

This issue of Technotes was written by Roland A. Asp, CET, NFSA's Manager of Codes and Standards.

The "Superbowl" for Sprinkler Layout Technicians



This issue of TechNotes is not specifically on a technical subject like is the norm. Instead, it highlights the segment of our industry that applies the technical aspects of fire protection systems which makes our industry successful – the layout technicians.

Layout technicians take all aspects of the codes and the standards and turn them into a viable project. The key to a successful sprinkler system project is a technically correct and efficient system layout. Layout technicians make this happen and they need to be recognized. This is where the Top Tech Competition comes in.

This is the year that NFSA is holding its Top Tech Competition. The 2021 competition will take place during the NFSA's Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo® which is scheduled for October 5-7, 2021 at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas.

The Top Tech Competition is a fun but challenging competition that pits the top sprinkler layout technicians against each other in a game show type tournament with the purpose of finding the best fire sprinkler layout technician. This tournament will highlight the knowledge and expertise of the finest layout technicians in North America and the companies that they work for.

History of the Top Tech Competition



This competition was originally conceived to generate excitement and enthusiasm associated with the NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition as well as to encourage participation of technicians at the educational portions of the seminar. This tournament certainly met those goals, and each competition has proven to be an exciting addition to the seminar and this year's competition will continue this proud tradition.

The first four competitions (2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013) were team competitions with the top technicians in the various regions competing against other teams in other regions.

Beginning in 2015 and continuing to this year's event, the competition was changed to an individual competition.

Regardless of the format, the winners (and all of the competitors) showed an impressive knowledge of the field and certainly deserve accolades.



2021 Top Tech Competition

In order to qualify for this event, the competitors start by taking the preliminary online examination testing their knowledge of the current edition of NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R, NFPA 14, NFPA 20 and NFPA 22. This exam consists of both multiple choice and layout questions and certainly requires an in-depth knowledge of these standards.



Registration to qualify is now open. The qualifying exam opened April 1, 2021 and

the deadline for completion has been extended to May 28, 2021. Successful competitors will continue with the ultimate goal of competing at the Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo® in Las Vegas.

Once in Vegas, the excitement really starts. The live rounds of the competition will be held on the expo floor with a “Jeopardy” style game show format. These rounds not only challenge the participants knowledge but also generates a lot of enthusiasm from coworkers, families, and attendees who gather round the Top Tech stage to cheer on the contestants.

As a layout technician myself I am truly impressed and humbled with the knowledge and skill shown by all of the competitors. The Top Tech competition can be described as the “Superbowl” for sprinkler layout technicians, and it is not only a fun event, but it also highlights the skills of the layout technician.

As in past years, I expect this competition to be a highlight of our time in Vegas and is an event that competitors and the audience alike will be talking about for years to come.

If you believe you have what it takes to be crowned the best Fire Sprinkler Layout Technician in the land, then the Top Tech competition is for you.

If your company has a technician that shows superior skills in the realm of sprinkler system layout, urge them to compete in the National Fire Sprinkler Association’s Top Tech Competition against the industry elite!

See you in Vegas!

[Register Here](#)

Layout Technician Training



Not ready for Top Tech yet? Check out NFSA's Layout Technician Training class. This class will get you started on the path to a productive, successful layout technician. The training class covers sprinkler selection, sprinkler spacing and location, obstructions to sprinklers, water supplies (public mains, tanks and pumps), hydraulic calculation of sprinkler systems, and standpipe system layout and calculation. Don't miss out on the opportunity to bring this highly requested training class into your office!

**Layout Technician Training -
Virtual Training Class**

August 10 - Sept 2, 2021

**Blended Learning Layout Technician
Virtual Practicum**

August 25 - Sept 2, 2021

[More Information](#)[More Information](#)

New EOD Process

Starting on July 15, 2020, the NFSA has a new EOD process where members can submit questions, track the progress, and view their EOD cases. The step by step process is detailed in [TechNotes #442](#).

National Fire Sprinkler Association

514 Progress Dr, Ste A,
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
1-800-683-NFSA (6372)

[Contact Us](#)