



EMULATE THE BEST TO BE THE BEST

In keeping with the National Fire Sprinkler Association mission to assist our members in capturing the best they can, we have produced the Business Operations Report. It was developed with the help of many successful contractors to gauge how your company is doing compared to the industry on topics like employee wages and benefits, inventory valuations, insurance premiums, fabrication options, company fleet, advertising and training. These issues and more can help your business reach a bolder bottom line. Go to: www.nfsa.org/bos.doc for information on how to obtain this great business tool.

[NFSA Joins into Partnership with Home Safety Council](#)

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to announce it has joined the Home Safety Council (HSC) as a Keystone Sponsor, their highest sponsorship level.

HSC is a national, non-profit organization focused solely on preventing injuries in and around the home. According to their research, fires and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional home injury deaths behind falls and poisoning. Adults over 70 and children under 5 years of age are at the highest risk.

Residential fire sprinklers are among the core messages within HSC's public outreach and they have been successful at broadening the public's awareness in a variety of very prominent vehicles including:

- The Home Safety Council website
- The Home Safety Council Expert Network website providing free resources and support to nearly 3,000 fire and life safety educators
- The Weekly Reader website where **HSC President Meri-K Appy** contributes a home safety column on a regular basis
- National Broadcast and print media resulting in over 40 million impressions including:
 - CNN's "Open House" - 2 million viewers
 - "Dear Abby" column - 95 million readership
 - "BottomLine Personal" newsletter - > 1 million circulation

When asked about their support of HSC, **NFSA President John A. Viniello** said, "HSC is the country's leading organization in the promotion of safety in the home. With fire being among the leading causes of death in the home and the majority of deaths by fire being in the home, we are proud to be among their top sponsors to help mitigate these tragic losses." He added, "This is an exciting partnership that will serve to raise public awareness to even greater heights to the value and benefits of residential fire sprinklers."

[Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Update](#)

2004 Fire Act Grant Status: Most of the primary components of the program were introduced at the 2006 International Builders' Show. The show was a great success with many more homebuilders wanting to know about residential sprinkler protection. The grant is scheduled to be complete by March 2006. The program includes the following:

• “*Living with Sprinklers*” consumer education: This educational material is targeted to families who live in homes protected with fire sprinkler systems. This information has been requested primarily by members of the fire service and homebuilding industry in areas with NFPA 13D ordinances.

The kit includes:

- DVD video for home occupants. HFSC’s spokesperson, Ron Hazelton, walks viewers through his own home, providing advice on how to take care of a residential fire sprinkler system.
- Tips and Maintenance card: Includes illustrations and tips for home occupants with information supported by the video. The card is designed in a format that can be used by sprinkler contractors to include with other information kept with the system riser. Builders can include the card in closing kits.
- Direct Mail: The video will be sent via direct mail to targeted members of the fire service and sprinkler contractors in areas with NFPA 13D ordinances.

Free copies of the material will be available for home occupants. The material will also be promoted through trade advertising and on the HFSC Web site: www.homefiresprinkler.org.

National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Seniors Housing Council sponsorship: HFSC was an elite sponsor at the May 2005 Seniors Housing Council. HFSC will also participate as a sponsor during 2006 IBS Senior Housing Awards luncheon.

[New National Survey Shows a Majority of Homebuilders Believe That Fire Sprinklers Increase a Home’s Value - Builders who install fire sprinklers as standard are seen as innovative and caring.](#)

In a new national poll commissioned by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) and conducted by Harris Interactive®, 45 percent of U.S. homeowners said a sprinklered home is more desirable than an unsprinklered home, most often because of the added safety provided by the sprinklers (51%).

The survey also found that 69 percent of homeowners believe having a fire sprinkler system increases the value of a home, and 38 percent say they would be more likely to purchase a new home with sprinklers than one without. HFSC commissioned the December 2005 survey of 1,019 U.S. adults (620 of whom own a house) in order to measure awareness of residential fire sprinkler systems and gauge feelings toward builders who install fire sprinklers as a standard feature of a new home.

“It’s ironic and very unfortunate that the places where people are most likely to die in fires are the least likely to be protected by sprinklers,” says **HFSC Chair Gary Keith**.

[Fire Team USA Launched](#)

The NFSA has announced the launch of Fire Team USA, a partnership between the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Inspectors Association, NFSA, and the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department to address the economics of various fire safety issues within communities across the United States, including residential fire sprinkler ordinance adoption. The work of Fire Team USA was piloted in Tennessee in 2005 with a grant called Fire Team Tennessee, and proved to be successful in communities across the Volunteer state.

In 2006, grants totaling \$650 million will provide direct assistance to thousands of fire departments and organizations throughout the country. Fire Team USA will use a portion of those funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings public policy makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals together to learn about fire sprinklers and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community.

Vickie Pritchett, NFSA Associate Director of Public Fire Protection, will serve as Fire Team USA project manager. Vickie will be working with **Jim Dalton, NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection**, **Wayne Waggoner, NFSA Southeast Regional Manager**, **Shane Ray, former Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief**, now **NFSA Associate Director of Public Fire Protection** and the NFSA training division to deliver the Fire Team USA workshop to 10 states in 2006.

When asked about the launch of Fire Team USA, **NFSA President John Viniello** said, “The Fire Team USA initiative will take the education and promotion of residential sprinklers to a whole new level, which will indeed lead to a more fire safe America by reducing deaths and injuries from fire in the home.” He went on to say, “Coupled with the work of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the Home Safety Council, with whom NFSA has recently partnered, when looking back in the years to come on the progress and acceptance of the residential sprinkler concept, the role Fire Team USA played will prove significant.”

“Fire Team Tennessee brought together the necessary statistics, tools and resources and delivered them to the stakeholders who can do something good with the information,” explains Ray. “It is rewarding to see the key players in communities come together and realize that fire sprinklers will make a difference in the quality of life in the community. The communities that we reach with this message will be better prepared as they grow, and it is great to help them plan for a future that includes fire protection.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Department’s United States Fire Administration.

For more information on Fire Team USA, contact them at 615.533.0305, visit online at www.fireteamusa.com or email FireTeamUSA@aol.com.

[NIST and the World Trade Center](#)

The collapse of New York City’s World Trade Center structures following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was the worst building disaster in recorded history, killing some 2,800 people. More than 350 fire and emergency responders were among those killed, the largest loss of life for this group in a single incident.

In response to the WTC tragedy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology conducted a 3-year building and fire safety investigation to study the factors contributing to the probable cause (or causes) of post-impact collapse of the WTC Towers (WTC 1 and 2) and WTC 7; expanded its research in areas of high-priority need such as prevention of progressive collapse, fire resistance design and retrofit of structures, and fire resistive coatings for structural steel; and is reaching out to the building and fire safety communities to pave the way for timely, expedited considerations of recommendations stemming from the investigation. For more information, go to: www.wtc.nist.gov.

[USFA Residential Sprinkler Initiative](#)

USFA Residential Sprinkler Initiative transmitted a recent report from NIST on life-cycle cost analysis of NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. The report can be found at: www.bfrl.nist.gov/oea/publications/nistirs/NISTIR_7277.pdf.

[NFSA Appoints Pritchett and Ray Associate Directors, Public Fire Protection](#)

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to announce as of January 1, 2006 the appointment of **Vickie Pritchett** to the position of **Associate Director of Public Fire Protection**. **Shane Ray** has also been appointed to the same position effective March 15, 2006.

Vickie has an extensive background in public service. When she started her own company in 1990, she worked with clients to improve school curriculum, facilitate planning for economic and community development and create new business opportunities. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department where she was instrumental in bringing together fire officials, builders and developers to pass a zero square foot fire sprinkler ordinance for the town.

Shane is a veteran of the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department and was an integral part of the Fire Team Tennessee program that has evolved into the national road show for fire sprinkler advocacy. He brings heart and soul to the NFSA and promises to be another great asset to the organization's political and educational outreach.

Vickie and Shane will be working with **NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton**, to expand the work of Fire Team Tennessee into a national initiative. Fire Team Tennessee is a collaborative effort between NFSA, the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Inspectors Association and the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department to address the economics of various fire safety issues within the state of Tennessee including residential fire sprinkler ordinance adoption.

NFSA President John Viniello said, "Even before her appointment with NFSA, Vickie was a strong proponent of residential fire sprinkler legislation, demonstrated by her work with the Pleasant View, Tennessee fire department. She has a passion for community and a rare, innate ability to bring people together to achieve a common goal. She will be an invaluable asset working with Jim Dalton as we continue to push for passage of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Acts."

[Franson Appointed Chair of UL/FM/NFSA Standards Review Committee](#)

Scott Franson, Vice President of Design and Development for the Viking Corporation, has been appointed the new chair of the UL/FM/NFSA Standards Review Committee. He replaces **Peter Thomas of Tyco Fire and Building Products**, whose job responsibilities no longer permitted him to serve in that capacity.

The Committee operates as a subcommittee of the NFSA Engineering and Standards Committee, and E&S Committee Chairman Dick Oliver made the appointment after soliciting recommendations from within the committee. The UL/FM/NFSA Standards Review Committee was first formed in 1974 as a mechanism for producing a unified U.S. position on fire sprinkler product issues in the activities of the International Standards Organization. Over the years it has become an important forum by which representatives of the fire sprinkler manufacturers and the product testing laboratories can discuss issues of importance, and try to achieve consensus in test requirements and methods. The Committee often develops proposals to the NFPA installation standards that reflect the thinking of the product side of the industry.

Commenting on the appointment, **NFSA Executive Vice President Russ Fleming** expressed his confidence that Scott Franson will carry on the tradition of bringing the laboratories and manufacturers together. He also thanked Pete Thomas for many years of service in that capacity, and noted that Mr. Thomas will continue to represent NFSA in other technical activities, including the Fire Sprinkler Expert Group of the British Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB) and the NFPA Cultural Resources Committee.

Noteworthy Sprinkler Saves

Libertyville Fire at Pine Tree Pet Extinguished Quickly

A fire that could have created \$1 million in property loss and the death of viable business was just a minor setback for a Libertyville pet store - thanks to its sprinkler system, fire officials say. **Assistant Libertyville Fire Chief Bob Kleinheinz** said the fire at 2:30 a.m. on January 23 at the Pine Tree Pet Super Center, in the Greentree Plaza, could have been devastating. The electrical fire caused about \$5,000 in damage, and the store opened later that same day.

Kleinheinz said the minor damage sustained is the exact reason he diligently lobbied for the Village of Libertyville to change its fire code - a success he achieved this past year. "There has been a change to the remodeling code," he said. "Any existing building with plans to change more than 50 percent of the square footage are now required to install a sprinkler system."

Additionally, Kleinheinz said all new residential structures are required to have sprinkling systems. "This is why we worked so hard to see these changes," he said. "(Sprinkler systems) really work." "The pet store is about a block off the street," he said. "At that time of night (off-peak for traffic) it probably wouldn't have been seen until the flames were advanced. That structure would probably have been a total loss and it is likely there would have been damage to the next door neighbor."

Quick notification by the systems alarm network helped. "That was a difference of 30 gallons of water per minute being used by the sprinkler system versus the 250 gallons of water that would have come from our fire hoses," said Kleinheinz. "We had to use a couple of water vacs and some fans to blow the smoke out of the building, but it really wasn't much." None of the birds or mammals were hurt.

Marty Neal, the store's owner, said yellow caution tape blocks off about one-third of the store. "It could have been much worse," he said. "I didn't realize this, but the sprinkler heads detect the heat. Thankfully, only one head popped in the area of the fire."

Stoughton Records Sprinkler Save in Condo

This statement was forwarded by Scott **Wegner, Deputy Chief / Fire Marshall, Stoughton Fire Department**.

"You might be interested that we had a successful activation in an 88 unit condo building. Fire was contained to ½ of recliner in a second floor apartment. Fire crews entered the apartment and discovered 3" of water throughout the apartment. The fire crew quickly opened the patio door then shut off sprinkler system to stop water flow. Most all the residents evacuated and were kept outside until the sprinkler contractor made the necessary head replacement. All were allowed back within 2 hrs of this incident. An unsprinklered building would have a different outcome."

Save in Bloomington

One man was taken to a Twin City hospital after a report of someone throwing something burning out a window. The call was to a second-story apartment at 804 Turnberry Drive, where firefighters found a sprinkler had gone off, **Acting Assistant Chief Jim Tatman** said. Firefighters found nothing burning outside when they arrived.

The sprinkler caused water damage on the second floor and flooded the downstairs apartment. Tatman said cabinets and a curtain melted in the second-floor apartment, but the sprinklers had put out the fire. A woman and two small children who evacuated the downstairs apartment were given blankets from a Bloomington Fire Department ambulance, and then they got into a car to get out of the cold.

Further information was not available on the man with burns who was taken to BroMenn Regional Medical Center, Normal.

Space Heater Blamed in Loves Park Fire

A common household space heater, turned on overnight to keep a piece of machinery warm, was determined to be the cause of a fire Wednesday at the Midwest Recycling of Illinois building, 2131 Harlem Road.

Loves Park Fire Chief Phil Foley said the space heater was placed on a piece of wood near a conveyor belt. The wood ignited, as did plastic bottles. Loves Park firefighters were dispatched at 10:20 p.m. and encountered heavy smoke.

“Thank God for sprinklers,” Foley said. “I imagine they could have lost the whole building.” Foley said the building is kept at a low overnight temperature, and the space heater was used to keep the machinery and its oil-lubricated parts warm.

Sprinkler Saves - WE NEED THIS INFO TO HELP PROMOTE THE INDUSTRY!

Contact me **A.S.A.P. at (262) 245-5255 or e-mail: dannfsa@aol.com** if you have information regarding a Major Fire or Sprinkler Save. A major fire is defined as “one where there is extensive property loss, multiple death or injury to citizens or firefighters, or any other significant circumstances regarding fire sprinkler protection or lack thereof.” 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.

Responding to the author of Firehouse Magazine article titled, Ohio Analysis: Homes With Smoke Alarms Have More Fire Injuries:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/printer.jsp?id=46957>

RM Response to Reporter

In response written by Mr. B. Ruth for the *Dispatch* regarding the author’s analysis that more people are injured in home fires when smoke alarms are operating your regional manager wrote:

I read the "Ohio Analysis: Homes With Smoke Alarms Have More Fire Injuries" article and agree with **NFPA's Marty Ahrens** when he stated in your writing that "Smoke alarms don't provide any guarantees. But you're much better off with them than without them."

I have often said that smoke alarms tell you there is a fire and don't save your life; you have to respond to the alarm and save yourself. When working, smoke alarms are just noise to the infant in a crib, the elderly, or non-ambulatory and won't save their lives without physical assistance. I was a 26.5 year veteran of the fire service and witnessed several deaths from fire where smoke alarms were sounding.

Your reporting of the Ohio experience accentuates the fire prevention mission. What you failed to identify in your recommendations was the influence residential fire sprinklers have in the total fire safety package. The "*America Burning Reports*" of 1973, 1986 and 2000 all recommend the formula to survive fires and reduce injury potential; practice fire safety every moment, everywhere, have working early warning devices, have and practice an escape plan and lastly, install an automatic fire sprinkler system and maintain it. A lot of well learned people without vested product interests worked years to formulate those reports. Passages should be quoted daily in this country because of our fire potential.

The NFPA strongly represents this position with the proof in their standards. The 2006 documents; NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and NFPA 5,000 Building Code all include provisions requiring automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. The media, fire service, legislators and building communities should all understand this to be the link to further reducing life loss and injuries caused by the byproducts of fire.

Daniel J. Gengler
Midwest Regional Manager
National Fire Sprinkler Association

[The NFSA 2006 Annual Seminar will be held April 26 - 29 at the Fairmont- It's Almost Too Late](#)

Southampton in sunny, windswept Bermuda. Perched royally on the edge of the island's highest rocky bluff providing magnificent views of azure ocean overlooking what can only be described as the world's finest pink sand beaches, as expected by anyone traveling to the colony for the first time, the Fairmont Southampton exudes old world British charm.

With the theme, "*Beachhead for Best Practices*", the program will prominently feature speaker sessions on the important role Best Practices will play in the continued development of the fire sprinkler industry.

Other sessions slated include a Sprinkler Contractor Forum designed especially for the CEO, CFO and President, Making an Impact at the Local Level - a review of the success of NFPA 13D ordinance adoptions in the Chicagoland area, the latest and greatest in foreman and supervisor training, The 2007 NFPA Sprinkler Standards, a federal legislation update and much, much more.

As customary for an NFSA Annual Seminar, a golf tournament will be held at the Port Royal Golf Course on Wednesday, April 26 with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. As such, all golfers should make their flight arrangements to arrive on the island at least by Tuesday evening. A form to reserve tees and greens sponsorships for the tournament is available in GrassRoots.

The conference will close with an awards banquet on the evening of Saturday, April 29 with those due recognition for performance above and beyond what can be considered par during the week's competitions, getting it. Check www.nfsa.org periodically for updates. In the meantime, airfare reservations are only a click away. Don't wait until the last minute. The best seats to this island paradise will be the first to go.

[Fire Sprinkler Contractor Business Operations Report](#)

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is pleased to report that it has completed its 2004 fire sprinkler contractor Business Operations Survey. The results have been formatted into an easy-to-read Business Operations Report that provides benchmark information for fire sprinkler contractor operations of various sizes and business orientations.

The contractors who provided the information from which the final report was generated did so anonymously and voluntarily with complete confidentiality of a third party auditor for the benefit of all who participated in the survey. The report is unbiased and no interpretation has been made by NFSA on its findings. As such, it is the fire sprinkler industry's single source of business operations information that can be used purely to measure your company's performance to that of other companies of a similar size based on sales. The reporting companies are divided in the following three categories: <\$8MM (4 companies), \$8MM - \$19MM (3 companies) and over \$19MM (4 companies).

Although only a small number of contractors participated in the survey, the results can be a valuable tool for anyone responsible for the day to day operation of a fire sprinkler contractor.

For more information call: (845)-878-4200 Ext. 118.

*******[NICET Prep Training Comes to Chicago-Time Running Out to Register](#)*******

The NFSA has scheduled a **2-week Basic Technician Training Course** for **March 6-17 2006** to be held at the William Tell. If you haven't registered, it's too late!

The NFSA has also scheduled the **3-day Advanced Technician Training Class** for **April 18-20, 2006** 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.

Those of you not possessing a NICET certified employee may want to participate in this programming as it will help you with your business more than you know!

[IFSA 6th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition in Lisbon Scheduled for March 2006](#)

The International Fire Sprinkler Association (IFSA) 6th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition is scheduled for 28 - 29 March, 2006 at the LeMeridien Park Atlantic hotel in historic Lisbon, Portugal. Mark the calendar! Save the dates!

This will be the largest trade show in Europe dedicated solely to the fire sprinkler industry. Promising to be even larger than the 5th International Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition held in Berlin in the summer of 2004, stand space for this event will undoubtedly sell out early. Those in attendance in Berlin will remember the outstanding champagne reception that was held inside the exhibition hall. With business being conducted right up until the last minute of the show and many vendors having visitors even after the lights were turned off, it was abundantly clear the inaugural event was an overwhelming success. The 2006 event in Lisbon is expected to be even better.

While the program content and registration details are still being finalized, a priority list for those interested in stand space for the exhibition has been established. To be added to the priority mailing list to be among the first to receive registration information for both the conference and exhibition, contact should be made by email with Debby Somers at somers@nfsa.org. Registration materials are expected to be mailed during the first week of December 2005.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to market products and services to the rapidly expanding fire sprinkler market throughout Europe.

[Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 - HR 1131 & SB 512](#)

Access the Special Link Page through [NFSA.org](#)

Even with the hurricane disasters of 2005 and the continuance of the Gulf War, the numbers of co-sponsors are rising in both the House and Senate. There is hope that the bill will be acted on as part of a fiscal package in spring. As of this writing, representatives now number **151** and growing with Illinois and Wisconsin contingencies holding steady at 15 and 4 respectively..

Both the House and Senate versions of the *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005* are **posted on the NFSA web site link page**, <http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/fsiahome.html>. In addition to the bills, the site contains a host of other important information that can be downloaded, including a list of current cosponsors and support organizations. Most importantly, it is time once again to write to your Senators and Representatives to advocate for passage of this landmark fire protection legislation.

The following organizations support the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act:

All members of the Congressional Fire Service Institute National Advisory Committee (which includes all the major national fire service organizations), National Fire Sprinkler Association, American Fire Sprinkler Association, Building Owners & Managers Association International, Mechanical Contractors Association, Lowes Home Safety Council, American Insurance Association, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, The Associated General Contractors of America, The Lightning Safety Alliance, American Society of Safety Engineers, American Health Care Association, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., International Code Council, American Institute of Architects, and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

Make a difference, join the effort, write you representatives in Congress and encourage their support of this historic fire safety legislation. Fire Sprinklers Save Lives and Property!

Thanks to all who have actively participated in this venture, a victory here means employment for the industry for quite some time to come.

Illinois Representatives needed to sign on are down to four of the state's nineteen representatives. Speaker **Dennis J. Hastert, 14th**, is not able to commit because of his position. **But Daniel Lipinski, 3rd, Danny K. Davis, 7th and Melissa L. Bean, 8th**, have yet to sign on. Wisconsin Representatives not signing at this point: **Ron Kind, 3rd, Gwen Moore, 4th, Thomas E. Petri, 6th, David R. Obey, 7th**. If you are constituents of any of these congressmen, please follow the instructions above.

Fifteen senators have committed to the Senate side of the bill. Senators from both states have yet to commit as well, contact them too:

Durbin, Richard- (D - IL)

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-2152

Web Form: durbin.senate.gov/sitepages/contact.htm

Obama, Barack- (D - IL)

713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-2854

Web Form: obama.senate.gov/contact/

Feingold, Russell- (D - WI)

506 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-5323

E-mail: russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov

Kohl, Herb- (D - WI)

330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-5653

Web Form: kohl.senate.gov/gen_contact.html.

[NFSA ENGINEER OF THE DAY –This Service is paying your competitors dues](#)

The NFSA Engineering Department has established a new email address for requests of the Engineer of the Day. The new address is eod@nfsa.org

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

ILLINOIS

Illinois Task Force on Model Building Code Meets for Fifth Time

Another meeting for the Illinois Task Force on Model Building Code was held in Springfield February 6, 2006. The task force met to review the first draft of the document to be presented to the state legislature. Another meeting has been scheduled for mid March to hopefully finalize the proposal. Barring some vested interest to stop the concept of a statewide building code, the state legislature should move to start the development process sometime this year.

Industry Reps Still Meeting to Clarify Rules

Another broken record regarding the establishment of an Administrative rule Package regarding the PE/NICET layout submittals. Communications continue between legislators, professional engineers, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the industry to clarify the language of Administrative Rule. Nothing new has happened but the FM's Office should have presented language by the time of this delivery.

As previously stated I will keep you informed of our progress with this important legislation. **But as of January 1, 2006, NICET certified plans are legal for submission to Authorities Having Jurisdiction.**

Fire Team USA to Visit Illinois

Illinois has been selected to be one of ten states to present the Fire Team USA program. **Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager**, has been working with the **Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal** to host the day and half program August 9-10, 2006. 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.

Illinois Fire Prevention Outing Scheduled for June 12

The 11th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational has been scheduled for June 12, 2006 and again will be held at the beautiful and challenging Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan. After last year's record outing for fundraising and participation, the steering committee has been up to the task to make this event even greater. Don't wait until it's too late to enter, reply right away when you receive your invite.

Sponsorships at multi levels are being sought for this fantastic outing. For more information contact Amos **Minor, U.S. Fire Protection at, (847) 816-0050.**

Wisconsin

Commercial & Multi-Family Code Council Review of the Wisconsin Building Code Revisions Has Builders Mounting Campaign to Kill Sprinkler Requirements

The Metropolitan Builders Association of Greater Milwaukee (MBA) is attempting to block a critical portion of the proposal being forwarded for Public Hearing. Specifically, they are opposing the inclusion of all multifamily buildings being required to fire sprinkler protected. The adoption of the International Building Code-2006 includes this reference and is in direct conflict with state mini-max legislation for multifamily buildings. If adopted the building code would take preference and thus kill the mini-max provisions of state law.

The MBA has sent their members and other anti-sprinkler advocates a communication asking for help to stop the sprinkler provisions. There is a strong movement to push the sprinkler provisions and it includes the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. We should know soon if the package will move forward for an April public hearing schedule.

COMM 14 Moves NFPA 1 for Hearing

The COMM 14 committee recommended that the COMM 14 package (2006 edition of NFPA 1) be moved to public hearing. It should be noted that the Council recommended that the package be moved to public hearing without the provisions of an alternative model fire code. The Department of Commerce rejected the council's direction to remove the alternative model fire code provision on several occasions and is moving the package forward with this provision. The COMM 14 Council has membership from the fire service, Building, Owners, and Management Association, and the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

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

The first of the 2006 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.

<i>Residential Sprinklers (B-I)</i>	<i>March 7, 2006</i>
<i>ESFR, Large Drop, and Specific Application Sprinklers (I)</i>	<i>March 24, 2006</i>
<i>Dry Sprinklers (I)</i>	<i>April 4, 2006</i>
<i>Special Sprinklers (I)</i>	<i>April 18</i>

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

The 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.

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, 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

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule 2006 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.

The McFarland, WI Fire Department is co-sponsoring Half-Day Introduction to Sprinkler Systems, One-Day Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Water Based Protection Systems and One-Day Pumps For Fire Systems seminars April 5-7 respectively. Get Wisconsin CEU's for attending.

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, to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

NFSA Honor Role

**Apex Pumping Equipment
Geneva, Illinois
(3/17/04) 2 years**

**C.A. Acitelli Heating & Piping Contractor
Villa Park, Illinois
(3/24/03) 3 years**

**F&C Industries
Montgomery, Illinois
(3/21/00) 6 years**

**F.E. Moran, Inc.
Northbrook, Illinois
(3/6/70) 36 years**

**Gripple, Inc.
Batavia, Illinois
(3/4/05) 1 year**

Thanks for your industry support!

Don't wait to schedule your calendars. Make plans to attend the NFSA conventions of the future. They promise to offer insight and profit potentials.

**NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SEMINAR
SOUTHAMPTON, BERMUDA
FAIRMONT SOUTHAMPTON
APRIL 27-29, 2006**

For more information, visit: www.nfsa.org

**6th INTERNATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER CONFERENCE
LISBON, PORTUGAL
MARCH 28-29, 2006**

For more information, visit: www.sprinklerworld.org

**NFSA Annual Seminar & Exposition
Red Rock Station Resort Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada
May 2-5, 2007**