



April 2010



*Daniel J. Gengler
Regional Manager
Associate Director of
Regional Operations*

PO Box 286
Waupaca, WI 54981

Phone: (715) 256-9515
Fax: (262) 245-5258

Remember if you have code or technical questions, the Expert of the Day is there for NFSA members.

eod@nfsa.org

Help us help you, pass this on in-house

Residential Fire Sprinkler Language in IRC Will Not be Challenged in Dallas

Residential fire sprinklers will not be challenged in the “ICC Final Action Hearings” in May in Dallas, Texas.

The final action hearing agenda for the 2012 International residential Code (IRC) was released on March 16, 2010 by the International Code Council (ICC) and the IRC Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition is pleased to report that there **were no public comments challenging code requirements for residential fire sprinklers!**

Accordingly, under ICC regulations, requirements for residential sprinklers will not be subject to debate at the ICC’s final action in Dallas and instead, **proposals to rescind sprinkler requirements from the IRC will be automatically disapproved without discussion, as part of the consent agenda!**

For complete details, see www.IRCfiresprinklercoalition.org

This means the battleground has changed from the code development arena to the trenches of state capitols and local municipalities. There will be a long bloody war as citizens will continue to die because vested interests will be opposing the residential sprinkler concept everywhere they can spread their manure.

NFSA Annual Convention in Chicago Promises to be Worth the Trip

It’s getting late to register for NFSA’s 2010 Annual Seminar in Chicago April 15-16. Materials have been available for a while. Packets can be easily accessed by the link at the right of our homepage, www.nfsa.org. Hard copies have been mailed and should have been received in your offices. The seminar will be held at the Fairmont Chicago, a premier property, located within walking distance to Chicago’s Navy Pier and shopping on the famed “Magnificent Mile”. Springtime in Chicago to be experienced!

The seminar has been compressed into two days, minimizing the time our members have to take away from their businesses. The number of workshop sessions has increased, providing maximum training opportunities in a minimum amount of time. Program topics include Worker Compensation Tips, Fire Dynamics for the Sprinkler Industry, How to Sell Sprinkler Retrofit, Green Sprinkler Issues and so much more. Go to our website to take a look through the materials and see the great programs we have lined up for you. Space is filling up fast.

TRAINING IN CONJUNCTION WITH NFSA's 2010 ANNUAL SEMINAR

APRIL 14 ½ Day-**COMPACT STORAGE** (a.m.)
APRIL 14 ½ Day-**FIRE PUMP LAYOUT & SIZING** (p.m.)
APRIL 15 ½ Day-**COMMISSIONING & ACCEPTANCE TESTING** (a.m.)

Fire Sprinkler Industry Meets With National Association of Home Builders

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010 in Washington, D.C. the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) met with Jerry Howard, Chief Executive Officer of The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and his key staff. This meeting, which was strongly recommended by NFSA President John Viniello to NFSA's Residential Committee in November, included Steve Muncy, President of AFSA, Shane Ray, NFSA's Director of Public Fire Protection, and Jim Dalton, NFSA Consultant. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of mutual cooperation, such as training and education and code and technical interface between the home builders and the fire sprinkler industry. No attempt was made by the fire sprinkler industry representatives to change the thinking of NAHB regarding mandatory sprinklers. On this point, both organizations would "agree to disagree".

Although it was clearly understood that the final decision for any cooperative efforts would rest with the NAHB Board Representatives, both NFSA and AFSA were encouraged by the exchange. John Viniello commented, "I was delighted that AFSA accepted our invitation to attend this meeting. We both were encouraged by the frank and open discussions that took place. I believe we made significant progress."

NFSA's former Director of Public Fire Protection (*ret.*) Jim Dalton commented, "While we may have philosophical disagreements regarding the installation of sprinklers, productive dialogue is needed in a variety of areas that would be helpful to both industries." Look for additional updates on NFSA's website at www.nfsa.org.

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Continues its Journey

The Fire Sprinkler Act of 2009 continues to gather support as bills now lie in both the US Senate and House of Representatives. With the Health Care signed into law, it is planned to make a concentrated effort to get this powerful safety legislation on the move towards adoption. A sluggish economy is the main deterrent to positive movement.

The FSIA intends to amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. Passage of this landmark fire protection legislation will accelerate cost recovery of fire sprinkler retrofits in a large inventory of critical occupancies built under

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older codes prior to requirements for inclusion of fire sprinkler systems and get us one giant step closer to a fire safe America.

Continue to monitor the www.nfsa.org, Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act for more information.

John Viniello to Receive Special Recognition!

On Thursday, March 25th, the NFSA announced to the Staff and Regional Managers that John Viniello, President, National Fire Sprinkler Association has been recognized and selected by the Awards Committee of the Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association as this year's recipient of their Distinguished Community Leadership Award.

William F. Miller, President, Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association wrote, "The recognition is awarded to an individual who has made outstanding contribution on behalf of individuals in their community who experience disabilities by providing insight, enhancing active community collaboration and cooperation, and a genuine commitment to make the community a better place, a community where all individuals are afforded equal opportunities to live full and productive lives."



Mr. Viniello will be formally recognized for his over 25-year of dedicated service at the Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association's Annual Dinner on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York. Congratulation JAV!!

New Green Construction Code Unveiled

The International Code Council announced on March 15, 2010 the release of Public Version 1.0 of the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) to regulate construction of new and existing commercial buildings. The IGCC aims to significantly reduce energy usage and greenhouse gasses. It addresses site development and land use, including preservation of natural and material resources. Enforcement of the code will improve indoor air quality and support the use of energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy systems, water resource conservation, rainwater collection and distribution systems, and the recovery of used water (gray water).

The IGCC emphasizes building performance, including features such as a requirement for building system performance verification and building owner education to ensure the best energy-efficient practices. A key feature of the new code is a section devoted to "jurisdictional electives" that will allow customization of the code beyond its baseline provisions to address local priorities and conditions.

The IGCC initiative was launched in 2009 with Cooperating Sponsors the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and ASTM International. The support of the AIA underscores its long-time leadership in the sustainability movement, including its 2030 Carbon Neutrality challenge, and its emphasis on the critical role of architects and designers in the life cycle of sustainable construction.

AIA Executive Vice President/CEO Christine McEntee said, "The IGCC reinforces the role of the architect as a key leader in shaping the set of decisions that result in a truly green building and underlines the fact that

good design matters. The AIA committed its resources to providing a strong presence at the drafting sessions to ensure that this code would truly be useful to our members and other stakeholders, and to ensure that the regulatory landscape was structured to facilitate the advancement beyond the AIA's 2030 energy reduction goals for carbon neutral buildings. We are very pleased with the release of this initial public version and are committed to working with the ICC as the code moves forward through the review and adoption process."

NFSA Receives Invitation to Meet with Key NAHB Committee

Following what NFSA President John Viniello called a very productive meeting earlier this month with NAHB's CEO and key staff; NFSA has received an invitation by NAHB's Senior Officer leadership to meet with their Construction, Codes and Standards Committee. The meeting will be held in conjunction with their Spring Board meeting in Washington, D.C. during the week of April 19.

"We are very encouraged by the positive response we have received from the National Association of Home Builders," said NFSA President John Viniello. "We are confident that as our respective codes, technical and training staffs get together in meaningful discussion, areas of mutual benefit will be identified and addressed."

As the relationship between the two organizations continues to evolve, NFSA will post information at the website (nfsa.org) and on its social network

NFPA Letter to Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes

Dear Coalition Members –

I am thrilled to share with you very exciting news. This month Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal signed their FSC legislation requiring all cigarettes sold in Wyoming to meet a specific fire safety standard as of July, 2011. This marks the 50th state to pass legislation aimed at reducing the number of cigarette fires and fire fatalities and officially achieves the coalition's goal of getting this life-saving legislation in every state.

As you know, we officially launched the Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes in March of 2006. In these past four years, we went from three initial states who had passed legislation to 50; saw one of the major cigarette manufacturers turn over all of their manufacturing to this process without waiting for legislative action, enlisted the support of more than 50 coalition members; held annual fire safe cigarette conferences to facilitate adoption and then implementation; received hundreds of media mentions and above all, saved lives.

Mission accomplished! Congratulations!

While it is too early to have a full indication of the success of this work, there have been several positive notes. The state of New York reports a drop in both cigarette related fires as well as cigarette related fire deaths since implementation of their legislation. The state of Vermont has reported a decline as well. Other states and large cities have reported record low numbers of fire deaths for 2009, which we hope is due in part to the FSC legislation but we will know better in the years ahead as all state bills become effective. There are currently 43 states where the laws have gone into effect and every state will go into effect by mid-2011.

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This has been a tremendous endeavor and one that could not have been achieved without your support. Thank you for joining with NFPA in what will undoubtedly be hailed as a giant leap forward in fire protection in the future. The coalition is a great example of what can be achieved when we work together towards a common goal.

We appreciate your support and you lending your important voice to this campaign. It truly made a difference for legislators to hear that there were so many important organizations in favor of this effort.

The coalition work has ended but we will maintain the Web site so that it can continue to be used as a resource for states that are just coming online and to continue to chronicle the success of FSC.

You should all take great pride in your role in the Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes. Because of the coalition there will be fewer fires, fewer deaths, less injuries and reduced property damage from cigarette related fires. We at NFPA were honored to work with all of you on such an important campaign.

Lorraine Carli, Vice President – Communications
National Fire Protection Association

Sprinkler Saves

Sprinkler extinguishes fatal apartment fire

A single sprinkler extinguished a fire in a three-story apartment building, but not before it fatally burned an 86-year-old woman, who died 12 hours later. The three-story wood-frame apartment building was part of a large complex protected by a monitored wet-pipe sprinkler system. The system also provided smoke detector coverage in the apartments and common spaces. The water flow alarm activated the fire alarm, which notified the fire department at 8:30 a.m.

The victim was cooking gelatin on the front burner of her kitchen stove when her robe ignited. The robe burned quickly until the sprinkler activated and extinguished the fire.

Damage estimates for the building and its contents were not reported.

No injuries, damage after Kenosha fire at kitchen, bath outlet

A fire at LPI Kitchen and Bath Outlet, 5718 52nd St., was out just after the Kenosha Fire Department arrived at 1:13 p.m. Monday. However, the fire produced thick, black smoke and an acrid odor detectable miles away, fire officials said.

Matt Haerter, battalion chief with the Kenosha Fire Department, said the smoke turned white just after they arrived. “That told us that it was being hit by a fire sprinkler system,” Haerter said. There were no injuries.

No damage was done because the fire was put out by the company’s fire suppression system and was contained to the processing area. The cause of the fire was likely a spark from somewhere in the system, Haerter said. However, finding the cause of that spark would be difficult since the entire system was doused with water.

The smokestack attached to the vacuum system collects the dust from the laminated product processing area, producing the acrid odor. The sprinkler system saved the company from having an immense amount of damage, Haerter said. “The representative from LPI was clearly thankful they had a sprinkler system and that it was in good working order,” Haerter said.

Fatal Fire in Oak Creek Controlled by Sprinklers

An elderly woman died March 27th in a fire on the third floor of an apartment building on E. Puetz Road in Oak Creek, WI. The fire is believed to have started by a towel place on the burner of the apartment stove. The unit’s fire sprinkler system activated to control the fire until crews were able to evacuate the victim and examine for fire extension. Damage to the building and contents was estimated to approximately \$20,000. All other building occupants were uninjured. The victim was believed to have been intimate with the fire thus resulting in her death.

Sprinkler Saves – We need this info to help promote the industry

Contact me **A.S.A.P.** at (262) 245-5255 or e-mail: dannfsa@aol.com if you have information regarding a Major Fire or Sprinkler Save. A major fire is defined as “one where there is extensive property loss, multiple death or injury to citizens or firefighters, or any other significant circumstances regarding fire sprinkler protection or lack thereof.” Sprinkler Saves will help inform others that the systems do work and will provide life and property saving values.

MINNESOTA: www.nfsamn.org

Third Annual MN Fire Sprinkler Forum Scheduled-Must attend!

This is a reminder that the Third Annual Minnesota Fire Sprinkler Code Forum will be held Thursday, April 29 at the Minneapolis Fire Museum. The agenda includes lightweight construction by UL, fire sprinkler freeze-ups, five years of fire sprinkler save records, the upcoming Minnesota code process, the insurance industry and ISO and fire sprinkler codes, and the Minnesota Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition update.

Speakers include Richard Walke, UL, Tom Joachim, assistant commissioner of the Division of Labor and Industry, Mark Kulda, Insurance Federation, Scott Futrell with SFPE, Jon Nisja, Fire Marshal Division, Gene Dugal, Bloomington Fire Marshal, Sean Flaherty, Viking Automatic Sprinkler and representatives with the MN Coalition.

Be watching for announcements and next month’s newsletter for more attendance details.

Annual BurnAid Scheduled for TPC-Twin Cities for 14th Annual Event

The 14th Annual Burn Aid Golf Classic has been scheduled for September 13, 2010 at the TPC Twin Cities Golf Club, the site of a PGA Senior Tour event. It was designed by Arnold Palmer and promises to be a challenge to the best golfers and fun for the rest. The steering committee is working hard to make the day memorable, challenging and fun. A slow economy threatens to challenge the events sponsorship &

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participation this year. Not unlike other events, the outing needs the continued support of all to help ensure the great good continues.

The annual fundraiser gives participants fantastic golf and good times but also left all knowing they helped a great cause, the Regions Hospital Burn Unit in St. Paul. Monies from the outing will benefit many children and families for those who for unwanted seconds suffer the pain of burns. The event has raised more than \$625,000 in its first thirteen years.

WISCONSIN: www.nfsawi.org

Fire Sprinkler Coalition Continues Its Outreach

The Wisconsin Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition presented their concept programming to the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Education Conference in Wisconsin Dells on March 4, 2010. The chiefs offered support for the power points and encouraged its members to actively assist in the outreach of the four part presentation.

The group will again present the four programs to the Wisconsin Fire & EMS legislative Leadership Coalition on April 8. That group is made up of seven fire service related organizations that help facilitate their legislative agenda in the state.

Side-by-Side Burn Demonstration in Somers

On March 19, 2010, NFSA-Wisconsin Chapter teamed with Gateway College and the Somers Fire Department to do a residential sprinkler presentation to Kenosha area builders and local officials. Special thanks go to the Guy & Anna Santelli family for usage of their new home that was in the pre-drywall stage. Kathy Meulemans, Chapter publicist presented the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's *Built for Life* program. North Central Regional Manager Dan Gengler narrated a side-by-side burn demonstration before 75 viewers.

The session culminated with Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Lt. Tom Clark presenting the new fire service personnel power point program developed by the Wisconsin Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition. All presentations received well and gave appearances that attendees were impressed with the concept.

BCGI Sets Date for 22nd Event

Invites will be out in early June for the 22nd *Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational*. Scheduled for August 30th, the invitational will be played on the beautiful and challenging Brute and Highland Courses of the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, WI. The Midwest Sprinkler Industries sponsor the outing while the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety (WAFS) is the presenter. The evening offers a gracious European style dinner with live and silent auctions to highlight the festivities.

The twenty-one-year total for the event has surpassed \$1,804,000. A check for nearly \$50,000 was presented to the Columbia St. Mary's (CSM) Foundation dedicated for the burn unit in the new hospital that will be dedicated in September. Additional profits from the outing support WAFS Camp for Burn Injured Youths, the nationally recognized Newspapers in Education Fire Safety Program and the 2012 World Burn Congress. We're looking for golfers, dinner attendees and for sponsors. For information contact me at: (914) 414-3336 or Co-Chair Kay Luedke, Freedom Fire Protection (262) 253-9300.

[NFSA Online Interactive Seminars Schedule - ***Get Wisconsin CEU's](#)

The 2010 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time and run approximately 1.5-hours.

Seminar topics are designed to different levels of understanding, Basic (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A) levels. There are several seminars that cross two levels.

April 6, 2010

Dealing with Sloped Ceilings

Intermediate

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., Director of Product Standards

Sprinkler spacing, coverage area and hydraulics all have slight modifications when the system is being installed below a sloped ceiling. This seminar will cover items such as very steep pitches, use of sidewall sprinklers, and even hanging considerations.

April 20, 2010

Problem Solutions in Building and Life Safety Codes

Intermediate

Building Codes and Sprinklers – 2009 Editions Update

Jeff Hugo, C.B.O., Manager of Codes

This seminar will update fire sprinkler contractors, layout technicians, and AHJ's on the specific sprinkler requirements of the 2009 IBC, NFPA 101, and NFPA 5000. Atriums, equipment platforms, refuse and laundry chutes, elevator machine rooms, etc. These are a few of the several scenarios where the building code will override the requirements of the NFPA 13 and NFPA 14 that will be addressed.

The topics for the **2010 "BUSINESS THURSDAY"** Seminars have been specifically selected to help the fire sprinkler contractor deal with current problem areas in the business environment. The instructors bring varied backgrounds relevant to the subjects they will be teaching. **Watch for schedule next month!**

From the desktop of an office or the comforts of a home, one can watch the 1½-hour live-interactive seminar and receive credit. When registering for the seminar, the registrant needs to inform the NFSA that they are in need to receive Wisconsin CEU's. Those needing CEU's for their 2010 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU's completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2010. We can help! **NFSA is offering to all AHJ's the member rate for these live on-line seminars. Order all 10 and save 30%. For more information on this offer and information on these seminars please contact Mike at mrepko@nfsa.org or 845-878-4207.**

April 15, 2010 –

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How to Use Sprinkler Save Information

Bob Kleinheinz - Illinois Regional Manager

This presentation will give the audience an idea of how important sprinklers save information can be and will give an idea of how information is being used in various parts of the country. This program will also demonstrate some very simple and free programs offered by different fire service organizations and agencies.

You can attend a NFSA Seminar without traveling to a classroom. For more information and to view a demonstration, visit our Website at www.nfsa.org, or call Mike at (845) 878-4207. Check these on-line programs:

NFSA North/South Central Regional In-Class Seminars

Your regional manager is looking to schedule 2010 programming in a facility near you. Please contact at dannfsa@aol.com or call (262) 245-5255. Check the NFSA web site to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

The Fire Marshals Marshal's Association of Minnesota is co-sponsoring 1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007) and 1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2010) seminars at the Maple Grove EOC, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN 55311 on May 11-12, 2010 to be repeated May 13-14, 2010 at the Shakopee Fire Department, 129 Holmes Street, Shakopee, MN 55379. *Note: Space is limited to 70 persons for each class. Registrations will be handled on a "first-come" basis. E-mail confirmations will be sent. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged; payments can be sent later or made "at the door". Cancellations made by May 4th can receive a full refund. No "walk-up" registrations will be accepted.*

Registration deadline: Friday, April 30, 2010

Registrations can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota • 678 Pinewood Drive • Shoreview, MN 55126-4749

Fax: (651) 215-0525 • E-Mail: jonnisja@comcast.net

The McFarland, WI Fire Department is co-sponsoring 1-Day Plan Review Procedures/Policies (May 25), ½ - Day Standpipe Systems (NFPA 14) (May 26), ½ -Day Commissioning & Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (May 26) and a ½-Day Foam Water Sprinkler System (NFPA 16) (May 27). Get Minnesota & Wisconsin CEU's for attending.

The West Allis Fire Department is co-sponsoring 1-Day Sprinkler Protection for General Storage (June 2), 1-Day Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage (June 3) and ½ -Day Commissioning & Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (June 4)

Contact Mike Repko, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 120 for information or registration for any NFSA training program. Check the NFSA web site, www.nfsa.org, to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

NFSA Honor Role

Viking Automatic Sprinkler Company

St. Paul, MN

(04/01/56) 54 years

NFSA Code of Ethics Preamble

The members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association recognize that their work has a direct, as well as indirect, impact on the quality of life for all humanity. Accordingly, the services provided by NFSA members require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the preservation of life and property and the further enhancement of the public safety, health and welfare. In practice of their profession, members

of the National Fire Sprinkler Association must maintain and constantly improve their competence and perform under a standard of professional behavior, which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct with balanced regard for the interests of the public, clients, employees, colleagues and the greater fire protection community they serve. Members of the National Fire sprinkler Association are expected to act in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics and all applicable laws, and actively encourage others to do the same.