SQ

SEPT/OCT 2009 / No. 156

Journal of the
National Fire Sprinkler
Association

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- State of the Industry
- Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Review
- High Clearance Storage Protection
- Lightweight Construction Performance

ATTENTION

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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

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contents

September - October 2009 • no. 156

ON THE COVER:
At the 2009 Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Orlando, NFSA President John Viniello makes the Golden Sprinkler Award presentation to this year's recipient Wayne Gey of Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers.

SQ

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IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

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State of the Industry 2009

John Viniello

Editor's note: This is an edited version of NFSA President John Viniello's State of the Industry Address given at the 2009 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition at the Omni ChampionsGate in Orlando, Florida on April 30, 2009.

Let me take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support in attending this year's conference, it is greatly appreciated especially during this very challenging period for our industry. Later in my remarks I will give my view of where we are in the present business cycle and when and if we can expect some relief. But before I begin my formal remarks let me first congratulate those individuals who were inducted into the Hall of Fame as I have had the privilege of serving with each of them during my tenure as President for the past 25 years. And lastly, but by no means least, my personal congratulations to Wayne Gey, Sharon, their family, friends and business associates as this year's, recipient of the Golden Sprinkler Award. Certainly no one has been more deserving than Wayne, who is an acknowledged industry leader and has been a true supporter of the efforts of your Association, not only here in the State of Florida but nationally as well. Today, we will focus on a number of areas that have been elevated to priority status for your Association...they include:

*Adoption of the IRC model code requirement at the local code level to have all newly constructed homes protected with residential fire sprinklers beginning in the year 2011.

- Passage of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act to amend the IRS code of 1986 to accelerate the depreciation schedule for the installation of fire sprinklers in existing buildings.
- Include on NFSA Inspection, Testing and Maintenance test certificates a question requiring information about an owner's insurance carrier, which I believe will encourage building owners to repair deficiencies and limit a contractor's liability. (Wouldn't that idea be refreshing for a change?)
- Launch an accreditation program for fire sprinkler contractors installing residential sprinklers.
- And last, but by no means least, address the state of the fire sprinkler economy.

The International Residential Code

The National Association of Home Builders has launched a campaign to prohibit the adoption of the model code requirement passed in September in Minneapolis that all newly constructed one- and two-family dwellings would have to be protected with sprinklers beginning in January 2011. This preemptive strike, which is presently being opposed by your Association, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and America's Fire Services, would prohibit any community within the state from adopting a model code requirement that would mandate the installation of residential fire sprinklers. While the legislative initiatives on the part of the home builders take different forms, the results are the same. Basically, your community would not be able to enact an ordinance or adopt a code that would mandate the installation of fire sprinklers. This has been elevated to a swat status within the Association with Jim Dalton, Director of Public Fire Protection working with a variety of groups. I would like you to log on to the NFSA website, at www.nfsa.org, where you can find detailed information of where these anti-fire sprinkler initiatives are taking place and what you can do to help. Please refer to the "Anti-Sprinkler Legislation" on the left side of the website. You can be an immense help by having your employee write to those State Legislators who are supporting this legislation. In almost every instance it's the lack of education and propaganda being fostered by the National Association of Home Builders that leads them to support this type of legislation.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

We have reintroduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act in this session of Congress. Once again we need your help to obtain additional co-sponsors. This bill, which would, as you all know, amend the IRS code of 1986 to accelerate the depreciation for the installation of fire sprinklers in existing buildings. NFSA's website is an icon for the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act which will provide you with detailed information on how to contact your member of Congress asking them to support this legislation. Once again a Grassroots effort is needed if we are going to be successful in having the present administration pass this legislation and have it signed into law. I personally, along with Jim Dalton and several members of organized labor have met with Charlie Rangel, Congressman from New York and Chairman of the House, Ways and Means, who is very supportive of this legislation. It is hopeful that we can attach this legislation with some tax reform bills being considered by Congress sometime this year.

Inspection, Testing and Maintenance

At the recent meeting of the NFPA 25 Committee, NFSA's Executive Vice President Russ Fleming and Rich Ray of Cybor Fire Protection requested that owner information be included in the body of NFPA 25. It was further proposed that information on the insured's insurance carrier including a policy number also be included. After a lengthy debate to include this information in the main body of the standard, a tie vote was broken by the Chairman of the NFPA 25 committee, who is, by the way, a representative of AIG. As such, I am sure you can guess how he voted. Russ Fleming countered with a proposal to include information to be completed by the owner and this did pass. After further discussions with several of our contractors, NFSA has decided to include in its NFPA 25 Inspection, Testing and Maintenance forms a section which would require the building owner to furnish to the contractor carrying out the inspection, information on his insurance carrier including his policy number. It became obvious to me in discussions with several members of our staff and key contractors around the country that this information would be an enormous help in transferring risk to where it belongs, to the owner of the building rather than the installing or inspecting sprinkler contractor. These forms are available from NFSA as part of our Resource Center and you should have already received a press release announcing their availability. We will continue to attempt to get this information in the body of NFPA 25 during the comment period allowed under NFPA rules.

Accredited - Fire Sprinkler Contractor

As mentioned earlier, in 2011 the International Residential Code when adopted without amendment at the local level will require fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. There are hundreds of communities that presently require by local ordinance, homes to be protected by the product that you install, manufacture and supply. This market, when it matures will almost double the number of fire sprinklers shipped each year. But new markets are not without their challenges. We have already seen articles written in many of the trade publications that plumbers will install home sprinklers. In an effort to protect the integrity of the sprinkler product, NFSA has proposed to our Board of Directors, the development of a Residential Fire Sprinkler Contractor Accreditation program that, hopefully in cooperation with a nationally recognized fire service trade group, will be implemented.. The program would include a training program and application for accreditation. We envision the following different entry points:

1. The sprinkler contractor who has installed home sprinklers would immediately pass go and receive accreditation.
2. The sprinkler contractor who has never installed 13D systems would have to satisfy certain requirements to be accredited.
3. The contractor who has never installed sprinklers would have to take our class, pass a test, provide necessary insurance certificates and then apply for accreditation.

John A. Viniello, *President*

NFSA The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

UPCOMING SEMINARS

NFSA Annual Seminar
Fairmont Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
April 15-16, 2010

NFSA Annual Seminar
Hilton Los Cabos Resort
Los Cabos, Mexico
2012

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

NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition
The Fontainebleau
Las Vegas, Nevada
2013

NFSA The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO NFSA MEMBERS

calendar

NFPA 13 2007 Update	Boardman, OR	Sept 1
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Boardman, OR	Sept 2
Inspection, Testing & Maintenance	Boardman, OR	Sept 3
Introduction to Sprinkler Systems (1/2 Day AM)	Alexandria, MN	Sept 8
NFPA 13 2002 Update (1/2 Day PM)	Alexandria, MN	Sept 8
Plan Review Policies & Procedures	Alexandria, MN	Sept 9
Inspection, Testing & Maintenance	Alexandria, MN	Sept 10
Two-Week Layout Technician Training	Baltimore, MD	Sept 14-25
Basic Math	*Online*	*Sept 15*
Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 Day)	Seattle, WA	Sept 15
CPVC Piping (1/2 Day)	Seattle, WA	Sept 15
Hydraulics for Fire Sprinker Systems	Seattle, WA	Sept 16
NFPA 13 2007 Update	Dayton, OH	Sept 16
Standpipe Systems for Fire Protection Systems	Seattle, WA	Sept 17
Fire Pump Layout & Sizing	Seattle, WA	Sept 17
Sprinkles for Dwellings	Dayton, OH	Sept 17
CPVC Piping Installation Requirements (1/2 Day)	Dayton, OH	Sept 18
Commissioning and Acceptance Testing (1/2 Day)	Dayton, OH	Sept 18
NFPA 13, 13R, 13D 2007 Update	Anaheim, CA	Sept 22
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Seattle, WA	Sept 23
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Anaheim, CA	Sept 23
Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage	Berlin, VT	Sept 23
Standpipe Systems for Fire Protection (1/2 Day)	Seattle, WA	Sept 24
Underground Piping (1/2 Day)	Anaheim, CA	Sept 24
Fire Pump Layout & Sizing (1/2 Day)	Seattle, WA	Sept 24
Roles of the System Inspector and AHJ	*Online*	*Sept 24*
Basic Seismic (1/2 Day)	Anaheim, CA	Sept 24
Plan Review Policies & Procedures	Berlin, VT	Sept 22
CPVC Piping (1/2 Day)	Berlin, VT	Sept 24
Basic Seismic (1/2 Day)	Berlin, VT	Sept 24
ITM for Dry Systems	*Online*	*Sept 29*
Two-Week Layout Technician Training	Phoenix, AZ	Oct 12-23
Inspection, Testing & Maintenance	Concord, NH	Oct 13
ITM for Backflow Devices	*Online*	*Oct 13*
Residential Sprinklers: Homes to High Rise	Concord, NH	Oct 14
Sprinklers for Dwellings	Concord, NH	Oct 15
Inspection Contracts	*Online*	*Oct15*
Underground Piping (1/2 Day)	Woodland, CA	Oct 20
Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 Day)	Woodland, CA	Oct 20
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Woodland, CA	Oct 21
Sprinkler Protection for Special Storage	Woodland, CA	Oct. 22
ITM for Hose, Hose Connections & Valves	*Online*	*Oct 27*
Inspection, Testing & Maintenance	Irving, TX	Oct 27
Pumps for Fire Protection	Edwardsville, IL	Oct 27
NFPA 13 Overview	Pembroke, MA	Oct 27-28
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Edwardsville, IL	Oct 28
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Irving, TX	Oct 28
Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage	Edwardsville, IL	Oct 29
Plan Review Policies & Procedures	Pembroke, MA	Oct 29
NFPA 13, 13R, 13D 2007 Update	Irving, TX	Oct 29
Tank Inspections	*Online*	*Nov 10*
Planning and Scheduling	*Online*	*Nov 19*
Obstruction Inspections and Investigations	*Onlne*	*Nov 24*
Workplace Safety and the "Right to Know"	*Online*	*Dec 3*
ITM for Preaction and Deluge Systems	*Online*	*Dec 8*
Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage	Marana, AZ	Dec. 8
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Marana, AZ	Dec. 9
Basic Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems	Marana, AZ	Dec. 10
Advanced Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems	Marana, AZ	Dec.10

To register or for more information, contact: Dawn Fitzmaurice at **845.878.4207** or **seminars@nfsa.org**

For more information on the Two-Week Technician Training classes, contact Nicole Sprague using **sprague@nfsa.org** or by calling **845.878.4200, ext. 149**.

That Winning Combination

Gregg Huennekens

Probably like many of you, when I returned from this year's Annual Seminar & Exhibition held at the Omni ChampionsGate in Orlando – which by the way was a fantastic property – I took a little time to reflect on the week's events and skim through what seemed like volumes of material I picked up at the exhibition. While it never seems like I am collecting a lot of handout information as I make my way from booth to booth, talking with the many manufacturers and suppliers who have consistently supported the event over the years, I was amazed after I arrived home at just how much information I had amassed in just a few days.

As I was looking through my bag of goodies, one piece stood out quite prominently in the mix of colorful brochures I had collected. It was the NFSA 2008 Annual Report. Seeing it again made me immediately think back to the Newcomers' Reception at the annual seminar. I say "again" because I had consciously picked up a copy at the NFSA registration desk when I first arrived at the hotel and had set it aside expecting to look it over in greater detail later on. Well as luck would have it, later on wasn't until I returned home. Fortunately, though, as the old saying goes, later was better than never.

Anyway, as I said earlier, seeing the Annual Report again made me flash back to the Newcomers' Reception. It served as a sort of "kick off" to the conference at which some 30 or more members new to the Annual Seminar & Exhibition were introduced to members of the Association's Board of Directors and staff. Since the Annual Report is released to coincide with the Annual Seminar every year, the reception provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the Association's highlights from the previous year. Taking fullest advantage of the opportunity, NFSA's Director of Membership & Communications, David Vandeyar, did a masterful job presenting by department, a broad array of Association success stories.

While I am never surprised by the accomplishments of our Association – simply because they do have a way of, well, quite simply, getting the job done – a few highlights from 2008 really stand out in my mind.

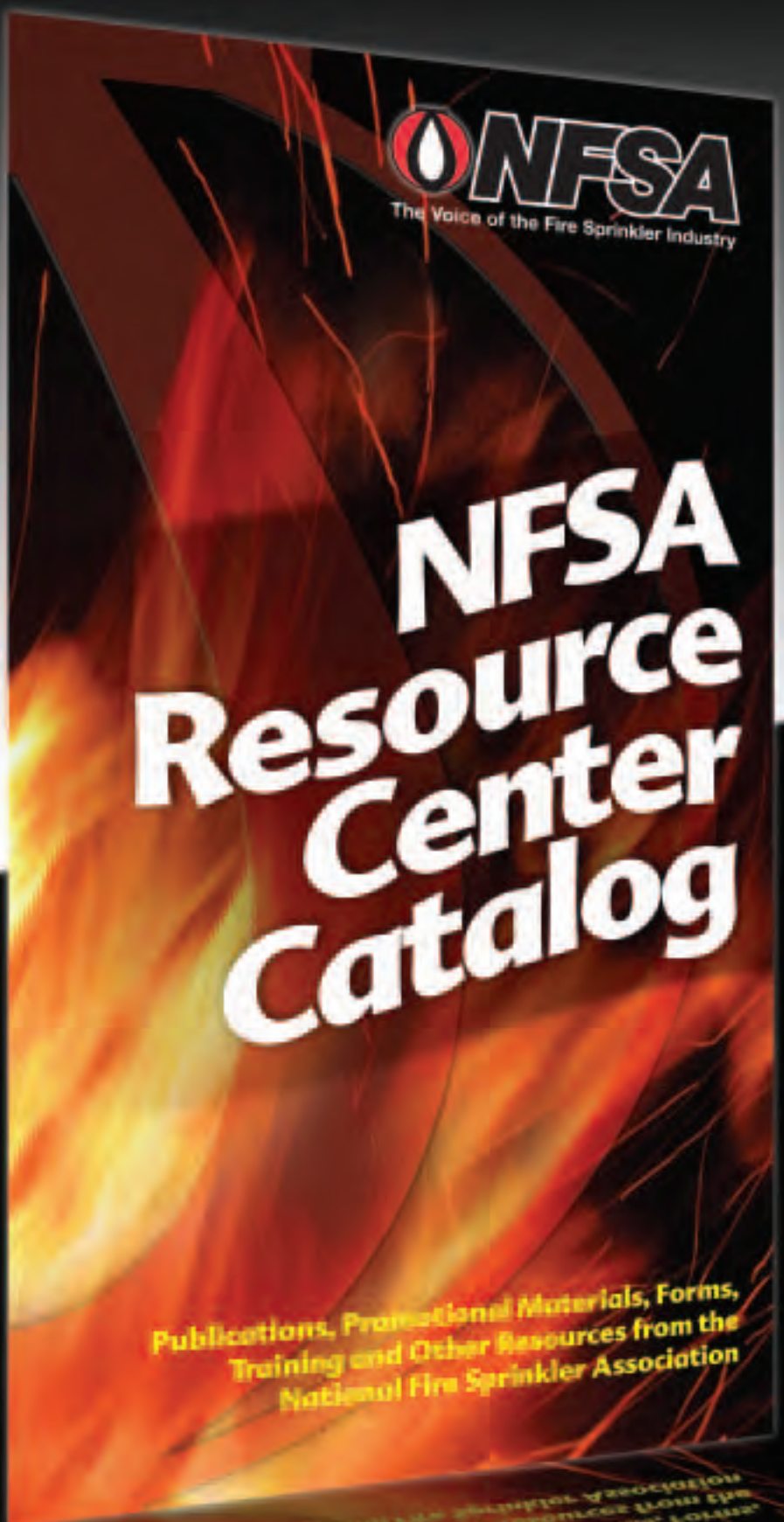
For instance, for about 10 years now NFSA has been promoting a service in which members with a technical issue can query the engineering department for resolution. It's called the Expert of the Day program or EOD for short. This program has proven to be of tremendous value to our members. As in evidence, last year the program handled over 2,800 requests. This year, all indications are pointing to the program receiving over 3,000 requests. And while NFSA hasn't published a total dollar amount saved by its members who have used the service over the years, let me say this, being a contractor who has used the program, as I know many of you have, the questions posed often relate to the efficient use of labor and materials, which of course always equates to saving money!

Another area where NFSA excelled in 2008 was in the delivery of training and education programs and the sale of associated publications made available through the Resource Center. Even through this most demanding economic crisis, this year those revenues are expected to top one million dollars as they did in 2008. The value to members is subtle but very important none the less, even to those who may not have availed themselves of these programs in the past. The revenues help stabilize membership dues, keeping them relatively low over the long term.

And last, but certainly not least, acknowledgement is due to every department within NFSA who worked to see passage of residential fire sprinkler requirements in the International Residential Code. As I looked through the Annual Report, I found that every department played a significant role in this monumental effort last year. Engineering provided supporting historical data

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

NEW FOR 2009!



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NFSA's Resource Center was developed to put information about fire sprinklers and related products into the hands of the people who need it. Within this catalog you will find information to assist you in making presentations, as well as to keep you updated on the latest in sprinkler technology and standards.

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>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and sound technical justification. Regional operations worked closely with public fire protection building coalitions and creating ground swells of local support within the building code and fire service communities, advisory boards and industry promotion committees and the membership at the grassroots, while the labor department sought support from organized labor. Educational programs brought focus to expanded use of fire sprinklers in various occupancy and hazard classifications, while finance, communications and IT worked behind the scenes to keep the effort moving seamlessly. In sum, a great team effort!

If you haven't already seen your Association's Annual Report or maybe have only given it a cursory glance, I urge you to take a few minutes and look deeper. There's a tremendous amount of excellent work going on at your Association to secure the fire sprinkler markets of today and those of future generations. Have a look. Visit the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org and follow the link "2008 Annual Report" on the right side of the page. See how your support and that of other NFSA members has created that winning combination.

Gregg Huennekens, *Chairman*

NFSA Regional Chart – August 1, 2009

Area	States	Regional Manager	Area Director
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
Southeast	*Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina*	**Wayne Waggoner, NFSA** PO Box 9 Andersonville, Tennessee 27705 (865) 755-2956 FAX (865) 381-0597	**Ed Davis** Morristown Automatic Sprinkler Company, Inc. 1310 Karnes Avenue Knoxville, Tennessee 37917 (865) 689-4480 FAX (865) 687-8622
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) 671-1945	**Gregg Huennekens** United States Fire Protection, Illinois, Inc. 28427 North Ballard – Unit H Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 (847) 247-4755 FAX (847) 816-0098
North Central	*Minnesota, Wisconsin*	**Daniel J. Gengler, NFSA** P.O. Box 280 Williams Bay, Wisconsin 53191 (262) 245-5255 FAX (262) 245-5258	**Richard Ray** – Alternate Cybor Fire Protection Company 5123 Thatcher Road Downers Grove, Illinois 60515 (630) 810-1161 FAX (630) 810-0685
South Central	*Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas*	**Daniel J. Gengler, NFSA** P.O. Box 280 Williams Bay, Wisconsin 53191 (262) 245-5255 FAX (262) 245-5258	**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
Southwest	*Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah*	**Doyle Sutton, NFSA** P.O. Box 50845 Sparks, NV 89434 (845) 803-3785	**Todd Little** RCI Systems, Inc. 252 South El Dorado Circle Mesa, Arizona 85202 (602) 894-8711 FAX (602) 894-8740
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
		DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL OPERATIONS **Buddy Dewar, NFSA** 200 West College Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 222-2070 FAX (850) 222-1752	DIRECTOR AT LARGE **Fred Kroll** Alliance Fire Protection, Inc. 998 Forest Edge Drive Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061 (847) 573-1122 FAX (847) 573-8243

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Avoid Arbitration

Many of you know how much I despise arbitration and have been counseling every client never to sign a contract containing an arbitration clause. The reasons for that, from a legal point of view, are that you are subject to the whims and idiosyncrasies of an arbitrator.

The ordinary rules of evidence do not apply in an arbitration. If a contractor writes you a letter telling you he is the greatest guy in the whole world and has the best mechanics, even if they are the dregs of the earth, the letter is admissible in an arbitration for "whatever it is worth." What that means and how it is applied is unknown to everyone.

An arbitrator does not have to explain his decision, while a judge in the Supreme Court has to set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law. A judge has to break down the various aspects of the claim and explain how much is applicable to this and how much is applicable to that. A judge's decision is appealable. An arbitrator's decision is not. In the most unusual and unique situation, an arbitration award will be modified or reversed. Finally, the cost of arbitration far exceeds the cost for the Supreme Court. They are not even in the same ball park.

> *"The moral of the story is that the next time you see an A.I.A. contract or any contract specifying arbitration, strike it!"*

Recently, I participated in an arbitration. The arbitrator, who was a licensed architect, stated that he had been involved in various arbitrations as a claimant. The arbitrator believed that arbitration was horrible since his knowledge and expertise did not justify his ability to rule in every construction case. He stated that if you win, you think the arbitrator is great. If you lose, the arbitrator is terrible.

The reality of the situation is that arbitration is terrible no matter how you look at it. If you win, it may be you were lucky or capable of proving your case satisfactorily. If you lose, however, it is highly unlikely you will be able to vacate the decision.

The moral of the story is that the next time you see an A.I.A. contract or any contract specifying arbitration, strike it!

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

By Don Pamplin

I saw a sign that said

"Politics is the Art of Preventing People from Taking Part in the Affairs Which Properly Concern Them"

The sign was hanging in a college English Literature classroom and it reflected a quote made by Paul Valery who was a noted French poet, essayist and philosopher. He was very tuned into what was politically happening around him, especially leading up to and during World War II. He was economically punished by the corrupt Vichy regime for his refusal to collaborate with Vichy and German occupation. He knew first-hand what rotten politics was all about.

Today, with "killer legislation" being introduced throughout America, we are learning very quickly what the Valery quote actually means!

In his monthly editorial in the May/June edition of the NFPA Journal, NFPA President James M. Shannon clearly identified the need to join the sprinkler fight that's been happening, will continue to happen and will never go away until the "fire sprinkler war" is won by those who believe that residential fire sprinklers are absolute necessities in communities throughout America. President Shannon clearly makes several points that support the use of residential fire sprinklers in new home construction and he does not hesitate to identify that "homebuilders in at least 16 states have found sponsors for legislation that would prevent communities from adopting residential sprinkler requirements. These proposals would effectively preclude the adoption of the provisions approved by NFPA and the ICC. This brazen tactic is unprecedented in our history of developing safety codes".

What President Shannon has correctly identified is that this is the first time in the history of code-making in North America where a legislative effort is being used to prevent people from being protected from a specific danger or conditions of danger.

- It never happened when homebuilders were fighting against hard-wired smoke alarm improvements in model building codes
- It never happened when smoke alarms were first proposed for code application
- It never happened when fire sprinklers were proposed for hospitals and care facilities
- It never happened when fire sprinklers were proposed for various occupancies of public assembly
- It never happened when fire sprinkler requirements were proposed for high-rise construction
- It never happened when fire sprinklers were proposed for multiple-occupancy housing
- It never happened when there was proposed improvements for flame-spread and fire compartmentation requirements
- It never happened when code improvements were being sought for more fire alarm protection in a wide variety of building classifications
- It never happened when fire alarm systems were actually first proposed
- It never happened when an improved level of door and corridor egress was sought in places of public assembly
- It never happened when panic-hardware was first proposed to help people quickly exit buildings during an emergency evacuation
- It never happened when exit doors were required to open outward in places of public assembly

The list could go on and on with more examples where other building and fire code improvements were sought and eventually included in model codes.

Yes, there was strong opposition from owners and various owner and consumer organizations, including national and state homebuilder and construction associations. This opposition tried to stop the above-noted code improvements through various forms of code committee advocacy and with internal committee pressure by having a disproportionate number of their representatives on the various national and state code committees and advisory boards.

They were very successful doing that because many of the above-noted requirements were delayed for many years

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Don Pamplin
NFSA's Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest

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before finally being approved by national code building organizations and then finally adopted at the state and local level of governments. Those delays contributed to thousands of unnecessary fire deaths over those unprotected years. But there was never any legislation introduced in any of the examples above to actually make a law that prohibited code committees or local governments from considering these needed improvements to life safety and property conservation.

Politicians Will Decide

By introducing legislation in 16 states (it's now up to 18,) politicians will decide what an appropriate level of fire safety is instead of relying on the combined expertise of a code-building process, which has effectively proven over the years to be fair and reasonable, yet never ignoring the changing world as it reflects increasing occupant danger and the ever-changing improvements that are available to solve those specific problems.

In his editorial, President Shannon correctly identified that if these various forms of legislation are to be defeated, it has to be because the American Fire Service has stood-up and is speaking loudly and clearly with one voice, tell the legislators that they are absolutely wrong in passing this kind of legislation. Over the years, decision-makers have paid attention to what the American Fire Service has said. That has made this world a safer place, not only for the citizens that the fire service protects but also for firefighters themselves. Every year, approximately 100 firefighters die doing their job and approximately 65% are volunteer firefighters. In addition, about three in five firefighters injured at the scene of a structure fire (2003-2006) were fighting a one- and two- family home fire, according to the NFPA report "Patterns of Firefighter Fireground Injuries" which was released on June 30, 2009. According to NFPA statistics, there are nearly 298,000 one-and two- family home fires every year.

Consider what just happened in Texas. A late-session amendment to a "plumber licensing bill" (Senate Bill 1410) during the waning days of the Texas session was added by Republican John Otto, Representative for Dayton, which would stop municipalities from requiring fire sprinkler systems in one-and two- single family homes after January 1, 2009. This would mean that the bill would nullify any ordinances passed this year. Otto originally tried to pass a similar stand-alone bill in early May of this year but the House never gave it a vote. Texas homebuilder associations strongly supported the change but it has infuriated fire departments in various Texas municipalities. Jim Evans, Assistant Chief for the Austin Fire Department said "In terms of safety bang for your buck, I don't know if there's anything better than a fire sprinkler system." Austin Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr further emphasized that fact, explaining: "[A] fire can happen to anyone. It's a simple and cost effective method in which to prevent the loss of life, prevent the loss of property and prevent the loss of possessions." Though the amendment would allow local governments to require builders to offer fire sprinkler systems to potential homebuyers for a fee, that's not good enough said Steve Ralls, Fire Chief of West University Place, a Houston-area city. That city adopted a statute in May that would require that new homes be built with fire sprinkler systems. Currently, there are about 50 Texas municipalities that have mandatory residential sprinkler laws in place.

"Killer Legislation"

Fire Chiefs from across the State of Texas have been strongly asking Governor Rick Perry to veto Senate Bill 1410 but the Governor did not do it and "killer legislation" has now become a law in Texas. It's interesting to note that donations from homebuilders made up a sizeable portion of Governor Perry's fundraising money. The Homebuilders Association political action committee, Homepac, contributed $20,000 dollars to Perry's political action committee between July 1 and December 31 and Bob Perry, CEO of Perry Homes (no relation to the Governor) contributed $25,000 dollars over those same months. According to "Texans for Public Justice," Bob Perry and his wife were the governor's biggest individual donors in 2006. Is the anti-sprinkler veto made by Governor Perry just a coincidence?

What politicians have been trying to do in 18 states across our country is outrageous and is now rightly being labeled as "killer legislation." Where this kind of legislation is passed or may be passed in the future anywhere in the United States, every fire death, every fire injury and every destroyed home and contents should be and must be laid directly at the feet of those politicians who introduced and voted such prohibitive and insane legislation. And that includes Representative John Otto and Governor Rick Perry.

"Technical Tuesdays" Online Seminars

By Bob Treiber

Math

September 15, 2009

Basic/Intermediate

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., Director of Product Standards

Math is a fundamental tool used throughout fire protection systems from their planning and detailing to their inspections as the systems mature. This seminar will include a review of mathematical functions, significant figures and interpreting graphs on a basic level. On the intermediate level problems using algebra, geometry and trigonometry will be discussed. In addition, metric measurements will also be covered focusing on converting. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 41004, 41010, and 43010)

Inspection and Testing of Dry Pipe Systems

September 29, 2009

Basic/Intermediate

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering

The general inspection and testing of dry-pipe sprinkler systems will be covered in this program including arrangement of components so that they can be inspected and tests correctly, the full-flow trip tests required by NFPA 25 every three years, and the "no flow" trip tests required by NFPA 25 for those years when the full-flow trip test is not conducted. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 43003, 43012, and 44013)

Inspection and Testing of Backflow Devices

October 13, 2009

Intermediate

Karl Wiegand, Manager of Installation Standards

Participants will be able to identify different backflow devices and ensure that compliance with state and local health requirements are followed. The six classes of fire protection systems will be discussed as they relate to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-14, Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control. The forward flow and reverse flow testing requirements of NFPA 25 will also be covered. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 46003)

Inspection and Testing of Hose Systems and Hose Connections

October 27, 2009

Intermediate

Kevin J. Kelly, P.E. Consultant to NFSA

This seminar will cover inspection and testing requirements for hose systems and hose connections installed on sprinkler systems in accordance with NFPA 13 and standpipe systems in accordance with NFPA 14. Participants will be able to determine how to properly perform a standpipe flow test and will understand reporting procedures including recording data, evaluating results, and information necessary for final reports. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 43011 and 45003)

Inspection and Testing of Tanks

November 10, 2009

Intermediate

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering

This seminar will cover the basic purpose, function and operation of tanks used for fire protection including basic system terminology from NFPA 22. It will also cover the inspection and testing requirements for atmospheric tanks and pressure tanks along with their accessory equipment as required by NFPA 25. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 42003, 44004, and 44005)

Obstruction Inspection and Investigation

November 24, 2009

Intermediate/Advanced

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., Executive Vice President

In addition to making a distinction between obstruction inspections and obstruction investigations as described in NFPA 25, this seminar deals with the

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Bob Treiber

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

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various causes of problems and a review of available data concerning frequency of such problems. It includes some analysis of flushing procedures and discusses other remedial measures. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 45005)

Preaction and Deluge Systems

December 8, 2009

Beginner/Intermediate

Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T.

NFPA 25 requires the inspector to report on the installation of preaction and deluge systems. This seminar will discuss the different types of preaction and deluge systems. NFPA 25 also requires certain inspection and testing procedures be performed for these systems. We will also discuss the inspection and testing requirements for these different types of systems. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 44012 and 46010)

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We're On YouTube!

NFSA proudly presents **"How to Become a Fire Sprinkler Technician"** available for viewing at **www.YouTube.com**. To view, just type in the phrase: "How to become a fire sprinker technician" and it will become immediately available.

Protection of Storage with High Clearance

By Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

Most of the full-scale fire tests that have been performed to develop the discharge criteria for NFPA 13 have been performed with approximately 10 or 15 ft of open space between the top of the storage array and the ceiling of the room where the tests are being performed. This common amount of clearance between the top of the storage commodity and the ceiling is due to a wide variety of variables including limitations on the size of the test facilities and the need to test certain heights of storage arrays that are common in warehouses and likely to be involved in a fire.

The problem is that storage arrays with greater clearance (20 ft, 30 ft, or more) create a more difficult fire for the sprinklers to control. In order for fire sprinklers to control these more challenging fires, the sprinklers need to discharge more water, and/or the water droplets need to have more momentum in order to fight through the fire plume.

This concept of water droplet momentum is an interesting one. A person might well ask, "Why does a fire in a 15 ft high array of a commodity under a 40 ft ceiling need more water and/or better droplets from the sprinklers than a fire in the same 15 ft high array under a 30 ft ceiling in order to provide fire control?" The answer to this question is in the dynamics of fire (the movement of heat rising from the fire) and in the distance of the sprinkler away from the fire itself. With the sprinkler farther from the fire in the 40 ft ceiling scenario, it will take longer for the sprinkler to react to the fire, and the fire will be larger when the sprinkler finally opens.

But the time for the sprinkler to react to the fire does not tell the whole story. Another problem with the greater clearance is the space available for the fire to develop a strong vertical plume with a great deal of momentum. If you remember back to your high school physics days, momentum is the product of mass times velocity. The hot gasses that leave a fire have mass (not much, but some) and they have velocity (a great deal). The more vertical space there is above a storage array, the more vertical momentum the hot gasses rising from a fire are able to produce.

In order for a water droplet to help control or suppress a fire, the water droplet needs to develop enough momentum (mass times velocity) to overcome the momentum of the hot gasses and get to the burning fuel. If the distance between the top of the storage and the ceiling is very great, the water droplet needs more vertical momentum. If the distance between the top of the storage and the ceiling is not so great, the hot gasses strike the ceiling and turn sideways, losing their vertical momentum. The water droplets do not need to fall as far inside the fire plume to get to the fire and can contribute more readily to controlling or suppressing the fire.

When developing the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, the Technical Committee on Sprinkler System Discharge Criteria examined this phenomenon of excessive clearance. They determined that the distance between the top of the storage array and the ceiling where clearance begins to become a problem is 20 ft and that the problem only occurs with storage that is greater than the quantities used to define Miscellaneous Storage.

Based on the available information, a new section (12.1.3.4) was inserted in the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 to require that for all storage commodities (except Miscellaneous Storage), clearance be included in the design considerations. Specifically, section 12.1.3.4.1 was written to require that when the ceiling height exceeds 30 ft and the distance between the top of the storage and the ceiling exceeds 20 ft, the sprinkler system has to be designed as if the storage was higher (within 20 ft of the ceiling). For some storage situations, this is a radical new concept that will require greater demands of the sprinkler system. For other storage situations, this rule will make no difference because there were tighter restrictions already in place.

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Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

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

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Unfortunately, this blanket rule in the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 creates problems for rack storage arrangements. In many cases, many levels of in-rack sprinklers are required, but with very few levels of actual racks, it is hard to install all of the in-rack sprinklers. Consider the situation of 15 ft high storage in a 60 ft high building. Using the maximum 20 ft clearance rule, NFPA 13 would require this storage to be protected as if it was 40 ft high storage of the commodity instead of 15 ft. Depending on the commodity, the rules of NFPA 13 might require 3 or 4 levels of in-rack sprinklers including both longitudinal sprinklers and face sprinklers. All of those in-rack sprinklers would be hard to install in a rack 15 ft high. In some cases, users ended up building rack structures 40 ft high just to comply with the 2007 NFPA 13 rules and putting the appropriate in-rack sprinklers in the racks just in case they ever expanded their operations, but usually only using the bottom tiers of the racks.

For the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, the committee has fixed this problem, as well as a few other details that go along with cleaning up section 12.1.3.4. First, the committee clarified that this rule only applies to spray sprinkler protection. Control Mode Specific Application sprinklers and ESFR sprinklers have handled this problem in the way that their tables are arranged, so there is no reason to worry about the clearance issue with these sprinklers.

Second, the committee clarified how to handle rack storage situations. In cleaning up the high clearance issue with rack storage, the committee also changed the maximum clearance from the top of the storage to the ceiling from 20 ft to 10 ft for certain storage arrangements. In order to completely understand these changes, let's take a look at each individual storage situation and how it can be protected with standard spray sprinklers.

Solid Piled and Palletized Storage of Class I-IV Commodities

One of the types of storage that will be most affected by this change will be solid piled, palletized, bin-box and shelf storage of Class I through IV commodities. Prior to the 2007 edition of the standard, there were no real maximum clearance requirements for these types of storage. The height of the building was ignored when determining the discharge rules for spray sprinklers.

With this new rule, sprinkler systems will need to take the height of the ceiling into consideration in the design of the sprinkler system. For example, if a building owner has a 40 ft high ceiling in his warehouse, and if this building owner only intends to store Class I through IV commodities up to 15 ft in height in his building, he needs to design the sprinkler system as if there is going to be 20 ft of storage instead of 15 ft, even if he never intends to have storage over 15 ft.

Another consequence of this new rule is that encapsulated commodities stored in solid pile, bin-box, shelf or palletized arrays that are protected by spray sprinklers cannot be stored under a ceiling that is any more than 35 ft high. The reason for this limitation is that the maximum permitted storage height is 15 ft [see 14.2.1(3)], and with a maximum permitted clearance of 20 ft to the ceiling, the ceiling cannot be any more than 35 ft over the floor.

Similarly, the storage of non-encapsulated commodities on shelves, protected with spray sprinklers, is also limited to ceiling heights of 35 ft. Section 14.2.1(2) of NFPA 13 limits this storage situation to a maximum storage height of 15 ft, so the maximum ceiling height can only be 35 ft above the floor.

Finally, the storage of non-encapsulated commodities in solid piled, bin-box and shelf arrays, protected with spray sprinklers, are limited to buildings with 50 ft ceilings. Section 14.2.1(1) limits the storage heights to 30 ft, which means that the ceiling cannot be any more than 50 ft above the floor if the distance from the top of the storage to the ceiling is going to be limited to 20 ft or less.

Solid Piled and Palletized Storage of Group A Plastics

The protection of solid piled, bin-box, shelf and palletized storage of Group A plastics will be less affected by this change than the Class I-IV commodities. Table 15.2.5(a) and Table 15.2.5(b) in NFPA 13-2007 (Table 15.2.6(a) and Table 15.2.6(b) in the 2010 edition), which cover the protection of these storage arrangements with standard spray sprinklers, already limited the user to certain ceiling heights and never allowed the user to exceed 20 ft of clearance from the top of the storage to the ceiling.

Rack Storage of Class I-IV Commodities

Like solid piled and palletized storage of Class I through IV commodities, rack storage of Class I through IV commodities will also be affected by this change. Previously, protection of rack storage of Class I through IV commodities with standard spray sprinklers did not always consider the height of the building or the clearance of the ceiling above the top of the storage.

But with the publication of the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, the user now needs to consider the clear space above the top of the storage to the ceiling. As mentioned earlier in this article, the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 told the user to assume a storage height that would produce a 20 ft clearance (maximum) to the ceiling. For example, if the building owner has a building that is 40 ft high, and only wants to put racks in the building up to 15 ft high, the sprinkler system would need to be designed for 20 ft high rack storage, even if the racks only allow storage to go up to 15 ft.

However, in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, the committee modified this rule to answer questions on how to deal with the vast number of in-rack sprinklers that are required once storage heights exceed 25 ft. For the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, two different sets of rules will be in place: one set of rules for storage 25 ft and under and another set of rules for storage over 25 ft in height.

For actual storage heights that are 25 ft or less, the designer will be able to choose from two options:

1) Provide the protection (in-rack and ceiling sprinkler protection) that would be appropriate for the higher storage that would occur with a maximum of 20 ft clearance to the ceiling; or

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2) Provide the appropriate protection for the actual storage height and then add an additional level of in-rack sprinklers directly below the top tier of storage with a sprinkler at every intersection of longitudinal and transverse flues. The in-rack sprinklers in this case are required to be quick response.

Example 1

For example, if a building owner wanted to put rack storage of Class IV commodities in a warehouse that was 40 ft high, but with double-row racks that would only support storage up to 15 ft in height, the sprinkler system designer would have two options. The first option would be to provide protection as if the double-row racks were 20 ft high with the Class IV commodity in accordance with Table 16.2.1.3.2 (which could be done without in-rack sprinklers if the commodity was not encapsulated). One potential solution would be for the ceiling sprinklers to be k-11.2 (ordinary temperature) designed to discharge 0.495 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft (assuming 8 ft aisles).

A second option for the above example would be to have the ceiling sprinklers designed to discharge enough to cover the 15 ft storage (0.297 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft) and to add a level of quick response in-rack sprinklers near the top of the rack array with a sprinkler at the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse flue spaces.

For actual storage heights that exceed 25 ft in height, the designer will have two options, just like they did for shorter storage heights. However, for the taller situation, the two options will be:

1) Provide the protection (in-rack and ceiling sprinkler protection) that would be appropriate for the higher storage that would occur with a maximum of 10 ft clearance to the ceiling; or

2) Provide the appropriate protection for the actual storage height and then add an additional level of in-rack sprinklers directly below the top tier of storage with a sprinkler at every intersection of longitudinal and transverse flues. The in-rack sprinklers in this case are required to be quick response.

Example 2

For example, consider storage of Class IV commodity on double-row racks up to 30 ft in height in a building that is 50 ft high. In this case, the designer has two options. The first option would be to provide protection as if the storage was really 40 ft high. This would involve picking one of the storage arrangements in Table 16.3.1.1 that is appropriate for Class IV commodities (one of the bottom three scenarios), which would include a ceiling sprinkler discharge requirement of 0.35 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft and in-rack sprinklers appropriate for 40 ft high racks. The in-rack sprinklers here would be very difficult since there might not be enough room in the rack structure for all of the in-rack sprinklers. The rack structure might need to be extended to the 40 ft level to get the in-rack sprinklers in, even if the building owner does not want to use such high racks.

The other option for the designer of the sprinkler system is to follow the discharge rules for the actual 30 ft storage height, and then add an additional level of quick response in-rack sprinklers just below the top tier of storage. In this case, the ceiling sprinkler discharge criteria would still be 0.35 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft, but the number of in-rack sprinklers might actually decrease as compared to the first option.

Rack Storage of Group A Plastics

The situation with rack storage of Group A plastics is very similar to rack storage of Class I through IV commodities that are over 25 ft in height, regardless of the height of the plastics storage. For Group A plastics stored on racks, wherever the clearance exceeds 10 ft in height, the designer will be given two options:

1) Provide the protection (in-rack and ceiling sprinkler protection) that would be appropriate for the higher storage that would occur with a maximum of 10 ft clearance to the ceiling; or

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2) Provide the appropriate protection for the actual storage height and then add an additional level of in-rack sprinklers directly below the top tier of storage with a sprinkler at every intersection of longitudinal and transverse flues. The in-rack sprinklers in this case are required to be quick response.

Example 3

Consider 15 ft storage of Group A plastics in double-row racks in a building with a 30 ft ceiling height. Such storage would need to be protected as 20 ft storage under a 30 ft building height in accordance with one of the acceptable protection schemes of Figure 17.2.1.2(d), or the user could decide instead to pick one of the protection schemes for 15 ft high storage from Figure 17.2.1.2(b) and add a level of quick response in-rack sprinklers just beneath the top tier of storage.

Example 4

For our last example, we'll look at storage of Group A plastics on double-row racks up to 30 ft high in a building with a 50 ft ceiling. In this case, the designer will have two options. The first is to pretend that the storage will be up to 40 ft in height and protect it with ceiling sprinklers designed to discharge 0.45 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft and in-rack sprinklers in accordance with Figures 17.3.1.2(a), 17.3.1.2(b) or 17.3.4.1.4. With the extensive number of in-rack sprinklers required by these figures, it may be necessary to extend the rack structure to get the proper number of in-rack sprinklers in place, or it may be necessary to start the levels of in-rack sprinklers closer to the ground.

The second option would be to design the sprinkler system for 30 ft high storage (which would still require a ceiling sprinkler density of 0.45 gpm per sq ft over 2000 sq ft, and a number of in-rack sprinklers. But an additional row of quick response in-rack sprinklers would be required just beneath the top tier of storage.

Are There Any Other Options?

Many building owners balk at the requirements for complying with this new section in NFPA 13. They don't see the need for such increased protection when they have smaller racks. Unfortunately, the physics of fire are such that these protection scenarios that we have discussed in this article are necessary.

> "We must incorporate this new learning into the design of better fire sprinkler systems so that we are better representing our clients and upholding the good name of fire sprinkler systems so that they continue to have an excellent record of property protection and life safety."

One option that building owners have is to install a drop ceiling in a building. If they are not going to need the space high up in the building, they can lower the ceiling and install sprinklers under the drop ceiling. If you are only going to have palletized storage up to 15 ft high in a building that is 60 ft high, one option is to install a drop ceiling at the 35 ft level. This would allow you to design the sprinkler system for 15 ft high storage and not worry about any additional criteria.

Another option is to use a different kind of sprinkler at the ceiling. If spray sprinklers are not going to work, perhaps Specific Application Control Mode sprinklers or ESFR sprinklers are available that will be able to protect the storage. Of course, all of the installation and discharge rules for these types of sprinklers need to be followed as well.

A final option is to get a Professional Engineer to specifically design a system that is outside the scope of NFPA 13. In certain situations, this may be possible as long as it is acceptable to all of the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ's) on the project. Some AHJ's are going to want to see full-scale fire tests or other calculated proof if such a special design is going to be used.

What Doesn't This Rule Apply To?

This high clearance rule that we have been discussing is in Chapter 12 of NFPA 13, so it only applies to storage. That means it does not apply to assembly areas in factories, working areas of industrial facilities, or residential lofts with high ceilings. Only the challenging storage situations have proven to need this rule. As previously stated, Miscellaneous Storage, as defined in section 3.9.1.14 of NFPA 13 in the 2007 edition (section 3.9.1.18 of the 2010 edition) is exempt from this rule as well.

Also, as previously stated, in the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, the rule was placed in Chapter 12 of the standard, so it applies to all storage, including roll paper storage, baled cotton storage, and rubber tire storage. But in the 2010 edition of the standard, the rule will be clarified to only apply to Class I-IV commodities, Group A plastics, and idle pallets. The rule specifically will only apply to Chapter 14, Chapter 15, Chapter 16 and Chapter 17 of NFPA 13. This means that the special storage arrangements in Chapter 20 of NFPA 13 will be exempt from this rule.

Summary

As time goes by, we learn more about the physics and chemistry of fire. We must incorporate this new learning into the design of better fire sprinkler systems so that we are better representing our clients and upholding the good name of fire sprinkler systems so that they continue to have an excellent record of property protection and life safety.

Situations where there is a high clearance between the top of storage and the ceiling of the room where the storage is occurring need special consideration. The sprinkler system needs to be designed as if there is a maximum of 20 ft (in some cases 10 ft) between the top of storage and the ceiling, even if the actual storage is not going to be that high, or additional levels of in-rack sprinklers need to be provided.

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2008 Annual Report Available Online

Visit the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org and follow the link *"2008 Annual Report"* on the right side of the page to download a copy.

Celebrate National Night Out

GEORGE CHURCH

We just got involved in an easy PR pro-sprinkler activity to celebrate **National Night Out.** It's so easy I'd recommend you reach out to your local FD to do the same!

The Warrior Run Fire Dept is constructing two small side-by-side rooms, one with just a smoke detector and one with a Rowe Sprinkler in it, in Watsontown, PA. They learned about this from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, with plans to follow. So thanks to HFSC, we have more volunteer spokespeople.

For the cost of a 1.5" residential FDC, 1.5" x 1" reducer, 1" riser manifold, 110v bell, and a length of 1" CPVC, couple 90's, some hangers and a 1x1/2 90, and what – a couple hours to install? We've got a sprinkler system to enable our friends and comrades-in-politics to illustrate to their neighbors how well residential sprinklers work in a direct comparison to a smoke detector. I imagine seeing flashover will make a lasting impression in the minds of parents watching.

Might I suggest this doesn't take a lot to do, and if a building yard can donate the 2x's and facing, your FD can do the same with limited *(almost no)* investment. Their intent is to be able to unbolt the wall panels and repeat this as often as they can find hosts for an evening. All you need is a spot to set up, a pumper truck, and a crowd – *be creative*.

Here's a chance to un-do the Hollywood Myths in your backyard. And this is how we'll win – small town by small town.

Also in support of the residential sprinkler movement, we've got an AHJ full-day plan review seminar coincidently a few towns away the next day, with a guest lecturer from the Academy of Fire Sprinkler Technology. The sooner we have more educated spokespeople who know how the systems work, how they should be installed, and how they can save lives, the sooner obstacles will be removed with more bodies pushing. Far better than dragging bodies out!

George Church
Rowe Sprinkler

National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. The campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, businesses, civic groups and local officials from over 15,000 communities for all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out 2009.

NNO is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

To find out more about NNO, visit www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno.

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"Don't Tread on Me" – Lightweight Construction Performance in Residential Fires

By Jeff Hugo, CBO

As I travel around the country speaking to AIA chapters, building and fire groups, I always mention my background, which to some is interesting because of what I do now. I grew up working for my father's construction company, mostly doing commercial and residential concrete flatwork and walls. We also did a lot of masonry work, but what really interested me was homebuilding, of which we did about four a year. The mid 1980s and early 1990s was a revolutionary time for the home building industry. It seemed that overnight the houses had ice and water shield, house wrap, Corian countertops, and floor systems that sped along the framing process. Roof trusses were more advanced in design and were able to have very complex systems and pitches. With these changes came better and faster construction. Using an I-joist or a floor truss eliminated siting the crown in the lumber, multiple joists for multiple spans, drying, and floor squeaks. The I-joist or floor truss enabled us to have a longer and lighter piece of lumber that spanned the entire width of the house, eliminated excess labor, have a product that was created out of new young trees (saving the mature trees,) and the ability to have site cut holes in the center of the span. They were perfect in our eyes. The manufacturers even got together in the 1990s to have universal installation guides and spans to make it even easier to switch brands. Even as a Building Official for 12 years, I preferred to see the manufactured floor system over a solid joist. Why not use a product that was friendlier to the forests, was engineered lighter, easier to install and had less complaints from homeowners?

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. The opposite reaction to manufactured floor systems is their fire performance. It is less than desirable. More and more stories are emerging that upon entering the home to attack the interior, firefighters are falling through the floor early in the fire, resulting in several injuries and deaths. One could say that a solution would be to drywall the underside, but that would need to be done upon the final inspection so a Certificate of Occupancy could be issued. Many homeowners don't have plans at that time to finish off the basement or the money to do so. The local officials don't have the right of entry into a single-family dwelling as they do in a commercial building to see when and if the lid is installed. Another solution would be to go back to solid sawn floor joists, but that would add more in material and labor costs and be prohibitive to the sub-contractors for holes. The best solution for both worlds (the firefighter and homebuilder) is to install residential sprinklers. This would enable the homebuilder to continue to build as his crews are used to and it would benefit the firefighters responding to the house fire.

To support the claim that manufactured lightweight construction is more dangerous than conventional solid sawn floor joists we look to three reports on the subject:

- The Canadian Institute for Research in Construction, Fire Performance of Houses. Phase I. Study of Unprotected Floor Assemblies in Basement Fire Scenarios. Summary Report. 12/15/2008
- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc, Report on Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber in Fire Conditions. 9/30/2008
- Tyco Fire Suppression and Building Products, A Technical Analysis: The Performance of Composite Wood Joists Under Realistic Fire Conditions. 2008

To simply summarize the three reports, I-joists and floor trusses have shorter burn time than the solid joist. The reports also provide analysis on the C channel steel floor joist. To some the reason may be obvious, but both the I-joist and floor truss have thinner members that facilitate faster heat transfer, and smaller, multiple surfaces that aid the combustion process. The I-joist has a considerable amount of glue in the flanges and webs adding to the fuel load and toxicity of the gases. The floor trusses are joined either by glue or a thin metal plate.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Jeff Hugo, CBO

Jeff is NFSA's Manager of Codes

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Let's start with the Canadian report. The test scenario was a first floor framing system composed of a (separate tests on each): solid 2x10, 11 7/8" I joist, 8"steel C channel, and a 12" floor truss. Each floor system had a subfloor of ¾" OSB (Oriented Strand Board) over a typical finished basement. Each floor had smoke alarms as required by code, and a sprinkler system was not installed. Each product was tested with a door at the top of the basement stairs and without a door at the top of the basement stairs. For the purposes of this article, I am excluding the testing and results with the door at the top of the stairs since the IRC does not require the door.

In all of the testing, structural failure of the test floor assemblies occurred. The moment of floor failure was characterized by a sharp increase in floor deflection, usually accompanied by heavy flame penetration through the test assemblies as well as by a sharp increase in compartment temperature above the test floor assemblies. With the relatively severe fire scenarios used in the experiments, the times to reach structural failure for the wood I-joist, steel C-joist, metal plate and metal web wood truss assemblies were 35-60% shorter than that for the solid wood joist assembly. Failing times are as follows:

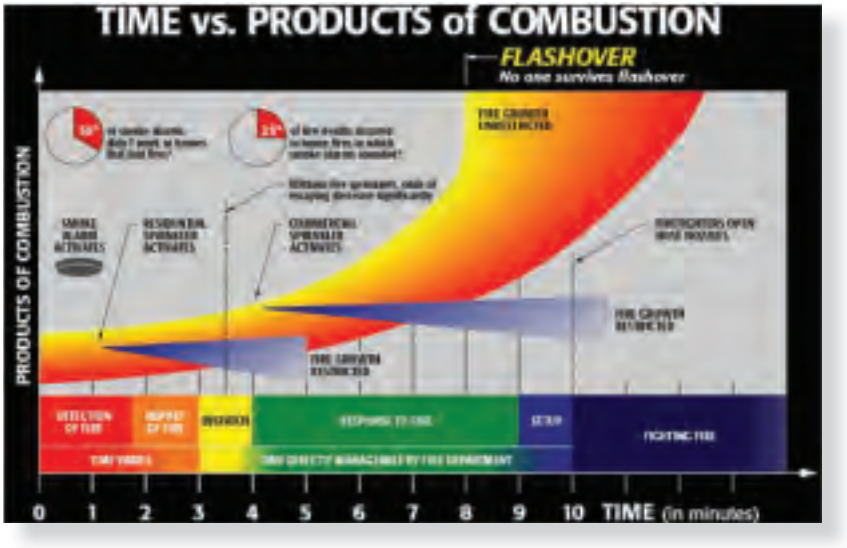
- Solid wood joist .....12.3 minutes
- Metal plated wood truss... 7.8 minutes
- Steel C-joist .....7.7 minutes
- Wood I-joist ..... 6.9 minutes
- Metal web wood truss .... 5.4 minutes

In all experiments with the open basement doorway, the structural failure occurred after the inside of the test house had reached untenable conditions. Results from replicate tests gave very repeatable durations to structural failure. There was structural deflection of all of the floor assemblies prior to their structural failure. The steel C-joist floor assembly produced the highest deflection rate, followed by metal-web and metal-plate wood trusses. The solid wood joist assemblies produced the lowest deflection rate. There were three distinct patterns for structural failure of the test assemblies. For the solid wood joist assemblies, the structure failure occurred after deflection of the floor, mainly in the form of OSB subfloor failure (burn through.) For all other floor assemblies, after deflection of the floor, the structure failure occurred either in the form of complete collapse into the basement or in the form of a "V" shaped collapse due to joist or truss failure.

Given the times in the popular time/combustion graph, we see that the lower times of the lightweight construction is detrimental to interior attack and rescue.

The report from Tyco used a similar basement setup with 11 7/8" I-joist for the floor/ceiling assembly with two mannequins dressed as fire fighters with the appropriate floor loading of the fire attack. Tyco did perform one test with two layers of ½" gypsum applied to the ceiling side, and the remainder without a ceiling with and without residential sprinklers. A summary of the results are below:

- Sprinklered, with two ½" layers of gypsum on ceiling= Sprinkler activation 2:35 minutes, fire under control in 4 minutes. Minimal damage.
- Sprinklered, exposed I joists= Sprinkler activation 1:13 minutes, fire under control approximately in 4 minutes. Minimal damage.
- Exposed I-joists= Flashover at 7:09 minutes, floor collapse with mannequins at 11:30 minutes.
- Exposed I joists= Flashover at 5:15 minutes, floor collapse with mannequins at 8:34 minutes. It is hypothesized that the fire progressed more rapidly since the loveseat became involved over one minute quicker in the second test.



Underwriters Laboratories' report uses 12 different scenarios with the same floor framing systems as the Canadian report with the exception of the steel C-joist. UL expanded the testing to not only the floor systems, but included roof framing also. Similar results to the above two tests were common.

All three of these reports have similar results and can be downloaded easily from the testing facilities' websites. I encourage all to read the full reports, since my purpose was to summarize. To conclude, it is plain to see that the homebuilding industry needs to rethink using these products. The products themselves are a great building component, less impact on the environment, and are ingrained into the market. However, it is obvious that these systems, unless sprinklered, will result in more deaths and injuries and fire departments refusing to enter the structure because of the danger regardless of an occupant inside or not. Put yourself in that scenario in your own home. Your son, daughter, grandchild, wife is inside of the house fire and the fire department is adamant in refusing to enter because of the choice of floor construction! They cannot send in personnel for their own safety.

By Dominick Kasmauskas

LEED Version 3 "Materials & Resources"

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) published the LEED V3 for "New Construction and Major Renovations" earlier this year. Not much has changed as far as our industry is concerned from version 2.2. Our industry's exemption from the "Materials & Resources" section (MR) of the LEED document is still the same, but the MR section has expanded with some basic housekeeping responsibilities.

MR credit categories are concerned with two directions of materials, namely items being brought into a LEED project and the waste from those items after installation of components in the project.

Regarding this issue, fire sprinkler materials are very "earth friendly," as we have seen in several advertisements by Suppliers and Manufacturers. Many of the fire sprinkler industry materials contain a high percentage of recycled materials (brass, steel, copper, etc) or can be recycled after installation (metals and plastics).

As noted above, fire sprinkler systems as well as other mechanical systems, electrical systems and elevators are exempt from point requirements in MR credits. LEED MR credits do not contain the ability for the LEED AP® to directly obtain points for fire sprinkler system components, but on the job site there will be some direction to help meet some credit requirements.

Every contractor operating on a LEED project will be part of the overall project's responsibility to meet landfill diversion requirements in order for the project to obtain points in MR Prerequisite 1 and MR Credit 2. MR Prerequisite 1 requires a minimal recycling plan for pre- and post-occupancy of glass, paper, corrugated cardboard, plastics, and metals which I would encourage all of us to practice on any project, green or not. These items alone make up 59% of the 251,000,000 tons of municipal solid waste generated in the U.S. in 2006, according to the EPA.

In MR Credit 2 the LEED project can obtain 1 point for 50% or more by diverting "construction and demolition debris from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities." Two points if the amount is 75% or more. MR Credit 2 requires collection of recyclables to obtain points. This section will still encourage all sub-contractors to properly collect, stage, and dispose of waste (paper, plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, pallets) into appropriate containers. So, directly you will be assisting the LEED AP® to obtain a goal, but not due to our trade. In MR Credit 2 the program can bring money back into the project by collecting and recycling items such as salvaged concrete, asphalt, pipe, and other demolition materials if the project is a reconstruction project.

In between prerequisite 1 and Credit 2 there is Credit 1, Credit 1.1, and Credit 1.2. Credit 1 and 1.1 deal with building reuse, specifically reuse of existing structural components. Credit 1.2 is for reuse of non-structural elements (doors, windows, ceiling tiles, floor coverings.)

As noted earlier, the specialty systems are exempt for the most part in the MR Section. MR Credit 3 "Materials Reuse," MR Credit 4 "Recycled Content," and MR Credit 5 "Regional Materials" have a statement in the requirements paragraph for various LEED Documents; New Construction, Schools, and Core & Shell. These MR credits note that "Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators and equipment must not be included in this calculation..." These credits work directly with structural elements described as "high volume, low dollar" items. Specialty items are contrary "low volume, high dollar" elements of a building. In a future edition we may be able to delete the exemption with a new MR credit. By creating a relationship with the USGBC and the MR Technical Advisory Group, maybe we can develop an equation for our trade alone or for all specialties, but at present. points cannot be obtained for these credits.

Section 6 makes no note regarding exemption of specialty items as this is the "Rapidly Renewable Materials" Section. MR Credit 6 is to encourage use of short-term growth renewable materials such

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

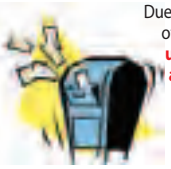
NFSA's New York Regional Manager and Secretary to the newly formed "Green Committee"

Dominick Kasmauskas

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

as bamboo, rubber, cotton, wood, etc. MR Credit 7 is for Certified Wood, "to encourage responsible forest management." The only way I can think that we may be able to address this in the future is if we revert back to using wooden pipe for water supply. Yes, way before my time. hollowed out tree trunks and branches that were covered in tar or pitch were installed to carry our water in many cities for domestic uses and fire suppression forces. Someone just didn't pull the term "fire plug" out of thin air ya know!

NFSA ADDRESS CHANGE



Due to changes at the local post office, NFSA is **discontinuing the use of the P.O. boxes for NFSA and IP mailings** (Box 1000 and Box 448). Mail will be delivered directly to NFSA at 40 Jon Barrett Road. As such, please discontinue the use of the P.O. boxes in all correspondence, payments, billings et al. sent to NFSA headquarters in New York. The post office will forward from the P.O. boxes for a while, but at some point in 2009 will stop honoring the forwarding instructions.

NFSA Member Jamie Reap of United States Fire Protection was thinking of a name for the Green Column and came up with this essay instead. We believe it is well worth a read!

Headline: Fire Put Out Early, No One Killed!

From my perspective, the fire sprinkler industry has long suffered from a lack of recognition; dramatic fires are headlines, sprinkler saves are below the fold on page five. Today, in the midst of so-called "green" construction initiatives, fire sprinklers again find themselves positioned awkwardly. For example, high efficiency equipment or insulation lend themselves to direct calculation of energy savings. By contrast, sprinklers are stuck with attempting to quantify smoke NOT generated or gallons of potable water NOT applied or toxic run off NOT generated or charred inorganic waste NOT hauled off to landfills. The preemptive nature of fire sprinklers promotes their under appreciation. So, the question to the group is how to cleverly capture the imagination of the public with a new image of fire sprinklers. Consider this a real-life lateral thinking challenge!

James T. (Jamie) Reap
Vice President
United States Fire Protection
Lake Forest, Illinois

Pass the Squeegee

By Barry Waterman

In the town where I grew up, there was always a big bonfire on the Friday night of the high school homecoming weekend. The senior boys (or men, as they liked to call themselves) would start collecting tree limbs, construction debris and all kinds of combustibles on the Thursday night before the weekend. Tradition was that they got to goof off on the Friday collecting materials and building the bonfire instead of going to class.

They always had a couple of old trucks bringing in their loads and others would stack up the bonfire as high as possible. The highlight was roaming the countryside to the west of Chicago to find a wooden outhouse to crown the pile.

Today, insurers would have multiple heart attacks if they could witness several seventeen year-old boys climbing an unstable pile of junk to plop a stolen outhouse at the very top. Then the most reckless (or stupid) among the lads would scale the whole thing to attach a school pennant of the weekend's football opponent to the top of the outhouse.

That evening, fifty kids with burning torches marched from the school gym to the bonfire, circled the big pile and tossed their torches onto the bonfire that had been primed with about ten gallons of gas. As a child, I thought this was the coolest night of the whole year. In high school I participated in the bonfire building in the fall of 1965.

To this day I have never been closer to a serious fire. Once it got going, that fire was HOT. I remember how the crowd would start backing up away from the fire as it really started roaring. The next morning nothing was left, but the small ashen core was still unbelievably hot. As I said, I have never been closer to a serious fire and I hope I never will be.

My point here is that fire has to be experienced to be appreciated. This appalling ability to destroy is best understood with all one's senses working.

I think our industry has suffered from the fact that to appreciate how critical it is to intervene when a fire is still small, one has to have some familiarity with what happens when fire spreads unchecked. To understand why we want this NOT to happen, we need to understand just what DOES happen without any intervention.

Occasionally, you hear something or someone says something that cuts right through all rhetoric. The point is made so well that no other words are needed. As someone who frequently uses a lot of words, I appreciate this kind of "zeroing-in."

A friend and hero of mine, George Michehl *(pronounced McHale)* recently told me his favorite firefighting tool at this point in his career is the squeegee. George is Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Inspectors' Association and a career firefighter from Buffalo Grove, Illinois. His career in the Fire Service and my own career in the fire sprinkler industry began on almost the same day. I think George actually has about a month on me.

What he means by expressing his love for the squeegee is that he has been to enough fires where desperate suppression tactics are required, where damage is severe and injury or loss of life have occurred. He has also been a responder to a lot of fires in properties equipped with fire sprinkler systems. In these cases, minor if any intervention is required, and the responders just clean up and try to put everything back in order.

He has seen plenty of both and he's going with the squeegee.

Folks, you can't make our case any better than that, especially when the author has had so much first hand experience with the real thing. By the way, I suppose George may not be the author, but I first heard this expression from him so I'm going with it.

The Illinois Fire Inspectors and our own Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) make practical use of this philosophy by conducting "side-by-side" demonstrations of fire sprinkler technology. If a town or district is debating an ordinance change to increase the use of sprinklers, a "side-by-side" is done to show first-hand how fires develop "with and without" fire sprinklers present.

Tom Lia, the NIFSAB director and master "side-by-side" conductor, makes sure that village trustees, or any other dignitaries who may be involved in the ordinance

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Barry Waterman

Independent consultant to the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

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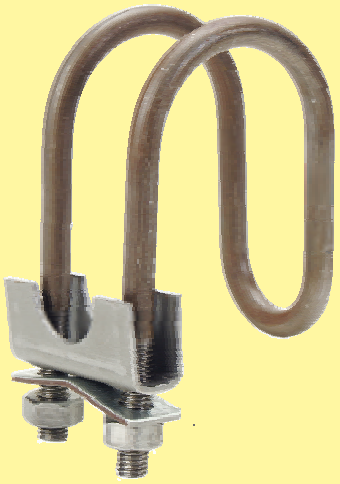
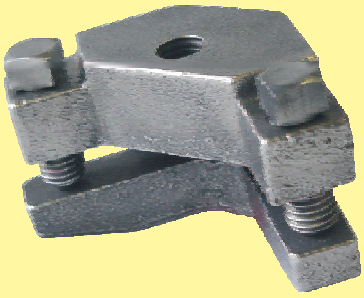
10" STEEL **CPVC** **COPPER**





2007
Sway Brace Program

PIPE DEFLECTION AUTO CORRECT

1500 DRAWINGS

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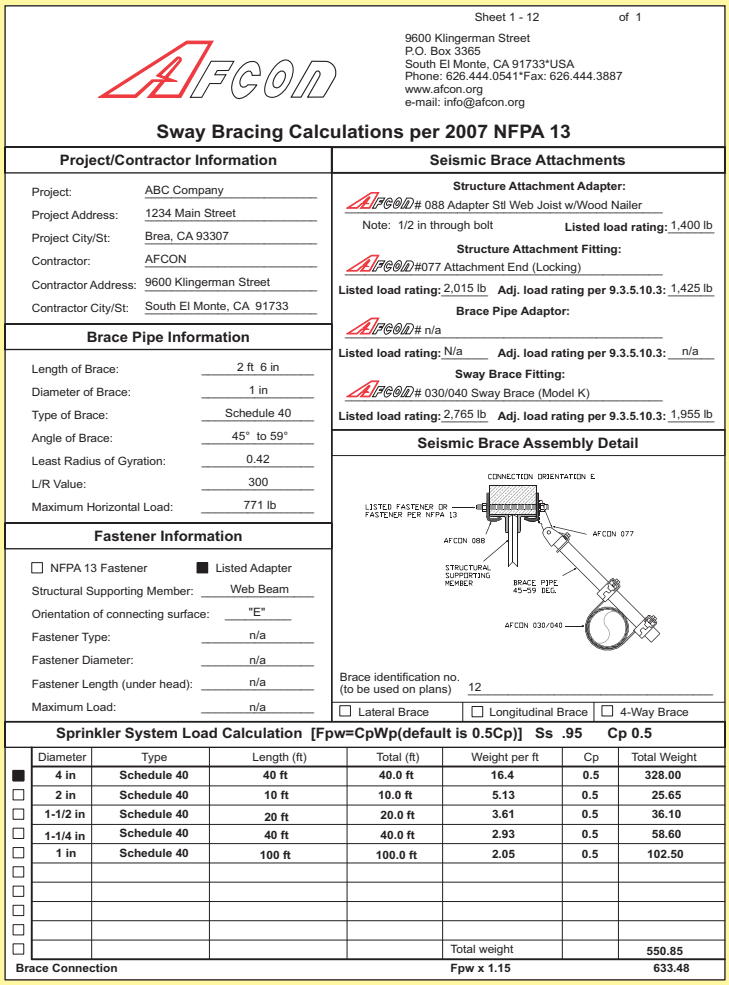
INTERPOLATES Cp

CPVC SWAY BRACING

SPECIFIC GRAVITY

PRYING EFFECT



Sheet 1 - 12 of 1

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e-mail: info@afcon.org

Sway Bracing Calculations per 2007 NFPA 13

Project/Contractor Information

Project:	ABC Company
Project Address:	1234 Main Street
Project City/St:	Brea, CA 93307
Contractor:	AFCON
Contractor Address:	9600 Klingerman Street
Contractor City/St:	South El Monte, CA 91733

Brace Pipe Information

Length of Brace:	2 ft 6 in
Diameter of Brace:	1 in
Type of Brace:	Schedule 40
Angle of Brace:	45° to 59°
Least Radius of Gyration:	0.42
L/R Value:	300
Maximum Horizontal Load:	771 lb

Fastener Information

☐ NFPA 13 Fastener ■ Listed Adapter

Structural Supporting Member:	Web Beam
Orientation of connecting surface:	"E"
Fastener Type:	n/a
Fastener Diameter:	n/a
Fastener Length (under head):	n/a
Maximum Load:	n/a

Seismic Brace Attachments

Structure Attachment Adapter:
AFCON # 088 Adapter Stl Web Joist w/Wood Nailer
Note: 1/2 in through bolt **Listed load rating:** 1,400 lb

Structure Attachment Fitting:
AFCON #077 Attachment End (Locking)
Listed load rating: 2,015 lb **Adj. load rating per 9.3.5.10.3:** 1,425 lb

Brace Pipe Adaptor:
AFCON # n/a
Listed load rating: N/a **Adj. load rating per 9.3.5.10.3:** n/a

Sway Brace Fitting:
AFCON # 030/040 Sway Brace (Model K)
Listed load rating: 2,765 lb **Adj. load rating per 9.3.5.10.3:** 1,955 lb

Seismic Brace Assembly Detail

Brace identification no. (to be used on plans) 12

☐ Lateral Brace ☐ Longitudinal Brace ☐ 4-Way Brace

Sprinkler System Load Calculation [Fpw=CpWp(default is 0.5Cp)] Ss .95 Cp 0.5

	Diameter	Type	Length (ft)	Total (ft)	Weight per ft	Cp	Total Weight
■	4 in	Schedule 40	40 ft	40.0 ft	16.4	0.5	328.00
☐	2 in	Schedule 40	10 ft	10.0 ft	5.13	0.5	25.65
☐	1-1/2 in	Schedule 40	20 ft	20.0 ft	3.61	0.5	36.10
☐	1-1/4 in	Schedule 40	40 ft	40.0 ft	2.93	0.5	58.60
☐	1 in	Schedule 40	100 ft	100.0 ft	2.05	0.5	102.50
☐							
☐							
☐							
☐							
☐					Total weight		550.85
Brace Connection					Fpw x 1.15		633.48

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Sway Brace Products and Hangers that Help

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

decision, are in the front row when the non-sprinklered side of the demonstration goes to flashover. We have been accused of providing a second row of big young firefighters directly behind the trustees to gently resist when they start to back away from the blaze. Tom, however, vehemently denies this.

Witnesses to a "side-by-side" often don't say much afterward, but they have that "Oh, I get it" look on their faces. The charred contents of the non-sprinklered side are tossed into a dumpster after being thoroughly drenched by hundreds of gallons of water from hoses. This side of the demonstration unit needs rebuilding. The sprinklered side gets used over and over again. With some new curtains, a bit of paint and some work with a squeegee, it's as good as new.

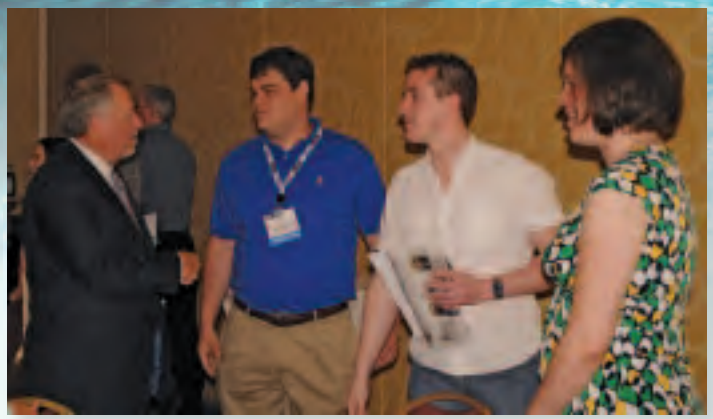
By the way, if you visit Youtube on your computer and put "fire sprinkler demonstration" in the search box, you can watch several impressive "side-by-side' demonstrations.

That poor outhouse on the top of my high school homecoming bonfire never had a chance. But after watching a "side-by-side," it's easy to understand why we believe sprinkler systems should be installed everywhere.

NFSA 2009 Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Review

Orlando, Florida – April 30 – May 2, 2009

By all accounts, from those in attendance at this year's Annual Seminar & Exhibition held April 30 – May 2 at the Omni ChampionsGate in Orlando, Florida, the event was an unequivocal success. This year's conference and exhibition drew in over 1,000 fire protection professionals from all over the country to see and hear about the very latest developments in products and services available to the fire sprinkler industry.



NFSA Chairman of the Board Gregg Huennekens greets members at the well-attended Newcomer's Reception

The event "kicked off" with a Newcomer's Reception arranged to welcome members who were attending the conference for the first time. David Vandeyar, NFSA's Director of Membership & Communications introduced the more than 30 newcomers to members of the Board of Directors and the Association's staff in attendance. While everyone was enjoying cocktails and hor'dourves, David delivered a presentation reviewing NFSA's 2008 Annual Report, highlighting the Association's successes in 2008.

Chairman Gregg Huennekens opens the conference with welcoming remarks

Next, top management of fire sprinkler contractors were off to the Contractor CEO Forum. This town-style meeting is where fire sprinkler contractors discuss, in an open forum, issues of mutual concern, such as recruitment and training of technicians. The 3-hour forum is always well attended and this year was no exception.

A highlight of the opening session was the Golden Sprinkler Award presentation to this year's honoree Wayne Gey of Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers. NFSA President John Viniello delivered his annual State of the Industry address in which he emphasized the importance of vigilance in surviving tough economic times. It was then Executive Vice President Russell Fleming's State of the Technology address that provided attendees with insights of technologies that are forming the industry's future. Adding a bit of a twist to this year's opening session, the first elimination round of the "Top Tech" competition was held. With Team Pacific Northwest emerging victorious over Team Southwest, they moved on in the competition.

Later in the evening, a ceremonial ribbon-cutting opened the exhibition where conference registrants were treated to cocktails, a culinary cornucopia and, of course, over 120 vendor booths featuring the broadest array of the latest products and technologies available to the fire sprinkler

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industry. Judging from the overall response, it was certainly a conference highlight.

The following morning found attendees up early, networking around a sumptuous continental breakfast. It was then off to the workshops. With topics such as Inspection Contract Language, The Closer's Guide to Selling During Tough Times and Best Practices to name only a few, it was obvious the subjects were chosen to provide the fire sprinkler contractor with information on how to weather the current economic storm.

By noon, with the workshop sessions drawing to a close, excitement built as the Top Tech competition picked up again in the exhibition hall. After the first elimination rounds, teams from the Northeast, Central, Great Plains, Mid-Atlantic, Florida, Pacific Northwest, North Central and Great Lakes Regions found themselves in the Elite Eight. In the semi-final rounds, defending champs Team Florida were upset by Team Great Lakes, while Team Northeast rallied late to defeat Team Great Plains. That set the stage for the final, pitting Team Northeast – runner's up from season-one – against Team Great Lakes. In a match that saw Team Great Lakes jump out to an early lead, they faltered on the final question and team Northeast secured the win with a correct answer. The final score was 90-50. Members of the winning team won $1,000 cash prizes and maybe more importantly, two years of bragging rights as the best fire sprinkler technicians in the land.

On the morning of the conference's final day, NFSA made its first Leadership in Public Safety Award presentations to Tony Apfelbeck, Dave Hilton and John Reich. Over their long, distinguished careers in public service, each made significant contributions to public safety through their advocacy of fire sprinkler protection.

As the conference closed with an outdoor banquet under Florida's setting sun, as always, it was the smiling faces of guests that told the full story. What a conference!

Pacific Northwest Area Director Jim Boulanger welcomes Sprinklerman to his first NFSA Annual Seminar

Hall of Fame inductees: Jack Thacker accepting for Thomas G. Allan; Kevin Ortyl accepting for Joseph E. Johnson; Peggy Hill and her son on behalf of Charlie Hill; Richard Boulanger and Joe Wiginton

NFSA Executive Vice President Russ Fleming makes the Technical Service Award presentation to this year's recipient Jack Thacker of Allan Automatic Sprinkler

As this year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient, Wayne Gey of Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers accepts congratulations

Sharon Gey looks on as husband Wayne acknowledges the crowd's applause

Kevin Fee, last year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient, makes this year's presentation to Wayne Gey

John Viniello, with help from his wife Mary(l.) and Gregg and Clairese Huennekens(r.), opens the exhibition with a ribbon cutting ceremony

NFSA President John Viniello delivers his State of the Industry address

Our roving photographer found Maria Figueroa and Gary Keith from NFPA and Peg Paul from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition at their booths

Gene and Sue Postma of Western States Fire Protection enjoy the exhibition

David Whitfield of S-P-D welcomes visitors to his booth

Interest was very high in the brand new Academy of Fire Sprinkler Technology founded by former NFSA Director of Technical Services Cecil Bilbo

It's a happy crew over at Grice Engineering

All and all, a good time was had by all, well, almost all

During the special spouses program, (above) the ladies sip mimosas, hear a presentation about upcoming NFSA Annual Seminars and get a surprise visit from Sprinklerman (right).

In the workshop entitled "IP Organizations: Making a Difference at the Local Level," Director of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, Tom Lia, makes a point

In the finals of the Top Tech Competition, Team Great Lakes and Team Northeast battled it out center stage. In the end, Team Northeast pulled off a come-from-behind victory.

"... to the victors go the spoils." David Smith, Marc Ruggiero and Michael Mackey take home $1,000 first place prize money and two years worth of bragging rights as the best sprinkler techs in the land.

Chairman of the Day Dennis Coleman makes NFSA Leadership in Public Safety Award presentations to honored guests Tony Apfelbeck, Dave Hilton and John Reich

NFSA Director of Regional Operations Buddy Dewar (center) visits with Mike Dooley of Flexhead Industries, Frank Monikowski of SimplexGrinnell, Tom Multer of Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company and his wife Marian

John and Lisa McNamara of Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company

Fred and Kathy Benn of Advanced Automatic Sprinkler

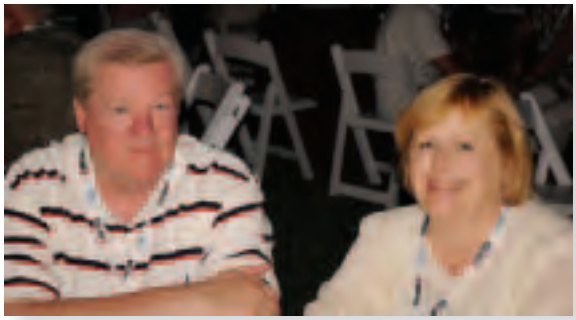
Fred and Eileen Kroll of Alliance Fire Protection and Chad and Dana Huennekens of United States Fire Protection

Rich and Renee Ackley of Dalmatian Fire and Mark and Naomi Tate of Northstar Fire Protection of Texas

Dick and Christine Oliver of Oliver Sprinkler

Randy and Liz Voorhies of Nelson Fire Protection

Kevin Fee with bevy of beauties Lyn Kauffman, Yolanda Schwendiman and Elyse Herald



Dennis and Julie Coleman of Engineered Fire Protection

NFSA's Communications and Events Manager Deborah Somers mingles with Wayne and Sharon Gey

A spectacular sunset draws yet another memorable NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition to a close

GOLF

The National Course at ChampionsGate
Scramble
Saturday, May 2, 2009
Shotgun Start – 12:00 noon

John Viniello with the first place team of Cary Nicol, Jim Gudger, David Asplund and Tom Butterfield (not pictured)

John Viniello congratulates Closest to Pin winners Wally Miller, Morton Sundby and Rebecca McIntyre, who also had the Women's Longest Drive.

Second place team, Bob Poulton, Rebecca McIntyre and Sharon and Wayne Gey

Men's Longest Drive winner Chris McGratty

Third place team, Don Smith and Dan Gengler and Chris Spring and Ray Fremont (not pictured)

NFSA Joins United States Green Building Council

While it has been promoting the "green" benefits of automatic fire sprinkler protection for some time now, NFSA has made its support of environmentally friendly construction practices official by becoming a member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). NFSA's membership will give the fire sprinkler industry an important voice in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. Appearing in the Mar/Apr 2009 issue of SQ magazine, NFSA's Northeast Regional Manager Dominick Kasmauskas wrote an article reviewing USGBC, their LEED program and the role fire sprinkler protection can play in the reduction of ozone depleting greenhouse gases.

NFSA Cancels 2010 Hawaii Annual Seminar, Cites Responsibility to Industry

The Board of Directors of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) made the very difficult but prudent decision to cancel next year's Annual Seminar scheduled for May 12 – 15 at the Fairmont Orchid on Hawaii's Big Island. While not definite, it is possible that NFSA will host a downsized, two-day annual event in a Midwestern city within easy, cost-effective reach of the entire membership. As plans develop, additional information will be posted here as it becomes available.

Tim Travers (L) New England Regional Manager of the NFSA discusses future training with Chief Gerard Dio (R), Worcester, MA Fire Dept. and President of the New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Special SAM Council Election Results

At the request of the NFSA Supplier and Manufacturers (SAM) Council, the NFSA Board recently amended the Association's By-Laws to expand the membership of the Council from 9 to 12 members. A special election was held among the SAM members of the Association, and three individuals have been elected to staggered terms:

Robert Lopuzzo – Ferguson Fire and Fabrication, Passaic, NJ, will serve through 2012

Randal Greenslate – Fire Protection Products, Carlsbad, CA, will serve through 2011

Patrick Wallis – Allied Tube and Conduit, Harvey, IL, will serve through 2010

These individuals were seated at the June 15, 2009 meeting of the NFSA Councils, which took place in Quebec in conjunction with the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association's Annual General Meeting.

NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition Draws Over 1000 Attendees!

The NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition held at the Omni ChampionsGate in Orlando wrapped up on the evening of Saturday, May 2, where at the closing banquet attendees had the opportunity to spend time with old friends and make plans to see each other at next year's Annual Seminar. Since this was an exhibition year, attendees had the opportunity to see firsthand, the latest in sprinkler technology at the over 115 booths. When the final registration numbers were tallied, including pre-registrants and walk-ins to the exhibition, over 1000 people in all attended.

Team Northeast Takes Top Tech Championship

Having to come from behind in the semi-final round to make it to the finals, the Top Tech Team from the Northeast region had to prove once again they could overccome a deficit to win. In a match that saw the Great Lakes team jump out to an early lead, they faltered on the final question and team Northeast secured the win with a correct answer. The final score was 90-50. Members of the winning team won $1,000 cash prizes and two years of bragging rights as the best fire

NFSA Industry Advancement Fund Pledges Now Total $288,800.00

NFSA is very pleased to announce that pledges to the Industry Advancement Fund (IAF) since its inception now total $288,000.00. At the top of the 2009 pledge list are generous contributions of $10,000 from the API Group and $5,000 from General Air Products. To join them and others who have supported the advancement of the fire sprinkler industry through their tax deductible contributions, visit our website at www.nfsa.org.

NFSA Wins Award for Fire Sprinkler Technician Recruitment Video

NFSA has won a Public Relations Society of America New Jersey Chapter "Pyramid Award" for its Fire Sprinkler Technician Recruitment Video, targeting entry-level workers to join the fire sprinkler industry. The annual awards program recognizes exceptional performance generating public relations visions, strategies, and programs that result in measurable return for their client's brands and bottom lines. The project was lead by NFSA's Technician Recruitment Committee, co-chaired by Terry Victor of SimplexGrinnell and Alan Wiginton of Wiginton Fire Systems.

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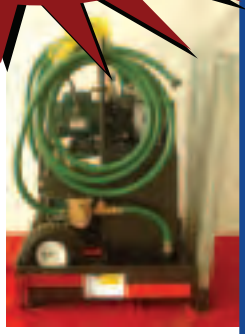

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Elkhart Brass Announces New Regional Sales Manager

Elkhart Brass is pleased to announce **Robert Dornseif** (Rob) has accepted the position of Regional Sales Manager for our Mideast Territory Region, which includes: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.

Rob has over 15 years of sales experience. Rob has also been a volunteer firefighter with several volunteer fire departments, including several years with the rank of Lieutenant for the Aboite Township Fire Department.

Elkhart Brass is proud Rob has chosen to join our team as we continue to grow to better serve our customers.

Contact Information:
Rob Dornseif
Mideast Regional Sales Manager
Elkhart Brass Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Elkhart Office (800) 346-0250 Ext. 438
Cell (574) 971-6631
rdornseif@elkhartbrass.com

Viking SupplyNet Welcomes New Territory Manager for South Texas

Viking SupplyNet is pleased to announce that **Paul Swan** has joined its sales team as the new Territory Manager for the south Texas market. Swan, who started with the company on June 15, will be based out of Viking SupplyNet's Houston location.

In his role as Territory Manager, Swan will be responsible for developing and enhancing the company's relationship with fire sprinkler contractors. Additionally, his efforts will be critical to growing sales out of the company's new fabrication center in Houston.

For more information please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800-968-9501.

Home Safety Council® Appoints Nationally Recognized Leaders to its Board of Directors

The national, nonprofit Home Safety Council (HSC) has announced two new members to join its Board of Directors. Combined, Thomas F. Connaughton and R. David Paulison bring more than 50 years of emergency preparedness and life safety experience to the Home Safety Council's leadership team.

Thomas F. Connaughton, Director of Life Safety and Security Services (LSS) for Intertek Group, is a seasoned certification and compliance professional. After successfully launching Intertek's Life Safety and Security Services in North America, Mr. Connaughton will be responsible for expanding services into the European Union to meet growing industry demands abroad. With a strong background in compliance and the associated challenges faced by industry members, Mr. Connaughton is dedicated to the overall improvement of the life safety industry. He is an active participant in the National Fire Protection Association, Security Industry Association and Underwriters Laboratories Standards Technical Panels.

R. David Paulison is an internationally recognized leader in emergency and disaster response and recovery. During his tenure as FEMA Administrator, he worked with private and public entities to provide more responsive and effective disaster assistance. Chief Paulison served as the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, overseeing the nation's state and local fire service programs and implemented FEMA initiatives. As the Director of Preparedness for FEMA, he oversaw more than one billion dollars in grant funding awarded to state and local governments to help prepare for natural and man-made disasters.

Chief Paulison also held leadership positions for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association, American Red Cross Chapter of Miami-Dade County, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association and FEMA's Task Force on Technology Transfer.

Baldassarra Joins The RJA Group

The RJA Group, Inc., parent company of Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc. (RJA) and Sako and Associates, Inc. (SAKO), has announced that **Carl F. Baldassarra, P.E.**, FSFPE, has joined the company as Executive Vice President - Project Delivery, reporting to Chief Operating Officer George E. Toth. He will be based in The RJA Group headquarters in Chicago.

In his new role, Baldassarra will head up key business functions and processes associated with superior project delivery for RJA and SAKO clients worldwide. He will provide the bridge within the company between business development, operations and finance to help deliver efficient client services on major multi-office initiatives.

Baldassarra, formerly the president of Schirmer Engineering, is extremely active in the fire protection and life safety community serving on multiple committees of the National Fire Protection Association and the International Code Council. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences and on the steering committee of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

In addition, Baldassarra serves as a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers' Editorial Advisory Board and Vice President of the SFPE Board of Directors. He is a member of the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Council, a member of the Worchester Polytechnic Institute Fire Protection Engineering Advisory Board and a member of the University of Maryland's Board of Advisors, Fire Protection Engineering Curriculum.

For more information, visit www.rjainc.com.

Viking Group Chairman Tom Groos Elected to NFPA Board of Directors

Viking Group is pleased to announce that its chairman, Tom Groos, has been elected to the board of directors for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Groos, one of four new board members appointed at the Association's annual conference and exhibition, will serve a three-year term which officially began at the close of the conference's opening general session.

NFPA board members are chosen from various disciplines and backgrounds and are elected based on experience in business, finance, or administration; respect of peers; respect as a member of the

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safety community; commitment to the Association's goals; and appreciation for the relationship NFPA must maintain with the changing needs of society.

With over 26 years of experience in the fire sprinkler industry, Groos brings a wealth of business and industry experience to the NFPA board. He has held numerous leadership positions during his career in fire protection including the past chairman of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Groos, who earned his MBA from Columbia University, is currently a managing partner of City Light Capital in New York City. He serves on several boards, including the advisory board of the Salvation Army of West Michigan and the board of directors of ShotSpotter, Inc, the world leader in gunshot and explosion location and detection systems for law enforcement, homeland security, and military applications.

For more information please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800-968-9501.

EBL Announces the Election of Edward A. Hubner, PE As President-Elect of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers

EBL Engineers of Baltimore, Maryland, is pleased to announce the election of Principal Edward A. Hubner, P.E. as President-Elect of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers. Mr. Hubner began his new position on June 24, 2009 and was formerly the Vice President of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since June of 2007. Mr. Hubner will also be serving as the Maryland representative to the National Society of Professional Engineers House of Delegates Annual Assembly in St Louis this July.

NFPA Reappoints Officers and Elects New Members to the Board of Directors

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced reappointment of officers and appointment of new members to their board of directors today at their annual conference and exposition in Chicago, Ill.

Officers reappointed to their current positions on the board are: **Paul M. Fitzgerald**, of Holliston, Mass. remains chair; **Thomas W. Jaeger**, of Great Falls, VA remains first vice chair; **Philip C. Stittleburg**, of La Farge, Wisc. remains second vice chair; **Vincent Bollon**, of Alexandria, VA remains treasurer; and **H. Wayne Boyd** of Sacramento, Calif. will continue to serve as secretary.

The newly elected positions will take effect as of the close of the opening general session.

New members of the board include: **Thomas Groos**, of Greenwich, Conn.; **Peter M. Holland**, of Haighton, Lancashire, UK; **Brian J. Hurley**, of Johnston, RI; and **Bill McCammon**, of Pleasanton, Calif.

Groos is a partner of City Light Capital and executive chairman of the Viking Group. He has 26 years of experience with Viking Group where he has served numerous leadership positions, including chief executive and president. Groos earned his MBA from Columbia Business School.

Holland is the longest serving fire chief in the United Kingdom. For over 36 years, he has served in various positions and levels of the U.K. Fire and Rescue Service. Holland has served as the international president of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), is a current chairman of Fire Conferences and Exhibitions Ltd. (FCEL), founded the U.K. National Fire Sprinkler Network, and will become the U.K. president of the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) in January 2010.

Hurley has served as the executive vice president at FM Global for 20 years. A 38-year veteran of the insurance industry, he holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Toronto and has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. Hurley is also a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and serves as a trustee on the board of Bradley Hospital, East Providence, RI.

McCammon is the executive director of the East Bay Regional Communication System. He has 27 years of service in public fire protection. McCammon served for over 13 years as the fire chief of the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD). He also served as president of the California Fire Chiefs Association, president of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, member of the Emergency Response Training Advisory Committee, is current treasurer of the Las Positas College Foundation, and various other leadership positions.

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Visit NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org for more information.

Majority of Firefighter Injuries at Fire Scene Occur When Battling Home Fires

NFPA calls for home fire sprinklers to reduce firefighter injuries

About three in five firefighters injured at the scene of a structure fire (2003-2006) were battling one- and two-family home fires at the time, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report Patterns of Firefighter Fireground Injuries released today. Of the nearly 34,450 firefighters hurt at structure fires on average annually during this period, nearly 21,000 were on the scene of a fire at a one- or two-family home.

NFPA recently launched the Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home to encourage communities to mandate home fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property. According to NFPA, there are nearly 298,000 one- and two-family home fires each year.

There was an estimated annual average of 40,270 firefighter fireground injuries in the U.S. in 2003-2006. Of these, an average of 29,710 were minor, and 10,560 were moderate or severe.

Other key findings from the report:

The leading types of minor injuries were strain or sprain accounting for an annual average of 7,035 injuries or (24%); pain only, accounting for 3,345 injuries (12%); thermal burns only, accounting for 3,415 injuries (11%); cut or laceration, accounting for 2,695 injuries (9%).

The leading types of moderate and severe injuries were strains or sprain accounting for an annual average of 3,635 injuries a year, or 34%; thermal burn, accounting for 940 injuries (9%); pain only, accounting for 920 injuries (9%).

The leading causes of moderate and severe injuries were slipping, falling, or tripping (3,095 or 29%).

The leading type of activity at time of injury for both minor and major injuries involved handling hose lines.

The highest injury rates per 100 fires occurred in the midnight to 8:00 a.m. timeframe.

The Fire Sprinkler Initiative, a project of the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationwide effort to encourage the use of home fire sprinklers and the adoption of fire sprinkler requirements for new construction. Visit NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org.

Vermont updates its adoption of NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code™ and NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code®

The state of Vermont has updated its statewide adoption of NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code™, and NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code® to the 2006 edition of the codes. The adoption became effective on June 15, 2009.

The Uniform Fire Code provides requirements necessary to establish a reasonable level of fire safety and property protection from hazards created by fire and explosion. Its primary purposes are to address basic fire prevention requirements and to reference or extract the fire prevention and protection aspects of many other NFPA codes and standards.

The Life Safety Code sets minimum building design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements necessary to protect building occupants from dangers caused by fire, smoke, and toxic fumes. It also provides prompt escape requirements for new and existing buildings. The Life Safety Code is used in every U.S. state and is adopted statewide in 40 states.

Vermont has participated in training and is scheduled for future instructions through programs developed by NFPA and offered to states that have adopted NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, as well as other major NFPA codes and standards. These trainings, provided by NFPA technical experts, cover the codes' requirements and the numerous ways they can be utilized and enforced.

For more information, visit NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Tim Travers, Regional Manager

New England Chiefs Host Annual Conference

The New England Association of Fire Chiefs and the New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs held their 87th Annual Conference at the end of June at the Sheraton Springfield Hotel and Eastern States Exposition. Perhaps due to the economy only a few hundred fire chiefs from around New England had registered for the full conference. The daily attendance, however, was fantastic. Over the three days that the exhibit hall was open over 5,200 fire chiefs and firefighters filed through. There was a great deal of interest in the residential fire sprinkler issues and the NFSA booth provided printed information on residential and quick response sprinklers, fire sprinkler facts, adopting a model code, and NFSA training coming to the New England area. The NFSA's "Fire Sprinklers are Green" tote bags could be seen throughout the hall.

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

NY State Water-Based Fire Protection Licensure

The Senate Bill (S-3190A) made tremendous progress this year. Many NFSA members were hard at work in contacting their state legislators and members of various committees also. Several contractors and I spent a "lobby day" meeting with several key legislators including a representative of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's office.

The Assembly Bill (A-6526A) hit a bump in the road as non-NFSA contractors, only a handful, contacted a state business association and the Chair of the Assembly Government Operations Committee stating the Bills were going to put small fire sprinkler contractors out of business overnight.

Two problems with that; 1- the Bill allows both U.S. Department of Labor and N.Y. Department of Labor approved apprenticeship programs. The USDOL web site lays out all the requirements for a corporation or group of corporations to develop a training program through 29 CFR (Title 29 Code of federal Regulations), and 2- the Bill allows up to 24 months for every existing fire sprinkler contractor to get their locations in compliance.

Dominick Kasmauskas is the NFSA Regional Manager for the New York Region. He can be reached at Kasmauskas@nfsa.org or1436 Altamont Ave. Suite 147 Rotterdam, New York 12303, Phone 914.414.3337, Fax 518.836.0210.

MID-ATLANTIC

Raymond W. Lonabaugh, Regional Manager

Sprinkler Save at Red Rose Transit Authority in Lancaster

Thanks to an automatic fire sprinkler system you can still ride a bus in the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Lancaster City Fire Department received an alarm of fire for the Red Rose Transit Authority headquarters and garage located at 45 Eric Road in Lancaster on July 16, 2009. When first alarm companies arrived at the 39,000 square foot bus garage they encountered thick black smoke inside the building prompting the commanding officer to sound a general alarm, which dispatches the entire fire department. Once firefighters were able to make their way into the building they found the building's sprinkler system had contained the fire to a single bus with two sprinklers discharging water.

Both Lancaster Fire Chief Tim Gregg and RRTA Executive Director Dave Kilmer credited the building's automatic fire sprinkler system with limiting the loss to only one bus. The fire was attributed to an electrical problem near the front of the bus.

We thank Deputy Chief Rick Schartel, P.E., Township of Spring Fire Township Volunteer Fire Department for alerting us to this save.

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

Sprinklerman Becomes a Lookout

Sprinklerman© the sprinkler industry's hero, was sited at the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lookout's Baseball game in June. It was $1000.00 give away night by a local radio station which meant that several thousand people were in attendance. Sprinklerman visited with plenty of excited baseball fans. He signed autographs, participated in field activities such as the Frisbee throw, the dizzy bat, and the hamburger roll. Sprinklerman also handed out several hundred brochures that explained the effectiveness of a fire sprinkler system. The event was a rousing success!

Wayne Waggoner is the NFSA Regional Manager for the Southeast Region. He can be reached at: Waggoner@nfsa.org or PO Box 9, Andersonville, Tennessee 27705, Phone 865.755.2956, Fax 865.381.0597.

FLORIDA REGION

David Bowman, Regional Manager

2009 Florida Legislative Session Wrap-up

We had several very disappointing issues this session. A complete summary can be found at: www.FloridaFireSprinkler.com. Several of the "lowlights" included failure of the "Glitch Bill". HB 636 died and a companion bill stalled because of no action on the House Bill. Much of our necessary language was added to SB 2100, but

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it does not expect to gain passage.

One of the most exciting highlights was proposed changes in our High-Rise Retrofit Law. Language added to SB 714, which proposed to extend the compliance date from 2014 to 2025. The language was amended at the last committee stop in the Senate and quickly passed.

There was a lot of work from our lobbyist and others to seek a veto from the Governor and it paid off. Governor Crist vetoed the bill, citing firefighter and public safety as the key issues that influenced his decision.

Another huge result of Governor Crist's veto was that he commissioned a study group, which will now result in a detailed study of the facts, all of which serves to put the facts in the proper light and should serve as a "long-term" solution to the high-rise retrofit issue.

The veto was the result of many people working together and shows how successfully Florida's fire protection community can be when they work as one.

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

Sprinklerman - A Grand Slam!

I served as the event coordinator for the Sprinklerman© appearance at the Tin Caps game in Fort Wayne Indiana on June 13th. I was very pleased to see that the response to Sprinklerman was extremely positive as young and old alike crowded around to shake his hand and get a photo taken with our hero. The game drew a crowd of 3,000 to 4,000 fans. Sprinklerman threw out the first pitch of the game and although it was a BALL, he was still the HIT of the day. Many took advantage of the handouts available at the information table set up in the stadium concourse. Sprinklerman, as well as NFSA, received great exposure at the game. I want to extend a special thank you to the Fort Wayne Fire Department for working with the National Fire Sprinkler Association to put together a very successful evening at the ballpark. Like Sprinklerman, the Tin Caps were the victors of the day.

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

Harlem Rosco Fire Department Hosts Fire Sprinklers Meeting

On June 16, 2009, the Harlem Roscoe Fire Department hosted a informational meeting and demonstration on residential and commercial sprinkler systems. This meeting was intended to provide information and to answer audience questions. The audience consisted of members of the Winnebago County Building Department and other various local town and fire district board members.

Tom Lia from NIFSAB and I provided the demonstration and answered questions during the meeting from audience members regarding sprinker system pricing and information. The Village of Roscoe is extremely progressive when it comes to sprinkler codes having a zero square foot threshold for commercial and multi-family structures. We hope that the essential and informative information provided help surrounding communities make appropriate decisions when adopting progressive codes within their communities.

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.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

NORTH CENTRAL

Dan Gengler, Regional Manager

Menomonee Falls Factory Saved by Nine Sprinklers

Firefighters were called to Builders Hardware and Hollow Metal, in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin on June 17th at 8:41 a.m. for heavy smoke in the rear of the building. Prior to the department's arrival, the building's sprinkler system was activated. When firefighters arrived, they found the sprinklers did much of the work putting out the fire. It took nine sprinklers to put out the fast and hot fire. Typically, two sprinklers will do it, but it took nine because the fire spread so quickly. The fire originated in the filtering system in a paint booth but the ignition source is not known. Investigators were back at the business the next day. When the owner was presented with the scenario of a multitude of fire apparatus pouring water onto the remains of his factory, the owner was ecstatic about having fire sprinkler protection.

Dan Gengler is the NFSA Regional Manager for the North Central Region. He can be reached at Gengler@nfsa.org or PO Box 280, Williams Bay, Wisconsin 53191. Phone 262.245.5255, Fax 262.245.5258.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Dan Gengler, Regional Manager

Investigation Finds Numerous Code Violations in East Texas Fatal Fire

A state investigation found 18 fire code violations at an East Texas homeless shelter where five men died in a blaze earlier this year, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press (AP).

Problems at the Christians in Action shelter in Paris, Texas included a lack of smoke detectors and proper exits. Thirty men were sleeping in makeshift cubicles when the shelter burned to the ground in the early-morning hours of January 5.

The men who died were discovered in an upper level of cubicles that afforded "minimal" means of egress, according to Jim Lindholm, the state's investigator. Lindholm wrote that the fire started in a 5-foot high pile of clothing that was "boxed in" by some of the cubicles, but he could not determine its cause.

Don Walker, the founder of the nonprofit organization that owned and operated the facility, said that smoking was not allowed in the building. He said battery-operated smoke detectors had been installed, but the men were constantly removing the devices so they could smoke.

Lindholm said in his report that the shelter hadn't been inspected since 2005. The Paris fire chief told The AP in February that cuts in budget and personnel had forced his department to limit its fire inspections.

Dan Gengler is the NFSA Regional Manager for the South Central Region. He can

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 51

be reached at Gengler@nfsa.org or PO Box 280, Williams Bay, Wisconsin 53191. Phone 262.245.5255, Fax 262.245.5258.

CENTRAL REGION

Chris Gaut, Regional Manager

Protecting the Fire Sprinkler Industry

I hear our members' concerns over the fact that sprinkler systems will be put in by plumbers through the homebuilders. Because of this, there are two things that we must evaluate to ensure the fire sprinkler industry is protected.

A) As an industry, we have to help educate the AHJ regarding the importance of requiring any person who is going to install life and property fire protection systems to meet a certain standard of qualification.

In Iowa there is currently a state law that outlines contractor and fitters licensing requirements. In Missouri and Kansas we currently anticipate the local AHJ will ensure that qualified persons are at the end of the pipe wrench. In some larger cities this has already been established. It has been brought to my attention that the NFSA will soon be releasing a new or revised 40-hour class that will help set an industry standard for the installation of 13-D systems. This qualification or certification guidelines will be key for AHJs as it will help ensure residential fire sprinkler systems are being installed by properly trained people.

B) Contractors must prepare themselves to be competitive in the residential market if they plan to see their company gain this market. So what is your company doing to prepare for this outcome? I encourage you to sketch out a future business plan so that when everything falls in place you will be prepared to be a part of the benefit package. If your business plan is hammered out, then take the next step to become involved to ensure that things move forward. If we sit back as an industry and do nothing, then you can bet that unqualified people will be making money from your past efforts.

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

GREAT PLAINS

Terry Phillips, Regional Manager

Fire in Billings Hotel Stopped by Single Sprinkler

Fire broke out in a fourth-floor room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Billings, Montana, forcing the evacuation of the building but causing minimal damage. The fire started when a bath towel was placed on a hot lamp. No one was in the room when the fire started, and no injuries were reported. A single ceiling sprinkler above the flames kept the fire in check. When firefighters responded to the 9:38 a.m. call, Crowne occupants were mostly on the street, driven out by the building's fire alarm. Responders partially blocked off the intersection of Montana Avenue and North 27th Street and strung hose from a corner fire hydrant to the Crowne's built-in emergency plumbing. Smoke wasn't detectable from the street, but on the fourth floor, crews worked to clear building air. Less than an hour after the alarm, it was business as usual at the hotel's front desk. The fire caused about $50,000 in damage to the room and its contents. The building is insured, and the fire was declared accidental by the Fire Department.

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

Fire Training Conference and Exposition in Reno

The Board of Directors for Nevada Fire Chiefs Association and the Board of Directors for the Fire Service Manufacturers and Vendors Association voted to re-establish a fire training conference and exposition in Reno, Nevada. The show is scheduled for October 27-28, 2009. Details follow:

Advancing the Vision
Special Offer – Bring a Colleague
The first 100 registrants are eligible to bring a colleague for free.
Register Today
Conference Sessions-Reno Ballroom
October 27-28, 2009
Tues - 8:30am - 4:00pm
Wed - 8:30am - 3:00pm
Vendor Exposition-Reno Events Center
October 27-28, 2009
Tues - 10:30am - 5:00p
Wed - 10:45am - 2:00pm
For more information, visit www.fireshowsreno.com.

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

Fire Sprinklers Contain Two West Region Fires

An early morning fire that occurred shortly before 2:00 a.m. was extinguished by a single fire sprinkler. Lakeside, California firefighters were called to a reported residential structure fire in the 10500 block of Valle Vista Road. Three engine companies, a paramedic ambulance and a battalion chief responded to the incident. On arrival, it was determined that there had been a fire in one of five bedrooms in the 3,778 square foot single-family dwelling. The occupants stated they were awakened by an odor of smoke, quickly followed by the activation of a smoke detector and a residential fire sprinkler. The activation of the fire sprinkler contained the fire, which originated in a computer printer. The fire was isolated to the area of the printer but the area around the de-

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At The Bank of New York Mellon, we continually support our communities. Because one good deed inspires another.

It is our great pleasure to support the National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.

To learn more, please contact
John M. Donaghey - 617 722 7315
Matthew J. Downes - 617 722 7058
Christopher M. Babcock - 617 722 6972
Jeb Banks - 617 722 7903

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vice sustained moderate heat, smoke and water damage, with an estimated loss of $8,000 to the structure and its contents.

The Lakeside Fire Protection District has required automatic fire sprinkler protection in large single-family dwellings for approximately ten years. Recently, the district adopted an ordinance requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in all new buildings and structures and retrofitting of sprinklers in buildings under certain conditions. Had this large single-family dwelling not been equipped with automatic fire sprinklers, the outcome may have been tragic for the sleeping occupants.

Adding another save to the sacred hall of "No More Flames," Jim Dias, Division Chief of the Aptos/LaSelva Fire Protection District in California announced that a quiet Saturday was interrupted when firefighters were dispatched to a report of an alarm sounding, with a smell of something burning in the neighbor's home. Upon arrival at a triplex, the first engine found a small fire that had been extinguished by a single residential fire sprinkler. Firefighters quickly shut the fire sprinkler system down, cleaned up the scene and notified a fire sprinkler contractor who replaced the sprinkler and reactivated the sprinkler system. The cause of the fire was determined to be clothes placed on or adjacent to a nearby wall heater.

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

Bremerton Fire Burn a Great Success

The Bremerton Fire Department, Kitsap County Fire Chiefs' Association, Kitsap County Fire Marshal's Office and the Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA) teamed-up to demonstrate the effectiveness of home sprinkler systems in a controlled fire exercise on Friday, June 26th in an old Westpark Housing Unit on Arsenal Way in Bremerton, Washington. BHA made the units available for the demonstration and large portions of each unit's exterior walls were removed so the public could view the exercise. Two units had fire sprinkler protection installed and two units did not have that protection. Kitsap County Fire Marshal David Lyman narrated the event as officials first ignited an unsprinklered unit and then lit an identical blaze in an adjacent unit that was outfitted with a residential fire sprinkler system. The fire exercise was designed to show the public how quickly fire sprinklers work to control a fire in a residential home setting, giving the residents the necessary time to safely escape the structure. A special note of thanks to Mike Six of the Bremerton Fire Department. This demonstration is part of an overall coordinated strategy and effort of the recently formed Washington Fire Sprinkler Coalition, which has been working at various levels of advocacy to get residential fire sprinkler protection adopted in the Washington State Building Code. The sprinkler coalition is chaired by Greg Rogers, President of the Washington State Fire Marshals' Association. As the NFSA Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest, I am part of that active coalition.

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.

SPRINKLING OF NEWS

BlazeMaster® Fire Sprinkler Systems Introduces Informative Residential Specification Guide

FBC Building Solutions' BlazeMaster® Fire Sprinkler Systems announces the availability of *"A Guide to Residential Fire Sprinklers."* The booklet is designed to answer commonly asked questions and help guide builders through the process of specifying a residential fire sprinkler system.

The new literature highlights the differences between traditional stand-alone sprinkler systems and multipurpose systems, providing information as to where and when one should be specified over the other in single and two-family residential construction. An easy reference chart compares the two systems, in a checklist format, helping builders to choose the best system to fit their needs.

Also included in the guide is a comparison of performance characteristics between CPVC and PEX fire sprinkler systems. It offers an objective view of how the two materials perform differently in their water delivery modes, as well as their flame and smoke characteristics.

The guide also provides information about how builders can participate in the comprehensive installer training programs provided by BlazeMaster fire sprinkler systems.

To request a copy of the new brochure, call 888-234-2436. Or simply visit www.blazemaster.com to download an electronic version of the brochure.

New Cover Plate Enables Quick Response Protection of Cleanrooms

Viking Corporation has introduced a new concealed cover plate for "cleanroom" applications. In these environments, it is critical that dust and other particles are not allowed to enter the area. One potential source for dust intrusion is through the area where the sprinkler is installed.

This new cover plate assembly, which is cULus listed with Viking's Mirage® line of concealed sprinklers, provides an effective seal against outside contaminants entering the protected environment. The flat cover plate, which installs flush to the ceiling, is pre-assembled with a thin silicone gasket installed around the cover plate. In addition to a more attractive appearance, the new cleanroom cover plate allows the sprinkler to maintain its quick response listing, providing a more economical option for protecting cleanroom applications.

The new cleanroom cover plate is available in 135°F (57°C) and 165°F (74°C) temperature ratings and several standard finishes. The product is also listed for use with Viking's new Mirage® concealed sprinkler for MRI rooms (non-ferrous sprinkler).

For more information please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800-968-9501.

Viking SupplyNet Opens 11th U.S. Fabrication Center

Viking SupplyNet announces the opening of a new custom fabrication center in Houston, Texas. The new 27,000 square foot facility offers complete pipe fabrication services including threading, grooving, welding, and end pipe preparation for black and galvanized material.

The new location is the company's 30th location in the U.S. and eleventh offering fabrication services. With both fabrication and distribution capabilities, Viking SupplyNet can now provide a complete package of both loose material and custom fabricated pipe throughout the region. Local delivery service is also offered. Prior to shipment, fabricated material is systematically organized, bundled, and marked for easier identification and installation at the job site.

Contact information for the new fabrication center is as follows:

Viking Fabrication Services
7075 West 43rd Street
Houston, TX 77092
Toll Free: (877) 684-5464 (ext. 3)
Local Phone: (713) 462-4400
Fax: (713) 462-1144
Email: vfshouston@supplynet.com

Victaulic Introduces FireLock® Series Valves at NFSA Seminar & Exhibition

Victaulic introduced the FireLock® Series 705 Butterfly Valve and the 765 High Pressure Butterfly Valve at the 2009 NFSA Seminar & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida.

The Series 705 features a ductile iron body and disc with Nitrile seats and is available in sizes ranging from two to twelve inches. It is both cULus Listed and Factory Mutual Approved for 300psi/2068 kPa. Design improvements over the current series 705W Fire Protection Butterfly Valve include reduced torque requirements, a larger handwheel and improved ease of operation during required inspection periods.

The Series 765 is an efficient and beneficial product that provides an additional 25 percent of usable pressure over traditional 300psi control valves, the sprinkler system in a high rise building can be designed with fewer pump rooms or storage tanks. It is cULus Listed and FM Approved for 365psi/2517 kPa (2"-8") and 300psi/2068 kPa (10"-12") service.

For more information, visit www.victaulic.com

National Training Center Opens 'Training Department'

National Training Center (NTC) in Las Vegas, Nevada has opened Training Department, an innovative way to provide training for your employees.

Training Department is specifically set up to work as your training department. Whether you have one employee or one hundred employees, Training Department is designed to be your company's training solution. Training Department is always accessible and provides high quality recorded training, which is easy to use and covers all major low voltage categories. Examinations are provided after each section of training to ensure your employee's understand the concepts presented in each session. The training can be used and reviewed as frequently as desired and permits managerial control, giving a company the ability to track employee's progress and performance through training. New training is added and updated on a regular basis in order to cover all low voltage factions and to ensure that the latest technology and developments in the industry are encompassed.

For more information, visit: www.nationaltrainingcenter.net or call (702)-648-8899

Potter Electric Patented RBVS Universal Ball Valve Switch

The Potter RBVS Universal Ball Valve Switch is the only patented product designed to monitor the full open position on any new or previously installed ¼" turn ball valve in a sprinkler system.

The RBVS complies with NFPA 72, 2007 6.8.5.10.4 and building codes requiring the monitoring of ball valves installed in the alarm lines of dry pipe, pre-action, and wet systems with alarm valves. The RBVS is US patented (#6,945,509), UL/cUL listed, as well as FM approved. It comes manufactured with a 1/2" opening for conduit and screw terminals for easy wire connections, as well as a NEMA 4 gasketed enclosure with single screw cover design. Versatile mounting hardware on the RBVS allows for easy installation on ball valves and back flow preventers from ½" - 2".

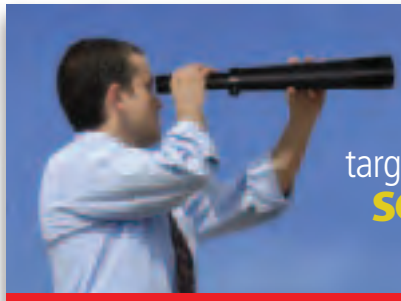
For more information, go to www.pottersignal.com

FPPI Announces Forged Aluminum Caps and Plug... Thieves won't like them

In response to continued brass theft and vandalism that leaves threads unprotected, Fire Protection Products Inc. (FPPI) offers two industry firsts – Forged Aluminum Caps and Plugs. These aluminum alternatives withstand similar pressures to their brass cousins and are anodized to look like brass. Would be thieves and vandals are discouraged by the weight of the metal immediately letting them know that these are not brass parts and won't bring the same high salvage value.

Both caps and plugs come with chain identical to their brass counterparts and will be available in June as part of the expanding FPPI product line.

For a distributor near you and to download the latest catalog, visit www.fppi.com.



NFSA BUCKS

For every NFSA chapter meeting attended by a MEMBER they will receive a $10.00 Certificate redeemable for NFSA Resource Center Materials. Certificates can be accrued for up to one (1) year. Just another service that NFSA has added to it's cast of membership benefits!

TO JOHN VINIELLO:

Dear John,

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone at the NFSA for my opportunity to participate in the 2009 Top Tech Competition this past week at the Omni Resort near Orlando, Florida. Special thanks to Ken Isman, Russ Fleming, Dave Bowman and Lorrell Bush for making this an exceptional experience for me.

This year Florida (my team) only made it to the FINAL FOUR, but my teammates (Ray Vance and Kevin Rodebaugh) were nothing less than awesome! It was an honor for me to sit in the shadow of these two "Top Techs."

This is an outstanding program that gives recognition to the truly technical people in this business. The environment of the exhibitions, seminars and even the conference itself gave us techies a chance to glimpse the big picture of the fire sprinkler industry... Where it is today and where it might be headed tomorrow!

My congratulations to the Northeast Regional Team for their win and thanks again.

Tom Terry
Director of Technical Services
Wiginton Corporation - Orlando, FL

TO JOHN VINIELLO:

Dear John:

I just wanted to thank you and the NFSA for a great experience at the recent seminar in Orlando. This was the first time I had attended the yearly seminar and it was great. Thanks also to you for signing my wife Valerie and me up for the golf outing. We had a blast.

Best wishes.

Brad Heinz, *Project Manager*
F.E. Moran, Inc. Fire Protection
3001 Research Road, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61822

TO JOHN VINIELLO:

Dear Mr. Viniello:

On behalf of the Fire Protection Coalition of Philadelphia-Delaware Valley, I send our most sincere "thanks" for your participation as Key Note Speaker on "Fire Protection and the Economy" at our Fire Protection Networking-2009.

Your presentation on impact of the economy on the fire protection industry was informative and interesting. You provided a personal perspective that helped put the industry in perspective. Your years of service to the fire protection community obviously added depth to the topic.

Mr. Viniello, our committee would like to thank you for the important part that you played in making the day a success and that we have received only positive comments on your presentation.

Many, many thanks for your participation! You should know that we expect approximately $3000 of proceeds to go to two organization's (SFPE and HFMA) scholarship programs and the Burn Center.

Sincerely,

Philip Sconyo
Committee Member
Fire Protection Coalition
Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Area

TO MR. MICHAEL FRIEDMAN, PE:

Mr. Friedman,

I am writing you to thank you for your excellent instruction during the past NFSA training in Denver, CO. Your expertise within the fire protection industry was a great addition to the curricula. I look forward to other opportunities to cross paths and gain advice within the world of fire protection!

Thanks again!

David J. Eloi
Project Manager
Western States Fire Protection

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Improving Safety & Saving Money

The RAVEN sprinkler is designed to be unobtrusive to resist attracting unwanted attention and be more tamper resistant:

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- Will operate as designed whenever thermal element is compromised
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Fire Suppression & Building Products

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TESTING

NFPA 13, 2007, 23.1.5.1
Water supplies and environmental conditions shall be evaluated for the existence of microbes and conditions that contribute to MIC…
Solution: Potter Water Test Kit (WTK)

NFPA 25, 2008, 14.2.1.2
Tubercles or slime, if found, shall be tested for indications of microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC).
Solution: 5-Year Deposit/Sludge Test Kit

TREATMENT

NFPA 13, 2007, 8.16.4.2.3
Where corrosive conditions exist or piping is exposed to the weather, corrosion resistant types of pipe, fittings and hangers or protective corrosion-resistant coatings shall be used

NFPA 13, 2007, 23.1.5.2(2)
Treat all water that enters the system using an approved corrosion inhibitor.
Solution: Potter Pipe-Shield™ Corrosion Inhibitor

MONITORING

NFPA 13, 2007, 23.1.5.2(3)
Implement an approved plan for monitoring the interior of the pipe:
Solution: Potter Corrosion Monitoring System (PCMS-RM) along with Corrosion Monitoring Probe Kit (PCMPK)

Minimizing your liability for damage caused by leaking or broken fire sprinkler pipes requires diligent corrosion testing, treatment, and monitoring; all of which are required by NFPA codes. Potter has a complete suite of products and services that are completely NFPA code compliant. With more than 110 years of sprinkler monitoring experience, Potter is **the** trusted source for corrosion solutions.

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www.pottersignal.com 866.572.3005

For more information please visit www.pottersignal.com/corrosion