



**February 2006**

**It's not the name that is important- it is what it represents to you that is the key to its power.**

**Laura Spiess**

When reading the above, you should be reviewing what the National Fire Sprinkler Association represents to you as a member. I can tell you what it represents to us for what we must do for your loyalty; be hard working, goal oriented, results seeking, responsible, integrity minded, reliable and visionary professionals that have one thing in common with you - the advancement of the most fire safety link in our society.

### **Wisconsin Campus Legislation Becomes Law with Governor's Supportive Signature**

On December 21, 2005, **Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle** signed into law a landmark bill that will protect college students living in various types of campus housing from death and injury caused by fire. Led by **Senator Ron Brown (R-Eau Claire) and Representative Rob Kreibich (R-Eau Claire)**, Assembly Bill 544 requires automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in all new construction residence facilities on private campuses, all residence halls greater than 60 feet in height, all Greek housing in private and public colleges and privately owned high-rise buildings that have a student population of 50 percent or more. Five years ago, a bill was passed requiring fire sprinkler systems installed in all high-rise residence halls located on public campuses. Colleges have eight years to comply.

It was argued that without this legislation, some time, some where in Wisconsin's future, a student or students will be exposed to the dangers of fire and not survive. Families and campuses will mourn and have their lives permanently changed. Because of this new law, for that someone in the future, it will be a call home to complain about wet books and clothes instead of a call from a university representative informing a family that their precious student child had perished in a preventable fire.

"This legislation is groundbreaking in the national movement to reduce tragic fire deaths of college students," said **Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager** and a former Deputy Fire Chief with the Milwaukee Fire Department. "Fire is non-discriminatory. This legislation will protect students and can ultimately save lives. As a result, Wisconsin will be one of the safest states when it comes to campus housing fire safety. The passage of this landmark legislation illustrates the commitment of these lawmakers to protect all of our college students," Gengler said.

Thanks to all who partnered with us to get the job done. Special recognition is given to **Annie Early, Martin Schreiber & Associates**, the lobby firm that represents the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and Locals 183 & 669 Sprinkler Fitters, for her tremendous efforts in accomplishing this task. The bill went through Assembly & Senate Committees with ease because of a tremendous cast of contributors and flew through both legislative floors without a negative vote.

For a look at the legislation and a PDF file to download go to: [http://folio.legis.state.wi.us/cgi-bin/om\\_isapi.dll?clientID=31354413&infobase=billhist.nfo&j1=AB544&jump=AB544](http://folio.legis.state.wi.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=31354413&infobase=billhist.nfo&j1=AB544&jump=AB544)

### **Isman Visits Regional Chapters**

**Kenneth E. Isman, P.E., NFSA Assistant Vice President of Engineering** made the region his middle stops on a weeklong NFSA Chapter visitation tour. Ken started in New Jersey and ended in Minnesota but made impressive presentations in Illinois and Wisconsin in between.

Ken made remarks regarding at the Fire Sprinkler Act of 2005, Fire Team USA (patterned after the highly successful Fire Team Tennessee and earmarked for Illinois in 2006), technical training programs, and finishing with codes and standards updates. More than seventy welcomed him in Chicago while another 35 listened to him with bated breath in Milwaukee.

Ken also was the NFSA representative at the annual Burn Center Golf Invitational check presentation to St. Mary's Burn Unit. The NFSA was also recognized for their continued industry support of the event with a check for the advancement of fire sprinkler education.

### **NFSA Sprinkler Quarterly Magazine Increases Publications**

The informative NFSA Sprinkler Quarterly Magazine will not be quarterly anymore. In order to meet the demands of continued growth in our industry and to parallel other industry publications, our magazine will be published six times per year starting in January, 2006. The increased frequency of publication will provide our regular contributors with the opportunity to have articles printed in a more time-sensitive format for the immediate benefit all our membership and to give those who are not regular contributors to this excellent magazine an opportunity to have their articles published at a national level.

### **Noteworthy Sprinkler Saves**

#### **Christmas Tree Ignites at Disney's Grand Californian**

A 35-foot-tall artificial Christmas tree caught fire in the lobby of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel, part of the Disneyland Resort, in the predawn hours on December 26, 2005 and 2,300 guests were evacuated, fire officials said. The fire broke out at about 3 a.m. and the hotel sprinkler and alarm system activated automatically, said Anaheim Fire Department spokeswoman Maria Sabol. There were two minor injuries – one woman complained of back pain and a second of stress – but neither was taken to a hospital.

Firefighters responding to the call arrived to find smoke billowing from the tree, but the blaze was contained by the sprinkler, Sabol said. "They only had to set out one hose," she said. Sabol added that the audible alarm and strobe lights in each guest room roused the occupants of the hotel, which was filled to capacity. "The evacuation was orderly and completed in four minutes," she said.

The sprinklers left one to two feet of water on the floor around the Christmas tree and there was some smoke damage, Sabol said. She said the cause of the fire is under investigation and the damage estimate has not been completed. Hotel staff placed the displaced guests at the hotel convention center, the nearby Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel and a nearby theater.

An arson fire at the nearby 11-story Anaheim Marriott Hotel on Nov. 20 caused the evacuation of 3,000 guests but there were no injuries. A Colorado man was charged with arson in the Marriott Fire. That fire too was extinguished by fire sprinklers.

### Massachusetts Save

This report to fellow fire service colleges is from **Arthur Pelland, Acting Chief, Abington (MA) Fire Department**: “We had a potential disaster averted by (fire) sprinklers on Christmas Eve.”

His report of run number 3181;

“The homeowner in a 12 unit condo building, with a fire sprinkler system, went to bed leaving candles burning on a mantel with a live balsam wreath over it. The candle wall melted and spread wax, which burned and caught the wreath on fire. The (fire) sprinkler system activated and extinguished the fire and awakened the homeowner. The fire department received a master box alarm from this location and no phone calls.

Bad- Candles unattended, live wreath in close to candles, going to bed without extinguishing candles.

Good- (Fire) Sprinkler system and alarm system worked as designed.

Let me know if you need any other info if you agree this is a great ‘teaching moment’.”

### New Hampshire High-Rise Fire Forces Evacuation-Sprinklers Confines Fire & Saves Lives

One person was treated for injuries after a fire erupted in a public housing complex in Manchester, NH early Monday morning. It was reported that the fire broke out about 7 a.m. in the fifth floor of a high-rise complex for senior citizens called the Hugh Gallen apartments. Fire crews had some tense moments as they tried to evacuate about 100 residents who were handicapped or elderly. Most were sheltered on lower floors.

Worried residents watched as firefighters battled the blaze. "I got a Christmas tree lit up in there, and my Christmas gifts all in there. My cat's still there," a resident said. The bedroom fire spread smoke throughout the building. Another woman and her 2-year-old daughter were visiting her brother on the first floor when the fire began. "He's handicapped so we came to visit him for Christmas, so now we got woken up and everything. I could smell smoke in the hallways when we were coming out," she said.

The woman who lived in the apartment where the fire started was wheelchair-bound and uses an oxygen tank. One resident said the woman had fallen asleep "with a cigarette in her hand on a bed." Fire officials have not confirmed the cause of the fire. She was taken to the hospital by ambulance after being rescued by the building superintendent who went door-to-door alerting people to evacuate. "She was gasping for air and I helped her to the elevator and gave her to the next resident," the building superintendent said.

All the alarm systems worked the way they were supposed to and all residents escaped safely. "*The sprinkler system activated the way it should and it contained the fire to the room,*" **Nick Campafano of the Manchester Fire Department** said. There was a significant amount of water damage as a result of the fire.

The building is a historical structure, as compared to the fire a week before at the Lake Placid Hotel, of Olympics fame 1932 and 1980. The owners passed on the retrofit opportunity to fire-sprinkler the 120 yr old main building...which is now the newest parking lot in Lake Placid.

**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](mailto: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.

**Why Am I a NFSA Member?**

**Wally Miller, St. Louis Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board** received this tidbit from **Mike Mahler**. Mike had just got off the phone with a representative from a fire stopping company. He was making his sales pitch and he said that, "statistics indicate that fire sprinklers fail 73% of the time" and that is why their product is so important. Mike said the conversation went down hill from there.

The NFSA fights that mentality nearly everyday throughout the country. The firestop industry is making its rounds in many states through associations believing they are exposing their members to valuable information.

This attack of fire sprinkler integrity also happened recently in the east and Dom Kass, NFSA Northeast Regional Manager, was able address the misinformation and help educate an audience influenced by some very biased and deviate material to correct the situation.

**NFSA Announces 2006 Annual Seminar Information**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to announce the dates, theme and location for its 2006 annual seminar.

**The NFSA 2006 Annual Seminar will be held April 26 - 29 at the Fairmont Southampton** in sunny, windswept Bermuda. Perched royally on the edge of the island's highest rocky bluff providing magnificent views of azure ocean overlooking what can only be described as the world's finest pink sand beaches, as expected by anyone traveling to the colony for the first time, the Fairmont Southampton exudes old world British charm.

With the theme, "*Beachhead for Best Practices*", the program will prominently feature speaker sessions on the important role Best Practices will play in the continued development of the fire sprinkler industry.

Other sessions slated include a Sprinkler Contractor Forum designed especially for the CEO, CFO and President, Making an Impact at the Local Level - a review of the success of NFPA 13D ordinance adoptions in the Chicagoland area, the latest and greatest in foreman and supervisor training, The 2007 NFPA Sprinkler Standards, a federal legislation update and much, much more.

As customary for an NFSA Annual Seminar, a golf tournament will be held at the Port Royal Golf Course on Wednesday, April 26 with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. As such, all golfers should

make their flight arrangements to arrive on the island at least by Tuesday evening. A form to reserve tees and greens sponsorships for the tournament is available in this issue of GrassRoots.

The conference will close with an awards banquet on the evening of Saturday, April 29 with those due recognition for performance above and beyond what can be considered par during the week's competitions, getting it. Check [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) periodically for updates. In the meantime, airfare reservations are only a click away. Don't wait until the last minute. The best seats to this island paradise will be the first to go.

### **Fire Sprinkler Contractor Business Operations Report**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to report that it has completed its 2004 fire sprinkler contractor Business Operations Survey. The results have been formatted into an easy-to-read Business Operations Report\_ that provides benchmark information for fire sprinkler contractor operations of various sizes and business orientations.

The contractors who provided the information from which the final report was generated did so anonymously and voluntarily with complete confidentiality of a third party auditor for the benefit of all who participated in the survey. The report is unbiased and no interpretation has been made by NFSA on its findings. As such, it is the fire sprinkler industry's single source of business operations information that can be used purely to measure your company's performance to that of other companies of a similar size based on sales. The reporting companies are divided in the following three categories: <\$8MM (4 companies), \$8MM - \$19MM (3 companies) and over \$19MM (4 companies).

Although only a small number of contractors participated in the survey, the results can be a valuable tool for anyone responsible for the day to day operation of a fire sprinkler contractor.

For more information call: (845)-878-4200.

### **\*\*\*\*\*NICET Prep Training Comes to Chicago-Time Running Out to Register\*\*\*\*\***

The NFSA has scheduled a **2-week Basic Technician Training Course** for **March 6-17 2006** to be held at the William Tell. This class is designed to take a person with basic knowledge of math, physical science and drafting skills and teach them to be productive basic sprinkler layout and detailing technicians. All of the work elements necessary for NICET Level II Certification will be covered by the course. Students layout and calculate at least four different systems by hand after learning the basic rules for fire sprinkler detailing. This class is the opening session for our two year Certificate Program for Fire Sprinkler Technicians. This program will guide a design technician along a career development path, creating knowledgeable and efficient layout and detail professionals.

The NFSA has also scheduled the **3-day Advanced Technician Training Class** for **April 18-20, 2006** at the same location. 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.

Be watching in the next report for more information. Those of you not possessing a NICET certified employee may want to participate in this programming as it will help you with your business more than you know!

**[IFSA 6th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition in Lisbon Scheduled for March 2006](#)**

The International Fire Sprinkler Association (IFSA) 6th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition is scheduled for 28 - 29 March, 2006 at the LeMeridien Park Atlantic hotel in historic Lisbon, Portugal. Mark the calendar! Save the dates!

This will be the largest trade show in Europe dedicated solely to the fire sprinkler industry. Promising to be even larger than the 5th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition held in Berlin in the summer of 2004, stand space for this event will undoubtedly sell out early. Those in attendance in Berlin will remember the outstanding champagne reception that was held inside the exhibition hall. With business being conducted right up until the last minute of the show and many vendors having visitors even after the lights were turned off, it was abundantly clear the inaugural event was an overwhelming success. The 2006 event in Lisbon is expected to be even better.

While the program content and registration details are still being finalized, a priority list for those interested in stand space for the exhibition has been established. To be added to the priority mailing list to be among the first to receive registration information for both the conference and exhibition, contact should be made by email with Debby Somers at [somers@nfsa.org](mailto:somers@nfsa.org). Registration materials are in the mail.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to market products and services to the rapidly expanding fire sprinkler market throughout Europe.

**[Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 - HR 1131 & SB 512](#)**

**[Access the Special Link Page through NFSA.org](#)**

Even with the hurricane disasters of 2005 and the continuance of the Gulf War, the numbers of co-sponsors are rising in both the House and Senate. There is hope that the bill will be acted on as part of a fiscal package in spring. As of this writing, representatives now number **149** and growing with Illinois and Wisconsin contingencies holding steady at 15 and 4 respectively..

Both the House and Senate versions of the *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005* are **posted on the NFSA web site link page**, <http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/fsiahome.html>. In addition to the bills, the site contains a host of other important information that can be downloaded, including a list of current cosponsors and support organizations. Most importantly, it is time once again to write to your Senators and Representatives to advocate for passage of this landmark fire protection legislation.

The following organizations support the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act: All members of the Congressional Fire Service Institute National Advisory Committee (which includes all the major national fire service organizations), National Fire Sprinkler Association, American Fire Sprinkler Association, Building Owners & Managers Association International, Mechanical Contractors Association, Lowe's Home Safety Council, American Insurance Association, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, The Associated General Contractors of America, The Lightning Safety Alliance, American Society of Safety Engineers, American Health Care Association, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., International Code Council, American Institute of Architects, and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

Make a difference, join the effort, write your representatives in Congress and encourage their support of this historic fire safety legislation. Fire Sprinklers Save Lives and Property!

Thanks to all who have actively participated in this venture, a victory here means employment for the industry for quite some time to come.

Illinois Representatives needed to sign on are down to four of the state's nineteen representatives. Speaker **Dennis J. Hastert, 14<sup>th</sup>**, is not able to commit because of his position. **But Daniel Lipinski, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Danny K. Davis, 7<sup>th</sup> and Melissa L. Bean, 8<sup>th</sup>** have yet to sign on. Wisconsin Representatives not signing at this point: **Ron Kind, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gwen Moore, 4<sup>th</sup>, Thomas E. Petri, 6<sup>th</sup>, David R. Obey, 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you are constituents of any of these congressmen, please follow the instructions above.

Senators from both states have yet to commit as well, contact them too:

**Durbin, Richard- (D - IL)**

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510  
(202) 224-2152  
Web Form: [durbin.senate.gov/sitepages/contact.htm](http://durbin.senate.gov/sitepages/contact.htm)

**Obama, Barack- (D - IL)**

713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510  
(202) 224-2854  
Web Form: [obama.senate.gov/contact/](http://obama.senate.gov/contact/)

**Feingold, Russell- (D - WI)**

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510  
(202) 224-5323  
E-mail: [russell\\_feingold@feingold.senate.gov](mailto:russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov)

**Kohl, Herb- (D - WI)**

330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510  
(202) 224-5653 Web Form: [kohl.senate.gov/gen\\_contact.html](http://kohl.senate.gov/gen_contact.html).

**[NFSA ENGINEER OF THE DAY –This Service is paying your competitors dues](#)**

**Engineer of the Day:**

So far this year, (2005), 2000 requests for information have been received and handled through NFSA's Engineer of the Day. This is an increase of 67% over last year. In addition, 200 requests have been received and processed for formal interpretations, which are up 100% from last year. Average response time has been 1/3 of a day. The Engineering Department has established a new email address for requests of the Engineer of the Day. The new address is [eod@nfsa.org](mailto:eod@nfsa.org)

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has for over a year 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 was 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](http://www.nfsa.org)

### [Need an Ordinance? Check this Process](#)

If you are looking for the prototype ordinance, go to the web. Start by entering this: [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com). The click “online library”, pick a state then pick a community you know has ordinances that favor sprinkler protection. For a quick look at some also go to the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board site at: [www.firesprinklerassoc.org](http://www.firesprinklerassoc.org) and go to the Square Foot Upgrades by Town button.

### [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](http://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!**

## [ILLINOIS](#)

### [Illinois Task Force on Model Building Code Meets for Fifth Time](#)

Another meeting for the Illinois Task Force on Model Building Code was held in Champaign in early December. Simply stated, the task force will be recommending the adoption of a statewide building code. The group's task was just that, to investigate the need and to recommend whether the state should/should not adopt a code. Its secondary responsibility was to recommend adoption either a model code, constructing an Illinois only code or some modification of the two. Some of the aggressive members wanted to suggest the model code and already make revisions to it. These contributors may be alienating others that could make the process mute and non productive. This saga continues.

### [Industry Reps Still Meeting to Clarify Rules](#)

Communications continue between legislators, professional engineers, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the industry to clarify the language of Administrative Rule with the department regarding our NICET verses professional engineering debate of the contractor's act. **Chapter lobbyist Margaret Vaughn and State Representative Dan Burke** met and discussed the language of the package. **State Representative “Skip” Saviano** has been brought into the fracas by the PE's under rather unscrupulous circumstances. Saviano is a friend of the industry but was given some misinformation as to our position. As of this writing, we are confident Saviano will help right the ship.

There has been more information in the Engineering Act of 1989 discovered to put water on their little fire and it is hoped the process will be complete in the next two months. As previously stated I will keep you informed of our progress with this important legislation. But as of this moment, NICET certified plans are legal for submission to Authorities Having Jurisdiction.

### 13D Summit Held in Kildeer

Hosted by the Lake Zurich Fire Rescue Department and co-sponsored by the Illinois Fire Inspectors and the Northern Illinois Fire Inspectors and affiliated by the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB), the 2006 Illinois NFPA 13D Summit Meeting was held January 18 in Kildeer. A field of experts ranging from national organizations and local fire departments gave a one-day symposium that extols the value of residential fire sprinklers. Another tremendous success, members from the fire service and their local legislative representatives heard why ordinances requiring 13D installations are important to the fire safety of a community.

### Illinois Fire Prevention Outing Scheduled for June 12

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational has been scheduled for June 12, 2006 and again will be held at the beautiful and challenging Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan. After last year's record outing for fundraising and participation, the steering committee has been up to the task to make this event even greater. Don't wait until it's too late to enter, reply right away when you receive your invite. For more information contact **Amos Minor, U.S. Fire Protection at, (847) 816-0050**. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.

### Wisconsin

#### Sprinkler Save in Arcadia on Christmas

Three families were displaced after a mattress was found burning in the Carriage House Apartments on Christmas Eve. No one was injured in the fire that authorities responded to at 10:40 p.m., Arcadia-Glencoe **Fire Chief Jeff Halvorsen** said.

Sprinklers helped firefighters, but a third-floor bed was on fire when crews arrived at 1575 E. Blaschko Ave., Halvorsen said. Authorities are investigating how the bed started on fire, Halvorsen said.

The families, five adults and two children, were able to return the next day, Halvorsen said. The American Red Cross moved them to an area motel.

#### Commercial & Multi-Family Code Council Review of the Wisconsin Building Code Revisions

The State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC) is facilitating the revision process for the state's building code. Using the International Building Code-2006 as the base document, the two umbrella councils met January 12, 2006 reviewing the package that is to be prepared for public hearing. It is hoped the package, public hearings and final code can be ready for a January 1, 2007 effective date. That may be wishful thinking as a few obstacles are in the way of that schedule.

The main issue of interest was the code proposal conflicting with the state statute regarding multi-family. The Wisconsin Mini-Max Multi-Family triggers at 20 units. A request was made by the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) at the December 8, 2005 Code Council meeting for the DOC to get a legal interpretation of the IBC-2006 proposal to require fire sprinkler protection in

all multi-family units of three or greater, townhouses less than three stories, and the contradictory Wisconsin Mini-Max. The state's attorney combined council has the authority to move the IBC proposal but the councils had an "obligation" to adopt it.

Debate followed with Madison Professional Engineers and an architect representing associated builders & contractors making comments about outlying areas and trouble with water supplies. They complained adoption of the multi-family language would create an astronomical financial burden on the client. A comment was made by the WBA the low income housing would get too high priced. Your regional manager made some comments supporting the package about need as did **Madison Fire Marshal Ed Ruckriegel**. The architect made a motion to keep this portion of the package from getting to public hearing. It was suggested by the DOC that this would back up the effective date by nine months from 1/1/07 to 9/1/07.

A vote was taken with both councils voting together. It came out a tie. A division of the House was requested. This time the chair voted with the Commercial Code Council and the numbers hit 7-5 to not forward the package. Our side had two fire service personnel not in attendance. That would have made it 7-6 to forward package with the chair having to abstain as he wouldn't have been the deciding vote.

The Multi-Family Council then voted to a 7-4 difference meaning totally the multi-family language would have been forwarded based on popular vote. Again, the division was very visible. The government related city & fire service voted for the advancement of the package while the financially vested members voted the opposite. It was discussed that the Multi-Family Council has by-laws requiring more votes. The DOC is to contact the four absent members, one a fire inspector and one municipal person already stating support. I don't know the other two but would guess at least one to voice no to the package. Our two fire service votes would have made it a narrow but victorious margin. The outcome would not be known at the time of this writing. It is felt the legal opinion may have some credence in this case.

Just to let you know, **Jim Smith, DOC**, gave a presentation about the costs associated with fire sprinklers in 4-8&24 unit buildings with and without municipal water. He did a very good job and **NFSA members U.S. Fire Protection & Ahern Fire Protection** offered some very good information. Jim was quite thankful for the input as it put some very real costs to the proposal. We made an honest attempt to educate. The state, the NFSA and the ICC has offered to get more info to the committee.

The other sprinkler related issue dealt with the IEBC and water supply. An existing building would not need sprinklers if municipal water is not at the street and if a reasonable fire safety alternate is being used. The later was added by the Comm 14 Committee. That measure passed with the package to adopt the IEBC Public Hearing Package.

### [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 first of the 2006 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.

*Standard Spray Sidewall Sprinklers - February 7, 2006*

*Extended Coverage and Quick Response Sprinklers - February 21, 2006*

*Residential Sprinklers - March 7, 2006*

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

The 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](http://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 2006 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**A-C Pump Systems**  
**Morton Grove, IL**  
**(2/10/04) 2 Years**

**Complete Fire Protection Supply Company**  
**Elk Grove Village, IL**  
**(2/24/04) 2 Years**

**H.J. Pertzborn Plumbing & F. P. Corporation**  
**Madison, WI**  
**(2/27/02) 4 Years**

**ITW Buildex**  
**Itasca, IL**  
**(2/15/95) 11 years**

**Thanks for your industry support!**

Don’t wait to schedule your calendars. Make plans to attend the NFSA conventions of the future. They promise to offer insight and profit potentials.

**NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SEMINAR**  
**SOUTHAMPTON, BERMUDA**  
**FAIRMONT SOUTHAMPTON**  
**APRIL 27-29, 2006**

For more information, visit: [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

**6th INTERNATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER CONFERENCE**  
**LISBON, PORTUGAL**  
**MARCH 28-29, 2006**

For more information, visit: [www.sprinklerworld.org](http://www.sprinklerworld.org)

**NFSA Annual Seminar & Exposition**  
**Red Rock Station Resort Casino**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**May 2-5, 2007**