



February 2010



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

PO Box 280
Williams Bay, WI 53191

Phone: (262) 245-5255
Fax: (262) 245-5258

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

eod@nfsa.org

Help us help you, pass this on in-house

Battlefield 2010, Residential Sprinklers Have Landed

The year 2010 promises to be another action packed challenge to the residential sprinkler journey. Numerous states will be in the stand-by mode as their cycle for code revision won't happen this year yet opposition to the fire safety concept will be attempting to get legislation passed to eliminate a local unit of government from adopting the residential fire sprinkler requirement in one- and two-family homes.

That leaves many states to deal with either the International Residential Code with or without Chapter 29 calling for the addition of residential sprinklers. There will be high spirited debate in all of the states that are compelled to take action whether it be by code adoption or intervention by anti-sprinkler advocates soliciting influence legislators.

You can follow the sagas in each state by logging onto the National Fire Sprinkler Association's Web site, www.nfsa.org, going to the left column and clicking on the "IRC Update."

Below is an article that explains some of the progress made in this campaign.

California Approves Requirement for Fire Sprinklers in All New Homes Beginning in 2011

The California State Building Standards Commission recently voted 10-0 in favor of adopting the 2010 California Residential Code, which includes the 2009 International Residential Code as established by the International Code Council in September 2008. The residential sprinkler requirement was voted into the 2009 IRC Code by building code officials from all over the U.S., gaining more than two-thirds of the vote. This demonstrated that officials very clearly see the need to require sprinkler technology as a life-saving measure. The fire sprinkler requirement was recently reaffirmed at an ICC vote in Baltimore in late October 2009.

"This is a monumental victory for the residents and fire service professionals in California as the state is providing its residents and fire service professionals with an important life safety measure which will provide residents with peace of mind in their homes and fire service professionals extra time to perform their jobs," said NFSA President John Viniello. "I would like to applaud all of the officials who have worked tirelessly in the state to secure the adoption of the 2009 IRC Code. California now joins Pennsylvania and New Hampshire as the only states in the nation to adopt the 2009 IRC Code at the statewide level and will serve as an excellent example on why other states should adopt this important life-safety regulation."

The inclusion of residential fire sprinkler requirements in the 2009 IRC is a response to the growing fire problem in the U.S. About 85 percent of all fires occur in the home and many are fueled by new "lightweight" construction and more flammable home contents. Smoke detectors may no longer be enough in residential fire protection, as the time to escape a house fire has dwindled from 17 minutes 20 years ago to three minutes today. This poses a severe risk to firefighters as they now have less time to do their job and save residents' lives and property.

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced In Senate

On Friday, January 22, 2010, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) as primary cosponsor, introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2010. The bill is the Senate companion bill to HR 1194 in the House of Representatives introduced last year by Representatives Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Eric Cantor (R-VA).

The FSIA intends to amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. Passage of this landmark fire protection legislation will accelerate cost recovery of fire sprinkler retrofits in a large inventory of critical occupancies built under older codes prior to requirements for inclusion of fire sprinkler systems and get us one giant step closer to a fire safe America.

Hats off to a small working group of allied organizations who have worked tirelessly over the past several months on behalf of many more groups to get this bill introduced. In addition, we applaud the vision and leadership of Senators Carper and Collins in joining together to insure bipartisan support for a very important quality of life issue.

Continue to monitor the Web site for posting of a bill number.

Seton Hall Acknowledges Campus Life Changing Fire

Ten years after a deadly arson fire brought national attention to Seton Hall University, the third floor of the freshman dormitory shows no hints that three students died in the halls as they tried to feel their way out of the smoky blaze. But look closer and the subtle signs are everywhere: The fire sprinklers every few feet. The flame-resistant couches are in the lounge, detailed evacuation map next to the elevator and state-of-the-art fire alarm boxes at the ends of the halls.

"For us, fire safety is every day. It's not something we've lost vigilance on," said Tara Hart, Seton Hall's director of housing and residence life.

As the South Orange campus prepares to mark the fire's 10th anniversary with a memorial Mass, school officials say they have something to celebrate amid the sadness: The Boland Hall tragedy changed life in dorms around the nation.

The Jan. 19, 2000, fire prompted a campus fire safety movement that led to sprinkler installations, revised fire drill regulations, dormitory smoking bans and more. Numerous states have enacted requirements for dormitories, fraternities and sororities to enhance their fire safety protection.

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



"We really were instrumental in helping to change American laws," said Monsignor Robert Sheeran, Seton Hall's president. "What we learned from the fire will affect lives . . . for generations."

Starting this fall, colleges across the nation will be required to publicly report their fire statistics for the first time under a new federal Fire Safety Right-to-Know law introduced by New Jersey legislators inspired by the Seton Hall tragedy. National fire safety advocates are also continuing the movement with a campaign to improve fire safety in off-campus housing, where students often live in dangerous houses and apartments.

Sprinkler Saves

None reported this month.

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

Three hurt in house fire in St. Paul's North End

Two residents and one firefighter were hurt in an early morning blaze at a St. Paul home, the St. Paul Fire Marshal said. At 1:37 a.m., firefighters and paramedics were called to a fire at 61 Cook Ave. W. in the North End neighborhood, said St. Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard. Firefighters quickly put out the fire, which started in a basement bedroom and spread to the first floor.

Six adults and three children escaped the flames. Two of them — a female adult and a teenage girl — were treated for possible smoke inhalation and taken to the hospital. They have been treated and released.

A firefighter was injured when he slipped and fell. He was treated at the scene and taken to the hospital. He has since been released.

The estimated damage was \$60,000. The house had smoke detectors, but **no fire sprinklers**. (Thanks for the progressive PR FM Zaccard)

The cause of the fire is under investigation but is not considered suspicious. The likely cause was a hazardous electrical extension cord, Zaccard said. Residents should remember that extension cords are for temporary use and should not be a substitute for permanent wiring.

The American Red Cross is helping residents who were displaced by the fire.

WISCONSIN: www.nfsawi.org

Marshfield Looks to Lower thresholds for commercial Buildings

The Marshfield Fire & Rescue Department has started a campaign to lower their commercial building code thresholds to 5,000 square feet. They also look to require retrofit sprinkler protection in existing buildings that add 5,000 square feet, expand their space to 5,000 square feet or remodel more than 50% of the assessed value of the existing building.

Marshfield F&R Chief James Schmidt and Deputy chief Ed Erickson did their due diligence to research the history of commercial fire sprinkler interests in the city and surveyed the entire state for communities of similar size to formulate their ordinance proposal.

Introductory meetings were scheduled for January 21 & 28, 2010 to inform the community and its local legislators of the value to require sprinkler protection. Attendance at the first meeting was a bit meager with fifteen in attendance. They represented business owners, developers, architects, nonprofit historical building proprietors and two local legislators.

The two hour session included presentations by the fire & rescue department and NFSA. As expected questions from attendees offered insight into what concerns may be. To nearly everyone's satisfaction, answers provided closure to some challenges the audience may have had. Anti-sprinkler sediments were exhibited and to those any answer would have been wrong.

The second session did not occur before this writing and will be reported next month as will the itinerary of events that will trustingly lead Marshfield into a more secure fire safe community.

Fire Sprinkler Coalition Moving Forward

The Wisconsin Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition continues to meet formulating the four programs designed to educate the public, fire service, authorities having jurisdiction and construction stakeholders & legislators. The January meeting exhibited three of the programs nearly finished with the last being actively addressed. The concept is to educate the groups so acceptance of the residential sprinkler concept becomes a reality.

The State of Wisconsin is in the process of reviewing the codes for construction. It is apparent that the adoption cycle will not occur in 2010. The state is considering the International Residential Code - 2009 as a replacement for the Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code. Within that scope is the inclusion of residential fire sprinklers for one- and two-family homes and townhouses. It is not known at this time if the IRC or the sprinkler provision are being actively pursued by the code advisors but is recognized that plenty of resistance will surface against the sprinkler language.

The Wisconsin Fire protection Coalition is pursuing the *uniformity* provisions in state statutes that has prevented local communities from adopting ordinances calling for mandatory residential fire sprinkler protection in newly constructed homes. That too will be a process.

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

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

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

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.

February 9, 2010

Seismic Protection and NFPA 13 Annex F

Intermediate/Advanced

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

The seismic protection for fire sprinkler systems has been evolving over the last decade. In the 2010 Edition of NFPA 13 a new annex has been added that details the calculations used in developing the load tables for bracing the sprinkler piping. The process for earthquake protection of the fire sprinkler system as updated will be discussed.

February 23, 2010

New Storage Arrangements

Advanced

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering

The 2010 Edition of NFPA 13 will contain specific criteria, for the first time, on how to protect compact file storage, record storage, back-to-back shelf storage and high bay record storage. This presentation will review the new rules for protecting each of these types of storage with fire sprinklers including the provisions under which compact file storage can be treated as light hazard.

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

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

February 18, 2010

Strategic Planning for Contractors

Don Pamplin, NFSA Northwest Regional Manager

This on-line seminar carefully outlines how the process of doing the right kind of "Strategic Planning" can make a huge difference in how you successfully manage your company, especially during recessionary cycles. Companies that don't use this successfully proven planning process are seriously limiting their opportunities to survive and prosper through tough economic times. The material presented substantially proves that "In every crisis, there are many opportunities for success".

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

NFSA North/South Central Regional In-Class Seminars

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

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



2008 and identifying yourself as being with the NFSA group. If you prefer, reservations may be made via the PassKey system at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/nfsa>. To avoid the inconvenience of not getting into the NFSA room block, reservations should be made right away as the block will fill early. Conference registration information is presently available at www.nfsa.org

Save the dates!

Locations for future NFSA Annual Seminars have been scheduled as follows:

2010 Annual Seminar, April 15-16, Chicago, Illinois

Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park



2011 Annual Seminar & Exhibition, April 6-9

Hilton Baltimore

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.