



January 2005

Eureka, Chicago Starts Fire Safety Process, more to come?

[Forward this report, it may be of interest to others](#)

Sixty weeks after the infamous **Cook County Administration Building** fire that killed six and nine days after the **LaSalle Bank Building** fire that injured 37, including 23 firefighters, the City of Chicago passed a commercial high-rise building ordinance. The legislation calls for buildings over 80 feet in height and built before 1975 to be retrofitted with fire sprinklers. Excluded are residential, landmark, potential landmark and historical designated buildings. Designated buildings will be required to be fully protected by January 1, 2017.

Residential high-rise buildings and Landmark buildings will be required to pass a Life Safety Evaluation to avoid the retrofit requirement. Failure of the evaluation will result with the building owner either retrofitting the building or bringing it to an acceptable status by the installation of other fire safety features. In either case improvements must bring the building to Local rule compliance.

This legislation is monumental in scope but leaves the sprinkler industry short in its goal of a complete ordinance. It comes up short by excluding residential occupancies especially for those who may live in them. The emergency personnel who enter high-rise buildings when there is a fire also wonder about the wisdom of excluding the buildings where people live. Chicago has experienced a long history of death and destruction in these occupancies because of fire.

In any event, **Mayor Richard Daley** and the Chicago Common Council should be commended on this historic move to make the city a safer place to visit. Now, if we can get them to equally make it a safer place to live, then all will be well.

Here's how it happened. Four days after the LaSalle Bank Building fire on December 10, 2004, the Chicago Committee on Buildings closed testimony on the controversial high-rise fire sprinkler ordinance for the City of Chicago. A vote of nine to zero then passed the mayor's revised version to retrofit Chicago's commercial building stock built before 1975. Three attending aldermen had left the meeting before the vote and three were absent. The same group immediately voted unanimously to support the "Life Safety" ride-a-long ordinance that accompanied the mayor's proposal.

The number of buildings affected for commercial, residential and other built before 1975 still has not been clearly, or even vaguely, identified. Figures range from 600-800 total buildings with no real breakdown of classes. The last quote was 635 and they were unsure of that total too.

Testimony was basically restricted to two people. The first testimony came from **Alderman Edward Burke**. He authored the first ordinance proposal that included commercial and residential high-rise buildings. His statement was eloquent and referenced Chicago's history of legislative responsive ordinances after major tragedies.

He highlighted the incident of 17 years ago at 1 Illinois Plaza where **Nancy Clay** died because the fire department couldn't reach her. He played a 911 tape that graphically had the committee and gallery listen to her last pleas to save her life. He spoke of the **Iroquois Theater Fire & the Our Lady of Angels School fire** that changed codes in the city and nation. He referenced the **Station Nightclub Fire** of 2003 in Rhode Island and how his proposed nightclub ordinance had been ignored for over a year. He also rehashed a series of ordinance proposals he had introduced to make the city safer. Few were passed while other critical safety proposals became stagnant in committee.

Committee Chair Bernie Stone interrupted Alderman Burke on two occasions to, in his terms, clarify some of the issues. His interruption did no more than delay the proceedings. He also admitted that he was the only alderman living in a high-rise and Burke's proposal would affect HIS POCKETBOOK. Two other aldermen corrected him by stating they too lived in high-rise buildings. Alderman Burke clearly stood as a leader among followers with his presence and demeanor but it was just as clear that the followers had their other leader, Mayor Richard Daley, setting the course for the ordinance.

Alderman Burke was followed by **Attorney Kevin Dirken** who represents four of the six 69 West Washington families who lost loved ones at the infamous October 17, 2003, fire. He also had some of the seven injured survivors with him. Again, Stone wasted time by explaining that the families needed to testify and that, in his interpretation, this testimony would offer nothing to the debate but express their sorrow. How wrong Mr. Wrong Again. Mr. Dirken was outstanding in his ten-minute presentation. Dirken stated many issues directly in contrast to testimony given in previous committee meetings.

Mr. Dirken highlighted the fact that if the 69 West Washington building had fire sprinklers that the fire would have saved all, that the locked doors would not have been a part of the equation. He further stated that the building has since been retrofitted and the cost was not near what has been quoted by previous witnesses. Stone stepped up to state that the costs were \$6.75 per square foot and other up-charges went with it. Dirken retorted that even if that were true, those figures were grossly cheaper than the ones flying around in previous testimony.

Mr. Dirken then went on to state that costs of other projects were tremendously lower than others had said. He went on to say that insurance credits will easily help offset the costs of the installation of sprinklers. Once again, Alderman Stone stated that he checked and his insurance savings would not be 50%, nor 20% but less than 10% in savings. More wasted time and again, as with his earlier outbursts, no support.

The attorney also gave several other examples and stated that Alderman Burke's ordinance should be adopted and his schedule of eight-year compliance should be escalated to a four-year schedule. He thanked the committee and was thanked for his input.

Clearly several aldermen felt the sting of Alderman Burke and Attorney Dirken's statements. Several agreed and Alderwoman Mary Ann Smith predicted that the fire sprinkler industry would find some technological means to lower costs in the future while the residential issue would surface again.

The chair then called for the motion to pass the mayor's ordinance proposal and as mentioned it passed. He then called for a vote on the Life Safety ordinance without calling for the motion.

That too passed unanimously and with NO TESTIMONY, the City adopted a new City Building Code.

Alderman Tom Murphy then called for a motion on Alderman Burke's proposal and that motion failed. The meeting was adjourned.

Many need to be thanked in getting this job accomplished since the 69 West Washington Street fire of October 17, 2004. The list starts with **Tom Lia and his outstanding staff at the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board**. Add **Peg Paul and Associates** for their timely and aggressive marketing campaign. Include **Illinois Strategies, L.L.C., formally Ronan & Potts, L.L.C.** Testimony from **NFSA Executive Vice President Russ Fleming, NFSA Regional Operations Director Buddy Dewar and NFSA Consultant Cecil Bilbo** were excellent sources of information for the committee and the media. **NFSA President John A. Viniello** wrote letters to the editor that were printed also influencing the general public and their elected officials. There was a tremendous boost by the **NFSA Sprinkler Manufacturers Industry Fund** to sponsor signage that truly affected the outcome. It would be remiss not to give huge credit to the **Northern Illinois Chapter of the NFSA Industry Promotion Fund Committee**, as it was their leadership that gave focus to the project. These tenacious people are; **Gregg Huennekens, US Fire Protection, Fred Kroll, Alliance Fire Protection, Cary Nicol, Viking Supply Net, Rich "Sprinkle America" Ray and Barry Waterman, Acme Sprinkler Company**. Without their direction and influence, there would have been no victory. Your Regional Manager also assisted in the campaign. Truly the ultimate team effort!

Sharpen those quote pencils and let's show them that they were right, at least partially right.

Press Statement of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago Regarding the Fire at 135 South LaSalle Street

Issued December 7, 2004

The **Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago** commends the City of Chicago's emergency response teams, building management, tenants and staff for their courage and responsiveness during the fire at 135 South LaSalle Street.

We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to all of the injured, including the firefighters who put their own safety at risk to protect others.

By all accounts, and by our observation on the scene, Chicago's Fire and Police Departments did an outstanding job of protecting the lives and safety of those in and around the building. The improved protocols for responding to major events in high-rise buildings, combined with the courage of the men and women who responded, minimized injuries and avoided an even more serious situation.

The tenants, building management and staff at 135 South LaSalle are also to be commended for their efforts, both before and during the incident, to ensure that proper training in evacuation procedures and emergency response was not only provided beforehand but also implemented during last night's fire.

As serious as this incident was, it also illustrates how ongoing collaboration regarding emergency training and evacuation between the Chicago Fire Department, BOMA/Chicago and building management can minimize injury and damage.

The number-one priority of BOMA/Chicago is the safety and security of tenants, staff, employees and guests in our member buildings. We encourage all building owners and managers to review their procedures for compliance with requirements of the Chicago building codes, the high-rise evacuation ordinance and Fire Department regulations, particularly as they relate to life-safety issues. **Additionally, we encourage all commercial building owners to install fire sprinkler systems and support Mayor Daley's proposed sprinkler ordinance as it now stands in City Council committee.**

SOMEONE CHANGED THE SHEET MUSIC TO THE BOMA THEME SONG!

New Building Code Approves CPVC Pipe in Chicago

Passage of a new Building Code for the City of Chicago on December 15, 2004 resulted in the city joining the country's other 50 largest cities by allowing the use of BlazeMaster(R) CPVC fire sprinkler systems for high-rise retrofits. According to Noveon, the manufacturer of the product, it marks the first time in history that Chicago high rises will be able to install anything other than metallic fire sprinkler pipe. The move was in direct response to the approval by City Council of the new ordinance that mandates sprinklers in older commercial buildings.

A previous section in the Chicago Building Code had required that only metal pipe could be used in fire sprinkler installations. A new building code section, approved by Council on December 15, supercedes the old section and allows that any sprinkler piping meeting or exceeding the requirements of NFPA 13-2002 can now be used.

2004 NFSA Staff Meetings Yield More Energy

The annual NFSA Staff Meetings were conducted December 14-16th in Danbury, CT. Every staff person and some guests attended the 2.5-day intense briefings and directive session. Guests included the contingent of **Gerry Ennis, Joe Young and Matt Osburn of the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association**. Also in attendance for their first time were **Sir George Pigot, Fire Sprinkler Association and Alan Brinson of the European Fire Sprinkler Network**. They left the final day expressing their appreciation for the great insight and motivation they received from their American hosts.

The Annual Meetings provide a recap of industry influence and performance with a map for new directional goals for NFSA staff for the next year. The meetings always let all staff understand their role to help make the industry and our members more efficient and profitable.

Sprinklers to be Installed in Greenville, S.C. Motel Where Six Died

Sprinklers will be installed in a motel where six people died in a fire earlier this year, according to building permits. The Comfort Inn has remained closed since the early morning Jan. 26 fire. There is no indication when it might reopen, according to the permits obtained by The Greenville News.

The fire has been ruled an arson and the six deaths homicides. No suspects have been arrested. At the time of the blaze, fire officials said all of the victims would have likely lived if the motel had sprinklers. The third-floor of the hotel was almost destroyed, according to an engineer's report filed with the application, which asks for permission to install sprinklers and do electrical and other work. A code enforcement panel must approve the plan before repair work can begin. The total cost of the renovation is estimated at \$300,000, according to the application. The five-story motel was built in 1988 before new building codes went into effect and was not required to have a sprinkler system. All new buildings more than 3 stories tall since must have sprinklers.

NFSA BUSINESS OPERATIONS SURVEY DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS AND RESPONSES

This Business Operations Survey form is available as a downloadable Excel and/or Adobe file and therefore may be completed using Excel or prepared manually. Participants are to download the Survey, and save it to their own hard drive. For those participants who will be completing the Survey manually, the Survey can be downloaded and printed using Adobe Reader. Instructions to the Survey are available via a downloadable Adobe file. Upon completion, all participants can send their completed Surveys either via E-Mail to Toni@JTSCOCPA.com or via Fax to the attention of Toni Deck at 516-877-5958. Any question regarding downloading of the Survey can be directed to Gregory Giannone at 516-877-5900 ext 233 or via E-mail to Greg@JTSCOCPA.COM. <http://www.jtsocpa.com/form.html>

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE HELD STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE SEEN BY ANY MEMBER OF THE NFSA STAFF. The results will be compiled from all surveys completed by the participating contractors and a final report will be produced.

If you participate in this survey, we will provide you with a FREE copy of the results. Those **not participating**, and are members of NFSA, may obtain a copy for \$750.00; nonmembers may obtain a copy for \$1,500.00.

The value of these reports is dependent upon obtaining as much data from as many contractors as possible.

Each participant in the survey will also receive a business portfolio that includes a calculator, pen and paper that would be very useful for your next business meeting.

The success of this report depends entirely upon the response of our contractors – please take the time to complete it.

Congress Breaks, Fire Sprinkler Incentive Acts of 2003 & 2004 Break With It

The Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of (2003, House Bill 1824, and the Senate version, The Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2004, S 2860 have both be moved from the 108th United States Congress to the upcoming 109th Congress schedule to open in late January. Committee action for both bills kept them alive and the sponsor teams of **Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA) & James Langevin (D-RI) and Senators Rick Santorum (R-PA) & John D. Rockefeller (D-WV)** promised to reintroduce this most powerful influential legislation again.

Be watchful for the NFSA Cap Wiz information, as we will need to resign those federal legislators again for progress on the fire safety promotional legislation.

Others Helping to Inform Safety to College Students

Reported from Ed Comeau, Center for Campus Fire Safety.

A vendor that distributes Fire Shield, a surge suppressor, sends out letters to parents of incoming freshman at 27 schools advising them that the school requires/recommends that the surge suppressor be used by the students in the residence halls at these schools. (These are schools that they have negotiated distribution contracts with.) This vendor has agreed to include fire safety information from the Center in these mailings at no cost to us other than the Center printing up the information to be included.

I'm thinking along the lines of something on cardstock that has a list of the "top ten things students should know" when they go to school, perhaps in English on one side and Spanish on the other. Keep in mind they have already selected the school, so it could be information such as...

Know two ways out
Be bright, get a flashlight
Sprinklers aren't coat hooks
Don't block the smoke alarm
Don't overload your outlets
When the alarm sounds, don't hang around

Comeau Elected to International Fire Chiefs Position

December 8, 2004 - Ed Comeau, Director of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, has been elected to the Life Safety Section Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Comeau has been active for a number of years in promoting the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in dormitories as part of an overall fire safety program. The NFSA is one of the Founding Members of the Center and President John A. Viniello serves on its Board of Advisors.

National Builder Education Video Shot on Location in a Chicago Suburb

Move over Hollywood!

In October, the shooting of a new video produced for the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) took place in a western Chicago suburb in a 200 home development all designed with fire sprinkler systems.

The video is the cornerstone of HFSC's new "Built for Life" kit. It is designed exclusively for home builders/designers and their sales staff, and intended to educate them about the value residential fire sprinklers add to the homes they build.

"Built for Life" is the first national sprinkler education effort directed at the tens of thousands of contractors/developers who build homes in the U.S. The campaign is sponsored by HFSC and funded, in part, through a 2003 FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant.

In a recent HFSC national survey, nearly 90 percent of homebuilders said they would find such a sprinkler educational effort helpful.

HFSC's "Built for Life" video will dispel troubling myths that lead to sprinkler installation rejection while helping builders and contractors understand how the systems are installed as well as the benefits of offering enhanced fire protection to customers.

The video features national television personality Ron Hazelton, who shot his scenes in two sprinklered houses in the Chicago suburb. One of the houses was already finished while the other house was still under construction. Hazelton is the home improvement editor of ABC's GOOD MORNING AMERICA program and has served as HFSC's celebrity spokesperson for seven years.

Hazelton's Connecticut home was retrofitted with sprinklers in 2003. With a long career as "The House Doctor", Hazelton knows his way around home construction and is as comfortable on the job site as he is in front of the camera.

Other Chicagoland experts interviewed for the video are: Colleen McNally, residential sales representative with U.S. Fire Protection; State Farm Insurance agent John Sutton; and Fire Marshal Bob Kleinheinz of the Libertyville Fire Department.

"Wisconsin cities and towns with rapid residential growth and depleting municipal fire department budgets are being confronted with the potential of life and property loss to fires. Residential fire sprinkler ordinances will benefit those communities saving lives of citizens and fire fighters," said Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager and former Milwaukee Fire Department chief officer. "It is refreshing to see that our Illinois neighbors, having 20 municipalities and growing, adopting residential fire sprinkler ordinances, and spearheading this educational video."

The "Built for Life" video will be introduced at the International Builders' Show in January. The material will be available free to homebuilders and the fire service. Information about ordering the free material will be posted on the HFSC Web site in January: www.HomeFireSprinkler.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. The click "online library", pick 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 and go to the Square Foot Upgrades by Town button.

SPRINKLER ACTIVATION PROJECT

The Residential Sprinkler Activation Project is a cooperative undertaking between the **US Fire Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)**. The purpose is to gather current and relevant data regarding residential sprinkler activations. It is anticipated that this data will demonstrate the effectiveness of sprinklers, be useful in offsetting objections to them, and provide valuable reference material in the fire code process.

Individual fire departments are encouraged to participate, and the first step is to obtain a logon and user name. This can be done by contacting either **Roy Marshall**, email rfisrlm@netins.net or at 712-829-2734, or **Dan Carlson**, 605-770-7850. If you have been assigned a logon and user name go to the NASFM home page (www.firemarshals.org) or if you prefer a search engine use NASFM or National Association of State Fire Marshals. On the home page you will see a logo in the upper left corner-a star with a helmet at the top. Put your cursor on the helmet and click. You will be taken to a page that asks for logon and password. After entering these you will, in most

cases, go directly to the report entry form (if you are taken first to a page with choices, select sprinkler activation project.)

Complete the data fields on the report, most of which are drop-down choices. Keep in mind that for the purposes of this report NA and Unknown are interchangeable (if a question is unknown use the menu choice NA). All fields must be completed, with the exception of an option near the end, which allows you to include digital pictures. The **National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST**, will be using these reports, and they asked that departments be given the option of including a picture. If you have one, that's fine, but this field can be bypassed.

You will be able to generate reports of your own entries if you wish to do so, and if someone at state level is designated a state level user that person may generate reports for the entire state. For the purposes of this report "residential" is permanent housing, but does not include transient housing such as hotels and motels.

This is a two-year program, so any residential sprinkler activation between the dates of July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005, may be entered.

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!

Major Fire Protocol/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.

License Application for Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractors-Don't Wait-You May be escorted Off the Job!!!

The **Office of the Illinois State Marshal** began issuing licenses for fire sprinkler contractors performing work in Illinois on October 1, 2004. Illinois requires any person, partnership, corporation or other business entity that installs or repairs any fire sprinkler system in Illinois to be licensed by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. The Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act [225 ILCS 317/1 et seq.] establishes the minimum standards for licensure of fire

sprinkler installation contractors for the purpose of protecting the public health and general welfare of the citizens of Illinois

The State of Illinois signed into law the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act in December 2002. The administrative rule package has recently been adopted through the legislative process and requires the following:

- anyone installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in all commercial buildings must be registered as a Licensed Fire Sprinkler Contractor with the State of Illinois
- anyone installing automatic fire sprinkler protection in any residential building greater than eight-family occupancies having at least one side with three floors exposed also requires an Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor's License.

An Application Package containing a copy of the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act, the rules and application, is available from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Application Package may be requested by calling 217-785-0969 or downloaded from the Internet at "www.state.il.us/osfm." Please call 217-785-0969 for further information.

Sprinklers Accepted for All New Hickory Hills Homes

New homes and commercial buildings will be required to have automatic sprinkler systems to help suppress fires making Hickory Hills the 22 second greater Chicago community to adopt a residential ordinance. The City Council unanimously agreed to the proposal, which was formally adopted in mid-December. The city has been considering the proposal for several months, but the high-rise fire in the **LaSalle Bank Building** on December 6th in Chicago emphasized the importance of having sprinkler systems installed, said **Mayor Michael Howley**. Howley said images from that fire had an impact on the council, especially since the blaze spread between floors.

Hickory Hills' ordinance will require all new single-family homes and commercial buildings to have automatic sprinkler systems. Multifamily buildings such as condominiums and town homes have been required to have such systems for a few years as have commercial buildings larger than 10,000 square feet.

Installation of a sprinkler system adds about 1.5 percent to the cost of a new home. Builders have not complained about the existing requirements and the Fire Department strongly endorses the proposal, he said. "We felt pretty strongly that this was the appropriate thing to do," Howley said.

Existing homes and commercial buildings will not have to be retrofitted, nor will systems have to be included in home additions.

Columbia Business Sustains Minor Fire Damage-Fire Sprinkler Save

A minor fire damaged Johnson Products at 270 N. Rangeline Road east of Columbia at about 6 p.m. in early December. Boone County Fire Protection District crews had to force open the business' gate and door to reach the smoke-filled building, where overhead fire sprinklers had activated. The fire was under control within five minutes, and damage was mostly concentrated in an insulation-storage area in the west end of the 15-by-20-foot building, said fire **District Chief Steve Paul sell**. No one was inside the business at the time, and a dollar estimate of the damage was unavailable at press time.

Normal Fire Department Demonstrates Fire Sprinklers

The **Normal Fire Department** did a fire sprinkler demonstration on November 16, 2004 with the **Illinois Fire Inspector's Sprinkler Trailer**. The unit is maintained and supported by the **Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board**. Department crews sat in the trailer to show viewers the quickness of fire and the effectiveness of fire sprinklers.

Normal Fire Department's **Craig Fata** stated: "Fire can do an awful lot of damage in four minutes, so that's why we advocate residential fire sprinklers systems. People can get these installed in their homes and the systems will take care of things more quickly."

The residential movement in Illinois is moving south.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Communities Starting to Talk About Sprinklers

Several Wisconsin communities were outreaching fire safety information this past "Fire Prevention Month" and a new theme began to appear, FIRE SPRINKLERS. Besides the award winning Wisconsin "Newspapers in Education Fire Safety Program" many Wisconsin cities and towns changed their focus to the "global" approach to the fire potential in the state. This year many included reference to fire sprinklers in both the commercial and residential settings.

Besides the major cities, smaller cities like Beloit and Wisconsin Dells made a special point to finish their educational outreach with statements like:

Sprinkler systems offer advantages to homeowners, such as a low-cost reliable safety option that would attract many buyers and trade-offs between sprinklers and code requirements that can result in lower construction costs, more units per area of land; assurance of a safer environment for their families; protection of their investment and irreplaceable family possessions and lower insurance rates.

Brodhead Fire Chief Bill Ruchti made a great case for the installation of sprinklers in his town. "Personally, I would like to see a higher use of fire sprinklers because of the difference they make in saving lives and property. Right now, I am trying to convince homeowners to install residential sprinklers as part of new house construction." Ruchti said the difference in potential damage is unbelievable between having or not having sprinklers installed. He added that in just a few minutes fires escalate in heat and spread at a tremendous rate. While sprinklers do not necessarily put out "Small" fires, they do hold them in check until firefighters arrive. "Often people have a false sense of security. They rarely have much time to escape a structure fire as they think they do. Fire sprinklers buy time, and with today's new, lighter building materials, fires can cause more damage more quickly."

NFSA News

Inspection and Testing Certification Review Seminar

NFSA has introduced the first in a series of seminars designed for the individual interested in the inspection and testing of water-based fire protection systems. Entitled "*Inspection and Testing Certification Review Seminar*", the first three-day class was presented in East Syracuse, New York and received rave reviews. Other dates and locations will be announced as they are scheduled.

This seminar is designed for individuals interested in reviewing material required for NICET Level II certification in the relatively new sub-field of Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems. By the end of the seminar the student will have an understanding of a sufficient number of Level I, Level II General, and Special work elements to be prepared for Level II certification testing.

To get additional information or to register for either of these programs, **contact Diana Romano at (845) 878-4200 ext. 132.**

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

Looking for a great in-house program without exposing your employees to other employers? The APS training program is the second of NFSA’s Professional Development Program designed with the FMI Corporation, Management Consultants to the Construction Industry. The APS-Foreman & Construction Supervisors class objectives include: Increase productivity on projects, conserve and utilize resources, maximize the effectiveness of people and improve customer service. This program is geared to the people supervising operations at the jobsite.

Your company can contract this program with the NFSA and reap the cost and time saving benefits by having an in-house session. Industry recognized instructor Mike Friedman (2002 Golden Sprinkler Award Recipient) will come to your location and put on a seminar that will pay for itself, and then make your company money. For more information, **Contact Moira Ravel @ (914) 878-4200 ext 131; Ravel@nfsa.org or email Mike Friedman at friedman@nfsa.org.**

Speaking of NFSA Contract Classes, we will schedule an in-house training program with your company on any of our programs. Contact me at (262) 245-5255 or e-mail at **Gengler@nfsa.org** for more information.

[2005 Live Online Interactive Seminars Schedule - *Get Wisconsin CEU’s](#)**

The Spring 2005 schedule will be devoting its “Technical Tuesday online seminar series to an in-depth review of the *2002 NFPA 13 Standard*. This is your chance to learn from the experts who represent the fire sprinkler industry on the technical committees that write the sprinkler rules. Develop an appreciation for the way in which the material is organized in the 2002 edition while learning more about the background of the rules themselves. The level of all seminar topics is considered intermediate. Because these seminars are being offered as a complete program on NFPA 13, a 30% discount is available when signing up for all ten seminars in the series.

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. We will have the 2003-second semester classes in next month’s newsletter.

2005 Date, Topic and Instructor

1/25/05

NFPA 13 Ch’s 1-5-Fundamentals and Hazard Classification

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

2/08/05

NFPA 13 Ch 6-System Components and Hardware

Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

3/01/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 7-System Requirements</i>	<i>Russell P. Fleming, P.E.</i>
3/15/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 8A-Sprinkler Installation Requirements</i>	<i>Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.</i>
3/22/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 8B-System Installation Requirements</i>	<i>Russell P. Fleming, P.E.</i>
4/05/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 9-Hanging, Bracing, & Restraint of System Piping</i>	<i>Victoria B. Valentine P.E.</i>
4/19/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch10-Underground Piping</i>	<i>Kevin J. Kelly, P.E.</i>
5/10/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 11,13 & 17-Design Approaches & Special Occupancies</i>	<i>Russell P. Fleming, P.E.</i>
5/24/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch 12-Storage</i>	<i>Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.</i>
6/21/05 <i>NFPA 13 Ch's 14-16 & 18-Plans, Calculations, & Commissioning</i>	<i>Cecil Bilbo-Consultant</i>

NFSA Member Cost: \$125.00* per seminar per computer; All ten seminars for \$875

Non-member Cost: \$250.00* per seminar per computer; All ten seminars for \$1750

Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$25.00

Nonmembers 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 Announces Unique Training Opportunity - Certificate Program for Fire Sprinkler Technicians**](#)

Hey Illinois Contractors, Get Yourself NICET Certified

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is proud to announce a unique training program for design technicians called the *Certificate Program for Fire Sprinkler Technicians*. The program will run for approximately two years and will guide a design technician along a career development path, creating knowledgeable and efficient layout and detail professionals.

At the beginning of the program, the participant will be asked to identify a mentor at their company to work with. The mentor should be someone in a supervisory position with experience in sprinkler layout and detail that can help answer questions and monitor the progress of the participant. The mentor becomes a partner with the NFSA and the participant in the learning process.

Program Overview - This six-phase program will take a new sprinkler design technician and guide them through a training process where they will learn to become profitable employees. By the end of the program, they will be capable of working with a minimum of supervision, preparing drawings that detail the installation of fire sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire pumps and water tanks. During the program, the participant will be completely prepared and

qualified to sit for the NICET Level II exam. By the end of the program, the participant will be ready to test for NICET Level III Certification.

Target Audience - The program is designed for people that are fairly new to the fire sprinkler business including entry level design technicians, design technicians working towards NICET Level 2 Certification, managers that want to know more about sprinkler requirements and plan review authorities that want to learn more about sprinkler systems. During the program it is anticipated that the technician will take the NICET Level II exam during Phase 3 and will take the NICET Level III exam at the end of the program.

For more information, or to register for the program, go to the NFSA website at the following address: www.nfsa.org/news/articles/techcertificate.doc or phone the NFSA Engineering Department at 845.878.4200 ext. 132.

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

These six-week on-line courses are very friendly for your educational needs, check this out: The “Hydraulics” program will help students understand how water gets from the street to the most remote sprinkler. This is a great class to understand the basic premise of water distribution for fire protection.

The “Pumps” class covers those aspects of fire pumps as they pertain to the interests of the contractor and AHJ.

Get a grasp on the “new frontier” in the sprinkler industry –“Residential Sprinklers”. The course walks you through the difference between one- and two family dwellings all the way to skyscraper buildings, another NFSA classic presentation.

The “ITM” seminar describes the responsibility of the owner, contractor and authority having jurisdiction in maintaining a working water based fire protection system. The seminar is based on NFPE 25-98.

Each week a new 1 ½ - 2-hour module will cover the basics of the courses. Week six will have the students take a final exam. The Courses are good for 8-CEU Hours each credited to meet Wisconsin requirements for contractor, fitter and tester licenses.

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) 878-4200 x 133.**

NFSA Midwest Regional In-Class Seminars

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule 2005 programming, **Contact Dan Gengler (262) 245-5255 or Gengler@nfsa.org** 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: Become a member for just \$50.00 more applied to the Fire/Bldg Officials fee when you register for a class. (an \$85.00 value)

NFSA Honor Role

Nelson Fire Protection Company
Rockford, IL
(1/04/01) 4 years

Metraflex Company
Chicago, IL
(1/26/01) 4 years

Miller Sales, Inc.
Elk Grove Village, IL
(1/20/02) 2 years

Thanks for your industry support!

Keep Your Information Up – to – Date!! Most of you have done so, please help us be of better service

We have completed the project of installing a new database and implementing a procedure to automatically update the website member information from it. However, we have to rely on you to keep our information current.

When you change your address, phone number or area code, it's a given that you send out notices to your customers and suppliers. It's just as important to notify the NFSA so that we have current and accurate information on our members. If you have any reason to think we might be out-of-date with your company information, check the website and just send a quick email to mrepko@nfsa.org or call Mike at 845.878.4200, ext. 120.

Remember, potential customers may use our website to contact you. You don't want to miss that sale or that contract.

Contact me at (262) 245-5255, (262) 245-5258 Fax or email dannfsa@aol.com.

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.

NFSA Centennial Seminar& Exhibition
Grand Hyatt Hotel
New York, New York
April 30-May 3, 2005

NFSA Annual Seminar
Fairmont Southampton
Southampton, Bermuda
April 27-29, 2006

NFSA Centennial Seminar& Exhibition
Red Rock Station Resort
Las Vegas, Nevada
May 2-5, 2007