



# e-TechNotes

*Editor-Russell P. Fleming, P.E.*

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## **Surge in Counterfeit Sprinkler Concerns**

FM Approvals issued an alert bulletin at the beginning of this month to advise that a new “FIREX” brand sprinkler had been marketed in the Middle East bearing a counterfeit FM Approvals mark (click [HERE](#)). FIREX is the name of the Emirates Fire Fighting Equipment Factory, but that organization does not produce fire sprinklers. In October, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in the UK issued a similar alert, noting that some of the fake Firex sprinklers carrying the BRE’s LPCB certification marking are also on sale in the Middle East (click [HERE](#)).

In May of this year FM Approvals had reported counterfeit versions of two Reliable brand sprinklers, one a standard response bulb pendent spray sprinkler carrying the R1715 SIN marking and the other a standard response bulb upright spray sprinkler marked as R1725. Additional information and photographs are available (click [HERE](#)).

Some overseas counterfeiters have become emboldened to the point where they are now offering direct sales into this country. A west coast NFSA member recently reported that a Chinese manufacturer posted a note on the contractor’s website, offering to provide pricing on any sprinkler that they might need, i.e. any brand and size. To test the offer, the contracting firm responded that they were in need of quite a few K-25.2 ESFR sprinklers, and requested a quote and a sample. As might be expected, the quote was very attractive but the sprinkler frames arrived with no manufacturer or laboratory markings. Other samples of standard spray sprinklers that were sent along at the same time carried counterfeit manufacturer and laboratory markings.

In 2006, Tyco announced that over a thousand counterfeit Tyco sprinklers that had been manufactured in China were seized by government officials in Delhi, India (click [HERE](#)). In 2006 and 2008, Underwriters Laboratories issued bulletins warning of counterfeit sprinklers they had discovered overseas as well (click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)).

To this point, counterfeit sprinklers have not been a problem in North America. So long as contractors buy their products from reputable manufacturers and suppliers, the situation should stay that way. However, the prospect of direct sales to unscrupulous competitors is a concern, and may require increased vigilance on the part of AHJs in the future.

## Upcoming NFSA "Technical Tuesday" Seminar – December 27<sup>th</sup>

*NOTE: This seminar, originally scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>, has been rescheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict.*

*Topic: Types of Pipe*

*Instructor: Russell P. Fleming, P.E., NFSA Executive Vice President*

*Date: Tuesday, December 27, 2011- 10:30 am EST*

This seminar will provide an update on the types of pipe allowed for use in fire sprinkler systems under the various NFPA sprinkler installation standards and different occupancy hazard classifications, as well as new types not yet addressed in the NFPA standards. It will include a review of the joining methods permitted for the various types. It will also address the limitations of special listed piping products, such protection requirements versus when piping can be exposed, and discuss current compatibility concerns.

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

## Register Now for 2012 "Tech Tuesday" Series on Standpipes

NFSA Engineering has announced a new series of 12 "Technical Tuesday" online seminars for the first half of 2012, focusing on all aspects of standpipe system design, installation, testing and inspection. The series starts on January 10th, so register now and take advantage of the multi-seminar discounts of up to 25 percent:

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Introduction to Standpipes  
Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - Class II Standpipe Systems  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup> - Class I and Class III Standpipe Systems  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> - Pressure Control in Buildings with Standpipe  
Mar 6<sup>th</sup> - Pumps and Standpipe Systems  
Mar 20<sup>th</sup> - NFPA 20 and NFPA 14 for High-Rise Buildings  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Hanging, Bracing and Protection of Standpipe System Piping  
April 17<sup>th</sup> - Manual Standpipe Systems  
May 8<sup>th</sup> - Dry Standpipe Systems  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Horizontal Standpipes and Lateral Piping  
June 5<sup>th</sup> - Acceptance Testing of Standpipes  
June 19<sup>th</sup> - Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Standpipe Systems

Price for NFSA Members - \$125 per session

Price for Non-Members - \$250 per session

\*\*\*\*\* **Special Offer** \*\*\*\*\*

**Order 12 or more seminars now and receive 25% off regular price**

**Order 10 or 11 seminars now and receive 20% off regular price**

**Order 8 or 9 seminars now and receive 15% off regular price**

**Order 6 or 7 seminars now and receive 10% off regular price**

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

## Layout Technician Training Course (2-week course)

Orlando, FL – February 6-17, 2012

Fishkill, NY – October 8-19, 2012

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

## Upcoming In-Class Training Seminars

The NFSA training department also offers in-class training on a variety of subjects at locations across the country, and in recognition of the current recession has adopted a new reduced fee structure. Here are some upcoming seminars:

Jan 10	Poughkeepsie, NY	NFPA 13, 13R & 13D Update 2007/2010
Jan 11	Poughkeepsie, NY	Basic Seismic Protection/Protection of Flammable & Combustible Liquids
Jan 12	Poughkeepsie, NY	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance for the AHJ

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

**To register for these in-class seminars, click [HERE](#). Or contact Michael Repko at (845) 878-4207 or e-mail to [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org) for more information.**

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*NFSA Tuesday eTechNotes is c. 2011 National Fire Sprinkler Association, and is distributed to NFSA members on Tuesdays for which no NFSA Technical Tuesday Online Seminar is scheduled. Statements and conclusions are based on the best judgment of the NFSA Engineering staff, and are not the official position of the NFPA or its technical committees or those of other organizations except as noted. Opinions expressed herein are not intended, and should not be relied upon, to provide professional consultation or services. Please send comments to Russell P. Fleming, P.E. [fleming@nfsa.org](mailto:fleming@nfsa.org).*

### ***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).*