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Fire Prevention Week • October 2010

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Sparky the dog wearing a red hat with "PARKY" written on it, lying on a bed.

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Safety Sheet

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DECEMBER	
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
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FIRE SAFETY

OCT 2010

Beep Beep - Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The Courier-Journal
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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

fire safety

OCTOBER 3-9, 2010

What's Inside?

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Smoke Alarms:
A sound you can live with

Fire Prevention Week • October 3-9, 2010

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Safe Kids

UNC

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 - Sloped Ceilings in Storage Occupancies
 - Classifying Plastic Commodities
 - Signs: What the Standards Say

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November - December 2010 • no. 163

ON THE COVER:

Each year NFSA's Industry Advancement Fund donates funds to newspapers all across the country for development of News in Education programs. Fire safety messages to include residential fire sprinkler system benefits are used to create special pull-out sections distributed during National Fire Prevention Week by the tens of thousands.



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ADFSC UPDATE

John Viniello

In my From the President's Desk column in the May/June 2010 issue, I described in some detail the vision NFSA had in developing the "Accredited Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Contractor" program. I'm happy to report that on August 27, 2010, in Chicago, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by NFSA, the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the International Code Council and The American Fire Sprinkler Association. This has cleared the way for a 13 member commission to be formed that will begin finalizing the criteria a contractor will need to obtain accreditation. Jim Dalton, former NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, now consultant, and Rich Ray of Cybor Fire Protection, Chairman of NFSA's Residential Committee, will serve on the commission. As we have suggested in previous articles on this subject, we envision this program to be the Fire Sprinkler Industry's equivalent of a "Good Housing Seal of Approval." Meetings have taken place between insurance carriers and NFSA to obtain larger homeowner credits for consumers and developers who select sprinkler contractors that obtain ADFSC status to install their systems. Look for, at the very least, a pilot program in the Northeast early in 2011. This program will accomplish three very important objectives:

- Provide the Authorities Having Jurisdiction with a confidence level that companies holding the ADFSC seal of approval are qualified to install these life safety systems.
- Provide Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public with the knowledge that they can "rest assured" that their home fire sprinkler system will work when called upon to do so.
- Protect the integrity of a product that has had an enviable record of protecting life and property for more than 100 years.

NFSA continues to demonstrate vision by "skating to where the puck is going to be" and we on the staff are very grateful for the leadership demonstrated by our Board of Directors under the chairmanship of Gregg Huennkens. The NFSA Board of Directors has provided unwavering support of staff by their unqualified endorsement of this concept from day one.



New Staff Appointments

James D. Lake has rejoined the NFSA as Assistant Vice President of Training & Education. In his new position, effective October 1, 2010, Lake will implement new strategies that will keep the association's training programs relevant utilizing NFSA's cutting-edge communications technologies. He will report directly to Executive Vice President Russ Fleming. Lake has over 20 years experience in fire protection, including code enforcement, fire sprinkler industry representation and codes and standards administration. In his 14 years as a Senior Fire Protection Specialist at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) he worked with numerous technical committees including those responsible for the Life Safety Code© NFPA 101©, as well as committees responsible for fire doors and windows (NFPA 80), commercial cooking and ventilation (NFPA 96), road tunnels and bridges (NFPA 502), and fixed guideway transit systems (NFPA 130). He also developed and delivered training and educational programs in each of these subject areas.

The addition of Jim Lake to the NFSA staff provides our Association with one of the most knowledgeable and recognizable names in the fire sprinkler industry worldwide. We are delighted that he is returning to the NFSA family and we envision his organizational and training skills providing even greater strength to our very successful training and education division.

Also, effective October 15, 2010, **Bernie Arends** has been named Inspection and Testing Specialist. Bernie was a code consultant and Associate Director for the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) and is well versed in the provisions of NFPA 25. He is developing a business plan to launch a state-by-state initiative working with NFSA's Regional Operations team to put some "teeth" into the enforcement of NFPA 25 provisions.

Look for updates on NFSA's website and Regional Reports.

John A. Viniello, President

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EVENTS OF INTEREST TO NFSA MEMBERS

calendar

Nov 1	Anchorage, AK	NFPA 13 Update 2007
Nov 2	Anchorage, AK	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)
Nov 2	Anchorage, AK	Basic Seismic Protection (1/2 day)
Nov 3	Anchorage, AK	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Nov 3	Teutopolis, IL	Introduction to Sprinklers (1/2 day)
Nov 3	Teutopolis, IL	CPVC Piping (1/2 day)
Nov 4	Teutopolis, IL	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Nov 9	Las Vegas, NV	Underground Piping (1/2 day)
Nov 9	Las Vegas, NV	Basic Seismic (1/2 day)
Nov 9	Online	Clearance to Storage
Nov 10	Las Vegas, NV	Standpipe Systems (1/2 day)
Nov 10	Las Vegas, NV	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)
Nov 30	Online	Rules for Revamping Systems
Nov 30	Pembroke, MA	Sprinkler Protection for General Storage
Dec 1	Pembroke, MA	Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage
Dec 2	Pembroke, MA	Sprinkler Protection for Special Storage
Dec 14	Online	Pumps in Series

These seminars qualify for continuing education as required by NICET. Meets mandatory Continuing Education Requirements for Businesses and Authorities Having Jurisdiction.

To register or for more information, contact: Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207, E-Mail: seminars@nfsa.org. Or register online at www.nfsa.org.

*For more information, contact Nicole Sprague using Sprague@nfsa.org or by calling 845-878-4200 ext. 149.



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Hilton Los Cabos Resort
 Los Cabos, Mexico
 May 3-5, 2012

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New York	New York	Associate Director of Regional Operations - North Dominick G. Kasmauskas, NFSA 1436 Altamont Ave. Suite 147 Rotterdam, NY 12303 (914) 414-3337 FAX (518) 836-0210	
Mid Atlantic	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C.	Raymond W. Lonabaugh, NFSA P.O. Box 126 Ridley Park, Pennsylvania 19078 (610) 521-4768 FAX (610) 521-2030	Kent Mezaros Quick Response Fire Protection 77 Pension Road, Suite 5 Manalapan, New Jersey 07726 (732) 786-9440 FAX (732) 786-9443
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Is the Recession Really Over?

Gregg Huennekens



If you are talking to a fire sprinkler contractor these days and through the course of the conversation you ask the question, "How's business?" you'll probably get an answer that just about everybody expects - "Not very good." Backlogs have all but dried up, prices are at an all time low, there's little or no bid activity and although lenders are loosening up the purse strings to an extent by offering attractive rates, few jobs are actually being let. This is a pretty clear indication that the experts aren't really sure if the economy has actually hit bottom and is recovering or is being buoyed artificially by factors the average business person has never heard of, much less understands.

That said, imagine my surprise when I read in the paper this morning and heard on the news yesterday that the National Bureau of Economic Research reported the recession ended in June of 2009. After having to choke back a laugh that would have been embarrassing for me and had dire consequences for the person sitting across from me at a local coffee shop, I thought, "Well, that's good news." After mulling it over for a minute or so, though, I had to ask myself, from where did the gains come? Or, maybe there weren't any gains, just simply no losses. Interesting, no losses - I wonder how many of them makes a gain?

As you know, when the economy begins to show signs of a decline, typically the fire sprinkler industry is among the last to feel the negative effects - financing is already in place, projects have

been let, work is in progress and backlogs cached. Conversely, as the economy begins to mend, the fire sprinkler industry tends to lag behind the recovery-curve, usually by 12 - 18 months - at least that's been the norm until now. Backlogs in excess of 12 - 18 months would under ordinary circumstances be enough to carry a contractor through the harshest of economic declines. But this has not been your garden variety recession. By all measures, since according to the National Bureau of Economic Research we are already as of this writing 15 months into economic recovery, the fire sprinkler industry should be seeing signs of business improvement, or at the very least should be expecting it in the next few months. Sorry, call me skeptical, but I just don't see it. In fact, many of the contractors I've talked with, who prudently would err on the side of caution with their financial projections, aren't expecting any improvements in business conditions until 2013.

A few months back NFSA President John Viniello opened a blog called "The Fire Sprinkler Roundtable." Its purpose is to provide the membership with a forum to share thoughts and ideas about what's happening with the economy and other issues affecting the fire sprinkler industry. The last posting as of this article suggests that recent data points to an economy gaining momentum. After reading this article, take a few minutes to share your thoughts. The address is nfsa.org/blog. Let us know what you think. Is the recession really over?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Huennekens". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregg Huennekens, Chairman



NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition The Hilton Baltimore Baltimore, Maryland April 7-9, 2011

**Registration materials
will be available online
December 1, 2010 at the NFSA
website at www.nfsa.org**



By Don Pamplin

I saw a sign that said

Think About John 15:13 On Veterans Day

The sign was on a small, rural church. They put it up every year to honor and remember all those military personnel who valiantly served during the many different wars that the United States was involved in. They will not only be lovingly and respectfully remembered for that honorable service, but also for the sacrifices that thousands of them made. Those sacrifices were made not only on battlefields around the world, but also after they returned home from active duty, facing a life complicated by the injuries they suffered, both mental and physical.

I get many emails every year regarding what I write in this SQ "column". When I wrote the following article last year, many people asked me to repeat it again this year because they felt the message was important for a variety of reasons. I have updated the relevant statistics.

Harry Patch died in July, 2009 at the age of 111. He was the last surviving WWI veteran and the last living link to a war now officially relegated to the books of history. Although there are soldiers living who did not see action, Harry Patch had a unique perspective. He was the last actual witness to what occurred at the front. There is no one in the world alive today that can "tell it like it really was."

Priya Satia, a historian at Stanford University in California said: "His death, to me, seems less about his voice disappearing and more about the war itself vanishing as a part of lived history, as something that's in living memory for at least one human being on the planet." Harry Patch

of Combe Down, Western England, was called into service at age 18 and following basic training was sent to France in June, 1917. He became a Lewis machine gunner with "C" Company of the 7th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and was in the trenches on his 19th birthday. He fought in the Battles of Ypres and was wounded during the horrific battles in Passchendaele and sent home. His pay for that heroic duty was 19 pennies per day, the equivalent of \$6.00 today. Later in his life, he became a staunch advocate and public speaker for peace, sharing the horrific stories of what war was really like. He stated that people should do everything they can to stop wars from happening again. His message was that "war was not worth it, it was not worth one life, let alone all the millions who died."

How many millions did die? A 1930 military study found the numbers staggering! In WWI, a total of all military deaths from all the countries that participated in that war was over 8.5 million! The total number of military wounded was over 21 million. The United States had a total of 116,516 military deaths with 204,002 wounded. During a conversation about this, an interesting question was raised: "In all the major wars that the United States has been involved in from WWI to today, how does the number of its military deaths compare to all the people who have died in a residential fire in the United States during that same time period?"

A recent military study revealed some very sad findings:

WAR	TOTAL U.S. MILITARY DEATHS
WWI	116,516
WWII	405,399
Korean	53,686
Vietnam	58,209
Desert Storm	382
Iraq	4,404 *
Afghanistan	1,135 *
Total	639,731

*Note * as of August 10, 2010*

Determining residential fire statistics is a difficult process, especially prior to the establishment of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 1974. However, in 1972, Statistics from the National Defense Department and the NFPA established estimates that over an 11 year period (1961-1972), there were approximately 7,300 residential fire deaths per year. For the years prior to 1961 back to 1917, the estimated residential fire deaths were higher at approximately 8,500 deaths per year. Between 1973 to 1998, the average residential fire death rate dropped to approximately 7,308 per year and from 1998 to 2009, the annual

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



NFSA's Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest

Don Pamplin

residential fire death rate has been lower, averaging 4,500 per year. And even adjusting those total figures with a 5% error factor, more people died (644,109) in residential fires in the United States than all of our military deaths in seven major wars over a 92-year period!

Just consider what that actually means for a moment. In a place where they should feel safe and secure, more people have died in those "safe homes" than in seven wars the United States has fought in.

In researching these statistics, it was interesting to note that during the research to write the 1973 America Burning Report, it was discovered and reported that from 1961 to 1972, more people died in U.S. fires (143,550) than the total military deaths (58,209) that occurred in the Vietnam war during that same eleven-year period.

In addition, based on current averages since 1974, more than 8,000 firefighters

have died in the line of duty over that 92-year period. Approximately 65% of those deaths were volunteer firefighters serving in our communities.

What does this all mean? There are several thoughts and conclusions that one could determine. First and foremost are the conclusions that Harry Patch came home to tell. War is absolute hell and it should never be embraced as the only way to resolve economic, political and religious disputes. Without reducing any respect and honor for all those who died for their country and its freedoms, isn't it equally concerning when you stop and consider that another type of war has caused more deaths than our military has experienced during the seven major wars we have participated in since April 6, 1917?

The war the American Fire Service fights is two-fold. The first is against uncontrolled fire happening in single-family homes, townhouses, apartments

and condominiums. On a yearly average, eight people die every day somewhere in America in these occupancies and 50% of those deaths are children under five years of age and seniors over 65. Because the average "Total Intervention Time" of our responding fire personnel exceeds 10 minutes across America, we are losing this war. With 79 million aging "baby boomers" currently in our country, our annual fire death rate could substantially increase over the next few years.

The second part of this war is against the special interest groups who oppose residential fire sprinkler protection. This is a war that defies all logic. The opposition is coming from business people who tell unsuspecting consumers that new homes don't burn, that fire sprinklers will do more damage than the fire, that smoke alarms are all that is needed to protect them and that the cost of a sprinkler system will make their homes unaffordable. This is a war that is funded by wealthy organizations who donate huge sums of money to politicians to garner their support to prevent fire sprinklers from being used in our communities.

This is a war that is unfortunately being controlled by "killer legislation," as politicians across our nation are sponsoring laws that would prevent local or state governments from using cost-effective fire sprinkler protection in their communities as a way of controlling increasing fire protection costs for current and future residential development and construction and as an effective way to properly protect the citizens in those communities. This is a war that will have huge life and economic consequences in our country if the American Fire Service loses to those who care only about profit.

On November 11th this year, remember to pay special tribute to all those military heroes who gave so much for America. John 15:13 says: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

At the same time, remember those whose lives have been lost in residential fires. As a result of those tragedies, they cannot continue to pay that same honor and tribute to their military loved ones buried far away from where they are buried, somewhere in a lonely place. ①

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Determining Plastic Materials Storage Commodity Classification

By Bob Treiber

As most of you know, there are three commodity classifications for plastic materials listed in NFPA 13, Section 5.6.4. The commodity classifications are Group A, Group B and Group C. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to classify plastics into these three categories. The classification is supposed to be determined where possible by special fire testing conducted at a nationally recognized fire testing laboratory, such as (UL) Underwriters Lab, FM Global, Southwest Labs or other approved laboratories.

NFPA 13, Section 5.6.1.1 states that the commodity classifications and the corresponding protection schemes requirements shall be determined based on the makeup of the individual storage unit (i.e., unit load, pallet load, etc.). Simply stated, not only is the product combustibility used to determine the classification, but how it is packaged can affect its combustibility as well. NFPA 13, Section 5.6.1.2 states that when specific test data of commodity classification is conducted by a nationally recognized testing agency and the data is available, it shall be permitted to be used in determining the classification of the commodity. The test used by the nationally recognized testing labs requires three burns of each material to be tested on eight wood pallets. From the data collected, the burn test is compared to what the testing lab has established as the benchmark for the commodity classification.

One of the testing labs benchmarks for plastic is the measured heat release rate. Normally plastic materials or other similar burning materials would be classified as Group C if the heat release rate is

less than 1000 BTU/sq. ft. /min. If the heat release rate is from 1000 BTU/sq. ft./min to 1500 BTU/sq. ft./min., the plastic materials would be Group B commodities, and any plastic material that has a heat release rate greater than 1500 BTU/sq. ft. /min. would be a Group A. Be aware that there are other items that burn like plastics and therefore you will find some of those materials classified as a "Group A" commodity.

The good news is that "Group B" plastics are classified as Class IV Commodities and "Group C" plastic are classified as Class III Commodities. So when it comes to classifying "Group A" plastic there is a list of plastics in NFPA 13, Section 5.6.4.1. The list contains 19 types of plastics which are to be classified as "Group A" commodity. To further assist you, there are examples of "Group A" plastic material in the Annex under Table A.5.6.4.1. If you look at this list of "Group A" examples you will find items you would not think of as "Group A" plastic such as candles, lighters - butane/ blister packed cartoned, margarine - between 50% & 80% oil, nail polish in 1oz. to 2oz. plastic bottles - cartoned, and of course everyone knows truck or larger batteries, so be careful of hybrid car electric batteries.

So, classifying plastic materials for a storage commodity should be easy. Over the last several years, I have had several code officials and sprinkler contractors call me concerning this matter. In some cases you will find your answer by checking Section 5.6.4.1 (Group A), Section 5.6.4.2 (Group B), or Section 5.6.4.3 (Group C).

The Standard allows three exemptions for a "Group A" plastic to be reclassified as a Class IV commodity. They are as follows:

1. Plastics that are free flowing such as plastic pellets used in injection molding, and be capable of smothering the fire. (Section 5.6.3.4.1 - Class IV)
2. That within the packing does not exceed 5 percent to 15 percent by weight or does not exceed 5 percent to 25 percent by volume (Section 5.6.3.4.1 - Class IV)
3. Per Figure 15.2.1 Decision Tree, Notes 1 and 2 states that when "Group A" plastic products are encased with multiple layers of corrugated cardboard the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may approve the storage commodity to be reclassified as a Class IV storage commodity. See NFPA 13 Handbook for examples of multiple layers of corrugated cardboard.

The lists of plastics have existed since the 1999 Edition of NFPA 13 and, to date, has not changed. There are 19 types of "Group A" plastics, 6 types of "Group B" and 8 types of "Group C" plastics. Do you think that the plastic manufacturing industry has come up with new or modified plastic materials? If you answered yes, you would be correct. So, what do you do when you come across these types of plastic materi-

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Bob Treiber

Based in Centerville, Ohio, Bob is NFSA's Director of Training & Education.

als not listed?

Most often you will not be dealing directly with the manufacturer of the plastic materials (beads/pellets) or the manufacturer of the plastic product (injection molding facilities); you normally will be dealing with a bulk distributor, or the wholesalers or retailers handling the end product. Most often these people do not have any idea about the flammability of the plastic material. If you ask them, "Is this a "Group A", "Group B" or "Group C" commodity?" they will look at you as if you're from another planet. The people you need to get the information from will be the makers of the plastic (beads/pellets) and in some cases they will not know either, or in this Global Economy you may find the material has been produced in another country. If you want a real experience, try calling a plastics manufacturer in China and ask them for commodity classification of plastic used in the manufacture of plastic materials.

Sometimes you may be able to contact the larger plastic material makers such as Dow, GE, and other major manufacturers to get an answer. Also plastic manufacturers

can also add fire or flame modifiers to reduce the flammability of the plastics. If fire or flame modifiers have been added to the plastics then the plastic can sometimes be evaluated for reduced hazard commodity classifications.

Several years ago, I decided to see where AHJ and sprinkler contractors could get help in determining the plastic materials commodity classifications and found there is limited help available. I called the Society of Plastic Engineers to see if they maintained a list and found they were unable to provide information concerning plastic commodity classification.

I also called UL and other national testing labs and found that they did not have a published list of plastic materials commodity classifications and was advised that this was proprietary information and that only the customer that had the testing done could provide that information. Checking other sources such as material safety data sheets, I was unable to find any information concerning commodity classification. So if you need this information, the manufacturer of the plastics is the only source

I have found to date that may possibly be able to provide information concerning the commodity classification of a plastic.

Unfortunately, you will often not be able to determine the commodity classification. In those situations, you will need to make a decision based on the cautious side. If the individual handling the product is unable to determine the plastic commodity, then the plastic materials should be classified as "Group A."

Remember "Group A" plastics have a significant heat release rate and produce heat rates similar to combustible liquids. It is for this reason that the highest sprinkler protection densities are for "Group A" plastics. Facilities storing "Group A" plastics will require significant water flows.

If you would like to learn more about sprinkler protection of plastic materials then check out the NFSA web site www.nfsa.org for on-site seminars on general and rack storage offered throughout the country. These seminars cover the sprinkler protection of plastic commodities. ①

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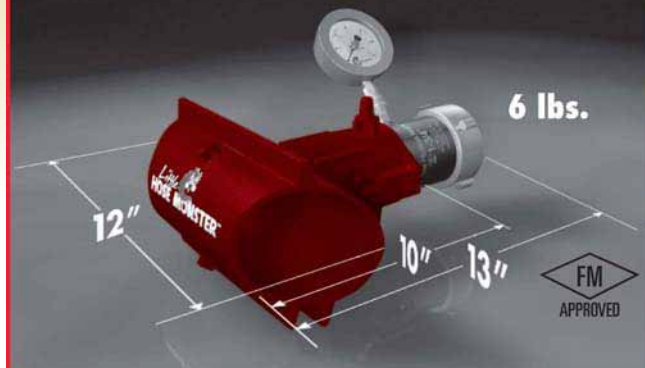
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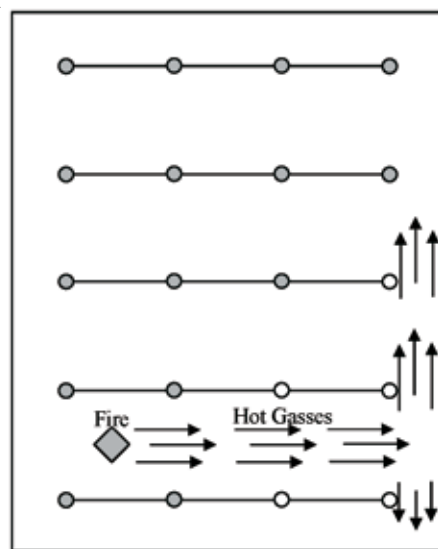
Sloped Ceilings in Storage Occupancies

By Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

NFPA 13 contains some very specific statements about how to deal with sloped ceilings. Sprinklers are required to be installed with their deflectors parallel to the ceiling (section 8.5.4.2), distances between sprinklers for the purposes of determining coverage areas and spacing of sprinklers are to be measured along the slope (section 8.5.3.1.2), and the area used for hydraulic calculations (design area and individual area per sprinkler to apply to the density) is required to be measured along the horizontal plane of the floor (section 22.4.4.5.3). Note that the section numbers referenced throughout this article are from the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, but that similar sections are in earlier editions of NFPA 13.

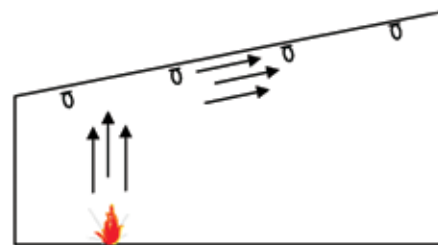
For light hazard, ordinary hazard, and extra hazard sprinkler systems, NFPA 13 provides discharge criteria for sprinkler systems under ceilings with a significant slope (more than 2 in 12). Section 11.2.3.2.4 specifies that an increase of 30% is required for the design area and no change is required for the density. This rule also works for Miscellaneous Storage in accordance with Chapter 13.

But for all storage situations except Miscellaneous Storage, there is one section of NFPA 13 that causes a great deal of difficulty because it is not specific enough in telling people how to handle the situation of a significantly sloped ceiling. Section 12.1.2 (which applies to all storage situations except Miscellaneous Storage) states, "The sprinkler system criteria specified in Chapter 12 and Chapters 14 through 20 are intended to apply to build-



○ = Open Sprinkler
● = Closed Sprinkler

Plan View



Elevation View

Figure 1
Hot Gases from Fire Open Sprinklers Remote from the Fire
ings with ceiling slopes not exceeding 2 in 12 (16.7%) unless modified by a specific section in Chapter 12 and Chapters 14 through 20."

This seemingly simple statement has the ability to throw sprinkler projects into

chaos. What NFPA 13 is trying to say here is that we simply do not have enough information on buildings with excessive slope to determine the answer to two basic questions:

- 1) How many sprinklers will open during the fire?
- 2) When the sprinklers over the fire open, how much water will need to discharge from these sprinklers to control or suppress the fire?

Why Don't We Know?

When a fire occurs in a large room with a sloped ceiling, heat from the fire travels up the slope and then across the ridge (peak) of the room opening sprinklers remote from the fire as shown in Figure 1. These open sprinklers do not contribute to controlling or suppressing the fire because they are remote from the fire, but they do take water away from sprinklers over the fire that do open and need that water at the right pressure in order to control or suppress the fire.

Also, because of the slope, the sprinklers directly over the fire open later in the fire scenario (hot gases slide past the

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

Vice President, Engineering for NFSA. Ken represents NFSA on the NFPA Technical Committee on Sprinkler System Discharge Criteria

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>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

sprinklers and up the slope, which does not keep the gasses near the sprinklers where they aid in opening the sprinklers), which allows the fire to grow larger before water is applied. Discharge densities and water pressures that are adequate to control a fire under a flat ceiling may not be sufficient with the delay under a sloped ceiling.

Unfortunately, fire grows in relation to time squared. A fire in a 15 ft high storage array of plastics might grow to a heat release rate of 1000 BTU/sec in about 2 minutes (which is a typical response time for sprinklers under a horizontal ceiling). If the ceiling slope causes a delay of only 30 seconds, the fire is likely to grow to more than 1500 BTU/sec. This is more than a 50% increase in heat release, which might make the discharge from the sprinkler insufficient for controlling this fire. Under a horizontal ceiling, a 15 ft high storage array of plastics might be protected with standard spray sprinklers at a density of 0.6 gpm per sq ft, which might be sufficient to handle a 1000 BTU/sec fire, but might not be able to handle the fire if it got to 1500 BTU/sec or more.

The problem is that with an almost infinite variety of room slopes and configurations, it is extremely difficult for NFPA 13 to develop a set of rules that will work for all circumstances. So, until such time as definitive criteria can be developed, NFPA 13 has taken the position that it will contain the criteria for horizontal ceilings and warn people that the criteria should not be used for ceilings with significant slope. Research has shown that ceilings with a slope of 2 in 12 (16.7%) or less act very much like a horizontal ceiling (see section 3.3.5.2 of NFPA 13, which allows a ceiling with a slope of 2 in 12 to be considered a horizontal ceiling).

A ceiling with a slope of 2 in 12 has an angle of approximately 9.46 degrees to the horizontal. Recent work by Factory Mutual has determined that the horizontal ceiling rules can be extended to 10 degrees to the horizontal. This raises the slope under which the discharge rules can be used to 2.116 in 12 or approximately 17.6%. While this is not currently in NFPA 13, it might be accepted by an authority as an equivalency to NFPA 13 until the NFPA Technical Committee on Sprinkler System

Discharge Criteria can meet and rule on the situation.

What Will Work?

Using what we know now, the best decision that architects and engineers can make when designing a storage occupancy is to keep the roof slope at 2 in 12 (16.7%) or less. With definitive protection criteria in NFPA 13, this makes the fire sprinkler system the most affordable and keeps the sprinkler system in the known performance range.

But if architects or engineers absolutely need to design a storage occupancy with a significant slope to the ceiling, or if the owner needs to move into a building that previously was constructed with a significant slope, then there are only two options that the owner can employ at this time:

- 1) Install a horizontal drop ceiling under the sloped roof and install the sprinklers under the drop ceiling. If this option is selected, the drop ceiling needs to be sufficiently constructed so that any tiles do not fall out or move during the fire. Heavy tiles or tiles that clip into place might be necessary.
- 2) Hire a fire protection engineer to perform a dynamic heat transfer analysis of the space to determine how many sprinklers might open during a fire and how large the fire might be when the sprinklers open. If these two variables can be quantified for the space, it is possible that the engineer can develop sprinkler discharge criteria.

Conclusion

Until such time as definitive criteria can be established in NFPA 13, architects, engineers and building owners need to understand that NFPA 13 does not provide information on how to protect storage occupancies with sloped ceilings that exceed 2 in 12. If they are going to insist on having these types of spaces, they are going to have to either make changes to their buildings, or they are going to have to do some extra work in determining the discharge criteria for the sprinkler system. ①



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NFSA's Associate Director of Regional Operations South, **Dave Bowman**, presents a plaque to **Wendy Rothenberg** of All Fire Service, Inc., in Hollywood, Florida. The recognition was given at a Miami Area Interest Meeting in appreciation of Wendy's service as the 2009 President of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association, an NFSA chapter. Wendy had the honor of being the first female president of the association. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors.



S.A.Comunale Live Dorm Burn Demo Educates Crowd of 400

*This issue, we at SQ are proud to hand over our membership column to **Jodi Hoover**, editor of S.A. Comunale Co., Inc.'s newsletter, *The Pipeline*. S.A. Comunale, one of our contractor members in Akron, Ohio, has been reaching out to educate the public about the importance of fire sprinkler systems.*

As a note to all of our members, please remember that this is your column. We encourage all of our members to submit articles of interest to be featured here. Send your stories to Joanne Genadio at genadio@nfsa.org.

On a recent Friday afternoon, over 400 people gathered to watch a dorm room go up in flames and burn everything inside in a matter of minutes. Sound a bit out of the ordinary? Long-time NFSA Contractor Member, S.A. Comunale Co., Inc. of Norton, Ohio certainly hopes so. They are the company who set up the burn in hopes of further educating those who were watching about the importance and efficacy of fire sprinklers.

The burn demonstration took place at S.A. Comunale's annual open house, an event that draws business owners, general contractors, facilities managers, architects, local unions, suppliers, and many local colleges and health care providers. The purpose of the open house is hands-on education, from cutting edge materials and technologies to new "green" solutions in the sprinkler and mechanical contracting industry. Visitors had the opportunity to try Local 597's (Chicago) virtual welder as well as view the



The sprinkler was activated less than a minute after the fire was ignited while the unprotected room burned out of control.

latest in design tool, BIM, and see a 3D model of a real life project Comunale is installing.


In seeking to provide a unique experience for those in attendance, S.A. Comunale had the idea to perform a live burn. They built two identical wood and drywall mock dorm rooms that were fully furnished (with furniture donated by Kent State University) and decorated. The only difference: one room was outfitted with a fire sprinkler, the other was not. With EPA approval and under the supervision of the Norton, Ohio Fire Department, fires were started in the dorm room trash cans with paper as the only

source of fuel; no accelerants were used making the burn as real as possible to demonstrate just how quickly a fire can spread.

In the room without the sprinkler it took just minutes for the fire to flash over and the room was completely destroyed in less than eight minutes. The dorm room with the sprinkler painted a significantly different picture. The fire never reached flash over point due to the fact that the time from ignition of the fire to activation of the sprinkler head was 50 seconds. Perhaps even more impressive was that the fire was extinguished approximately 5 seconds after the head was activated. The resulting damage was very minimal and a person in the room could have walked away from the fire.

The demonstration provided an insightful impact on those who witnessed it. Overall the onlookers were equally impressed and surprised at how quickly the sprinkler went off and its effectiveness at extinguishing the fire swiftly and completely. Those who witnessed the event have a new understanding of and appreciation for the devastation a fire can cause after seeing the total destruction of the room without the sprinkler.

S.A. Comunale Fire Protection Engineer, JR Fowler, who helped design the burn, knows that the message was well-received. "I don't believe [the audience] realized how quickly the fire would spread or how violent it became... I think they were able to relate this simulation to their home, office, kids, [or] school and realize how little time they really do have to evacuate." Many of the school representatives who attended now plan to implement the video of the demonstration into their orientation for new students.

The burn demonstration was an innovative learning tool that capped off a day of hands-on education provided S.A. Comunale Co., Inc. 



Joanne Genadio

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Code Update

By Jeff Hugo, CBO

The following is an updated list of model codes that are currently being enforced state-by-state up to August 2010. Many states modify a national model code with local amendments, and some states may enforce parts of the codes to certain structures. The list will get sprinkler contractors started in the right direction, but it would be prudent to check what has been specifically changed in a jurisdiction before starting work. Codes are being updated constantly. At any given time, several states are working on updating their perspective codes.

The current edition of referenced standards such as, NFPA 13, NFPA 20, NFPA 25, is listed in the adopted building code. For example, if the jurisdiction is using the 2009 IBC, then the 2007 NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R would be the standards enforced.

These days, most jurisdictions have the local enforced code on their website. However, the NFSA is here to help you. Never hesitate to contact me or your Regional Manager for local information.

CODES AND STANDARDS/AUGUST 2010

State	Resid. Code	Bldg. Code	Fire Code	NFPA 101
Alabama	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	2003
Alaska	Local	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Arizona	Local	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Arkansas	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	2006
California	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	
Colorado	Local	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Connecticut	2003 IRC	2003 IBC	2003 IFC	2003
Delaware	Local	Local	2009 NFPA 1	2009
Wash D.C.	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Florida	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 NFPA 1	2003
Georgia	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	2000
Hawaii	Local	2006 IBC	2006 NFPA 1	
Idaho	Local	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	1997
Illinois	Local	2006 IBC	2000 IFC	2000
Indiana	2003 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Jeff is NFSA's Manager of Codes

Jeff Hugo, CBO

CODES AND STANDARDS/AUGUST 2010

State	Resid. Code	Bldg. Code	Fire Code	NFPA 101
Iowa	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	2000
Kansas	Local	2000 IBC	Local	1991
Kentucky	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	2006
Louisiana	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2003
Maine	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2003
Maryland	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2003
Massachusetts	2003 IRC	2009 IBC	Local	
Michigan	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	Local	1997
Minnesota	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Mississippi	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Missouri	Local	Local	Local	2000
Montana	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	
Nebraska	2000 IRC	2000 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2000
Nevada	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2003 IFC	
New Hampshire	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2003
New Jersey	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
New Mexico	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2003 IFC	
New York	2003 IRC	2003 IBC	2003 IFC	
North Carolina	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
North Dakota	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	Local	
Ohio	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Oklahoma	2009 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	2003
Oregon	2006 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	2000
Pennsylvania	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	2003
Rhode Island	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2003
South Carolina	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
South Dakota	Local	2003 IBC	2003 IFC	
Tennessee	2009 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	2006
Texas	2000 IRC	2003 IBC	2003 NFPA 1	2000
Utah	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2003 IFC	2003
Vermont	2003 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 NFPA 1	2006
Virginia	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	
Washington	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 IFC	2000
West Virginia	2009 IRC	2009 IBC	2009 NFPA 1	2003
Wisconsin	2006 UDC	2006 IBC	2009 NFPA 1	
Wyoming	2006 IRC	2006 IBC	2006 IFC	

By Vickie Pritchett

On the Road Again... North to Alaska!

Fire Team USA treks 9,457 miles round trip to deliver Workshop series

Fire Team USA continues to stay busy sharing the fire sprinkler concept with community stakeholders across the nation, with their 2010 summer schedule taking them to Anchorage, Alaska. The team had stops along the way in Calgary, Alberta and Louisville, Kentucky.

I'm not sure any of the team members who comprise the van crew knew exactly what we were in for, but, we were up to the challenge and we were certainly not disappointed. What a beautiful drive and opportunity to understand exactly why the words to the song say "America the Beautiful!" (even though many of our miles were in beautiful Canada.)

One of the fun things that we did to pass the miles was to "track" our count of animals spotted along the Alaskan highway. Of course, we also were determined to take a picture of each one spotted, which made for many fun and laughable moments along the way. Some that stand out in our minds was the first Moose (which was dead on the roadside) and the first Grizzly bear (which was a little scary) – one of the prettiest was a red fox... all sightings were reminders of the beauty of nature and how blessed we were for the opportunity to visit their world.

Once in Anchorage, we were hard at work, assisting the Alaska State Fire Mar-

shals office with a live side-by-side burn demonstration that was covered by all 3 network television affiliates.

One recent trend with Fire Team USA attendees is that of an increase of building officials. We believe that this trend is a direct result of the inclusion of fire



PFP Director Shane Ray is joined by Vickie Pritchett, PFP Associate Director with an Alaskan friend


sprinklers in both national building codes.

Successful side-by-side burn demonstrations put an exclamation point on

the respective Fire Team USA segments. Statistics and resources make the case, but the real fire – especially the non-sprinklered demo – really opens eyes.

Our current year grant funding provides us the opportunity to host a Summit that features communities that have attended previous Fire Team USA workshops and then taken action. As a result of the Summit we will be adding a significant appendix to the Residential Fire Sprinklers: A Step-by-Step Guide for Communities, which includes actual examples from communities who have attended past Fire Team USA workshops – both those who have been successful and those that have not.

The 3rd edition of the Guide will be ready for the March 2011 Fire Team USA Summit, and will be available through Fire Team USA and the Public Fire Protection team of NFSA.

For registration information about upcoming Fire Team USA deliveries, visit www.fireteamusa.com. 

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



NFSA's Associate Director, Public Fire Protection

Vickie Pritchett

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

On the Road Again... North to Alaska!

Fire Team USA treks 9,457 miles round trip to deliver Workshop series

Sprinklered Room vs
Non-Sprinklered Room



PLATE #1



PLATE #2



PLATE #3



PLATE #4



NFSA Member Contest Make the "NFSA" Plate!

In the spirit of the upcoming holidays, NFSA would like to give our members the chance to win a fabulous prize for having a bit of fun. Whose license plates are pictured here? Could they be extremely dedicated NFSA employees? Proud members? The Board of Directors of the National Flying Squirrel Association? It's your job to find out!

Email your guesses to genadio@nfsa.org by December 31, 2010. One Grand Prize Winner will be chosen on January 3, 2011 in a random drawing from all correct entries. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Cloud 9 Living. Cloud 9 Living offers over 1,700 of the country's most unique and memorable experience gifts in 43 cities nationwide. The winner will be able to apply his/her gift certificate towards any of Cloud 9's 1,700+ experiences. With experiences ranging from Stock Car Racing and Dinner Cruises to Hot Air Balloon Rides and a Day at the Spa, you are sure to find an experience you'll love. Check out their website at www.cloud9living.com, we guarantee you'll be excited with what you find there.

The winner will be notified by January 10, 2011. Results and the correct answers will be published in the March/April issue of SQ.

And now, for the particulars:

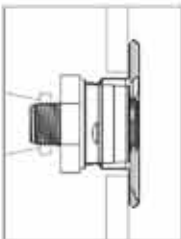
CONTEST RULES:

1. The contest is open to NFSA members only.
2. The prize is not redeemable in cash and must be accepted as awarded.
3. By claiming the prize, the winner authorizes the use, without additional compensation, of his or her name and/or likeness for promotion and/or advertising purposes in any NFSA publication.
4. In accepting the prize, the winner, and any guest(s), acknowledges that NFSA may not be held liable for any loss, damages or injury associated with accepting or using this prize.
5. One entry per member allowed.



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Seminars will take
place on the Internet
on Tuesdays:

10:30AM Eastern/
9:30AM Central/
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2:30PM Greenwich

JANUARY 18, 2011

Antifreeze Systems

Intermediate – Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

Antifreeze systems generated more controversy than any other fire sprinkler topic during 2010. With the dust settled, this seminar will discuss the current requirements relative to both new and existing systems. It will explore design alternatives, including the status of dry residential sprinkler systems and new candidate antifreeze solutions. It will also address contractor obligations with regard to the evaluation of existing systems.

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

FM Data Sheets

Intermediate - Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

In March of 2010, the Factory Mutual Insurance Company (FM) released a new set of data sheets regarding how they would like their clients to design and install fire sprinkler systems in the properties they insure. These new data sheets represent a significant change in philosophy for FM. Rather than follow the format of NFPA standards, showing the text of the NFPA standards and then showing where they have different requirements, FM has written their own criteria from scratch, which sometimes contradicts the NFPA standards. The seminar will review the major differences between the FM standards and the NFPA standards and discuss strategies for dealing with the use of FM standards when NFPA standards are referenced by law.

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Paint Spray Booths (NFPA 33)

Advanced – Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

NFPA 33 notes that paint spray booths should be treated as an extra hazard group 2 occupancy for their fire sprinkler protection. However, there are many additional requirements that get pulled into the layout of the system and the hydraulic calculations because of the hazard classification. Different arrangements for paint spray booths will be reviewed for application of the extra hazard occupancy. In addition, the water supply demand for these booths will be discussed.

MARCH 1, 2011

IRC/NFPA 13D Prescriptive Pipe Sizing (P2904)

Basic/Intermediate – Jeff Hugo, CBO

This seminar will discuss the alternative to designing residential sprinklers according to the criteria listed in Section P2904 of the 2009 IRC and Section 8.4.10 of the 2010 NFPA 13D. The prescriptive method of designing versus the traditional methods used and the familiarity of this method may decrease design time and training hours for new personnel. Other critical sections of the IRC pertinent to the sprinkler designer and contractor will be highlighted and discussed. Residential fire sprinkler mandates are on the rise throughout the country, and attending this seminar will give your company the newest in sprinkler design and enable flexibility in relaying this information to your local AHJ.

MARCH 22, 2011

Plastic Pallets

Intermediate/Karl Wiegand, E.I.T.

Plastic pallets are used in many storage facilities. The presence of plastic pallets in these facilities can greatly affect the design requirements for the sprinkler systems that protect them. NFPA 13 provides all of these requirements. However, they are separated throughout the standard. This seminar will bring together the different protection requirements of plastic pallets in NFPA 13 to assist in the proper use of the regulations.

APRIL 12, 2011

The New NFPA 25

Intermediate – Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

The 2011 edition of NFPA 25 includes some changes intended to enhance enforcement of the standard and others aimed at making system maintenance more economical. New recognition that not all deficiencies are equal will permit AHJs to implement a multi-colored tagging system following system inspections. The new standard continues the trend of separating owner responsibilities from those of the inspecting party, and the criteria for the 5-year internal inspections have been reworked.

APRIL 26, 2011

Pipe Stands

Intermediate – Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.

Pipe stands can be used to support water-based fire protection system piping where it cannot be hung. Some criteria have been in NFPA 15 for the past few editions. The guidelines have been modified for the next edition. These rules can also be applied to sprinkler system piping where it may need to be supported from the floor.

MAY 10, 2011

What Happens During Plan Review?

Basic/Intermediate – Jeff Hugo, CBO

You just dropped off your shop drawings at City Hall. Questions arise in your mind: Who scrutinizes my plans? What will this do for me? Why is this necessary? When will they be done? Where can I learn more to avoid correction letters and costly delays? This seminar will answer what should be done on the plans prior to their delivery to City Hall and discuss the fire sprinkler plan review process performed by the AHJ. This program outlines NFSA's newest "Plan Review Guide" and the associated check lists to provide the necessary information to cut your review time down and the project moving. Contractors, layout technicians, architects, building and fire officials, and plan reviewers should attend.

MAY 24, 2011

Storage Occupancies: Ceiling Slopes and Clearances

Intermediate - Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

Storage occupancies represent much more difficult and challenging fires for sprinklers to control or suppress. These challenging fire situations become even more difficult to control or suppress when the ceiling is sloped or there is a vast vertical distance between the top of the storage array and the sprinklers at the ceiling. Criteria in NFPA 13 has evolved over the last 10 years to place more stringent rules on how the sprinkler system needs to be designed to protect these occupancies. The seminar will begin with a review of fire dynamics and will then cover the rules of NFPA 13 and potential scenarios for meeting those rules.

JUNE 7, 2011

High Velocity Low Speed (HVLS) Fans

Basic/Intermediate – Karl Wiegand, E.I.T.

HVLS fans first came to market in 1995 and since that time have become popular for ventilating large warehouse facilities. In 2007 XL Gaps did a full scale fire test to see how these fans affected sprinkler operation. The test had poor results and a multiphase full-scale testing plan was implemented. Phase 1 of the testing was completed in 2008 and 2009. Phase 2 of the testing was completed in 2010. This seminar will address the test results of the phase 2 testing as well as strategies for installing HVLS fans in a manner in which they will not greatly affect the sprinkler system performance.



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Time Flies

By Barry Waterman

I never wanted to be in the sprinkler business. I think my father, who was a 50-50 partner in our company, knew this, and he never tried very hard to get me to come to work. During the summers when I was in college and during vacations I worked in the fab shop and worked in the field as a 669 apprentice.

But this was simply a means of making a little money to have at school for fun. My parents paid for my schooling, which made me luckier than a lot of others. I don't remember ever thinking about making the sprinkler business a career.

Not my older brother Mike, though. He always wanted to come into the business and my dad was happy to have him. Unlike me, he was technically smart and wanted to learn the business. Like me, my brother was a Vietnam-era kid and we both spent time in the service after college. I have my brother to thank for convincing me that after two years as an enlisted man in the Army I could do a lot better right away by joining the family business. I can't thank him enough for twisting my arm a bit to come to work with him.

I started at the drafting table. I didn't like it and it didn't like me. This was 1974 - the first year after the end of prosperity, as my dad liked to say. We had enough work I guess, especially at my snail's pace.

I was a poor draftsman. There's just no other way to say it. The math was no problem, but I've never done anything so boring in my life. It didn't help to hear my dad and the other experienced guys

always talking about the fifteen years of uninterrupted prosperity they had just enjoyed from the Eisenhower administration to the Arab oil embargo of late 1973.

I can remember thinking "Yippee. Boring work and not much of it. My future is looking great."

My life changed forever in the fall of 1976. It was such a significant day in my career that I remember a lot of details. One Sunday afternoon my brother and I had gone to a Chicago Bears game - Detroit Lions, I think - and on the drive home in the car he asked me if I would mind if we switched jobs. He was unhappy as a salesman and he wanted to get back to his real love - the drafting table. He also felt I now had enough experience to call on customers, lay out jobs and be an estimator.

My heart stopped for a second. When I recovered I remember thinking, "Nobody loves the drafting table. He can't be serious." But of course people are different, and we enjoy or have aptitude for different things.

The very next morning we switched the materials on our desks. He took over the few projects I was drawing, and I took his folders containing bids in progress. Now we are brothers, and we have competed all our lives. I had to listen to him make cracks about how bad my drawings were for about a month while he finished the last of the work I had started.

I was so elated in my new position, all I ever said was "thank you." Getting myself unchained from that drawing table was

among the most important moments in my life.

He reviewed my bids for a few weeks, then he quit doing it. He told me there was no need. For thirty-five years we checked labor estimates on bigger jobs, but for routine things he cut me loose almost right away.

By the end of 1976 I was selling a good amount of work, enjoying my daily routine and transformed into a completely different person. Going forward we grew the business and we were both doing the tasks we enjoyed. I said then and I still say about our partnership, "He was the brains and I was the BS. You need a little of both to have a successful business."

By this time my dad was retired. I think he came to the office once after he retired. He used to tell people that both of his boys were running the family business and that he was extremely proud of that.

In September of 1979, we bought out the other partner and then we just took off. My brother is about two classes short of an MBA from the University of Chicago, one of the world's top business schools.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



Independent consultant to the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

Barry Waterman

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

The draft got him before he finished, and he just never went back for those last couple of classes. He couldn't see the point in spending the money to finish. "I'm already in charge. It's not like I need a resume for a promotion or anything," he used to say.

Once we were in charge of the daily operation and also the company manage-

ment we really hit our stride. We were into the bank pretty good, but in those days banks worked with you. Really - banks worked with you. I know some of you younger folks don't believe that, but it's true.

That was thirty years ago. We built a good business, we raised our families and

we participated in a small way in transforming downtown Chicago into a world-class city. It's been a rewarding, gratifying ride, and it's something I never wanted to do.

I believe this proves we just need to let go sometimes and trust forces that know better than we do. 🕒

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Sign Requirements of NFPA 13, 13R, 13D, and 14

I saw a sign, but did I see all the signs I was suppose to see? There are many signs required for sprinkler and standpipe systems in each of the applicable NFPA standards. These signs are integral to identifying system components, providing information about the system they are in, and providing warnings to those that would use or be around the systems they are in. Due to the structure of the NFPA documents, the requirements for sign placement are often provided along with the other requirements for the component of the system they provide information about. As the requirements for different system components are spread out, it can be difficult to make sure that all of the necessary signs are in place. This article will contain a short description of the different signs and will present a summary of the required signs in a series of tables.

Identification Signs

Many of the required signs throughout the different standards are identification signs. These signs insure that inspectors, fitters, building owners, fire fighters, and others who may be around the system know what the different system components are for and what they control. During system inspections these signs help building owners and inspectors check to make sure the system is in working order and the valves are in their proper positions. Identification signs help sprinkler fitters quickly turn on and off systems when they are being worked on and help

fire fighters quickly turn off water flow when they are responding to a call.

Information Signs

Information signs are important to systems for a variety of reasons. Fire department connections supplying systems that require over 150 psi to operate require signs specifying their required operation pressure. This is important because fire department procedures are typically to provide 150 psi of pressure to the fire department connection. If a fire truck were to provide 150 psi of pressure to a fire department connection on a system that needs more than 150 psi, the suppression system would be insufficiently supported.

Hydraulic design information is provided on a hydraulic nameplate. This information is essential to both sprinkler and standpipe systems because it shows the initial system design pressure. When a building is initially constructed the building owner is provided with this information in the as-built system drawings, but on many occasions building owners lose this information. In the event the owner loses the as-built drawings, the design information is still maintained on the hydraulic nameplate.

Starting in the 2007 Edition, NFPA 13 began requiring general information signs on each system riser, antifreeze loop, and auxiliary control valve. These signs, as can be seen in the chart, require information about the assumptions made in building the system. This will insure

that the system is performing as it should when it is tested. These signs also require information on what exactly is being protected (the storage configurations, the commodity classifications, the hazard classifications, etc). If what is being protected changes, one could determine just by looking at the sign that the system may no longer be adequate to protect the area it is covering.

Caution Signs

One of the biggest reasons for sprinkler system failure and the major reason for most of the monthly and weekly tests in NFPA 25 is closed control valves. Sprinkler systems and standpipe systems only work when water can flow through the systems. The sign required by NFPA 13 Section 7.7.1.5 is yet another method to help deter control valves from being closed when they should not be.

Home sprinkler systems are often attached in some manner to the domestic water supply. When homeowners hire someone to work on their water systems it is often a plumber and it is often for their

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Karl Wiegand, E.I.T.

NFSA Manager
of Installation
Standards

domestic system. Some devices that are used in domestic systems, such as water softeners and filtration systems, restrict flow and decrease pressure within the system. These drops in flow and pressure do not affect domestic fixtures because their flow and pressure requirements are extremely low. However, they can greatly affect sprinkler performance. NFPA 13D requires a warning sign on the main shut-off valve to make sure that plumbers and others that may plan on adding a device like these to the system are aware of the consequences and consult a fire sprinkler contractor before doing so.

The warning signs in NFPA 14 insure that only the proper people use the hoses. The requirements of Section 5.1.4 are important to take note of because they only apply when the NFPA 14 standard is not being followed for the installation of the standpipe system. In this case the designer may not have NFPA 14 in front of them and may miss this requirement.

NFPA 13R: Contractor's Material and Test Certificate

The NFPA 13R standard does not specify what items would be necessary on a hydraulic name plate were one provided on a system, nor does it provide requirements for a hydraulic name plate in the text. However, Figure 10.1.2 provides the Contractor's Material and Test Certificate. On the third page of this document the question is posed whether or not a hydraulic name plate is provided. Without any information in NFPA 13R as to the requirements of a hydraulic name plate, it is considered good practice to go back to NFPA 13.

Antifreeze Systems

With the advent of TIA 10-1, all of the sections relating to antifreeze were removed from the NFPA 13D standard. This would remove the requirements of Section 8.3.3.5 that are seen on the NFPA 13D

table included with this article. This TIA is probably not the last that will be seen of antifreeze in dwelling units, so Section 8.3.3.5 was included in the table anyway even though it is no longer a requirement. With the results of the fire testing done by The Fire Protection Research Foundation showing that concentrations of glycerin over 50 percent and propylene glycol over 40 percent can cause fireballs and the statements put out by the National Fire Protection Association that

concentrations at or below these levels can stay in existing system, it is important that these signs were installed on previous systems to help determine how safe they

are. If in the future antifreeze systems are once again allowed in dwelling units these signs will once again be important in making sure that "safe" concentrations of antifreeze are used. Where antifreeze systems are allowed to protect areas in the NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R standards, antifreeze placards are also very important in order to make sure the correct concentration is maintained. Even though there is no ban on antifreeze in these areas, there may be in the future as new TIAs are submitted to the NFPA 13 committees.

Sign Construction

Signs only have one purpose, to convey information to those that will be using or be around the system. In order to do this they need to be easily read and they must last. Some signs are required to have letters of at least a minimum height so that they can be easily read. The majority of signs are required to be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and to be attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain. This will insure that the signs themselves are durable and that they will stay in place.

Using the Tables

The tables included with this article are fairly simple and straight forward. The first column provides the section number of the 2010 edition of the applicable standard along with the name of the sign, if it has one. The second column provides the area or areas where the sign is required to be located. The third column provides the information that is required to be on the sign and the requirements for sign construction, if there are any. ①

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NFPA 13		
Section	Sign Location	Sign Information/Requirements
6.7.4	Control valves Drain valves Test connection valves	Identification sign Sign must be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain
7.6.1.5	Antifreeze system main valve	Indicate the following: Antifreeze manufacturer Antifreeze type Antifreeze concentration
7.7.1.5	All valves controlling sprinklers	Sign worded as follows: "This valve controls fire protection equipment. Do not close until after fire has been extinguished. Use auxiliary valves when necessary to shut off supply to auxiliary equipment. Caution: Automatic alarm may be sounded if this valve is closed."
8.16.1.1.8	Control Valves	Indicate valve function Indicate system being controlled
8.17.2.4.5	Fire department connections not serving the whole building	Indicate portion of the building served by the fire department connection
8.17.2.4.7	All fire department connections	Indicate systems served by the fire department connection Indicate system pressure demand (for systems requiring more than 150 psi) Letters must be 1 inch in height
24.5 Hydraulic Design Info. Sign	Alarm valve Dry pipe valve Preaction valve Deluge valve	Indicate the following: Location of the design area or areas Discharge densities over the design area or areas Required flow and residual pressure demand at the base of the riser Occupancy classification or commodity classification and maximum permitted storage height and configuration Hose stream allowance The installing contractor Sign must be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain
24.6 General Info. Sign	System control riser Antifreeze loops Auxiliary systems Control valves	Indicate the following: Name and location of the facility Occupancy and commodity classification Flow test data Original main drain flow test results Presence of high-piled and/or rack storage Presence of encapsulated pallet loads Presence of solid shelving Presence of flammable/combustible liquids Presence of hazardous materials Presence of other special storage Presence of antifreeze or other auxiliary systems Maximum storage height Aisle width Location of auxiliary drains and low point drains on dry pipe and preaction systems Installing contractor or designer Sign must be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain

NFPA 14		
4.6.5	1 ½ inch or smaller hose stations	Sign worded as follows: "Fire hose for use by trained personnel" Hose operating instructions
5.1.4	Standpipe and hose systems not required by the AHJ and not meeting the requirements of NFPA 14	Sign worded as follows: "FOR FIRE BRIGADE USE ONLY" Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.
6.3.6.1.2.1	Control valves	Indicate the service they control Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.
6.4.5.2	All fire department connections	Indicate systems served by the fire department connection Indicate system pressure demand Letters must be 1 inch in height Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.
6.4.5.3	Fire department connections serving multiple buildings	Indicate the buildings, structures, or locations served Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.
6.7	Where a fire pump is provided	Indicate the minimum pressure and flow required at the discharge flange Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.
6.8 Hydraulic Design Info. Sign	Water supply control valve	Indicate the following: Whether the system is hydraulically calculated or pipe schedule Whether the system is dry or wet Whether the system is manual or automatic Location of the two hydraulically most remote hose connections Design flow rate for the connections Design residual inlet and outlet pressures for the connections Design static pressure and design system demand at the system control valve or at the pump discharge flange and at each fire department connection Sign must be attached with corrosion resistant chains or fasteners.

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NFPA 13R		
5.2.12.4	Control valves Drain valves Test connection valves	Identification sign Indicate portion of the building being served (control valves) Indicate location of other control valves (control valves on systems with more than one control valve) Sign must be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain
5.4.3 *In Accordance with NFPA 13	Antifreeze system main valve	Indicate the following: Antifreeze manufacturer Antifreeze type Antifreeze concentration
6.11.3	All fire department connections	Indicate systems served by the fire department connection Letters must be 1 inch in height
Figure 10.1.2 Hydraulic Design Info. Sign *Not a Required Sign	Alarm valve Dry pipe valve Preaction valve Deluge valve	Indicate the following: Location of the design area or areas Discharge densities over the design area or areas Required flow and residual pressure demand at the base of the riser Occupancy classification or commodity classification and maximum permitted storage height and configuration Hose stream allowance The installing contractor Sign must be made of weather proof metal or rigid plastic and attached with corrosion resistant wire or chain

NFPA 13D		
6.5.3	Adjacent to main shutoff valve	Sign worded as follows: “Warning: The water system for this home supplies fire sprinklers that require certain flows and pressures to fight a fire. Devices that restrict the flow or decrease the pressure or automatically shut off the water to the sprinkler system, such as water softeners, filtration systems, and automatic shutoff valves, shall not be added to this system without review of the fire sprinkler system by a fire protection specialist. Do not remove this sign.” Letters must be ¼ inch in height
8.3.3.5	Antifreeze system main valve	Indicate the following: Antifreeze manufacturer Antifreeze type Antifreeze concentration

A&P Helps Spread the "Fire Sprinklers are Green" Message

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. (A&P) is, perhaps inadvertently,



promoting the environmental benefits of automatic sprinklers. The labels for its "America's Choice" brand bottled water, shown here, include four symbols that could be considered to represent recycling, the green movement, rainwater and fire sprinklers. While some might suggest that the fourth logo is intended to represent the sun, it is obviously a sprinkler deflector. Putting sprinklers alongside these other pro-environment symbols is a positive message, even if it is subliminal.

Bernie Arends to Join NFSA as Inspection & Testing Specialist

Bernie Arends has been appointed to the position of NFSA Inspection & Testing Specialist, effective October 15, 2010. Bernie, who will report to NFSA Vice President of Engineering, Kenneth Isman, P.E., has more than 38 years in the Fire Service and has held the positions of Firefighter, Paramedic, Shift Commander and Fire Marshal, among others. Bernie holds a degree from the University of Detroit and served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as an intelligence officer. He most recently served as Fire Inspector for the City of Highland Park, Illinois. He is a member of many professional fire service organizations in his home state of Illinois and has worked closely with Tom Lia, Executive Director of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

Bernie's contact information is: Bernie Arends, 4231 Linden Tree Lane, Glenview,

IN MEMORIAM

Richard (Dick) Edward Martineau, 79, died peacefully at home on July 24, 2010 after a long illness. He was the President and Chairman of the Board of Mid-Hudson Automatic Sprinkler, Co., Inc. which was started by his father in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1930. He was NFSA Chairman of the Board from 1982-1984, treasurer and in 1990 he was awarded the Association's highest honor, the Golden Sprinkler Award. Richard was a civil engineer who spent his entire career in the fire protection sprinkler business. He was a pioneer and expert in the field of hydraulic calculation and computer-aided design. Dick was a graduate of Clarkson College as were his father and son. He was a long term member of the National Fire Protection Association technical committees and its Engineering and Standards Committee from 1965-1993. He was inducted into the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame in 2009.

Donations in Dick's memory may be made to the Hospice Foundation, 374 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, or, The Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park, New York 12538.

Illinois 60026; phone: 708.878.9951; email: Arends@nfsa.org.

James Lake Rejoins NFSA as Assistant Vice President of Training & Education

NFSA is pleased to announce the appointment of **James D. Lake** as Assistant Vice President of Training & Education. In his new position, which was effective on October 1, 2010, Lake will implement new strategies that will keep the association's training programs relevant utilizing NFSA's cutting-edge communications technologies. He will report directly to Executive Vice President Russ Fleming.

Lake has over 20 years experience in fire protection, including code enforcement, fire sprinkler industry representation and codes and standards administration. In his 14 years as a Senior Fire Protection

Specialist at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) he worked with numerous technical committees including those responsible for the Life Safety Code© NFPA 101©, as well as committees responsible for fire doors and windows (NFPA 80), commercial cooking and ventilation (NFPA 96), road tunnels and bridges (NFPA 502), and fixed roadway

transit systems (NFPA 130). He also developed and delivered training and educational programs in each of these subject areas. Most recently, he has been the staff liaison for the NFPA Technical Committee on Automatic Sprinklers, responsible for writing NFPA 13, 13D, 13R and NFPA 24 and 291 as well as the Technical Committee on Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems responsible for NFPA 25, and the Technical Committee on Water Mist Fire Suppression Systems responsible for NFPA 750.

Jim is the editor of the 2010 Editions of the Automatic Sprinkler Handbook, the Automatic Sprinkler Handbook for Residential Occupancies and the soon to be released 2011 Edition of the Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Handbook. He has developed and delivered technical presentations and training on fire protection to large and small groups throughout the United States and around the world.

He is presently the Chair of the Fire Protection Committee of the American Water Works Association.

Jim holds a Bachelors Degree in Fire Prevention Administration and a Masters Degree in Education.

He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor in the Building Construction

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

Certificate program at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Jim can be reached at: James Lake, 12 Clearwater Drive, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360; email: Lake@nfsa.org.

Sprinklerman™ Ends Another Successful Minor League Ballpark Tour

Sprinklerman ended his 2010 minor league ballpark tour at the Rock Cats game in New Britain, Connecticut on August 26th. The winner of our Rock Cats photo contest, Danny Silvester, age 6, of Manchester, Connecticut (see photo), was one of the many adoring fans that wel-



comed Sprinklerman back to New Britain Stadium for his third consecutive year.

Sprinklerman also visited stadiums in Bridgewater, New Jersey, San Bernardino and Sacramento, California, Yakima and Pasco, Washington and Wappingers Falls, New York. He made two major league appearances at a Baltimore Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox game and a Philadelphia Phillies vs. New York Mets.

Stay tuned for his 2011 schedule. We can't stress enough the great feeling that you get when you see the fans, both young and old, interacting with Sprinklerman. It will make you so proud to be a member of NFSA! Check out the schedule, and if there's a game near you, please make it a point to go! 📍

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Tim Travers, Regional Manager



Massachusetts Public Hearing Regarding IRC Adoption to be held in November

The Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations & Standards (BBRS) staff has recommended that a public hearing on the 2009 IRC adoption be scheduled for their November Public Hearing and meeting. A residential fire sprinkler coalition has been formed and meets monthly in Massachusetts to support the 2009 IRC adoption with the sprinkler requirement intact. This is an open public meeting and all are welcome.

Portland, Maine Adopts the 2009 Edition of NFPA 1 And 101

On August 16th, the city of Portland, Maine adopted the 2009 edition of NFPA 1 and 101, with the one- and two-family sprinkler requirements intact. The vote was 8-0 and took effect 30 days from date of passage. Both codes require all new one- and two-family dwellings to have fire sprinkler systems. Portland is the largest city in the state of Maine. Westbrook and Rockland are two other Maine towns in the state that have also adopted NFPA 101 in its entirety. Congratulations to these progressive-thinking Maine cities and all who worked so hard to get the requirements passed!

Tim Travers is the NFSA Regional Manager for the New England region. He can be reached at travers@nfsa.org or 751 Washington Street, Whitman, MA 02382, Phone 845.661.5876, Fax 781.524.1026

NEW YORK REGION

Dominick Kasmauskas, Associate Director of Regional Operations - North



Governor Paterson Announces Agency Mergers and Consolidations to Save

Taxpayer Dollars
Governor David Paterson sent a bill to

the New York Legislature that will save taxpayer dollars through state agency mergers, consolidations and spending reductions. The Governor sent his savings proposals to the Legislature as part of the Public Protection, General Government and Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation agreed upon budget bills.

The mergers and consolidations included in the 2010-11 budget bills will produce annual savings of approximately \$7 million. This is an important step toward reorganizing and reforming State government in a targeted way to deliver essential services at a lower cost to taxpayers.

Dominick Kasmauskas is the NFSA's Associate Director of Regional Operations-North and Regional Manager for the New York Region. He can be reached at Kasmauskas@nfsa.org or 1436 Altamont Ave. Suite 147 Rotterdam, New York 12303, Phone 914.414.3337, Fax 518.836.0210.

MID-ATLANTIC

Raymond W. Lonabaugh, Regional Manager



Pennsylvania Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalitions Meets with the Pennsylvania

Builders Association

The Pennsylvania Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition met with the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) on Thursday August 26th at the Office of the Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) in Harrisburg. Representing the Coalition was Co-Chairs John Waters and Tim Knisely, PFESI Executive Director Don Konkle and Winter Group Lobbyist Mark Single. Those representing the Pennsylvania Builders Association were PBA President Joseph Mackey, PBA Executive Vice President Lou Biacchi, PBA Director of Building Codes Jerry Leach. Also in attendance were Don Wise of Wise Construction and NFSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Ray Lonabaugh.

There were two main topics of discussion. One was the cost claims by the PBA and the Coalition. It was obvious that

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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PBA members don't have a clear understanding of what little is required on a 13D sprinkler system. The PBA said they weren't including the square footage of the basement in their calculations, which raised their sprinkler cost per square foot. Coalition Co-Chair Tim Knisely brought a pump and tank assembly to the meeting from NFSA Member General Air Products to show and educate the PBA representatives.

The second topic was a request by the PBA for a compromise. Several items

were presented by the PBA for compromise. One was to reduce the requirements of a 13D system. The coalition made it clear the 13D systems contain minimum requirements. Another request was a one-year delay for one- and two-family dwellings to 2012, which would not include townhouses. A request was made by the PBA to work together to reduce water purveyors' requirements for an addition sprinkler tap and not allowing a single tap for combination domestic and fire sprinkler service. The coalition informed the PBA that they will definitely work with

them for a single water tap. Several other items were presented for consideration, which the coalition said they will review.

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, Regional Manager



Notes from the State of South Carolina Fire Marshal's Activity Report

Since January 1, 2010, 41 persons have died in fire-related incidents in South Carolina. 15 of these deaths have occurred in mobile homes. To reduce injuries and death by fire in these occupancies, the General Assembly passed ACT 272. The law requires that "for the sale of a previously owned manufactured home, the buyer and seller shall sign a form certifying both persons have determined at least two functioning smoke detectors are in the home." This action will save lives and reduce injuries of civilians, as well as protect first responders. Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers increase the survivability of persons in the event of a fire by 82%.

The South Carolina Building Codes Council recently completed the adoption process of the International Codes as they adopted the 2009 International Codes to be effective January 1, 2011. Subsequent action by the South Carolina General Assembly, through the legislative process, delayed implementing the requirements of fire sprinkler protection in one-and two-family dwellings until January 1, 2014. Act 232, however, did clarify previous fire sprinkler incentive requirements and bring South Carolina a step closer in compliance with the minimum standards of national consensus codes.

Wayne Waggoner is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Southeast Region. He can be reached at: Waggoner@nfsa.org or PO Box 9, Andersonville, Tennessee 27705,

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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FLORIDA REGION

David Bowman Ph.D., Associate Director of Regional Operations - South



Florida Side-by-Side Training Programs a Huge Success

Training conducted at the August Florida Area Interest Meetings provided more than 200 participants a chance to get information needed to promote and conduct this valuable fire sprinkler incentive demonstration. Each of Florida's regions overwhelmingly endorsed the training. Additionally, regional champions were identified and burn demonstrations planning is underway in new areas, including the Panhandle, Tallahassee, and the Tampa area. Quite a few demonstrations have already been conducted in central and south Florida with additional plans now underway.

David Bowman is the NFSA's Associate Director of Regional Operations-South and Regional Manager for the Florida Region. He can be reached at Bowman@nfsa.org or 6572 SE 173rd, Court Ocklawaha, Florida 32179, Phone 845.519.7648, Fax 661.455.3968.

GREAT LAKES

Ron Brown, Regional Manager



NFSA Booth at Indiana Association Of Building Officials/Fire Inspectors

Association a Huge Success

A large number of Fire and Building Officials visited the NFSA/Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) booth at the IABO / FIAI Annual Business Meeting held in Michigan City, Indiana on July 20, 2010. Thanks for the great assistance provided by Maryann Visin with HFSC, Tom Lia, Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board and Scott Schiesser of Ryan Fire Protection. These folks helped work the booth and/or supplied materials to help

make the event a great success.

Many questions were asked and answered regarding NFPA 13 R and 13D. A sense of support from the building officials was evident during the course of the event. This was an event well worth our time to attend!

Ron Brown is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Lakes Region. He can be reached at Brown@nfsa.org or 1615 Cypress Spring Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814, Phone 845.661.6534; Fax 260.625.4478

ILLINOIS/ NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Bob Kleinheinz, Regional Manager



New Measures Expected to Save Lives, Boost Firefighting Programs in Illinois

In July, Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation into law to support Illinois' Firefighters and improve fire safety throughout Illinois.

Governor Quinn signed House Bill 5139, sponsored by Rep. Donald Moffitt (R-Galesburg) and Sen. Michael Noland (D-Elgin). The new law bans the sale and distribution of novelty and toy lighters in Illinois. According to the Illinois Fire Inspector's Association, more than 300 people are hurt or killed in the United States each year as a result of novelty lighters. The new law makes the sale of a novelty lighter a petty offense with a fine of up to \$500 and is effective immediately. While we applaud the Governor for his support of the fire service in Illinois, we now feel more effort should be placed on providing the best codes possible for the state and providing sprinkler protection through the adoption of current life safety codes.

Sprinkler System Limits Green Bay Fire Damage

On July 20, 2010 at 3:35 p.m., the Green Bay, Wisconsin Fire Department responded to a report of a vehicle on fire inside a

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

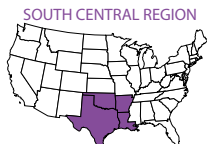
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garage. Upon arrival crews found a large lawn mowing machine inside the City of Green Bay Parks Department's shop. The building was equipped with a fully automatic fire sprinkler system which kept the fire from spreading further throughout the building. Only two fire sprinklers activated and they preformed as designed, to extinguish and/or contain the fire from spreading. Had this building not been equipped with a fully automatic sprinkler system, the damage would have most likely been far greater than it was, spreading to other equipment and/or areas of the building. This goes to show the significant role fire sprinkler systems play when it comes to protecting life and property.

Bob Kleinheinz is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Illinois/North Central Region. He can be reached at Kleinheinz@nfsa.org or 509 Dawes Street, Libertyville, Illinois 60048, Phone 914.671.1975.

SOUTH CENTRAL

David Bowman Ph.D., Associate Director of Regional Operations - South



Sprinkler System Extinguishes Fire - Preserving Arson Evidence in Tulsa

Ron Edwards of Southwest Fire Protection shared the link to a great article that was found in Tulsa World. It involved a likely arson fire in a business.

The fire occurred in the Silver Flame Restaurant in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In an affidavit detailing evidence found at the fire filed in Tulsa County District Court, an ATF agent stated that the fire was similar to other arsons in which the restaurant's owner set fire to his own business for financial gain. There was a long list of details related to the background investigation of the fire.

Firefighters were called to the restaurant at about 12:40 PM the day of the fire because someone saw water coming from the building. They discovered that a fire had been set, but the fire sprinkler system had doused the blaze before it could do any extensive damage. A lot of

"preserved" arson evidence was found at the fire scene, including a "trailer" used to remotely start the fire, leading from an exterior staircase and through a back door into the interior rooms. Tablecloths were soaked in lighter fluid and lamp oil. Additionally, a gas line to a kitchen stove was cut.

While we constantly tell others of the life safety importance of fire sprinklers, preserving evidence in arson fires is now another reason for them.

David Bowman is the NFSA's Associate Director of Regional Operations-South. He can be reached at Bowman@nfsa.org or 6572 SE 173rd, Court Ocklawaha, Florida 32179, Phone 845.519.7648, Fax 661.455.3968.

CENTRAL REGION

Chris Gaut, Regional Manager



Missouri Representative to Pre-File Legislation to Establish Moratorium on

Sprinkler Requirements

Missouri State Representative John Diehl announced publicly on June 15, 2010 that he is planning to pre-file legislation that would permanently establish a moratorium on requiring residential fire sprinkler systems. Rep. Diehl announced his plan after hearing recent media coverage surrounding the possible adoption of mandatory residential fire sprinklers by St. Louis County.

At this time there has not been any new update as to if and when this bill will be updated.

The St. Louis County Council has completed their adoption of the 2009 International Codes. They extended the Missouri mandatory option for another three years after the state law sunset. They will then reevaluate their position in 2015.

Chris Gaut is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Central Region. He can be reached at gaut@nfsa.org or NFSA Central Region Office, 237 E. Fifth St. #135, Eureka, MO 63025, Phone 845.803.6426, Fax 636.410.7700.

GREAT PLAINS

Terry Phillips, Regional Manager



Fire Sprinkler Save in Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs firefighters say a residential fire sprinkler system worked perfectly to save an entire complex from going up in flames.

The fire occurred at the MacKenzie Place Retirement Campus in Colorado Springs, Colorado in late August.

Colorado Springs fire officials say the family moving in put a box on top of the stove and accidentally bumped the stove, turning it on. The box caught fire, the flames went up the stove, to cabinets, and rolled along the ceiling before setting off a sprinkler.

Lt. Robert Coffey with the Colorado Springs Fire Department credited the fire sprinkler system for dousing the flames and avoided what could have been a catastrophe. He says things could have easily been much worse, if not for the quick-acting fire sprinkler system.

Terry Phillips is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Plains Region. He can be reached at: Phillips@nfsa.org or Phone 914.525.4396, Fax 307.514.0406.

SOUTHWEST

Doyle Sutton, Regional Manager



They Are Out There And They Should Be Applauded!

Joe Kozimor, a developer and president of Consolidated Constructors Inc., plans to build homes in Little Creek Subdivision in West Farmington, New Mexico with sprinklers, whether or not the new codes are adopted.

Kozimor installed sprinklers in two new homes at a cost of about \$1.15 per square foot. He feels that if a sprinkler system costs a couple thousand dollars, homeowners get their money back in a few years through lower insurance premiums.

Some San Juan County homebuilders

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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expressed strong disapproval of the regulations at a Public Regulation Commission meeting in Aztec, where commission members listened to comments from the public.

We applaud Joe Kozimor for taking this step to insure the safety of the occupants of the homes he builds.

Doyle Sutton is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Southwest Region. He can be reached at: Sutton@nfsa.org or Phone 303.854.8677, Fax 303.496.7501.

WEST REGION

Bruce Lecair, Regional Manager



California Office of the State Fire Marshal Issues Important Safety Bulletin

In response to the National Fire Protection Interim Safety Alert Regarding Antifreeze in Residential Sprinklers

The Office of the California State Fire Marshal continues to strongly emphasize the importance of residential fire sprinklers as one of the most effective ways to prevent fire injury and death in the home and other residential occupancies. In California, thousands of residential fire sprinklers have successfully prevented fire injury and deaths and have protected communities from large fire losses. With the recent release of an NFPA Safety Alert, this Information Bulletin is to assist in clarifying and assure our stakeholders and the public have a balanced understanding of the issue.

The complete safety alert may be viewed: <http://www.nfpa.org/antifreeze>. For existing systems, the NFPA recommends contacting a sprinkler contractor to ascertain if there is antifreeze in the system; and suggested interim measures. The NFPA anticipates further guidance before the winter freezing months. Sprinkler piping can be protected by other means such as insulation, pipe wrap, and setting the temperatures in the house to prevent freezing. In new residential construction, there are options for fire sprinkler installations that do not require antifreeze;

alternative sprinkler layout and designs and insulation over piping can provide the necessary protection from freezing conditions; and increased levels of insulation in exposed attic spaces may also serve to assist in compliance with California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Part 6, Title 24). For more information concerning new construction techniques and the reports from the residential fire sprinkler task force groups, please visit the OSFM website at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>.

Bruce Lecair is the NFSA Regional Manager for the West Region. He can be reached at: lecair@nfsa.org or Phone: 951.277.3517, Fax: 951.277.3199.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Don Pamplin, Regional Manager



Seattle Fire Chief Calls for Fire Sprinklers

On July 16, 2010, Seattle, Washington

Fire Chief Gregory Dean told the Seattle City Council's Public Safety and Education Committee that city leaders should discuss fire sprinkler systems in residential dwellings and looking at requiring retroactive upgrades in multi-family buildings. The Chief emphasized that if there is going to be a positive impact on our community, there is a need to have a discussion about fire sprinklers. Chief Dean has asked the Seattle Fire Marshal to start taking steps to develop a strategy to look at how we're going to adopt residential fire sprinkler systems.

Don Pamplin is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest Region. He can be reached at Pamplin@nfsa.org or 1436 Harrison Avenue Blaine, Washington 98230, Phone 380.332.1948, Fax 380.422.1752. ☎



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■ FlexHead Flexible Piping Withstands California Earthquake

FlexHead Industries announced that its product helped minimize the damage in Kohl's department store after an earthquake hit a Bayshore Mall in Eureka, CA. According to the Eureka Times Standard, only Kohl's stayed open, while 76 other stores at the mall had to shut down for days to repair the damage in the sprinkler system. FlexHead's product allowed the sprinkler head to move during the quake without causing damage to the sprinkler system. Unfortunately, the shaking breached hard-pipe sprinkler drops protecting the rest of the mall, causing damage estimated at \$6 million.

FlexHead products are UL Listed and FM Approved in accordance with NFPA-13 and have been seismically qualified pursuant to test criteria established by the International Code Council.

■ Potter Electric Announces SASH with 120 Volt Weather Proof Select-A-Strobe/Horn®

Potter introduces two new indoor/outdoor weather proof Sprinkler Alarm Strobe/Horns, the SASH 24 and SASH 120. Both products incorporate the new Potter SH series weatherproof strobe/horn and backbox mounted directly to an acrylic sign, which indicate that the fire sprinkler system has activated.

The SASH 120 operates on 120 VAC and the SASH 24 operates on 12 or 24 VDC. The SASH 120 incorporates a 110 candela strobe and horn with 6 different output sound settings. The SASH 24 incorporates an adjustable strobe with 6 different settings and a horn with 33 sound output settings.

Both strobe horns are UL / cUL-listed to operate from -40 to 150 degrees F with no strobe derating. They can be interfaced with pull stations, flow switches, and sprinkler systems for residential, commercial, and industrial applications. The weatherproof backbox is included.

For further information, contact Potter Electric Signal Company by phone at 866-572-3005, via email at sales@pottersignal.com or at www.pottersignal.com

Lifetime Achievement Award For Schilling

Retired **Fire Chief Charles Schilling** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Fire Sprinkler Association at Livingston New Jersey's Township Council meeting on August 2nd. Schilling, who retired in 1990, was Chief of the Livingston Fire Department for 36 years. His family, friends, colleagues and Chief Christopher Mullin of the Fire Department gathered to see him receive the plaque. Schilling was also a Charter Member of the First Aid Squad in town.

Although Schilling was already presented this award by the NFSA at their convention in July at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City, the council wanted to make sure he was recognized in Livingston.

Reliable Promotes Anthony Renteria

Reliable is pleased to announce that **Anthony Renteria** has been promoted to Sales Representative covering north Georgia, North Alabama, central and east Tennessee.

For the past 3 years, Anthony has worked for Reliable as an Inside Representative servicing customers in our Orlando office. Anthony brings the perfect background with his product and customer service knowledge.

Anthony will be reporting to Scott Chafin, Regional Sales Manager, and will be based in Reliable's Atlanta regional distribution center.

Coomes Named General Manager at Hill/Ahern Fire Protection

Hill/Ahern Fire Protection recently named **Shannon Coomes** General Manager of its Franklin Park, Illinois operation. Coomes is responsible for business development, project management, and the Company's overall sales and estimating performance.

Coomes appointment has also allowed the Company to better align its service operation by transferring **Tim Turbak** to the role of Service Sales Director. This transition emphasizes Hill/Ahern's commitment to providing exceptional customer service through increased communication with existing and potential clients, and brings added value to the established strength its service capabilities offer.

Globe Fire Sprinkler Corporation Promotes Eastern Sales Director

Globe Fire Sprinkler Corporation announces the promotion of Eastern Sales Director **Mr. Randy Lane** to the position of National Sales Manager.

Randy lives in Orange Park, Florida, and can be reached at his office telephone (904-215-7241), his cell phone (904-237-0657) or his email address (randylane@globesprinkler.com).

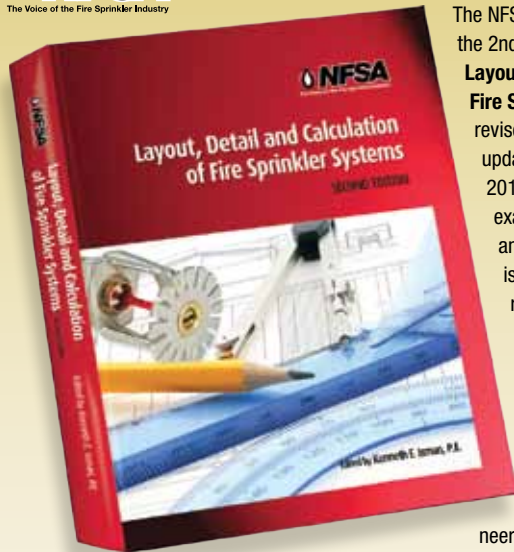


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2nd Edition of Layout, Detailing and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems Now Available



The NFSA announces the publication of the 2nd Edition of its popular textbook, **Layout, Detailing and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems**. This newly revised hardcover 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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TO DAVID VANDEYAR, EDITOR:

I really appreciated the article on Insurance by Robert Rosenfeld. His article has prompted a review of Cherokee's insurance coverages. I hope we will see future articles from him in the future.

Thanks

Forest Wilson
Project Manager
Cherokee Fire Protection Co.

TO DAVID VANDEYAR, EDITOR

Thank you for this opportunity.

Insulting fellow NFSA members is not helpful. As a NFSA member, I was incredibly disappointed while reading Mr. Barry Waterman's Bear Tracks (Sept/Oct 2010) column that included a political insult. The NFSA is a trade organization paid for by its members who have many different beliefs and opinions outside of the sprinkler system industry. Promoting the fire sprinkler industry requires bipartisan political support and publishing insulting remarks toward any political party in its trade journal is unhelpful at best. At the same time, I appreciate the prompt response and apology from SQ editor David Vandeyar in behalf of President Viniello, Chairman Huennekens and himself when I brought up this issue. Perhaps the best resolution includes replacing Mr. Waterman's column with one that is less self-serving, more informative, and better written.

Hal Cohen
HCC & Associates, Inc.
Newark, DE

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Do you have an interest in promoting the good works of the fire sprinkler industry, but are not directly involved? Here's your opportunity to show your support! Join NFSA as a Friend of the Industry member! Go to www.nfsa.org and join today!



What if you could eliminate mechanical accelerators and false trips on virtually every dry system?

Vizor ELECTRONIC DRY PIPE ACCELERATOR (EDPA)

No false trips. No hassles.

You know the agony of mechanical accelerators. Diaphragms, restrictions, strainers, and anti-flood devices get fouled, then foul again. Because they operate on differential pressure, the hassle of repeated false trips can get old very quickly. Worst of all, your customers don't understand why you don't just "fix this once and for all."

Today, thanks to the VIZOR Electronic Dry Pipe Accelerator, you can fix it once and for all. The VIZOR Accelerator uses proven, microprocessor-based technology and monitors air decay, not differential pressure. There are no restrictions or other troublesome components to create false trips or make resetting difficult. The VIZOR Accelerator is retrofit-capable and listed for installation on all current TYCO and legacy GEM, STAR, and CENTRAL dry system valves.

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- Retrofit-capable

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