

TechNotes Issue # 422 June 25, 2019

The following issue of TechNotes has been written by Roland Asp, C.E.T., Manager of Installation Standards for the NFSA.

2019 NFPA Conference and EXPO

The 2019 NFPA Conference and EXPO was held last week (June 17-20, 2019) in San Antonio, Texas. This conference is important to those of us in the fire protection industry for a variety of reasons.

Networking Opportunities: One of the most important reasons for attending the NFPA conference is networking opportunities. The fire sprinkler industry is well represented at the NFPA Conference, and there are many opportunities to reconnect with our peers. There are also opportunities to meet new people who can help us to fulfill the NFSA mission: "To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept." The NFPA conference and expo is attended by participants from around the world many of which believe in the fire sprinkler concept. Others need some education.

Education Sessions: Although fire sprinklers are a simple well-established concept, the technology to protect lives and properties is always evolving. It is vital that those of us in the industry keep learning and keep abreast with the latest innovations. To this end, NFSA staff at the conference attended many of the educational sessions that are of interest to our industry and our members.

Some of the education sessions attended include;

- Energy Storage Systems - Evaluating Potential Fire Propagation
- Solid Shelves, Blocked Flues, Aisle Storage, and K-5.6 Sprinklers...All Bad? Maybe Not. Lessons Learned Through Full-Scale Fire Testing
- Fluorine Free Foams
- New Sprinkler Designs for Ceilings up to 50 Feet High
- NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of

Upcoming Technical Tuesdays

August 20, 2019

Foam Systems ITM - NFPA
25, NFPA 11, and NFPA 16

Presented by Vince
Powers, Inspection, Testing
& Maintenance Specialist

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View older issues in the "Member's Only" section

- Sprinkler Systems - Test Your Knowledge
- Plan Review Time Data Comparison with NFPA 1730
- Evaluating Storage Under Sloped Ceilings - Large-Scale Fire Suppression Testing
- Consumer Fireworks - A Review of Recent Large-Scale Fire Tests
- NFPA 13-2019 - Comparative Analysis Study and Determination of Storage Protective Criteria
- NFPA 241-2019, Standards for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations: Changes
- Changing the Conversation and Raising Awareness for Fire Sprinklers
- Fire Pump Testing - Requirement, Analysis, and Interpretation
- Connected Technologies for Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- Public/Private Partnerships: A Texas Success Story

Tech Session: On June 20, 2019, at the NFPA Annual Conference and EXPO in San Antonio, the Technical Meeting (or Tech Session) was held. The Tech Session is a vital step in the revision process and can be thought of as opportunity for the public to comment on and potentially revise the NFPA standard prior to being issued by the NFPA Standards Council.

The Tech Session is the 3rd step in the NFPA process. Step 1, known as the Public Input Stage results in the is First Draft Report from the technical committee. Step 2, known as the Public Comment Stage results in the Second Draft Report from the technical committee. Step 3 is known as the Tech Session Stage.

If a motion (NITMAM) on a document is made and certified by NFPA (CAM), it is debated and voted on by NFPA members at the Tech session.

The 2019 NFPA Tech Session addressed motions on the following eleven NFPA Standards:

- **NFPA 25**, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- **NFPA 302**, Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure and Commercial Motor Craft
- **NFPA 654**, Standard for the Prevention of Fire and Dust Explosions from the Manufacturing, Processing, and Handling of Combustible Particulate Solids
- **NFPA 130**, Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems
- **NFPA 502**, Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges,

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- **NFPA 1961**, Standard on Fire Hose
- **NFPA 1851**, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting
- **NFPA 58**, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code
- **NFPA 801**, Standard for Fire Protection for Facilities Handling Radioactive Materials
- **NFPA 855**, Standard for Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems
- **NFPA 70**, National Electrical Code

NFSA, under the direction of the E&S committee, submitted three motions to NFPA 25. The three motions submitted by NFSA were:

- NFPA 25-1: Accept Public Comment No. 49 which would remove the requirement to inspect the general information sign in NFPA 25. This motion was not accepted.
- NFPA 25-3 was withdrawn
- NFPA 25-4 Accept an identifiable part of Public Comment No. 40 which will include acceptance criteria for waterflow alarm devices. This motion passed.

These motions were debated on the floor. One of the two motions submitted by NFSA was accepted by NFPA membership.

NFSA did not limit our participation to the comments that were submitted by NFSA. NFSA listened and voted on all comments that impact our industry. In total there were eighty-five motions debated at the technical meeting on the above mentioned eleven NFPA Standards.

The technical session is not the end of the process: NFPA does allow a final appeal before these documents are issued. Once any appeals are heard, the NFPA Standards Council will Issue the document.

NFSA is heavily invested in this process for the documents that impact our industry. NFSA staff, the Engineering and Standards Committee, and NFSA members who represent the NFSA on the NFPA technical committees are committed to this process. A lot of time and effort is invested on behalf of our members to ensure that the relevant NFPA standards continue to provide unsurpassed life and property protection, and ensure our industry is represented in this process.

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For more information on the NFPA Standards Development Process please see the article "The NFPA Standards - The Revision Process and NFSA's Role" published in the May/June 2018 edition of The National Fire Sprinkler Magazine which is available to members on the NFSA website.

Full results of the technical meeting and a summary of the process can be viewed on the NFPA website.

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Upcoming In-Class Seminars

Sprinkler System Plan Review
Las Vegas, NV
July 15 - 16, 2019

NFPA 13, 13D, 13R Update (2016
Edition)
Portland, OR
July 25, 2019

NFPA 13, 13D, 13R Updated (2016
Edition)
Medford, OR
July 26, 2019

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Did You Know??

The NFSA assigns a member of the Engineering Department staff every business day to answer your technical questions. We call this the Expert of the Day (EOD) program and it is available to our members by phone, or e-mail. Call us at (845) 878-4200 and press 2, or you can e-mail us at eod@nfsa.org. Last year we answered more than 1400 requests for assistance.

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