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

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Help us help you, pass this on in-house

Who? Us! What? Progress! When? 2010! Where? Everywhere! Why? For a safer USA!

The Annual NFSA Staff Meetings were conducted in early December and the focus remains on getting NFSA members moving in this economy. Regional Operation has been tasked with promoting the residential fire sprinkler concept and to ensure that NFPA 25 Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems is being complied with in the 47 states that it has been adopted as maintenance code for the systems. The pursuit to enhance the integrity of the systems in the remaining state is a top priority.

The staff of the National Fire Sprinkler Association extends a sincere promise to help make 2010 a more profitable year for our members so when we look back a year from now, we will know that those efforts paid dividends for our members in work and security.

Maryland, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania adopt 2009 International Residential Code

Maryland, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania will require all newly constructed one- and two-family homes to contain a residential fire sprinkler system effective January 1, 2010, April 1, 2012 and January 1, 2011 respectively. Maryland counties may opt out by statute and early word is that the City of Baltimore may be the only community to do so. Townhomes in Pennsylvania are required to comply with the sprinkler requirement as January 1, 2010. Elsewhere, California is well on the way to adopt this month while Iowa has initiated a process for the concept only to be delayed until the end of the spring legislative session.

Progress is being made in 2010 already!

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

Jim Dalton, former NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection reports little progress on the *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009*. He does state that HR1194 has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship this past month. Meetings with key people have been encouraging and that efforts of constituents of Congressmen to contact their representatives and senators will be critical to move this legislation once the Health Care Act is moved. The bill creates tax incentives for property owners to retrofit buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems retroactive to April 2003. Similar legislation was introduced in the 108th followed by the 109th & 110th Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time.

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

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

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

CHANGE IN NICET TESTING IS COMING

The NICET system of testing will be changing from the “Work Element” process to a pass/fail system. The effective date change has not been announced at this time. If a NICET testing certification is in process, the applicant will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete the testing under the Work Element process. It has been indicated NICET will maintain the Work Element process for 12 months after the announcement is made, once the announcement is made only the pass/fail program will be available.

If an applicant does not pass the test they will be required to take the entire test over again as the elements passed will be required to re-test on the entire test. More information as it becomes available at www.nicet.org.

Sprinkler Saves

Pleasant Prairie Computer Software Company Survives Fire with Sprinklers

Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue was notified of a structure fire via an automatic fire alarm system at the Arvato building located at 11500 80th Avenue, Pleasant Prairie. While enroute Pleasant Prairie fire personnel were notified by police officers arriving on scene, that the approximately 200 employees were actively evacuating the building and that flames and heavy smoke were observed coming from the building.

When fire personnel arrived to the 500,000 square foot computer software distribution center, it was confirmed that a fire was burning within (new) flattened cardboard boxes and pallets. The fire sprinkler system was operating and was preventing the fire from growing; however, the large building was rapidly being filled with thick smoke and steam.

Arvato has provided fire drills for the employees, and were pleased with the orderly evacuation. Fire Chief Paul Guilbert was made aware of the successful evacuation and was pleased fire personnel did not have to search the very large building for errant employees.

Firefighters entered the building and found the origin of the fire and completed the extinguishment of the fire using fire hose lines. Firefighters using manual pallet jacks to remove the piles of burned and water soaked cardboard boxes to the exterior. The fire was under control within 30 minutes of arrival, final extinguishment, removal of the burned debris and smoke removal required an additional 4 ½ hours of service.

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An investigation is being conducted; however, fire and police personnel are looking closely at an overhead lighting fixture that uses as a ‘metal halide bulb’. Metal Halide bulbs have been suspect in two other fires within warehouses in Pleasant Prairie.

There is no dollar loss estimate for product or business. Arvato did return to work the same day

Sprinklers Help Avert Disaster at Lakeville, MN Theater

On December 8th at 3:40 AM, the Lakeville Fire Department was dispatched to a fire alarm at the Lakeville Theater, 20653 Keokuk Ave. Lakeville Police were first on scene and immediately updated fire units that the entire lobby of the building was filled with smoke. As a result of the report by police and the initial size-up by fire officers first on the scene, fire response was upgraded to include a third; and then a fourth station.

As fire units arrived and began setting up to fight fire, a sprinkler head released inside the lobby area and contained a small fire that had started in the concession area. Firefighters forced entry into the building, extinguished the remainder of the fire and turned off the sprinkler system. Crews spent the next hour and a half removing smoke and water from the building. While there was significant smoke damage, fire damage was minimized due to the fast acting fire suppression sprinkler system in the building. In addition, fire doors activated by the alarm closed off the theater portion of the building so fire and smoke damage was confined to the theater lobby area only.

Fire Department response included equipment and personnel from all four Lakeville fire stations. Lakeville Police and Allina Ambulance were on scene to assist as needed. All emergency units cleared the scene at 5:35 AM. There were no injuries.

The cause of the fire appears to be electrical in nature and started in the concession area. Investigation continues to determine the actual cause of the fire.

Had it not been for the fast-acting fire suppression systems in the building, this fire would have caused significantly more damage than it did. Lakeville Theater will be closed until repairs are made and anticipates re-opening in two days on Thursday, December 10th.

Fire sprinkler system saves Edina office suite

The fire sprinkler system helped the tenants of an Edina office building avoid major property loss after a fire broke out within one of the building’s suites. Just after 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28, the Edina Fire Department received a call reporting light smoke coming from an office building on the 6700 block of France Avenue.

Upon arrival, crews found a small fire burning in an office closet. The fire, which was being controlled by a single sprinkler head, was put out completely by firefighters using a fire extinguisher. The closet in which the fire started contained the office suite’s computer servers and phone system. The fire was confined to that equipment.

“We could have had a whole different outcome if this building hadn’t been sprinkled, especially on a weekend with no one in the building,” said Edina Fire Marshal Tom Jenson. “The sprinklers helped keep this fire

contained to a small area, and we were able to get it out before it caused much damage.”

Edina fire investigators believe the fire resulted from a malfunction in a small portable fan that was being used to circulate air in the closet to cool the computer equipment. Melting plastic appears to have dropped to the floor, starting a cardboard box on fire and then spreading to two more computers. Insurance company investigators and electrical engineers will be conducting a more in-depth investigation to confirm the origin and cause.

Xcel Energy was called to the scene to assist in temporarily shutting off the power to the first and second floors. The building engineer assisted with smoke removal using the building’s heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Water damage was present on both the first and second floor of the building. Most businesses in the building were expected to be open as early as Monday, Nov. 30.

Menomonee Falls Industrial Oven Fire Thwarted By Sprinklers

Reported by frequent Save contributor Menomonee Falls Fire Department Fire Chief Jeffrey S. Hevey:

The Menomonee Falls Fire Department responded to a December 15, 2009 "water flow" alarm at Lamp Light Farms on Lilly Road. The company produces lamp oils. Responding units arrived on the scene at 10:53 PM and noted an external water flow alarm sounding. Fire Department crews from entered the building and located the sound of flowing water and smoke in this industrial occupancy. Water and smoke was noted coming from a closed door to a laboratory in the southeast corner of the building.

The Lieutenant opened the door and noted an active fire on the floor and a functioning sprinkler head. Firefighting crews were able to extinguish the remaining fire on the floor with dry chemical extinguishers.

The fire started in an industrial oven in the lab and spread to other combustibles and flammables stored in the area. The fire was controlled by one (1) functioning sprinkler head. Damaged to the laboratory was estimated at \$8,000.00. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the MFFD Prevention Division.

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

MN Legislature in Short 2010 Session

Don’t count on any fruitful pro- or anti-sprinkler legislation in St Paul happening the Spring 2010 session. The legislative calendar will be brief as state senators, representative and even the governor’s seat will be

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preparing for a fall election. One piece of previous legislation will probably not see the light of day and that is House File 968. The bill would have created a construction review committee of thirteen members, twelve of which would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. It was felt that the homebuilders motivated this effort that ultimately would be a negative move in the advocacy of residential fire sprinklers. Heavy and reliable support of the MN State Fire Chiefs Association helped to keep the bill from moving last spring.

That also means that there will be no action on the residential topic this coming year. Efforts will be made to educate legislators on the value of residential fire sprinklers so 2011 can be the year to move on the campaign.

“The Fourth Street Preservation Project” on Slow Track

The City of St. Paul Fire Department had moved a program to enhance the city’s “Invest St. Paul” initiative. Designed to take advantage of a federal stimulus grant to possibly install fire sprinklers in resold foreclosed homes, the specific project is termed, “The Fourth Street Preservation Project.” The city received a federal stimulus grant to purchase foreclosed single-family homes in the city.

So far there hasn’t been a home purchased and the response to buy has been slower than anticipated. It is hoped movement will occur in the new year.

More than 1,300 St. Paul homes have been foreclosed. The city’s grant allowed them to initially purchase 12 for ultimate sale of \$1 to \$40,000. The buyer must commit to at least five years of occupancy and up to \$190,000 of renovation. A St. Paul Ordinance was passed that federally purchased foreclosed homes would be required on resale to be retrofitted with residential fire sprinklers.

WISCONSIN: www.nfsawi.org

Mineral Point Opera House to be Retrofitted with Sprinklers

The stage is worn from the comedy team of George Burns and Gracie Allen, a presidential candidate by the name of John F. Kennedy and thousands of area children who have danced and acted on its maple slats. Bing Crosby has played here as have performers from Big Top Chautauqua. There even have been a few weddings.

But the Mineral Point Opera House's biggest production started in May. The directors can't wait for April, when it'll be over. That's when the finishing touches of a \$2.25 million renovation are scheduled for completion and the doors will reopen on the 386-seat opera house that had its first show in 1915.

"I didn't want to lose this," said Phil Mrozinski, president of Mineral Point Opera House Inc., which leases the facility from the city for \$1 a year. "It has so many stories."

Without the renovation, the opera house, 139 High St., would have been forced to close because it didn't have a fire sprinkler system. That led to the formation in 2008 of a 12-member ad hoc committee to study options, which resulted in the full-blown renovation. About 80 percent of the work in the \$1.5 million first phase isn't visible and includes piping for the sprinklers and new electrical, heating and cooling systems.

"It's a tricky thing. Companies that used to give aren't giving," said Lauren Powers, who's co-leading the fundraising efforts. "Grants are much more competitive but we do have a very, very strong community that supports the arts."

The opera house, part of the city's municipal building, was designed by Claude and Stark, a Madison architectural firm that designed the 2,400-seat Orpheum Theatre, 216 State St., in Madison.

When it opened in February 1915, the theater's 725 seats had been sold out nearly a week in advance for the production of a New York-based touring company's performance of "The Misleading Lady," according to "Encore," a book published this year and written by Brian L. Doyle that profiles 10 of the state's opera houses.

"Municipal opera houses were a civic extension of the reformist zeal of the times," Doyle wrote in the book's forward. "Progressive politicians saw opera houses - like public libraries and parks - as a necessary part of the educational, social and cultural development of a community."

"We're trying to stay as accurate as possible," Mrozinski said. "It's keeping the feel of an old theater that's been knocked around and been around."

[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.

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.

January 26, 2010

Protection Against Freezing

Intermediate

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., Executive Vice President

Freezing of system piping is near the top of owner complaints against sprinkler systems. This seminar will address several different aspects of protecting piping against freezing, including insulation techniques, heat tracing options, minimum lengths for dry sprinklers, provision of drum drip drains, and proper procedures for antifreeze systems, including expansion chambers.

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.

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

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.