



**A single drip today caused ripples that will turn into waves tomorrow**

**ICC Rejects Sprinkler Requirements for IRC Supplement**

While the International Code Council (ICC) rejected single-family fire sprinkler requirements for the International Residential Code (IRC) supplement, at the conclusion of the May 22, 2007 vote in Rochester, New York, it was obvious tremendous gains had been made in broadening the Council's awareness of fire sprinkler value and benefit. Despite getting a majority 56% of the vote to overturn the committee's initial decision to not include sprinkler requirements in the IRC supplement, it was not the 2/3 majority needed to pass the motion from the floor by a vote of 476-for and 375-against.

In attendance along with an impressive coalition of fire service and building officials who spoke in favor of the proposed sprinkler requirements, were NFSA contractor and supplier members including **NFSA Chairman of the Board Wayne Gey** and members of the NFSA staff, who answered questions and provided important sprinkler information to voting ICC members.

When asked about this week's hearings and results, **NFSA President John Viniello** said, "Anyone who has been in the fire sprinkler industry long enough to see the gains we as an industry have made over the years knows that every significant fire sprinkler requirement in the building codes has been hard earned in an evolutionary process. NFSA has been submitting code change requests to the model code groups for over 20 years and is well versed in the process." He added, "The fact that 56% of the ICC now agrees that fire sprinklers should be included as front-line fire protection in one- and two-family homes should be viewed as a tremendous victory – a litmus test for what is to come. Over the next 18 months – before the next round of hearings will be held – we'll refine our strategies and continue coalition building until fire sprinklers in single-family homes become a way of life."

**Side-by-Side Burn Demo, Another Successful Education Session in Wisconsin**

North Central Regional Manager narrates a side-by-side burn in West Allis, WI before a crowd of 150.



### [USFA Releases New Citizen Fire Fatality Information](#)

The **U.S. Fire Administration** (USFA) has begun posting civilian fire fatality information on its Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov). This information is gathered from news media through the *Quick Response Program*.

"We need to remind ourselves, and the public, that each day in this country people die needlessly in preventable residential fires," said **Acting Assistant Administrator Charlie Dickinson**. "Hopefully, by adding this resource to our Web site, the fire service, media, and the general public will be more motivated to continue our Nation's efforts to prevent deaths and injuries by fire."

The *Quick Response Program*: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/fireprev/gr/index.shtm> was started fifteen years ago as a tool for getting fire safety and prevention messages to local communities that suffered a fire fatality. USFA safety messages are sent to local media and fire departments in the vicinity of the fire fatality. This is a proactive effort by the USFA to reach citizens at a time when they are receptive to learning about protecting themselves and their families from a similar fate. USFA defines this as a "teachable moment."

Through the daily process of scanning the Nation's media for fatal fire incidents, USFA has developed a downloadable spreadsheet that aids in tracking deaths in almost "real time." The *Quick Response Program* spreadsheet contains reports starting from January 1, 2007 and includes all fatalities reported through *Quick Response*. USFA estimates the *Quick Response Program* captures approximately one-third to one-half of the total number of residential fire fatalities that occur each year.

To view this new USFA Web site resource, go to [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) and locate the feature titled, "Fire Fatalities." Click on the link titled "Details" and you will be taken to "Residential Fire Fatalities in the News." Here you will find a running total of fire fatalities from across the Nation. Also on this page are the daily reports as provided to USFA. Near the bottom of the page, there is a link called "2007 Fire Fatalities as Provided through *Quick Response*." From there you will be able to access the Excel file that identifies city, state, age of victim, and other pertinent information compiled from the reports.

### [European Sprinkler Save in Glasgow](#)

Submitted by Alan **Brinson**, **Executive Director of the European Fire Sprinkler Network**:

On Wednesday May 23, the Evening Times, a leading Glasgow newspaper, had "End the Fire Carnage" as its headline. The newspaper is supporting a campaign by Strathclyde Fire & Rescue to have sprinkler systems fitted in every new home in the city. In a two-page spread the newspaper sets out the facts about sprinklers and includes supportive quotes from Brian Sweeney, the Fire Chief. It also references the extraordinary success of sprinklers in Vancouver, where fire deaths fell from 40 in 1973 to zero in 1998. Glasgow has one of the worst fire death records in the United Kingdom, similar to Vancouver in Canada in the 1970s. The campaign is backed by Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, local politicians and of course the Evening Times.

The next day the campaign continued with a page of street interviews of Glasgow citizens. Half thought sprinklers were a good idea, and this is without knowing anything about them! Next week there will be a parallel burn demonstration on live television, where two apartments due to be demolished will be set on fire. One will be fitted with sprinklers.

On 20 June there will be a presentation in the main square in Glasgow, with fire trucks to attract attention and speeches projected on large screens from Jim Coleman, the Deputy Leader of the Council, Brian Sweeney, Jeff Ord, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland and Frank McAveety, who is the local Member of the Scottish Parliament. Several house-builders will attend this event.

Success in Glasgow will encourage campaigns elsewhere in Europe. Other cities and countries are evaluating sprinklers in homes and are very interested in what is happening in Glasgow.

### [Fire-safe cigarette requirement becomes law](#)

After July 1, cigarette companies will only be able to sell cigarettes in Oregon that go out if they are not being puffed on, according to legislation signed into law Tuesday by **Governor Ted Kulongoski**. Kulongoski noted that cigarettes sparked 9,000 fires in Oregon from 1999 to 2005, causing 37 deaths, 185 injuries and more than \$32 million in property damage. Similar legislation had been blocked in past years by cigarette makers, so supporters such as State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr greeted the new law with smiles. "We're going to save lives with this legislation," Orr said. "Fire-safe cigarettes are going on sale in Oregon today! We did it!"

House Bill 2163 makes Oregon the ninth state to limit cigarette sales to fire-safe cigarettes. New York passed the first fire-safe cigarette requirements in 2000 and they took effect in 2004.

Kulongoski and others credited **retired firefighters Tim Birr and Tom Whelan** with getting the legislation passed, noting that they had pushed for it for years.

Wisconsin and Minnesota are both working on similar legislation.

### [2007 Campus Fires](#)

The most campus related fire fatalities ever have been recorded in the 2006-07 academic year as identified by Campus Firewatch with 18 of those deaths in off-campus housing and the other two in fraternities. Some of them were particularly tragic, such as the senior in Nebraska who was killed three hours before she was scheduled to deliver her baby or the three siblings that all died together in a fire in West Virginia or the family of three that was killed in Mississippi. Other deaths occurred in Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia.

Last year, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution designating September as Campus Fire Safety Month. In addition, 31 states, representing 61% of the population, also passed resolutions. These were instrumental in helping to raise the awareness of campus fire safety at schools across the nation.

U.S. Senate Resolution 105 has been introduced this year by **Senators Biden and Collins** and would express the sense of the Senate in supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month.

### [Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp. Recalls Dry Fire Sprinklers Model J Heads Can Fail to Operate During a Fire](#)

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product.

Name of Product: Globe Model J Series Dry Fire Sprinklers - Units: About 300,000

Manufacturer: Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp., of Standish, Mich.

Hazard: The sprinkler heads can deteriorate over time and fail to operate in a fire.

Incidents/Injuries: Globe has received five reports of sprinklers that failed to operate as intended during a fire. Globe has received no reports of injuries caused by sprinklers failing to operate.

Description: Model J Series dry fire sprinklers come in pendent, upright, and sidewall configurations. The name "Globe," the letter "J" and the year of manufacture (1990 through 1999) are embossed on the frame of each sprinkler. These dry sprinklers were designed to be installed in areas of buildings where the sprinklers or water supply pipes may be subject to freezing, such as unheated attics, freezers and coolers, parking garages, porches and warehouses.

Sold by: Fire protection contractors nationwide from January 1990 through December 1999 for between \$27 and \$36 per sprinkler head.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Contact Globe immediately to arrange to receive replacement sprinkler heads at a reduced cost of \$9 per sprinkler head.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Globe at (800) 248-0278 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.globesprinkler.com](http://www.globesprinkler.com) and click on the "Recall" link.

**August Deadline Set for End to Central Sprinkler O-Ring Sprinkler Recall**  
**Property Owners Should Act Now To Request Replacement of Sprinkler Heads**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler Company are urging residential and commercial property owners who have O-ring sprinklers covered under the previously-announced recall and have not yet filed a claim to replace them, to contact Central Sprinkler immediately. Home and commercial property owners need to submit their claim within the next 120 days, as the program for receiving free replacement heads will end on August 31, 2007.

The voluntary replacement program (VRP), which was first announced in July 2001, included about 35 million O-ring fire sprinklers manufactured by Central Sprinkler, Gem Sprinkler Company and Star Sprinkler Inc. due to a concern that some O-ring sprinklers might not operate in a fire situation. To participate in the replacement sprinkler program, property owners must submit "Proof of Claim" and "Waiver and Release of Claims" forms to Central Sprinkler Company postmarked by August 31, 2007. Valid claims received prior to the deadline will qualify for free replacement sprinkler heads and installation services.

Consumers can obtain additional information on identifying the sprinklers covered by this recall and instructions on filing a claim by visiting [www.sprinklerreplacement.com](http://www.sprinklerreplacement.com) or by calling Central Sprinkler at (800) 871-3492 anytime. For a full list of sprinkler heads involved in the recall, consumers can log on to [www.cpsc.gov/CPSPUB/PREREL/prhtml01/01201.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSPUB/PREREL/prhtml01/01201.html)

This deadline relates only to the Central Sprinkler O-ring sprinkler recall announced on July 19, 2001. It does not involve additional models of sprinklers other than those named in July 2001. Building owners who already have: (1) had replacement sprinklers installed by Central Sprinkler; (2) submitted a claim to Central Sprinkler that has been deemed complete and installation of the replacement heads is pending; or (3) confirmed that their sprinkler heads are not covered by the Central Sprinkler VRP, need not take any further action under the VRP. Building owners who have previously submitted an incomplete claim will be sent a reminder notice requiring them to send in any missing information or materials by the August 31 deadline or else their claim will be void.

Central Sprinkler urges all other building owners to consult with their fire sprinkler installer and/or check their system records as soon as possible to determine whether their sprinkler heads are covered by this program.

**2007 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Needs All to Do Something! Write Your U.S. Senator and Congressmen**

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007* has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship this past month. The bill creates tax incentives for property owners to retrofit buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Similar legislation was introduced in the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time. As of mid June only 48 Congressmen and six Senators have signed onto the monumental legislation. The bill is identified as HR 1742. Earlier this year an equivalent bill identified as S 582.

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

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

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](http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/FSIA_Bullet_points.pdf). In this region contact the following legislators for their support:

Senate

[Norm Coleman](#), Minnesota  
[Amy Klobuchar](#), Minnesota  
[Russell D. Feingold](#), Wisconsin  
[Heb Kohl](#), Wisconsin

**House of Representatives – *Sponsors recorded in red italics***

**Minnesota**

<a href="#">Bachmann, Michele</a> , Minnesota, 6th	<a href="#">Ellison, Keith</a> , Minnesota, 5th
<a href="#">Kline, John</a> , Minnesota, 2nd	<a href="#">McCollum, Betty</a> , Minnesota, 4th
<a href="#">Oberstar, James L.</a> , Minnesota, 8th	<a href="#">Peterson, Collin C.</a> , Minnesota, 7th
<a href="#">Ramstad, Jim</a> , Minnesota, 3rd	<a href="#">Walz, Timothy J.</a> , Minnesota, 1st

**WISCONSIN**

<a href="#">Baldwin, Tammy</a> , Wisconsin, 2nd	<a href="#">Kagen, Steve</a> , Wisconsin, 8th
<a href="#">Kind, Ron</a> , Wisconsin, 3rd	<a href="#">Moore, Gwen</a> , Wisconsin, 4th
<a href="#">Obey, David R.</a> , Wisconsin, 7th	<a href="#">Petri, Thomas</a> , Wisconsin, 6th
<a href="#">Ryan, Paul</a> , Wisconsin, 1st	<a href="#">Sensenbrenner, F. James</a> , Wisconsin, 5th

**Sample letters to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen can be obtained from the sites below:**

<http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/senateletter.doc>

<http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/houseletter.doc>

**Cell Phone-Do Not Call List**

Cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS.... To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time and will block your number for five (5) years. OR GO TO: [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).

**Members Receiving Regional Reports by Mail**

If you are a member and are still receiving our regional reports by mail, we ask that you submit your email address to: [mrepko@nfsa.org](mailto:mrepko@nfsa.org). Your email will be added our email database and you'll receive the regional report via email instead of through the mail. This will save us postage and staff time, and ultimately in membership dues, plus you'll be able to enjoy all of the graphics and colors put into the report each month!

**New NFSA Reference Book Available**

The NFSA announces the publication of a new textbook, Layout, Detailing and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems. With more than 700 pages of information, this is the most complete text ever written for the fire sprinkler engineering technician.

Written by the NFSA Engineering Department staff and edited by **Kenneth E. Isman, P.E., Vice President of Engineering**, this text covers every aspect of determining the necessary details for a fire sprinkler system including: hazard classifications, sprinkler spacing, hanger and brace requirements, hydraulic calculations, water supplies, pumps and tanks. The text also contains a significant review of basic math and physical science that is helpful to the user in understanding the scientific principals behind the requirements that need to be followed.

This text makes an excellent self-study guide for the NICET Automatic Sprinkler Layout and Detail certification program and covers all of the work elements necessary to achieve Level 2 certification and many of the elements needed to achieve Level 3 and Level 4 certification.

Even if you are not studying for a NICET exam, this text makes an excellent self-study guide for anyone wanting to know more about fire sprinkler systems. Based on the 2002 edition of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D, the text covers the basic rules and will also easily be used with the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 as the sprinkler industry makes the transition in the next few years.

The text will retail for \$135 to members of the NFSA and \$195 for non-members (plus S&H). However, the NFSA has decided to lower the price of the text with an introductory rate. If you order the book before June 1, 2007, you can take \$20 off the price, making the book available for the low price of \$115 for members and \$175 for non-members (plus S&H). To get your book, click this connection <http://www.nfsa.org/index2.htm>.

### [Water Purveyors Guide Now Available](#)

The NFSA public water distribution network is one of the most reliable and most commonly used sources of water for fire sprinkler systems. With six model codes now recommending the installation of sprinklers in homes, NFSA has recognized the technical importance and challenges of providing an approved water supply. NFSA now has a Water Purveyor's Guide to assist them in preparing policies for the expansion in the number of sprinklered homes in their jurisdictions. Get your guide at: [http://www.nfsa.org/info/Water\\_Purveyors\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nfsa.org/info/Water_Purveyors_Guide.pdf).

### [IAFC and NFSA Partners Issuing Guide for Adoption of Residential Sprinkler Mandates](#)

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the NFSA announced that they are making available a document titled "Residential Fire Sprinklers...A Step-by-Step Approach for Communities." As noted by IAFC President, Chief Randy Breugman, the guide will be available on the web sites of both organizations for easy access by the nation's fire chiefs.

The document is structured in four booklets covering Planning and Research, Preparation, Presentation and Adoption, and Customer Service and Maintenance, Challenges and Appeals. The NFSA is indebted to the IAFC for their support of the project and to **NFSA Consultant Steve Hart and NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton**, who worked many long hours to bring this project to completion. Get copy at: <http://www.nfsa.org/news/articles/IAFCbooklet.pdf>

### [Noteworthy Sprinkler Saves](#)

#### [Welder Delays Fire Sprinkler Activation in Bayshore](#)

There was an odd sprinkler activation yesterday at the Bayshore Towne Center in Bayshore. Welders were welding in the trash chutes and a fire started. To ensure from electrical shock, the welders turned off the automatic fire sprinkler system prior to welding operations. Subsequently, a fire started from the welding operations, a sprinkler head popped and the workers to turn the system on. By that time, several heads had fused. The water flow put the fire out and the North Shore Fire Department completed extinguishment and secured of the system for overhaul.

#### **Recent Minnesota Fire Sprinkler Saves as reported by the MN State Fire Marshal's Office (note intentional fires)**

Within the past 2 months, there have been several sprinkler saves in buildings inspected by the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD. Here is a summary of these saves based on information from SFMD:

DATE: Friday, May 11, 2007

LOCATION: Thief River Falls, MN

OCCUPANCY: Residential Facility for Juveniles

IGNITION: Intentional (resident)  
SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler  
LOSS: Minor fire and water; No injuries. Smoke limited to that wing or area of the facility.  
TRIVIA: SFMD was called to investigate this fire; no smoke smell was evident until the investigator got close to the room of origin.

DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2007  
LOCATION: Hibbing, MN  
OCCUPANCY: Adult Foster Care (Alzheimer's Facility)  
IGNITION: Unknown – exterior of entrance and spread into attic  
SUPPRESSED: Sprinkler contained; final extinguishment by fire department  
LOSS: Water & smoke damage to south and west buildings. Smoke damage only to east and north buildings.  
TRIVIA: Sprinkler system had recently been finalized 2 weeks prior to the fire. SFMD has worked with the facility for years and convinced them to sprinkler.

DATE: Friday, April 27, 2007  
LOCATION: Duluth, MN  
OCCUPANCY: Elementary & Middle School  
IGNITION: Accidental (plastic fan placed on top of open kiln)  
SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler FMAM Post Indicator June, 2007 Page 6  
LOSS: Minor fire and water; No injuries. Smoke contained to room of origin. Building successfully evacuated.  
TRIVIA: Several years ago, Duluth Schools retrofitted all their buildings with sprinkler protection following some school fires that occurred in Minnesota

DATE: Friday, April 20, 2007  
LOCATION: Proctor, MN  
OCCUPANCY: High School  
IGNITION: Intentional (two students) ignited piano cover and piano  
SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler  
LOSS: Smoke and water damage limited to the area of origin; Building successfully evacuated. No injuries.  
TRIVIA: SFMD advised school that they needed to sprinkler when an addition was proposed a few years ago. The district originally balked at sprinklering and appealed via SFM variance (which was denied).

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2007  
LOCATION: Duluth, MN  
OCCUPANCY: Hotel (in water park)  
IGNITION: Accidental (plastic volcano structure shot flames from the top)  
SUPPRESSED: Single sprinkler contained until fire department finalized extinguishment  
LOSS: No injuries. Extensive smoke spread in the large recreation area. Building successfully evacuated.  
TRIVIA: Quote from **Duluth Fire Chief John Strongitharm**: "This sprinkler success answers two age old questions. Yes; a fire can start in the middle of a swimming pool and a properly designed sprinkler system can extinguish a volcano!"

**[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.

### **NFSA ENGINEER OF THE DAY –Some of Your Competition is getting Great Advice!**

The NFSA Engineering Department has established a new email address for requests of the Engineer of the Day. The new address is [is\\_eod@nfsa.org](mailto:is_eod@nfsa.org). Don't miss this opportunity to change your bottom line!

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)

### **NFSA Advanced Technical Training Program in Chicago – Last Chance to Register**

The NFSA has also scheduled the **3-day Advanced Technician Training Class for July 24-26, 2007** at the William Tell in LaGrange. 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.

### **NFSA Project Management Class Scheduled for September in St. Paul**

By popular request, NFSA's Project Management 2-Day Program will be presented in St. Paul, MN at the MN Fire Museum October 3-4, 2007. This program has a great agenda and promises to help contractors reach a bolder Black bottom line.

The full program begins with a one-day in-class instructional seminar, 7 ½ hours of contact time. This is followed by six weeks of self-directed study and mandated mail-in assignments. The program concludes with another one-day, 7 ½ hours contact time, in-class instructional session. Each participant is provided with a complete reference book and safety manual.

Audiotapes to be utilized in the self-directed study between in-class sessions are supplemental material, with interesting case studies and examples. They are used in conjunction with text to help the participant analyze their company operations, strengths and deficiencies, and to recommend corrective actions.

This program is a must to help ensure job site decisions are in the best interest of the fire sprinkler contractor. The class is limited to the first 20 applicants.

## Minnesota

### Local Happenings

The NFSA Minnesota Chapter staffed a booth at the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Department Conference in Brainerd on June 7-8. Much interest in fire sprinklers. Most asked the question - when and where is plastic pipe allowed.

The 9th Annual Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair will be August 24. It is the largest gathering of fire prevention education in the world and will be visited by the Guinness Book of World Records this year. The entire fair grounds will be dedicated to fire prevention education for the day. Over 700 volunteers will participate! It's a great day - rain or shine, see you there!

### MN Requirement for Control Valves Addressed by NFSA EOD & State Fire Marshal Division

An email question posed to **Cecil Bilbo, the NFSA Engineer of the Day (EOD)** was answered this way and clarified by the MN State Fire Marshal's Office:

Your question to the Engineer of the Day involved a requirement from the State of Minnesota. This requirement states that control valves must be "locked or secured in the open position". You have asked if tamper switches would meet this requirement and indicated that you think it does.

The first step would be to define "locked or secured". Since we can understand "locked" to require some manual intervention to close the valve, we should compare the definition of "locked" with that for "secured". Webster's uses the same definition for both words: "firmly fastened or secured against opening."

The tamper switches certainly meet the requirements for "monitored" and possibly "supervised". Still, if I were the AHJ, the only way I could see tamper switches as meeting the definition of "secured" is when the tampers send a signal to a central station service (meeting the NFPA 72 definition) or to a constantly attended location where I could be sure that intervention would take place.

This is simply an analysis of the words from the code. A better solution would be to contact the State Fire Marshal's Office to understand why they introduced such a rule to begin with. They may intend for all valves to have some kind of locking mechanism in place to secure these valves.

Especially considering that a closed valve is very nearly the only reason for sprinkler system failure during a fire event, it may be prudent to buy locks and chains for these valves.

It should be recognized that the above is my opinion and has not been processed as a formal interpretation in accordance with the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects and should therefore not be considered, nor relied upon, as the official position of the NFPA or its technical committees.

**Jon Nisja, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety Supervisor, State Fire Marshal Division** responded as follows by quoting passage in the state building code and rationalizes the intent:

#### 903.4.4 Valve security

All valves controlling water supplies for auto sprinklers shall be locked or secured in the open position.

Exception: Valves located in a room or space when access is limited to essential personnel only.

"This state amendment was done intentionally. We have extensive experience in Minnesota with central station monitoring that has been less than desirable. Basically, they put little to no priority for tamper monitoring. We have had several cases of central station service basically ignoring supervisory alarms (they make 1-2 calls to the property or after-hours call list and then end their involvement). In addition, properties change or disconnect central station monitoring.

We look at this similar to outside flow alarms. Even though the flow alarm may be connected to central

station monitoring, outside flow alarms are still required.

We require security of the valve in addition to any monitoring that may or may not be present. We waive the security if the valve is located in a secure environment (locked room or other location where access is limited to essential personnel). The security (i.e. locking) does not have to be elaborate; we allow the use of heavy duty cable ties.”

*Here is another case of NFSA assistance to members. By taking advantage of the Engineer of the Day, money may have been saved by the contractor if the question had monetary repercussions.*

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BurnAid Golf Classic, Comes September 10

Mark your calendars for Monday September 10, 2007 for a day of fun and fundraising by attending the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BurnAid Golf Classic. The annual outing is hosted by the NFSA-Minnesota Chapter, Regions Hospital Foundation and in cooperation with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division. This year’s event promises to be the biggest and best yet. The adventure this year moves to a new venue, the Dellwood Hills Country Club. You should have received your registration packet in May-don’t wait as the course will fill up before you know it.

The first ten classics have produced over \$500,000 for the Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Monies generated have benefited many children and families over the years and this year’s steering committee wants to make even a bigger impact for those who for unwanted seconds suffer the pain of burns.

### Wisconsin

#### Commerce Building Code Revision for Wisconsin Building Code

The Department of Commerce (DOC) proposal to adopt all provisions of the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) with emphasis on the multifamily fire sprinkler requirements was sent to the state legislature on June 13, 2007. The Assembly & Senate Committees have 30 days each to decide the fate of the measure. The homebuilder lobby is actively working to fight the DOC proposal and is refusing to let adoption go without a fight.



**NFSA Director of Membership Karyn Hudgens presents Kirk Goretski, H.J. Pertzborn Plumbing & Fire Protection, with a 5-year membership recognition award. Regional Manager Dan Gengler looks on.**

### **Chapter Annual Summer Meeting, Seminar and Golf Outing**

The Annual NFSA-WI Summer Meeting, Seminar and Golf Outing has been set for July 18, 2007. The meeting and seminar will again be held at the Clarion in Madison with golf scheduled for Oregon, WI. **Buddy Dewar, NFSA Director of Regional Operations** will be presenting a NFSA seminar addressing business issues. 1.5-hour contractor CEU's will be given. Notices will be out in early June. Contact me at (262) 245-5255 or [dannfsa@aol.com](mailto:dannfsa@aol.com).

### **Fire Team USA to be Presented in Brookfield**

Plans are up and running for the August 6-7, 2007 presentation of the Fire Team USA program in Countryside. The Brookfield Suites on Moreland Blvd will be the location of this very influential NFPA13D program. **Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager**, has been working with the **Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal** to host the day and half program. Partners from the fire service and code officials will help make the program a success. Fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors and local legislators from the same community will be invited free for the program. The intent of the day and half sessions will be to educate these decision makers about the value of protecting one- and two-family homes with residential fire sprinklers. For more information, go to the FTUSA website: [www.fireteamusa.com](http://www.fireteamusa.com).

### **19<sup>th</sup> BCGI is Getting Close to Tee-Off**

Invites will be out soon for the **19th Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational**. Scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, the invitational will be played for the 15<sup>th</sup> on the beautiful and challenging Brute and Highland Courses of the **Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, WI**. The **Midwest Sprinkler Industries** and the **Milwaukee Fire Department** sponsor the outing while the **Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety (WAFS)** is the presenter. The evening offers a gracious European style dinner with live and silent auctions to highlight the festivities.

The eighteen-year total for the event has surpassed \$1,504,000. Profits are forwarded to **St. Mary's Regional Burn Center and the WAFS Camp for Burn Injured Youths**. Some monies dedicated for the annual WAFS Newspapers in Education Program, the St. Mary's Burn Prevention Educational Program, the National Fire Sprinkler Association Education Fund and the George Collentine Scholarship Fund started with proceeds from last years outing.

We're looking golfers, dinner attendees and for Diamond (\$6,000), Gold (\$3000), Silver (\$1,500), Champion Circle (\$500) and Tee & Green (\$200) sponsors. There are plenty of benefits to our sponsors. **For information contact me at: (262) 245-5255 or Co-Chair Kay Luedke, Freedom Fire Protection (262) 253-9300.**

### **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 2007 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.

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

**Technical Tuesday Schedule** for Summer/Fall 2007

(B) Basic, (I) Intermediate, (A) Advanced

July 17	Multipurpose Piping (B/I)	Russell Fleming, P.E.
August 7	Flammable & Combustible Liquids – Part 1 (B/I)	Victoria Valentine, P.E.
August 21	Concealed Space Area Calculations (B/I)	Cecil Bilbo Jr.
September 11	Smoke & Heat Vents (I)	Michael Friedman, P.E.
September 25	Cloud Ceilings (I)	Ken Isman, P.E.
October 9	Special Considerations for Dry Systems (I)	Cecil Bilbo Jr.
October 23	Flammable & Combustible Liquids – Part 2 (I)	Victoria Valentine, P.E.
November 6	Spec Buildings (I)	Ken Isman, P.E.
November 20	NFPA 25 – 2007 Update (B/I)	Russell Fleming, P.E.
December 11	Special Storage Sprinkler Systems (I/A)	Cecil Bilbo Jr.

The topics for the 2007 “**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.

July 18	Report of the ICC Code Hearings in Rochester, NY	Jeff Hugo
August 18	How to do Effective Strategic Planning	Don Pamplin
September 20	Developing Positive Relationships with Fire Officials	Doyle Sutton
October 18	Recruiting and Retaining Employees	Buddy Dewar
November 15	Tort Reform	Dom Kasmauskas
December 20	Working with your AHJ	Bob Kleinheintz

The Technical 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. *Those needing CEU’s for their 2004 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU’s completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2004. 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 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**

**The Carol Stream, IL Fire Department is co-sponsoring Two-Day Plan Review & Inspection and One-Day Hydraulic seminars September 18-20, 2007 at their 365 Kuhn Rd. station. Get Wisconsin CEU's for attending if you are willing to travel.**

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule more 2007 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.

**Contact Mike Repko, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 120** for information or registration for any NFSA training program. Check the NFSA web site, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), 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**

**Ahern Fire Protection  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
(7/01/81) 25 years**

**Milwaukee Valve Company, Inc.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
(7/23/88) 18 years**

**Olympic Fire Protection  
Owatonna, Minnesota  
(7/3/86) 21 years**

**Thanks for your industry support!**

**May 14-17, 2008 NFSA Annual Seminar,  
Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas**

**April 29-May 2, 2009 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition  
Omni Championsgate, Orlando, Florida**