



**Issue Number: 190**

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### **Act Before NICET Changes Are Implemented**

The NFSA Engineering and Standards Committee has suggested that all industry technicians in the process of achieving certification through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) be made aware of pending changes to the NICET examination system that could affect their progress. NICET is in the process of switching from a work element based examination system to a computer-based system in which each level of certification requires passing a single comprehensive test. The only planned exception is for Level III certification in the Sprinkler Layout and Detailing program, for which there are two parts planned: layout and hydraulics.

Once the new program is implemented, technicians with some work elements “already in the bank” will be given a year to complete certification at that level, after which the credit for those work elements will be lost.

NICET’s Inspection and Testing certification program is also moving toward computer-based testing. The blueprint for how the test(s) will be designed is not yet complete, and full implementation is not likely to take place for another year. However, the grace period for completing a work element based level in that program is likely to be much shorter.

The Engineering and Standards Committee is urging all technicians to move forward to complete their present level of testing to avoid the loss of existing credit.

### **The Importance of a Comma**

The NFSA Expert of the Day program produces some interesting questions and comments. One recently highlighted a problem produced by the editorial loss of a comma between the 2007 and 2010 editions of NFPA 13.

Here is the wording of Section 12.6.7 of the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, dealing with the allowable use of ESFR sprinklers:

*12.6.7 Large drop, control mode specific application and ESFR sprinklers shall be permitted to protect ordinary hazard, storage of Class I through Class IV commodities, plastic commodities, miscellaneous storage, and other storage as specified in Chapter 12 through Chapter 20 or by other NFPA standards.*

Here is the same section as printed by NFPA in the 2010 edition of the standard:

*12.6.7 CMSA and ESFR sprinklers shall be permitted to protect ordinary hazard storage of Class I through Class IV commodities, plastic commodities, miscellaneous storage, and other storage as specified in Chapter 12 through Chapter 20 or by other NFPA standards.*

The section was opened for editing because of the consolidation of large drop sprinklers into the category of CMSA sprinklers, but no change in the application was intended by the Committee, which is clear on page 13-9 of the ROP (Report on Proposals ) for the 2009 annual revision cycle. Nevertheless, without the comma between “ordinary hazard” and “Class I through Class IV commodities,” at least one AHJ has refused to allow ESFR sprinklers to protect an ordinary hazard portion of an occupancy, insisting that ESFR sprinklers are only permitted to protect storage.

### **SAM Fridays Start This Week – Sign Up Now!**

**Like his distant cousin Joe Friday of “Dragnet” fame, SAM Friday is all about the facts, not sales pitches. This fall, NFSA is launching a pilot series of four online series featuring experts from among the Supplier and Manufacturer (SAM) members of NFSA. These seminars will be held at the usual time, starting at 10:30 am Eastern, but as the name suggests will be held on Friday mornings. Because this is a pilot series, the NFSA is charging only \$39 per seminar, or all four seminars for \$99. To register online, click [HERE](#). The schedule is as follows:**

#### **Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Flow, Pressure, and Tamper Switches**

Instructor – Mike Henke, Potter Electric Signal

With 30 years experience at Potter Electric, Mike Henke currently serves as Product Manager for the fire sprinkler division. His presentation will cover the installation, operation and testing of fire sprinkler monitoring products for wet and dry pipe systems.

#### **Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – CPVC Failure Analysis for Sprinkler Contractors**

Instructor – Michelle Knight, Lubrizol

Leaks in CPVC fire sprinkler systems can occur for a variety of reasons, including chemical incompatibility issues, mechanical damage to the pipe or fitting, and installation errors. This presentation will focus on recognizing the signs of various types of problems and steps that can be taken to avoid them. Michelle Knight has worked in research and development in the CPVC department at Lubrizol for 20 years, and specializes in failure analysis and material testing.

#### **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Flexible Drops: Uses and Limitations**

Instructor – Mike Dooley, Flexhead

“Flexible sprinkler hose fittings” were first allowed by NFPA 13 in the 2007 edition of the standard, but have specific rules and limitations attached to their use. This seminar will address those rules, but also note the degree to which these devices have been accepted for use as part of earthquake protection features and as simple labor-saving design features.

#### **Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Steel Pipe Types and Manufacturing**

Instructor – Drew Siddons, Allied Tube and Conduit

This seminar provides an introduction to the types and manufacturing methods of steel pipe, and will include information on ASTM numbers, continuous welding vs. electric resistance welding, seamless products, corrosion resistance ratios, (CRRs), stencils, and more.

**Join these experts and allow them to answer your product questions.** To register or for more information, contact Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207 or e-mail to [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org)

**Upcoming NFSA “Technical Tuesday” Seminar – September 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Topic: Changes to Water Supply and Hose Stream Requirements*

*Instructor: Karl Wiegand, E.I.T., NFSA Manager of Installation Standards*

*Date: September 28, 2010*

For the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13, the rules for providing safety factors for water supplies have changed. At the same time, the standard has also clarified how to add hose stream demands for buildings with 2 ½-inch hose connections that are a part of the sprinkler system and for hose stream demands on systems with pumps or tanks. This seminar will explore the evolution of the water supply requirements and the implementation of the hose stream demands.

To register or for more information, contact Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207 or e-mail to [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org)

**Upcoming NFSA/FSI “Best Practices Thursday” Seminar – Oct. 21st**

*Topic: The Insurance Market*

*Instructor: Brian Cullen & Top Myers*

*Date: October 21, 2010*

Do you REALLY understand what drives your hazard insurances premiums? How can you save money when purchasing something you can't do without? This 45-minute presentation will overview the hazard lines insurance markets and provide participants with a solid step-by-step plan for negotiating best possible rates. One-on-one follow-up is available after the seminar at no additional charge.

To register or for more information, contact Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207 or e-mail to [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org)

**Inspection & Testing for the Sprinkler Industry (3-day course)**

*New Castle, DE – September 28-30, 2010*

*Delaware State Fire School's Regional Center*

*2311 McArthur Drive, New Castle, DE 19720*

For more information, contact Nicole Sprague using [Sprague@nfsa.org](mailto:Sprague@nfsa.org) or by calling 845-878-4200 ext. 149.

## Additional In-Class Training Seminars

The NFSA training department also offers in-class training on a variety of subjects at locations across the country. Here are some seminars scheduled for 2010:

Oct 5	Pembroke, MA	Residential Homes to High-Rise
Oct 6	Pembroke, MA	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Oct 7	Pembroke, MA	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Oct 13	Hillsboro, OR	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Oct 14	Hillsboro, OR	CPVC Piping (1/2 day)
Oct 14	Hillsboro, OR	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)
Oct 15	Hillsboro, OR	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Oct 25	Fairbanks, AK	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Oct 26	Fairbanks, AK	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Oct 27	Fairbanks, AK	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Oct 28	Fairbanks, AK	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Oct 29	Fairbanks, AK	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)
Nov 1	Anchorage, AK	NFPA 13 Update 2007
Nov 2	Anchorage, AK	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)
Nov 2	Anchorage, AK	Basic Seismic Protection (1/2 day)
Nov 3	Anchorage, AK	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Nov 3	Teutopolis, IL	Introduction to Sprinklers (1/2 day)
Nov 3	Teutopolis, IL	CPVC Piping (1/2 day)
Nov 4	Teutopolis, IL	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Nov 9	Las Vegas, NV	Underground Piping (1/2 day)
Nov 9	Las Vegas, NV	Basic Seismic (1/2 day)
Nov 10	Las Vegas, NV	Standpipe Systems (1/2 day)
Nov 10	Las Vegas, NV	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (1/2 day)

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

To register or for more information, contact Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207 or e-mail to [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org)

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### **About the National Fire Sprinkler Association**

*Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country. [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).*