



JULY/AUG 2010 / No. 161

Journal of the
National Fire Sprinkler
Association

SQ

Alert, Canada

Canadian Forces Station Alert – The Northernmost Sprinklered Property in the World

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Heat Tracing for Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Clearances for Sprinkler Installation
- New Pressure Relief Valve Requirements
- Sprinklerman™ Opens 2010 Season

ATTENTION

all 35' & 30' High Buildings
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**FM
APPROVED**



Building Height: 30' Storage Height: 25' Coverage: up to 196 sq ft (14'x14')

K-14.0 ESFR	K-16.8 ESFR	K-25.2 ESFR	K-16.8 CMDA	Ultra K-17	N252 EC
100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	196 sq. ft.
50 psi	35 psi	15 psi-UL 20 psi-FM	22.7 psi (.80)	22 psi	30 psi
12 sprinklers	12 sprinklers	12 sprinklers	2000 sq. ft.	15 sprinklers (1500 sq. ft.)	6 sprinklers (3 sprinklers on 2 lines)
1200+ gpm	1200+ gpm	1200+ gpm-UL 1352+ gpm-FM	1600+ gpm	1200+ gpm	Sys. demand 828+ gpm
250 gpm HS	250 gpm HS	250 gpm HS	500 gpm HS	500 gpm HS	250 gpm HS

FEB. 2009

**NEW FM
RULING
IMPROVED
FLOWS**

Building Height: 35' Storage Height: 30' Coverage: up to 144 sq ft (12'x12')

K-14.0 ESFR	K-16.8 ESFR	K-25.2 ESFR	N252 EC
100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.	144 sq. ft.
75 psi	52 psi	20 psi-UL 30 psi-FM	40 psi
12 sprinklers	12 sprinklers	12 sprinklers	8 sprinklers (min. of 1200 sq. ft.)
1455+ gpm	1452+ gpm	1352+ gpm-UL 1656+ gpm-FM	Sys. demand 1275+ gpm
250 gpm HS	250 gpm HS	250 gpm HS	250 gpm HS

**NEW FM
RULING
IMPROVED
FLOWS**

- Wet Pipe or Pre-action Systems (when they meet the equivalency of a wet system).
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- Refer to FM Global's Data Sheets 2-8N, 2-2 & 8-9 for installation and design of CMSA and extended coverage sprinklers.

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ON THE COVER:

Within the pages of Sprinkler Quarterly in 1996, NFSA introduced the membership to the then northernmost sprinklered property in the world - a church in Svalbard, Norway. In 2007, a science center just minutes farther north in the same town took over that honor. And now, thanks in part to the Winter Olympics being held this year, a new northernmost sprinklered property has been identified. Read more about it beginning on page 31.



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SQ (ISSN 1050-4958) (USPS 524-010) is published six times a year (February - April - June - August - October - December) by the National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc., 40 Jon Barrett Road, Patterson, NY 12563.

Telephone: (845) 878-4200. Subscription free to all NFSA members and member companies.

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Second-Class postage paid at Mahopac, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

NFSA, 40 Jon Barrett Road, Patterson, NY 12563



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The FlexHead Advantage

FlexHead QUALITY

- **Best corrosion resistance**
Made from 100% 304 stainless steel
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NFSA's Political Action Committee

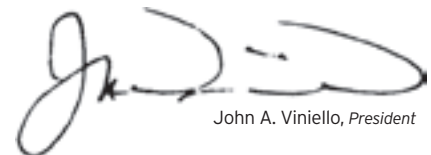
John Viniello

As you know, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act has taken on the form of bills presently in both the House and Senate. When enacted into law the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act will amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Service Code to permit the installation of fire sprinkler systems in existing construction to be depreciated over a much shorter schedule than what presently exists. To demonstrate our support of several of the bills' key sponsors, in the next several weeks it will be necessary to make contributions to their re-election campaigns. To that end, NFSA has established the NFSA Political Action Committee, or PAC, from which contributions can be made to support those in Congress we believe give our bills the best chance of successful passage through the legislative process. However, before NFSA can solicit contributions to the PAC from its membership, federal guidelines dictate that we must first have your approval, which you can give to us by filling out and returning a "Prior Approval" form. The Prior Approval Form can be found at NFSA's website by following the link in the upper right corner to the new NFSA PAC webpage. Once we have a completed Prior Approval Form on file, you and those you designate from your company are permitted to make personal contributions into the PAC and we'll have the necessary authorization to solicit contributions from you.



Looking ahead, once the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act has been signed by the President of the United States, I will propose to NFSA's Board of Directors that we seek additional federal legislation to provide a tax credit to homeowners installing fire sprinklers voluntarily, similar to the "energy tax credits" enacted in the early 1970's. It is not unreasonable to seek a \$1,000 to \$1,500 tax credit for installing fire sprinklers in dwelling units, including one- and two-family dwellings, mobile homes and condominiums.

While we have made considerable progress in moving the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act through the legislature, there is still much work to do before we see it passed into law, and the NFSA PAC will continue to play an integral role in the process. Your support of this effort as an NFSA member begins by completing the Prior Approval Form, for which I would like to thank you in advance. ①



John A. Viniello, *President*

calendar

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BOOKKEEPING:

LINDA DALY

Introduction to Sprinklers (1/2 day)	Denver, CO	July 6
Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)	Denver, CO	July 6
Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage	Denver, CO	July 7
Sprinkler Protection for Special Storage	Denver, CO	July 7
Residential Homes to High-Rise	Bettendorf, IA	July 20
Sprinklers for Dwellings	Bettendorf, IA	July 21
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Bettendorf, IA	July 22
Layout Technician Training Course (2-week course)	Champaign, IL	August 2-13
Sprinklers for Dwellings	Fresno, CA	August 1
NFPA 13 Update 2007	Fresno, CA	August 17
NFPA 13 Update 2007	Menasha, WI	August 24
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Menasha, WI	August 25
Foam Water Systems (1/2 day)	Menasha, WI	August 26
Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)	Menasha, WI	August 26
NFPA 13 Update 2007	Rochester Hills, MI	August 31
Plan Review Policies & Procedures	Rochester Hills, MI	September 1
Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)	Rochester Hills, MI	September 2
Introduction to Sprinklers (1/2 day)	Rochester Hills, MI	September 2
Inspection & Testing for the Sprinkler Industry (3-day course)	New Castle, DE	September 28-30

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

For more information on classes contact Nicole Sprague at (845) 878-4200 ext. 149, E-Mail: sprague@nfsa.org



NFSA Annual Seminar
Hilton Los Cabos Resort
 Los Cabos, Mexico
 May 3-5, 2012

UPCOMING SEMINARS

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

NFSA Annual Seminar
& Exhibition
 Las Vegas, Nevada
 2013

P&I – A State of Being

Gregg Huennekens



Ever buy anything through a mail order catalog? Sure, you remember those. Think back - a printed directory full of items for sale that included a picture of each and a few descriptive lines crafted by witty advertising executives of the day aimed at convincing us these were things we absolutely could not live without. Things that would make our lives better, easier. It happened sometime after the invention of parchment but before the internet. Remember now? Early on you could buy the latest in farm implements designed to make short work of plowing and planting the south forty. You could purchase medicinal snake oils and Indian elixirs that came with guarantees to cure whatever ailed you. And while there was little therapeutic value in any of those remedies, since most were 90-proof, forgetting about your problems was usually followed directly by a good night's sleep. In retrospect, maybe they had some therapeutic value after all. Anyway, in my generation I distinctly remember gimmicks being used like, "Astound your friends!" ... "Order a 100 for only a penny!" and even "X-ray vision ... see through clothes" - anything to get our attention. I even remember the television ad for the Spiegel catalog. It ended by informing viewers where they should write to get their catalog ... Chicago, Illinois 60609. A classic!

That was then. Now, everything we need can be purchased online using the internet. Take NFSA membership for example. One of the fastest growing membership categories is our Friend of the Industry. It allows companies and individuals who have only a peripheral interest in the fire sprinkler industry to demonstrate their support for the Association. For example, I have invited all the vendors with whom we do business who aren't directly involved in the industry to join NFSA as a Friend of the Industry. It's easy, every time I send out a payment, along with the invoice, I include an invitation to join NFSA. The personalized note generally reads something like, "... as a valued supplier to our company we would like for you to consider joining us in supporting national public fire safety educational and advocacy programs by joining the National Fire Sprinkler Association as a Friend of the Industry." I close out by adding how they can get to the NFSA website

where they can join online and then ask them to call me if they have any questions. It's simple and it works. Give it a try.

While talking about membership I am reminded about a reference I made in the last issue to the NFSA Annual Report - one about encouraging you to pick it up and read through it. How it was an impressive compilation of efforts put forth by staff on behalf of the membership. Well, having delved deeper into the report myself since then, here are just a couple of facts you, our members, our very best ambassadors, can use when talking about the Association to prospective members, especially if they are contractors:

- Last year alone the engineering department Expert of the Day program responded to over 2,100 technical questions from the membership. This is an invaluable service that I know my technical people use on a regular basis. It is a service that gives our contractor members an advantage in an extremely competitive marketplace by often saving them thousands of dollars. In many cases those savings are equal to or greater than annual membership dues.
- On average, 30 e-TechAlert bulletins are published every year. This is a digital, member-only publication sent out by email to the entire membership on a regular basis that includes valuable technical information and explicit interpretations on codes and standards not readily available anywhere else. NFSA is represented on virtually every code and standards-making body that has direct, and in many cases, indirect impact on the fire sprinkler industry.

As I mentioned then, these highlights and much, much more are available in the Annual Report. To make life even easier and "greener", you can find it right now at the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org by following the NFSA 2009 Annual Report link. Check it out. And be like I am - Proud and impressed (P&I).[®]

Gregg Huennekens, Chairman

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New England	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	Tim Travers, NFSA 751 Washington St. Whitman, MA 02382 (845) 661-5876 FAX (781) 524-1026	Donald A. DeLuca SRI Fire Sprinkler Corporation 1060 Central Avenue Albany, New York 12205 (518) 459-2776 FAX (518) 459-0068
New York	New York	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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Tennessee	Tennessee		
Florida	Florida, Puerto Rico	Dave Bowman, NFSA Florida Fire Sprinkler Association 6572 SE 173rd. Court Ocklawaha, Florida 32179 (845) 519-7648 FAX (661) 455-3968	Wayne H. Gey Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc. 222 Capital Court Ocoee, Florida 34761 (407) 656-3030 FAX (407) 656-8026
Great Lakes	Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky	Ron Brown, NFSA 1615 Cypress Spring Drive Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814 (845) 661-6534 FAX (260) 625-4478	Richard A. Ackley Dalmatian Fire, Inc. P.O. Box 78068 Indianapolis, Indiana 46278 (317) 299-3889 FAX (317) 299-4078
Illinois	Illinois	Bob Kleinheinz, NFSA 509 Dawes Street Libertyville, Illinois 60048 (914) 671-1975 FAX (847) 680-5992	Gregg Huennekens United States Fire Protection, Illinois, Inc. 28427 North Ballard – Unit H Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 (847) 247-4755 FAX (847) 816-0098
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South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	Daniel J. Gengler, NFSA P.O. Box 286 (Mail) E. 907 Stratton Lake Road (Deliveries) Waupaca, WI 54981 (715) 256-9515 FAX (715) 256-4684	John Kauffman III Kauffman Company 13225 FM529 –Ste A Houston, Texas 77041 (713) 937-4144 FAX (713) 937-4149
Central	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri	Chris Gaut, NFSA NFSA Central Region Office 237 E. Fifth St. STE 135 Eureka, MO 63025 (845) 803-6426 FAX (636) 410-7700	Dennis C. Coleman Engineered Fire Protection, Inc. 1615 South Kings Highway St. Louis, Missouri 63110 (314) 771-0033 FAX (314) 664-1619
Great Plains	Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming	Terry Phillips, NFSA 1829 Meadow Drive Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 (914) 525-4396 FAX (307) 514-0406	Gene Postma Western States Fire Protection Company 7020 South Tucson Way, Unit A Centennial, Colorado 80112 (303) 792-0022 FAX (303) 790-3875
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West	California, Hawaii	Bruce Lecair, NFSA 25417 West Hyacinth Street Corona, CA 92883 (951) 277-3517 FAX (951) 277-3199	Jack Thacker Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation 3233 Enterprise St. Brea, California 92821 (714) 993-9500 FAX (714) 993-5708
Pacific Northwest	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	Don Pamplin, NFSA 1436 Harrison Avenue Blaine, Washington 98230 (360) 332-1948 FAX (360) 332-1962	James Boulanger Patriot Fire Protection, Inc. 2707 70th Avenue East Tacoma, Washington 98424 (253) 926-2290 FAX (253) 922-6150
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Risky Business for Sprinkler Contractors - How to Extract Value from your Liability Insurance

Robert N. Rosenfeld

We buy liability insurance because we "have" to – because our clients require it before we're allowed to come on their premises – because we need to guard against a catastrophic surge of negative cash flow in the event we get sued. The term "liability" might encompass liability for auto accidents and liability for injury to our employees in the workplace (worker's compensation), but here, I'll focus on liability for damages to a client as a result of work we've done. This is what's typically covered by a Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance policy. Liability insurance premiums may represent 1% or more of our annual revenues. Typically, this 1% buys us a CGL insurance policy which we look to for legal defense, if we're sued as a result of our work, and to provide any required payments to the plaintiff if we're found liable at trial. But, does this insurance work? Years ago, it seemed to. Frequently, that is no longer the case.

Insurance companies maintain that their CGL policies were designed and priced to respond to the occasional accident – a client slips and falls at a work site or, an error in system assembly results in damage to a client's property. A large number of unanticipated losses could threaten an insurer's profitability and, ultimately their solvency. For example, starting in the 1960's the number of asbestos related claims skyrocketed. In the next decade, changes in federal and state laws relating to pollution resulted in a flood of insurance claims. These asbestos- and pollution-related claims certainly were never anticipated by insurance companies when their general liability policy language was written in the 1940's (at a time when there were virtually no laws related to asbestos or environmental contaminants on the books). Insurance companies viewed all the asbestos- and pollution-related claims as a threat to their financial viability. They responded by adding language in all new

policies that eliminated, or excluded, coverage for claims due to asbestos and pollutants. An "asbestos exclusion" and "pollution exclusion" accompanied virtually every CGL policy issued after 1980.

Something similar happened with regard to mold. Starting in the 1990's, thousands of claims were filed against CGL policies alleging billions of dollars of damage associated with the growth of mold. Insurance companies responded within a few years, amending their policy language so that coverage for any claim having anything whatsoever to do with mold was excluded. Ultimately, these mold exclusions were broadened to include all fungi, spores and bacteria, with dramatic implications for fire sprinkler contractors. Insurance companies have subsequently moved to preemptively limit the coverage of their CGL policies in advance of potential avalanches of claims. Examples include exclusions for losses due to silica dust, damages arising from computer system malfunctions due to date changes ("Y2K") and claims resulting from the sending of faxes or email, e.g. "spamming."

Why is this of concern to contractors who install and service fire sprinklers? CGL insurance policies are the cornerstone of most contractors' liability risk management programs. While the addition of a "Y2K" exclusion may not cause us much concern now, some of the other coverage limitations represent potentially serious problems.

- Professional liability exclusions eliminate coverage for any design work done, including, potentially, any layout work.
- Pollution exclusions eliminate coverage for any damages associated with, for example, the release of Freon or disturbing lead-based paint. New EPA regulations dramatically increase a contractor's liability for disturbing lead-based paint when working in a residential structure, hospital or school.
- Mold exclusions rule out any coverage for losses associated with the growth of mold or fungi. Slow leaks in sprinkler

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Understand Contracts Before You Sign!

*Editor's Note: Stuart Zisholtz
comments on New York State Law.*

Almost every public contract contains a clause requiring the contractor to remit a Notice of Claim to the public agency prior to instituting an action. In addition, many of the AIA contracts require a pre-requisite notice be sent to the owner, architect and/or construction manager prior to a claim being instituted.

It is vital that you understand the terms and conditions of your contract before signing the agreement. Once you execute the agreement, you are bound by the terms of the agreement. While certain clauses may be modified or amended by the actions of the parties, you are jeopardizing your ability to collect an outstanding balance due by relying upon such waivers.

Recently, there was a decision rendered by the Appellate Division, First Department, upholding the contract requirement that a written Notice of Claim had to be provided by the subcontractor to the construction manager within 15 days of the occurrence. Failure by the subcontractor to give the appropriate notice resulted in the claim being dismissed.

In the past, the courts have held that on a public project, a contractor must strictly comply with all terms and conditions of an agreement. However, on a private project, the courts were more lenient and permitted the parties more flexibility.

Before you have your case dismissed, it is imperative that you review your contract, know the particular terms and conditions necessary to institute a claim and follow the mandates strictly and completely.

Remember, never let your lien time run out!

For a free copy of a pamphlet pertaining to payment bond claims and mechanic's liens, please contact Stuart Zisholtz at Zisholtz & Zisholtz, LLP, 170 Old Country Rd. Suite 300, Mineola, NY 11501 tel: 516.741.2200 fax: 516.746.1024.

systems can easily lead to the growth of mold on materials like cellulose-containing wallboard. Mold exclusions are generally so broadly drawn that they eliminate coverage in any case where mold grows - even if mold is incidental to the loss.

- Exclusions for losses due to bacteria are commonly found, either as part of mold exclusions attached to CGL insurance policies or, in separate "microbial matter" exclusions. Microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) is a well-known process involving the growth of bacterial colonies on the interior of a sprinkler line. The colonies can choke off flow through a system, ultimately plugging sprinkler heads or lines. Bacterial colonies can directly attack steel, leading to perforations with subsequent leaks, water damage and, perhaps, mold growth. In any case, losses arising as a result of bacterial growth or corrosion are not covered by CGL insurance policies.

These exclusions mean that the coverage afforded by the commonly available CGL insurance policy is, for a fire sprinkler contractor, almost completely defective. The CGL insurance policy is "broken." Can it be repaired to the point that it provides a risk management tool of value to the contractor? If we were going to build a workable liability insurance program, we might try the following recipe -

- Start with an "off-the-shelf" CGL insurance policy. This offers some protection against allegations of damage due to defective workmanship (as long as the allegations don't involve mold) or negligent workplace practice (e.g. when a client trips over a toolbox).
- Add a professional (or errors and omissions, E&O) liability insurance policy. All CGL insurance policies have professional liability exclusions. This means losses arising from any design work, and perhaps any layout work, you do are not covered. Any work done as an inspector is similarly excluded. A professional liability insurance policy adds back what the CGL professional liability exclusion takes away.

- Add a contractor's pollution liability (CPL) insurance policy. The CGL policy's pollution exclusion eliminates coverage for any losses arising from inadvertently disturbing lead-based paint or the accidental release of Freon or other substances. Careful attention is required here as some CPL insurance policies have their own exclusions for lead-based paint, silica and asbestos. If one insurance company is not willing to delete such exclusions, find another. There are more than 20 insurance companies currently writing CPL insurance in the United States.

- Add in mold and "microbial matter" coverage. Mold and bacteria are universally excluded from coverage by CGL policies. Most standard contractor's pollution liability (CPL) policies also exclude coverage for them. Some pollution liability insurers will allow you to "buy back" the mold and microbial matter exclusions, i.e. to reinstate the excluded coverage. This is the only way coverage for mold and bacteria is currently available. Because the insurance policy language involved in the exclusions and coverage amendments is unusual and can be complex, it must be read carefully, to make sure you are getting what you've bargained for.

One problem with this recipe for liability insurance is that, we are now buying three insurance policies to replace one CGL insurance policy. Moreover, this approach builds a "wall" of protection with some major holes in it. Let's say you have a CGL policy from insurance company A and a professional liability insurance policy from a different insurance company, B. If you are sued by a client who claims the sprinkler system you installed failed to perform properly, company A might initially deny the claim by asserting that the failure was actually a design or layout problem (and so should be covered by your professional liability insurance policy). Company B might deny the claim, saying the problem mainly arose from a defective weld (and so should be covered by your CGL insurance policy). This is a fairly common scenario and the result is that the handling of the claim is complicated and delayed,

sometimes for more than a year, and you are left funding your legal defense until the insurance companies agree on which of them has primary responsibility.

A similar "coverage gap" exists when different insurers provide your CGL and mold liability insurance. Assume your client complains that a slow leak in a system you installed has caused extensive water damage to interior walls and ceiling tiles. Mold grows on 5% of the water-damaged wallboard. The mold liability insurer contends that it is obligated to pay for only the mold-damaged surfaces, a fraction of the total damage. The CGL insurer notes that its policy language excludes coverage if there is any mold at all! Again, you may well have to front the costs of repair and your own legal defense until the two insurers agree on their responsibilities.

The solution to this dilemma is clear. Get all three liability insurance policies (CGL, professional and pollution/mold/bacteria) from a single insurance company. Not only is this the optimum risk management solution, it also generally makes the most sense financially. The most convenient way to get the insurance required is by purchasing a single policy that includes coverage for CGL, professional liability and pollution liability (broadened to include coverage for mold and bacteria). There are significant cost savings when an insurer issues one, as opposed to three, insurance policies. In fact, a single combination insurance policy can often be obtained for about the same price as a CGL insurance policy. Typically, a combination insurance policy will provide up to \$1 million of coverage for each CGL, professional liability and pollution/mold/bacteria liability loss; subject to a policy maximum of \$2 million (higher limits are available, when required).

In summary, the liability risk of any contractor installing or servicing fire sprinkler systems can no longer be properly insured solely with a commercial general liability (CGL) insurance policy. As a result of the numerous exclusions and limitations on coverage that have become common in all CGL policies, two additional types of liability insurance coverage are now required; pollution liability, broadened to include mold and bacteria as covered pollutants, and professional liability. Problems with

By Don Pamplin

I saw a sign that said

“People judge a leader not by how the leader is doing but by how they are doing under that leadership”

This was a sign hanging at the front of a university business management class and it was there to generate discussion on what real leadership was. What is the definitive description of leadership? The majority of people who are asked that question quickly provide the most common response - “A leader is one who leads where they want you to go!” That’s a technically correct answer but it’s overly simplistic and doesn’t properly reflect all the subtle dynamics of what effective leadership is and can produce. This classroom discussion went on for several weeks and ever-so-surely, the direction it was heading pointed definitively to several fundamental principles of effective leadership and there were many. When asked to rate in order of importance those leadership characteristics, the following are some that were listed. They are not listed here in order of importance. I leave that for you to decide:

- One that is perceptive and able to define reality and purpose;
- One that can get people from where they are to where they should be and be excited about it;
- One that is able to inspire people to believe in a better way;
- One whose actions inspires others to learn more, do more and become more;
- One who understands that management is doing things right but true leadership is doing the right things;
- One who is an enabler, both organiza-

tionally and individually, drawing the best out of people and coordinating those dynamics to the path they want others to follow.

I met this kind of person back in 1987 in Hartford, Connecticut. His name is Ronny Coleman. We were both attending a “Metro Fire Chief’s Conference” in that city and during those few days at the conference, we struck-up a special friendship that has now lasted for nearly 23 years.

One day at the conference, we were trading fire department stories and I shared with him that my fire department in Vancouver, British Columbia had a “Class One” insurance rating, bragging that it was the only one with such a rating in Canada and at the time was one of only three in all of the 35,000 fire departments in North America. He could tell that I was really proud of my fire department. I no sooner got those words out when he said to me... “You know, we will never solve the residential fire problem in North America with muscle and hose!” His words actually offended me because I had a fire department of over 800 men that were structured and trained to provide “fast-attack fire intervention.” We believed we were very good at “offensive firefighting” and after listening to what Ronny had to say and then comparing it to what our statistics were actually telling us over the next two years, we realized that he was right. We needed help to properly protect our citi-

zens and that help was what a residential fire sprinkler system could do before we even got on-scene with our muscle and hose.

Ronny Coleman came to that important conclusion back in 1968, as a Costa Mesa firefighter, when he responded to a blaze at the Columbia Yacht assembly plant. By the time the fire crews had arrived, the ceiling sprinklers had the fire under control. A few days later, he responded to a fire in an apartment house where he found a teen-age girl dead in a smoke filled living room. He told me that he recalls asking himself, “What are we doing in this firefighting business when we can protect fiberglass boats but we can’t protect a 14 year-old child?”

That experience started Ronny on a crusade to require fire sprinklers in single-family homes. By 1979, he had persuaded San Clemente, California, where he was Fire Chief, to mandate fire sprinklers in all new residences, making it the first U.S. city with such a requirement. When Ronny moved to Fullerton, California as the new Fire Chief there, he did it again, requiring residential fire

>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Don Pamplin

NFSA's Regional
Manager for the
Pacific Northwest

sprinklers to properly protect those family occupancies. Ronny Coleman's ongoing crusade over the years, using all of his leadership skills and abilities, has caused hundreds of fire chiefs to make a complete 180 degree turn in their thinking. I was one of those Fire Chiefs, and that led to Vancouver becoming the first major city in North America to mandate a comprehensive residential fire sprinkler ordinance, including single-family homes. What Ronny started has caused a revolution in how the fire service thinks about residential fire protection, including his most recent outstanding achievements in leading the IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition to get the International Residential Code to include fire sprinkler protection so it could be adopted at either the State or at the local level within that respective state. Don't let anyone downplay it! It is an amazing revolution and one that will save thousands and thousands and thousands of lives.

Ronny Coleman has received many awards for his outstanding leadership over the past 20 years. When I retired from being the Vancouver Fire Chief, I wanted to do what Ronny had nationally done, so I went to work for the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association (CASA) and for 6 + years, I followed my mentor in convincing Fire Chiefs across Canada that residential fire sprinklers were their best friend. I kept in touch with Ronny and he kept encouraging me to be an effective "Johnny Appleseed." We all know that story which shares the magic of how John Chapman convinced people how important apples were in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He is an American Legend and so is Ronny Coleman! When I left CASA in 2000, I came to the NFSA to continue the same type of advocacy for residential fire sprinkler protection.

On April 15, 2010, something very special happened in Chicago. The National Fire Sprinkler Association presented Ronny Coleman and me with "The Lead-

ership in Public Safety Award," and I can honestly tell you, to be on that stage with Ronny Coleman and accept this dual NFSA prestigious award with him was an honor that is hard to adequately describe. He was my mentor and now we stand together, to be jointly recognized by the NFSA. It is a moment I will cherish forever!

But let me finish by telling you of other "Johnny Appleseeds". When we were having public meetings in Vancouver in 1990 when the residential sprinkler debate was raging, I called Ronny to see if he could come up to Vancouver and make some convincing presentations to help us win the sprinkler ordinance. He said that unfortunately he couldn't come, but he recommended a guy by the name of Jim Dalton, who at the time was Executive Director of Operation Life Safety in the U.S. Jim did come and he brought Bob McLeod with him. The two of them spent a whole week in Vancouver and their multiple presentations convinced many people, including the important ones who make decisions in these matters. They left Vancouver and if you were to walk down the streets there today and ask 1000 people if they knew who Ronny Coleman, Jim Dalton or Bob McLeod was, they would say no. After 18 years of retirement, they probably wouldn't even remember me. But here's the magic. Like the itinerant preacher Johnny Appleseed, fire service leadership people work day-in and day-out to convince people to follow their honorable quest to get residential fire sprinklers accepted and adopted across North America, on both sides of the border. Hundreds and hundreds of Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshals across North America are Johnny Appleseeds today and they are equally deserving of the leadership awards that Ronny and I received in Chicago.

Years later, if you were to walk down the streets in those respective towns and cities, people probably wouldn't remember their names either and what good fire safety things they accomplished. But that's OK, in their hearts, they knew what they had to do and they did it!

For those who oppose fire sprinklers-when the cause is right, you can't stop it, because there are just too many Johnny Appleseeds! 🍏



Don Pamplin, (l.) and Ronny Coleman receive their Leadership in Public Safety Awards at the NFSA Annual Seminar in Chicago.

Forward Full Flow Testing of Backflow Devices

By Bob Treiber

This article may seem familiar and it is. Last year we did an article on this subject and it continues to be a surprise to AHJs, Contractors and Design Professionals who are involved in the installation of fire protection systems and building specifications and design. Several of the NFSA seminar attendees state that they are not seeing water-based fire protection systems (Sprinklers, Stand-pipe, Water-spray) that have backflow devices being installed with a means for conducting the required forward full flow test. NFPA 13 (new systems) and NFPA 25 (existing systems) both have mandatory forward flow requirements. This includes both double check backflow devices and Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow devices. The latter having a greater potential for failure due to the spring mechanism developing memory from not being exercised. Over the years, several contractors noticed that when conducting flow tests of backflow devices, that in some cases the device would fail to function properly, not allowing sufficient flow to meet the fire protection system riser flow criteria (gpm). Both the NFPA 13 Committee and NFPA 25 Committee have placed criteria in the Standards addressing forward flow testing of new devices and existing devices. The standard does not detail a specific way to achieve this flow test, leaving it up to the installing contractor as how to achieve or provide for testing apparatus for conducting the required forward flow test.

Part of the confusion is that NFPA 13 only requires that a "means" shall be provided downstream of all backflow prevention

valves for conducting a flow test at system demand. NFPA 13, Chapter 16, Section 16.2.5 (2002 ed.), Chapter 24, Section 24.2.5.1 (2007 ed. & 2010 ed.), requires that backflow devices have an operational forward full flow test for all new systems containing backflow devices. As you can see this is not a new requirement. Where backflow devices are installed on the fire protection underground, NFPA 13, Chapter 10, Section 10.10.2.5.1 also requires that a forward flow test be conducted. The flow test includes both sprinkler system flow demand and hose stream allowances when applicable (generally inside hose allowances), or the same as the above ground piping requirements. As you can see the method of how to conduct the forward flow test is left up to the designer and installer for providing some means to conduct a forward full flow on water-based fire protection systems that have backflow devices installed.

So the next question is how does the contractor provide the "means"? If you examine the actual field practices, you see several variations. In many cases the forward flow test has not been conducted and in some cases the contractor provides a temporary test header to conduct the forward flow test and then removes it after conducting the testing. This leaves the building owner in a dilemma for conducting



Figure 1

the NFPA 25 testing requirements. So, how can you do it?

Based upon my observations of actual field practices the following methods appear to be the "means" for conducting a backflow device forward flow test.

1. For those water-based systems that have a fire pump installed and the test header is located upstream from the backflow device, a full flow test is fairly easy, as the annual pump test will normally provide proof of meeting the forward flow testing criteria (*figure #1*).

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Bob Treiber

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

2. Install 2 1/2" hose valve on the riser down stream of the backflow device. The number of hose streams will be dependant on the required sprinkler system demands (gpm). Each 2 1/2" hose outlet should be able to provide a minimum of 250 gallons per minute using hose streams with play pipes attached or other approved flow devices (Figure 2 & 3)
3. Install a by-pass around the fire department connection with a shut-off valve. Normally one can use the existing F.D.C. (Double 2 1/2" or large diameter sexless coupling) with attached hoses and nozzles. (Figure #4)
4. The method becoming more popular is to install a designated hose test header with hose valves for the backflow de-

vice. (Figures 5 & 6)

5. When a building has an NFPA 14, Class I or Class III Standpipe systems (2 1/2" inch hose outlets) the 2 1/2" hose connections in some situations can be used to conduct the forward flow test by using hose streams from the standpipe system. This is often a very complex procedure and may require significant labor cost in order to conduct the forward flow test, but it is still an option (Figure # 7).

Owners and contractors also need to be aware that NFPA 25 requires an annual forward flow test for the backflow devices. Water-based fire protection systems with backflow devices are also required to be tested four times a year in order to exercise the backflow device components.

In summary, a good contractor advises the owner/occupant that by spending a few extra dollars in the initial installation of a water-based fire protection system by providing efficient means for flow testing can save the owner/occupant significant cost for annual flow testing of the backflow device. If you are the contactor that conducts the annual forward flow test it can also make the job much easier. I hope this helps to clarify possible means for conducting forward flow testing. If somebody has another way, please advise us as we are always looking for ways to assist the AHJ, Contractor, Design Professional and Building Owner with easier and reduced cost installations.

Remember, the NFSA seminars are also your best way to meet your education needs. ①



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

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Heat Tracing for Fire Sprinkler Systems

By Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

NFPA13 requires all water-filled sprinkler piping to stay at a temperature of 40°F or higher at all times (section 8.16.4.1). In order to meet the intent of NFPA 13 and keep your water-filled sprinkler piping at the proper temperature, there are a number of options. Heaters can be placed in the compartment with the piping. Insulation can be used to trap heat from lower spaces as it rises to keep the pipe warm. Both of these are viable options. But this article is going to focus on a third option, the use of heat tracing.

Heat tracing (sometimes also called heat tape) is a material with small wires imbedded that is wrapped around the pipe. An electrical current is run through the wires. The resistance in the wires causes a small amount of heat that can keep the piping at 40°F or higher, even when the surrounding temperature is much lower. Heat tracing is much more sophisticated than the little discussion here, with power distribution panels that distribute current, protect the circuits and interface with thermostats. But the point of this article is not to talk about how heat tracing works. Instead, this article will focus on where heat tracing is allowed to be used on sprinkler systems.

Heat Tracing and Risers/Mains

Heat tracing has always been permitted by NFPA 13 as a method of protecting risers and feed mains. Unfortunately, the 1999 and previous editions of NFPA 13 did not

specifically mention heat tracing by name. Instead, the "Protection of Piping Against Freezing" section of NFPA 13 stated, "Where aboveground water-filled supply pipes, risers, system risers, or feed mains pass through open areas, cold rooms, passageways, or other areas exposed to freezing temperatures, the pipe shall be protected against freezing by insulating coverings, frostproof casings, or other reliable means capable of maintaining a minimum temperature between 40°F and 120°F."

The phrase, "or other reliable means capable of maintaining a minimum temperature between 40°F and 120°F" was intended to include heat tracing, as long as the reliability of the heat tracing was equivalent to the reliability of the heating system acceptable for the building.

In order to clarify this situation, an annex note was added to the "Protection of Piping Against Freezing" section in the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 that stated, "Branch lines have been intentionally left out of this paragraph as it is an unacceptable practice to heat trace and insulate branch lines." This helped to clarify that heat tracing was acceptable for mains, but that branch lines needed to be protected in some other way.

Even though cross mains are not included in the list of items needing protection, it is clear from the discussion on the concerns of heat tracing that it should be acceptable to use heat tracing on cross mains as long as there are no sprinklers installed directly on the cross mains.

The concerns regarding heat tracing will be discussed more in the portion of this article on heat tracing for branch lines. As long as sprinklers are not installed on the cross mains, and as long as the listing for the heat tracing is followed, there should be no concern about using heat tracing on cross mains.

For the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, the committee wanted to get even more specific. The section for "Protection of Piping Against Freezing" was modified to add "listed heat tracing systems" to the list of products that are acceptable to protect the pipe. By placing this text in the body of the standard, the committee was trying to remove any doubt as to whether or not heat tracing could be used.

As mentioned above, heat tracing can be used to protect risers and system risers in cold spaces. However, one note of caution needs to be inserted in this article. Heat tracing is not allowed to be used to prevent freezing of the water-filled portion of the riser in a dry-pipe system. Section 7.2.5.2 of NFPA 13 requires the enclosure around the dry-pipe valve to be heated and expressly forbids the use

>> 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

of heat tracing as a means to protect the dry-pipe valve and the supply piping from freezing. Similar language in section 7.3.1.8.2 forbids the use of heat tracing for preaction and deluge valve enclosures.

The 2010 edition of NFPA 13 has continued with the language that was in the 2007 edition. On this particular subject, there has been no real change since the 2007 edition.

Heat Tracing and Branch Lines

With the clarification of the rules regarding risers and mains in the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 also came a new allowance to permit heat tracing for branch lines on sprinkler systems if the manufacturers could insure that their product was not going to activate sprinklers just by heating them up and if the manufacturers could guarantee that the heat tracing and any associated insulation would not be an obstruction to the discharge of a sprinkler directly mounted on the branch line.

The committee was not sure that manufacturers could prove that these two concerns were not a problem, but they wanted to give the manufacturers of heat tracing an opportunity to expand the use of their product if they could satisfy these two concerns.

Specifically, in the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, section 8.16.4.1.5 was added to state, "Where listed heat tracing is utilized for branch lines, it shall be specifically listed for use on branch lines." This language opens the door for manufacturers to get a special listing. But sprinkler contractors will not be allowed to install heat tracing on branch lines until a manufacturer does receive a listing specifically for branch lines.

To the best of our knowledge here at the NFSA, there are no manufacturers of heat tracing that have received a special listing for use on branch lines of sprinkler

systems. In fact, to the best of our knowledge, there are no listing laboratories that have even yet developed any criteria on the subject of how they would test a heat tracing product for branch lines. So, until some heat tracing product receives a special listing for branch lines, contractors should not be installing heat tracing on branch lines of sprinkler systems.

Listed Heat Tracing Systems

Unfortunately, manufacturers of heat tracing are making the subject more confusing by not being clear in their product literature. Some heat tracing manufacturers use the phrase, "listed for fire sprinkler system piping" in their data sheets for their products. The lack of recognition that there are two different listings for two different types of sprinkler piping seems to have escaped them.

Manufacturers of a product need to provide clear information in their literature on how their product is supposed to be used. Heat tracing that is currently listed for use on risers and mains needs to clearly state on the product literature that the use of the product is limited to risers and mains. It also might help if the manufacturers were to state in the literature that the product is not listed for use on fire sprinkler system branch lines.

Heat Tracing and NFPA 13R/NFPA 13D

Heat tracing in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13R is handled much like it was in the 2002 edition of NFPA 13. Section 6.7.2.1 of NFPA 13R mentions "reliable means" for keeping supply pipes, risers and mains at the proper temperature (40°F) and an annex note mentions that branch lines are not included in the paragraph because there are concerns about using heat tracing on branch lines. This is consistent with the current state-of-the-art with respect

to heat tracing. If heat tracing for branch lines does eventually get listed, it is hoped that AHJ's would permit its use in NFPA 13R systems in accordance with its special listing.

Heat tracing is not mentioned at all in NFPA 13D. Section 8.3.2 in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13D uses basic language to make sure that the pipe is maintained at proper temperatures (40°F). Heat tracing certainly could be one of the reliable means that is used to keep the pipe properly warmed, but it would need to be used in accordance with its listing, which does not include branch lines at this time.

Summary

Heat tracing can be used on risers and mains of fire sprinkler systems to prevent the piping from freezing. As of right now, heat tracing cannot be used on branch lines of fire sprinkler systems unless the heat tracing receives a special listing for this use, and we are unaware of any companies that have received this special listing.

In the future, it is possible that listing laboratories and manufacturers will work out a product that is listed for use on branch lines of sprinkler systems. When that time comes, you will be able to use heat tracing on branch lines, but not until the listing actually occurs.

The language in NFPA 13 is intended to be a signal to the manufacturers of heat tracing and the listing laboratories that the use of heat tracing on branch lines would be acceptable if the product was to receive a listing for such use. Language like this was necessary to allow the development of the listing criteria, otherwise, the listing laboratories would never have been allowed to consider listing heat tracing for a use where the standards appeared to prohibit its use. ①

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Sprinklerman's™ 2010 Season in Full Swing

Yes, it's that time of year again. Baseball fever is in the air! Sprinklerman has an impressive schedule this season. He is covering the West Coast with appearances at minor league parks, is returning for his third season to some venues in the Northeast, and has scored a coup with an appearance at an MLB game-Baltimore Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox in Baltimore, Maryland.

Sprinklerman's 2010 debut was at the Somerset Patriots Game in Bridgewater, New Jersey. It was the third time for Sprinklerman to appear at a Patriots Game. In honor of Sprinklerman's appearance, it was Fire Safety Day, and the mascot of the fire sprinkler industry was in good company as local fire departments were at the game with their engines, eager to educate the littlest fans about how to stay safe during a fire, and, more importantly, how to prevent them.

The NFSA booth was busy as young and old alike stepped up to take advantage of the free giveaways, which included coloring books and crayons, informational brochures, "Fire Sprinklers are Green" bags, bumper stickers and the new addition to our giveaway line-up, the Sprinklerman poster. We were happy to see that the poster was well received and brought the opportunity for Sprinklerman to meet and greet lots of kids and their parents. After the kids received the poster, they sought out Sprinklerman in the crowd to get him to autograph it. Many of the fans were in the fire service and made it a point to stop by the booth to talk a bit about the benefits of fire sprinklers and to take some posters to hang in their local firehouses and to distribute to local schools. I'm happy to report that the poster will be gracing the walls of at least three firehouses in the Bridgewater area!

As I've said in past articles, something good comes out of every Sprinklerman appearance I've attended. Even if it's just the littlest thing, it can be that first drop of water that starts

the "ripple effect." A woman came up to the booth asking about residential sprinklers. She was renovating an old house her family had just purchased and was inquiring about installing sprinklers. Since they were gutting the residence, she felt that it was the perfect time to do the installation. She called her husband over and they took all the informational brochures we had on hand and asked for a way to find one of our members in the area to

do the installation. I directed her to the NFSA website and she left happy in the knowledge that she'd be able to find a qualified contractor to do the job. Like I said, maybe a small victory, but it's a victory nonetheless.

If one of the following games are near you, I urge to you go! See for yourself what this great initiative is all about. The Sprinklerman costume is truly impressive and stands out far beyond any other mascot he's ever appeared with. We often get comments from parents that Sprinklerman is more popular with the kids than the team mascot! It really does warm your heart and make you proud to be a part of NFSA when you see the reaction Sprinklerman gets from the kids and the appreciation he gets from the parents. You just know that, even in this small way, our message is getting through. It's also nice for whoever's working the information table to see a friendly face and

know that our members support us in our effort to

bring the fire sprinkler message to the general public. So, check out the dates below and if you can, grab your camera and your kids and come on out to the ballgame! 📷



The new Sprinklerman superhero poster giveaway.



Joanne Genadio

NFSA's
Advertising and
Communications
Coordinator



The information booth at the Patriots game was busy throughout the day.

SPRINKLERMAN'S 2010 APPEARANCE SCHEDULE

May 2	Somerset Patriots, <i>Bridgewater, New Jersey</i>	1:35 p.m.
June 22	Hudson Valley Renegades, <i>Wappinger Falls, New York</i>	6:35 p.m.
June 30	Inland Empire 66ers, <i>San Bernardino, California</i>	7:05 p.m.
July 2	Sacramento River Cats, <i>West Sacramento, California</i>	7:05 p.m.
August 3	Yakima Bears, <i>Yakima, Washington</i>	7:05 p.m.
August 4	Tri-City Dust Devils, <i>Pasco, Washington</i>	7:15 p.m.
August 26	New Britain Rock Cats, <i>New Britain, Connecticut</i>	7:05 p.m.
August 31	Baltimore Orioles, <i>Baltimore, Maryland</i>	7:05 p.m.



Sprinklerman gets ready to throw out the first pitch at the Somerset Patriots game.



Birthday boy Jackson Lister (ctr.) of Princeton, NJ celebrates his 6th birthday with friends and Sprinklerman. Jackson was the winner of the Sprinklerman Photo Contest held at the Patriots Game in Bridgewater, NJ.



Kent Mezaros (l.), of Quick Response Fire Protection in Manalapan, New Jersey, accepts 10-year NFSA membership plaque from Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Ray Lonabaugh.



NFSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Ray Lonabaugh (ctr) presents a 20-year NFSA membership plaque to John Poland (l.) and Charles Parkerson (r.) of Capital Fire Protection in Trenton, New Jersey.



James F. Bopp, Jr., President (l.) and Jeff Ferguson, C.E.T. (r.) of Best Automatic Sprinkler Corp., in Braintree, MA display their 20-year NFSA membership plaque which was presented by New England Regional Manager Tim Travers.



Membership Anniversary Port Automatic: John R. Fruh (l.), of Port Automatic Sprinkler Corporation in Princeton, New Jersey accepts a 5-year NFSA membership plaque from Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager Ray Lonabaugh.



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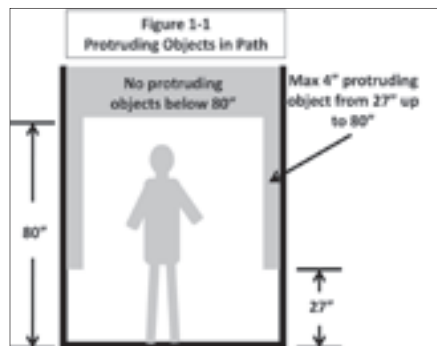
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Clearances for Sprinkler Installation

By Jeff Hugo, CBO

Piping, sprinklers and equipment placement get a thorough review (or are supposed to) by the AHJ. However, there can be some surprises left for the final inspection. Some of these surprises can only come from the actual performance of a field inspection. Lack of multiple cross-sections and landscaping plans may make your installers stay on the job for a few more hours or days. The finger of blame can go all ways, but aside from that practice, this article attempts to clear up some of these final inspection issues.

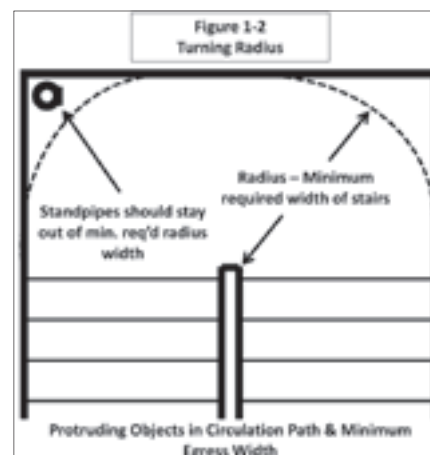
The Americans with Disabilities Act doesn't come into play too much for a sprinkler contractor. However, in some new construction and especially retrofit the placement of sprinklers may intrude on the path of the occupant. ICC/ANSI A117.1 2003 is the enforcement document used by AHJs to comply for accessibility. Figure 1-1 explains ICC/ANSI Section 307.2 and shows where protruding objects in the circulation path can become troublesome. This figure shows that no object



can protrude more than 4" into the circulation path from 27" up from the floor to 80" in height and shows that nothing can protrude lower than 80" above the floor.

A common question is; can the combined standpipe/riser intrude into the stair landing and if so, how far? While the codes are silent on this specific installation, several general encroachment sections can lead the AHJ to enforce the issue. ICC/ANSI 307.5, IBC 1005.1, IBC 1009.5 are all sections that state the minimum required accessible and means of egress widths and the prohibitions of encroaching equipment or objects. We see these sections enforced selectively across the U.S. However, it is not something the contractor or architect wants to be faced with on the final inspection. Figure 1-2 shows that the minimum required width of stairs on a landing and follows the radius of the width. The standpipe should stay beyond the required minimum width in stairs and ramps to avoid encroaching into the accessible or means of egress path.

While the chance of a sprinkler contractor having a problem with stair headroom is small, it would be prudent to explain. In the case of retrofitting, this may be more of an issue with piping and sprinkler placement. Section 1009.2 of the IBC and R311.7.2 of the IRC state that the minimum headroom shall not be less than 80" vertically and measured along the plane of the leading edge of the treads. Similar to the requirements shown in Figure 1-1, Figure 1-3 explains the minimum required



height and the correct method of measuring headroom.

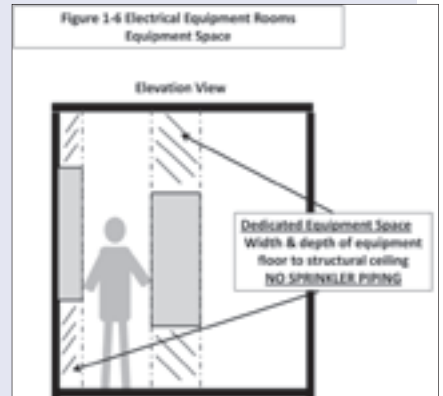
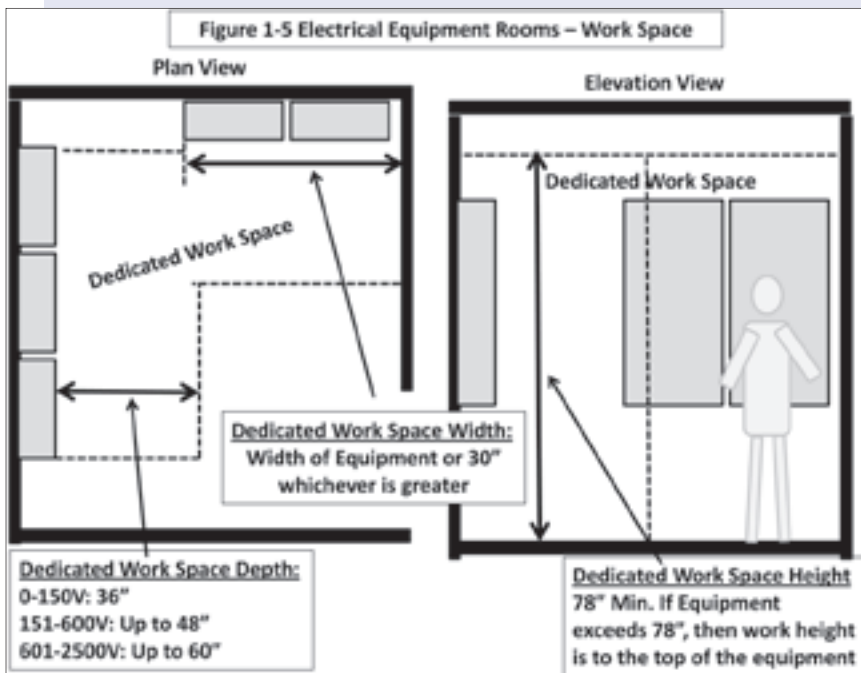
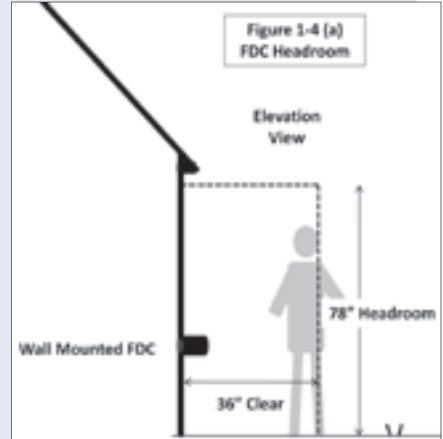
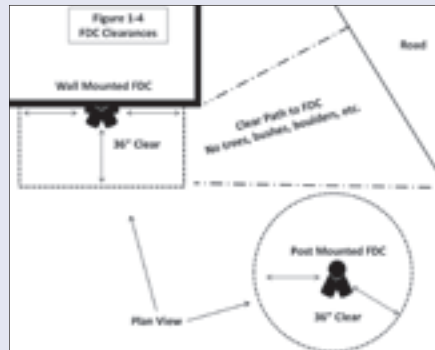
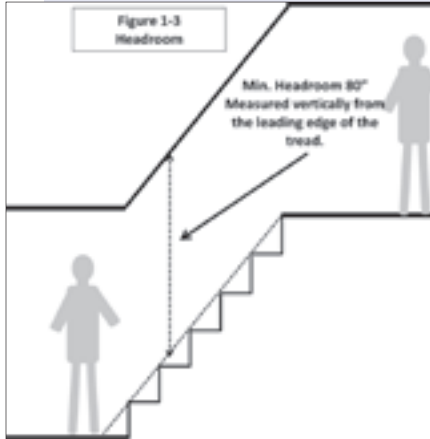
The location of fire department connections enforced by the AHJ is in Section 912 of the IBC. This section requires the installation, location, access, clearances and signage of FDCs. For the purposes of this article Sections 912.2, 912.2.1, 912.3 and 912.3.2 is addressed by Figure 1-4 and Figure 1-4(a). The knowledge of these sections is valuable not only to the architect but also to the sprinkler contractor. For the most part, Figure 1-4 is addressed by the

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Jeff is NFSA's
Manager of Codes

Jeff Hugo, CBO



>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

AHJ's site plan review, but this knowledge needs to transfer to the sprinkler contractor to perform the hydraulic calculations and layout correctly. Figure 1-4 explains the clear distance on all sides of the wall and post mounted FDC. The code states that 36 clear inches is to be provided on all sides of the FDC and the path to the FDC must not be obstructed by trees, bushes, boulders, etc. Some of this is beyond the contractor's control. However, this is valuable insight for the contractor and the responding fire department. Figure 1-4(a) is an elevation view that shows the code requirement for the minimum of 78 clear inches from the ground to above the FDC

along with the 36 clear in front of the FDC.

Electrical rooms have very specific criteria on work spaces and equipment spaces. NFPA 70 or the National Electric Code (NEC) has the jurisdiction for such spaces. Article 110-26 explains the work space depth, width and height as shown in Figure 1-5. Working space depth depends on the voltage of the equipment and the conditions in how the equipment is exposed or grounded. This article in the NEC should be consulted for specific depths, especially for equipment over 150 volts.

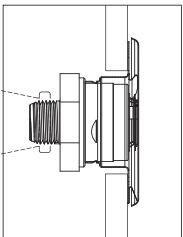
Figure 1-6 shows the dedicated equipment space for the room or space. The

space above and below the width and depth of the equipment (up to the structural ceiling or 6' above the equipment) is dedicated and mostly off limits for anything but electrical connections and components associated with the equipment. Figure 1-6 is an elevation view that shows best the dedicated space requirement in Article 110-26(F). While sprinkler piping could be installed in the areas voided in Figure 1-6, the NEC is very prohibitive and specific on the installation. It would be best to avoid these spaces at any cost. However, if in a tight spot, consult the NEC for the exceptions and the necessary piping applications.①



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By Dominick Kasmauskas



Progress

This issue of SQ I thought I'd catch everyone up with what other entities are doing that may affect water-based fire protection in Green Construction. Let's review the progress of the ICC's International green Construction Code. We'll also look at the National Association of State Fire Marshals' Green Committee as they advocate for fire sprinklers as a way to help the environment. FM Global Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the data they are putting together to help support the fact that "Fire Sprinklers Are Green" will also be examined.

International green Construction Code (IgCC) Update

Public comment was opened through May 14th. A Public Comment Meeting is scheduled for Chicago in August.

Information on the IgCC can be found at this link to the International Code Council: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/PublicVersionDevelopment.aspx>

Two sections that the NFSA is commenting on are below. Please note: Red text is my highlighting. The changes are noted in the strikethrough which denotes language to be removed. New text is underlined.

■ **708.12 Graywater systems.** The design of the graywater system shall conform to accepted engineering practice.

■ **708.12.1 Graywater sources.** Graywater reuse systems shall collect waste discharge from only the following sources: bathtubs, showers, lavatories, clothes

washers, and laundry trays. Water from other approved non-potable sources including swimming pool backwash operations, air conditioner condensate, rainwater, cooling tower blow-down water, foundation drain water, steam system condensate, fluid cooler discharge water, food steamer discharge water, combination oven discharge water, industrial process water, and **fire pump test water** shall also be permitted to be collected for reuse by graywater systems, as approved by the code official and as appropriate for the intended application.

■ **708.12.1.1 Prohibited graywater sources.** Wastewater containing urine or fecal matter shall not be diverted to graywater systems and shall discharge to the sanitary drainage system of the building or premises in accordance with the International Plumbing Code. Water from reverse osmosis system reject water, water softener discharge water, kitchen sink wastewater, dishwasher wastewater, and wastewater discharged from wet-hood scrubbers shall not be collected for reuse within a graywater system.

■ **NEW 708.12.1.2 Fire Protection.** Graywater shall not be used for flushing, supplying, or testing of any part or section of a water-based fire protection system.

And

■ **710.7 Non-potable water supply to fire pumps project elective.** Where projects are intended to qualify for a non-potable water supply to fire pumps proj-

ect elective in accordance with Section 303.4, one or more **fire pumps** shall be located within 200 feet of a source of reclaimed ~~or recycled water~~ **a rainwater holding tank** of sufficient quality, pressure, and capacity for fire pump applications and the fire pumps shall be connected to such source of ~~reclaimed or recycled water~~ **rainwater holding tank**. The connections shall be in accordance with Section 403.3.2 of the International Building Code.

710.7.1 Labeling and signage. Fire pumps connected to a non-potable water supply shall have signage in accordance with Section 706.2 provided at the building's fire command center and at each fire pump.

In my opinion, the justification given for the code changes is that there is no comfort level in our industry with chemicals that may be found in a graywater or other non-potable water holding tank. Rainwater supplies appear to be a more "self contained" system with cleaner water for testing or as a supply to the system.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



NFSA's New York Regional Manager and Secretary to the newly formed "Green Committee"

Dominick Kasmauskas

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National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has launched a web site, *Bridging the Gap*, www.GreenBuilding-Firesafety.org, that will bring together the complex issues relating to building in an environmentally sensitive manner while still meeting the overriding needs of fire safety for the occupants and emergency responders. Funded by a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, this project will look at where fire safety concerns coincide with the rapidly growing field of green buildings.

"It is important that the fire service help facilitate the growing trend toward green construction," said NASFM President Alan Shuman. "At the same time, there are definite knowledge gaps among fire service officials regarding how to recognize green buildings, as well as how to review plans, issue permits and safely fight fires in structures that may feature unconventional designs and systems."

Chief Shuman, who is also the Georgia State Fire Marshal, added, "Through this site, NASFM will be able to provide fire officials, building officials, design professionals and other stakeholders with an information exchange to help ensure that both needs are met - protecting the environment while protecting people from fire."

The growing web site is designed as a community where participants can contribute to the knowledge base and exchange information and experiences. It includes sections focusing on areas such as alternative fuels, building materials and construction, roofs, water conservation and much more. Guiding the project is a national Advisory Working Group of

professionals drawn from a number of different fields relating to building and fire safety.

"This site will evolve and grow over time," explained Karen Deppa, NASFM project manager. "The key is for visitors to the site to share information as well as obtain it. We hope that sections such as the Discussion Forum will foster this type of participation."

Chief Shuman also hopes that NASFM's project will lead to a cultural shift in how fire prevention and protection are viewed in the context of environmental sustainability. "When you think about the threat that a fire represents not only to lives, but also to the environment," he said, "It becomes clear that every fire that is prevented or quickly suppressed protects our natural resources. Fire Safety is a very Green concept."

(I am serving on the NASFM Green Committee representing the NFSA.)

Fire Sprinklers Can Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Building Fires by 98 Percent, Research Finds

Greenhouse gases released by burning buildings can be reduced by 98 percent when automatic fire sprinklers are installed, according to a groundbreaking joint research project by FM Global and the non-profit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. The research findings also reveal that a single fire in an unsprinklered building can negate the typical environmental benefits of "green" construction.

Reduction in water usage to fight a home fire is near 90%.

To view the release, go to:
www.fmglobal.com/press_release/2010/sprinklers_041310.html.



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How are YOU doin'?

By Barry Waterman

This prolonged period of economic awfulness has left me with little to say. I'm thinking it has lasted just about long enough, but I'm not seeing or hearing much that encourages me.

I just don't understand it when everybody - and I mean EVERYBODY - wants things to be one way, and yet it doesn't happen. So what happened to majority

rule? I don't know a single person who WANTS a bad economy, so why do we have one?

This is a trade journal, so I'm supposed to set down something at least somewhat relevant to our trade. But I have nothing good to say. So instead of filling a page with pathetic whining and crying, I'm going to change the subject. I'm not quite sure to what, but not whining and crying, even though we all know a lot of whining and crying is justified.

I find it interesting that after quite a few years of successful use, all automakers have stopped installing turn signals in their cars. And - even stranger - they have figured out how to deactivate the turn signals in older cars.

I, for one, thought turn signals were a useful safety tool and that their use constituted an act of simple courtesy to other drivers and improved safety on our streets. I use mine - somehow it is still working - but I haven't seen another driver with a blinker on in weeks. I thought we were already isolated

enough from our fellow citizens alone in our cars and unable to communicate with one another even though the roads are choked with traffic.

Uh, wait a second...

Oops. My bad. I was just informed by my assistant, Door Knob, that cars are still being built with turn signals, and that there are no invisible rays deactivating the existing turn signals. It's just that nobody bothers to use a turn signal any more. According to Door Knob, (Have I introduced Door Knob before? I can't remember) there is just too much else for a driver to be doing these days to have a hand free to flick a turn signal. What if you're holding a hot cup of coffee or a danish - or both? What if you're on the phone? What if you're texting, for mercy sakes? Who can operate a turn signal when so much else is happening?

Apparently the level of highway safety and some simple courtesies no longer rise to the same level of importance with folks as breakfast or yakking with Marge.

It's taking me a couple of seconds to digest this, but to me, not using these signals is more disturbing than the idea

>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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Independent consultant to the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

Barry Waterman

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

that they were no longer being installed in cars or had been deactivated. In my antiquated view, since we all pay for the roads with gas taxes and various license and permit fees, we all have an equal right to use the roads. We establish some rules so we can share the roads with our fellow citizens safely. We all benefit when the rules are obeyed by achieving greater safety and more smoothly moving traffic.

Silly me. Those ideas are about as current as a Pontiac or eight hours work for eight hours pay.

Time for one of my digressions. The worst case of "doing something else while driving" was confessed to me by a dear friend. Once, on her way to work at her first job out of college, she donned a pair of pantyhose while driving. It seems she was chronically late for work and had recently been admonished by her supervisor. Getting dressed, she put a huge run in her last pair of hose and had to stop at

Walgreens to dash in and by new ones.

If she was going to avoid being late again, she needed to unwrap the package and don the contents in the car. Fortunately, it was rush hour, so she wasn't going seventy on the freeway. She made it to work on time. No harm no foul. But what a thing to risk your life for. I'm guessing she wasn't signaling any turns or lane changes.

Door Knob (*who happens to be a female*) is cautioning me that this anecdote plus my crack about yakking with Marge may be gender insensitive. Maybe so, but I'm risking it.

Not sure why we started calling her Door Knob, but it stuck. One of these days I'll give her her due in a column about how much she has helped me over the years with editing and basic organizational skills that I totally lack.

Getting back to turn signals, they don't do any of us any good unless we use them. I'd like to start a campaign to get people to start using them again. We would all

benefit. Problem is, I have no idea how to accomplish this or even where to start.

Come to think of it, turn signals are like our fire sprinkler systems. Like sprinklers, they can't perform their intended function if they aren't used. No safety device is any good unless it is installed. And, to perform its function, it must be kept prepared for use by regular testing.

See, I just automatically write a piece about sprinkler systems whether I intend to or not. Must be in my blood.

I haven't been able to figure out a way to get people like homebuilders and realtors to start using sprinklers any more than I can come up with some way to get people to use their turn signals. I'm saying we would all be better off if we could get these things to happen, but I'm cussed if I know what to do.

Ah well. Until then, I'll do to those homebuilders and realtors what I do to my fellow drivers who don't use their turn signals. Just smile and give them a friendly hand gesture. ☺

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By Joanne Genadio

Canadian Forces Station Alert - The Northernmost Sprinklered Property in the World

While watching the 2010 Winter Olympics, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, NFSA Director of Membership and Communications, David Vandeyar, caught a small human interest story regarding Alert, Canada, the world's most northern inhabited settlement. So, what's the first thing David thinks of? No, not how cold it must be there. No, not "who the heck would live there in the first place?" And no, not even "I wonder what they do for fun?" David thinks of fire sprinklers. At 82°30'05"N 062°20'20"W, if the buildings in Alert were sprinklered, we would have found a new winner in the ongoing quest to find the "Northernmost Sprinklered Property" in the world. And so, the quest began (or started again, I should say) and somehow fell into my lap.

I have to admit I was less than thrilled about this assignment. First of all, Alert was a Canadian Armed Forces settlement. Not the easiest people to obtain information from, now are they? So, brainstorm... I posted a question on the NFSA website asking our members if they had any information on Alert. A shot in the dark, I thought, but, hey, ya never know. And... whaddya know, I got some responses! How nice to know our members actually read what I post to the website.

So, before I get into the nuts and bolts of this thrilling part of the world, let me send a shout out to two NFSA members, **Ed Comeau**, publisher of Campus Firewatch and **Frank J. Herrick**, from the Fire Marshal's Office in Leawood, Kansas. Both

took the time to email me regarding websites and photos available on the internet regarding Alert. Thanks, guys!

Alert was first inhabited by employees of the Canadian Department of Transport and the United States Weather Bureau in 1950, establishing the Joint Arctic Weather Station. This weather station is in operation today, now maintained by the Canadian Department of the Environment.

Alert was named for the HMS Alert, a wooden Cruiser-class screw sloop launched in 1856 by the British Royal Navy. She was converted for Arctic exploration in 1874, reached 82°N in the expedition of 1876, worked as a survey vessel, and was loaned to the U.S. Navy and the Canadian Government. The vessel wintered six miles east of the present station, off what is now Cape Sheridan, Nunavut in 1875-1876.

In 1957, the Alert Wireless Station was constructed as an intercept facility to be jointly staffed by the Royal Canadian Navy and Air Force. The Canadian Forces Station (CFS) is located in Alert, Nunavut, on the northeastern tip of Ellesmere Island at 82° N. Five additional buildings were constructed on the site of the intercept facility; a mess, three barracks, a power house and a vehicle maintenance building. From photographs we have been able to obtain from the internet, fire sprinklers are visible in the mess hall. Alert was, and always has been, considered a hardship assignment, with no spouses being permitted. Until 1980, only men were permitted to deploy to Alert.

During the Cold War, Alert was strategically important because of its proximity to the Soviet Union. Alert was the closest point in North America to the northwestern area of the Soviet Union. Interestingly, Alert is closer to Moscow (2,500 miles) than it is to Ottawa (2,580 miles). The station was reportedly used to intercept radio signals from the Soviet Union.

Alert enjoys a lovely, polar climate. It has snow cover for ten months of the year. The warmest month is July, with an average temperature of a balmy 37.9°F. The coldest months of the year, February and March, often see temperatures as low as -35°F. Because of the frigid temperatures, Alert is also very dry, averaging only 6.06" of precipitation per year. Understandably, most of the precipitation is in the form of snow and occurs during the months of July, August and September. On average, there is only .63" of rain, which occurs between June and September. Wildlife is of the hardy variety. Caribou and Arctic wolf are closely monitored and studied by Canadian Wildlife Services. Fox, ermine, lemmings, polar bears and arctic hare also

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Joanne Genadio

NFSA's
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Coordinator

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inhabit the area. Offshore, walrus, beluga and narwhal whales are often spotted. Over 30 species of birds, including long-tailed jaegers, terns, geese, snowy owls, loons and duck are regularly seen around the station.

At its peak, CFS Alert had about 215 personnel posted at any one time. Currently, about 55 military and Canadian Department of the Environment employees reside in Alert. They endure 24-hour daylight from the last week of March until mid-September. From mid-October until the end of February, Alert is plunged into

darkness. Personnel at Alert are responsible for airfield operations, construction/engineering, food service and administrative support.

After the September 11th attacks, Alert received renewed and increased funding to expand its Signals Intelligence capabilities. However, as costs rise to maintain the facility, the military is proposing to cut back on funds for the station. On April 1, 2009, the Canadian Forces Information Operations Group issued this statement: "The numbers of personnel in Alert continues to dwindle and most of the support staff will eventually be contracted. In

order to ensure that the artifacts in Alert that are deemed "museum pieces" are handled appropriately, a team of two will be flown to Alert to accession the surviving artifacts." So, I'm guessing if they're starting to collect "artifacts" Alert's days may be numbered.

However, for now, while it is still operational, CFS Alert holds the title of the northernmost sprinklered property in the world. We'll keep you updated. And hey, maybe you guys can do the same for us. After all, without the help of our members, this article would not have been written. 

Alert, Canada, the world's most northern inhabited settlement.

- Aerial view of Canadian Forces Station Alert
- The mess hall at the station. Fire Sprinklers are clearly visible in this shot.
- The original sign (below) was erected as part of a 1962 Centennial Project. The additional places, names and distances have been added by proud residents throughout the years.



The New Pressure Relief Valve Requirements for NFPA 13, 2010 Edition

History

Since the 1980s NFPA 13 has required that gridded wet pipe systems have either a pressure relief valve or an auxiliary air reservoir. Gridded systems were not often used until the 1970s due to the difficulty involved in calculating them. When these systems were first installed there were no requirements for pressure relief. The requirements for pressure relief were put into the standard for the same reason as many other requirements, repeated system failures. As these systems became more popular, contractors began to see a trend of system failures due to over pressurization. The requirement to provide a pressure relief valve or an auxiliary air reservoir was put in place to insure that there was a method of reducing pressure buildup due to thermal expansion that was being seen in these gridded systems.

Why are Gridded Systems Different?

Pressure relief valves have been required on gridded systems because they frequently have issues with thermal expansion. Due to their nature, gridded systems do not tend to have air pockets trapped in them. There are no (or at least very few) dead ends on these systems. When gridded systems are filled, air may still be trapped, but during system testing, the air moves out of the system as the flow goes through the grid, eliminating the air over time.

Reduction of air in the system is a positive step towards controlling corrosion by oxidation and microbes, however it presents other concerns. As a system's temperature changes, the water within the system expands and contracts, expanding when there is an increase in temperature (thermal expansion) and contracting when there is a decrease in temperature. Air is compressible, so if there is thermal expansion in a system with air pockets, the air pockets can absorb this increased water volume by being compressed. When there is no air in the system to allow the water to expand; the water pressure increases significantly when it increases in temperature instead. This increase in pressure can be so significant that it can cause component failures within the sprinkler system.

Gridded sprinkler systems needed some method of lowering their pressure to prevent this component failure. Pressure relief valves were introduced to reduce overpressure by allowing some of the water to spill out of the system during times when thermal expansion was occurring and air reservoirs were introduced as an alternative to reduce overpressure by giving the water an area to expand into in locations where discharge from a pressure relief valve was not desirable. Since the introduction of these system requirements; over pressurization in gridded systems has been eliminated as an industry concern.

Changes in the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13

In the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13 the requirement for pressure relief valves was changed to encompass all wet pipe systems (grids, loops and trees). In Proposal 13-76 in the 2009 Report on Proposals it was brought to the Sprinkler System Installation Criteria committee's attention that tree and loop systems also have tendencies to build up excessive pressure due to thermal expansion, though no data was provided to further clarify or support this statement. The substantiation for the proposal also concluded that air venting systems are being used more often to reduce the amount of trapped air pockets in tree and loop systems. These air venting systems are being used in an effort to help reduce corrosion by oxidation and microbial corrosion to these systems. The committee agreed with the proposal and modified section 7.1.2.1 of NFPA 13 to require relief valves on all wet pipe systems.

Another change affecting the requirements for pressure relief valves was made

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



Karl Wiegand

NFSA Manager
of Installation
Standards

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

in Comment 13-44 of the 2009 Report on Comments. In this comment the committee modified the requirements for relief valves by requiring them to be listed and to be a minimum of 1/2" in size. In previous editions, pressure relief valves were allowed to be as small as 1/4" and there were no previous requirements for the listing of these valves. The committee decided over pressurization was such a critical issue that pressure relief valves were necessary on all systems (that didn't have air reservoirs). For that reason the committee decided that pressure relief valves must to be listed to insure that they operated properly. Currently there are no listed pressure relief valves under 1/2 inches in size, so the committee set the minimum size at 1/2".

Air Venting

Both aerobic microbial and oxidation corrosion have been thought to have a proportional relationship with the amount of air present in a sprinkler system. Though no direct correlations have been determined, this ideology has been generally accepted. Based on this thought process there was an attempt to add requirements for manual or automatic air venting systems into NFPA 13 during the 2010 revision cycle. The Sprinkler System Installation Criteria committee felt that it was not proper at this time to require air

venting systems in the standard. Instead, the committee added an annex section (A.8.16.4.2.2) to the internal corrosion section to encourage, but not require, the use of manual and automatic air vents.

Suggested Air Venting Layout

The new annex section on air venting explains the benefits of using an air venting system (the reduction of air in the system should reduce the corrosion the system experiences). The annex suggests that in order to most effectively remove air from the system that an air venting valve be placed off horizontal piping at high points in the system where the largest air pocket buildup would be expected. In smaller systems one air venting valve may be sufficient to accomplish the task of removing air pockets from the system. In larger systems multiple air venting valves may be necessary.

For manual air venting, the suggestion is that valves should not be placed over seven feet above the floor because they to need to be accessible to be operated. Automatic air venting valves do not have these requirements because there is no need to access them. Air venting valves are suggested to be located over areas without ceilings, above lay-in ceilings, or above access panels. In order to effectively remove air pockets from the sprinkler system the air venting system should be operated every time the sprinkler system

is filled with water.

What This Means

Historically pressure relief valves were not seen to be necessary on tree and loop wet pipe systems. However, the Sprinkler System Installation Criteria committee has decided that the over pressurization problems seen in gridded wet pipe systems could affect tree and loop wet pipe systems. The 2010 Edition of NFPA 13 now requires that either a minimum 1/2 inch listed pressure relief valve or an air reservoir be placed on all wet pipe systems. This requirement will slightly increase the installation price of wet pipe sprinkler systems. The committee acknowledges this, but concludes that it is an inexpensive solution to prevent over pressurization.

Sprinkler contractors will need to buy slightly larger relief valves now that are listed for sprinkler system service. In addition to these costs, there will also be costs for waste and drain piping to get the discharge from the relief valves out of the building without causing water damage for the building occupants.

The annex materials provided in section A.8.16.4.2.2 will provide guidance as to proper installation of air venting. If systems with air venting are seen to significantly lower the amount of corrosion experienced in wet pipe sprinkler systems, these annex materials may end up moving into the body of the standard in the future. ①

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Risky Business for Sprinkler Contractors - How to Extract Value from your Liability Insurance

your insurance company in the event of a claim can be limited and expenses controlled, through the use of a combination policy which includes CGL, professional and pollution liability coverage parts.

Although insurance is an important element of risk management for any contracting business, it is certainly not the only one. An effective risk management program requires careful attention to, and proper orchestration of, contract language, customer relations and staff training, as well as the liability insurance issues we've noted. We'll discuss these is-

sues in a coming article. ①

Editor's Note:

Robert N. Rosenfeld is a principal and lead consultant with Variance Management, LLC in Southern California. His practice centers on risk management consulting for construction, manufacturing and real estate firms with an emphasis on environmental risk issues. Robert has advanced degrees in chemistry, environmental science and insurance and risk management. He has published and lectured extensively on the management of pollution, mold and bacterial risk issues.

Bob Kleinheinz Receives Illinois Chapter Of NFSA 2010 Wayne Luecht Award

Every year the Illinois Chapter of NFSA works on reviewing and researching potential candidates for the Chapter's signature recognition award for the year. This year, that award went to NFSA Illinois Regional Manager **Bob Kleinheinz**.

The award was presented to Kleinheinz at the March 11th Chapter meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois. As part of the award, Bob was able to designate a contribution of \$2,500.00 to the charity of his choice. He split it between Loyola Hospital Burn Center and the Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association.

Congratulations to Bob from all of us at NFSA. •

Dom Kasmauskas Appointed NFSA Associate Director of Regional Operations

With the retirement of Dan Gengler from NFSA, Dom Kasmauskas has been appointed to replace him as an Associate Director of Regional Operations. Along with Dave Bowman, Dom will assist Buddy Dewar in the management of the Association's Regional Operations. This will take effect July 1, 2010.

Due to geographic considerations, the NFSA will switch from an east/west division of responsibilities to a north/south division. Dom and Dave will divide their oversight regions as follows:

Kasmauskas: New England, New York, Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes, Illinois/North Central, Great Plains and Pacific Northwest

Bowman: Southeast, Tennessee, Florida, Central, South Central, Southwest and West

Because both Dom and Dave both serve as Regional Managers for a single state, they are in an ideal position to provide guidance and assistance to the other Regional Managers.

We all congratulate Dom and look forward to the results of this new opportunity for him at NFSA. •



John Viniello, Meri-K Appy and Gregg Huennekens

Home Safety Council Salutes NFSA

At the most recent meeting of the NFSA Board of Directors held in Chicago in conjunction with NFSA's Annual Seminar, Home Safety Council President Meri-K Appy presented NFSA President John Viniello and Chairman of the Board

Gregg Huennekens with a token of appreciation for NFSA's founding sponsorship of MySafeHome.org, a virtual website that helps people all across the country better understand the life safety benefits of home fire sprinkler systems. ①

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Tim Travers, Regional Manager



Sprinkler Save in Danvers, Massachusetts at Former Tequilas

On April 6, firefighters responded to the former home of Tequilas in Danvers, Massachusetts after a reported fire on the second floor. The rock and country hot spot closed last summer

after six years in business and has been vacant since then.

Danvers Fire Captain Douglas Conrad stated that the fire sprinkler system did its job and kept the fire at bay. He stated that he was thrilled to see water coming out of the door when he arrived. Conrad was quoted as saying there was a substantial amount of fire on the second floor that was knocked down by the fire sprinklers.

No injuries were reported.

Gas Grille Fire Controlled at Abington, Massachusetts Apartment Building

On April 20, the Abington, Massachusetts Fire Department received a master fire alarm for a 12-unit apartment building protected with a residential fire sprinkler system. On arrival, companies found an exterior fire sprinkler on the first floor under a wood deck for the second floor had activated. The tenant had a gas grill on fire next to the building under the sprinkler head. Other than melted vinyl siding, there was no damage to building or contents and the sprinkler system was quickly restored.

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, Regional Manager



Fire Sprinklers douse early-morning fire at New Hempstead Medical Building

Hillcrest, New York volunteer firefighters rushed to a fire at a medical office early on April 16, only to learn the building's fire sprinkler system had already doused the fire. The fire, in a laboratory at Gastrointestinal Associates of Rockland, was reported at 1:07 a.m. when an incubator caught fire. A laboratory technician tried putting out the fire with an extinguisher, but ended up calling 911.

40 firefighters cleaned up the remnants of the fire and ventilated the New Hempstead Road building of smoke. The medical office remained open.

Laws and building codes in New York requiring fire sprinkler systems vary depending on the size of buildings, construction and occupancy. It is thought that New York State is likely to adopt suggested codes that require sprinkler systems in all new construction starting in 2011.

Currently, buildings topping 5,000 square feet, like Gastrointestinal Associates medical building, must have sprinklers.



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Dr. Michael Kram of Gastrointestinal Associates praised the firefighters, police and other first responders for showing up at the medical building early this morning. He also praised the buildings fire sprinkler system for doing its job.

No injuries were reported.

Dominick Kasmauskas is the NFSA 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



NJFAB Pursues Group Home Sprinkler Protection with Proposed Senate Bill 957

On Tuesday, May, 16th the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NJFSAB) met with NJ State Senator Joseph F. Vitale's staff on Senate Bill 957, Group Home Fire Safety Act. Senator Vitale's efforts are applauded by the NJFSAB. The purpose of the meeting was to go over some of the language in the bill, which has raised some interpretive questions on sprinkler coverage.

The bill, introduced on February 4, 2010 stipulates all group homes shall be equipped with an NFPA 13R residential automatic fire suppression system in their common areas and bedrooms. Common areas are defined in the bill as "areas within a group home that are normally accessible to all residents including, but not limited to, the hallways and living, dining and kitchen areas." The current language in the bill can be misinterpreted and infers a partial sprinkler system. The NJFSAB recommended to the Senator's staff that the bill be revised to read, "equipped with an NFPA Standard 13R system" deleting the common area and room description language in the bill.

The revision would delete any possibility of misinterpretation on behalf of the sprinkler contractor as well as the authority having jurisdiction. The NJFSAB provided details to the Senator's staff as

to why a partial sprinkler system does not provide the proper coverage and also why a partial sprinkler system does not receive insurance credit for the building owner.

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



Carl Cutrell Jr. sworn in as the Area 3 Director

Carl Cutrell was sworn in as the Area 3 Director at the NFSA Annual Seminar in Chicago. Carl is co-owner with his partner Jim Ring of Nashville Sprinkler Company located in Nashville, Tennessee. Carl has been and will continue to be the President of the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association. To contact Carl, his email address is ccutrelljr@comcast.net or you can call him at 615.859.6660.

Unsprinklered Building in Murfreesboro, Tennessee Destroyed by Fire

Construction crews have already begun hauling away debris and insurance assessors have come and gone since a fire destroyed a downtown business and damaged its neighbors.

But the question probing some residents' minds remains – why wasn't the 100-year-old Music City Medical Supply building on West Main Street equipped with a fire sprinkler system?

The answer lies in the building codes that have been adopted by the city of Murfreesboro, according to Codes Director Gary

Whitaker. He explained that, depending on a building's construction materials, the size of the space and its use, the building may or may not be required to have fire sprinklers. He used the building diagonally across from 3 Brothers Deli & Brewhouse, also damaged in the fire, as a prime example. Before Emporium Nightclub opened, it was a retail marketplace, which didn't require a fire sprinkler system. However, as it was transformed into a restaurant, bar and dance club, and its occupancy increased, it needed fire sprinklers.

Such wasn't the case for Music City Medical Supply, which had been in the same location for more than a decade inside a century-old building. In addition to the lack of fire sprinklers, old, dry timber under a masonry facade likely provided fuel for the fire, Whitaker said. Fire officials have yet to pinpoint a cause for the fire.

Wayne Waggoner is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Southeast Region. He can be reached at: Waggoner@nfsa.org or PO

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FLORIDA REGION

David Bowman, Regional Manager



A Disappointing Florida Legislative Session

At the time of this writing the final outcome of the 2010 Florida Legislative Session is not yet known. Politics has been the dominant factor during the session and with politicians running as candidates in most key seats, safety has taken the back seat in favor of searching for votes with Floridians. Issues like the condominium retrofit have either gone by the wayside or suffered severe blows. It is hard to imagine that a minority of condo associations could wield such influence with politicians, overlooking fire safety in lieu of votes. A majority of Florida's condominium associations have understood the importance of retrofit and completed their projects, while a vocal few have not.

Because residential fire sprinklers are the "standard of care," when fire deaths and losses occur, it is probable that those who chose not to meet the "standard of care" will be found negligent and liable. The definition of gross negligence is understanding what the "standard of care" for a given issue is and choosing not to follow it. The government has a duty to protect the safety of its citizens and opting out of measures that have been overwhelmingly proven as today's standard, will certainly lead to gross negligence charges. It is doubtful that the government will then do anything to relieve the owners from their liability.

It is very likely that measures will be taken to put more stringent building codes back in place if sprinklers are not required. More stringent building codes will ultimately cost more than sprinkler installation. It is difficult to understand, other than the need for votes, why the installation of fire sprinklers is even an issue. They are here to stay and will continue to be the dominant factor in fire and

life safety.

David Bowman is the NFSA 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



West Virginia Fire Commission Discusses its role in promoting Residential Fire Sprinklers

At the April 13, 2010 meeting of the West Virginia Fire Commission, I took the time to review and discuss with the Fire Commission Members what has occurred with the adoption of IRC 2009, including the residential fire sprinkler requirement, over the past few months. The Commission voted to recommend the adoption of the IRC 2009 in whole, including the residential fire sprinkler requirement. Subsequently, the legislature removed residential sprinkler requirements from the IRC 2009 code and the Governor has signed the bill.

Thus, there is no requirement to sprinker a residence in the current West Virginia residential building code. On March 31-April 1 a Fire Team USA event was conducted in Charleston, West Virginia at which a side-by-side burn demonstration was conducted. This event brought considerable attention to the impact residential sprinklers can have on residential life safety.

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 REGION

Bob Kleinheinz, Regional Manager

Join Team Phoenix and run the Chicago Marathon on 10/10/10!

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first marathon or a seasoned runner who has qualified for Boston, all levels of runners are invited to join Team

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

NORTH CENTRAL

Dan Gengler, Regional Manager



Menomonee Falls Experiences Multi-family Sprinkler Save

On April 5, 2010, the Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin Fire Department responded to a reported kitchen fire in a large multi-family occupancy. Upon arrival, the fire department found one functioning fire sprinkler in the kitchen area of a first floor apartment. The fire had been controlled and extinguished by the fire sprinkler system.

The fire started in a pan on top of the stove. The occupant moved the pan from the stove and described the pan as "exploding in flame." The occupant received minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital.

Sprinkler System Extinguishes Madison Fire

On April 3rd at 4:51 p.m., the Madison, Wisconsin Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire in a condominium unit. A resident living on the first floor of the condominium called 911 to report seeing smoke and hearing fire alarms. Residents evacuated the building.

Upon arrival, fire crews entered the unit

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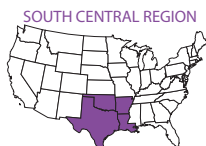
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and did not encounter a fire, but instead were met by two activated fire sprinklers. The fire sprinklers contained and extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Dan Gengler is the NFSA Regional Manager for the North Central Region. He can be reached at Gengler@nfsa.org or PO Box 286, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981. Phone 715.256.9515, Fax 715.256.4684.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Dan Gengler, Regional Manager



Louisiana House Resolution Calls for Residential Sprinkler Study

After a call to commit to subcommittees by the State Fire Marshal for the Louisiana Residential Fire Sprinkler Task Force, no action has been taken by the task force as a whole. The finished report of the committee must be received by the state legislature by February 1, 2011. No formal meetings have occurred since the early January session in Baton Rouge.

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal Plan Review Fee and the OUBCC Permit Fee
The Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Plan Review Fee increased to \$0.03 cents per square foot on May 3, 2010. The Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Committee (OUBCC) will be assessing a \$4.00 fee for each permit as of April 8, 2010, which must be received before the permit can be obtained. This \$4.00 fee needs to be added to the check that you pay to the State Fire Marshal for the plan review. For more information visit www.oubcc.ok.gov or call 405.271.1595.

Dan Gengler is the NFSA Regional Manager for the South Central Region. He can be reached at Gengler@nfsa.org or PO Box 286, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981. Phone 715.256.9515, Fax 715.256.4684.

CENTRAL REGION

Chris Gaut, Regional Manager



Iowa Fire Sprinkler Bill Updates

The Iowa Home Builders' Association was unsuccessful in their efforts to eliminate the ability of local government to choose whether or not they would enforce residential fire sprinkler ordinances. The Legislature did, however, pass a resolution which currently repeals the 2009 IRC fire sprinkler mandate and the 2012 delay of enforcement. The language of the resolution is as follows.

Bill key: 2009 IA SJR 2009
Version: Introduced
Version date: 03/22/2010
Author: Gronstal

Senate Joint Resolution 2009 - Introduced Iowa 83rd Iowa General Assembly - Second Session

Explanation

This joint resolution nullifies portions of an administrative rule adopted by the department of public safety requiring the installation of automatic residential fire sprinkler systems in townhouses and one- and two-family dwellings. A session delay was imposed on these provisions by the administrative rules review committee in December 2009. The joint resolution takes effect upon enactment.

Senate Joint Resolution by Gronstal and Mckinley

Senate Joint Resolution
A Joint Resolution to nullify administrative rules of the department of public safety concerning automatic residential fire sprinkler systems and providing an effective date.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the state of Iowa:

Section 1. The portions of 661 Iowa administrative code, rule 301.8, that adopt by reference sections R313.1 and R313.2 of the international residential code, 2009 edition, and that amend sections R313.1 and R313.2, by deleting and inserting in

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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lieu thereof and providing exceptions thereto, are nullified.

Section 2. Effective Date

This joint resolution, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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. STE 135, Eureka, MO 63025, Phone 845.803.6426, Fax 636.410.7700

GREAT PLAINS

Terry Phillips, Regional Manager



Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association's New Website

Montana State Volunteer Fire Fighters Association has a new website. Check it out at <http://www.montanavolunteerfirefighters.com/>.

Garfield County, Colorado adopts 2009 IRC

Garfield County, Colorado has adopted the 2009 IRC with the one- and two-family home sprinkl requirements to go into effect January 1, 2013.

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

Sprinklers Stop Fire in a home in Green Valley, Arizona



Seymour Chez's rental home in Torres Blancas is among the homes in Green Valley equipped with fire

sprinklers. And on the day a fire broke out in his kitchen, they worked. Chez surveyed the home a day after the fire and knew it could have been a lot worse. He stated that the fire sprinkler system put out the fire and that, other than the smell, it was nearly impossible to tell there had been a fire. Save for the edges of the kitchen cupboard, the rest of the house was untouched. When Green Valley Fire District firefighters arrived, Assistant Chief Bill Bohling stated that is was only necessary to put a little water on the fire to completely extinguish it.

Homes in Torres Blancas are among about 5 percent of homes in Green Valley equipped with fire sprinklers. Unfortunately, requiring residential sprinklers still brings out the lobbyists. Last year, the Arizona Legislature considered a bill that would have prohibited communities from passing ordinances requiring sprinklers in new, single-family homes.

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



NFSA El Cerrito Class a Tremendous Success!

Classes held in El Cerrito, Cal on April

20-22 were a huge success and attended by an average of 20-students per class. The 3-day training seminar, taught by NFSA Director of Training Bob Treiber, featured the 8-hour Residential Sprinklers, Homes to High-rise, Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D) and the new and specially designed for California, NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007-2010).

During the classes, Regional Manager Bruce Lecair gave a brief update on NFSA

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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

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activities that included information on membership, training activities, the NFSA Expert of the Day Program and information on the upcoming statewide OSFM CRC Preparation for Jurisdictions classes that are being scheduled across the state starting in June. They are scheduled regionally throughout the remainder of the year and will be instructed by Kevin Rienertson, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis Division, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Steve Hart, NFSA Consultant, National Automatic Sprinkler - IP Fund and Bruce Lecair, NFSA West Regional Manager.

Brea, California

NFPA 13 2010 Overview and Introduction to Plan Review (2-day class) 9/21/2010 & 9/22/2010

NFPA One-Day Plan Review Procedures and Policies 9/23/2010

Woodland, California

NFPA 13, 13R & 13D Update (2007-10) 10/19/2010

Sprinklers for Dwellings 10/20/2010

Residential Sprinklers-Homes to High-Rise 10/21/2010

For more information on class information and to sign up, please contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair or the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org.

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



Alaska's "Killer Legislation" Went Nowhere

The two-year war to stop "Killer Legisla-

tion" that was introduced in Alaska that would have prevented the use of residential fire sprinkler protection throughout the state, came to an end on April 18, 2010 as the 26th Alaska Legislature Session was closed and the two bills that were filed did not pass.

The Alaska Fire Service came to a compromise with Representative Herron on House Bill 202, taking out the Cost Benefit Analysis language and some modification on the time frames for public hearings. The Alaska Fire Service publically went on record, stating that they would not testify against HB202 with those changes added. Senator Menard then changed her Senate Bill 129 to reflect the same changes in Herron's House Bill 202.

Senator Menard put SB129 on the fast track out of the Senate and some of the drama at the end revolved around who's bill would be the official one to get passed on to the Governor.

Representative Herron felt that because he was the one who worked out the compromise, his bill should be the one to get passed. But Senator Menard, who was substantially criticized for her original Senate Bill that would have prevented statewide and local adoption of residential fire sprinklers, felt that her bill should be the one adopted, since she took the "legislative rebuttal hits up-front" and she deserved to be first with her amended bill. It turns out that the first Bill to reach the Representative's respective chambers wins, so Senator Menard's amended SB129 was the winner!

Because of the last amendment, the simple passing of SB129 turned into a complicated affair, with additional actions required to take place. At the closing of the Alaska Legislative Session, neither the amended HB202 or SB129 was passed. Both Bills could be brought up during a special session, if one is called, but that is highly unlikely.

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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Big Push Coming for Home Fire Sprinklers

A \$746,438 grant to the National Fire Protection Association from FEMA backs the national awareness campaign, "Faces of Fire," to communicate fires' impact. NFPA and two allied groups also are developing accreditation programs for home fire sprinkler contractors.

The results of a \$746,438 grant given by FEMA to the National Fire Protection Association will soon be visible nationwide. The grant supports a national awareness campaign, "Faces of Fire," to communicate fires' impact. NFPA argues sprinklers should be required in newly built one- and two-story homes.


NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home blog offers updates on the ongoing battle over residential sprinkler requirements, which remain in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) but are being dropped in some jurisdictions

that have adopted the code without the provision.

The International Code Council, which maintains the IRC, signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this month with the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the National Fire Sprinkler Association to create a new Commission for the Accreditation for Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Contractors that will develop accreditation programs. "The program will ensure that the entire industry has access to a superior level of training and have taken the ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler Design and Installation Exam, which is critical to enable construction projects to be completed on schedule and ensure quality installation," ICC said April 15. "These highly qualified experts will be accredited by a well respected, nationally recognized organization. This will provide home buyers, contractors and fire and life safety agencies with an added sense of security in knowing these fire sprinkler systems

will be properly designed and installed."

About 3,000 people die in fires annually in the United States, with more than 80 percent of those deaths occurring in home fires. "We have long known the life-saving benefits of sprinklers in many types of buildings. It is critical to bring this technology into homes where the vast majority of fire deaths occur," said James M. Shannon, president and CEO of NFPA, which launched its Fire Sprinkler Initiative nationally in 2009 to encourage the adoption the home fire sprinkler requirements in new one- and two-family homes.

The grant was awarded under the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters - Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program. The money will be used for outreach, added materials on the initiative's Web site, paid advertisements, and social media including a YouTube video campaign featuring fire victims. NFPA also will host representatives from each state for a training meeting. 

SPRINKLING OF NEWS

■ General Air Products' Econo RFP System - Highest Quality for Tight Budgets - NFPA 13D Applications

General Air Products, Inc. has expanded its residential pump line with the addition of the Econo RFP System for NFPA 13D applications. The Econo RFP System is designed to provide all 13D required features and functionality at the lowest possible cost without compromising the high level of quality the industry has come to expect from General Air Products.

As with all of the RFP Systems, the Econo consists of a stainless steel pump, non-ferrous components and an industrial duty pressure switch. The Econo RFP System differs from the rest of General Air's 13D Pump line in that it doesn't consist of much more than the stated parts. This is how General Air makes sure that no matter how tight your budget is, the Econo is the right product for you.

One last similarity that the Econo shares with General Air's fully featured RFP Systems is that it is completely customizable. General Air will build a unit to fit your exact specifications. For further information visit www.generalairproducts.com.

■ Hill Mechanical Group and Ahern Fire Protection Partnership Add Value and Quality to Chicago Market

Hill Mechanical Group and Ahern Fire Protection's Chicago office recently entered into a jointly owned partnership to provide fire protection services to the greater Chicago area under the name of Hill/Ahern Fire Protection. The Company's collaborative team increases value through single-source contracting, in-house fabrication and 3D/BIM design, and a shared vision for delivering superior quality. Hill/Ahern Fire Protection's daily operations will be led by Ahern's current Chicago staff, who will relocate to Hill's Franklin Park facility. The Company's management team includes current Ahern District Manager Tim Turbak, Ahern Fire Protection Executive Vice President Ken Collins, and Hill Mechanical Vice President Jim Hill.

Hill/Ahern Fire Protection offers customers more than 200 years of combined industry experience, with Ahern being founded in 1880 and Hill being formed in 1936. This longevity uniquely positions the Company to deliver sound estimates, offer expert advice, maintain cutting-edge technology, and employ quality personnel, while paying close attention to each customer's individual needs.

Ahern Fire Protection and its parent company, J. F. Ahern Co., continue to operate corporate and district offices in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska.

■ CB Marketing's New Legend 13D Pumps

CB Marketing has developed and is now producing their own line of 13D pumps for single and two family residences. When developing the Legend 13D system, five criteria were at the forefront:

1. Develop a pump system that could operate after long periods of not being used.
2. Eliminate the potential of wiring the pump in reverse rotation.

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3. Keep the cost down.
4. Keep the homeowner happy and minimize potential return trips for the sprinkler contractor.
5. Offer a product that was preassembled, prewired, pretested and ready to install.

A concern with a 13D pump is they will rarely (if ever) be exercised. CB Marketing has addressed the issue by providing a pump with 100% stainless steel components. (To see what a cast iron pump can potentially look like after sitting idle for six months, check out the "Why Legend" slide show at www.cbmarketing.com)

The Legend uses commercial grade non-overloading motors with increased service factors so they do not exceed the HP rating at any point on the curve. The motors are uni-directional; meaning they cannot be wired in reverse rotation.

The Legend includes a standard pre-charged expansion tank to minimize water hammer and cycling, which can irritate homeowners and create costly return trips for the sprinkler contractor.

The Legend is completely pre assembled, prewired, pretested and ready to install.

The Legend 13D tag line, "stainless for life", exemplifies the Legend and its intended use and does so at a fraction of the cost of other 13D pumps.

The Legend is available from 20 to 70 GPM and 25 to 75 PSI in two system configurations, depending on horsepower.

For more information, please call Brett Scharpenter, Vice President, at 708.202.0033, or submit a web inquiry via www.cbmarketing.com

■ Potter announces the Only UL-listed Air Vent for Fire Sprinkler Systems

Potter introduces the only UL-listed air vent for fire sprinkler systems in the industry. The Potter Air Vent (PAV) is listed for Fire Sprinkler Branch line applications per UL subject 2573 - "Automatic Air Release Valves for Fire Protection Service".

The PAV is an automatic float type air vent used to reduce the amount of air trapped in a pressurized fire sprinkler system. Reducing the amount of air in a fire sprinkler system is essential to help protect the system

from the effects of corrosion that is often found at the air/water interface in the fire sprinkler system piping.

The newly updated Potter Automatic Air Release (PAAR-B) utilizes the PAV and automatically eliminates air trapped in pressurized sprinkler systems. The low-profile retention pan catches any additional water that may be discharged and allows for electronic supervision.

For further information, go to www.pottersignal.com.

■ New Viking Mirage® ELO Concealed Sprinkler Listed to Cover 20 x 20 ft. Area as Quick Response

Viking Corporation has added a new 11.2 (161) K-factor, extended coverage, pendant to its Mirage® line of commercial concealed sprinklers. The new model VK636 is the only 11.2 K-factor commercial concealed sprinkler with a quick response cULus listing for up to 20 x 20 ft. (6.1 x 6.1 m) coverage areas.

This new flat plate concealed sprinkler, which is approved for light hazard occupancies, is available in 165°F (74°C) and 205°F (96°C) temperature ratings. The sprinkler's cover plate assembly, which offers ½" inch (13 mm) of vertical adjustment, is offered in 135°F (57°C) and 165°F (74°C) temperature ratings. The cover plate is available in several standard finishes as well as a nearly unlimited number of custom colors using virtually any manufacturer and type of paint.

Like all Mirage® concealed sprinklers, the VK636 includes an easy "push on, thread off" cover plate. Viking also offers special tools for its Mirage® line allowing the installer to remove a sprinkler's protective cap and install its cover plate without using a ladder. The cap removal tool, which doubles as a "leave behind" wrench for the sprinkler cabinet, attaches to a length of one-inch (DN25) CPVC, making it possible to remove the protective cap from the floor. Once the cap is removed, the installer can then use Viking's innovative cover plate installation tool. This tool, which attaches to the other end of the CPVC pipe length, enables the installation of the cover plate without using a ladder.

For more information, visit www.vikinggroupinc.com.

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■ Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Receives Grant to Help Fire Departments Increase Local Awareness

A new federal grant awarded to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) will help the coalition work with the fire service to increase awareness of home fire sprinkler facts at the local level. The grant also supports HFSC outreach and interaction with the homebuilding industry in order to underscore the life-saving benefits of building new houses with installed fire sprinkler protection.

The funding was awarded through a 2009 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

As a centerpiece of the grant-funded program, HFSC will undertake a national effort to advance the use of side-by-side fire sprinkler and flashover demonstrations as part of local fire department outreach. HFSC will host demonstrations and educational events in partnership with 12 fire departments and provide stipends to 100 additional departments that can implement the events on their own.

This program will help HFSC inform more fire departments about its free Built for Life Fire Department Program (BFLFD), which has more than 1,500 members to date. U.S. fire departments that agree to make home fire sprinkler education a focus of their public safety outreach, or increase existing efforts, will receive recognition and priority access to HFSC's new educational tools and materials. Last year, HFSC introduced its comprehensive Fire and Sprinkler Burn Demonstration Kit to BFLFDs. The free Kit guides departments through every step of a live educational burn, with print and video instruction. It is available on HFSC's Web site.

Details about the national program to support local implementation of side-by-side burns will be announced through HFSC's fire service blog "Focus". Visit HomeFireSprinkler.org to learn more and to sign up for the Built for Life Fire Department Program.

For more information, log on to www.homefiresprinkler.org.



TO NFSA:

Dear Red Cross Supporter:

In the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquakes in Haiti, the American Red Cross stands with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners around the globe to transform your donation into relief and recovery. Our combined efforts represent the largest single-country relief operation in Red Cross history. Thank you for being a part of this monumental response effort.

Your timely contribution of \$4,000.00 on April 7, 2010, has put aid directly into the hands of more than 1.3 million people affected by these earthquakes. Your support translates into critical relief supplies like blankets, hygiene kits and mosquito nets that save lives and restore livelihoods. Through the power of your gift, the Red Cross is providing safe, clean drinking water to more than 300,000 people daily. Thanks to you, we are supporting an immunization and hygiene promotion campaign that ensures that more than 250,000 children will have a healthy tomorrow.

American Red Cross volunteers have joined hundreds of Red Cross and Red Crescent workers from around the world in a coordinated effort to meet both the immediate and long-term challenges that stand between chaos and recovery for the people of Haiti. For victims of this unprecedented disaster, our work is the hope for tomorrow. This is a result of generous gifts from donors like you.

The American Red Cross stands ready to provide further assistance and will remain in Haiti until the job is done. We are grateful to have your support that brings hope and comfort to those affected by these devastating earthquakes. As the response evolves, please visit www.redcross.org or call 1.800.797.8022 to learn more about your gift at work. Once again, thank you for your compassionate support of the American Red Cross.

Sincerely,
Lauri Rhinehart
*Vice President, Development Operations,
American Red Cross*

TO GENE ENDTHOFF:

Thank you, Gene. We've received some excellent feedback about yesterday's seminar—that the information was very valuable, and the presenter very knowledgeable!

Let's plan to do this again!

Sarah Smith
Washington Chapter, AIA



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