



***“The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get out for it, but what they become by it.”***

***John Ruskin***

Many already know that my tenure as Regional Manager for the State of Illinois closed last month. My area of responsibility has been redistricted to include Wisconsin and Minnesota. Fortunately for the Illinois fire sprinkler industry and the area NFSA members, Bob Kleinheinz will be taking the lead as your NFSA representative. Bob will introduce himself to you in his first newsletter but suffice it to say that the state has an action oriented person that will provide quality service and representation in your interests. Orange and blue to purple, I'll miss the spirited interaction. Go Pack!

I want to thank all of the wonderful fire service and sprinkler industry related individuals I have had the pleasure of meeting over the last eight years. You have welcomed me and my wife Mary with your personalities and help. I feel we have experienced some victories yet some failures. I relish the former and apologize for the latter. You all know my passion for fire safety and my belief that our message offers the best opportunity to survive. We just need to educate more people.

A number of you heard my remarks at the Mach Chapter Meeting. I firmly believe in the product and service reliability of automatic fire sprinklers. Like the other regional managers, we sell the concept. We sell the fact that quality design coupled with competent installation and systematic educated inspection, testing and maintenance of fire sprinkler systems will provide our homes and businesses with a feature that could mean everything when that unwanted fire presents its ugly challenge. As I closed at the meeting, I close here with this proposal; for every contract signed, layout the sprinkler system, install it and maintain it as if its your house and at some unknown time in the future, while your family sleeps, a fire starts. Will all of your systems perform? I think yes as the integrity I have witnessed tells me they will. I am sure our paths will cross somewhere but until then an after, God Bless and thanks for everything as I have become more enriched from this experience.

***Dan***

#### **NFSA’s Jim Dalton Receives Fire Safety Educator Award at CFSI Dinner**

The *Home Safety Council* awarded to **Jim Dalton (JD), NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection** its inaugural *Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education* during the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s (CFSI) National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2007.

Throughout his career, J D has been a national leader committed to keeping people safe from fire through his efforts to advance fire safety education. JD rose through the ranks of the fire service in Washington, D.C. and then Montgomery County, Maryland, where he was named Assistant Chief and eventually Chief Fire Marshal for Montgomery County. As the Fire Marshal for the Montgomery County Fire Department, JD was instrumental in passing and implementing the nation’s first smoke alarm ordinance.

After retiring from active fire service duty, he went on to manage influential public education and awareness programs for the U.S Fire Administration and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, including "Partnerships Against Fire" and "Operation Life Safety."

As Director of Public Fire Protection for NFSA, Jim supports community fire sprinkler initiatives across the nation and has become the driving force behind efforts to pass the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. Under his leadership, NFSA has also developed a comprehensive guide to help local fire officials adopt residential and retrofit fire sprinkler ordinances. He also serves on the Steering Committee of the nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition where he furthers his work to inform the public about the importance of home fire sprinklers. He remains active with the National Fire Protection Association where he serves on the Board of the NFPA Education Section.

Named after Dr. Anne Wight Phillips, the award honors her outstanding achievements as a champion of fire safety education and celebrates her role as a leader whose exemplary work in fire safety education has had a lasting impact on the nation's safety.

### [Woodruff Speaks Up Again Supporting Sprinklers in North Carolina](#)

**Bonnie Woodruff** experienced the worst news of her life on May 12, 1996 when she was informed her son,, was killed in a fraternity fire in Chapel Hill at the campus of North Carolina. She has been an activist promoting campus fire safety and protection with fire sprinklers. Bonnie was instrumental in getting fire sprinkler campus legislation in many states. Bonnie is a member of a team of surviving mothers actively involved in the promotion of requiring fire sprinkler protection on all campuses.

Bonnie testified on May 5, 1999 in front of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education and passionately gave cause that her son should not have died in a fire that should have been extinguished early with fire sprinklers. The bill passed unanimously through the committee and then was passed into law in 2000. The measure incorporated only high-rise dorms in the University of Wisconsin system. In 2006, the requirement was extended to private school and privately owned high-rise dorms plus fraternities and sororities.

Mrs. Woodruff wrote this communication challenging the state not to weaken fire sprinkler legislation.

As a mother who lost her only son in the 1996 Mother's Day fire at UNC-Chapel Hill, I want to commend state Insurance Commissioner Jim Long for fighting a change to the state building code ("Long to fight sprinkler change," news story, March 14).

The code required sprinklers in new buildings where at least 100 people gather to eat or drink. The N.C. Building Code Council softened the rule to allow 300 people for everything but night clubs, which it did not define.

I am appalled by the council's reasoning that the "lower threshold would add unreasonable costs for independent business owners and school districts in rural areas."

School administrators said they could not afford to install the sprinklers. Those words infuriate me as they are the same words used by UNC-CH. Two years before the fatal fire, **Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Brown** told university administrators they needed to consider retrofitting old fraternity houses with sprinklers. He was told the university could not afford it. (Chief Brown stated after the 1999 Chapel Hill fire that: "Parents don't send their children off to college to die in a fire.")

I agree with council member Alan W. Perdue, who voted against the change and said, "You're either about safety, or you're about money."

Bonnie Woodruff  
Raleigh

### Hugo Named NFSA Manager of Codes

**Jeff Hugo, NFSA North Central Regional Manager** has been named Manager of Codes for NFSA. He will report to Ken Isman Vice President of Engineering. Jeff's background and experience as a Building Official before joining NFSA made him an ideal candidate for this position. Jeff's previous career was as a building official actively participating in national code development. A search has been underway to find a replacement for his regional manager's duties.

### Congressman Langevin Reintroduces House Version of the 2007 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act

The National Fire Sprinkler Association announced on **that Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI)** reintroduced his *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007*, which 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. The bill will be identified as HR 1742. Earlier this year an equivalent bill identified as S 582 was introduced in the Senate by **Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and John Rockefeller (D-WV)**.

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.

"With the support of the country's major fire protection organizations, I will be urging my colleagues to support this critical and life-saving legislation," said Langevin, who is a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. "The benefits of this bill are twofold. First and foremost it will help save lives. Secondly, it will create tax incentives for a business to install these systems." In his introduction of the bill he later stated, "I am hopeful that this legislation will move swiftly."

Since the tragic nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode that claimed 100 lives prompted the initial introduction of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, NFSA's 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  
[Richard Durbin](#), Illinois  
[Russell D. Feingold](#), Wisconsin

[Barack Obama](#), Illinois  
[Heb Kohl](#), Wisconsin

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

**ILLINOIS**

[Bean, Melissa L.](#), Illinois, 8th  
[Costello, Jerry](#), Illinois, 12th  
[Emanuel, Rahm](#), Illinois, 5th  
[Hare, Phil](#), Illinois, 17th  
[Jackson Jr., Jesse L.](#), Illinois, 2nd  
[Kirk, Mark](#), Illinois, 10th  
[Lipinski, Daniel](#), Illinois, 3rd  
[Roskam, Peter J.](#), Illinois, 6th  
[Schakowsky, Jan](#), Illinois, 9th  
[Weller, Jerry](#), Illinois, 11th

[Biggert, Judy](#), Illinois, 13th  
[Davis, Danny K.](#), Illinois, 7th  
[Gutierrez, Luis](#), Illinois, 4th  
[Hastert, Denny](#), Illinois, 14th  
[Johnson, Timothy V.](#), Illinois, 15th  
[LaHood, Ray](#), Illinois, 18th  
[Manzullo, Donald](#), Illinois, 16th  
[Rush, Bobby L.](#), Illinois, 1st  
*[Shimkus, John](#), Illinois, 19th*

**WISCONSIN**

[Baldwin, Tammy](#), Wisconsin, 2nd  
[Kind, Ron](#), Wisconsin, 3rd  
[Obey, David R.](#), Wisconsin, 7th  
[Ryan, Paul](#), Wisconsin, 1st

[Kagen, Steve](#), Wisconsin, 8th  
[Moore, Gwen](#), Wisconsin, 4th  
[Petri, Thomas](#), Wisconsin, 6th  
[Sensenbrenner, F. James](#), Wisconsin, 5th

**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).

**National Effort to Eliminate Novelty Lighters**

**Oregon State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr** is leading a nationwide effort in calling for the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) to prohibit the sale and distribution of novelty lighters. Her office has partnered with The Idea Bank to create a video-based web page to gather fire incident data. The web page may be viewed at: [www.theideabank.com/psa/NoveltyLighters.html](http://www.theideabank.com/psa/NoveltyLighters.html)

In a video message on the website, Orr asks fire professionals, “Do you know of a fire or burn injury involving a child using a novelty lighter? If you do, please complete the incident report form we’ve provided and email the information to us. Together, we can eliminate novelty lighters and the fire dangers they create.”

The sale of novelty lighters has already been banned by ten European countries. Fire Marshal Orr points out that gathering incident reports is pivotal to getting novelty lighters banned in the United States. That’s because the CPSC requires nationwide data before considering changes to existing regulations.

Please access the above web page and save a child from the serious hazards of these “toys”!

**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

### Firefighters Battle Batavia Blaze

Firefighters from more than a dozen departments continued to battle a two-alarm fire at a Batavia factory. No one was hurt, but the fire caused about \$300,000 in damage to Suncoast Corp., 701 N. Kirk Road, officials estimated.

"Thank God for sprinklers," **Batavia Fire Chief Bill Darin** said today. "It could have been catastrophic." Cardboard bales stacked 30 feet high caught fire in the rear of the manufacturing complex - at least 600 feet from the closest access point for fire trucks.

Darin said sprinklers kept the fire from spreading while firefighters dragged hoses inside. They broke apart the bales using forklifts and other equipment while dousing the flames. An unspecified number of employees immediately evacuated the factory, where plastic goods are manufactured, Darin said. Firefighters were on the scene until just after midnight.

"This was probably the biggest (fire) we've had in over a year," Darin said. "This is a huge, huge complex - like the second largest building in Batavia. Getting to the scene of the fire was quite an endeavor." Firefighters busted out skylights and cut a hole in the ceiling to let smoke out of the building. The building itself received \$200,000 in damage, Darin said, while its contents sustained \$100,000 in damage.

"We were very fortunate that no one was injured to any extent," Darin said. Kane County authorities are investigating the fire's cause.

### Sprinkler Save in Rockford Apartment Building

Rockford fire crews say a fire could have destroyed an apartment building, but it was saved thanks to a sprinkler system. A small fire started in a garage in the 1300 block of Lindsay Way. Crews say it easily could have spread, which is what happened at another Rockford apartment building on Linden Road in February.

Instead, crews barely had a fire to put out when they arrived. **Fire Investigator Mark Marinaro** says, "Damage was limited to \$1,000 or \$1,500 versus the other fire we had in a similar type building with no sprinkler system that was probably in the excess of \$80,000 to 100,000."

Marinaro says the sprinklers worked so well, a car in the garage wasn't even damaged by the fire that had started just a few feet away.

### Eau Claire Ramada Inn Experiences Sprinkler Save

I received this narrative from Fire Inspector Gary A. Puljas, City of Eau Claire Fire Department:

Dan:

We had a fire downtown at the Ramada Inn Convention Center. One room involved. One of three sprinkler heads activated and controlled this fire. The first in crew had to connect to a standpipe and extinguish what was left of the fire. A lot of smoke and heat damage to the room. The room occupant had checked out the same day. It was a non-smoking room and evidence of smoking materials was not found.

There was an electrical outlet at the head of the bed behind the mattress and boxspring. This was the area of origin as per the V-pattern and most damage. Two plugs, one for each lamp. The mattress was pushed up against these plugs and may have damaged one cord. About 150 people were evacuated and all returned to the hotel after the fire was under control. Water damage to about 3-5 other rooms, just soaked carpeting, which was being cleaned up before I left the scene.

### [Lucky Business in Frankfort-Sprinklers a Prescription for Success](#)

Reported by **Frankfort Fire Department Assistant Chief Larry Rauch**

The Frankfort Fire Department was toned for a fire alarm at the CVS Pharmacy. The first engine arrived and reported the building filled with smoke and requested *the Full Still*. After they gained entry the crew used their TIC to find the fire.

A small fire was found in a portable lighted display case that the fire destroyed. The building's fire sprinkler system extinguished the fire. The engine crew used approximately 50 gallons of water to completely put the fire out. All company's stayed on the scene to complete ventilation of the building for over an hour.

The store was closed Thursday for clean up but was able to open two days later.

A.C. Rauch was to view the video from the surveillance cameras; from the time the fire broke out and the 1 sprinkler head activated and kept the fire under control was under 3 minutes.

If not for the sprinkler system the building would have suffered extensive damage and the business would have been closed for a minimum 6-7 months.

### [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.

### [Michigan Fire Official Creates Code Official Website](#)

# INSPECTOR911.com

**Michael O'Brian** has a varied career in the public and private sectors with an emphasis on code administration and enforcement for the last 10 years. Currently he is working for Farmington Hills, MI, Fire Department as a Staff Lieutenant and is the president of Code Savvy Consultants, a municipal plan review and consulting company.

He is the creator of a dynamic web page called [www.inspector911.com](http://www.inspector911.com) which is designed to assist local inspectors by providing resources, information, checklists and up to date news. He

has a Bachelor of Science degree in public safety administration from Eastern Michigan University and can be reached via email at: [mobrian@inspector911.com](mailto:mobrian@inspector911.com)

### **[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)

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

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

### **[NFSA Academy Trains You at Your Desk](#)**

To answer the call for a quality distance-learning program, NFSA has introduced the **NFSA Academy**. With 80 modules to pick from, dealing with beginner to advanced training, the Academy has something for everyone! Save on lost billable hours and travel expenses by getting your continuing education needs right from your own desktop. Log onto [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the banner below and sign up for the NFSA Academy, your competition is! **Wisconsin contractors, get your CEU's here!**

### **[NFSA Advanced Technical Training Program in Chicago in July](#)**

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.

## ILLINOIS

### ICCA Suggestion for Building Code for State of Illinois Makes Right Turn

Illinois Council of Code Administrators (ICCA) proposal, H1853 for a statewide building code has been re-thought. H1853 is a "shell" bill that called for the adoption of the Pennsylvania version of the International Building Code. The shell bill would have moved only if the Speaker of the House felt there was consensus with the stakeholders of the outcome. The code would provide the minimum construction requirements for all new and renovated buildings in the state.

A meeting of interested parties overwhelmingly suggested a change in course. The ICCA has been promoting a building code for the state since 1995 and is acceptable to working with anyone hopeful to get the mission accomplished. As of this writing, there has been nothing more to report except that efforts are in the wind to find a legislative way to get it done.

### Fire Protection District Bill Amended

**Senator M. Maggie Crotty** introduced an amendment to her 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SB 1508, Fire Protection District Act. She discovered that information fed to her by a lobby group was greatly misleading and would have a harmful fire safety ordinance effect to fire districts.

The amendment introduced amends the Fire Protection District Act. It provides that a fire protection district may enforce building code ordinances in unincorporated areas of a county providing a 30 day notice of intent to adopt or amend a building and or fire code ordinance is provided to the chief county building code enforcement officer and that following said code or amendment's adoption that a copy of said ordinance has been placed on file with the chief county building code enforcement officer within 90 days of passage.

### NICET Inspector/Tester Bill Moves into State Senate

State Senate Bill 495 introduced by Senator Antonio Munez to the 2007-08 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois General Assembly passed through committee and the Senate Floor unanimously on March 9, 2007. The bill amends the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act as it provides that all inspections and testing of existing fire sprinkler systems and control equipment must be performed by a licensee under the Act or an individual employed by a licensee. The legislation sets forth qualifications for individuals performing the inspection and testing duties to be qualified by certification by 2010, includes journeymen sprinkler fitters. The bill also exempts individuals performing inspection or testing of fire sprinkler systems on behalf of a municipality, county, or fire protection district from the requirement.

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives where last year, it walked through committee and the floor. If the legislators feel the same about it, the bill should have moved through the House in late April with anticipation of the governor's approval late spring making it law!

Additional Legislation of Interest:

**H659-Student Dormitory Fire Sprinkler Installation**-Disposition, pending in House Amends the State Treasurer Act. Requires that the Office of the State Treasurer by rule develop, implement, and administer a program of low-interest loans to post-secondary educational institutions to assist with the cost of installing fire sprinklers in student dormitories. Requires that the loans be funded through a revolving fund consisting of transferred or appropriated moneys, interest on the fund, and loan repayments.

**H743-Contractor Prompt Payment Act**, Disposition, pending in Senate

Provides that all construction contracts, unless expressly excluded, shall be deemed to provide if a contractor has performed in accordance with the provisions of a construction contract and the billing has been approved by the owner or the owner's agent, the owner shall pay the amount due to the contractor pursuant to the billing not more than a specified number of calendar days after the approval.

**H830-Mechanic Lien Act**-Disposition, passed through House, pending in Senate Rules Committee

Amends the Mechanic Lien Act. Provides that any person furnishing labor, services, material, fixtures, apparatus or machinery, form or form work to any contractor having a contract for a public improvement for a governmental entity shall have a lien for the balance thereof on money, bonds, or warrants due to the contractor. Provides that a written notice of claim for lien shall contain a sworn statement identifying the contract, work done, and total due.

**12th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Invitational- Registration is Closing**

If you are reading this in early May, the **Illinois Burn Prevention Association** marks 40 days to the **12th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Invitational** will be held June 12th at the Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton. Since it began, this event has raised over \$550,000 for children who have survived burn injuries at the *IFSA Camp I Am Me for Kids*. In recent years the outing included contributions to the Loyola University Medical Center – Burn Center and to fire prevention public education programs that help prevent burn injuries.

Golf Outing Committee, **Chairman Amos Minor, US Fire Protection-IL**, is still asking that Corporate Sponsors step up in support of the event. He also asked for donation of silent or live auction items to be auctioned off during the dinner to help support our fundraising efforts.

Last year the invitational raised more than \$100,000. "Camp I Am Me", the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance hosts an annual summer camp for children 8 to 16 years old who have experienced a significant burn injury requiring hospitalization. In 2006, ninety-five injury qualifying children from Illinois spent a week at Camp Duncan near Fox Lake. They participated in a wide-range of activities and events that made the week extremely memorable.

The other recipient, Loyola University Medical Center – Burn Center was given a portion of the proceeds for their public education programs teaching preventive measures to avert burn injuries. Loyola is one of the busiest trauma centers nationwide and is recognized for providing the best in burn care.

**Wisconsin**

**Commerce Building Code Revision for Wisconsin Building Code**

The Department of Commerce held a meeting of two advisory code councils – the Multifamily and Commercial Building Code Councils on March 27, 2007. The code councils reviewed and discussed the public comments on the proposed adoption of the 2006 International Building Code (IBC).

Members from both code councils represented many industries, including fire service, builders, developers, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC), architects, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Associated General Contractors (AGC-WI), municipalities, labor (carpenters, dry-wallers, electricians) and realtors.

The Dept of Commerce provided 53 pages of summarized public hearing comments and the corresponding agency response. They reviewed major portions of the comments from both sides of the argument and the following outlines the most relevant information from today's meeting.

Most important questions asked and comments made included the following:

1. Can the Dept. expand on the issue of insurance savings?
  - Discussion of the Dept of Commerce research on savings; then comment by the Wisconsin Builders Association about the ISO ratings and how they vary so greatly it's difficult to determine whether any savings would exist; MOST IMPORTANTLY, a member weighed in that his experience found that fewer and fewer carriers would cover buildings without sprinkler systems.
2. Why not separate into two different rules? (i.e. remove the fire sprinkler provisions and move the rest forward)
  - Commerce responded that the sprinkler provision is part of the 2006 IBC package; it should stay together as a building code package. It's premature to change the package and to assume it will be challenged
3. Recognition of a supportive letter from an architect that was submitted to the Department.
4. The Builders Association objects (again) to the legality; whether Commerce has the authority to move forward with the rules.
  - The Dept responded with its legal opinion; and informed the council that it has consulted with the Dept of Justice (DOJ), which would ultimately defend Commerce in any legal battle, and DOJ is confident in the opinion of Commerce.
5. Is there an opportunity for compromise – finding a middle ground?
  - Picking some number (referring to the sprinkler threshold) other than the national standard is not something the Dept. of Commerce is comfortable with. Many states already have this, and these advisory councils had an opportunity to suggest a compromise over the last couple years of reviewing this code.
6. The sprinkler industry has really responded to the codes – they have made the systems better; able to save money because you have to install fewer heads (more area can be covered by one sprinkler)
  - Comment made by **City of Madison Fire Marshal Ed Ruckreigel**.
7. We have to remember that many of the buildings being built tomorrow will at some point be 16 years old (a comment made by a member when responding to a builder's comment at the hearing re: "fires taking place in older buildings")

Action by the Code Councils:

#### AFFIRMATIVE VOTE TO MOVE FORWARD AS SINGLE PACKAGE

Much of the discussion surrounding action by the code councils focused on whether to recommend to the Department of Commerce separating the fire sprinkler provisions out of the building code. That would then create two rule drafts to send to the Legislature.

The chair of the Multifamily Code Council recommended this, as well as members of the builders, WMC and AGC-WI. However, more members supported keeping the fire sprinkler provision in with the rest of the building code package – a move that our organization certainly supports. The fire service and other organizations spoke up against the idea that the sprinkler portion should be separated out. The Dept of Commerce also indicated that the Secretary of Commerce Mary Burke supports the rule as drafted and would not likely support a division of the rule.

#### AFFIRMATIVE VOTE TO URGE COMMERCE TO TAKE ALL STEPS TO PREVENT ANY MORE DELAY OF THE RULE PACKAGE

A consensus was reached that the Department of Commerce should do everything in its power to prevent any and all portions of this rule from being delayed.

The Dept will be fine-tuning portions of the rule draft over the next month; it is likely the rule will be sent to the Legislative committees sometime at the end of April. As of this writing, no date has been set.

### **[NFSA-WI 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. A NFSA seminar will be given with 1.5-hour contractor/fitter CEU's being available. Notices will be out in early June. Contact me at (262) 245-5255 or [dannfsa@aol.com](mailto:dannfsa@aol.com).

### **[19<sup>th</sup> BCGI is Scheduled](#)**

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 Spring 2007

June 12                      Changes to the Pump Requirements                      Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

The topics for the “**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.

June 21                      Tort Reform                      Dominic Kasmauskas

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 a Two-Day Plan Review & Inspection and a One-Day Hydraulic seminars September 18-20, 2007 at 365 Kuhn Road. 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**

**Aurora Pump**  
North Aurora, Illinois  
(5/24/05) 2 Years

**Midwest Fire Fabrication**  
Elk Grove Village, Illinois  
(5/20/02) 5 years

**Nova Fire Protection**  
Addison, Illinois  
(5/13/03) 4 years

**Simplex Grinnell LP**  
Everywhere  
(5/18/05) 102 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**

**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.*