



March 2010



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

[eod@nfsa.org](mailto:eod@nfsa.org)

Help us help you, pass this on in-house

## NFSA Annual Convention in Chicago Nears

Registration materials for NFSA's 2010 Annual Seminar have been available for more than a month. Packets can be easily accessed by the link at the right of our homepage, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org). Hard copies have been mailed and should have been received in your offices. The seminar will be held at the Fairmont Chicago, April 15-16. The Fairmont is a premier property, located within walking distance to Chicago's Navy Pier and shopping on the famed "Magnificent Mile". Springtime in Chicago is an experience not to be missed! The seminar has been compressed into two days, minimizing the time our members have to take away from their businesses. The number of workshop sessions has increased, providing maximum training opportunities in a minimum amount of time. Program topics include Worker Compensation Tips, Fire Dynamics for the Sprinkler Industry, How to Sell Sprinkler Retrofit, Green Sprinkler Issues and so much more. Go to our website to take a look through the materials and see the great programs we have lined up for you. Space is filling up fast.

### TRAINING IN CONJUNCTION WITH NFSA's 2010 ANNUAL SEMINAR

- APRIL 14**     ½ Day-COMPACT STORAGE (a.m.)
- APRIL 14**     ½ Day-FIRE PUMP LAYOUT & SIZING (p.m.)
- APRIL 15**     ½ Day-COMMISSIONING & ACCEPTANCE TESTING (a.m.)

## Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced In Senate

On January 22, 2010, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) as primary cosponsor, introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2010. The bill is the Senate companion bill to HR 1194 in the House of Representatives introduced last year by Representatives Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Eric Cantor (R-VA).

The FSIA intends to amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. Passage of this landmark fire protection legislation will accelerate cost recovery of fire sprinkler retrofits in a large inventory of critical occupancies built under older codes prior to requirements for inclusion of fire sprinkler systems and get us one giant step closer to a fire safe America.

Hats off to a small working group of allied organizations who have worked tirelessly over the past several months on behalf of many more groups to get this bill introduced. In addition, we applaud the vision and leadership of Senators Carper and Collins in joining together to insure bipartisan support for a very important quality of life issue.

Continue to monitor the Web site for posting of a bill number.

## **Tubbs Jones Act Introduced to Provide Grants for Campuses**

Senator Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) has asked for public support for *S 1791 the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Act* presently being considered in the U.S. 111th Congress. This legislation, that Senator Brown has introduced last fall, will provide grants for the installation of "fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories." This bill has been introduced in the House as well. It was first introduced in 2001 by the late Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a long-time campus fire safety advocate. It passed the House in 2008 but there was not sufficient time left in the session for it to be taken up in the Senate.

As you have done in the past, you are asked if your organization would be willing to co-sign a letter of support that would be sent by Senator Brown's office as a "Dear Colleague" to all of the members of the Senate asking them to become co-sponsors. Forward your letters A.S.A.P. to:

Senator Sherrod Brown, <http://brown.senate.gov/contact/> copy and paste your letter in the comments box at the bottom of the page.

The following is draft language for the letter (followed by the text of the legislation). Please let me know if you should have any questions...and thanks!

*Dear Senator:*

*We would like to ask for your support of **S 1791 the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act** which has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This legislation will help schools "to promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories" and will help to keep our nation's youth safe from the tragedy of fire. There is no doubt that early warning and suppression of a fire saves lives and we should help to provide the best level of protection possible to tomorrow's leaders.*

*The fire in January 2000 that killed three freshmen at Seton Hall University was a dramatic "wake-up" call for schools and administrators. Unfortunately, the toll continues with fires across the nation continuing to claim the lives of young people, our future. Since January 2000, 136 people have been killed in campus-related fires according to information compiled by Campus Firewatch. This legislation will help significantly in addressing this issue by encouraging the installation of systems that will provide the warning of a fire and suppress it in its earliest stages.*

*We ask that you join with us in helping to protect our campuses and our future.*

*Thank you for your support.*

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## Sprinkler Saves

None reported this month.

## 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.

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

## Federal grant to help fund sprinkler system for Brainerd fire hall

The Brainerd Fire Department will use a \$19,473 federal grant to install a sprinkler system at the fire hall.

Mark Turner, a fire equipment operator, said the fire hall's size was such that a sprinkler system was not required when it was built.

Rep. Jim Oberstar, D-Minn., said the Brainerd department was one of 19 fire departments to receive funding from the Department of Homeland Security's Aid to Firefighters Grant Program. Note: *Representative Oberstar is the only MN Congressman to have co-signed the Fire Sprinkler Act 2009.*

The Pine River Fire Department received \$32,372 in grant money. Chief Keith Farnam said the money would be used for a thermal imaging camera, which senses variations of temperature in smoke-filled rooms: gas monitors and 27 voice pagers.



**Left: Jerry Lind receiving National Automatic Sprinkler Company's 25 year NFSA Membership Award. Congrats and thanks for your dedication to the industry.**



Ron Peil, President of Response Fire Protection, Inc. is handed his ten year NFSA Membership Award. Ron is also thanked for his dedicated service for the industry in Minnesota.

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

## Marshfield Looks to Lower thresholds for Commercial Buildings

Marshfield Fire & Rescue Chief James Schmidt and Deputy Chief Ed Erickson conducted two public invited education sessions in late January to support the department's campaign to lower their commercial building code thresholds to 5,000 square feet. Included in what is anticipated to be an ordinance proposal soon is to require retrofit sprinkler protection in existing buildings that add 5,000 square feet, expand their space to 5,000 square feet or remodel more than 50% of the assessed value of the existing building. AC Erickson surveyed the entire state for communities of similar size to formulate their ordinance proposal and discovered a number that would still be more stringent.

Prior to the second session on January 28, 2010, NFSA Manager of Codes Jeff Hugo presented a 6-hour Sprinkler Advantage Seminar. The program accentuated the concept that "it is economically foolish to build a commercial building without fire sprinkler protection."

Both two hour sessions included presentations by the fire & rescue department and NFSA. As expected questions from attendees offered insight into what concerns may be. To nearly everyone's satisfaction, answers provided closure to some challenges the audience may have had. Anti-sprinkler sediments were exhibited and to those any answer would have been wrong.

The Chief & staff will be meeting in the near future to formulate the language of the ordinance.



## Fire Sprinkler Coalition Slowly Advancing

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The Wisconsin Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition nears completion of their targeted the four programs designed to educate the public, fire service, authorities having jurisdiction and construction stakeholders & legislators. The concept and educational programming will be presented to the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Education Conference in Wisconsin Dells on March 4, 2010.

The State of Wisconsin is in the process of reviewing the codes for construction. The state is NOT considering the International Residential Code - 2009 as a replacement for the Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code. Within that scope is the inclusion of residential fire sprinklers for one- and two-family homes and townhouses, it is anticipated that there will be plenty of opposition to the concept.

With the above non-action, there appears to be but two alternatives; pursue zoning requirements in local communities to require sprinklers or attempt to overturn what is termed the uniformity of one- & two-family fire safety construction. The Wisconsin Fire Protection Coalition is pursuing the *uniformity* provisions in state statutes that has prevented local communities from adopting ordinances calling for mandatory residential fire sprinkler protection in newly constructed homes. That too will be a process.

## **Lynita Docken appointed Acting Director for S&B Bureau of Program Development**

Safety and Building Division Administrator Greg Jones has appointed Lynita Docken as Acting Bureau of Program Development Director. Former Bureau Director Robert DuPont has retired.

Docken, a Program Manager usually based in the Holmen S&B office, will be working part-time in Madison supervising the program managers and other staff in the bureau. She will continue to oversee the Plumbing Program while Roman Kaminski will oversee the Public Swimming Pool Program that previously was Docken's.

Docken is in charge of code development, serving as the lead contact for all development projects. She will also have responsibilities in budgeting, workforce planning, and strategic planning. Docken may be reached at [lynita.docken@wisconsin.gov](mailto:lynita.docken@wisconsin.gov), 608-785-9349.

## **NFSA Online Interactive Seminars Schedule - \*\*\*Get Wisconsin CEU's**

The 2010 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time and run approximately 1.5-hours.

Seminar topics are designed to different levels of understanding, Basic (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A) levels. There are several seminars that cross two levels.

### **March 9, 2010**

#### **Ceiling Pockets and Other Configurations**

**Intermediate**

Karl Wiegand, Manager of Installation Standards

Over the past three editions of NFPA 13, the rules for installing sprinklers in ceiling pockets and under ceilings that change elevation have evolved. In the 2010 Edition of the standard, the Committee took steps to clarify the definition of a ceiling pocket and how the pocket rules should be applied including the use of quick

response sprinklers in rooms with ceiling pockets. The Committee also allowed very small ceiling pockets where residential sprinklers are used adopting criteria from NFPA 13R. The seminar will explain the evolution of the rules and the effect on other sections within NFPA 13.

**March 23, 2010**

### **Calculating Standpipe Systems**

**Basic**

Kevin J. Kelly, P.E., NFSA Consultant

The rules for performing hydraulic calculations of standpipe systems will be reviewed including the rules for combined sprinkler/standpipe systems. The review will include clarifications in the upcoming new edition of NFPA 14 regarding the addition of flows from risers that are not the most remote and the calculation of systems in portions of buildings that are not as tall as other portions of the same building.

**April 6, 2010**

### **Dealing with Sloped Ceilings**

**Intermediate**

Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., Director of Product Standards

Sprinkler spacing, coverage area and hydraulics all have slight modifications when the system is being installed below a sloped ceiling. This seminar will cover items such as very steep pitches, use of sidewall sprinklers, and even hanging considerations.

The topics for the **2010 "BUSINESS THURSDAY"** Seminars have been specifically selected to help the fire sprinkler contractor deal with current problem areas in the business environment. The instructors bring varied backgrounds relevant to the subjects they will be teaching. **Watch for schedule next month!**

From the desktop of an office or the comforts of a home, one can watch the 1½-hour live-interactive seminar and receive credit. When registering for the seminar, the registrant needs to inform the NFSA that they are in need to receive Wisconsin CEU's. Those needing CEU's for their 2010 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU's completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2010. 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 Mike at [mrepko@nfsa.org](mailto:mrepko@nfsa.org) or 845-878-4207.**

**March 18, 2010**

### **The Fire Sprinkler Industry "State of the Economy"**

Buddy Dewar, NFSA Vice President Regional Operations

Given the state of the economy, we in the fire sprinkler industry are taking the opportunity to look at all aspects of our operations and review ways to not only survive, but how to leverage ourselves for the future. poor economic conditions are often the best times to take a look at ourselves and strengthen our companies. This presentation will review a history of how we got where we are and present an outlook for the future. It will also suggest ways to strengthen our business as we move ahead.

**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 Mike at (845) 878-4207. Check these on-line programs:**

**NFSA North/South Central Regional In-Class Seminars**

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Your regional manager is looking to schedule 2010 programming in a facility near you. Please contact at [dannfsa@aol.com](mailto:dannfsa@aol.com) or call (262) 245-5255. Check the NFSA web site to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

The Fire Marshals Marshal's Association of Minnesota is co-sponsoring 1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007) and 1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2010) seminars at the Maple Grove EOC, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN 55311 on May 11-12, 2010 to be repeated May 13-14, 2010 at the Shakopee Fire Department, 129 Holmes Street, Shakopee, MN 55379. *Note: Space is limited to 70 persons for each class. Registrations will be handled on a "first-come" basis. E-mail confirmations will be sent. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged; payments can be sent later or made "at the door". Cancellations made by May 4th can receive a full refund. No "walk-up" registrations will be accepted.*

**Registration deadline: Friday, April 30, 2010**

**Registrations can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:**

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota • 678 Pinewood Drive • Shoreview, MN 55126-4749

Fax: (651) 215-0525 • E-Mail: [jonnisja@comcast.net](mailto:jonnisja@comcast.net)

The McFarland, WI Fire Department is co-sponsoring 1-Day Plan Review Procedures/Policies (May 25), ½ - Day Standpipe Systems (NFPA 14) (May 26), ½ -Day Commissioning & Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (May 26) and a ½-Day Foam Water Sprinkler System (NFPA 16) (May 27). Get Minnesota & Wisconsin CEU's for attending.

The West Allis Fire Department is co-sponsoring 1-Day Sprinkler Protection for General Storage (June 2), 1-Day Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage (June 3) and ½ -Day Commissioning & Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (June 4)

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.

## **NFSA Honor Role**

**Brothers Fire Protection**

**Elk River, MN (3/24/99) 11 years**

**Thanks for your industry support!**

## **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.*