



**SPRING 2005
IT'S ABOUT TIME**

After a long and rough winter, spring is upon us. Early April has provided wonderful relief from the snow and cold of Winter 2004-05. The snow is gone, ground thawed, green grass growing and thoughts of warmth floating in our heads. Isn't life great! Also floating are legislative issues at national, state and local levels that can bring the industry work, ensure security of our livelihoods and make our communities safer environments to live, work & play. One hundred years of NFSA influence has exponentially created quite a bit of this environment thus enhancing everyone's safety.

[Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 Needs Your Advocacy!](#)

Let's Start The Letters Flowing Again!

Access the Special Link Page through NFSA.org

Both the House and Senate versions of the *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005* have received bill numbers and are **now posted on the NFSA web site link page**. The House Bill is HR 1131 and the Senate Bill is S 512. 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.

It's easy! Just log onto the site at www.nfsa.org and use the Cap Wiz set up (**upper right corner of the home page**) to send pre-prepared or personalized letters to your Congressional Representatives, members of the House Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee. These are the committees of jurisdiction over the bills. **Have your staff and employees write! Have your family write! Ask your friends and acquaintances to write!** Don't procrastinate! We cannot afford to lose the tremendous momentum that we accomplished during the 108th Congress. The 109th Congress is a whole new ball game! **Write today! Someone's life may depend on it!**

[YOUR VOTE IS REALLY NEEDED IN LAS VEGAS!!!!!!!!!!](#)

The NFPA Technical Committee on Residential Occupancies has completed its' work in preparing the next editions of NFPA 101 (the Life Safety Code) and NFPA 5000 (the Building Construction and Safety Code). In both documents, the Technical Committee decided to require fire sprinkler systems in all new one- and two-family dwellings. This is an incredibly historic event for fire safety throughout the United States. Never before has a consensus model code organization taken such a strong stand in favor of mandatory sprinkler protection for single-family homes where most of the fire deaths occur each year. There are still a couple of hurdles to get over before it officially becomes part of the next edition of each standard. In order to defeat any amendment motions that may come from fire sprinkler opponents, we will need a voting majority of pro-sprinkler supporters at the NFPA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas (June 6-10, 2005 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in order to defeat any amendments that would remove this much-needed sprinkler requirement. Only those who have been members of NFPA since December 2004 will be allowed to vote at this meeting.

The fire sprinkler industry needs all NFPA members in support to be at that June meeting to vote and make this mandatory standard happen! Please don't assume that there will be enough supporters and you don't need to go. This has happened before and we have badly lost. Each vote counts enormously and we need you there. Don't let all the incredible effort that has taken us this far be defeated because we didn't have enough supporters to push it through at the meeting to a winning conclusion.

Once this decision successfully gets past the meeting, it will go to the NFPA Standards Council for approval. Twice before the Standards Council has deliberated this standard change and chose not to institute the sprinkler requirement. But both of the previous decisions were based on the Technical Committee failing to achieve the necessary 67% of the vote. This time is different! The Technical Committee vote was 71% in favor of sprinklers in these occupancies!

A great number of people have worked very hard for many years to get us to this point, many within the NFSA who advocated this change within the NFPA consensus building process. They never accepted previous defeats because they knew the only answer to the horrendous residential fire problem in America was residential fire sprinklers. They continued their tireless work, believing that the day would someday come when enough people who really care about these deaths and injuries would vote for the change. That someday has now arrived and we don't want to drop the ball now! See you all in Las Vegas!!!!!!
(Taken from *Regional Report* by **Don Pamplin, NFSA Pacific Northwest Regional Manager**).

[Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Receives Second FEMA Grant](#)

Peg Paul & Associates (PPA) helped facilitate the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) request for a second grant for the "Built for Life" program that educates homebuilders about the benefits of residential sprinklers. HFSC became a recipient March 11, 2005, of a 2004 DHS Fire Grant. The \$441,700 grant represents 70% of the \$631,000 budget for "Built for Life" Phase Two. The program includes the following:

- Homeowner surveys,
- NAHB Seniors Housing Council sponsorship,
- Direct mail targeting builders who target older active adults,
- Active adult print advertising,
- "Living with Sprinklers" consumer education kit including a short video and brochure,
- Program promotion at 2006 IBS,
- Web site content,
- Trade advertising and direct mail.

Another related HFSC project was aired on the cable program, *HouseCalls*, hosted by **Good Morning America's Ron Hazelton**. A segment in the nationally syndicated program featured the residential fire sprinkler system retrofit on March 6th. More than a year ago, a residential fire sprinkler system was retrofit in Ron's 35-year old home located in Fairfield, CT. Camera crews captured the highlights of the retrofit including pipe installation in existing walls, closets and attics. To help explain how the system was designed and operates, Ron had a special animation produced. The retrofit was originally videotaped to produce a "How To Retrofit" video for HFSC. The final version of the longer more detailed video produced for HFSC will be available mid-April.

[American Red Cross Promotes Residential Fire Sprinklers](#)

Check this article about residential fires by the American Red Cross. Finally, someone of national stature is recognizing the importance of automatic fire sprinkler protection. It's too bad that they recommend

smoke alarms that are battery operated only. There should be recognition of state mandates that alarm systems be installed where alarms are wired and in series backed up by batteries.

http://www.redcross.org/article/0,1072,0_312_4159,00.html

Report from IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section-ICC Code Development Process

Through a memorandum of understanding between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Code Council (ICC), the IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section (FLSS) appointed representatives to four regional Code Action Committees. The committees developed fifty code change proposals and submitted them to the ICC for their next edition. Representatives of the FLSS recently attended the ICC code hearings in Cincinnati where they were very successful in their endeavors to testify in support of their code change proposals.

Out of the fifty proposals they submitted, approximately 50% were approved for adoption. The code proposals that the FLSS were most passionate about concerned “crowd managers” in the International Fire Code (IFC) and a proposal to the International Residential (IRC), which would have placed into the appendix a requirement for automatic sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings as well as town houses.

Both proposals failed in committee but overwhelmingly passed by the assembly which means that both proposals will be individually debated and voted on by the governmental members at the final action hearings in Detroit, Michigan September 28 through October 2, 2005.

The FLSS section is working hard to represent the IAFC in code related matters in the ICC and the NFPA code development processes.

Chicago-Life Safety Evaluation Finalized

The City of Chicago has published their final version of the Life Safety Evaluation for High Rise Buildings. We are pleased to report that the efforts of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board have made a significant impact on how fire sprinkler systems are represented in Department of Construction and Permits (DCAP) newly published evaluation model. The new model moves closer to the national standards of the NFPA and the ICC.

The city’s evaluation model no longer requires buildings with sprinkler systems to meet more stringent requirements than those buildings without sprinkler systems. This single adaptation accounts for most of the change that brings Chicago’s model closer to the national models.

The implied value for each individual system within the model is also much more closely aligned with the national standards. Systems, like smoke detectors, sprinkler systems and fire-rated walls, do not fall into the exact same order as the national models. This can be attributed to local events and various civic- and business-related influences. The best example of this is the high value placed on Fire Department Communications Systems. These systems are highly desirable to the Chicago Fire Department and the high value assigned to this particular system is reflective of involvement and participation by local leaders.

The Northern Illinois Chapter of the NFSA should take no small pride in having influenced this process and the standard it sets for other municipalities in the U.S. We should also be mindful of the efforts of Schirmer Engineering in developing and adapting this model. Special thanks to **Cecil Bilbo, NFSA Technical Consultant** for his expert input.

[US Agency to Study Fire-Alarm Response Times - Focus to be on Deaths, Injuries, Property Damage](#)

The US Fire Administration says it will conduct a national study of how long fire departments take to respond to fire alarms, and whether delays are contributing to deaths. A series of articles in January in the Boston Globe documented a steady lengthening of response times, as fire departments have received smaller shares of municipal budgets. The newspaper reported that the Fire Administration, a federal agency under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has been collecting response times on incident reports since 1986, but has never analyzed them.

Once a day on average in the United States, someone dies when firefighters arrive more than 6 minutes after receiving a fire alarm. The fire industry goal is to get to 90 percent of building fires within 6 minutes of the alarm.

Before the Globe articles were published, a Fire Administration spokesman said that the agency leaves the study of response times to the states and individual fire departments. A national study had been considered in 2002, but was not approved because of limited resources, other competing priorities, and the difficulties of doing such an analysis. DHS is not comparing or ranking individual fire departments, but is examining whether slower response times result in more deaths, injuries, and property damage. The study may be complete by the end of this year.

A Fire Administration official said that the Globe articles did not prompt the study.

Separately, the group's top administrator said that every fire department in the country should be required to report its fire statistics. The Globe's reports were based on a voluntary database, the National Fire Incident Reporting System. While nearly all major US cities report crime statistics to the FBI, the reporting of fires is spotty. New York City and Los Angeles are among the many fire departments not reporting.

Congress has required fire departments that receive federal grants to report their fires, but the Fire Administration has been giving several years leeway before enforcing that requirement. And even then the reports may not make their way to Washington, because some states don't send in the data. Massachusetts is one of only a few states requiring reporting of every fire with a death, injury, or property loss. "It should be mandatory," said the group's administrator, R. David Paulison. "The departments that don't report are missing out on the chance to know how they compare with others."

[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. 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 and go to the Square Foot Upgrades by Town button.

[SPRINKLER ACTIVATION PROJECT](#)

The Residential Sprinkler Activation Project is a cooperative undertaking between the **US Fire Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)**. The purpose is to gather current and relevant data regarding residential sprinkler activations. It is anticipated that this data will demonstrate the effectiveness of sprinklers, be useful in offsetting objections to them, and provide valuable reference material in the fire code process.

Individual fire departments are encouraged to participate, and the first step is to obtain a logon and user name. This can be done by contacting either **Roy Marshall**, email rfsirlm@netins.net or at 712-829-2734, or **Dan Carlson**, 605-770-7850. If you have been assigned a logon and user name go to the NASFM home page (www.firemarshals.org) or if you prefer a search engine use NASFM or National Association of State Fire Marshals. On the home page you will see a logo in the upper left corner—a star with a helmet at the top. Put your cursor on the helmet and click. You will be taken to a page that asks for logon and password. After entering these you will, in most cases, go directly to the report entry form (if you are taken first to a page with choices, select sprinkler activation project.) Complete the data fields on the report, most of which are drop-down choices. Keep in mind that for the purposes of this report NA and Unknown are interchangeable (if a question is unknown use the menu choice NA). All fields must be completed, with the exception of an option near the end, which allows you to include digital pictures. The **National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST**, will be using these reports, and they asked that departments be given the option of including a picture. If you have one, that's fine, but this field can be bypassed.

You will be able to generate reports of your own entries if you wish to do so, and if someone at state level is designated a state level user that person may generate reports for the entire state. For the purposes of this report "residential" is permanent housing, but does not include transient housing such as hotels and motels.

This is a two-year program, so any residential sprinkler activation between the dates of July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005, may be entered.

[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 and click on the banner below and sign up for the NFSA Academy, your competition is!

[Major Fire Protocol/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, sprinklered, non-sprinklered, 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.

[ILLINOIS](#)

Illinois Professional Engineer Legislative Update

As reported last month, negotiations have been ongoing with the **Illinois Society of Professional Engineers**. The issue of the PE Stamp, according to the **Illinois Professional Engineers Act of 1989** on

sprinkler drawings submitted to the AHJ's has been a thorn for contractors. **Rich Ray, Cybor Fire Protection, Dave Egelsaer, US Fire Protection** and your Regional Manager have been communicating with **Chapter lobbyist Margaret Vaughn** about the NICET/PE language being proposed as an amendment to the Contractor's License Act to offer a legitimate alternative. A meeting was held with the society with the parties above and some fruitful negotiations occurred. Issues addressed were:

1. The first part of the PE Act (225/ILCS 325/3a) states that the Act "shall not interfere with the regular and customary and standard practice of construction contractors". It has been the regular and customary practice for construction contractors to draw up layout drawings without a PE stamp and submit to locals for the past 100 years.
2. Singling out the fire sprinkler contractor profession, by requiring a PE stamp for fire sprinkler drawings, just because the PE Act (225ILCS 325/4 (o) lists "piping" as part of engineering, is totally inconsistent with many of the other items included in the definition of engineering. For example, plumbers are not required to get their plans stamped by a PE for plumbing systems or irrigation works, neither are mechanical contractors for boilers, refrigeration, and air conditioning systems, just to name a few.
3. The PE Act (225 ILCS 325/14 paragraph 3) clearly states that it is illegal for a PE to seal technical submissions unless the Professional Engineer actually was directly involved with the preparation of such work. Since very few fire sprinkler contractors have a PE on staff drawing plans, this would require the majority of contractors to take their plans to a PE, who was not involved in the work, just to stamp them and charge them for it dearly. IDFP said they now had a much better understanding of the issue and wanted to remove themselves from it and directed it back to your agency.

The above arguments encouraged the society to work with our contingency. Final language in the amendment had to be reconstructed to clarify the issue while appeasing both parties. Also, a definition of drawings held up the deal because of engineering concepts being misunderstood by the society. **Rich Ray** to the rescue and we have our compromise. When it was apparent our time constraints were going to kill the bill, it was decided to take out most of the team and get to the issue at hand. Rich was able to communicate professionally with the society's expert and got the language done to the acceptance of both sides.

The revised amendment went before the Illinois House of representatives for a second reading April 12, 2005, passed a third reading and the House on April 13th. It then will cross to the State Senate for the second and third readings. Fortunately because of the mutual amendment, the process means the legislation will not have to go through the respective House & Senate committees. A signature by the governor makes the amendment law. At this juncture, it looks very promising.

Many thanks go to all above and to **Buddy Dewar, NFSA Director of Regional Operations**, for his expertise and assistance. We'll keep you informed of the progress.

The Illinois Dormitory Sprinkler Act Funding Being Reviewed

Your Regional Manager has been invited by Deputy Director Joe August, Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal to participate in discussion about funding the Illinois Dormitory Fire Sprinkler Act passed last summer. As reported last month, Mr. August mentioned that a provision of the act was changed just before passage. Unfortunately, that was the funding mechanism to financially support the installation of fire sprinkler systems and someone removed it from the bill.

A meeting of the minds regarding this issue was scheduled for March but was rescheduled for April 20th. Parties included those impacted, and representatives of the university systems. Your Regional Manager

offered information on procurement of pension funds as an option. The hope was that this and other potential funding will keep the legislation alive and result in impressive work for the industry. Updates will be given next month.

Second District Appellate Court of Illinois-Opines that Maintenance of Sprinkler Systems Required

The Second District Appellate Court of Illinois recently delivered the opinion of the court through Justice Byrne that stated negligence of an owner did not constitute insurance recovery because the owner didn't properly maintain their sprinkler system. Here's the story:

Plaintiff, **Burmac Metal Finishing Co.**, brought a claim against defendant, **West Bend Mutual Insurance Co.**, its commercial insurer, to cover the loss of its commercial property after a fire damaged the property. The jury found that the plaintiff failed to substantially perform the condition of the insurance contract that required the plaintiff to maintain its automatic sprinkler system and returned a general verdict in favor of defendant. Thereafter, the trial court entered judgment for the defendant and awarded it costs in the amount of \$3,632. In addition to removing 3 sprinklers, the owner also closed one of 4 PIVs, this was, surprisingly, not emphasized in the decision.

Conclusion: The Sprinkler industry should be able to sell inspections and maintenance to the public more aggressively warning them of the risk of denied insurance coverage.

Rockford Mulls Multipurpose Systems

It was discovered that the City of Rockford was considering the multipurpose piping systems for their one- and two-family home markets. It was believed that Plumbers Local 23 had investigated the thought with the city. That meant an educational session was needed for all concerned parties. The thought that the plumbers wanted to nip away at the fire sprinkler market brought concern with contractors and Local 669 union officials.

A meeting was held at the Rockford City Hall April 6, 2005 with the following representatives: **Bonnie Henry of the Rockford Building Department, Rockford Fire Department Division Chief Frank Schmitt, Dennis Sweeny, Rockford Area Homebuilders, Bob Hastings, Plumber's Local 23, Corky Birdoes and Jack Neuhauser, Local 669 Business Agents, John Danis, NIFSAB** and your Regional Manager. It was congenial and very informative for all parties.

As mentioned, the city was informed of the multipurpose option for 13D residential sprinkler installation. They were given the understanding that 13R could be done as well. This was wrong and needed clarification. The City of Rockford had adopted the International Building Code-2003 Version. They amended the IBC for multi-family housing. They made four-family and higher buildings required to install fire sprinklers effective July 1, 2004. Their code is revised January 1, 2006 to reflect the IBC-2003 requirement that ALL multi-family residential must be sprinklered. The city was inquisitive to know if any multi-family could be done multipurpose. Their answer was no, 13D only allows for that type of system.

The city had stated, through the homebuilders, that there were no sprinkler contractors willing to do smaller multi-family dwellings much less than one- and two-family homes. They were informed that not to be true and that their ordinance would bring competition into the area. They were also told sprinkler contractor prices were much higher than plumbers. There was no record of plumbers' pricing for residential sprinkler installation. The group was also informed of the training elements for plumbers before they even attempt "life-saving" sprinkler installations. Added was the liability insurance that many plumbers balk at for this work. The group was informed about the multipurpose problems experienced in Wisconsin.

The gathering were informed about the Illinois Contractors License Act that legitimizes contractors to assist the municipality in ensuring qualified installation of systems. They were cautioned to include the provision that any installation should be done by a licensed contractor, having them bonded and insured for the work and requiring the systems to be alarmed for warning and water flow.

It was felt by the labor and industry representatives that this was a productive meeting for all parties as the city and the homebuilders walked away with a better understanding of their present and future fire sprinkler market. The plumbers walked away with the suggestion by your Regional Manager and seconded by the homebuilder rep that they get a NICET certified employee and fitters before they venture into the home protection market.

License Application for Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractors-Some Still Haven't Applied!!! You Can't Work if You Don't Have a License!

According to the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal, some contractors installing sprinkler systems in the state have yet to apply for licensure. Illinois requires any person, partnership, corporation or other business entity that installs or repairs any fire sprinkler system in Illinois to be licensed by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. The Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act [225 ILCS 317/1 et seq.] establishes the minimum standards for licensure of fire sprinkler installation contractors for the purpose of protecting the public health and general welfare of the citizens of Illinois

The State of Illinois signed into law the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act in December 2002. The administrative rule package has recently been adopted through the legislative process and requires the following:

- anyone installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in all commercial buildings must be registered as a Licensed Fire Sprinkler Contractor with the State of Illinois
- anyone installing automatic fire sprinkler protection in any residential building greater than eight-family occupancies having at least one side with three floors exposed also requires an Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor's License.

An Application Package containing a copy of the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act, the rules and application, is available from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Application Package may be requested by calling 217-785-0969 or downloaded from the Internet at "www.state.il.us/osfm."

Single Fire Sprinkler Extinguished Factory Fire in Lemont

Mary Kay Ludemann, Lemont Fire Department Public Education Coordinator reports the following:

A small fire broke out at Folger Adams Security, 16300 103rd Street in the Lemont Fire Protection District on Tuesday, March 29th. The fire was caused by construction workers grinding on equipment in a vacated flammable liquids storage room. The fire was quickly extinguished by a single sprinkler resulting in no injuries and minimal property damage. Folger Adams has been operating from this site since the early 80's and they are in the process of closing their Lemont facility. Southern Steel of San Antonio, Texas recently purchased the company.

10th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Invitational-Don't Wait!

The 10th Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational is closing in having been scheduled for June 6, 2005 at the beautiful Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois. Great golf, great food and great camaraderie combine for great charity. Proceeds for this event benefit the *Illinois Fire Safety Alliance* "Camp I am Me", the *Loyola Burn Unit* and NFSA Educational Fund. The nine-year total for the invitational has raised over \$380,000 and the committee is looking to greatly up the numbers this year.

Once again, there will be the special raffle of only 500 (\$100) tickets with prizes of \$10,000 for first, \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500. **To order raffle tickets, contact me @ (262) 245-5255 or NIFSAB at: (708) 403-4468.** Watch for your early bird notice to register as the outing will fill and only first in will get a chance to enjoy a day of golf and an evening of great fun. You can do this and benefit some wonderful organizations too!

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Moving on More College Legislation

The State of Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau is re-writing a proposal given them by the Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Industry Coalition. The coalition, made up of contractors, Locals 183 & 669, have drafted legislation that calls for all private school existing high-rises, privately owned existing high-rises for college residents, fraternities, sororities and all new residential to be protected with automatic fire sprinklers. We have a sponsor awaiting final draft for introduction. A straw poll indicates interest in this legislation as positive.

NFSA-Wisconsin Chapter Produces New Ads

The Wisconsin Chapter has produced a new ad for its promotional media publications. Brookfield Fire Chief John Dahms and North Shore Fire marshal Dave Lind are the focus fire service personnel singing the praises of automatic fire sprinklers. Both are great advocates to make their communities more fire safe through the installation of fire sprinklers. The cities of Brookfield and the North Shore are leaders in the State of Wisconsin when it comes to aggressive fire sprinkler legislation.

In fact, Chief Dahms has a daughter attending the University of Minnesota and her dorm had a grease fire that was extinguished by a single sprinkler this past month. Fire Marshal Lind believes in sprinklers enough that he has put them in his new home. Advocates, with the integrity and respect of their peers, will hopefully encourage others to enhance their local ordinances to make their communities safer.

NFSA-WI Chapter Annual Summer Meeting, Seminar and Golf Outing

The Annual NFSA-WI Summer Meeting, Seminar and Golf Outing has been set for July 12, 2005. The meeting and seminar will again be held at the holiday Inn Express in New Berlin. **Kevin Kelly, NFSA Manager of Codes**, will give a 1.5-hour CEU accredited program on Large Drop Sprinklers.

Burn Center Golf Invitational Date Set

The 17th Annual Burn Center Golf Invitational has been set for August 29, 2005 at the grand Geneva Resort & Spa. Previous attendees should have received their "Early Bird" notice by now. Expect invitations by mid-June. Contact **Dan Gengler (262) 245-5051** or **Kay Luedke (262) 782-3311** for more information. Sponsors are wanted to help make this year's event the best ever for the special causes it promotes. The outing is sponsored by the **Midwest Fire Sprinkler Industries, Milwaukee Fire Department** and presented by the **Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety**.

WAFS Teams with Milwaukee Brewers/Selling Bracelets

The **Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety** has partnered with the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Team and WTMJ (AM 620) for the 2005 regular season. Each game will feature a fire safety tip from the Alliance. Listeners to home games and fifteen away games will hear that the game is being presented by the WAFS in the first inning. A fifteen second fire safety message will follow. The remaining away games will

have the statements broadcast during other portions of the game. The Brewer Network reaches all corners of the state and out of state as well. The educational outreach and awareness to WAFS programming is felt to be fabulous for our mission. Listen to WTMJ 620 or affiliated stations throughout the state and hear **Bob Uecker** giving listeners tips on being fire and burn safe. There will be several messages played during the course of the season with a couple having emphasis on residential sprinklers.

The WAFS has also ventured into the “**Lance Armstrong**” bracelet fundraiser concept. One can purchase a \$5 red bracelet, one size almost fits all, that has the message, “FIRE/BURN SAFETY www.wafs.org” inscribed. Proceeds will help Alliance programming that includes the promotion of automatic fire sprinklers. For order information or to consign sell the bracelets contact (800) 342-0911 or info@wafs.org.

West Bend Fire Captain Responds to Student Housing Dilemma

I received this communication from Captain **Ed Geidel, Fire Inspector, West Bend Fire Department** on April 13, 2005:

Yesterday, I received a phone call from a concerned parent that has a daughter who is planning to reside off campus. Her concern was this; the daughter is considering living in an upper level of an older home in Oshkosh. Her concern was that the landlord was renting out space in what was a big closet on the 2nd floor of an older home. There is no electrical nor is there any window in that area. The area is big enough for a single bed and a dresser-THAT’S IT! She questioned me as to my thoughts about this. First of all, I did advise her that I cannot speak for the Oshkosh Fire Department but that I could only give her my concerns on a couple of things such as working smoke alarms, how many, how many stairwells up, any rescue assistance areas, can occupants on the 2nd floor go out a window onto the roof, etc. The student is probably going to use an extension cord through a door frame to supply electricity into that area. I discussed the problem with the mother about that. Second, there is one stairwell up with no access onto the roof from any windows. Third, they do not have a rescue ladder on the second floor that can be attached to a window and climb down to safety. Fourth, only one smoke alarm at the top of the stairs. Fifth, and the biggest, there is no fire sprinkler protection.

After discussing the importance of these fire safety issues, the mother advised that she too is concerned and that I pretty much made up her mind on where her daughter will be residing at college. It’s too bad that landlords seek the almighty dollar and don’t seem to care about fire safety issues because it won’t happen to me excuse! Then I read in the newspaper last evening that 3 college students died in a fire in Miami.

With the events that took place yesterday, the phone call and reading about the tragic event in Miami, it is too bad that not only dorms, or off campus residential buildings that houses our next generation but all campus housing should be required to have fire sprinkler protection! I agree that colleges nationwide should make fire awareness a part of their orientation. A lot of parents I am sure do not realize what can happen especially in older homes. They should make it mandatory that each guardian of a student attending a college to sit down and watch a side-by-side burn!

Enough said!

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

EDUCATIONAL OPORTUNITIES

[NFSA Adds NFPA 13 Update Seminars to Sprinkler Academy](#)

The NFSA has added two new seminars to the offerings in the **NFSA Sprinkler Academy** for sprinkler contractors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction that are just beginning to adopt and enforce the 2002 edition of NFPA 13.

Each of the seminars, “*What’s New in NFPA 13 Installation Criteria*” and “*What’s New in NFPA 13 Discharge and Support Criteria*” explain the major changes between the 1999 and the 2002 editions of NFPA 13. These seminars are a big help to people that are familiar with the 1999 edition of NFPA 13 and want to know what is new in the 2002 edition.

For a detailed description, visit the NFSA Academy at www.nfsaacademy.org. Have questions? **Call Dawn at 845-878-4200 x133 or by email at dawn@nfsa.org.**

[2005 Live Online Interactive Seminars Schedule - *Get Wisconsin CEU’s – Understand the Standard](#)**

The Spring 2005 schedule is underway and is devoting its “Technical Tuesday online seminar series to an in-depth review of the **2002 NFPA 13 Standard**. This is your chance to learn from the experts who represent the fire sprinkler industry on the technical committees that write the sprinkler rules. Develop an appreciation for the way in which the material is organized in the 2002 edition while learning more about the background of the rules themselves. The level of all seminar topics is considered intermediate. Because these seminars are being offered as a complete program on NFPA 13, a 30% discount is available when signing up for all ten seminars in the series.

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. We will have the 2005-second semester classes in next month’s newsletter.

2005 Date, Topic and Instructor

5/10/05

NFPA 13 Ch's 11, 13 & 17-Design Approaches & Special Occupancies

Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

5/24/05

NFPA 13 Ch 12-Storage

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.

6/21/05

NFPA 13 Ch’s 14-16 & 18-Plans, Calculations, & Commissioning

Cecil Bilbo-Consultant

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 need to receive Wisconsin CEU’s.

NFSA is offering to all AHJ's the member rate for these live on-line seminars. Order all 10 and save 30%. For more information on this offer and information on these seminars contact Dawn at Dawn@nfsa.org or 845-878-4200 x133.

Hey Illinois Contractors!

NFSA Announces Unique Training Opportunity - Certificate Program for Fire Sprinkler Technicians

Hey Illinois Contractors, Get Yourself NICET Certified

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is proud to announce a unique training program for design technicians called the *Certificate Program for Fire Sprinkler Technicians*. The program will run for approximately two years and will guide a design technician along a career development path, creating knowledgeable and efficient layout and detail professionals.

At the beginning of the program, the participant will be asked to identify a mentor at their company to work with. The mentor should be someone in a supervisory position with experience in sprinkler layout and detail that can help answer questions and monitor the progress of the participant. The mentor becomes a partner with the NFSA and the participant in the learning process.

Program Overview - This six-phase program will take a new sprinkler design technician and guide them through a training process where they will learn to become profitable employees. By the end of the program, they will be capable of working with a minimum of supervision, preparing drawings that detail the installation of fire sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, fire pumps and water tanks. During the program, the participant will be completely prepared and qualified to sit for the NICET Level 2 exam. By the end of the program, the participant will be ready to test for NICET Level 3 Certification.

Target Audience - The program is designed for people that are fairly new to the fire sprinkler business including entry level design technicians, design technicians working towards NICET Level 2 Certification, managers that want to know more about sprinkler requirements and plan review authorities that want to learn more about sprinkler systems. During the program it is anticipated that the technician will take the NICET Level II exam during Phase 3 and will take the NICET Level III exam at the end of the program.

For more information, or to register for the program, go to the NFSA website at the following address: www.nfsa.org/news/articles/techcertificate.doc or phone the NFSA Engineering Department at 845.878.4200 ext. 132.

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 2005 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.

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

Nova Fire Protection, Inc.
Addison, Illinois
(05/13/03) 2 years

Midwest Fire Fabrication
Elk Grove Village, Illinois
(05/20/02) 3 years

Thanks for your industry support!

Keep Your Information Up – to – Date!!!

We have completed the project of installing a new database and implementing a procedure to automatically update the website member information from it. However, we have to rely on you to keep our information current.

When you change your address, phone number or area code, it’s a given that you send out notices to your customers and suppliers. It’s just as important to notify the NFSA so that we have current and accurate information on our members. If you have any reason to think we might be out-of-date with your company information, check the website and just send a quick email to mrepko@nfsa.org or call Mike at 845.878.4207.

Remember, potential customers may use our website to contact you. You don’t want to miss that sale or that contract.

Contact me at (262) 245-5255, (262) 245-5258 Fax or email dannfsa@aol.com.

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.

NFSA Annual Seminar
Fairmont Southampton
Southampton, Bermuda
April 27-29, 2006

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

