



REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition

December 2009



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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



From the Gengler Family to all of yours and those you reach, may all enjoy the safest and most blessed of holiday seasons. We thank you all for a wonderful year of relationships and wish everyone a much more prosperous 2010.

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced to 111th Congress-Contact Your Congressman

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009*, HR1194 has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship this past month. The bill creates tax incentives for property owners to retrofit buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Similar legislation was introduced in the 108th followed by the 109th & 110th Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time. As of late September, **104 Congressmen** have signed onto the monumental legislation. Region cosponsors include: MN Representative Oberstar and WI Representatives Baldwin, Kagen and Kind. Presently there is no companion Senate bill.

Jim Dalton, former NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, remains on point as NFSA's representative working with members of Congress and a coalition of fire protection industry concerns in supplying information and support as required to keep these vital pieces of legislation moving through the legislative process.

This piece of legislation would reduce the tax depreciation time on nonresidential real property from 39 years to only 5 for those that install sprinklers. Benefits of this legislation also include lower local fire department costs, increased loan activity, reduced insurance claims and premium costs and increased retrofitting and installation jobs. A lower 2006 re-scoring of the bill for the fiscal impact that would result with the passage of the fire safety friendly legislation gives proponents great optimism this year.

The NFSA 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.

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.

Join now in petitioning those uncommitted by logging onto www.nfsa.org and going to the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act button in the upper right of the Home-page. Click on sponsors to find your representative and forward a letter asking for them to sign on (copy provided) or thank them for their support.

Sprinkler Saves

Fire at Virginia, MN Hotel Slowed by Sprinklers – No injuries; estimated \$10,000 in damage; several residents relocated b Red Cross

A fire that broke out on November 15, 2009 in Virginia, MN forced the mostly residential Third Avenue Hotel to be evacuated by its occupants. The building's automatic fire sprinkler system contained the fire to mostly one room in a second floor apartment. According to Virginia Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Krulc, minor smoke damage occurred to the apartment above with additional water damage to the apartment below.

MN State Fire Marshal Supervisor Glen Bergstrand, "Sprinklers did their job. I ordered the sprinkler system in when this was used as both a short-term and long-term living arrangement hotel. The owner, later became a city councilman, fought the sprinkler requirement at first but later understood the benefits. The benefits are probably more obvious today - although this was just a small fire - duh, because the sprinklers kept the fire small!!"

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

Trades Class Gets Lesson on Fire Sprinklers

The classes of teacher Mark Voigt are building another house on McKinley Street in Spring Lake Park, just east of the District Services Center. This year, for the first time, students will install a fire suppression system. (Voigt's classes have built 10 houses in the school district during the last 20 years.)

As part of last week's class, the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department parked its Sprinkler/Safe Escape Trailer in the front of the home at 8020 McKinley St.

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The trailer, with its specially equipped and enclosed fire area, allowed students to see, first hand, a curtain go up in flames in seconds and the inner workings of how quickly a fire suppression system works. Just seconds later, with the help of one sprinkler head and as little as 10 gallons of water, the fire was extinguished.

“If you blink, you’re going to miss it,” said District Chief Bob Fiske. As part of the demonstration, Fiske showed students a sprinkler head and explained that when the temperature reaches 135 degrees, a residential sprinkler goes off. “We’ve had fires where a sprinkler is activated and people live in the house,” he said. “They don’t have to spend months in a hotel” while the home is rebuilt. Sprinkler heads are usually installed in the larger rooms, including the bedroom and kitchen. “Statistically, people are not dying in bathrooms,” he said.

In a comparison, Fiske said about 4,000 soldiers have died in Iraq over a six-year period, while 2,755 people died nationwide in fires in 2008.

The design, labor, education and materials for the sprinkler system were donated by NFSA MN Chapter members, Skyline Fire Protection, Reliable Sprinkler Company and Chapter Director Peg Bohn.

The District 16 trades classes got into a heated demonstration last week when they watched a curtain go up in smoke. On purpose.



District Chief Bob Fiske gives District 16 trades students who are building a home on McKinley Street in Spring Lake Park a demonstration last week on the benefits of a fire sprinkler system. Students are: Kai Hauglid, left, and Steve Jackson. Trades teacher Mark Voigt is on the right.



John Hoppe, Brothers Fire Protection, receives a NFSA Five Year Membership Recognition plaque from North Central Regional Manager Dan Gengler at the November NFSA MN Chapter Meeting.

MN Fire Protection Advisory Council

The Minnesota Fire Protection Advisory Council continues to meet the 2nd Thursday at the Oakdale Fire Station – 5000 Hadley Ave North – Oakdale, MN 55128. Ron Peil, Response Fire Protection, is representing NFSA-MN Chapter on the council; the meetings are open for anyone to attend. Below is a summary of their recommendations:

- Increase fire protection contractor bond amount from \$30,000 to \$50,000.
- Continuing education for managing employees and journeyman fitters to stay the same (10 hours per year).
- Modified the definition of “Fire Protection Related Work” along with the definitions for “Inspection”, “Acceptance Inspection”, “Maintenance inspection”, “Qualified”, “Maintenance”, “Preventative Maintenance”, “Corrective Maintenance”, “Emergency Maintenance”, “Testing”, “Acceptance test”, and “Annual Test”. Closed loopholes on definitions especially related to inspections (i.e. who can do inspections).
- Established minimum requirements for AHJ competency.
- Established requirements for multi-purpose potable water system contractor and installer:
 - Need to be licensed plumber.
 - Can be a fire protection contractor (if they employ a licensed plumber).
 - Design is included in the definition of “multi-purpose potable water piping related work”.
 - Persons designing and installing these systems must meet certain minimum qualifications.

WISCONSIN: www.nfsawi.org

West Bend Insurance Ad Creates Heartburn for Industry

As posted in last month’s regional report, the West Bend Insurance Company reviewed the request to change one of its new four commercials. The commercial in question depicted water damage caused by a “broken sprinkler main.” The company has been promoting four different insured benefits to clients. They paid for advertising company airing on radio and television them during Green Bay Packer football games and other prime time programming. All four routines have 30-second and one minute versions. The 30-second commercial doesn’t refer to “sprinkler main” but “water main.” I have been in contact with the company and West Bend Insurance re-mastered the 1-minute commercial to remove sprinkler references. Most may understand that the West Bend Insurance Company is a pro-sprinkler corporation and this was a minor imposition financially to “make it right.”

The commercials ceased in mid-late November in the following viewing markets, Minneapolis, Rochester, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee and Wausau TV markets only. The commercials will again be played after the holidays in January with a possible couple of new ones.

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Gengler Presents at WFIA Conference

The Wisconsin Fire Inspector's Association held its annual conference in Wausau the first week of November. The organization's members gather to enhance their capabilities as inspectors and to learn more about keeping their respective communities more fire safe and to support their leadership in taking their causes into the future.



North Central Regional Manager Dan Gengler starting his program titled, "The Politics of Life Safety." Approximately 200 fire inspectors were in the audience for the presentation

North Central Regional Manager Dan Gengler gave a 1.5-hour presentation titled, "The Politics of Life Safety." Gengler gave a history and explanation of the code development process as well as chronicle the travels of residential fire sprinklers in the NFPA 5000 Building Code, NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and International Residential Code. He spoke of the support and opposition forces of both sides and the journey ahead to make our families as safe as they can be from fire.

Legislators Adjourn for 2009; Floor Action Will Continue as Early as January

November 5 marked the last day of legislative session for this year. Committee hearings and votes will still take place around the holidays but the State Legislature is not set to return to the floor for any votes until January 19, 2010.

Members of the State Assembly Can Receive PAC Contributions as of 1/01/10; 1st Conduit Check Cut on Behalf of Contractors

This year, members of both parties in the Wisconsin State Assembly have been unable to take PAC contributions. Many may know, Sprinkler Fitters Local 183 has a very active PAC fund. Beginning January 1, 2010, incumbent Representatives and candidates for Assembly will be able to receive \$500 each from the Local 183 PAC. We will prepare a report on PAC and suggested contributions.

As some of you know, the Wisconsin Fire Protection Conduit has been formally approved and is active. A conduit is a fund created from personal checks or donations from individuals within an industry, association or organization. Some of you have already contributed to the conduit fund for the fire sprinkler industry. Each individual has the ability to approve or deny requests by us to release their contributions to legislative candidates. Dan Gengler approved his first conduit contribution of \$100 to Senator John Lehman (D-Racine).

We will continue to work on building this fund. Please contact George Ermert at 608-259-1212 ext. 6 or george@martinschreiber.com or Annie Early at 608-259-1212 ext. 3 or annie@martinschreiber.com if you are willing to make a campaign contribution to help support the fire sprinkler industry efforts. Every amount is accepted; please consider contributing \$100, \$250 or \$500 and request the same of your peers. Campaign contributions are part of the legislative process and help enhance our legislative presence.

Continuing Efforts to Advance Administrative Forfeiture Legislation & Build IRC Support

Since October, lobbyist Annie early has met with some key legislators to request that they author legislation that will allow the Department of Commerce to issue a fine or forfeiture to individuals and/or companies that are non-compliant with fire sprinkler licenses in Wisconsin. We are in the process of addressing questions and finding additional support for this effort and will provide more information next month.

Also, movement is afoot to get the State of Wisconsin to adopt the 2009 IRC. That feat will be another storied journey with opposition standing in line to fight.

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

The 2009 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.

December 8, 2009 - Preaction and Deluge Systems

Beginner/Intermediate

Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T.

NFPA 25 requires the inspector to report on the installation of preaction and deluge systems. This seminar will discuss the different types of preaction and deluge systems. NFPA 25 also requires certain inspection and testing procedures be performed for these systems. We will also discuss the inspection and testing requirements for these different types of systems. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 44012 and 46010)

The topics for the **2009 "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 2008 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU's completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2008. 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 Dawn at Dawn@nfsa.org or 845-878-4200 x133.**

December 3, 2009-Workplace Safety and "Right to Know" Information

Dave Bowman, Ph.D., NFSA Associate Director of Regional Operations and Executive Director of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association

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This seminar focuses on informing the inspector how to recognize workplace hazards that may be encountered, particularly having to do with exposure to hazardous materials. Learn how to recognize the presence of hazards as well as some of the basic characteristics of the various classes of hazardous materials. Included will be labeling and packaging information and some of the things you really wished you would have paid more attention to in high school science class.

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:

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.

Contact Dawn Fitzmaurice, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 133 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

Grice Engineering
Janesville, WI
12/15/95 (14 years)

Starfire Fire Systems, Inc.
Franklin, WI
12/26/99 (10 years)

Thanks for your industry support!

ANNUAL NFSA SEMINARS

April 15-16, 2010 **NFSA Annual Seminar, Fairmont Hotel, Chicago**

April 11-14, 2011 **NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition,
Fontainebleau, Las Vegas, Nevada**

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.