

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

November – December 2020

No. 223



The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

Season's Greetings



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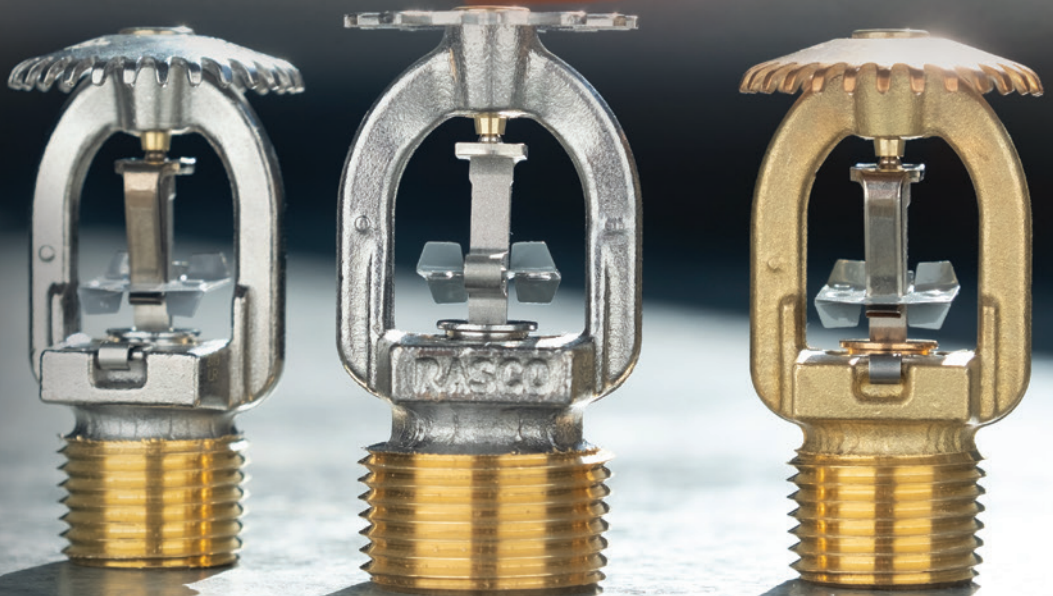
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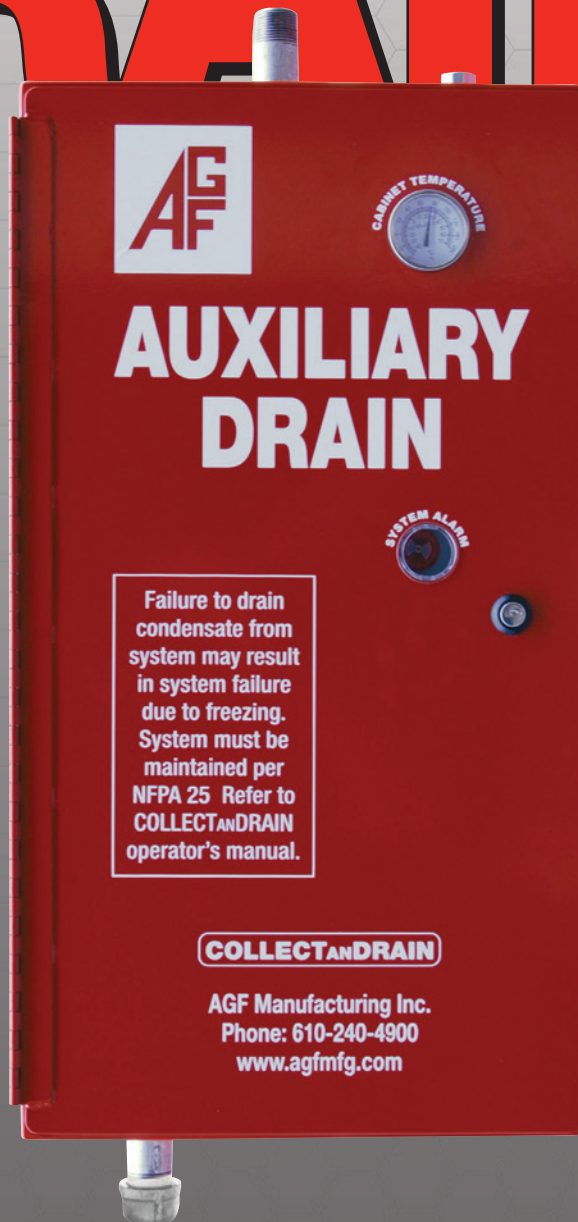
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Oh, The Difference a Year Makes

I failed to predict the last election, so I'm not even trying with this one. Our Chair of the Board, Kent Mezaros, has it predicted and I'll stick with that. I can predict that you, as a member, will have a new and more integrated experience with NFSA today than ever before. This is thanks mostly to our talented team and because of our new Association Management Software (AMS). COVID-19 may have changed the world, but NFSA was planning for a new normal and better ways to reach out to you with meetings, trainings, advocacy, and improved members services long before this world-wide pandemic.

President George W. Bush feared a pandemic and former Tennessee Senator Bill Frist wrote a book back then, *When Every Second Counts* on bioterrorism, and in 2020, we have all experienced and questioned both. As a world-wide pandemic continues to escalate and our nation goes through an election, it is all for a reason.

While I have traveled less in 2020 than any other year since being with the NFSA, I have communicated with more members of the NFSA than ever before. Yes, it isn't the communications we would have selected as our preference in 2019, but it is efficient and effective.

2019 ended as a record year for the fire sprinkler industry, the highest number of fire sprinklers ever shipped in the United States and the first time residential fire sprinkler shipments reached 25% of the total. Our Manufacturers Council has met every month since our June 2020 Board meeting to keep an eye on the health of our industry and your team at NFSA has completed all the projects we said we would complete in 2020 and then some.

NFSA was fortunate enough to have worked over the past three years to bring about the tools that allow us to maintain communications with a diverse workforce spread out across the country, as over half our staff works in the field. We worked through every Executive Order issued in the country during the onset of this pandemic and we continue to work on behalf of this great industry to promote it. We reached more television viewers with live side-by-side burn demonstration units and we reached greater audiences than ever before during National Fire Prevention Week because of our live satellite media tour and Facebook Live events. We have also worked with our partner fire service organizations across the country to promote the tax incentives included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and the CARES Act of 2020 for the retrofit of fire sprinklers in small business and large corporations across the country.

We completed our first virtual Annual Business and Leadership Conference not long after the pandemic impacted the United States. We will have our 2nd Virtual Conference December 1-3, 2020, and we are planning on our North American Fire Sprinkler Expo for May 12-14, 2021. Our plans are to make these events as valuable for the fire sprinkler industry as possible utilizing new methodologies in service to our members.

I wish I could say 2021 looked positive for the fire sprinkler industry, but I believe we all know there must be a downturn. NFSA is predicting a 20% reduction in revenue in 2021, but we managed through 2020 with a Recession Plan that was beneficial to NFSA and our members. Thanks to the amazing team at NFSA, the guidance of our Executive and Finance Committee, and the full support of our Board of Directors, we will increase our projects and programs in 2021 with less budget because of the utilization of our talents, tools, and technology. However, we can't do that without the support of our existing membership base.

These are times when we need member involvement and support more than ever. We will continue to promote, maintain, and defend the valuable work of this industry, but we do that much more successfully as



“2019 ended as a record year for the fire sprinkler industry, the highest number of fire sprinklers ever shipped in the United States and the first time residential fire sprinkler shipments reached 25% of the total. Our Manufacturers Council has met every month since our June 2020 Board meeting to keep an eye on the health of our industry and your team at NFSA has completed all the projects we said we would complete in 2020 and then some.”

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From the President's Desk

Shane Ray

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a team. It has been great to work with the USA Fire Sprinkler Fitters through the pandemic to continue to promote the industry. It's also great to see the AFSA bring a committed fire sprinkler industry leader like Bob Caputo on as their president, congratulations Bob, and great leadership from Ted Wills as their Chair of the Board.

While we have all experienced changes in our associations, companies, organizations, and our lives, never forget that we are involved in an industry with a pure mission that saves lives, protects properties, reduces tax burdens, saves the environment, and on and on. As the pandemic continues and civil unrest occurs, fire sprinklers continue to save lives and property every day.

Please reach out to me, please go to our website and make sure your membership information is up-to-date, and please stay well, stay safe, and stay committed to this great industry. By sticking together, we will not only survive the chaos of this pandemic, we will emerge on the other side and be able to thrive!

Stay safe,



Shane Ray, President

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If a Tree Falls in a Forest...

After reading Vice Chairman Jim Boulangers recent *From the Chair* article in September/October's 3rd Annual Member Takeover issue, I found myself asking the question "Who here regularly reads the Chairman's National Fire Sprinkler Magazine Article each month?" Surprisingly, I've surmised that there are many less of you hanging on my each and every word than I thought there was. Hence, I find myself thinking of the famous George Berkeley philosophical question "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"

George Berkeley had a couple of other good ones as well. "Few men think; yet we all have opinions" and "We ought to think with the learned and speak with the vulgar" are a couple that I find fit in my wheelhouse. Feel free to google George and I'd guess there are more that you may enjoy.

So back to the tree falling question people. I know every 60 days or so Vickie Pritchett reminds President Ray and myself that it is time for us to string together some coherent words for your reading enjoyment for the upcoming edition of *National Fire Sprinkler Magazine*. Sometimes the words flow freely and easily and other times I spend a reasonable amount of time trying to come up with something our members might enjoy or find interesting. Yes, I even once included my mother's (now) famous cheesecake recipe in a *Member Takeover Edition* that I know was worth the paper it was printed on. So here I sit in reflective thought, asking myself what it is I/we can do to share these creative nuggets of gold with more of our members? I almost talked myself into publishing my personal



cell phone number here just to see if any of you would actually pick up the phone and dial it. I thought better of it however realizing that someone (like an Aaron Bennett for example) would probably give it to his staff and have them punish my good deed by calling and hanging up on me at all hours of the evening (and they are on the West Coast).

So please, if you happen to stumble on this article and can offer a suggestion that will have you coming back to read the next edition, please share it (kmezaros@

qrfpss.com). I'm serving my second term as Board Chair, I still have at least a half dozen more of these articles to write!

I, like many of you I'm sure, am starting to grow tired of COVID-19 and all it has thrown at us this year. I'm thankful as of the time of this writing to have personally remained healthy and can offer the same comment regarding my family and staff. I hope all of you can say the same. From a business standpoint, 2020 has proven to be incredibly challenging. Luckily, our industry, while impacted, has not been devastated in the way the food & dining, entertainment, airline, and other personal service industries have been. The economic pain suffered by those industries and the people employed within them could take years to recover, and some may never recover fully without significant changes being made within them. I know the United States of America is made up of a resilient group of people, and I truly expect as a country to come out of this all stronger than we were when we went in. I do unfortunately expect the journey to be somewhat painful however, and cross my fingers that while you are reading this there is positive news regarding vaccines and therapeutics assisting us on to the proper course for a speedy recovery.

Preparing a NFSA Budget Plan for 2021 was also a significant challenge this year. In the past we could add 3-5% to the previous year's numbers and feel confident we would not be too far off. Dealing with the ramifications of COVID-19, a presidential election within a political environment unlike anything seen within recent years, and a worldwide economic slowdown, we had no choice but to try and take a peek into a crystal ball and come up with something that made some sense. I'm sure many of you have been forced to do the same with your own businesses. Hopefully, 2021 will prove to be better than we conservatively predicted, and our industry (and all of us in it) will remain healthy and strong. I encourage you to keep up with the good fight. Remember that you are out there saving lives as well as property, while putting food on the table for many thousands of people working within our industry. I do so look forward to seeing you all, sharing a cocktail together, as well as a warm embrace in the near future.

Thank you to all NFSA members for your support and the opportunity to continue to serve.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent Mezaros', written in a cursive style.

Kent Mezaros, Chairman

You can reach me at:
kmezaros@qrfpss.com
kent@quickresponsefireprotection.com

Understanding the Long-Term Benefits of Proper OSHA Training

by Michael DeSafey

What is OSHA?

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) was created in the 1970s in response to the Occupational Safety and Health Act to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for men and women by setting and enforcing standards, as well as providing proper training and education. Every job has its own set of OSHA regulations that employers must meet to ensure the health and safety of their employees. On top of that, each job has its own specialized OSHA training which all employers are required to have their employees partake in and regularly refresh on. OSHA representatives provide regular audits at companies to ensure employers are keeping work environments safe for their employees and that employees are continuing to use safe practices when performing their duties.



What is the benefit?

All employers are required to ensure their employees are trained in OSHA certified safety measures. Each industry has its own set of training guidelines.

Proper OSHA training is the keystone to an accident free work environment. For the employer, they benefit by meeting the national requirements and by having fewer work-related accidents. Fewer work-related accidents means higher productivity and less lost time for people having to take time off from work to recover or investigations related to the mechanism of injury. Having well trained, safe employees will always pay off in the grand scheme. Ensuring all employees are properly trained and all equipment is OSHA certified and in working order greatly benefits the productivity of employers. Regular equipment inspections and OSHA re-certification instills a feeling of security in all parties involved.

For employees, avoiding accidents is the best way to avoid unintentional time away from work. Remembering safety training in all aspects of work enables employees to work in and maintain a safe environment. Following OSHA guidelines greatly reduces the chance of on the job accidents. Being a safe, productive employee should be on the top of everyone's list.

Do not ignore damaged equipment. If you see something, say something, and if it has been awhile since your last OSHA re-certification, speak up. These statements ring especially true in the career pathways of construction, engineering, and environmental services. Serious injury and even death can occur if you do not adhere to OSHA guidelines at any of these jobs. A construction worker's failure to regularly inspect his machinery and tools can cost him his life. An engineer who does not properly lock out a machine before climbing in to inspect it can be accidentally maimed or crushed. Taking the time to perform all tasks safely is worth your time, every time. Following through will lead to a satisfying career in a safe, healthy environment for all.

To learn more about Michael DeSafey or to follow his blog please visit <http://www.michaeldesafey.com>.

Article Source: https://EzineArticles.com/expert/Michael_M_DeSafey/1832732

Tips for Project Risk Management Success

By Adrian Wlas

The benefits of risk management are vast, yet for many projects this is an area still commonly overlooked. By applying simple and consistent risk management techniques we can easily minimize the impact of potential threats, as well as leverage potential opportunities. This not only ensures meeting the agreed scope, cost and time, but also improves the overall health and efficiency of the project operation, team members and wider stakeholders. This article comes back to the basics on the key rules of managing risk, to ensure your projects are consistently delivered with full success.

TIP #1 – Implement a solid identification process

Sounds simple right? However, there are still many projects today that are managed with absolutely no formal risk identification incorporated. Then there are others that think they are using risk

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management appropriately but are not applying the correct techniques to identify risks. The identification process will depend on the project, the organization and the company culture involved. It is best to consider those areas when determining the most effective approach. This could be as simple as educating the team on what a risk actually is and asking them periodically to review the landscape for new risks.

TIP #2 – Be positive

Risk management includes identifying and managing both negative risks and positive ones, yet most projects typically seem to focus only on the negative ones. Ensure to add clear reminders and pointers within your risk management process to consider positive risks. A deliverable being delivered well before its due date can be a good thing, but also can have unforeseen impacts on other areas or leave the project operating inefficiently. On the other hand, such a positive risk can help to balance out the impact of negative risks in other areas.

TIP #3 – Prioritize for efficiency

All risks are not equal and there is always limitations around how much resource can be applied to mitigate them. It is essential to classify risks in terms of 'probability' or how likely the risk is to occur, and 'impact' level if the risk materializes into an issue. By doing so will allow the project manager and all team members to easily see which risks to focus on. Use of a risk register template is a very effective means of doing so. Most organizations would have a standard template for this. If not, there are many that can be found online.

TIP #4 – Apply correct ownership

It is often common for people within the project organization to assume that the project manager owns all risks, but this is false. Risks can affect wide areas of the wider stakeholder group and it is typical that resources with the relevant knowledge or skills in that area are much better placed to become the owner of the risk and to carry out the appropriate mitigation actions.

TIP #5 – Communicate and track to closure

With correct identification, classification, and owner allocation in place we need to be careful as project managers that this is not considered to be the final step in the process of risk management. At this stage it is critical that the risks are correctly communicated. First to the owner assigned to manage the mitigation actions and second to the wider stakeholder group affected so they are aware of the risk and potential impact to their respective areas. It is also then essential that the risks are regularly monitored and tracked through to closure regarding progress on mitigation actions and potentially changes to the impact / probability classifications as those actions come to fruition.

Summary

By following the above tips, project managers will be well placed to be in a position of control in relation to the management of risks for their projects and ultimately this will ensure a sound foundation for the successful delivery of their work.

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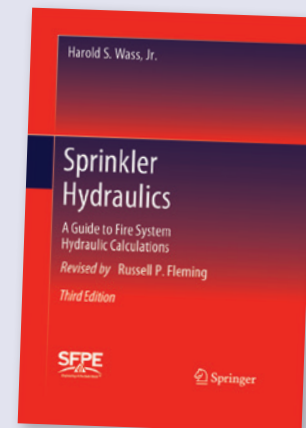
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Should Sprinklers That Are Older Than Me Be Replaced in Light Hazard Occupancies?

by Michael J. Joanis, PE



Having recently turned 50, I couldn't help but wonder if old sprinklers like me are appropriate for continued use in certain occupancies. Like older sprinklers, I am still in relatively good shape and ace my physical each year. However, I am much slower than I was in my 20s.

NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection*

Systems, 2020 edition, section 5.3.1, provides the requirements for replacing or testing existing standard response sprinklers that are over 50. A sample of sprinklers shall be submitted to a recognized testing laboratory for field service testing. The sample size shall be a minimum of four or one percent, whichever is greater. Annex A recommends the Response Time Index (RTI) for existing standard response sprinklers should not exceed 350 (meters-seconds)^{1/2}. Section 5.3.1.3 goes on to state that where one sprinkler in a sample fails, all sprinklers in the area represented by the sample shall be replaced.

RTI is a measure of thermal responsiveness based on several variables including operating time, operating temperature, air temperature in the test oven, and the conductivity factor of the sprinkler. The procedure for the test is commonly referred to as the plunge test. The sprinkler is placed into the testing equipment and exposed to a controller airflow with a temperature higher than the sprinkler's operating temperature. The time for the sprinkler to activate is recorded.

Prior to the 1960s, the fire protection requirements found in most buildings were predominantly passive systems focused on using fire-rated assemblies to limit the spread of fire. Sprinkler installations were typically driven by insurance company requirements for property protection. In 1973, America Burning focused on improving building and fire codes to include sprinkler protection for high-rise buildings, assembly occupancies, and nursing homes. The 1970s also started the concept of trade ups that allowed for a reduction in fire-rated passive material when active fire sprinkler protection was provided. Installing sprinkler systems for reasons other than property protection has continued to expand over the years.

In the 1980s, recognizing the life safety value of sprinklers, fast response sprinklers were developed. Fast response sprinklers include residential, quick response, and ESFR with an RTI less

than 50 (meters-seconds)^{1/2}. These sprinklers are designed with a thermal sensitivity that allows faster operation than a standard response sprinkler when used in a similar fire scenario. This reduced operating time produces additional life safety benefits. For over 20 years, NFPA 13 has required fast-response sprinklers in light-hazard occupancies. Light hazard occupancies that include life safety concerns are churches, clubs, educational, hospitals, institutional, nursing homes, residential, restaurants, and theaters. Fast response sprinklers account for approximately 70% of the sprinklers installed today.

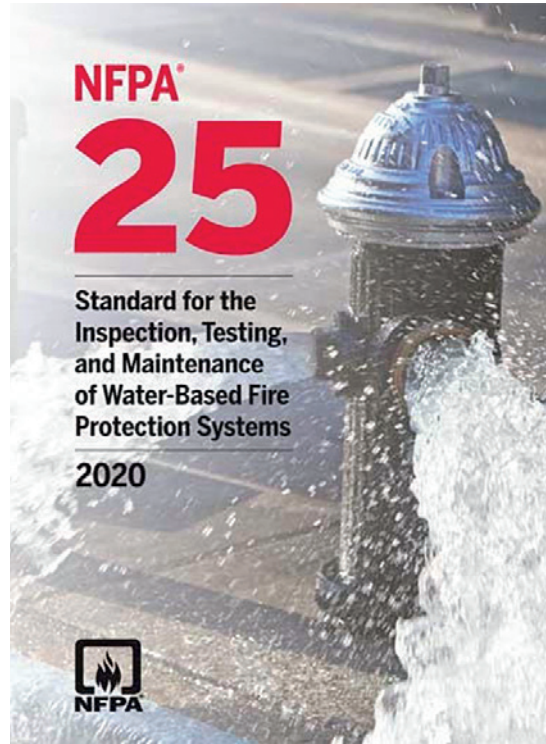
Taking a closer look at the response time of standard response sprinklers meeting the minimum requirements of NFPA 25 compared to those of present-day fast response sprinklers, we utilized the NIST DETACT-T2 program for calculating actuation time of fixed temperature thermal devices. The program assumes that only the fire's ceiling flow heats the device and there is no heating from the accumulated hot gases in the room. The variables include ceiling height, sprinkler spacing, rated temperature, RTI, heat release rate, and a fire which grows as the square of time. The table below represents several scenarios:

Fire Growth Rate	(W/s ²)	Ceiling Height (m)	Sprinkler Spacing (m)	Response Time (seconds) with RTI of 50 (m-s) ^{0.5}	Response Time (seconds) with RTI of 350 (m-s) ^{0.5}
Slow	2.93	2.4	2.4	272	411
Slow	2.93	3	3.7	420	544
Slow	2.93	3.7	4.9	491	672
Medium	11.77	2.4	2.4	164	261
Medium	11.77	3	3.7	223	343
Medium	11.77	3.7	4.9	282	420
Fast 46.9	46.9	2.4	2.4	103	169
Fast	46.9	3	3.7	137	221
Fast	46.9	3.7	4.9	171	268
Ultra-Fast 187.6	187.6	2.4	2.4	67	110
Ultra-Fast	187.6	3	3.7	88	144
Ultra-Fast	187.6	3.7	4.9	108	174
Average	62.3	3.05	3.67	124	201

Constant ambient temp of 21.1C (70F) and activation temperature of 68.3C (155F)

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Pictures: (from the left) 1969 Cover of NFPA 13, cover of NFPA 25 and old sprinkler.

The response time of standard response sprinklers meeting the NFPA 25 requirement for continued service after fifty years when compared to fast response sprinklers shows a 30-64% increased response time of 43-181 seconds, depending on the variables evaluated.

In light hazard occupancies, this increased sprinkler response time can cause life safety concerns. An example might be a resident of a 1970's nursing home waiting an additional 43-181 seconds for sprinkler activation. Simply watching an NFSA burn trailer demonstration or the Nest video of the fire in a Colorado living room <http://bit.ly/nfsmtech> will show that delayed sprinkler activation can put occupants at risk.

With the Gen X of sprinklers reaching 50 like me, we owe it to the occupants of older light hazard occupancies to research and determine if changes to the standard are required. •

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continued on page 14

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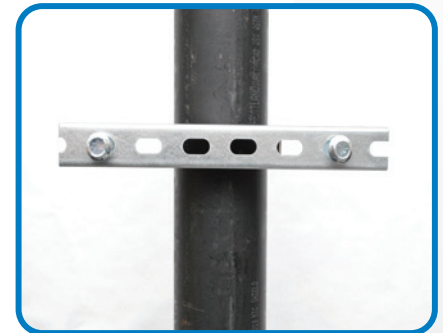
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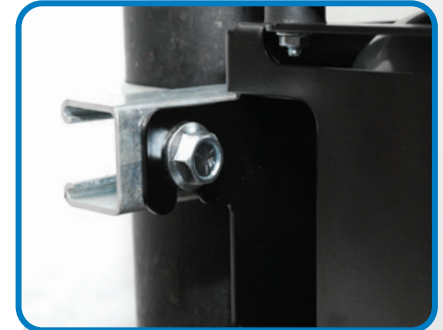


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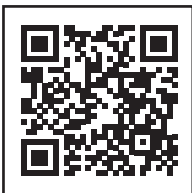


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2021 IBC Reduces NFPA 13R to Three-Stories

by Jeffrey M. Hugo, CBO, Vice President of Codes and Public Fire Protection



The 2021 *International Building Code* (IBC) has a major change for buildings protected by NFPA 13R that will change how multi-family residential buildings are proposed, bid, and designed. Developers, fire sprinkler contractors, code officials, and plan reviewers who reflexively equate a four-story residential building (standalone or on a podium) to NFPA 13R will need to take note that the 2021 IBC severely restricts using NFPA 13R systems at this height.

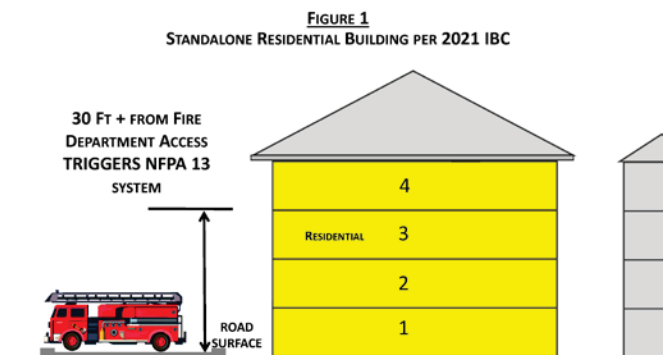
History of NFPA 13R for Multi-family Residential

In 1989, the first edition of NFPA 13R, the *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height*, is published as a standard that mitigates the criteria and protection of NFPA 13 for all occupancies and increases the criteria from NFPA 13D for dwellings. Model codes, such as the 1990 BOCA code, immediately referenced NFPA 13R and allowed it as an alternative to NFPA 13, where sprinklers are installed for residential buildings up to four stories in height. In 2003, the International Building Code (IBC) mandated sprinklers for all multi-family residential buildings and NFPA 13R becomes the norm as the standard for residential buildings up to four-stories.

During this same period, the IBC starts to permit podium or pedestal style buildings that allows a four-story residential building on top of a 3-hour horizontal assembly protected by a NFPA 13R system. This construction style rapidly evolves in codes, architectural design, and application in communities all over the US, leading to massive developments that provide mixed-use communities, but this resulted in an increased number of fires in unprotected combustible spaces. In an attempt to address concerns that NFPA 13R is not the standard it was meant to be, NFPA held the Life Safety Sprinkler System Challenge Workshop in December of 2015 that initiated some changes to the 2018 IBC for unprotected attics. Large multi-family fires, many occurring during construction, and many on podium or pedestals, continue the drive towards the change to the 2021 IBC.

Say again – NFPA 13R is limited to 3-stories? When?

The text for the 2021 IBC, Section 903.3.1.2 that allows NFPA 13R to be used for residential multi-family is below. The charging sentence remains as in previous editions and the technical change is in the three conditions that all must apply for the application of



NFPA 13R. The first condition for four stories or less is measured to the grade plane. This measurement is not new, but the text is rearranged to provide the three-item list. Understand that grade plane is an average of all of the grade points adjoining the building, indicated as an imaginary horizontal or parallel line with the floors of the building. On sloping lots, the grade plane can often be several feet above the lowest grade.

The second and third condition is new to this section, but it originates from and correlates to the requirement for standpipes. IBC Section 905.4 requires Class III standpipes, regardless of the occupancy, based on the number of stories and the vertical distance that actual fire operations are staged from. According to the IBC Commentary, the 30 feet vertical distance is, “the maximum height which a typical fire department engine company can practically and readily extend its hose lines...is based on the time it would take a typical fire department engine (pumper) company to manually suppress a fire.”

903.3.1.2 NFPA 13R sprinkler systems. *Automatic sprinkler systems* in Group R occupancies shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13R where the Group R occupancy meets all of the following conditions:

1. Four stories or less above grade plane.
2. The floor level of the highest story is 30 feet or less above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
3. The floor level of the lowest story is 30 feet or less above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access

The 2021 changes above not only affect multi-family buildings on podiums, but also standalone residential apartment, condo,

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and motel buildings. NFSA's research on this issue confirms that the floor level of the fourth floor of most residential buildings is over 30 feet in height from the lowest level of access. This means - unless the architect adjusts the floor-to-floor construction heights or manipulates the adjoining grade plane - this change will limit NFPA 13R to three-story buildings. **For fire sprinkler contractors, if the residential building requires a standpipe due to height, a NFPA 13 system is required.**

Change in Bidding for 2021

This is a big change for the fire sprinkler and multi-family industry. The NFPA 13R standard played a huge part to justify the increase in life safety and property protection for multi-family developers, occupants, and communities. The voting governmental membership of the ICC considered and accepted that NFPA 13R provided the path to get multi-family buildings sprinklered, and the increased costs are now justified for using NFPA 13 systems with NFPA 14 standpipe systems at four stories.

Going forward, when fire sprinkler contractors bid on these projects, it is important to note what edition of the building code is being enforced. Starting around winter/spring of 2021, jurisdictions will start to review and adopt the 2021 edition of the IBC. This adoption can possibly have an immediate effect on pricing for the 2021 construction season. Sprinkler contractors need to be aware of the differences between NFPA 13R and NFPA 13 and the increasing installation costs for fire pumps, dry systems in attics, and sprinklers in concealed spaces. •

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Leaning on our “Partners in Progress” During a Worldwide Pandemic



by Vickie Pritchett, **Director of Outreach & Government Relations**

As leaders, we all have choices to make as we migrate our way through this worldwide pandemic. How do we stay proactive? How do we continue pushing hard and leveraging our resources to be on the offense when it comes to life-safety and our role in sharing information about fire sprinklers and their life-saving capabilities? Oh, and how do you do this while the world remains in somewhat a state of lock down?

I am so happy to share that the National Fire Sprinkler Association has been able to maintain an “out front” presence in the fire sprinkler industry for several reasons. First of all, we were prepared, thanks to our team and a Board of Directors who had supported our positioning ourselves within the technology arena. We had already transitioned to Microsoft Teams prior to the pandemic, and this fact alone allowed us to not waste time wondering what to do!

Secondly, we have wonderful partners who are ready to jump in with us and take education and promotion to the next level! Common Voices quickly accepted our outreach regarding a Satellite Media Tour for Fire Prevention Week, and this partnership shined bright as we reached over 30 markets in one day on Monday, October 5, 2020. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation joined us, and we were able to share the powerful combination that happens when you bring advocates together with fire sprinkler industry experts to talk about the dangers posed by fire, and the solution offered by fire sprinklers. You can find all the stories shared at www.fireadvocates.org and also on www.nfsa.org and we are grateful to everyone who supports our cause that enabled us to say yes to this event!

Watching news anchors across the nation have the “aha” regarding fire safety and the role that fire sprinklers can play in keeping Americans safe is rewarding. We believe that using these “teachable moments” is making a difference and that we are changing the expectations and perceptions that people have about our life-saving technology.

So, what does the future hold? None of us know for sure, but the one thing we do know is that fires will continue to happen. New advocates will be born as a result of tragic events occurring across our country. The positive that I can share with you is that we are prepared; prepared to assist them in their journey, and help them find their voice that brings the issue to life. As I have listened to their stories, I am always touched...and reminded of the important role that NFSA plays in the process. NFSA is here to provide a team of professionals who know the business of life safety. A team that is passionate about the cause, and a team that is ready and willing to work!

As we head into the holiday season, my hope is that you, your family and your business are safe and have found a new normal that continues your service to keeping people safe. Please know that we are here to help – whether you need customized information to promote fire sprinkler incentives, or real advocates who can share their stories of personal loss, highlighting the importance of fire sprinklers. Advocacy is a key part of all that we do, and it’s an honor to serve in this capacity.

Till next time, stay safe, and may 2021 bring a calm to the chaos, and a vaccine to the COVID-19 virus.
May your holiday season be full of all that matters most,

Vickie

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In addition to membership in NFSA, we are members of NFPA, SFPE, Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, IFPA, SprinklerNet and NFIB. We participate in the Illinois and Wisconsin Chapters of NFSA, and the Chicago Chapter of the SFPE.

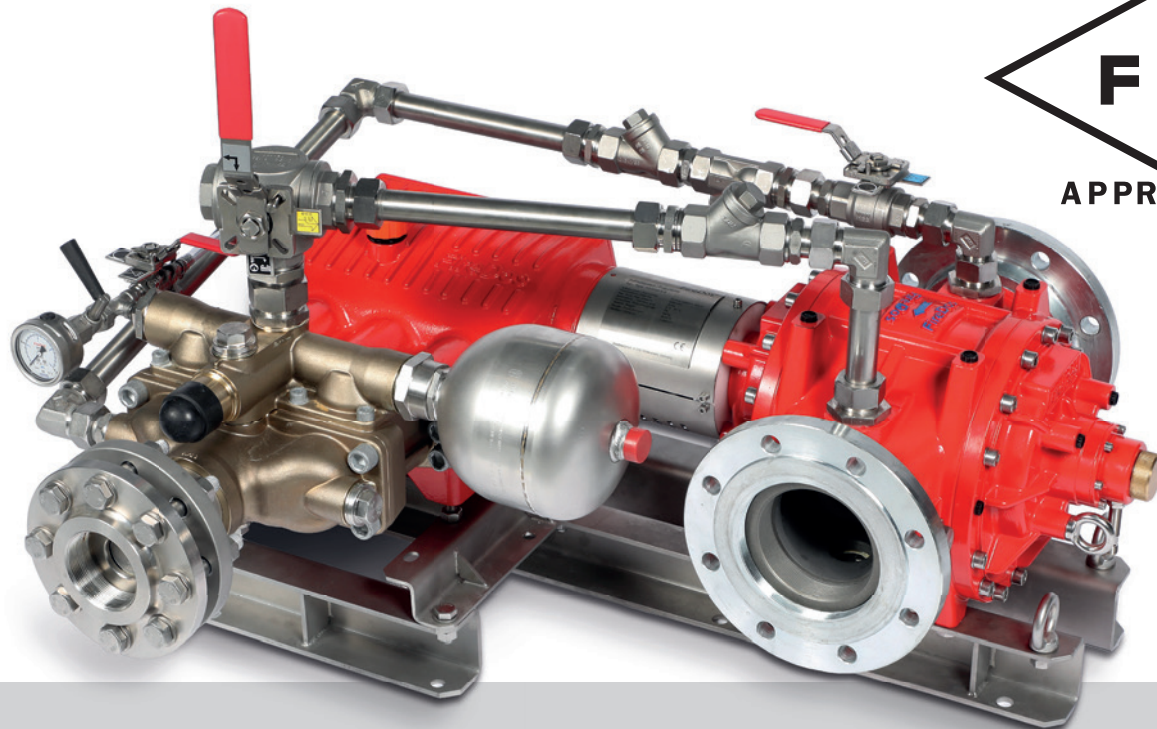
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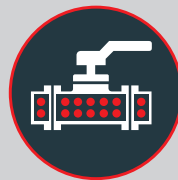
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FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ACTION

Fire Sprinkler System Saves Florida Retail Establishment, Opens for Business Next Day!

Thanks to Joey Hatfield of Triserve Fire Protection in Ft. Myers, FL for sending us this sprinkler save!

These are photos from a sprinkler activation during the early morning of September 23rd. The incident occurred around 5:00 a.m. in a vapor store in Cape Coral, Florida. The tenant described a fireball of unknown origin that sent a blast of flame and heat across the ceiling. Three sprinklers activated.

The fire was out by the time that the Cape Coral Fire Department arrived. The fire crew used Sprinkler Stops to stop the flow of water from the sprinklers. Damage is minimal. All floors were either tile or linoleum. Some contents had water damage, which was minimal. The adjacent tenant space was vacant. Water intrusion there was removed without incident or cost.

Business was slated to reopen the following day, after a follow-up fire inspection.



Single Sprinkler Contains Fire at The Citadel

Thank you to David W. S. Blackwell II, P.E., Office of School Facilities, South Carolina Department of Education and Nathan Ellis, South Carolina Assistant State Fire Marshal, for bringing this sprinkler save to our attention!

On August 23, a fire broke out at Charleston, South Carolina's The Citadel in a cooling unit in a barrack that houses approximately 600 cadets. The unit was in a third floor IT room.

The emergency systems performed as they should, with the alarm sounding. Cadets evacuating safely. According to Assistant State Fire Marshal Nathan Ellis, a single fire sprinkler in the IT room activated, containing the fire to that room.

General services such as water and electricity were quickly restored, and damage was described as minimal.



Single Fire Sprinkler Extinguishes Kitchen Fire on 20th Floor of Illinois High-Rise

Thanks to Local 281 Sprinkler Fitter Tim Bartell for sending us this sprinkler save!

A single concealed fire sprinkler extinguished a kitchen fire in a 20th floor unit of the Emerson high-



continued from page 20

rise apartment building in Oak Park, Illinois. It is believed that the cause of the fire was a box of food left on the stovetop; a dog jumped up to investigate the food and somehow started the stovetop. The building was back in service that night. All residents and firefighters safe!

Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Texas Apartment Fire

Thank you to Addison, Texas Fire Chief Fred Calhoun for sending in this sprinkler save!

Our crews responded to a reported automatic alarm and after investigation found water and smoke in an individual apartment. The occupant was asleep and not responsive and did not awake to either the smoke alarms or water activation of the one sprinkler head. He woke up after crews made entry into his apartment and he was escorted down stairs with no injury. The building value is around 45 Million. That is the 4th sprinkler save we have had in the last six months in Addison.



Single Sprinkler Extinguishes Texas Apartment Fire

Thanks to Tim Dedear of the Farmers Branch, Texas Fire Department for sending us this sprinkler save!

On September 17, 2020 at 11:09 a.m., the Farmers Branch Fire Department was dispatched for a structure fire. Crews arrived on scene with nothing showing and began an investigation. No audibles or strobes were activating. A fire alarm technician approached the crew and advised that the fire alarm system was being worked on, but a fire occurred in an apartment with one fire sprinkler activating. Upon arrival to the apartment, the door was closed. Resident was in the hallway. Upon entering the apartment, light smoke was observed, and one sprinkler had activated in a bedroom. The fire had been extinguished. Sprinkler system and fire pump were turned off. Crews requested an investigator. Investigation determined the fire started along a baseboard by a dresser where a laundry basket of clothes was placed. The cause of the fire is undetermined at the time of this report. Estimated loss was held to \$15,000.

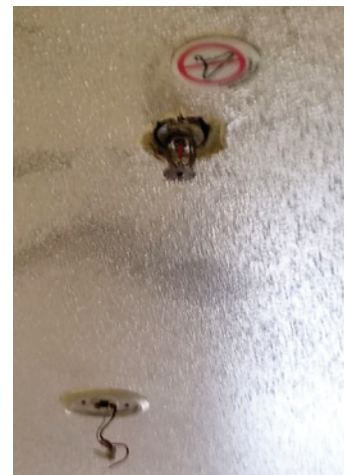


Single Sprinkler Save at Missouri Motel

Thanks to Deputy Fire Marshal Dale Harbison of the Hazelwood, Missouri Fire Department for reporting this sprinkler save!

We had a small kitchen fire in a guest room at one of our motels. When my crews arrived, the fire was out, and one fire sprinkler was activated. The fire appeared to start on top of the electric stove. The motel guest stated that he was not cooking

continued on page 21



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Fire Sprinklers Save Lives!

Fire Sprinklers in Action

continued from page 21



anything, he left his room to walk to the convenience store and when he got back the fire alarm was going off and the motel was being evacuated. When he opened his room door, smoke came out and he said water was spraying. Definitely another case where a sprinkler system prevented a major fire!

Fire Sprinkler System Extinguishes Possible Catastrophic Fire in Connecticut Apartment Building

Thank you to Inspector Christopher Vega of the Bridgeport, CT Fire Marshal Division for giving us the details of this sprinkler save!

A fire occurred in a ground level two-bedroom unit of a multi-family apartment building. Within minutes, our incident commander and fire companies arrived, entry was made and the discovery of visible fire at the stove/countertop area was present, as well as a heavy smoke condition, all with sprinkler activation and the audible water flow alarm on the exterior. Fire was fully extinguished by the fire sprinkler system during the operation.

Post-fire investigation showed there was a full two-gallon gasoline container without the spout attached sitting in place next to the stove. Fire is under investigation.

Without the aid of the sprinkler system, this could have been a very catastrophic incident provided the presence of ignition and an accelerant. •



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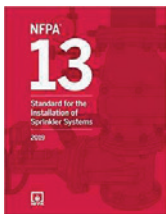
Wide-Spread Acceptance of Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance

by Vince Powers, *NFSA's ITM Specialist*



In the late 1980s, Prince George’s County, Maryland was one the first jurisdictions in the nation to mandate county-wide fire sprinkler installation. In many jurisdictions around the country, sprinklers are required to be installed as well. The issue is, after they are installed; why are they not maintained at proper intervals?

Some claim that building owners have not accepted the fact that they have systems that they may not want. However, it is more likely that the building owners are not aware of what their responsibilities are as building owners when it comes to NFPA 25 requirements. It is likely that they are unaware that NFPA 25 the *Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems* contains the requirements for properly maintaining their water-based fire protection systems. NFPA 25 provides the minimum requirements for properly maintaining their sprinkler systems, the key word here is minimum. This is where communication can be crucial. The installing contractor is required to provide a copy of NFPA 25 to the building owner and in some cases training on the newly installed fire protection system, unfortunately it is rare that the owner receives these requirements and not always because the contractor is not willing to supply it, but sometimes because it falls through the cracks when new building is being finalized.



28.4 Instructions. The installing contractor shall provide the property owner or the property owner’s authorized representative with the following:

- (1) All literature and instructions provided by the manufacturer describing proper operation and maintenance of any equipment and devices installed
- (2) * NFPA 25

A.28.4(2) A copy of NFPA 25 is not required for system alteration or additions.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association’s mission is “The widespread acceptance of the Fire Sprinkler Concept”. This is not only for installation of both commercial and residential sprinklers throughout the country but also includes other aspects of the industry such as, inspection, testing, and maintenance

(ITM) as well as service and repair of fire sprinkler systems. The sole responsibility for ensuring that the tasks within NFPA 25 are completed are that of the building owner.



NFPA25 4.1.1* Responsibility for Inspection, Testing, Maintenance, and Impairment. The property owner or designated representative shall be responsible for properly maintaining a water-based fire protection system.

However, it is the responsibility of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to enforce or ensure the building owner is completing the tasks required by NFPA 25. The international Fire Code, NFPA 1 Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code require all water-based fire protection system be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.



NFPA 1, Fire Code

13.3.3.2 A sprinkler system installed in accordance with this Code shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.

International Fire Code (IFC)

901.6.1 Standards. Fire protection systems shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the referenced standards listed in table 901.6.1

Often the parties involved in all aspects of fire protection do not communicate well and are sometimes unaware of their full roles as well as the roles of the other parties. With today’s technology this should be easier but does not seem to happen. Sprinkler systems are more than 95 percent reliable when properly installed and maintained. If everyone knew how reliable sprinkler systems are at saving lives and property, then they might be more receptive to the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept. This can only be accomplished through training and proper knowledge of these systems as well as the responsibility of each stakeholder. •

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A Passion for Prevention

by Elizabeth LaFond Coppez, *as published in The Republican of Springfield, MA*

Fire Prevention Week is October 4 to 10, 2020 with the theme "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" Writer Elizabeth LaFond Coppez shares her perspective in celebration of fire safety.

His voice was steady and calm, with a hint of devastation and exhaustion. In his eyes I saw defeat. "Be sure to count the doors to your exit. If there's a fire, you won't see. It will be dark and smoky."

"Ok dad, I will."

It's August 30, 1999. My parents are moving me into my freshman dormitory at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts.

My dad is Fire Chief of the Holyoke Fire Department in Holyoke, Massachusetts. An epic firestorm took hold of one of Holyoke's historic churches, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, the night before.

He was up all-night fighting fire, and simultaneously trying to save lives and property.

Twenty-six buildings were on fire. Eleven of those were totally destroyed.

Firefighters saved many sacred, holy relics in the church, but all structures were lost. Luckily, no one perished in that blaze. Two children playing with matches caused that ultimate loss.

Hugs and goodbyes are shared after my parents help me with the last of my belongings. But before I begin my college journey, I count four doors to my exit.

Living the life as a firefighter's daughter is a unique one. My sister and I recall the distinct smell of fire on my father's equipment - burnt wood and plastics; appliances and furniture; mixed with cherished, irreplaceable photos, letters, toys and family heirlooms. To me, it was the smell of lost tangible memories and shelter.

My dad, David A. LaFond, served the Holyoke Fire Department for 31 years. Fifteen of those years were spent as Chief. He retired, but he never stopped working in the fire service field.

He stepped in to lead the Chelsea, Massachusetts Fire Department for a brief time, and then became the Regional Manager of New England for the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

As a teen, I would say prayers in my bed to keep my father safe from harm. How did my mom handle it? Today, I say prayers in my bed to help my husband and I to get our two children out of our house safely in the event of fire.

My dad has taught me to be prepared, instead of afraid. We have our fire escape plan, and we were put to the test on a few occasions when our fire alarm system unexpectedly sounded in the middle of the night.

My seven-year-old daughter does not wake during these events, which is so distressing. She needs us to get her out safely. My four-year-old is a lighter sleeper, as he wakes immediately.

Someday, I would love to have fire sprinklers installed in our home. Knowing that fire's ultimate enemy is ready to attack in the event of fire would put my worries to rest.

Although we live in a world that offers the ultimate comforts, advancements and technology, the unthinkable and unexplainable still happens.

Yes, I always unplug appliances not being used, look for the exits no matter where I go, and place my shoes at my bedside "just in case."

My dad is now a consultant for the National Fire Sprinkler Association, continuing his mission in fire prevention. He may work a little less, but his heart remains where his passion lies. He always says, "if it's predictable, it's preventable."

I will always live my life with more awareness for the unknown and teach my children the same.

My son, Joseph, has somehow acquired a vast collection of toy fire trucks, and softly sings "weee-oooo, wee-oooo," while playing. Perhaps he will follow in his "Papa's" footsteps, but if he does not, he will have a special awareness for safety. Because after all, the past has a hold on us we cannot ignore. •



NFSA Training -Bringing the Classroom to you!

by Holly Garvey, *NFSA Training Coordinator*

In a time when we are all getting used to the new “normal” of digital events, online meetings and online learning, NFSA wants to keep you connected in the classroom. Online training is a great option and NFSA has one of the largest catalogs of online training taught by leaders in the industry. However, there are some classes and some students that are better suited for an in-class setting. Due to COVID, travel is limited, and class sizes are much smaller, making it difficult to offer in-class training. To meet the needs of our members, NFSA recently launched the concept of a hybrid classroom, combining in-person classroom training with online attendees. A hybrid classroom includes an in-person training with students and an instructor in the same physical classroom with online participants in a digital classroom. Online students see the classroom, instructor, presentation, and other online attendees. This type of training brings online participants into the physical classroom, all from the comfort of their home or office. Interestingly, NFSA has found that online participants are more engaged and interact more with the instructor when there are in-class participants also interacting.

NFSA has already hosted hybrid classes in Portland, Oregon, Bothel, Washington and throughout the state of Florida. You can reach out to your Regional Manager or the NFSA Training Coordinator for more information. •

In addition to the hybrid classes, at the request of our members NFSA kicked off the virtual Layout Technician Training Class in October. The class is being offered live, virtually, over the course of five weeks. Students interact throughout the live virtual sessions, complete homework and participate in group projects...all from their home or office! The kick-off class was so successful, NFSA is working to schedule the next virtual Layout Technician Training class for January 2020. •



NFSA's Manager of Codes and Standards Roland Asp conduct a virtual Tech Training class... because you can't keep a good association down!

Rethinking Training in Time of COVID

by Lorrell Bush, *Florida Regional Manager*

COVID has certainly made us rethink how to deliver quality training and keep everyone safe. We had to examine how we could make sitting in front of a virtual class more like sitting in a class, rather than sitting in front of a computer watching a presenter go through a PowerPoint presentation. How could we have students interact and encourage participation?

Working with NFSA Training we found a way to offer the best of both worlds. We have combined live in-classroom teaching with live virtual training; a live instructor with up to ten students to interact with combined with 15-20 who join us from the virtual world. In Florida, we have already had the opportunity to offer the three-day Inspection, Testing and Maintenance for the Sprinkler

Industry class in Ft. Walton Beach, Orlando, Sanford and coming soon to Clearwater. In those classes we have trained 30 in-person students and 62 virtually. The training afforded in-class and online students the opportunity to ask real-time questions, offer opinions, and provide feedback. Reviews from in class and online were very positive. Those online stated they really felt like they were a part of the class.

The live virtual concept will be offered again soon! If you have members of your team and a training room we can offer this to you, you would only need to pay for the attendees, giving you the benefit of a contract class without the cost, as the cost would be shared with the online students. •

continued from page 26

NFSA Helps Contractor Members Deliver Training Live to Satellite Offices

by Suzanne Mayr, *Northwest Regional Manager*

Performance Systems Integration (PSI), a Portland-based company that delivers fire- and life-safety services throughout Oregon and Washington, has contracted with NFSA over the years to provide training to its employees.

Previously, classes were held in the corporate office training room. Employees from the Seattle area traveled to Portland for the seminars, allowing all personnel to hear and discuss the same information. Discussions during the NFPA 25-related seminars are particularly valuable to service staff members, making NFSA's ITM classes best delivered in an in-class format.

NFSA instructor Brad Cronin delivered the class in Portland to socially-distanced staff in the training room and other offices, while live-streaming the class to the Washington-based employees. Regional Manager Suzanne Mayr helped monitor the questions that came in from the off-site participants, facilitating discussion among all attendees.

"The livestream helped PSI reduce COVID exposure risk to employees while retaining the in-class experience," said Doug Vandecoevering, Service Manager. "We were able to all share the



NFSA instructor Brad Cronin delivers an in-class seminar to staff at NFSA member Performance Systems Integration (PSI) in Portland, Oregon while livestreaming the class to PSI satellite offices.

same information."

If you are interested in setting up training in this format, contact your NFSA Regional Manager. •

NFSA offers a variety of training classes both in person and online training options including live virtual training classes, recorded programs, self-paced interactive or blended learning formats.

NFSA is leading the industry, with training topics such as:

- *NFPA 13, 14, 20 Standard Updates*
- *Sprinkler System Plan Review*
- *Standpipes for Fire Protection*
- *Pumps for Fire Protection*
- *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance*
- *Layout and Design*
- *Advanced Pumps*
- *Advanced Hydraulics*
- *And so much more!*

Don't miss NFSA's ***Technical Tuesdays Live Online Training***. Tech Tuesdays are offered monthly and are FREE to members!

Check out NFSA Training at www.nfsa.org/training

We hope you'll choose to support our Advocates' Coalition as we work to create Fire Safe Homes

Working together, we can create resources to educate those who make the decisions regarding community fire protection.

Our goal is to be a go-to resource for community leaders who need a first-person account of the devastating impact fire can have on a community and a family. We can prevent future tragedies, and we believe that our stories help everyone understand in a way that makes a difference. Visit our website for additional resources and information. Order our Media Kit for a complete package of PSAs, media information, talking points, statistics and actual examples of resources used in communities. Your support is greatly appreciated, and as a non-profit 501(c)3 we are now ready to grow our mission and expand our efforts. We hope you'll support our team as an Advocate, Supporter or Corporate member (details on reverse side, along with form).

 CommonVoices1

 CommonVoices1

fireadvocates.org
Fire Sprinklers Save Lives



Did you see us on Fox & Friends and Good Morning America?



FOX & friends

abc GOOD MORNING AMERICA





The NFSA Mission and NFPA Technical Committees

by Roland Asp, *NFSA Manager of Codes and Standards*

The theme of this issue of the National Fire Sprinkler Magazine (NFSM) is “Sprinkler Acceptance Initiatives and Coalitions (The NFSA Mission)”. This is a far-reaching topic and it is without a doubt that the various sprinkler acceptance initiatives and coalitions are vital in helping to fulfill the NFSA mission:

To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept

As a member of the Codes, Standards, and Public Fire Protection Department (CSPFP) of NFSA, this article will concentrate not on the all-important advocacy efforts of NFSA and our partners, but on the less obvious technical committees that are instrumental in helping to gain the widespread acceptance outlined in our mission statement.

A deeper dive into NFSA’s By-Laws outlines the activities needed to fulfil this mission and the overall purpose of our association:

In fulfilling this mission, it shall be the purpose of the Corporation to promote and enhance the business of manufacturing and installing fire sprinkler systems and fire sprinkler devices, and to foster and promote the recognition of the fire sprinkler industry as a unique identity in itself and to conduct such programs and undertake such projects and services as are in keeping with these objectives.

One such activity highlighted in the by-laws is related to the installation standards that all of us in the industry rely on:

To act on behalf of its members in the promotion of uniform product and installation standards and to improve the art and science of fire protection engineering and to act as a voice for the fire sprinkler industry in the standards making community, both foreign and domestic.

Acting as the “Voice of Sprinkler Industry” is a daunting mandate but one that our association is uniquely qualified for, based upon our diverse membership and what we successfully accomplish year after year. One important way NFSA and our members act as the voice for the sprinkler industry in the standards making community is through participation on NFPA Technical Committees.

NFSA’s by laws also have similar mandates encompassing the building and fire codes, however this article will specifically

concentrate on NFSA’s participation in the NFPA technical committees.

What is a NFPA Technical Committee?

The fire sprinkler industry relies heavily on NFPA codes and standards in order to ensure that fire protection systems are installed correctly and that the performance of these systems meets the intended goal, in this case - the protection of life and property from fire. These standards (there are many of them) are in a constant process of refinement and improvement and this is where the NFPA Technical Committees (TC) come in.

The NFPA Technical Committees are responsible for developing and acting upon proposed changes to specific NFPA standards. As stated by the NFPA:

“An NFPA Technical Committee (TC) serves as the principal consensus body responsible for the development and revision of an NFPA Standard...”

The technical committees will review, debate and act upon all proposed changes to the applicable standards as well as act upon proposals generated from the technical committee themselves. The technical committee members represent a wide range of interested parties and these interests are balanced among the committee so that one category does not hold undue influence. The technical committees typically consist of 30 or less members of mixed backgrounds and experience from the various interest categories. This diverse membership consists of some of the best technical experts in a particular field which ensures that the NFPA standards are always improving and meet the goal of the specific standard. The technical committee is a consensus body because for a concept to be adopted into the standards, the committee must reach a consensus on that concept.

A single technical committee may be responsible for numerous NFPA standards and there are instances where a single NFPA standard may have multiple technical committees. For example, NFPA 13, *The Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems* consists of four technical committees (Installation Criteria, Discharge Criteria, Hanging and Bracing and private water supply piping) and a correlating committee. There is a separate Committee (Residential committee responsible for NFPA 13R,

continued on page 30

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Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies and NFPA 13D, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*. NFSA has representatives on each of these committees.

NFSA's Role in NFPA Technical Committees:

It is within these technical committees that the NFSA has a real impact on the standards and is truly "The Voice of the Sprinkler Industry" in the development of NFPA Codes and Standards.

There are approximately 260 NFPA Technical Committees and NFSA is represented on over 70 of these committees by NFSA staff and members. NFSA is certainly one of the most active organizations involved in NFPA technical committees and it is safe to say that our participation makes a positive impact on this process.

Every one of the technical committees that NFSA is involved in has a direct impact on our industry. We all know that NFPA 13 is the primary installation standard for sprinkler system and NFPA 14 addresses standpipes, however, other less visible codes and standards also impact our industry. NFPA 150, for example, deals with fire- and life-safety in animal housing facilities. Chapter 9 of this document is titled fire protection which includes fire sprinklers and NFSA has representation on this committee.

NFPA states that organization representation is preferred on technical committees because as stated on the NFPA website:

"Organizational applicants have a better chance of getting appointed to a committee since it brings the views of many to the committee rather than one individual or company"

This is an area where NFSA shines. NFSA represents all aspects of the fire sprinkler industry including contractors, sprinkler manufacturers, suppliers, AHJs and more. This diverse membership brings value to the standards development process and ensures the overall voice of the fire sprinkler industry is heard.

To ensure that our work in the NFPA standards is in line with the opinions of our members, NFSA's representation on NFPA Technical Committees is overseen by the Engineering and Standards Committee (E&S). Although NFSA staff does hold seats on these technical committees the majority of NFSA's representation is from NFSA members with the support of our member companies. It is not only NFSA staff that works on this process, but our members as well.

As stated in the NFSA by-laws and as cited in the beginning of this article, one way that NFSA promotes the mission (*To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept*) is by being active in the standards development process. Our association continues to "act as a voice for the fire sprinkler industry in the standards making community" through our participation in the NFPA Technical Committees. •

Additional information on the NFPA Technical Committees and the E&S committee can be viewed on our website:

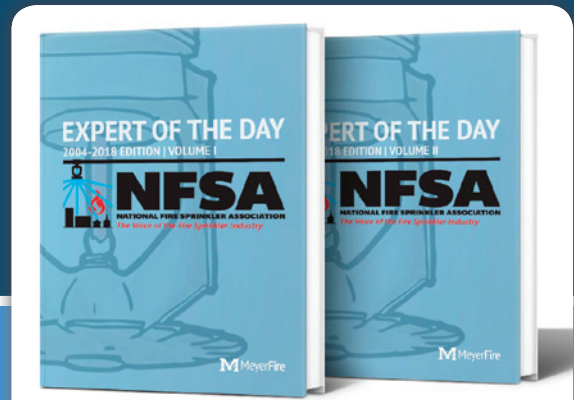
- **NFSM Issue-May/June 2018** An Overview of the NFSA Engineering and Standards Committee
- **NFSM Issue May/June 2017** NFPA Codes and Standards – The revision process and NFSA's Role

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is proud to present our EOD Handbook

The EOD Handbook is a hardcover, bound, two-volume set of over 1,300 pages covering nearly 2,000 questions on over 585 topics that are relevant to automatic fire sprinkler systems, standpipes, water supplies, inspection, testing and maintenance, codes, and standards.

The questions were asked by NFSA members from 2004-2018 and answered by NFSA's subject matter experts through the Expert of the Day (EOD) program and published in a members-only monthly publication called *TechNotes*.

Questions and answers covers every installation standard such as NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D, NFPA 20, inspection, testing, and maintenance standards such as NFPA 25, fire pumps and water supplies in NFPA 20 and NFPA 24, model fire, building, and life safety codes such as the International Building Code (IBC) and NFPA 101, and many more.



NFSA members, be sure to check out our exclusive members-only pricing in our online store at www.nfsa.org/eodhandbook/!

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 National Fire Sprinkler Association

#fastestwater

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These Incentives Improve Community Safety and Provide Developer Savings

In exchange for installing home fire sprinklers in entire developments, authorities having jurisdiction can offer locally negotiated trade-ups as incentives to developers. These incentives may include:



- Street-Width Reduction
- Longer Dead-End Streets
- Tee Turnarounds Permitted
- Increased Street Grades and Building Setbacks
- Additional Units Permitted
- Expansion of Existing Water Supply May Not Be Needed
- Increased Hydrant Spacing
- Subdivision Single Access Point
- Gated Communities

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT*

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 98%

Reduce fire damage by up to 97%

Reduce water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%

Reduce water pollution

* Environmental Impact of Automatic Fire Sprinklers, FM Global, 2010



For more information about home fire sprinkler incentives, including case studies, video testimonials, fact sheets and NFPA 13D information, visit our website at HomeFireSprinkler.org/crr.

Home Fire Sprinklers: A Win-Win for Your Entire Community

Home fire sprinkler incentives can reduce construction costs, while protecting residents and firefighters, and help to protect the environment.



Fire Prevention Week 2020 —A Bright Spot in a Not-So-Bright Year

Not wanting to go all Annie Wilkes on you, but I am a big Stephen King fan. As much as I love being spooked out of my socks by the Master of Horror, I never really envisioned myself living in one of his novels. This year, however, I feel as if I'm teetering between *The Dead Zone* and *The Stand*. My fellow King devotees will know exactly what I mean.

While my heart broke seeing my granddaughter going off to her first day of first grade wearing a mask, fresh bottle of hand sanitizer in her backpack, and getting photos from my cousin of my 91 year-old aunt waving through a window to her kids from a nursing home where she was battling COVID in September, I actually looked forward to the super-busy time of Fire Prevention Week and the diversion it would offer me from pondering the fate of the world. What I didn't know was how outreach would play out in the time of social-distancing.

Boy, was I impressed! NFSA has maintained social media accounts for over 11 years now. I've seen many Fire Prevention Weeks (FPW) come and go. However, I've never seen a FPW with as much focus on fire sprinklers as I saw this past October.

Dozens of fire departments from across the nation posted about the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinkler systems. This is the first time I've seen fire sprinklers being used as a primary focus by fire departments during FPW. Besides our own monumental outreach during our Satellite Media Tour and our Facebook Live side-by-side burn demos, fire departments took to Twitter and Facebook promoting fire sprinklers and hosting their own side-by-side demos.

We truly have some great Partners in Life Safety! Fire Departments are an essential part of the effort to make the public aware of the #fastestwater difference! The likes and shares each of their posts received were testament to the power of the endorsement of local firefighters.

The theme of this last issue of 2020 is Sprinkler Acceptance Initiatives and Coalitions. I can say without a doubt that U.S. Fire Departments are one heck of a fire-sprinkler-promoting coalition! I thank each and every one of them for making my job a bit easier, my October a bit brighter and my eye on the future more Norman Vincent Peale than Stephen King.

One last note, my 91 year-old aunt made a full recovery from COVID. Bring on 2021, it's gotta get better!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season! •



2h
#HutchinsonKS FD hosts live #firesprinkler demonstration during #FirePreventionWeek #fastestwater



HUTCHNEWS.COM
HFD hosts live demonstration during Fire Prevention Week
It was a simple message, delivered dramatically. In just 4 minutes...

Evanston Fire Department
October 4 at 2:29 PM
There's still time to catch the last few demonstrations at the EFD and EFD open house. Currently the crews are demonstrating how to extricate a vehicle. Next will be the side by side demo of a burning room with and without sprinklers.



Sprinklers "buy you time to get out of the house," Duluth firefighter and LSC instructor Heath Wiersman said. "It's safer for you; it's safer for firefighters. By having a sprinkler system you are going to save a lot more of your home," if not your life.

Pigeon Forge Demo

On September 16th, Team NFSA and the Pigeon Forge Fire Department presented a side-by-side burn demo at the Sevier County Fire Chief's Association's Training Center that was streamed live on Facebook to a substantial audience. As of this writing, the video has been shared 37 times and viewed by over 3,000 people.

The demo went off flawlessly, with the fire sprinkler extinguishing the fire in about one minute. An audible gasp was heard from witnesses when flashover occurred on the unsprinklered side of the unit at about four minutes.

Thanks go out to Sevier County, the Sevier County Fire Chief's Association, the Pigeon Forge Fire Department and ServPro for giving us the chance to share education on the danger of fire and the fastestwater difference. •



NFSM Receives Prestigious Marcom Gold Award for Seventh Consecutive Year

NFSA is proud to announce that National Fire Sprinkler Magazine has been awarded the *Marcom Gold Award for Excellence* for our submission of the September/October Member Takeover Issue. The issue competed in a field of over 5,000 entrants from across the globe.

MarCom Awards is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP). The international organization consists of several thousand creative professionals. The Association oversees awards and recognition programs, provides judges and sets standards for excellence.

We would like to thank our contributors, advertising members, our printer and designer, our editor, and our contributing staff members. It is because of the hard work and dedication of all that we have received this award for seven straight years! •



IN MEMORIAM

NFSA Member Steven Worthington Passes Away at 46

It is with heavy hearts that the National Fire Sprinkler Association announces the passing of our member, **Steven Worthington**. He passed away at home on September 8th, 2020 at 46 years old.

Steven and his father, Robert Worthington, who predeceased him, made an indelible mark on our Association. His commitment to advancing the fire sprinkler concept was exemplary and he will be missed both as a member and a friend. To his wife Amy, his three children and his entire family, we extend the most heartfelt of sympathies. We hope that your memories of Steve will bring comfort in the days ahead. He will be sorely missed by all of us at NFSA.

“Steven believed in the mission of the NFSA, and supported many of our initiatives and advocacy,” shared NFSA President Shane Ray. “I recall with a grateful heart a visit to Globe Manufacturing just a few years ago and being with both Steven and David. What a legacy the Worthington family leaves the fire sprinkler industry.” •

Former NFSA V.P. of Labor Relations John McKeefe Passes Away

John Patrick McKeefe, age 80 passed away September 7, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer.

John (“JP”) McKeefe served NFSA as Vice President of Labor Relations, representing NFSA’s contractor members in various multiemployer negotiations and overseeing the overall labor relations function. John also contributed significantly to the development of NFSA’s Internet Services Department. He was an important part of NFSA’s history and was a valued member of NFSA’s national staff. We extend our condolences to John’s family and friends. Upon retirement, John moved to North Carolina and continued to use his legal talents as a North Carolina Guardian ad Litem.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ruf Creek Ranch Animal Rescue and Adoption Center, 5201 Brogden Road, Smithfield, NC 27577.

You may share memories and condolences with the family by visiting www.wheelerwoodlief.com. •

Haden Brumbeloe, FPE and Fire Protection Magazine Founder

Haden B. Brumbeloe passed away from kidney failure on August 27, 2020. He was 93.

Haden B. Brumbeloe, P.E., was a Fire Protection Engineer with 29 years of experience in fire sprinkler contracting and published the first edition of Fire Protection Contractor magazine in March 1978.

Haden served in the United States Navy during World War II. He attended Georgia Tech before going to work for Grinnell.

He was with Grinnell from 1948-1971 and “Automatic” Sprinkler Corporation of America from 1971-1977. He started as draftsman with Grinnell in Atlanta, Georgia, when fire sprinkler designers were called “Engineers” and no codes required fire sprinkler system installations. As a Sales-Estimator, he learned to sell fire sprinkler systems based on their fire protection merits and on insurance savings.

At “Automatic” Sprinkler Corporation of America from 1971-1977, he became Regional Vice President of the 13 Western States and Guam.

After leaving “Automatic” he started a newsletter that became FPC/Fire Protection Contractor magazine, where one of his sons, grandsons, and granddaughters work today.

Haden was involved with the National Fire Sprinkler Association when he was contracting at Grinnell and “Automatic.” After he started Fire Protection Contractor magazine, John Viniello became President of the NFSA and he flew out to San Francisco to meet with Haden to ask how the Association could be better.

In lieu of flowers, please give to your favorite Christian charity, a burn center, and/or consider buying a beverage for a friend or a stranger and tell them you care about them.

For more information visit: www.fpcmag.com. •

MEMBERS

MEMBERS IN ACTION



Sprinklermatic brings fire pump training to the Kissimmee, Florida Fire Department.

CHAPTERS

CHAPTERS IN ACTION

The Boston NFSA Chapter held a virtual chapter meeting on September 22nd.

Steve McGee, OEM Manager in the Americas for Xtralis addressed meeting attendees. Steve has broad experience in the fire- and life-safety industry in a career spanning almost 30 years. He is a member of NFPA, AFAA, local SFPE groups, and a past Board member of the TFAA. He is well-versed in fire code, and in his current role, serves as a go-to source for all Advanced Detection including smoke, gas, and life-safety technologies.

NFSA President Shane Ray addressed the meeting attendees and provided an overview of NFSA national activities on legislation, industry economics, training initiatives and several other topics of interest.

The Boston Chapter is planning on conducting another virtual Chapter meeting which includes Chapter elections. The date and time TBD. Stay tuned. •



Photo 1: Boston NFSA Chapter president, Steve Cook from JC Cannistraro LLC

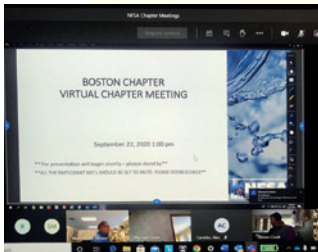


Photo 3: Screen shot of virtual meeting.

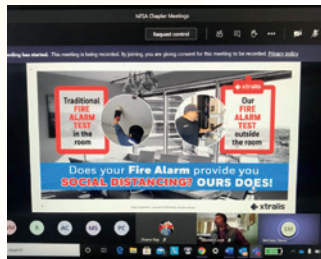


Photo 4: First slide in the presentation

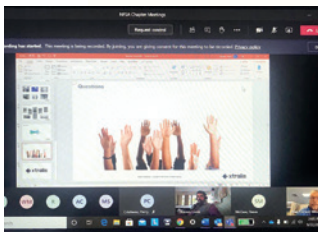


Photo 5: Q&A slide

NFSA's Connecticut Chapter Spreading the Fire Sprinkler Message Along I-95

NFSA's Connecticut Chapter used billboards along Interstate I-95 to get the word out about the Sprinklers Buy Life campaign during this year's Fire Prevention Week.



Next chapter meeting date is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Mark E. Lemire, Piping System Consultant for The Lubrizol Corporation will be our virtual presenter. Lubrizol has just come out with a UL Approved Anti-Freeze (FreezeMaster) which will meet the new code changes in September 30, 2022 and he will cover the specifics with an overview. Grab your lunch and fire up your computers. *Save the date!* •

Texas Chapter Goes Virtual

The NFSA Texas Chapter co-hosted six free online trainings during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These events provided Certificates of Attendance and much needed training in the NFSA South Central Region, despite lack of in-person meetings due to Texas quarantine restrictions.

The NFSA Texas Chapter Program Committee assisted in developing and prioritizing training topics and programs according to the needs of member companies and the communities that they serve. The NFSA Texas Chapter Program Committee includes Tyler Mobley PE, Senior Fire Protection Engineer, WSP; David Welcher, Project Manager for Automatic Sprinkler of Texas, John Pecot, Design Manager, JCI Industrial Fire Solutions and Tate Hitzeman, Potter Electric South-Central Sales Manager.



NFSA Texas Chapter 2020-2021 Texas Chapter Board (l to r): John Pecot, Crystal Reed, John Sayre, Tate Hitzeman, Aaron Wilson, Tyler Mobley, Danna Wells, Brad Anderson.
Additional Board Members: Conor Kauffman, Daniel Merritt, Dale Payne

Wisconsin

Burn Center Golf Invitational Celebrates its 32nd Annual Event

Though a bit hot and humid, August 24th was great day to celebrate 32 years of the **Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational (BCGI)** benefiting the Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Burn Unit and the Wisconsin Youth Burn Camp. The BCGI Committee was apprehensive earlier this year about running a golf outing in the midst of a pandemic and economic slowdown, but decided to move forward with the outing and try to raise some money for these worthy causes.

This year's event was smaller than in past years, but sponsors were very generous and contributed more than expected. We welcomed 126 golfers from 29 sponsors and five foursomes. We are expected to donate over \$65,000 this year to the Burn Unit and Youth Burn Camp. They both have appreciated this donation because of a reduction in charity events this year. Donations over the past 32 years have exceeded \$2.8 million.

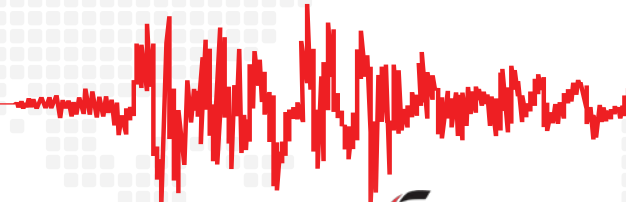
We would like to thank the sponsors: Platinum – Reliable Sprinkler Co; Diamond – Ferguson Fire & Fabrication, Orthopaedic Hospital of WI, Victaulic, Viking SupplyNet and United States Alliance Fire Protection; Gold – AAA Pipe & Nipple, Blair Fire Protection, CG Schmidt Co, Design Build of WI, Fox Sprinkler Supply, HSA Rep LLC, JF Ahern Co, Johnson Controls, NFSA, Phoenix Fire Systems, R1 RCM, Roan Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, and Sprinkler Fitters Local 183; Silver – Zekelman Industries - Wheatland Tube Division; and Tee & Green – American Landscape, Argon Industries, Blackhawk Automatic Sprinklers, Delta dental of WI, JG Innovations, Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Local 215, and Sprinkler Fitters Local 281. We also welcomed golfers from Grunau Co, Madison Firefighters Local 311, and Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin.

We thank all that have contributed in past years and hope to

welcome them back in 2021 for the **33rd Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in August 2021**. The BCGI is hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Please contact Marty King at king@nfsa.org regarding future participation in this event. •



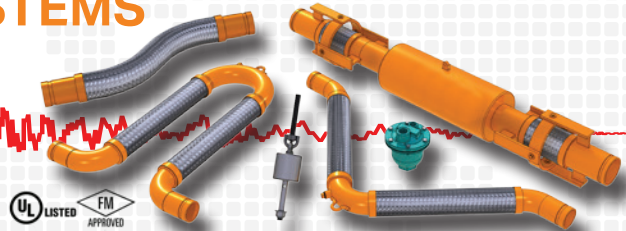
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Ensure full-rated protection against seismic activity with Metraflex Fire Protection Division. Manufactured in Chicago, Illinois, Metraflex has the sizes you need, the movements you require, and custom solutions for the perfect fit.

SPRINKLING OF NEWS

■ Asurio, Inc. Commissioned to Deploy Its BirdDog Mobile Inspection & Data Collection System for 5 Fire Safety Contractors + Syracuse University

Asurio, Inc. (www.asurio.com) today announced that five fire safety contractors & a major university have chosen to deploy Asurio's BirdDog Mobile Inspection & Data Collection System.

"The depth, breadth, and varying sizes of these new customers highlight the flexibility of the BirdDog Mobile Inspection & Data Collection System," said Asurio President Top Myers. "The BirdDog system's scalability allows it to easily serve small, medium, and large fire safety contractors and in-house facility management departments. The ultimate goals of deploying the BirdDog inspection system are to streamline NFPA 10, 25, and 72, and other types of inspections; resolve deficiencies faster; reduce risk; and improve safety."

BirdDog is one of the more powerful & versatile mobile inspection systems on the market today. Asurio has a special expertise in fire-life safety inspections for commercial buildings, hospitals, manufacturing facilities, and more. However, the BirdDog system can be configured to inspect and/or collect data for virtually any industry. In addition, Asurio, Inc. is a Microsoft partner, and hosts its cloud-based BirdDog inspection software on the Microsoft Azure cloud computing solution, resulting in world-class 24/7 reliability and security. Asurio, Inc. can be reached at www.asurio.com, or 877.444.1488.

■ Zurn Partners with TRAX Analytics

Zurn Industries, LLC announces its partnership with TRAX Analytics. Zurn will integrate its real-time plumbSMART™ capabilities with TRAX Analytics. The company is looking to deliver the total smart restroom to its demand customers, especially airport custodial and maintenance teams.

TRAX Analytics software manages custodial activity, measures performance, and tracks compliance by allowing tasks to be entered into the system. Maintenance teams get real-time service alerts and inventory tracking. With the addition of plumbSMART, powered by Zurn, customers receive data they can act on, include handwashing scores, leak detection, and preventative maintenance insights.

For more information, visit Zurn.com.

■ Johnson Controls Introduces Tyco® Residential Concealed Sidewall Sprinkler

The Tyco Rapid Response Series LFII 4.2K Concealed Sidewall Sprinkler features a decorative flat-plate cover that conceals the sprinkler within the wall, making it ideal for aesthetically sensitive residential spaces such as homes, apartments, dormitories and hotels. The fast-response fusible link sprinkler provides safe and dependable fire protection that customers expect from Tyco

products.

In addition to its sleek design, the LFII 4.2K Concealed Sidewall Sprinkler offers ¼ inch of adjustment and fits in a typical two-by-four stud frame and sheetrock wall structure, allowing for flexible installation.

The sprinkler is cULus Listed for use with wet pipe sprinkler systems per NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R and the residential portions of NFPA 13 occupancies. Additionally, the sprinkler is certified to all requirements of NSF/ANSI 61. It has a working pressure of 175 psi and a sprinkler temperature rating of 160 °F (71 °C), while the cover plate is rated for 139 °F (38 °C).

For more information about Tyco residential sprinkler systems from Johnson Controls, go to <http://www.tyco-fire.com/>.



■ Johnson Controls Introduces Tyco® Commercial Concealed Sidewall Sprinkler

Johnson Controls announces the expansion of its line of commercial fire sprinklers. Designed to deliver safe and dependable fire protection, the Tyco RFII Horizontal Sidewall (HSW) Concealed Sprinkler offers an aesthetically pleasing solution for modern commercial building environments.

The RFII-HSW Concealed Sprinkler complements the full line of Tyco fire suppression products. Those offerings, along with other Johnson Controls products and solutions, help make buildings more safe, secure and sustainable.

The new Tyco commercial concealed sprinkler has a sleek design with a high-pressure rating, adding to its robust line of quick response, standard coverage sprinklers. The 5.6 K-factor sprinkler features a unique, decorative flat-plate cover that conceals the sprinkler within a wall and discreetly blends in with modern building environments.

With a maximum system pressure rating of 250 psi (17.2 bar), the sprinkler is intended to protect commercial buildings such as hotels, retail spaces, office buildings, banquet facilities, conference rooms and hospitals. Customers can select cover plate assemblies in a variety of colors to further enhance interior building design. In addition to its aesthetic appeal, the cover plate also prevents building occupants from hanging objects like bags and clothing on the sprinkler that may otherwise cause an unintended operation.

The RFII-HSW Concealed Sprinkler is designed for installation along a wall or the side of a beam. It fits in a typical two-by-four stud frame and sheetrock wall structure, giving contractors and facility personnel additional installation flexibility. The sprinkler



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is UL and C-UL Listed for use with automatic sprinkler systems and features an ordinary sprinkler temperature rating of 160 °F (71 °C), alongside a 139 °F (38 °C) rated cover plate. An intermediate temperature rated sprinkler with a temperature rating of 212 °F (100 °C) is also being offered, alongside a 165 °F (74 °C) cover plate.

For more information about Tyco sprinkler systems for commercial buildings, go to <http://www.tyco-fire.com/>.

■ Johnson Controls Launches Smoke Detection Technology Designed to Meet 2021 UL Standard

The latest updates to UL 268, Standard for Safety of Smoke Detectors for Fire Alarm Systems, call for significant improvements to smoke detection technology. Set to take effect in June 2021, the new UL 268 7th edition standard requires smoke sensors, detectors and smoke alarms to pass more than 215 new or revised performance tests, including three new challenging tests: a cooking nuisance alarm test, a flaming polyurethane foam test and a smoldering polyurethane test. To satisfy these requirements, Johnson Controls, the global leader for smart and sustainable buildings, has introduced advanced smoke sensors built upon the established performance of its flagship TrueAlarm technology.



The UL 7th edition polyurethane tests better represent the type of smoke and flames produced in modern building fires due to the increased use of synthetic furnishing materials that can ignite and burn faster than other materials. The cooking test was added after research showed people frequently disable smoke alarms due to nuisance alarms caused by cooking and shower steam.

The new TrueAlarm sensors provide earlier detection, better fire type recognition and fewer nuisance alarms. They use sophisticated algorithms to analyze particles and determine whether they are generated by an actual fire rather than smoke or steam from cooking. Sensor alarm points can be programmed for timed, multi-stage operation per sensor. A lower percentage alert can cause a warning prompt to investigate the issue while a higher programmed percentage will initiate an alarm.

The ability of the redesigned TrueAlarm sensors to intelligently differentiate between high-risk fires and burning food or steam is especially important for commercial spaces such as hotels, dormitories, hospitals and other facilities that are prone to nuisance alarms. The new 7th edition compliant TrueAlarm sensors are available for the Simplex product line.

For more information, please visit <https://www.johnsoncontrols.com/fire-detection/sensors-and-initiating-devices>.

■ Johnson Controls Announces Expanded UL Listing Of LFP® Antifreeze for Large Volume Systems

Johnson Controls announces an enhanced listing for its LFP® Antifreeze. The industry's first UL Listed antifreeze is now listed for system volumes of up to 500 gallons.

LFP Antifreeze complements the full line of Tyco® fire suppression products. Those offerings, along with other Johnson Controls products and solutions, help make buildings more safe, secure and sustainable.

As the industry standard for freeze protection in wet pipe sprinkler systems since 2018, LFP Antifreeze continues to meet industry demands for improved fire protection in low-temperature environments.

LFP Antifreeze highlights include:

- Proven UL Listed product ideal for new construction or retrofit
- Compliant with NFPA 13 for light hazard occupancies of up to 500 gallons
- Compliant with NFPA 13R and 13D for residential systems
- Trusted protection for temperatures as low as -10°F
- A patented formula with proven corrosion resistance
- Suitable for use with most common piping system materials, including CPVC

To learn more about the expanded LFP Antifreeze from Johnson Controls, visit <http://tycofpp.com/lfp>.



■ Viking's New Concealed Pendent Sprinklers Can be Installed with Protective Cap in Place

The Viking Corporation announces the release of the new VK4621 and VK4921 quick response and standard response concealed pendent sprinklers with a K-factor of 5.6 (80.6). The new commercial sprinklers are designed for installation on concealed pipe systems where the appearance of a smooth ceiling is desired. In addition to the new sprinklers, Viking has announced a durable and lightweight installation



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wrench and protective cap removal tool.

The new VK4621 sprinkler serves as a straight replacement for Viking's VK462 sprinkler. The VK4621 is cULus Listed as a quick response sprinkler and FM Approved as a standard response sprinkler. Also available is the UL Listed and FM Approved VK4921, a standard response 5.6 K-factor concealed pendent sprinkler, which will replace the existing VK492.

Available in brass and Electroless Nickel PTFE (ENT) coating for environments in which corrosion is more likely to occur, the VK4621 and VK4921 are available at 155°F (68°C), 175°F (79°C) and 200°F (93°C) temperature ratings and have a maximum working pressure of 250 psi under the UL Listings.

To learn more about concealed sprinkler options from Viking, visit www.vikinggroupinc.com.

■ Viking FM Approved ESFR Sprinkler Guards Offer Ease of Installation For In-Rack Storage Applications

The Viking Corporation announces the availability of FM Approved sprinkler guards designed to keep ESFR sprinklers safe from damage in areas with high human mechanical activity. The new Model EG-100 guards ensure that the sprinklers are protected in various applications, such as rack storage, where damage to low elevation sprinklers is likely to occur.

Specifically designed with retrofit installation in mind, the new ESFR sprinkler guards feature a hardwire cage that completely encases the sprinkler. With a simple hinged clamshell design and a single Torx set screw, the guards allow for quick and efficient installation on Viking's 1" NPT ESFR sprinklers.

The guards are available in chrome or painted red finishes and feature a 3-5/8" (95 mm) length and diameter. Model EG-100 sprinkler guards are compatible with sprinkler models VK506 (K22), VK510 (K25) and VK514 (K28).

Viking offers the industry's most complete line of storage sprinklers specifically designed to suppress challenging warehouse fires. In addition to five ESFR sprinklers, Viking's leading line of storage fire protection products also includes dry-type ESFR pendent sprinklers (K14 and K17) as well as CMDA, CMSA, ELO, and EC storage sprinkler options.

To learn more about the new ESFR sprinkler guards and all storage fire protection products available from Viking, visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or contact your local Viking SupplyNet distribution center.



■ New Model V-EP Attic Sprinkler Allows for Design with Lower Flow Rates

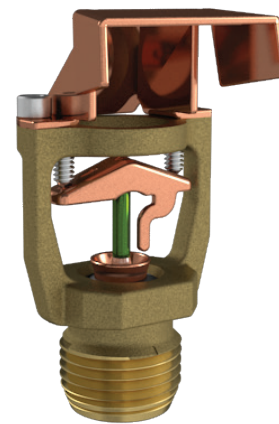
The Viking Corporation announces availability of a new specific application sprinkler designed to protect challenging attic spaces. The 5.6 K-factor "Model V-EP" VK690 allows for an enhanced system design which eliminates the need for additional branch lines, reducing installation and materials costs. In addition, the sprinkler can reduce flow and pressure requirements compared to other attic protection schemes.

When used in conjunction with Viking's existing Model VK697 5.6 K-factor attic upright sprinkler, the new Model V-EP attic sprinkler can protect up to 80 ft roof spans using 3 branch lines, and up to 100 ft spans with a 5 branch line design, with roof pitches ranging from 2½:12 through 6:12. Additionally, the VK697 and VK690 used together allow for flows as low as 20 gallons per minute and a minimum operating pressure of 13 psi. Thorough design criteria may be found on the sprinkler's technical data sheet.

The cULus Listed sprinkler is available in brass or corrosion resistant ENT plating. With a thread size of 1/2" NPT or 15 mm BSPT, the 5.6 (80) K-factor sprinkler can be ordered with an intermediate temperature rating of 200° F (93° C).

The product joins Viking's complete line of attic sprinklers, which also includes back-to-back, single directional, and HIP style sprinklers. To learn more about the new Model V-EP VK690 and the full line of attic sprinklers available from Viking, visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or contact your local Viking SupplyNet distribution center.

For more information on Viking's complete line of fire protection products and services, please visit www.vikinggroupinc.com or call 800-968-9501.



■ AGF Donates RiserPACKs for Sprinkler Advocacy and Education

AGF Manufacturing, Inc. is donating RiserPACKs and other materials for sprinkler advocacy and education. Donations go through the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's (HFSC) stipend program, which provides kits to build an NFPA 13D display for fire departments across the country. The displays are used to educate the community on the benefits and simplicity of NFPA 13D residential sprinkler systems and advocate for increased residential sprinkler installation.

The HFSC developed the kits with a grant from State Farm, including a material and tools list, instructions and riser designs.

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The initial concepts for the displays were from the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB), who worked with dozens of fire departments to build the displays as an educational tool in areas that had home fire sprinkler ordinances. HFSC added the display as an option to their stipend program and interest spread nationally and in Canada.

AGF Manufacturing learned about the stipend program and display guides in 2018 and offered to donate their RiserPACK riser manifolds to stipend recipients. During the first year of their involvement, AGF donated over 40 RiserPACKs. AGF then assigned their intern, Ryan Overton, an engineering major, to review HFSC's display guide and simplify the design and instructions based on fire department feedback.

The 13D Display Kit now includes the streamlined instructions and AGF's RiserPACK with a pressure gauge, drain valve, and Potter flow switch. Viking, Watts, and Potter also donated Viking sprinklers and CPVC pipe, a Watts backflow preventer, and a Potter alarm. The kits are used to educate builders, local officials, and communities across the nation and advocate for NFPA 13D systems in more residences. To learn more about the program, visit <https://homefiresprinkler.org/nfpa13d-display/>.

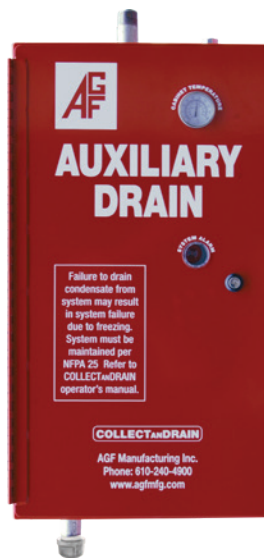
For additional information, please visit www.agfmfg.com.

■ AGF Introduces Fully Automatic Auxiliary Drain

AGF Manufacturing introduces their COLLECTANDRAIN Model 5500 Automatic Auxiliary Drain. The Model 5500 includes all the benefits of the COLLECTANDRAIN Model 5400 auxiliary drain in a heated cabinet, with the added capability of being fully automated. Set it to fully automatic mode or empty it remotely with the push of a button.

The COLLECTANDRAIN line includes a series of auxiliary drains with integrated NFPA 25 signage as well as accessories designed to solve the problem of false system trips caused by broken or misused low point drains.

Like the 5400, the new Model 5500 is an auxiliary drain in a heated and insulated cabinet. The cabinet prevents the drain, even when filled with condensation, from freezing and breaking while minimizing power consumption, protects against vandalism, and provides the code required NFPA 25 integrated signage. The Model 5500 adds a brand-new feature—automation. A programmable logic control (PLC) allows for fully automatic emptying of the auxiliary drain. Set the Model 5500 to automatically empty when the drain is full or wait



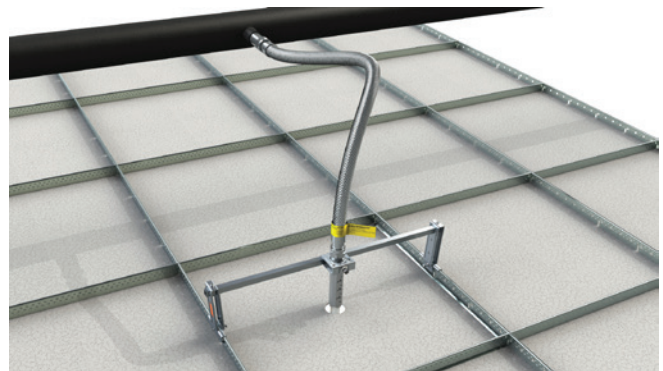
for the unit to send an alert to the Fire Control Panel or Building Automation System and empty it with the push of an on-site or remote button.

To learn more about the Model 5500 or the COLLECTANDRAIN line, or to find an AGF distributor near you, visit www.agfmfg.com.

■ Anvil International's New Ultra SprinkFLEX® Hose and IPT Bracket Offer Unmatched Adaptability for Quick, Easy Installation

Anvil International's new Ultra SprinkFLEX® Hose combined with the SprinkFLEX Infinite Position Tall (IPT) bracket provides the most versatility for fire sprinkler connections in the industry.

The Ultra SprinkFLEX fully braided hose is UL listed with an industry-leading 2" bend radius, making it the most flexible hose in the SprinkFLEX line. With a 1" inner diameter and 3 piece construction, the Ultra SprinkFLEX hose installs quickly and can accommodate pendant, semi-recessed, and concealed sprinkler heads.



The SprinkFLEX IPT bracket ships with pre-installed mounting screws and allows for easy positioning of the sprinkler drop by sliding the open hub anywhere along the center bar. The flexibility of the hose and repositionable open hub on the IPT bracket combine to allow the most adaptable fire sprinkler connection, while maintaining exceptional flow characteristics.

The tall bracket and variety of drop accessories compatible with the Ultra SprinkFLEX hose ensure installation at proper height with the ceiling tile without requiring tiles to be installed before the drop, preserving the install schedule, saving time and labor.

Ultra SprinkFLEX hoses are available in 28", 40", 48", 59", and 71". The 71" hose is designed to accept up to 12 bends, eliminating the need to count or measure bends. The SprinkFLEX IPT bracket is available in 24". Ultra SprinkFLEX is cULus listed, FM approved, and complies with NFPA 13 and meets ASTM C635 and C636 standards.

For more information on Anvil's SprinkFLEX products for the fire protection industry, visit www.anvilintl.com.

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SPRINKLING

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■ Potter Announces Upgraded RBVS Tamper/Supervisory Switch

Potter Electric Signal Company, LLC announces upgrades have been made to its Retrofit Ball Valve Supervisory Switch (RBVS) Tamper/Supervisory switch. Originally developed to monitor the position of a ball valve installed on a sprinkler system, the RBVS has been redesigned to allow more room for wiring during installation. The upgraded RBVS kit also now includes extra mounting hardware allowing it to be installed on solenoids to supervise the position of the coil which will be a requirement in NFPA 13 beginning in 2021. The upgrade will also still retain the ability to be mounted on ½" thru 2" ball valves and



backflow preventors.

Mike Henke, Potter Electric's Sprinkler Product Manager said, "The RBVS was redesigned to be more durable and allow more room and flexibility during installations. We are excited to provide these upgrades to our customers and give them more options when building out their sprinkler systems."

■ Core & Main Acquires Water Works Supply

Core & Main LP reported it closed on its previously announced agreement to acquire substantially all of the assets of Water Works Supply Co. The acquisition marks Core & Main's 11th transaction since becoming an independent company in August 2017. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"We're excited to welcome the Water Works Supply team into the Core & Main family. Our combined teams will build on their best practices so we can strengthen service to all our customers in New Jersey. We expect to grow this business as we expand our customer base," said Jack Schaller, president of Core & Main Waterworks.

Water Works Supply Co. is a New Jersey-based waterworks distributor.

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REGIONAL NEWS

**From Maine to California,
and every place in between,
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FLORIDA REGION

Fire and Life Safety Award

Thanks to Tamarac, Florida Assistant Fire Marshal Tommy Demopoulos for sending in the following articles of area interest.



Reducing or eliminating fire and life safety violations within the City of Tamarac's businesses and multifamily structures are all in a day's work for Tamarac Fire Rescue's Community Risk Reduction division. Each year, they inspect more than 3,000 structures, looking for violations that pose a threat to the safety and well-being of the residents, visitors and employees in our City.

Eleven years ago, the Community Risk Reduction division started to deliver Fire and Life Safety Awards to businesses that were violation free during their safety inspection. Each year, some of the same business owners strive to comply with all life safety and fire codes and standards in order to proudly post this prestigious award in their business. This year was no different.

Stephen Gentile, owner of Steve's Barbershop located at 10080 W. McNab Rd., is one of the award recipients who strives to receive it each year. "I am very interested in the safety of my customers," said Gentile, who has won this award five years in a row.

New businesses like Adry's Salon and Spa, 7101 W. Commercial Blvd., earn these safety awards for being free of violations. Owner Ramona Felix was proud to receive her award and asked for her picture to be taken with the award.

Led by Assistant Chief Jeff Moral, the Fire and Life Safety Award program was developed by the Community Risk Reduction division in 2009. Since its inception, there have been many award recipients. "The award creates fire and life safety buy-in from the business owner and the employees," said Chief Moral.

"Life safety is everyone's responsibility" said Assistant Fire Marshal Tommy Demopoulos. "Our fire inspectors are a dedicated group of individuals who care deeply for the success of these businesses and do everything within their power to ensure they are safe and successful."



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FLORIDA REGION

Tamarac Plans Examiner Takes Next Step

On August 4th, Tamarac Plans Examiner Rebecca Geimer assumed the role of Secretary for the Fire Inspectors Association of Broward County (FIABC). This association represents community risk reduction personnel in Broward County, providing training to their membership, hosting annual recognition awards and events and more. Geimer has been with the City of Tamarac since 2005 and with the Community Risk Reduction division since 2015.

Not only was Geimer the recipient of the Fire Inspector of the Year Award in 2018 from the FIABC, she was also named Fire Inspector of the Year in 2019 from the Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA). She is a self-starting, motivated and dedicated individual who is a recognized professional within her field. We are very confident she will do great in her new role and honored to support her!

TEXAS REGION

Farewell to A Fire Sprinkler Legend - Johnson Controls' Greg "Flash" Gordon Is Retiring!

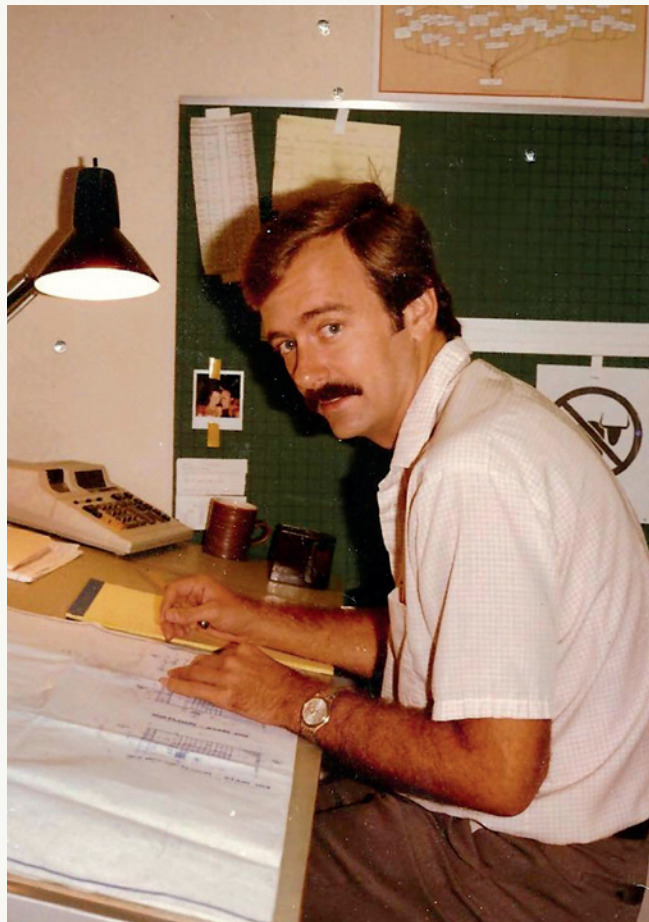
NFSA would like to recognize the contributions and commitment of Greg Gordon of Johnson Controls International (JCI). Greg, JCI's Business Development Manager, will retire at the end of 2020. Greg began his fire protection career in 1978 in Cleveland, Ohio on the contracting-side of the fire sprinkler business, subsequently working in Cincinnati and Dallas. He

joined the product manufacturing-side of the business in 1985 as a manufacturer's representative for BlazeMaster® CPVC fire sprinkler systems. Greg joined Central Sprinkler Company in 1988 as the Southwest Regional Sales Manager, a job that he held through the 1999 acquisition of Central by Tyco until his appointment as Business Development Manager in 2005.

From Steven R. Rians, Vice President, American Fire Protection Group, Inc.:

"I have known Greg since his employment with Central Sprinkler in 1988. We have become cherished friends over the past 3 decades. Laughter is the main menu when it comes to Flash as he is affectionately known by his closest buddies. To tell one story is simply inadequate and could not possibly embody the love I have for this man. Let me try to encapsulate my thoughts in a long run-on sentence. (He is also a grammar shark)

"This man is a loving husband, doting father, beloved friend. He has such a tender heart that tears have eroded channels on his cheeks. He loves his family, friends and yes even the pets through memories that never escape his steadfast mind. Most of all he loves unconditionally. His love of family, friends, and an unbridled passion for love of country and all who have served her goes beyond traditional flag wavers. All I can say is well done, well deserved and God speed my friend!"



Greg "Flash" Gordon, 1980 and 1983

Fire chooses its own place and time

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Employing highly-trained and well-equipped fire protection professionals, we inspect systems of all makes and types. But "Automatic" professionals do more than just inspect, they test your system as well.

They check the operational readiness of all sprinkler and detection components . . . on wet pipe, dry pipe and deluge systems. They examine the condition of valves. Test alarms. They spot the need for repairs, replacements, modifications or additions to bring the system up to maximum readiness.

Each program can be tailored to include a training course for your key personnel or designated facility representatives at plant or corporate levels.



"Automatic's" nationwide service offers a program to assure that your fire protection systems are kept at optimum performance levels. "Automatic's" Special Hazards task force can do it:

<p>Control Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Foams • Dry Chemicals • Halons • CO₂ 	<p>Detection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate-of-Rise • Dry Pilot • Vapor Gas • Thermo-UV-IR • Ionization • Fire Alarms and Controls
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LET US QUOTE YOU
"Automatic" Sprinkler will be pleased to provide you with a quotation for a fire protection service program tailored to your needs. Call the "Automatic" Sprinkler office nearest you (we're in the Yellow Pages under Sprinklers — Automatic — Fire). Or, contact:



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ILLINOIS REGION

Glen Ellyn Creates Fire Sprinkler Installation Incentive for Businesses

Glen Ellyn joins communities such as Plainfield and Lockport by offering financial incentives for new and expanding businesses in the community to install or improve fire alarms and fire sprinklers in their properties. Businesses can be awarded up to \$15,000 on a sliding scale match for facades, interior, and fire safety improvements. The fire safety improvements award applies for businesses in the downtown commercial district and Roosevelt Road TIF district. We commend village officials for understanding the importance of upgrading fire protection in old buildings and requiring it in new buildings. The village of Glen Ellyn requires fire sprinklers in all new construction, including one- and two-family homes, regardless of size.

SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION

Fire Prevention Month in the South-Central Region

“What Does A Fire Survivor Really Want? Burn Me Once – Don’t Burn Me Again

If anyone asked Kim Denson – Houston, Texas Mother of Kaitlyn Denson - what she really wants; she would say “no more multi-family fires!” Fire fatalities and injuries still occur for existing un-sprinklered multi-family buildings in Texas. After a fire, many times the rebuild does not include fire sprinklers as existing building codes for rebuilding are unclear and ambiguous where the threshold lies for “bringing it up to code”. NFSA is working with Fire Survivors and Texas Fire Marshals to better understand the problem and develop local solutions for Texas Fire Protection and Building Officials to model and use.

Texas Fatal Multi-Family Fires

The Iconic Village Apartments in San Marcos Texas tragically lost five occupants on July 20, 2018: Dru Estes, 21; Haley Frizzel, 19; James Miranda, 23; Belinda Moats, 21; and David Ortiz, 21. Fire Marshal Kelly Kistner, Fire Chief Les Stephens and the City of San Marcos City Council have recently adopted a “Burn Me Once – Don’t Burn Me Again” local ordinance. This ordinance more specifically defines when an apartment building must be re-built to current fire codes after suffering a fire.

Almost one year later and 30 miles north of San Marcos; Kaitlyn Denson, 26 years old, and her friend Joseph Tarin perished in an Austin apartment fire on July 15, 2019. Kaitlyn had rented the apartment through a third-party rental organization. The building has been rebuilt and is now fire sprinkler protected as of July 2020. The incident was the fourth fire at that apartment complex in the last ten years. Kaitlyn’s Mother, Kim Denson, has formed a non-profit Fire Safety Advocacy Association – KaitKares.org - to honor Kaitlyn and promote fire safety education and legislation. The City of Austin Fire Marshal’s Office is considering a more specific fire sprinkler retrofit ordinance like San Marcos. No fire

sprinklers were present in both apartment complexes as local codes did not require sprinklers when they were built.

Multi-Family Fire Protection That Works

Former Texas State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy examined Texas multi-family fire data over a ten-year period and wrote an Insurance Journal article which documented that “not one person has been killed in a fire in from 2002-2012 inside an apartment complex that was equipped with a fire sprinkler system.”

Several Texas cities have adopted multi-family fire protection ordinances that more specifically addresses how to rebuild a multi-family building after it has suffered a fire. These cities include Plano, Lewisville and San Marcos. All Fire Protection Professionals were invited to join NFSA for a multi-family retrofit free online training that took place on October 15, 2020.

MISSOURI REGION

A Story of Two Attic Fires



A recent sprinkler save demonstrates the striking difference between active and passive fire protection. On Wednesday August 12, 2020, St. Louis firefighters responded to a fire in the attic of a four-story modern Central West End apartment building. Firefighters put the fire out and tenants went back home. There was a much different outcome in the summer of 2012 when this same building had a similar attic fire that caused it to be completely demolished and rebuilt on the same spot.

“All over the country, all the fire chiefs are concerned with

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REGIONAL NEWS

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lightweight construction,” said Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson in a 2012 interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “In five or six minutes, the integrity of these buildings has deteriorated to a point where it becomes very unsafe for firefighters to battle these fires.” This time, he said the fire could have been a lot worse, except the fire sprinklers stopped the fire from spreading, putting firefighters in a position to save the building. In the original 197-unit building, the attic had been designed with only minimal draftstopping as allowed by IBC section 718.4.3. When rebuilt, fire sprinklers were installed in lieu of the draftstopping.

WISCONSIN REGION Sprinkler Save Reporting

We have seen an uptick in the number of fire departments reporting sprinkler saves. These have been promoted by the Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Coalition on their website and Facebook page to encourage save reporting. Too often we forget to promote the success of a community’s fire prevention efforts; efforts that include the requirement of fire sprinkler installation to protect lives and property.

Fire departments are learning that fire sprinkler systems are an effective tool to reduce the amount of damage to property and lessen injuries and death for occupant and first responders. Fire sprinklers are the “working smarter not harder” aspect within the fire department. Reports from Madison Fire Department, Burlington Fire Department and Appleton Fire and Rescue show the difference fire sprinklers make in protecting their community. We thank those advocates for their efforts.

We are expanding our sprinkler saves reporting to include the Fire

Sprinkler Industry – someone has to place those systems back in service! It is important that the industry reports the fire sprinkler success stories to assist promoting the life-safety attributes of fire sprinklers.

NORTHWEST REGION Legislative Sessions to be held in Five Northwestern States

The Columbia-Willamette and Puget Sound Chapters continue to meet virtually. In October, both chapters hosted area jurisdictions for our annual Fire Marshal Roundtable. We had excellent updates from all participants. Watch your inbox for proposed meetings in 2021. If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact your Regional Manager or Chapter board members.

All five Northwest states will be holding legislative sessions in 2021. As legislators deal with the impacts of wildfires, the pandemic and subsequent economic fallout, your regional manager will be monitoring activities that may impact the sprinkler industry. Start dates for the Northwest states include Jan. 4 for Montana, Jan. 11 for Washington and Idaho, and Jan. 19 for Alaska and Oregon.

In addition to tracking legislation, your regional manager is monitoring state code advisory groups for possible emergency changes to the codes in order to facilitate rebuilding after the tremendous wildfire losses in many communities.

Plans are underway for Washington state sprinkler advocates to partner with the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition on a virtual pilot event to discuss trade-ups available to new housing developments that install sprinklers in all residences. The audience is being identified as city and county planners and the event is set for spring 2021. •

NFSA offers a variety of training classes both in person and online training options including live virtual training classes, recorded programs, self-paced interactive or blended learning formats.

NFSA is leading the industry, with training topics such as:

- *NFPA 13, 14, 20 Standard Updates*
- *Sprinkler System Plan Review*
- *Standpipes for Fire Protection*
- *Pumps for Fire Protection*
- *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance*
- *Layout and Design*
- *Advanced Pumps*
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And so much more!



Don't miss NFSA's ***Technical Tuesdays Live Online Training***. Tech Tuesdays are offered monthly and are FREE to members!

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National Fire Sprinkler Magazine

The Flagship Publication of The National Fire Sprinkler Association

NFSM Article Submission Guidelines

National Fire Sprinkler Magazine (*NFSM*), a members-only publication of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, is published six times a year. It offers Fire Sprinkler Industry news and articles of interest to Association members.

Query

Send an e-mail or letter briefly describing your article proposal, why the topic is important, and how it is relevant to our audience. Say something about the sources of your information (*personal involvement? interviews?*) and about your present position and background. Tell us what types of photographs and graphics are available to illustrate your story. Be sure to include an email address and a daytime phone number.

NFSM runs full-length feature articles of approximately 800-1200 words.

Feature Articles

Articles for *NFSM* should be on a topic of significant interest to the industry. Articles promoting a specific product or service will not be published. We have advertising opportunities available to boost your sales.

Writing Guidelines

NFSM tries to maintain a straightforward style. Accuracy is vital. All facts should be double-checked before a manuscript is submitted. All manuscripts must be submitted as Word docs, single-spacing between sentences. Images must be sent as attachments to emails or through a file transfer site. We cannot use images embedded within a document. Charts and tables must be submitted as separate pdfs.

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a list of resources on the topic at hand: relevant books and reports, conferences, and/or contact people and their phone numbers. To settle points of style, use *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press).

Illustrations

NFSM uses a variety of photographs, line art, charts, and maps.

We prefer to receive artwork electronically, and all illustrations should include credit and caption information.

Copyrights

Articles must be exclusive to *NFSM* magazine and not submitted to any other industry publication, unless prior agreement has been reached. Author is responsible for the accuracy of article and that it does not infringe on any other copyright. All published submissions become the property of NFSA.

Payment

NFSM does not pay for articles; we do recognize an author with a byline and credit. NFSA reserves the right to reject any submission at its own discretion.

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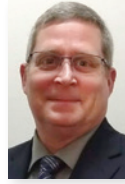
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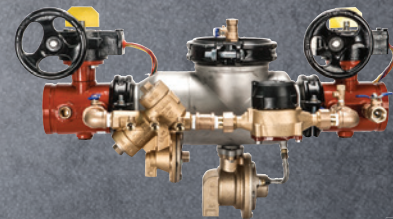
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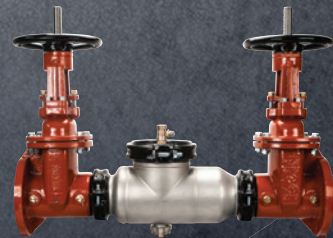
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