people do you put out of the market?" Jensen said after the meeting. "Yes, I think it's going to affect La Vergne's growth." La Vergne has reached a U.S. Census estimated population of 33,777.

Jensen contends that interconnected smoke detectors that have been required in new homes since 1988 are sufficient in protecting people in homes.

He's also annoyed that the board held two meetings on the issue without offering a public hearing once the ordinance had been written. He spoke at a previous public hearing about adopting 2012 International Building Codes, but Jensen said the formal ordinance had yet been introduced.

"I still am really confused about their whole process of passing an ordinance at two meetings that had zero public comments," Jensen said. "You would think it would be open to the public comment. What's the purpose of reading it to the public if the public doesn't get to comment? It appears to me to be no different than voting behind closed doors. The process is strange."

Alderman Tom Broeker said after the meeting that studies show that sprinklers do not slow down housing construction and will lead to saving 8 to 13 percent on homeowner's insurance costs.

"Over the (life) of a 30-year mortgage, the savings in insurance will more than pay for a sprinkler system," Broeker said.

The ordinance should also save tax dollars by cutting down on the costs to fight

fires, Broeker added.

"For the first time we are demanding quality rather than quantity for our residents," said Broeker, who suggested that the city in the past had far too many homes being built without proper planning regulations. "We can't go back, but we can change the direction of the city in the future. This city is absolutely going to grow."

Vice Mayor Chris Farmer agreed that the sprinkler requirement for new homes makes sense.

"It's going to save lives," Farmer said. "It's going to protect citizens, firefighters. With me, whatever is going to save a life is worth it."

Farmer said he plans to retrofit his own home with a sprinkler system to protect his two young daughters and child on the way.

Mosley stressed safety in her statements after the meeting.

"If it saves one person, it's worth it all," Mosley said. "I'm very proud of this board and the ones who voted for it."

Wayne Waggoner is the NFSA Associate Director of Regional Operations-South. He can be reached at Waggoner@nfsa.org or PO Box 9, Andersonville, Tennessee 27705, Phone 865.755.2956, Fax 865.381.0597. ☎

FLORIDA & PUERTO RICO



LORELL BUSH
Regional Manager

FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO

Florida State Fire Marshal's Office Director Believes in Fire Sprinklers

Julius Halas, Director of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office, is building a new house. While the new home is sure to be beautiful, the reason this is exciting for our industry is because the new home will be built with a fire sprinkler system. This is only the seventh home in the district that

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has a fire sprinkler system. Of the seven homes, two are current or previous homes of Director Halas. "Why would I spend money on upgrades such as a fire place, granite counter tops, upgraded lighting and not spend money on fire sprinklers?" Director Halas explained as he took a group on a tour of the construction site. "I could not imagine building a new home without fire sprinklers being a part of the



initial plan. In my career, I have seen too many deaths and injuries that could have been prevented had fire sprinklers been present." he continued as he pointed out the areas where the concealed sprinkler heads were in the ceiling.

The tour of the house included Lorrell Bush, Executive Director of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association, Fire Chief Byron Teates and Fire Marshal George Ellington, East Manatee Fire District, Gus Georgiou, P & G Construction Company, the General Contractor for the home, and Clark Gey, President of Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc. the company installing the fire sprinkler system along with his team.

During the tour, the question was posed, if fire sprinklers are so important, why is it so difficult to pass ordinances to ensure issues of life safety. Both Chief Teates and Fire Marshal Ellington agreed that there are still a lot of misconceptions of how fire sprinklers actually work. It is important work to educate the public on how fire sprinklers really work and to create incentive packages to show how affordable fire sprinklers really are for home builders and home owners.

During the tour, the General Contractor was asked if building the home equipped with fire sprinklers caused any delays or



construction issues. "No problems whatsoever, no delays and no issues with the system being installed. We want to make the customer happy!" Director Halas is certainly happy and safe from threat of fire!

Lorrell Bush is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Florida Region. She can be reached at bush@nfsa.org or 2025 Droylsden Lane, Eustis, FL 32726. Phone: 352.589.8402 Cell: 954.275.8487 Fax: 561.327.6366.

GREAT LAKES REGION



RON BROWN
Regional Manager

INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO,
WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY

NFSA Regional Manager Responds to Student Fire Death with Letter to Editor

On Thursday, April 24th a fast moving fire spread through the Riverbend Apartments in West Lafayette, claiming the life of 22 year-old Cody Day who was spending the night at a friend's apartment. The Riverbend apartments are nearby Purdue University and house mostly Purdue students. This is the second life claimed by fire in a Purdue off-campus housing unit this academic school year. 22 year-old Scott Notary, a Purdue senior, was killed on November 16, 2013 in a fire at his West Lafayette apartment.

The structure at South Riverbend did not feature an automatic fire sprinkler system because they were not required by code at the time it was built. This left residents to rely on smoke alarms to alert them to danger with enough time to escape. Witnesses recall that a passerby who saw the flames is the one who alerted residents to the fire, many of whom were fast asleep. As a former Fire Chief in Fort Wayne I can tell you honestly that while smoke alarms do save lives there are many examples where notification of a fire occurrence does not happen fast enough for residents to escape. Sadly, this appears to be one of those cases.

If this property were built today, the building codes would require a fire sprinkler system be installed. Fire sprinklers actively respond to a fire, one sprinkler head at a time, controlling or extinguishing flames and providing occupants with enough time to safely evacuate a structure. Parents should ask if the unit their child will be staying in is properly protected with fire sprinklers. Existing properties, especially those that house students, can be retrofitted with fire sprinkler systems in order to protect our children's lives and property. When students, parents and universities start demanding that student housing structures be protected by fire sprinkler systems we will see a reduction in life and property loss.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this terrible tragedy along with their family and friends.

Sincerely, Ron Brown

Ron Brown is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Lakes Region. He can be reached at Brown@nfsa.org or

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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1615 Cypress Spring Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814, Phone 845.661.6534; Fax 260.625.4478. ☎

ILLINOIS REGION



BOB TINUCCI
Regional Manager

ILLINOIS

NFSA Presents B-Line Industries/Tolco with 25-year Membership Plaque

In recognition of 25 continuous years of membership in NFSA, during a recent meeting of NFSA's Illinois Chapter, Illinois Regional Manager Bob Tinucci presented George VonGnatensky of B-Line Industries/Tolco with a 25-year membership plaque.



(Pictured left to right) Bob Tinucci, NFSA Illinois Regional Manager; George VonGnatensky, TOLCO / Director of Fire Protection Sales; Greg Jeckstadt, TOLCO / Regional Sales Manager; Gregg Huenekens, NFSA Illinois Area Director / U.S. Alliance Fire Protection

Bob Tinucci is the regional manager for the North Central Region. Bob may be reached at 6401 Richmond Avenue, Willowbrook, Illinois 60527, phone/fax: 630.655.1875, cell: 630.514.1601, email: tinucci@nfsa.org. ☎

WISCONSIN REGION



DAN GENGLER
Regional Manager

WISCONSIN

Commercial Code Bill Gets Governor's Signature

With Governor Scott Walker's signing of a bill earlier this year, local governments lost their ability to set commercial-building codes that are stricter than the state's.

Senate Bill 617, one of 55 the governor signed into law Wednesday, establishes a uniform commercial-building code for Wisconsin. Before the legislation was approved, local governments were free to set their own standards as long as whatever they adopted was stricter than a minimum set by the state.

Similar proposals have run aground in the past on fears that they would deprive local officials of too much power. Opposition has particularly come from firefighters groups, which have argued that safety standards should be tailored to suit individual cities, villages and towns.

In response, supporters of SB 617 agreed to a compromise letting officials retain local fire-safety ordinances adopted before May 1, 2013. For similar reasons, the bill would let so-called second-class cities, those with populations between 39,000 and 150,000, adopt variances to the uniform code without state approval. Variances let developers design buildings to a standard that meets the intent of the code without strictly conforming.

State law now allows only first-class cities, or those with a population of more than 150,000, to adopt variances without state approval.

SB 617 also establishes a 10-member council that will be responsible for recommending changes to the uniform commercial-building code. The members will be selected from among various fields in the building trades and appointed by the governor to serve three-year terms.

2013 Wisconsin Act 270 establishes a Uniform Commercial Building Code (UCBC) for the State of Wisconsin, as well

as a Building Code Council for the purpose of reviewing the code and making recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to keep the UCBC current. The previous Commercial Building Code acted as a minimum standard and allowed for municipalities to enact ordinances above and beyond those detailed in the code. The UCBC replaces the previous

Commercial Building Code and eliminates municipal variations. However, Act 270 allows for municipalities to submit ordinances to the DSPS within 60 days of publication of the law for review and exemption if the ordinance meets all of the following requirements:

1. The ordinance was enacted before May 1, 2013.
2. The ordinance was published by the town, village, or city in the manner required under Statute 60.80, 61.50, or 62.11 (4).
3. The ordinance relates to fire detection, prevention, or suppression components of buildings.
4. The building is not a multifamily dwelling, as defined in Statute 101.971 (2).
5. The ordinance is submitted to the department within 60 days after the effective date of this subdivision, Friday, April 18, 2014.
6. The department determines that the ordinance requires standards that are at least as strict as the rules promulgated by the department.

Dan Gengler is NFSA's Regional Manager for the state of Wisconsin. He can be reached at Gengler@nfsa.org or P.O. Box 286, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981, Phone: 262.325.1958. ☎

MINNESOTA REGION



TOM BRACE
Regional Manager

MINNESOTA

Success has many parents, failure is an orphan. A coalition of public and private

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organizations defeated an attempt to place a residential sprinkler ban on the Minnesota State Bonding Bill. It was the opinion of the anti-sprinkler coalition that the Governor would not veto the Bonding Bill. However, Governor Dayton could not have been clearer when he stated to supporters that if the amendment (banning sprinkler legislation) was not removed, he would veto the bill. I have been working with various state legislatures and Governors since 1977 and I have never seen such courage or support for fire safety from an elected official.

Minnesota Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshals contributed time, money and hard work to educate legislative leaders and the Governor's staff. The Minnesota Chapter, led ably by President Sean Flaherty, served as a valuable resource providing factual information, major support of a new website and encouragement. The chapter's lobbyist was a wonderful player in terms of establishing relationships and she worked very closely with the lobbyist for the Chiefs and Fire Marshals. At a critical point, the Firefighter Union also weighed in with their support of the bill.

In summary, NFSA's Minnesota Chapter was there and could be counted on. The fire service led the way and was supported. The battle was won; the outcome of the war is still undecided, however, the Minnesota Chapter will continue to be there in what is becoming one of the most contentious issues in the Minnesota Legislature.

Tom Brace is NFSA's Regional Manager for the state of Minnesota. He can be reached at Brace@nfsa.org or 1433 Idaho Ave West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108, Phone: 651.644.7800. ☎

CENTRAL REGION



CHRIS GAUT
Regional Manager

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI

What the New Home Buyer Doesn't Know
Who looks out for the homebuyer? A - city council? B - The building official? C - The

mortgage lender? D - The realtor/real estate agent? E - The home inspector? The answer? In large part, *NONE OF THE ABOVE*, when it comes to how the home is built.

The ICC (www.iccsafe.org) spends 3 years hearing from hundreds of experts to determine what goes into each code book. They take into account new building techniques, materials, conflicts. The ICC receives countless input from the fire service, building officials, legislators and special interest groups pushing their point of view.

In a article that appeared earlier this year in RealtorMag, the St. Charles County Association of Realtors partnered with the Homebuilders Association of Eastern Missouri to get "new" candidates elected to the city of Wentzville Missouri Board of Aldermen.

To the dismay of many, these newly elected officials "relaxed" 76 provisions of the city's building codes. RELAXED? What does that mean to the new home buyer? In essence, the city of Wentzville will build those new homes with all of the code requirements except 76.

Wouldn't you want to know if you were a new homebuyer? Would you look at your realtor the same way if you knew they teamed up with the homebuilders association to remove these 76 items? What if any of those could save your life?

For more information about this and other contentious practices in the Central Region, contact NFSA's Regional Manager Chris Gaut at gaut@nfsa.org.

Chris Gaut is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Central Region. He can be reached at gaut@nfsa.org or NFSA Central Region Office, 207 Van Buren Rd. Branson, MO 65616, Phone 845.803.6426, Fax 636.410.7700. ☎

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



CYNTHIA GIEDRAITIS
Regional Manager

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA,
OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

New NFSA North Texas Chapter

NFSA is pleased to report that it has a new startup chapter in the Dallas area called the North Texas Chapter and that it is actively seeking new board members. If you are a fire sprinkler contractor, supplier, manufacturer or AHJ, now is a great time to get involved locally with NFSA and play an active role in guiding the local chapter as it goes about the business of promoting the sprinkler industry throughout the region.

For more information about the Chapter's activities and upcoming meetings, contact Chapter Chair Ricky Jackson at rickyj@northstarfire.com, or NFSA Regional Manager Cindy Giedraitis at Cindyg@nfsa.org.

Cindy Giedraitis is the NFSA Regional Manager for the South Central Region. She can be contacted at giedraitis@nfsa.org or PO Box 10403, College Station, Texas 77842. Phone: 979.324.8934. ☎

GREAT PLAINS REGION



ERIC GLEASON
Regional Manager

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

Colorado ICC Education Institute & NFSA

During the Colorado ICC conference held earlier this year, the NFSA booth was representative of the need for further sprinkler education across all venues. The Colorado ICC Chapter is in it's 61st year and justifiably boasts this event as the best code event west of the Mississippi. With over 1,200 participants including building officials, fire officials and many other authorities from over 20 states, this is the event to be at for construction education in the west.


Next year's event will be held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The move to electronic voting will definitely change how ICC committees get their information. Be sure the fire sprinkler message is heard. Visit the ICC website at www.icc.org.

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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iccsafe.org for details.

Eric Gleason is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Plains Region. He can be contacted at gleason@nfsa.org or P.O. Box 62157, Littleton, CO. 80162. Tel: 720.470.4894. 

SOUTHWEST REGION




BRUCE LECAIR
Associate Director of Regional Operations - WEST

CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, NEW MEXICO, NEVADA, ARIZONA

NFSA Forms Arizona Chapter

In June of this year NFSA members in Arizona rallied to formally petition the Association's Board of Directors to be recognized as a Chapter. NFSA Area Director Aaron Bennett of long-time contractor member RCI Systems and NFSA Southwest Regional Manager Bruce Lecair have worked tirelessly to make an NFSA Arizona Chapter a reality. Never in the history of the Association has there been a better time to join NFSA and become of a part of a growing group locally that has its finger on the pulse of regional issues and the strength and support of a national-in-scope organization that can get the job done.

For more information about how to join NFSA and its growing Arizona Chapter, contact NFSA Southwest Regional Manager Bruce Lecair at Lecair@nfsa.org.

Bruce Lecair is NFSA's Associate Director of Regional Operations - West. He can be reached at lecair@nfsa.org or Phone: 951.277.3517, Fax: 951.277.3199. 

NORTHWEST REGION



SUZANNE MAYR
Regional Manager

ALASKA, IDAHO, MONTANA, OREGON, WASHINGTON

Register Now for Northwest Fire Sprinkler Summit

The first Northwest Fire Sprinkler Summit sponsored in part by NFSA will be held Thursday, September 18th at The Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Washington.

Event Highlights:

- Experts from across the country share their experiences, newest data and information
- Panel discussion on water needs, political realities, and code requirements
- Live side-by-side burn shows what really happens in a fire... plus learn how to bring this amazing demonstration to your community
- Vendor Connections showcases the latest technology, products and resources

For more information and to register, contact NFSA's Northwest Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr at Mayr@nfsa.org

NFSA Puget Sound Chapter to Host Luncheon

For a third year in a row, the NFSA Puget Sound Chapter will hold its August lunch meeting to an evening at the Tacoma Yacht Club. A social hour on the deck overlooking the water, buffet dinner and an engaging speaker makes this event a summer highlight. Guests are welcome, and everyone should enjoy the guest speaker, Steve Gutzler of Leadership Quest, a Seattle-based leadership development company. Steve has exceptional ability to communicate clear

leadership and business/sales solutions with humor, clarity and insight. He promises to transform and inspire the group with his messages of extraordinary leadership, achievement, success, and significance.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER MEETING Thursday, August 14

Social hour starts at 5:15


Dinner served at 6:15

Followed by a special presentation by Steve Gutzler

Tacoma Yacht Club, 5401 Waterfront Drive in Tacoma

Cost is \$30 per person

Guests are welcome!

Suzanne Mayr is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Northwest Region. She can be contacted at mayr@nfsa.org or P.O. Box 7328, Tacoma, WA 98417, phone: 253.208.8467. 

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Shane Ray Named NFSA Executive Vice President

Shane Ray of Columbia, South Carolina has been named Executive Vice President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). Formal announcement of his appointment came during the association's Annual Seminar held May 8 - 10 this year at Atlantis in the Bahamas. He will begin work on July 16, 2014.

"I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of this position and am excited to return to the NFSA team," added Ray. "My passion for fire prevention and a non-typical approach is long standing, and there is no better tool in the fire service toolbox than fire sprinklers. I believe in the application of fast water, and it doesn't get any faster than the performance of fire sprinklers."

The NFSA's mission is to protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. An association of dedicated manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, and laborers committed to saving lives and property with the early suppression of fires.

Ray's experience will serve him well as he rejoins a team that he served with from 2006-2010, prior to becoming the South Carolina Fire Academy Superintendent and later the State Fire Marshal. He began his fire service career in 1984 and worked through the ranks of career and volunteer organizations serving from firefighter to chief. He also served six years as Mayor of the Town of Pleasant View. Shane currently serves as South Carolina State Fire Marshal, with his last day being July 1, 2014.

"We are excited for Shane to rejoin our team," said Russ Fleming, NFSA President. Adding, "NFSA understands the important role that the fire service plays in our fire protection field, and we are happy to have someone with Shane's credentials on our leadership team. We believe that the fire service is one of our strongest allies and we look forward to increasing our involvement with them in the future as we all work to create a safer world."

Ray is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Harvard's John F. Kennedy

School of Government, the University of Maryland's Leadership Development Program, and the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He was selected as Fire Chief Magazine's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for 2005, Eastern Kentucky University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award for 2006, and is the Tennessee Fire Chief of the Year 2011.

NFSA's Valentine Selected to Serve on SFPE Board

NFSA is pleased to announce that **Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.**, Director of Product Standards, has been selected by the 2014 SFPE Nominating Committee to serve on the SFPE Board of Directors along with other nominees listed below whose terms begin January, 1, 2015.

Daniel Madrzykowski, P.E., FSFPE, Fire Protection Engineer, National Institute of Standards and Technology, will become President of SFPE Board.

Michael J. Madden, P.E., FSFPE, Senior Fire Protection Engineer, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, will become President-Elect of SFPE Board.

Jack Poole, P.E., FSFPE, Principal, Poole Fire Protection, will become Secretary-Treasurer of SFPE Board.

Carl F. Baldassarra, P.E., FSFPE, Executive Vice President, Rolf Jensen & Associates will become Immediate Past President of SFPE Board.

The committee selected the following individuals for Vice President of the 2015 Board of Directors, each serving a two-

year term.

John "JC" Harrington, P.E., FSFPE, Assistant Vice President, FM Global

Brian Meacham, Ph.D., P.E., FSFPE, Associate Professor, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Paul Rivers, P.E., Senior Fire Protection Specialist, 3M Company

The committee selected the following individuals for Director of the 2015 Board of Directors, each serving a two-year term.

Shen-Wen Chien, Professor, Central Police University, Taiwan

Beth Alyson Tubbs, P.E., FSFPE, Senior Staff Engineer, International Code Council

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., Director of Product Standards, National Fire Sprinkler Association

Peter Gore Willse, P.E., FSFPE, Vice President - Director of Research, XL GAPS

John P. Woycheese, P.E., Ph.D., Fire Protection Engineer, Saudi Aramco

The following individuals were selected as nominees for the SFPE 2015 Nominating Committee.

Samuel S. Dannaway, P.E., FSFPE, CSP, Chief Fire Protection Engineer, S.S. Dannaway Associates

Amanda Kimball, Research Project Manager, Fire Protection Research Foundation

Piotr Tofilo, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, SGSP Fire Academy, Poland

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NFSA President Russ Fleming and Vice President of Regional Operations Buddy Dewar meet with Senator Tom Carper, one of the two sponsors of S 1163, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, at the 26th Congressional Fire Service Institute dinner in Washington, D.C. May 1, 2014.

HQ NEWS

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The following members are continuing on their current terms on the SFPE Board of Directors.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

David Barber, Principal, Arup

James Begley, P.E., SFPE, Principal, TERPconsulting

DIRECTORS:

Daniel L. Arnold, P.E., FSFPE, Principal, Seneca Fire Engineering

Stephen Kerber, P.E., Ph.D., Director, Fire-fighter Safety Research Institute, Underwriters Laboratories

Michael Strömgren, Fire Safety Engineer & Regulatory Specialist, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden

In accordance with the SFPE Constitution, Article 13, Section 13.3, other nominees may be proposed through petition process. Should any member be proposed by petition, the petition should contain the signatures by at least seven voting members and should be received at SFPE Headquarters no later than September 1, 2014, to the attention of Michael Madden, P.E., FSFPE, Secretary-Treasurer. ①

PEOPLE

Scott Dempster Joins Reliable Sales Team

The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company announces the appointment of



Scott Dempster as Regional Sales Representative for Western Canada. Scott has obtained his Bachelor of Science & Business Administration Degree, along with effectively

serving his Fire Protection Apprenticeship within the Province of British Columbia. Most recently, Scott successfully held a management level position for eight years with a Fire Protection installation firm focusing on Estimating, Budgeting, and Operations. Reporting to Matt Squirell, Director of Sales - Canada, Scott will be responsible for all regional sales activities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Living in Vancouver, Scott shares a very active lifestyle with his wife, and young son.

JG Innovations Announces Promotion of Allen Stowers to President

JG Innovations, Inc., the leading provider of steel soffit concealment systems, announced they have recently named **Allen Stowers** as their new President. Allen began his career with the company as a Marketing Director and has taken on many different roles, most recently as Vice President. Since joining JG Innovations, Allen has driven revenue growth, defined sales and support structures, created brand awareness and stabilization and has overseen the installation staff.

Allen holds a BS in Marketing from the University of Wisconsin and has more than 15 years of experience in the Fire Protection/Mechanical Industry. As President he oversees the sales and estimating operations of the company and is involved in the

day-to-day functions as well. He is committed to the strategic planning of the company and provides input on planning and logistic facets required to successfully complete each project phase. Furthermore, Allen provides design contribution to the expansion and improvement of the concealment systems.

For more information, visit www.JGIUS.com or call 1-888-933-2248. ①

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■ Tyco SimplexGrinnell Begins 2014 North American Road Show Series

Tyco SimplexGrinnell has kicked off its 2014 North American road show series, holding live events in New Orleans, Louisiana and Tampa, Florida.

Additional road shows are being planned between now and the end of the year, as Tyco SimplexGrinnell travels throughout the United States and Canada to present the latest developments in the fire and life-safety industry. The day-long sessions feature presentations by Tyco life-safety experts on codes, technologies and applications, group breakout sessions, and displays of advanced solutions for fire alarm, sprinkler, special hazards, nurse call and security.

At the New Orleans road show, H. "Butch" Browning, Jr., Louisiana State Fire Marshal, delivered the opening address to more than 100 participants, including building owners, facility managers, engineers, installing contractors, AHJs (authorities having jurisdiction) and other fire and life-safety professionals representing a variety of industries. According to Browning, "Without vision, people perish. All of us in the life safety industry must strive for advances in technology that save lives and protect property."

This year's road show series is placing particular emphasis on eServices, an integrated suite of technology and service capabilities that greatly enhances the overall value and cost efficiency that Tyco SimplexGrinnell can provide in fire and life-safety environments. The road shows offer an in-depth look at Simplex TrueAlert ES - the revolutionary family of addressable notification appliances with self-testing capability. TrueAlert ES notification provides more design flexibility, improved operational efficiency, and lower costs of ownership. For more information on Simplex TrueAlert ES notification, visit www.notificationreinvented.com.

Upcoming road show venues include several major cities throughout the US and Canada. Enrollment in the road shows is free to AHJs, building owners and managers, engineers, fire and life-safety professionals and code compliance officials. Tyco SimplexGrinnell is working collaboratively at the road shows with a

number of its vendor partners, including Valcom, Xtralis and Ultra Electronics. For information about the 2014 North American road shows, email Michelle Lendway, Trade Show & Corporate Event Manager, Tyco SimplexGrinnell at mlendway@simplexgrinnell.com.

■ Anvil Introduces New CTS SlideLOK® Coupling for Potable Water Systems

The CTS SlideLOK coupling is a ready for installation coupling designed to reduce installation time. The slide action allows for greater flexibility during installation. The patented gasket provides four separate sealing surfaces for added protection. The engineered metal-to-metal installation requirement is a quick and easy indication of proper assembly.

The CTS SlideLOK is designed to be used with copper tube sizes 2" - 4" and produces a secure, rigid joint connection.

The CTS SlideLOK coupling allows for a maximum working pressure of 300 psi for type K, L or M. Contact an Anvil representative for other copper tube pressure ratings.

■ FPPI® Acquires SureTest

Fire Protection Products Inc. (FPPI) has announced that it has acquired SureTest from G/J Innovations. G/J, a pioneer in the fire sprinkler industry, introduced SureTest originally as the first inspector's test and drain valve with an integrated sight glass.

Existing SureTest customers should expect a seamless transition with order fulfillment beginning immediately from FPPI's bi-coastal distribution centers.

For more information contact Fire Protection Products Inc.

■ Hughes Associates and The RJA Group Announce Merger

Hughes Associates and The RJA Group have announced the merger between the two companies, which will position the

combined organization as a global leader in providing a range of fire protection engineering and consulting services in the commercial, institutional, industrial and power marketplace.

The transaction creates one of the largest providers of lifecycle building consultancy services that will include, risk analysis, system design, commissioning, research, testing and project management solutions that encompass fire protection, security and related disciplines.

Combined, both companies have more than 79 years of experience and bring together 500 employees, offices throughout the world and more than \$100 million in revenue. Hughes Associates will now expand into a larger international footprint while RJA will utilize the extensive research and development Hughes is known for.

Detroit-based Huron Capital is providing the financing for the merger. Phil Rogers has been appointed as the CEO for the merged companies and brings over 38 years of experience in facilities management, engineering, energy construction and real estate. The transition will be completed by year-end and will include a new name and branding.

■ ERICO® Announces Launch of Mobile Catalog

ERICO has recently launched its mobile catalog, providing access to complete product information for all CADDY® Products. The new catalog is found at <http://m.erico.com> and is accessible from most mobile devices with a web browser.

Because ERICO serves contractors in diverse markets worldwide, users of the new mobile catalog can choose to filter products by trade as well as by country so that they see products aligned to their needs in with appropriate units of measure. Users also have the ability to access data sheets that can be used for printing or sharing.

The mobile catalog can be accessed at <http://m.erico.com>. Additional resources, including tips and tricks, can be found at <http://www.erico.com/mobilecatalog>.

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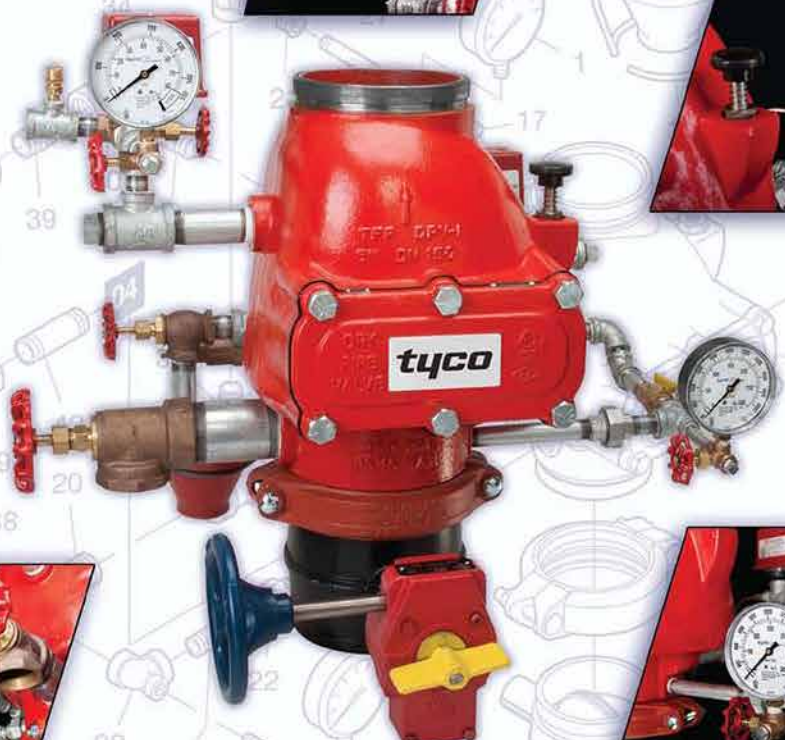
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LOCATION FOR OPTIMAL ELECTRICAL SUPERVISED N.O. ALARM CONTROL VALVE



PORT IDENTIFICATION
 2. ROUTE 1/4" TUBING TO DRIP FUNNEL, IT
 3. SLOPE 3/4" ANGLE VALVE ITEM 9, DOWN TOWARD BACK OF VALVE TO FACILITATE SUFFICIENT LOW BODY DRAINAGE
 ...INGS AND M...
 ...VANIZED.
 ...COMMON HAR...
 ...45-48 INCLUD...
 ...IN PRE-TRIMM...
 ...ASSEMBLIES:
 ...OTHERWISE SEPARA...
 ...ORDERED.

4 INCH (DN100) MODEL DPV-1 DRY PIPE VALVE

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.
1	250 psi/ 1750 kPa Air Pressure Gauge	1
2	300 psi/ 2000 kPa Water Pressure Gauge	1
3	1/4" Gauge Test Valve	2
4	1/4" Pressure Relief Valve	1
5	1/2" Angle Valve	1
6	Miscellaneous	

NO.	DES	P/N
20	1"	CH
21	1"	CH
22	1/2" Union	CH

NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	P/N
38	1/2" x 3-1/2" Nipple	1	CH
39	3/4" x 1/2" Elbow	2	CH

Introducing the newly re-designed Pre-trimmed Model DPV-1 Dry Pipe Valve from Tyco

The Model DPV-1 Pre-trimmed Dry Pipe Valve offers contractors a complete valve assembly, ready for installation directly out of the box. These units now feature a butterfly valve, pressure switches, and the option to add accelerators to customize your valve package. Pre-tested to minimize job site labor and risk, the Model DPV-1 Pre-trimmed Dry Pipe Valve — another cost-effective solution from the Tyco family of fire protection products.

www.tyco-fire.com
 800-558-5236

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