



“If you’re not first, you’re last”

Rickey Bobby

Movie: Talladega Nights- The Ballad of Ricky Bobby

The movie Talladega Nights-The Ballad of Ricky Bobby was a spoof about racing with principle character Ricky Bobby stating his motivation was to finish first in every race. Although not a spoof, the National Fire Sprinkler Association prescribes to the same thought process, if we’re not first, we’re last in the fire sprinkler association representation. That’s why membership with the NFSA brings the best effort resulting in the best representation of any industry association. The NFSA is working to remain first, it’s that simple!

[America Burning Report Cover Firefighter Dies](#)

Many know that in my previous life, I was a career firefighter for the City of Milwaukee, WI. I still receive communications from my alma mater and was disturbed when I read the email below:

Subject: DEATH OF RETIREE

*Retired **Firefighter Thomas O. Klatt**, Pension 1/1/1982, passed away on 2/19/2007. Funeral services are being held in Florida. Flags are to be flown as per Department Notice on Saturday, 2/24/2007. FF Klatt entered service with the Department on 8/8/1966. May he rest in peace.*

Tom was on the cover of the first America Burning Report in 1973. Tom's picture was taken somewhere about February 15, 1970, 37 years nearly to the day of his death. He has just been handed the pictured rescued child from a burning home on 15th and Chambers in Milwaukee. The child died. Tom sustained a career ending injury about 8 years later. Had fire sprinklers been in either building, the child would have survived a minor fire and Tom wouldn't have fallen into an injury occurring dilemma. His situation ultimately cost the City of Milwaukee taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in unfunded duty disability benefits.

Many understand that the “America Burning Reports” of 1973, “America Burning Revisited” in 1986 and “America Burning Recommissioned” in 2000 presented a myriad of findings: establishing the National Fire Academy, better protective fire gear and apparatus and fire safety measures for responding agencies. The basic formula of establishing a fire prevention education format to be the roadmap for homeowners and families to prevent fires was a key. The formula continues with functional early warning, evacuation planning and residential fire sprinkler protection for complete fire safety. Tom’s picture was seen by anyone who had the inclination to participate in bringing down the fire loss

Tom had to retire because of his injuries on a duty disability pension from the Milwaukee Fire Department in 1982. He didn’t want to leave knowing he was leaving his profession and would experience the next 25 years in pain. God rest his soul!

[Robert “Mac” McLeod Receives Coveted Golden Sprinkler Award](#)

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to announce that this year's **Golden Sprinkler Award** recipient is **Robert “Mac” McLeod** (ret.). Bob McLeod, who retired from NFSA in 1999 after 15 years of dedicated service will accept the award at a special presentation on Thursday, May 3 at NFSA's Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Las Vegas.

Following an impressive career with the fire services in the state of Florida, Mac joined the NFSA team in 1984 as a Regional Manager. Over the years Mac tirelessly served the NFSA and its membership with everything from NICET exam preparation education to representing the fire sprinkler industry in the building code arena as a member of the SBCCI Fire and Life Safety Committee. He later was to become NFSA's first Director of Training and Education. Following this, Mac switched gears and was promoted to the position of Director of Regional Operations and later went on to become Vice President responsible for supervising the activities of the Association's Regional Managers located across the nation.

Commenting on the announcement, **NFSA President John Viniello**, "Bob's energy, enthusiasm and belief in fire sprinklers was contagious throughout his career in the fire services and NFSA. He was a "doer" in every sense of the word and a credit to this Association and our Industry. He represents the very best of what the Golden Sprinkler Award stands for."

Speaking for the many present and past NFSA staff personnel, "Thanks Bob for your generous contribution of time & energy to help us be the quality organization we have been. Your influence in the different aspects of the organization resonate dedication to the cause of saving lives and property through the quality design, installation and maintenance of automatic fire sprinkler systems."

[IRC Hearings in Rochester, NY Hopeful for 1- & 2-Family Fire Sprinkler Provisions](#)

International Residential Code (IRC). The final IRC Action Hearing is scheduled for May 21 – 26, 2007 in Rochester, New York. This is a very significant event as the hearing will present an opportunity to move the fire sprinkler requirement for one- and two-family dwellings from the appendix into the main body of the code. Any voting member of ICC is strongly urged to attend the hearing and vote in favor of this historic opportunity to greatly improve life safety from fire.

[Maryland: 2006 Historical Year – Media Conference Held to Announce Lowest Fire Death Rate](#)

2006 has become an historic year for fire prevention and protection in Maryland. Strategies developed during the Maryland Fire and Life Safety Summit of 2004 have yielded positive results as 2006 in which the lowest recorded fire deaths were recorded since statewide data collection began in 1975. Sixty (60) persons were killed during the calendar year 2006, breaking the record set in 1996 when sixty-two Marylanders died from fire. Although no fire death is acceptable, sixty represents an 18% drop from the seventy-three fire deaths that occurred in 2005 and a dramatic 32% drop from eighty-eight fire deaths that occurred in 2004.

Of the sixty fire deaths that occurred in 2006, forty-three (43) occurred in residential occupancies, which breaks a previous low of forty-eight fire deaths set in 1996. The statewide per capita fire death rate also set a new low record in 2006. During 2006, the per capita fire death rate was 1.1 persons per 100,000 population breaking a previous per capita low of 1.3 persons set in 2003. According to **Maryland State Fire Marshal Barnard**, several factors helped achieve the record setting results of 2006.

"Maryland's fire service, along with many partners in the public and private sectors have focused on proven fire and life safety strategies such as working smoke alarms, home fire escape plans,

and residential fire sprinklers. Community outreach programs that emphasize personal responsibility for surviving a home fire are showing positive results," said Fire Marshal Barnard. While promoting continued success in further reducing fire deaths he added, "The task of helping Marylanders prepare themselves to survive a home fire is not a sprint it is a marathon. The steps one must take to increase their chance of surviving a home fire are not difficult, but they require diligence." Local initiatives across Maryland now mandate the installation of residential fire sprinklers in every newly constructed single-family home. Currently five Maryland Counties and numerous municipalities have adopted residential sprinkler requirements. Additionally, all townhouses built in the State of Maryland since 1992 require residential fire sprinklers. This accounts for 40% of Maryland's population residing in counties, cities or towns that now have residential fire sprinkler requirements for new single-family and duplex dwellings.

[Fatal Fire in Latvia Not the Norm in All of Europe](#)

Another story from **Alan Brinson, Executive Director, European Fire Sprinkler Network**. International news media report that a fire in a care home in Latvia has killed 25 people. The fire broke out early in the morning of Friday 23 February in the care home in Alsunga, west of the capital Riga. Firefighters rescued more than 60 people but most of those on the top floor were trapped. The residents had mental disabilities and many fought with the firefighters attempting to rescue them. Extreme cold of -30C also hampered the extinguishing and rescue operations.

Fires in care homes can easily lead to multiple fatalities. Most new care homes in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are therefore sprinklered and many existing homes in Finland and Norway have been retrofitted with sprinklers. Elsewhere in Europe Scotland introduced a requirement to fit sprinklers in all new care homes following a fire in 2004 which killed 14 residents at the Rosepark Care Home in Glasgow.

[NFSA Sponsored Residential Podcast](#)

So far in 2007 there have been a series of catastrophic multiple-fatality fires across the nation. Just during the period of February 6 to February 11, six fires killed 19 children and 9 adults and, within the last month, at least 65 people have been killed in fires where over half of the victims were children. States and communities are starting to face an increased rate of fire deaths, particularly in fires that kill three or more people in each incident.

To provide fire departments with ideas and resources in addressing this problem, Radio@Firehouse.com (www.radiofirehouse.com) is hosting an NFSA-sponsored Podcast focusing on catastrophic multiple-fatality fires. The broadcast will be moderated by Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch (www.campus-firewatch.com), and features a diverse panel of experts, including:

Heather Caldwell, Kidde
Judy Comoletti, NFPA
Ben May, Walt Disney World
Ozzie Mirkhah, City of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue
Peg Paul, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
Alan Shuman, Georgia State Fire Marshal

Along with the Podcast, which can be listened to online or downloaded to a computer or MP3 player, are a collection of links to free resources and information.

[Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act –2007 Introduced in U.S. Senate](#)

The Senate version of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007 has been introduced by Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) and John Rockefeller (D-WV). They were accompanied on the bill

submittal by Senators Jack Reed of Rhode Island and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. The bill will be identified as **S 582** and is now posted on the FSIA link page on the NFSA web site at www.nfsa.org along with other pertinent information. The legislative intent is the same as before with the 1986 Federal Tax code being amended favorably for building owners to depreciate the cost of retrofitting fire sprinkler systems in a five year span while taking advantage of insurance discounts to offset the installation costs. A "rescoring" of the bill and its fiscal federal impact makes the bill a very optimistic reality.

The Cap Wiz process has been updated for use and is promoted as a quick means for constituents and others to write in to support this important piece of fire protection legislation. Any and all Senators should be recruited, but members of the Senate Committee on Finance should be primary targets.

The House version of the FSIA of 2007 is ready to be introduced by Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA), it is expected that the legislation would have been introduced by your reading. Because of the high number of cosponsors on the House Bill in the last Congress, Mr. Langevin and Mr. Cantor are preparing a "Dear Colleague" that will be sent to all Congressional offices prior to submittal of the bill asking that other representatives join with them on the bill when introduced. As this may take a little time, the House Bill will be a bit behind the Senate Bill, but this strategy should create some significant impact when the legislation is introduced on the floor of the House. As soon as the House Bill is introduced and is posted with a number, we will get that information to you and to our membership via an NFSA press release and posting on the web page.

Go to this site and help us help America be safer: <http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/fsiahome.html>. For a document explaining the Incentive Act bullet points go to: http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/FSIA_Bullet_points.pdf. In this region contact the following legislators for their support:

Senate

[Richard Durbin](#), Illinois
[Barack Obama](#), Illinois
[Russell D. Feingold](#), Wisconsin
[Heb Kohl](#), Wisconsin

House of Representatives

ILLINOIS

[Bean, Melissa L.](#), Illinois, 8th
[Costello, Jerry](#), Illinois, 12th
[Emanuel, Rahm](#), Illinois, 5th
[Hare, Phil](#), Illinois, 17th
[Jackson Jr., Jesse L.](#), Illinois, 2nd
[Kirk, Mark](#), Illinois, 10th
[Lipinski, Daniel](#), Illinois, 3rd
[Roskam, Peter J.](#), Illinois, 6th
[Schakowsky, Jan](#), Illinois, 9th
[Weller, Jerry](#), Illinois, 11th

[Biggert, Judy](#), Illinois, 13th
[Davis, Danny K.](#), Illinois, 7th
[Gutierrez, Luis](#), Illinois, 4th
[Hastert, Denny](#), Illinois, 14th
[Johnson, Timothy V.](#), Illinois, 15th
[LaHood, Ray](#), Illinois, 18th
[Manzullo, Donald](#), Illinois, 16th
[Rush, Bobby L.](#), Illinois, 1st
[Shimkus, John](#), Illinois, 19th

WISCONSIN

[Baldwin, Tammy](#), Wisconsin, 2nd
[Kind, Ron](#), Wisconsin, 3rd
[Obey, David R.](#), Wisconsin, 7th
[Ryan, Paul](#), Wisconsin, 1st

[Kagen, Steve](#), Wisconsin, 8th
[Moore, Gwen](#), Wisconsin, 4th
[Petri, Thomas](#), Wisconsin, 6th
[Sensenbrenner, F. James](#), Wisconsin, 5th

In an article by Rosabeth Moss Kanter on company turnarounds, she explained that organizations that are successful in turning themselves around exhibit three characteristics: improved communications, increased collaboration and greater respect for all stakeholders. This is certainly sound advice for the construction industry. No individual or single company is responsible for causing the conditions that exist within the industry. However, unless each person accepts personal accountability for the problems they face, they will never get them fixed.

[Cell Phone-Do Not Call List](#)

Cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.... To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time and will block your number for five (5) years. OR GO TO: www.donotcall.gov.

[Water Purveyors Guide Now Available](#)

The NFSA public water distribution network is one of the most reliable and most commonly used sources of water for fire sprinkler systems. With six model codes now recommending the installation of sprinklers in homes, NFSA has recognized the technical importance and challenges of providing an approved water supply. NFSA now has a Water Purveyor's Guide to assist them in preparing policies for the expansion in the number of sprinklered homes in their jurisdictions. Get your guide at:

http://www.nfsa.org/info/Water_Purveyors_Guide.pdf.

[IAFC and NFSA Partners Issuing Guide for Adoption of Residential Sprinkler Mandates](#)

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the NFSA announced that they are making available a document titled "Residential Fire Sprinklers...A Step-by-Step Approach for Communities." As noted by IAFC President, Chief Randy Breugman, the guide will be available on the web sites of both organizations for easy access by the nation's fire chiefs.

The document is structured in four booklets covering Planning and Research, Preparation, Presentation and Adoption, and Customer Service and Maintenance, Challenges and Appeals. The NFSA is indebted to the IAFC for their support of the project and to **NFSA Consultant Steve Hart and NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton**, who worked many long hours to bring this project to completion. Get copy at:

<http://www.nfsa.org/news/articles/IAFCbooklet.pdf>

[Noteworthy Sprinkler Saves](#)

[Fire Sprinkler Activation Saves Woman Accidentally Setting Self Aflame](#)

In mid February, a Lawrence, PA township woman was in critical condition at a Philadelphia hospital after accidentally setting herself on fire while lighting a cigarette over a stove. **Slackwood Fire Company Chief Mike Oakley** said a water sprinkler activated directly over her head, saving her life.

The 47 year old victim was in critical but stable condition yesterday at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, recovering from second- and third-degree burns a spokesman reported. The fire occurred in her apartment.

"We're getting reports that she was lighting a cigarette over top of the stove, and the flames from the stove communicated to her hair and some clothing," said Chief Oakley. "Fortunate for her,

she was standing underneath a sprinkler head, and the heat from when she ignited touched off the sprinkler head, and it was right over top of her," he said. "And the water just got right on her, the water from the sprinkler head communicated to her. "She had second- and third-degree burns, and she was Medivaced Temple, in the burn unit."

Chief Oakley was relieved to be giving out good news, however. They say sprinklers save lives. It was fortunate she was standing in the right place. We're just hoping everything goes good, and everything turns out fine." He said the fire is being ruled accidental, due to carelessness. There was no fire damage to the apartment, just minor smoke and water damage.

Second Fire Sprinkler Save in Green Bay, WI in a Week

For the second time in a little over a week, an automatic fire sprinkler system helped save a local business. Reported last month was the save at the St. Brendan's Inn.

On Friday, February 9, 2007, at 10:26 am, the Green Bay Fire Department responded to a fire call at 500 Day Street, Georgia Pacific's Secondary Fiber Division.

Upon their arrival, fire crews found a fire that was contained within bales of scrap paper. The automatic fire sprinkler kept the fire in check until fire crews could extinguish the blaze. With only two sprinkler heads activating and the rapid response of fire department crews, the fire damage was minimal with the plant's operations back up and running within a half hour of the fire's extinguishment.

The Green Bay Fire Department can not stress enough, the importance of an automatic fire sprinkler system as well as the proper maintenance of the system.

In 1999 a multi-million dollar fire occurred at Leicht's Warehouse on the Fox River and again this past fall a multi-million dollar fire occurred at Recycled Fibers in Howard. Both of these fires could have been contained and the damage minimal, if these buildings had been equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Sprinkler Save in Edwardsville

Edwardsville Fire Chief J. Brian Wilson, Sr. reported a sprinkler save in a 12 unit apartment building in early February. The chief was proud to offer the story. A fire started in a bathroom on the third floor of the building and was caused by an unattended candle. The chief stated that there was just enough heat to activate the sprinkler in the hallway outside the bathroom. He said the sprinkler had extinguished most of the fire and kept its upward travel of heat. A hand pump by his crew finished the extinguishment process.

The chief stated: "Yes, we had water damage in this unit and the two floors below. However, it was nothing compared to the alternative. This made a great case for the residential ordinance, which is still in the works."

Oklahoma Fire Marshal Relates Sprinklers Couldn't Save Oxygen Dependant Occupant

From **John Nickles, McKinney, OK Fire Marshal:**

"Folks,

I have to tell you it doesn't always end like this. Three weeks ago we had an elderly lady who was on 6 liters of O2 when she decided to light a cigarette at around 3:30. She reported that when she lit the lighter the bed "exploded". She suffered 90%-95% 3rd and 4th degree burns from which she succumbed the following day.

The apartment was protected with residential sprinklers which operated in both the closet in which the Oxygen machine was located and in the bedroom. They saved the rest of the building.

I think this proves once again that sprinklers work unless of course the individual is intimate with the fire.”

Chandler, AZ Man Not as Smart as Sprinkler System

After his failed attempts to put out the fire in his bedroom by using water and a window cleaner, a 19-year-old man from Phoenix, Arizona drove all the way to a neighborhood Wal-Mart to buy a fire extinguisher. Jonathan Zaletel was using a toaster to cook methamphetamine in his bedroom closet when the appliance caught fire. To escape the police's attention for fear of being caught, he decided to put out the fire on his own.

By the time Zaletel returned home, the sprinkler system had put out the flames and neighbors had called the fire department. On further investigation, the authorities booked Zaletel on suspicion of manufacturing dangerous drugs, possession of chemicals and equipment to manufacture dangerous drugs.

According to AP reports, Zaletel was also charged for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and criminal damage.

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.” Our goal when the appropriate fire scenario occurs is to influence immediate post-media coverage regarding the application of fire sprinkler protection, or lack of protection.” Sprinkler Saves will help inform others that the systems do work and will provide life and property saving values.

When forwarding information of a major fire include; date, time, city, state, address, sprinkled, non-sprinkled, injuries, deaths and any other fire related particulars that may be available. Also, contact me if your company replaces a sprinkler head(s) due to activation by fire.

NFSA ENGINEER OF THE DAY –Some of Your Competition is getting Great Advice!

The NFSA Engineering Department has established a new email address for requests of the Engineer of the Day. The new address is eod@nfsa.org. Don't miss this opportunity to change your bottom line!

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has for several years offered the “Engineer of the Day” service to its' membership. Every business day, a member of the NFSA Engineering Department is assigned the duty to handle incoming technical questions of the day. The rotation assignment is scheduled so that all members of the engineering division have an opportunity to interface with the membership and this service shares the load of more than 1200 requests for assistance that occurred in 2004.

The average time between receiving the request for information and sending out the response by phone, fax or email is one-third of a business day. Phone call requests are handled by a return phone call, email requests by a return email and faxes by a return fax. In order to ensure that the

request is handled as quickly as possible, members should send the request in the correct manner.

This service has been an outstanding success as members are receiving timely information that significantly helps throughout the entire fire sprinkler engineering/contracting discipline. You can check-out NFSA Engineer of the Day at their website and read what our members are saying about this invaluable service. (<http://www.nfsa.org/news/articles/eodnews.pdf>)

For more information, contact: NFSA, PO Box 1000, Patterson, New York, 12563; by telephone at (845) 878-4200, by Fax at (845) 878-4215 or at our website: www.nfsa.org

[NFSA Academy Trains You at Your Desk](#)

To answer the call for a quality distance-learning program, NFSA has introduced the **NFSA Academy**. With 80 modules to pick from, dealing with beginner to advanced training, the Academy has something for everyone! Save on lost billable hours and travel expenses by getting your continuing education needs right from your own desktop. Log onto www.nfsa.org and click on the banner below and sign up for the NFSA Academy, your competition is! **Wisconsin contractors, get your CEU's here!**

[NFSA Advanced Technical Training Program in Chicago in July](#)

The NFSA has also scheduled the **3-day Advanced Technician Training Class for July 24-26, 2007** at the William Tell in LaGrange. This three-day seminar has been developed for fire sprinkler layout and detail technicians that have two to three years of experience. The purpose of the seminar is to assist individuals that are currently holding NICET Level 2 certifications (Fire Sprinkler Layout and Detail Subfield) in advancing their careers by reviewing material necessary for Level 3 and Level 4 certification. This includes calculating loops and grids by hand to enhance the technician's understanding of the reports produced by computer software and improve quality control. This also includes performing Velocity Pressure Calculations by hand.

ILLINOIS

[ICCA Suggests Building Code for State and Meets Resistance](#)

Illinois Council of Code Administrators (ICCA) have gotten sponsorship for a statewide building code proposal for legislative action. Authored by Representative Patrick Verschoore, H1853 is a "shell" bill that calls for the adoption of the Pennsylvania version of the International Building Code. A shell bill will only move if the Speaker of the House feels there is consensus with the stakeholders of the outcome. The code would provide the minimum construction requirements for all new and renovated buildings in the state. The proposal allows for local amendability but experience in Pennsylvania indicates that the "challenge" provision of their code has swayed courts to reverse sprinkler and other more strictly modified ordinances. The industry has partnered with the fire service to challenge that language.

It is felt that the ICCA is on the right theme but maybe a step ahead of itself. The legislature is anticipated to view a specific code with some reluctance, as the legislatures would have more input into the process instead of being told which code(s) should be adopted. This is a bold move by a group getting impatient with the delays of progress in Springfield. Many hope this to be the catalyst to getting a productive process underway.

[JCAR Issue with Contractor License Act](#)

The State of Illinois Joint Committee Administering Rules (JCAR) was to have met with industry representatives March 7, 2007 in Springfield to optimistically clean up the NICET layout

technician's ability to submit layout drawings to AHJ's for approval. JCAR representatives didn't attend the meeting but Illinois State Fire Marshal David Foreman was there as was his General Counsel, John Fennel. They listened to the industry's position as given by **NFSA Consultant Mike Friedman, Northern Illinois Industry Promotion Chair Rich Ray, Cybor Fire Protection, Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn and NFSA Regional Manager Dan Gengler**. The Fire Marshal stated that their office was neutral but understood the position.

A meeting later with representatives of the professional engineers, engineering consultants, architects and again Fire Marshal Foreman proved to be more productive. Exchanges of language proposals for the new bill IL H 1479 will ultimately help to pass the requirement that professional engineers provide the design criteria for sprinklers systems while NICET III or IV supervised "shop drawings" may be submitted for Authority Having Jurisdiction approval. This would mean that those companies not having a P.E. or NICET Level III or IV certified person employed would need to have their "shop drawings" stamped by a P.E. It is felt this legislation has very good potential to be affective yet this year.

NICET Inspector/Tester Bill Moves into State Senate

Illinois State Senator Antonio Munez, introduced S 495 to the 2007-08 95th Illinois General Assembly. The bill amends the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act as it provides that all inspections and testing of existing fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must be performed by a licensee under the Act or an individual employed by a licensee. Sets forth qualifications for individuals performing the inspection and testing duties to be qualified by certification by 2010, includes journeymen sprinkler fitters. Exempts individuals performing inspection or testing of fire sprinkler systems on behalf of a municipality, county, or fire protection district from the requirement.

Looking for a safe campus for your student child/grandchild to attend, think University of Illinois as they are on top of the concept.

Sprinklers Installed at ISR for Fire Safety

The University Housing Department, in an effort to continuously protect students from fire hazards, finished installing new sprinkler systems and fire alarms into the Illinois Street Residence Halls. These new fire safety precautions, connected to a large and powerful computing system, are the halfway point for a continuous project by the department to update fire detection systems.

"These new systems are louder, better, and more responsive," said **Kirsten Ruby, assistant director of housing and marketing**.

The idea to update the sprinkler systems originally started in 2001 when new sprinkler systems were installed in Daniels Hall, 1010 W. Green St. Since then, the department has finished installing new sprinkler systems in Sherman Hall, 909 S. Fifth St., and the Florida Avenue Residence Halls, Ruby said. (Very soon after the thrice fatal Setan Hall University fire)

The Housing Department is updating both graduate and undergraduate residence halls because the department believes in the importance of fire safety. Fire safety is one aspect of general student safety, and this is taken very seriously, Ruby said.

"It's part of (freshman) orientation in the fall," Ruby said. "We want everyone to be aware of how important it is." All residence halls have fire drills several times in the year, Ruby said. Also, persons who disrespect the fire safety guidelines by doing something like creating false alarms face severe penalties. "I cannot go into what kind of sanctions will take place, because it depends on the circumstances," Ruby said. "However, we take them very seriously."

According to the current schedule, installing new sprinkler and fire safety systems in the remaining halls will take approximately five more years.

"The interest and support at the U of I is real. I have worked with them for several years and they have been both proactive and positive on dorm sprinklers." Stated Richard L. Jaehne, Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute

Northbrook and Lake Bluff Mandate Fire Sprinklers in One- & Two-family Homes

The Northbrook Village Board narrowly passed an ordinance in late February that requires fire sprinklers to be installed in new single-family homes and townhouses. "It is there to save the lives of people," said **Trustee A.C. Buehler III**, who voted for the ordinance. "It's just that simple." Trustees voted 4-3 in favor of a measure that already has been implemented in communities such as Park Ridge, Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove.

"Life is very valuable, but I just don't know that we're alleviating any risk by putting this in," said **Trustee Michael Scolaro**, an ordinance opponent.

Sprinklers were already mandatory at Northbrook hotels, commercial buildings and condos with four or more contiguous units, and some officials said it made sense for residential dwellings to have the same protections.

Nearly 3,700 Americans died in fires in 2005, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Of them, more than 80 percent died in homes, according to **Jeff Lewis, Northbrook Fire Department's director of fire prevention**. He said that's because most office buildings, malls and other public areas have fire sprinklers, but homes usually don't. "We believe sprinkler systems work," Lewis said. "We can attest to that. We believe they save lives."

There have been two fire deaths in Northbrook in the last 10 years. One was in a garage and the other was in a condominium, according to information the village provided to Northbrook trustees. According to village data from that period, 20 civilians and 10 firefighters were injured in Northbrook fires, which caused an estimated \$6.89 million in property damage.

The ordinance takes effect May 1 and applies only to new construction.

"You have to measure how much one life is worth," said **Village President Eugene Marks**, a former Chicago and Northbrook firefighter. "It's difficult if you've never been a firefighter and crawled into a building and found people dead."

Northbrook becomes the 42nd community in Northern Illinois to adopt the measure.

Then on March 12, 2007, the Village of Lake Bluff passed a NFPA 13D ordinance requiring fire sprinklers in all new single-family homes making it the 43rd municipality/fire district in the state to adopt such an ordinance. Only California has more municipalities with single-family ordinances. Kudos go again to Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board for their help in getting information to the decision makers. A special thank you is extended to **Consultant Rich Schulte and Bob Kleinheinz** for their expert and convincing testimony.

Alderman Burke Receives First NFSA Legislator of the Year Recognition

The Northern Illinois Chapter of the NFSA was honored to have **City of Chicago Alderman Edward M. Burke** as a guest at the March Chapter Meeting. Alderman Burke represents the 14th Ward in the city and has so since 1969. He has been a champion for the fire sprinkler concept of protection dating back to the very early 1990's. Alderman Burke took the lead in

proposing fire sprinkler protection in below grade public buildings and nightclubs. He also proposed an ordinance that more appropriately viewed life safety in the city after the tragic Cook County Administration Fire of October 2003.



NFSA Director-at-Large and Chapter Officer Barry Waterman, Acme Sprinkler Service, read some very complimentary remarks before presenting Alderman Burke with a beautiful plaque commemorating his dedication to life safety by becoming the first “Legislator of the Year” by the Chapter. Alderman Burke responded with a spirited statement about commitment to country and community. His remarks were intense and sincere and culminated with the fire sprinkler mantra that has made him a leader in the political arena . He left to a standing ovation and with a check earmarked to continue his fight to protect the citizens of the city. Read more about this outstanding representative for his constituents at: <http://www.chgofinancecomm.chi.il.us/chairman/index.html> . The plaque reads:

***The Executive Committee and Membership of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the
National Fire Sprinkler Association
Do Hereby Establish Their
Distinguished Public Official of the Year Award
and Name as Its First Recipient***

***Edward M. Burke, Alderman of the Fourteenth Ward and
Chairman of the Chicago City Council, Committee on Finance***

***For his leadership in the introduction and steadfast support of legislation
requiring the installation of fire sprinkler systems to protect Chicagoans
from the ravages of fire where they live, work and play;
and for his outspoken and unwavering advocacy of fire sprinkler systems,
often when facing powerful opposition.***

Presented with deep appreciation this 8th day of March, 2007.

12th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Invitational - Don't Wait to Register, you May Not Make the Cut

If you are reading this in early April, the **Illinois Burn Prevention Association** marks 70 days to the **12th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Invitational** will be held June 12th at the Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton. Since it began, this event has raised over \$550,000 for children who have survived burn injuries at the *IFSA Camp I Am Me for Kids*. In recent years the outing included contributions to the Loyola University Medical Center – Burn Center and to fire prevention public education programs that help prevent burn injuries.

On behalf of the Golf Outing Committee, **Chairman Amos Minor, US Fire Protection-IL**, has asked that Corporate Sponsors step up in support of the event. He also asked for donation of silent or live auction items to be auctioned off during the dinner to help support our fundraising efforts.

Last year the invitational raised more than \$100,000. “Camp I Am Me”, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance hosts an annual summer camp for children 8 to 16 years old who have experienced a significant burn injury requiring hospitalization. In 2006, ninety-five injury qualifying children from Illinois spent a week at Camp Duncan near Fox Lake. They participated in a wide-range of activities and events that made the week extremely memorable.

The other recipient, Loyola University Medical Center – Burn Center was given a portion of the proceeds for their public education programs teaching preventive measures to avert burn injuries. Loyola is one of the busiest trauma centers nationwide and is recognized for providing the best in burn care.

With everyone’s help and donation, the committee believes the event can be even more successful, to help make life a little happier for the kids who attend “Camp I Am Me” and for those treated at the Burn Center at Loyola University Medical Center.

Wisconsin

Commerce Building Code Revision for Wisconsin Building Code

The Fire, Multi-family and Commercial Code Councils will have met in late March to review recommendations by the Wisconsin Department of commerce (DOC) to move forward on adopting the International Building Code (IBC) – 2006 Version. The DOC proposed to adopt specific revisions including the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new three-family and greater residential occupancies. As noted previously, there has been nearly two years of battle on this provision with stakeholders passionately defending their turf.

Builders, developers and some architects have voiced their opposition of the measure and were thoroughly out-influenced by fact and reason in the argument. Secretary Mary Burke, DOC is adamant in her pursuit to build safer places of residence for citizens of the state. The state's fire service has stepped up in a unified and convincing manner to help move this proposal in a positive direction.

The Commercial, Fire and Multifamily Code Councils must review the DOC recommendations and act to forward to the legislature. Previously, the Fire and Multifamily Code Councils had overwhelmingly passed the proposal by vote while the Commercial Code Council deadlocked in a tie. As of this writing, meetings have not been scheduled.

[Sheboygan apartment fire claims life of 61-year-old woman, one year after sprinklers saved her life](#)

A 61-year-old Sheboygan woman died early Saturday morning March 10, 2007 in a north-side Sheboygan apartment fire, the first fire fatality in the city since February 2004. Sheboygan police said the victim lived in a lower level apartment in a four-unit building in the Park Place complex.

Firefighters arrived shortly after 1 a.m. to the complex, after receiving a 911 call reporting smoke in the building from another tenant, who lives across the hall from Packard and was watching television at the time with her husband. She said after she made the 911 call, she alerted the other residents in the building to the fire. "I was knocking and ringing on the doorbell because I wanted everybody out," she said, adding her husband tried to get Packard out of her apartment, but couldn't get the door open.

Firefighters arrived within three minutes, and reported heavy smoke and extreme heat in the apartment and that temperatures were extreme. The fire was brought under control within a few minutes, said Sheboygan **Fire Department Shift Commander Jeff Hermann**. Firefighters found the victim's body in her bed. The smoke detector in the apartment hallway was working, but the detector in the apartment was not, Hermann said.

A preliminary investigation of the fire points to careless use of smoking materials as a possible cause, but the investigation is not yet complete. The fire caused about \$30,000 damage to the building and \$5,000 to contents, Hermann said.

Saturday's incident was the second time in a year the victim was involved in an apartment fire, Veeseer said.

On March 7, 2006, the bedroom in her unit at the Garton Toy Factory apartments, 830 N. Water St., caught fire, also because of careless use of smoking materials, before the apartment's sprinkler system extinguished the blaze. She suffered smoke inhalation in that fire.

The victim had been living at the Park Place address about a month, her neighbor said. Another tenant who lives in the unit above the victim said he was awakened briefly by a crashing noise about 1 a.m., and then fell asleep again momentarily. "It was kind of an adventure last night," one tenant said. "It still hasn't sunk into me... I don't know, the realization's not there yet for some reason."

[NFSA News](#)

[Check the NFSA web site, \[www.nfsa.org\]\(http://www.nfsa.org\), for more information on these valuable industry issues. The topics may save you money or they may put money in your business.](#)

[Sprinkler Pre-Op Survey-Help Us Help Protect the Integrity of the Industry-Help Us Help the Industry](#)

[Contractor's Forum Email Program Helpful for NFSA Members](#)

[NFSA Adds NFPA 13 Update Seminars to Sprinkler Academy](#)

[Inspection and Testing Certification Review Seminar](#)

[APS – Foremen and Construction Supervisors-Contract Programs- In Today's Industry Environment, You Need an Advantage and We Have it for You](#)

NFSA Online Interactive Seminars Schedule - *Get Wisconsin CEU's**

The 2007 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.

NFSA Member Cost: \$125.00* per seminar per computer
Non-member Cost: \$250.00* per seminar per computer
Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$25.00
Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$50.00
Technical Tuesday Schedule for Spring 2007

Apr 3	Changes to the Seismic Protection Rules	Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.
Apr 17	Changes to Storage Protection Requirements	Russell P. Fleming, P.E.
May 8	Changes to the Residential Sprinkler Standards	Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.
May 22	Changes to the Standpipe Rules	Cecil Bilbo
Jun 12	Changes to the Pump Requirements	Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

The topics for the “**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.

March 15	How to Successfully Lobby Sprinkler Legislation	Buddy Dewar
April 19	Dealing with the AHJ during the Final Inspection	Jeff Hugo
May 17	Construction Defect Laws	Buddy Dewar
June 21	Tort Reform	Dominic Kasmauskas

The Technical On-Line Seminars have been approved for 1.5 –hours CEU credit in Wisconsin. This is monumental because those needy contractors/fitters not finding the availability to get away from the workplace or jobsite will find this opportunity quite convenient. 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. **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 contact Dawn at Dawn@nfsa.org or 845-878-4200 x133.**

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 Dawn at (845) 8784200 x 133. Check these on-line programs:

SIX WEEK ON-LINE PROGRAMMING:
NEW HYDRAULICS FOR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS,
PUMPS FOR FIRE PROTECTION
RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS HOMES TO HIGH-RISE
INSPECTION, TESTING & MAINTENANCE OF WATER BASED FIRE PROTECTION
SYSTEMS

NFSA Midwest Regional In-Class Seminars

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule more 2007 programming, **Contact Dan Gengler (262) 245-5255 or dannfsa@aol.com** for information or registration. Check the NFSA web site to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

Special Discounts:

Register 5 Attendees for One Class; get a 6th Free for that Same Class.

Non-Member Fire & Building Officials:

When a building or a fire official wants to take an NFSA “full-day in-class” seminar, they can get a special discount package that pays for the seminar and also gives them a one-year membership in the NFSA. The regular seminar fee is \$99.00 dollars and the regular one-year subscriber membership is \$85.00 dollars. That totals \$184.00 but when you join the NFSA as a subscriber member when you register for the NFSA seminar, you only pay a combined fee of \$149.00 dollars which saves you \$35.00 dollars on the total package.

Just make sure you check-off the “F&B” box with red pricing on the seminar registration form. By becoming a member and taking an NFSA seminar all at the same time, you’re getting valuable industry information both ways.

NFSA Honor Role

Century Automatic Sprinkler Company
Gurnee, IL
(04-18-78) 29 years

Fire Control, Inc.
Wheeling, IL
(04-17-78) 29 years

Frederickson Fire Equipment Company
Bensenville, IL
(04-07-04) 3 years

Thanks for your industry support!

**May 14-17, 2008 NFSA Annual Seminar,
Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas**

**April 29-May 2, 2009 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition
Omni Championsgate, Orlando, Florida**

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.