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## Hey, I'm with you all the way!

The "Yes Man"

There is lots going on in the interest of the industry. The NFSA on local and national fronts are actively involved in issues affecting members and non-members of the association.

I have the daily opportunity to communicate with my regional manager base and with that of the different departments of our headquarters. I can state unequivocally, that all are in the hunt to create new markets or retain those the industry already enjoy.

You can refer to the NFSA activities in the code arena. Especially, an agenda is being pursued on the horizon for the International Residential Code in respect to fire sprinklers being added to that code, as one instance. The whole NFSA team is working strategically on this issue.

Be assured that other elements of the industry are not being ignored, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act is doing well in legislator acceptance and it is anticipated 2009 to be that year for passage.

Stay with us for these victories and thanks for the support

### **2008 Labor Management Caucus Scheduled for California**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and the USA Sprinkler Fitters Business Managers Association are pleased to announce co-sponsorship of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Management Caucus. The caucus will be held October 12 –13, 2008 in Santa Barbara, California at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort in conjunction with the National Automatic Sprinkler Industry (NASI) Fund Trustee meetings.

The tentative schedule of events for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Management Caucus calls for a golf outing on the afternoon of Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> followed by a lavish welcome reception in the evening. The morning of Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> will begin with a continental breakfast followed by a general speaker session. Topics and registration fees are still to be determined.

This will be a unique opportunity for leaders on both sides of labor management to meet in an inviting, informal atmosphere to discuss issues of mutual interest. More information will be disseminated as it becomes available, but be sure to save the dates of October 12 – 13, 2008 now.

***The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry.***

## Fire costs Americans more than Iraq war

The following article was authored by Dawn Blunt, Greater Brighton Fire Protection District Public Safety Educator on 05/01/2008. She can be reached at, 303-659-4101, ext. 111 or [dblunt@gbfpd.org](mailto:dblunt@gbfpd.org).

Most of us know what the cost of gas is today and how it's affecting our lives. But, do you know what the annual cost is of fire in our country? Fire is a huge expense for our country today. The reason that you don't hear about it as often as other events is because they are so sporadic and all over the map that they generally don't make the national news. **This is the reality.**

Fires cost lives and huge sums of money for our country every day. Just because you don't hear about all the costly fires and the deaths on the evening news doesn't mean it isn't happening. Fire is costing Americans more each year than what Saudi Arabia makes on oil. In 2003, the U.S. spent an estimated \$14.5 billion in property loss due to fires. The overall cost of fire was about \$272 billion and there were 3,925 fire fatalities. This is 2 to 2 ½ percent of our nation's gross domestic product and, according to 2004 statistics, is more than Saudi Arabia's gdp of \$251 billion. We are talking about the largest oil-producing country in the world and they don't bring in as much revenue from oil as we spend on fire.

You might be thinking that, because those numbers were from 2004, we have a grasp on fires by now or at least we must have brought the numbers down. If you are thinking something like that, you would be wrong.

Between the start of the Iraq war and Dec. 10, 2007, America spent \$150 billion per year on the war. The cost of the war on a family of four is estimated to be about \$20,900 from 2002 to 2008. The estimated cost of fire is \$22,720 for that same family of four for six years. The number of soldiers killed in Iraq is now about 3,886, which is roughly the same number of fire deaths in America every year. That means that our losses due to fires are four times higher than war casualties in Iraq.

What does this all mean? I'm not trying to change your opinion of the war in Iraq. It's merely a way to show how much money is being spent on fire comparatively. There are plenty of things affecting our current economy. I bet you hadn't thought that the cost of fire might be one of them. However, the next time you see a news piece on the cost of the Iraq war in America, think of the cost of fire here.

On a positive note, we have brought fire fatalities and the cost of fire down since 1947. At that time the cost of fire was around \$560 million and fatalities were around 10,000. The problem is that the numbers have stayed about the same for the past decade.

This just goes to show that we need to change some things in our society. Studies have shown that sprinkler systems along with smoke alarms in homes reduce the risk of death in a home fire by 82 percent. Keep in mind that this percentage is relative to having neither, but it is still a good number. Today 96 percent of homes have smoke alarms. The problem is that only 2 percent of homes have sprinkler systems. We can plan for the future and start putting sprinkler systems in all new homes under construction. This won't bring the cost of fire and the number of deaths from fire down immediately, but it will work gradually. Fire sprinklers do not prevent fires. They merely minimize the damage and fire spread once a fire has started. They also give a family a few more moments of time to get to safety.

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What every family can do today to reduce the risk of home fire deaths is to make sure that they have an adequate number of smoke alarms in their homes and that they all work. We can also make sure that every family member knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarms go off and that we don't become complacent and think, "it won't happen to me."

### **Isman Named SFPE Fellow**

NFSA is very pleased to announce that Kenneth E. Isman, its Vice President of Engineering, has been elevated to the grade of Fellow by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. SFPE Fellows represent a distinguished group of members who have attained significant stature and accomplishment in engineering. Fellows have been members of the Society for at least 10 years and have been nominated by their peers for outstanding contributions to the advancement of fire protection engineering and valuable service to SFPE. Ken will receive the recognition before his peers at the SFPE Annual Meeting scheduled for October 12-17, 2008 at the Renaissance Charlotte Suite Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### **Potter and REHAU Contributions Push Industry Advancement Fund to \$249,000**

With generous contributions of \$20,000 from Potter Electric Signal Company and \$2,000 from REHAU, the NFSA Industry Advancement Fund is now at \$249,000! The fire sprinkler industry has responded to this fund with great enthusiasm and support. The fund is open to all and will be used solely to support industry advancement efforts and to increase the fire sprinkler market. To make a contribution and join those who are committed to the betterment of the industry, follow the "Donate" link at the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org). Contributions can be made by credit card or bank account without sharing your financial information. All donations are tax deductible. Together we can keep our industry strong and vital for years to come. The NFSA Industry Advancement Fund will help us achieve that goal.

### **NFSA Tennessee Chapter Receives \$192,300 Training Grant**

The Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association – a Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association announced it has been awarded a \$192,300 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The funding will be used to provide training to fire sprinkler contractors, local AHJs and other interested parties. Training will be provided across the state of Tennessee with grant funds being made available to offset the cost of attendees' lodging, training materials and meals. Training will be provided by NFSA's Training & Education department.

### **NFSA Board Member John Perry of Victaulic Passes Away**

It is with a deep sense of loss that the National Fire Sprinkler Association reports the passing of long-time board member John Perry. John, who represented Victaulic Company on the NFSA Board of Directors since 1999 when they first started manufacturing fire sprinklers, succumbed following a short battle with cancer. He was also an active member of the International Fire Sprinkler Association's Board of Governors. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Perry family. A memorial service was held Monday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 321 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to Meals on Wheels.

### **Don't Wait Until the Last Minute, IRC Final Action Hearing, September 2008, Minneapolis, Begin Preparations to Attend Now**

On or about September 20-21, 2008, the International Residential Code (IRC) Final Action Hearing will take place and the residential fire sprinkler issue will be decided. Voting governmental members of the International Code Council (ICC) will have the opportunity to change the IRC to require fire sprinklers in new homes, addressing a fire safety issue that has plagued America since its beginning, and causes more deaths than all the

natural disasters combine each year, dwelling fires. This is your opportunity to be a part of the historic event by casting your vote for RB64-07/08 and place the requirement for residential fire sprinkler into the body of the code and eliminate Appendix P.

The IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition's residential sprinkler proposal will be on the agenda as Item [RB64-07/08](#). If this item is accepted by ICC's voting governmental members, the residential sprinkler requirement will become a part of the 2009 edition of IRC. As a government employee, YOUR attendance in Minneapolis is critical because, to pass, this recommendation will require support by a two-thirds majority of voting governmental members present at the meeting.

If you've never attended an ICC hearing there is not better time to participate in a hearing. You can be a part of saving thousands of lives in the future and a historic event long overdue.

If you would like to support this effort, YOU MUST BECOME AN ICC VOTING GOVERNMENTAL MEMBER BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2008. [Click here](#) for more information on ICC voting governmental membership, which is required to vote at the hearing.

All regional managers have been tasked with getting action activities going in their regions to help facilitate attendance at the IRC Hearings. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [Gengler@nfsa.org](mailto:Gengler@nfsa.org).

### **Designing Spaces Highlights Fire sprinklers “Green” Advantages**

Check this out, <http://www.designingspaces.tv/ThinkGreenSeries/Show1360/tabid/142/Default.aspx#>. It takes a while to download but the message is very clear and one that gives additional reasons to support residential, and commercial, fire sprinkler protection. I noticed two glitches in the report; a single sprinkler activates and controls or extinguishes a fire 90% of the time, not 70-80%. And, temperatures in residential fires about triple the 500 degrees quoted. The "GREEN" concept is very amply applied here when talking about a fire without sprinklers present with the air, water and landfill pollution.

### **National Campus Fire Safety Month to be launched on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC**

The launch of National Campus Fire Safety Month 2008 will take place on September 9 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Now in its fourth year, National Campus Fire Safety Month has provided an opportunity for schools and communities across the nation during September to educate students about the dangers of fire and their role in creating a fire-safe environment. Serving as the Congressional co-sponsors are Congressman Bill Pascrell (NJ-8) and Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH-11) who are strong supporters of campus fire safety and have introduced key legislation in Congress.

“National Campus Fire Safety Month has served to educate families, students, school administrators and policy makers on the danger that fire incidents present on campuses all across America,” stated Pascrell. “I am excited to serve with Campus Firewatch and Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones on this campaign and hope that its success will help advance policies to further protect students as they begin school this September.”

"I am extremely pleased to join with my colleague Congressman Bill Pascrell in sponsoring legislation for National Campus Fire Safety Month," said Rep. Tubbs Jones. "With 129 deaths nationwide from campus fires in student housing since January 2000, many having occurred in my home state of Ohio, it is imperative that we continue to give a voice to this issue and encourage increased prevention measures on and around our college campuses."

“Over 40 fire safety organizations from across the nation have joined together to voice their support for National Campus Fire Safety Month and the list is growing,” said Campus Firewatch Publisher Ed Comeau. “This is

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unprecedented and demonstrates the importance of this issue at schools and in communities. Educating our youth about what they can do in preventing the tragedies we have seen will help save lives, not only for the time they are in college but for the rest of their lives.”

National Campus Fire Safety Month 2008 is being co-sponsored by Campus Firewatch, the Ohio Fire Safety Coalition and the Congressional Fire Services Institute. For more information and a list of supporting organizations, visit [www.CampusFireSafetyMonth.org](http://www.CampusFireSafetyMonth.org).

## **Campus Firewatch Media Project Launches National Fire Safety Initiative**

**Innovative project will involve students in providing information about views and attitudes regarding fire and burn safety on campuses**

The Campus Firewatch Media Project, jointly sponsored by Campus Firewatch, the People’s Burn Foundation and the Michael H. Minger Foundation, will provide an opportunity for students to write original material and be published each month throughout the 2008-2009 academic year in Campus Firewatch, the leading national publication on campus fire safety. Each submission will be reviewed by a national panel of judges and the author of each article that is selected will receive a \$500 stipend. This project is open to all full-time college and university students and high school seniors across the nation.

“There are three goals to this project,” explained Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch. “They are to encourage students to learn more about fire safety, to provide an opportunity for students to get published and to develop content for Campus Firewatch from a student’s perspective on the fire safety problems and issues. This will provide an invaluable insight for the campus fire professional into how to develop programs that will work effectively with the Millennial Generation.”

Reviewing the submissions will be a panel of experts from the field of fire safety that include:

Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch

Robert Halton, editor in chief of Fire Engineering Magazine

Dan Jones, editor in chief of National Fire & Rescue Magazine and Chapel Hill (NC) Fire Chief

Shawn Longerich, director of the People’s Burn Foundation

Gail Minger, director of the Michael H. Minger Foundation

Jerry Naylis, fire series acquisitions editor, Pennwell Publications

Janet Wilmoth, editorial director of Fire Chief Magazine

This project is now open for submissions that will be published monthly beginning in September 2008 with the launch of National Campus Fire Safety Month™. More information, rules and guidelines can be found online at [www.campus-firewatch.com](http://www.campus-firewatch.com).

## **UW Student who set off fire-alarm sprinklers charged**

UW-Madison student Max Korman, 18, was charged with felony property damage after allegedly causing between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth of damages to Towers on April 4, 2008 by intentionally setting off the building sprinkler system. He is facing felony charges of criminal damage to property.

According to a criminal complaint filed, video cameras in the building at caught Korman, of Northbrook, Ill., putting something on or near the hallway ceiling of the eighth floor, which he resided on, around 1:43 a.m. Seconds later, the fire alarms went off and water gushed down the hallway while Korman returned to his apartment.

Korman is also charged with misdemeanor interference with firefighting equipment. Madison Police Department Sgt. Lori Schalecki said police take incidents like this seriously because of the headaches it causes residents and landlords alike.

“A lot of people don’t maintain renter’s insurance so they may run into the fact that their property is not going to get replaced if it’s been damaged by the water,” Schalecki said.

Towers director of leasing Jermaine Butler estimated the building’s water damage to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000, according to the complaint. Urban Outfitters, located on the street level of the same building as Towers, experienced flooding as a result of the sprinklers that caused \$5,325 in damaged merchandise, store manager William Lesniak told police in the complaint.

UW-Madison freshman and Towers resident Anna Engstrom said the sprinklers caused a huge middle-of-the-night disturbance for the building’s 400 residents, who were evacuated when the fire alarms went off.

“We were displaced for four hours,” Engstrom said.

“I had to work at 7:30 and we didn’t get back until 5:30, so I only got like an hour of sleep.”

If convicted, Korman faces up to three years and six months in jail for the felony charge and up to nine months in prison for the misdemeanor charge or fines of \$10,000.

## **2007 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Needs You to Write Your U.S. Senator and Congressmen**

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007* has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship these past months. With the slow economy, there is optimism that another economic stimulus may be in the mix and probably looking to the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Incentive Act offers something to help that stimulus. 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 May, 141 Congressmen and 25 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:

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Senate, *Sponsors recorded in bold red italics*

***Norm Coleman***, Minnesota

Amy Klubuchar, Minnesota

Russell D. Feingold, Wisconsin

Heb Kohl, Wisconsin

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

### Minnesota

[Bachmann, Michele](#), Minnesota, 6th ***[Ellison, Keith](#)***, Minnesota, 5th [Kline, John](#), Minnesota, 2<sup>nd</sup>

[McCollum, Betty](#), Minnesota, 4<sup>th</sup> ***[Oberstar, James L.](#)***, Minnesota, 8<sup>th</sup> [Peterson, Collin C.](#), Minnesota, 7<sup>th</sup>

***[Ramstad, Jim](#)***, Minnesota, 3<sup>rd</sup> ***[Walz, Timothy J.](#)***, Minnesota, 1<sup>st</sup>

### Wisconsin

***[Baldwin, Tammy](#)***, Wisconsin, 2<sup>nd</sup>, ***[Kagen, Steve](#)***, Wisconsin, 8<sup>th</sup>, ***[Kind, Ron](#)***, Wisconsin, 3<sup>rd</sup>

[Moore, Gwen](#), Wisconsin, 4<sup>th</sup>, [Obey, David R.](#), Wisconsin, 7<sup>th</sup>, [Petri, Thomas](#), Wisconsin, 6<sup>th</sup>

[Ryan, Paul](#), Wisconsin, 1<sup>st</sup>, [Sensenbrenner, F. James](#), 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>

### NFSA Industry Advancement Fund Hits \$220,000

With the addition of two generous contributions, NFSA's Industry Advancement Fund (IAF) now totals \$222,000. L. Nothhaft & Son of Denver, Colorado is the latest to join the fund by contributing \$5,000. The positive and enthusiastic response by the fire sprinkler industry to the IAF is truly inspiring. The IAF is open to contractors, suppliers and manufacturers, as well as anyone else interested in supporting the fire sprinkler concept. Proceeds from the IAF will be used solely to support industry advancement efforts and to increase the fire sprinkler market. To contribute to the fund and, in turn, to the advancement of *your* industry, follow the Industry Advancement Fund link at the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

## Sprinkler Saves

### Fire closes Maple Grove auto shop

Fire broke out at a Maple Grove business around 10:15 p.m. on April 15. Maple Grove Police say they went to a business on Lakeland Drive in response to a water flow alarm, meaning the sprinklers were tripped. When they arrived they found at least one car inside an auto body shop on fire. Police believe the car was there for a repair of some sort.

No injuries were reported in this fire and authorities are still investigating the cause of the fire. According to a source close to the investigation, the fire was arson with at least seven different set points, four sprinkler heads went off and saved this multi-tenant building. The only damage was contents. Another sprinkler save...

## Minor damage in De Pere paper mill fire

A May 14 fire caused minor damage at U.S. Paper Mills, 800 Fort Howard Ave in De Pere, WI. The fire occurred about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and was contained shortly afterward. At 12:20 a.m. today, firefighters opened the roof to check for hot spots.

A sprinkler activated, limiting the spread of the fire stated De Pere Assistant Fire Chief Jim Stupka. Damage was estimated at about \$10,000, mostly due to the need to cut into the roof, he said. Investigators are focusing on an electrical component as the likely cause, Stupka said.

## 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.” Sprinkler Saves will help inform others that the systems do work and will provide life and property saving values.

## NFSA Announces New Discount Shipping Program for Members

The NFSA is pleased to announce a new member benefit, the NFSA Discount Shipping Program. Through NFSA's agreement with PartnerShip, who developed and manages the program, NFSA members enrolled in the NFSA Discount Shipping Program receive significant discounts on domestic and international small package and freight shipments through FedEx<sup>®</sup>, UPS Freight<sup>SM</sup>, and Yellow Transportation, as well as substantial discounts on copying and printing services at select FedEx Kinko's<sup>®</sup> locations nationwide. The program is **FREE** to NFSA members, with no obligations and no minimum volume requirements. You'll save from your very first shipment – even if it's your only shipment. You've got nothing to lose and everything to **SAVE**, so sign up today!

The program is **FREE**, with no obligations and no minimum volume requirements. You'll save from your very first shipment-even if it's your only shipment.

[Click here to enroll in this FREE program today!](#)

[Click here for a full summary of your new NFSA Discount](#)

I know you are all aware of the PartnerShip program we are offering our members, but did you know that you can sign up too?

It's really easy and it's free! Along with shipping discounts with Fed Ex, you will also receive discounts on printing at Kinko's.

Just use this link and sign up today. I know some of you already have.

<http://www.partnership.com/55NFSA/discounts.asp>

Please look over the savings and make sure your associations and contractor members know about this too!

## Sprinkler Firewatch service helps track saves

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A new service to automatically inform you of catastrophic fires in the country and to report reported sprinkler saves has been created by Ed Comeau. You can get up-to-date reports on the above and report saves for the program.

To receive and take part in Sprinkler Firewatch log onto: [www.YAHOO.com](http://www.YAHOO.com). (If you do not have a YAHOO i.d., in the upper right hand corner is “FREE E-MAIL: Sign Up”. Once you have signed up for a YAHOO e-mail address, you can join any “public” YAHOO group. You do not have to use the YAHOO e-mail address to obtain the alerts from Sprinkler Firewatch).

At: [www.YAHOO.com](http://www.YAHOO.com), click on Groups on left hand column. On the next page type in “sprinkler firewatch”, the next page click on “Join this Group” in upper right hand side of page. On the next page, sign in using your YAHOO e-mail and password.

## **NFSA Expert of the Day-You Can Get Great Advice**

While most of the questions are answered within a few hours of being asked, there have been instances where the response to a request has been longer than what our membership considers optimal. To that end, we are instituting a series of checks and balances on our end to insure that your request is answered as soon as possible.

You can help us by following one simple procedure. When you have a request that you want answered, please e-mail your request to [eod@nfsa.org](mailto:eod@nfsa.org) or call the NFSA at (845) 878-4200 and ask for the Expert of the Day. That way, your request will go directly to the individual assigned the duty that day and we will have mechanisms in place to track it.

Since many of our staff travels extensively, they can't always respond in a timely manner to their individual voice mails and emails. When emailing your requests, we would appreciate if you would use our general email address, [eod@nfsa.org](mailto:eod@nfsa.org), if calling in, please follow the prompt for the expert of the day. These procedures will allow us to insure quicker responses to your questions. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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!

## **New NFSA Reference Textbook into Second Printing**

The NFSA's new textbook titled Layout, Detailing and Calculation of Fire Sprinkler Systems has been an incredible success. The first printing sold out in only nine weeks. With more than 700 pages of information, this is the most complete text-book ever written for the fire sprinkler engineering technician.



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FIRE  
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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 principles behind the requirements that need to be followed.

**MINNESOTA:** [www.nfsamn.org](http://www.nfsamn.org)

## **Fire Team USA to Visit Minnesota**

Minnesota has been selected to be one of ten states to present the Fire Team USA program and arrangements are being made. It appears that the Minneapolis Marriott in Bloomington will be the location of this very influential NFPA13D program scheduled for July 30-31, 2008. Dan Gengler, NFSA North Central Regional Manager, has been working with the Office of the Minnesota 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 and local legislators will be invited free for the program that will educate these decision makers about the value of protecting one- and two-family homes with residential fire sprinklers. Check out the Fire team USA web site, [www.fireteamusa.com](http://www.fireteamusa.com), for more information.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Burn Aid Golf Classic Scheduled for September 8, 2008**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Burn Aid Golf Classic is scheduled for September 8, 2008 at the North Oaks Golf Club. Packets should be received by this time. The course is challenging and an excellent event is being planned by the committee. Be looking for a few new fun twists this year

This outing helps to makes a difference for burn survivors. The annual fundraiser gives participants a great sense of mankind at its best. Memories of golf and good times also leave all knowing they helped a great cause, the Regions Hospital Burn Unit in St. Paul. Monies from the outing will benefit many children and families for those who for unwanted seconds suffer the pain of burns. The 2007 event raised \$42,000 making the eleven year total nearly \$550,000.

In addition, John Berres and Rhonna Hed (Summit Fire Protection) has volunteered to head the Silent Auction Committee for this special event. John can be reached at (651) 251-1862 or [iberres@summitfire.com](mailto:iberres@summitfire.com) in regards to any donations or gifts that you would like to include in this happening.

**WISCONSIN:** [www.nfsawi.org](http://www.nfsawi.org)

## **WI DOC Hearing on Fee Schedule for Plans Reviews and Licensures**

A public hearing was scheduled for May 28, 2008 for interested persons to appear and present comments on the proposed rules addressing fee changes for plan reviews and sprinkler associated license registrations. Persons making oral presentations were requested to submit their comments in writing. Persons submitting comments will not receive individual responses. The hearing record on this proposed rulemaking will remain open until June 6, 2008, to permit submittal of written comments from persons who are unable to attend the hearing or who wish to supplement testimony offered at the hearing. Written comments should be submitted to James Quast, at the Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 2689, Madison, WI 53701-2689, or email [jim.quast@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jim.quast@wisconsin.gov).

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Some of the proposed changes include the following:

Comm 2, Subchapter III - Buildings

Comm 2.31 Buildings, structures, heating, ventilation and fire protection systems. (1)

PLAN SUBMITTAL. (a) *General*. Fees relating to the submittal of all plans, submitted in accordance with the requirements of chs. Comm 60 to 66, shall be determined in accordance with this section.

(b) *Plan review fees*. Fees relating to the submittal of all building plans, heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) plans, and fire protection system plans shall be computed on the basis of the total gross square footage of each building or affected area. The fees shall be determined in accordance with Table 2.31-1 for buildings not located in municipalities that have assumed building inspection responsibilities. The fees shall be determined in accordance with Table 2.31-2 for buildings located in agent municipalities and counties that have assumed the building inspection responsibilities specified under s. 101.12 (3) (g), Stats., and ch. Comm 61.

For fire suppression plan reviews in municipalities covered by state reviews, the fee schedule adjusts proportionally to the size of the building. For instance, a building less than 2,500 square feet, the fee will be adjusted from \$30 per review to \$50. The fee would be adjusted for review of a building 10,001-20,000 Square feet from \$150 to \$200. Fees also will be changed for Reviews Performed municipalities doing their plan reviews, and by those second class cities and appointed agents.

Fees for license registrations also will be changed. SECTION 3. Comm 5.02 Table 5.02 will be amended in part to read:

Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractor License: Application \$25, Exam-\$100, License- \$2000

Journeyman Automatic Fire Sprinkler Fitter License: Application-\$10, Exam-\$20, Licesne-\$180

Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Apprentice: Registration \$15

Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractor –Maintenance: Application-\$25, Exam-\$50, Registration- \$400

Automatic Fire Sprinkler Fitter – Maintenance: Application-\$10, Exam- NA, Registration-\$60

Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Tester: Application-\$10, Exam- 15, Exam-\$25, Registration- \$18

## UW Campus Fire Guts Fraternity House

The smoke billowing from the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house on North Langdon Street was so intense, it was reported someone could smell it eight blocks away. Three firefighters suffered minor injuries, but no students were hurt. The fire destroyed the house worth 750 thousand dollars. 28 students must now find alternate places to live.

Madison police officer Angie Dyhr spotted the fire around 11:40pm Monday. She saw a burning glow from the back window of the white building, and thought it was a BBQ grill. Dyhr banged on the door of the fraternity house to notify the students of the fire and began an evacuation.

Fraternity member Brian Teresinski, 20, escaped from his first floor room, and then joined other members in counting heads. "We were running around trying to find everybody," Teresinski told 27 News. "It took us about ten minutes to account for everybody, with exams going on, (people) were at the library and kind of scattered throughout."

A few minutes later, flames were shooting ten to twelve feet into the air. The fire was visible for blocks. Hundreds of students gathered around the house, watching the firefighters try to put out the flames. In just 13 minutes, the crews were forced out of the building as roof collapse became a fear. Water was sprinkling down on students along with occasional ash from the blaze. About a dozen fire trucks responded.

A dozen students who lived in the house met with the UW Dean of Students in a Madison Metro bus on scene. She was explaining to them how the university can help them find temporary housing. "This is a terrible time, since it's also finals," said a fraternity member. Red Cross and university officials offered help Tuesday to displaced fraternity residents with vouchers for hotels, food and clothing. Teresinski lost his cell phone, identification, wallet, and furniture. "Grabbed my computer."

The house had a similar fire nine years ago. It sustained 300 hundred thousand dollars in damage at that time.

Authorities said Monday's fire is believed to have started in the back of the home, but no cause of the fire has been established, although arson was not ruled out.

Fire Department spokesperson Bernadette Galvez told 27 News the house passed recent fire department inspections. Galvez said the building's fire alarm system and smoke detectors worked.

The fraternity house was not equipped with a sprinkler system. Fire Marshall Ed Ruckriegel told 27 News if a sprinkler system had been installed, fire damage would have likely been limited. Ruckriegel told 27 News about thirty percent of the campus' fraternity and sorority houses have sprinkler systems. State law requires all fraternity and sorority buildings to have sprinkler systems by 2014.

The Madison chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon has been under university investigation for alleged reverse hazing. Fraternity pledges allegedly used buckets of excrement to douse fraternity members. But authorities said the alleged incident had no connection to the circumstances of the fire.

## **Mayor says sprinkler rules a hindrance; Jahn says businesses have rejected city because ordinance is stricter than state's**

A sprinkler ordinance is putting the city at a "disadvantage" in attracting and keeping businesses, Mayor Ken Jahn said Thursday. Common Council members are set in two weeks (May 22, 2008) to debate the ordinance, put into place about 10 years ago to supplement state and national fire codes.

Jahn said after a Council meeting Thursday that a real-estate official told him two companies passed over Portage when they learned it would mandate sprinklers at a lower square-footage than what state and national fire codes require.

"They looked at Portage and never got to City Hall," he said. "They looked at the Web site, saw our ordinance and never went any further."

Jahn identified the person only as a "real-estate developer" and would not release the person's name. He said he was not told the names of the businesses. "I wish I could substantiate that," Jahn said, adding that the names would add to a more compelling case to change the sprinkler ordinance. "But they built elsewhere."

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Jahn brought before the Council on Thursday the idea of altering the ordinance. The move is partly in response to the plight of QC Electronics in the Portage Industrial Park, a business that is planning a move out of the city because of the sprinkler ordinance.

Portage requires sprinklers in buildings larger than 7,000 square feet if they are made of wood and 10,000 square feet for non-wood buildings. Ken Klein, the co-founder and co-owner of QC, wants to expand the building from 8,500 square feet to 12,000 square feet to land a new contract.

That expansion would require sprinklers under Portage ordinances, but Klein said it doesn't reach the threshold for state fire code. He said the state codes wouldn't kick in for his type of use until 27,000 square feet. Klein could move outside the city limits — he is eyeing a spot in the town of Oxford — to a place that follows state codes so he will not have to spend the extra money on sprinklers.

Council member Carol Heisz said there is an inequity in which Portage's sprinkler ordinance is stricter than that of the surrounding towns in which the city's fire department is called to cover. "Are firefighters in any less danger because they're crossing the street?" she said.

Council members decided to bring the issue up again at its next meeting, scheduled for May 22, instead of letting a committee debate it. "I personally would like to see us take a look at it," Jahn said. "If we're going to be serious about growing this community, I don't think we should be at a disadvantage."

Council member JoAnn Balk said the sprinkler ordinance makes sense for places in which lots of people gather — the rule requires a system in a building housing 100 or more people — but does not at a business with a handful of employees. "We need to get people in here," Balk said.

The city's fire department is opposing any reduction in the sprinkler ordinance. "Sprinklers save lives, that's the bottom line of it," Portage Fire Chief Clayton Simonson said, adding that sprinklers cut down on injuries to and deaths of firefighters battling flames. "You're putting them at more of a risk every time you allow someone to build without sprinklers."

Council President Daniel Brunt said fewer fires are reported at commercial properties than residential ones and that the state code is sufficient. "I don't think the state would be doing this if there was a risk," Brunt said.

Regional Manager Dan Gengler was assisting Chief Simonson with a rebuttal.

## **Onalaska Considers Mandatory Sprinklers**

Whether sprinkler systems should be mandatory in new homes is something the city of Onalaska is considering.

On May 13, the Onalaska Fire Department held a live demonstration with the National Fire Sprinkler Association to show the effectiveness of having a sprinkler system. "People think they have minutes but really it's seconds," said Don Dominick, chief of the Onalaska Fire Department.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association led the demonstration, and lit two fires in two nearly identical rooms. However, one had a sprinkler system and one did not. Within twenty seconds, the smoke alarms went off in both rooms. Twenty seconds later, a sprinkler turned on in one room, and effectively put out the fire. In the other room, the fire kept growing. Within minutes, the room was destroyed.

"When you take a look at what [a sprinkler system] does for survivability, it's actually the best money you can spend," said Dominick. A fire doubles in size every sixty seconds, so firefighters say time is precious.



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"Someone has to discover the fire, and call it in," said Dan Gengler, a Regional Manager for the National Fire Sprinkler Association. "The department has to get mobilized, get there, get geared up, lay out their lines, put water on it, and get into the building. That all takes time."

Combined with smoke alarms, sprinklers cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82 percent. However, some builders are opposed to them because of the cost. Installing sprinklers typically costs one to two percent of the value of the home.

The TV reporter covering the story mentioned that her brother escaped the UW-Madison Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house with just his personal computer and a book bag. The event was a day after the frat house fire.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Burn Center Golf Invitational-Course Preparation**

The Twentieth Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational (BCGI) will be held August 25, 2008. The event will again be played on the Championship Brute and Highlands Courses of the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva. The golf outing and evening program is presented by the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety, assisted by Columbia St Mary's Milwaukee Foundation and sponsored by the Midwest Sprinkler Industries and the Milwaukee Fire Department. The dedicated steering committee couple with dedicated volunteers has always been the successful formula for its success.

The 19<sup>th</sup> event raised \$110,000 and brought the invitational total for the BCGI to a benchmark \$1,614,000. All proceeds directly go to our charities; Columbia-St. Mary's Regional Burn Center, Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youths, Newspapers in Education Fire Safety Program, National Fire Sprinkler Association Education Fund and other WAFS programming.

The event has contributed more than \$1,050,000 to support burn injured survivors as they ordeal their pain in the burn unit. State-of-the-art equipment has been purchased with some of the funds and presently monies are being dedicated to the construction of the unit being built for the new hospital. All thirteen WAFS camps have been supported by the generous participants and contributors of the outing.

Sponsors of the 2008 event will be again be given meaningful and artistic recognition remembrances. Awards will also be given for winners on both courses for total scores and special events. Participants in the golfing event will receive a pair of Addidas golf shoes for this year's give-away.

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

The 2008 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 Winter/Spring 2008**

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Date	Topic	Instructor
June 10	Standpipes, Pressures and Pumps (I)	Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.
June 24	The Extent of Systems (B)	Jeff Hugo

The topics for the 2008 “**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.

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 2008 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU’s completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2008. We can help! NFSA is offering to all AHJ’s the member rate for these live on-line seminars. Order all 10 and save 30%. For more information on this offer and information on these seminars please contact Dawn at [Dawn@nfsa.org](mailto:Dawn@nfsa.org) or 845-878-4200 x133.*

Date	Topic	Instructor
June 19	Safety for Contractors	Ray Lonabaugh

**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 North Central Regional In-Class Seminars**

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule more 2008 programming, Contact Dan Gengler (262) 245-5255 or [dannfsa@aol.com](mailto: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.

The Oak Creek, WI Fire Department is co-sponsoring Half-Day Introduction to Fire Sprinkler Systems (June 10), One-Day Plan Review, Policies and Procedures (June 11), Half-Day Commissioning & Acceptance Testing of Fire Sprinkler Systems and Half-Day Underground Piping for Fire Protection Systems (June 12) seminars. Again, get Minnesota & Wisconsin CEU’s for attending.

Milwaukee, July 22-24, 2008, will be hosting an Inspection and Testing Technician NICET Level 2 Study Review Seminar - This three-day seminar has been developed for individuals that inspect and test water-based fire protection systems. The purpose of the seminar is to assist individuals in advancing their careers by reviewing



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material necessary for Level II certification in the relatively new NICET Subfield of Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

Contact Dawn Fitzmaurice, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 133 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 6th 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 - Thanks for your industry support!**

**Absolute Fire Protection**

**Hermantown, MN**

**(6/05/03) 5 years**

**Olsen Fire Protection, Inc.**

**Minneapolis, MN**

**(6/1/85) 23 years**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**(6/15/04) 4 years**

**Olympic Fire Protection**

**Owatonna, MN**

**(6/01/86) 22 years**