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## Join the ICC Today, Vote in Baltimore to Preserve Fire Sprinklers in IRC

Just about a year ago to the day the International Code Congress (ICC) membership voted in the affirmative to include residential fire sprinkler requirements in the body of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), potentially representing an unprecedented milestone in the history of public fire safety. It was an achievement realized through a tremendous amount of fire sprinkler industry support and that of its allies.

Since that historical meeting last year in Minneapolis, the very same requirements adopted to prevent the catastrophic fire losses experienced every year in this country have come under attack by the homebuilding industry. For example, they talk about exorbitant installation costs and how newer homes don't burn, all of which, of course, we in the fire protection industry know simply is not the truth. In fact, recent studies have shown for about \$1.61 per square foot, a fire sprinkler system can be installed in the construction of a new home, preventing premature failure of today's often used lightweight construction in the event of fire.

With the next test of residential sprinkler requirements in the IRC being hearings scheduled for the last week of October in Baltimore, now is the time to make plans to attend in support of the current regulations. The first step necessary, if you are not already, is to become an ICC member. To be assured eligibility to vote in Baltimore, the individual membership Building Safety Professional category should be used. Membership costs \$100.00 per year and comes with the ICC code of choice. Apply as an individual in your own name and address, not a business. Corporate membership is not recommended.

**Since the deadline for voting eligibility of new ICC members is 10 days prior to the start of the hearing, the membership process must be completed by Wednesday, October 14, 2009.**

Detailed Information about how to join the ICC and register to attend the October IRC Hearings in Baltimore can be found at their website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

Due to the nature of the code hearing process, the exact timing for when the residential sprinkler issues will be heard is not available as yet. However, check the NFSA website regularly at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), where a detailed hearing schedule will be posted when it becomes available.

## Confirmation Hearing Held for USFA Nominee – Supporter of Fire Sprinklers

Home sprinklers, fire safety education, radio interoperability and the FIRE Act grant were among issues USFA Administrator Nominee Kelvin J. Cochran addressed Wednesday during his confirmation hearing.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, said he hopes the vote to confirm Cochran will come before Congress recesses on Friday, adding that they'll be gone for a month.

Calling home fire sprinklers "one of the greatest fire safety initiatives," Cochran said he sees the USFA playing a greater role in prevention measures. He said it will be his mission to promote projects that will reduce the number of people killed and injured in fires in America. The measures also have a direct impact on firefighter deaths and injuries, he said adding that reducing line-of-duty deaths is high agenda.

When asked why he was willing to take the job that will no doubt change his life, Cochran responded: "I believe I can make a difference." He said he believes he was born to serve. Becoming a firefighter was all he ever wanted to do.

And, Cochran said he is passionate about learning so he can serve better. That's why in addition to moving up the ladder on the job, he also volunteered for various task forces and committees with the IAFC and Metro Chiefs. As with the new position he is vying for, he believes he can make a difference.

In an interview with Firehouse.com last month, Cochran tried to describe how it felt when he was contacted by White House staff about the nomination.

"I am humbled beyond words that he would consider my credentials and background for such a position. I consider it a tremendous honor to be asked to lead the American fire service..."

Cochran currently serves as the chief of the Atlanta Fire Department and was first vice-president of the IAFC before taking that position last year. He previously served as chief in Shreveport, La. from 1999 to 2008.

### **FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration Endorses Residential Fire Sprinklers**

*The U.S. Fire Administration Announces its Support of a New Building Code Calling for the Use of Fire Sprinklers in New Homes*

After 30 years of testing, research and development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has announced its support of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), which mandates the installation of fire sprinklers in all new homes beginning in 2011.

"Every day firefighters bravely enter homes to rescue people from fire and risk their lives under collapsing roofs and floors, because of the lightweight construction that's so prevalent these days in home building. This endorsement by the USFA comes as great news to fire service professionals across the country, who are supporting the IRC to include residential fire sprinklers as a critical component in fire protection in the home," said John Viniello, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S.

The new IRC mandate, a response to the growing fire problem in the U.S., is an initiative that could prevent more than 3,000 fire-related deaths and 60,000 serious fire-related injuries across the nation each year. About 90 percent of all fires occur in the home, fueled by new lightweight construction and more flammable home contents. In fact, the new sprinkler regulations are being endorsed by fire service professionals across the country, such as the U.S. Fire Administration, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and the International Association of Firefighters. Groups including these agree smoke detectors are no longer enough in residential fire protection, as lightweight construction has become more prevalent, house contents are more flammable than ever, and the time available to escape a house fire

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has reduced from 17 minutes 20 years ago to three minutes today, according to a cost-benefit analysis by FEMA.

"It is the position of the U.S. Fire Administration that all Americans should be protected from death, injury and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with both smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, and all families should have and practice an emergency escape plan. The U.S. Fire Administration supports all efforts to reduce the tragic toll of fire losses in this nation, including the recently adopted changes to the International Residential Code that require residential fire sprinklers in all new residential construction. The time has come to use this affordable, simple and effective technology to save lives and property where it matters most - in our homes," said Glenn A. Gaines, Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration.

USFA's research regarding residential fire sprinkler systems has indisputably demonstrated that residential fire sprinklers can save the lives of civilians and firefighters and can reduce property loss as well as offset the risk of premature building collapse by lightweight construction when involved in a fire.

## **National Fire Sprinkler Association Responds to Habitat for Humanity's Campaign Against Life-saving Fire Sprinklers**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S., delivered the following letter to Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford, in response to that organization's campaigning against governmental adoption of the recently passed International Residential Code (IRC).

The new IRC requires fire sprinkler systems to be installed in all new one- and two-family homes in the U.S., starting in 2011. The code is in the process of being adopted at state and/or local jurisdictional levels across the country.

Following is the text of the letter sent by NFSA President John Viniello:

*Dear Mr. Reckford,*

*Your organization's recent opposition to the fire sprinkler mandate in Michigan has not gone unnoticed. We at NFSA are extremely disheartened with your stand against the most valuable fire safety device a residence can contain. We fail to understand how an organization dedicated to helping humanity can take a stand against something proven to save lives, especially since many of the people waiting for Habitat for Humanity homes lost their original place of residence in a fire. There has never been a multiple fatality in any building with a properly operating fire sprinkler system. NEVER.*

*Personally, as President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, I take great umbrage with your organization's stand against mandating home fire sprinkler systems. If your "habitats" are, as you say, for "humanity," wouldn't it follow that you would do all you could to protect the humans that are inhabiting the homes that you build?*

*Many of our members have donated, and continue to donate, materials and labor to your organization's cause, not, obviously, for profit, but to ensure the residents of your newly built homes are guaranteed a safe place to live. Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss and can help cut homeowner insurance premiums. We at NFSA believe that all people deserve this protection and our members work tirelessly, and often selflessly, to bring this invaluable safety resource to the general public.*

*Will our members profit if these mandates pass? Of course they will. The last time I looked there was nothing un-American about making a profit. As I'm sure you are well aware, homebuilders substantially mark-up bids from their sub-contractors. Do they make a profit or do they give the homes away? The difference here is that the product we represent has been proven to save lives and protect property.*

*Eight out of ten fire deaths occur in the home and most firefighter deaths result from fighting residential fires. Nationwide, nearly 3,000 people die in residential fires each year. To NFSA, these figures are unacceptable, especially when there is a proven solution to these tragedies. Fire sprinkler systems have been saving lives for over 100 years. We think every person deserves the right to be safe in their own home.*

*I think it's time that Habitat for Humanity felt the same way.*

*I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.*

*Sincerely,*

*John A. Viniello  
President*

## **Federal grant awarded to continue producing campus fire safety educational material**

A Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant for \$497,000 was awarded to the [People's Burn Foundation](#) of Indiana to continue its work on the groundbreaking campus fire safety education project "To Hell and Back: College Fire Survival" and its companion web site, [www.igot2kno.org](http://www.igot2kno.org) as well as deliver burn prevention information to our nation's fire service. Since first introduced in 2007, THB: College Fire Survival has been used by campuses across the United States in providing fire safety training to students in both classrooms and online.

Campus Firewatch will again be working with PBF in developing the content for this innovative training program. "This funding will allow us to produce additional updated and timely modules focusing on some of the most common problems faced on campuses," said Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch. "We'll be focusing on issues such as unattended candles, cooking, careless smoking, alcohol impairment, improper use of electrical equipment and the lack of automatic sprinkler systems."

In 2007, DVD copies of THB: College Fire Survival were sent to every fire department, college and university in the country. To help further the reach of this program, the companion web site [www.igot2kno.org](http://www.igot2kno.org) was created and this will serve as the delivery mechanism for this grant program. "The Internet is a primary communications platform for today's Net Generation," continued Comeau. "We are going to use this to ensure that we reach as wide an audience as possible in a way that they are familiar with. This partnership with PBF will provide us with an unparalleled opportunity to help campuses all across the nation do what they do best – educate today's students."

## **Let NFSA Help You Learn About Residential Sprinklers: Are You Prepared for the 2009 IRC?**

NFSA has the following seminars available to help you better understand residential sprinkler requirements. These seminars are designed for code officials, design professionals and for anyone involved with the installation of residential sprinklers:

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1. Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D): This one-day seminar details the installation and layout of an NFPA 13 D sprinkler system.
2. Homes to High-rise: This one-day seminar covers the differences between NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D residential sprinkler requirements.
3. Layout and Hydraulic Calculation of NFPA 13D Residential Sprinkler Systems: This three-day seminar will provide the layout technician or anyone who deals with residential systems with the knowledge and skills to layout a NFPA 13D residential system.
4. On-Line Seminars (NFSA Academy) several 1 to 1.5 hour classes related to residential sprinklers are also available.

To register or review seminar details for any one of these seminars you can go to the NFSA web site [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the white button (left side) marked "Seminars". You may also contact Dawn Fitzmaurice – Training Coordinator at (845) 878 – 4200 EXT. 133 or email Dawn at [Seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:Seminars@nfsa.org).

## **Chris Gaut Honored by Fire Marshalls Association of Missouri**

NFSA Central Regional Manager Chris Gaut has been awarded the “Presidents Award” for 2009 from the Fire Marshalls Association of Missouri (FMAM.) The award is presented annually to a person or group that helps FMAM accomplish their mission. Chris was recognized for his hard work campaigning against the recent Missouri state law proposal to restrict residential sprinkler mandates. All of us at NFSA extend the heartiest of congratulations to Chris for a job well done!

## **NFSA Industry Advancement Fund Pledges Now Total \$288,800.00**

NFSA is very pleased to announce that pledges to the Industry Advancement Fund (IAF) since its inception now total \$288,000.00. At the top of the 2009 pledge list are generous contributions of \$10,000 from the API Group and \$5,000 from General Air Products. To join them and others who have supported the advancement of the fire sprinkler industry through their tax deductible contributions, visit [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the Industry Advancement Fund logo on the right of the page.

## **Fire Team USA Workshop Receives Grant to Continue 2009 – 2010 Tour**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is pleased and very excited to announce that Fire Team USA received notification from the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that their grant in the amount of \$732,580 was funded.

Fire Team USA is proud to partner with the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association for delivery of this workshop series. The work of Fire Team USA was piloted in Tennessee in 2005 with a FY04 grant called Fire Team Tennessee, and proved to be successful in communities across the Volunteer state. In 2006, the grant became Fire Team USA and workshops were delivered in states across the nation.

Through the AFG program, the department awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders throughout the country to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect public health and safety with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants provide resources for local fire departments and emergency medical services programs to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and fire prevention initiatives such as Fire Team USA.

Fire Team USA will use the grant funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings together public policy-makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals to learn about fire sprinklers and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community.

“The Fire Team USA workshop is a tremendous opportunity for communities interested in improving overall public fire safety. The workshop not only addresses public fire safety issues and common concerns, but introduces very fundamental, broad-scope philosophies that can help the public policy-maker fully understand the economic benefits afforded the fire sprinkler-protected community,” said NFSA President John Viniello. He added, “The grant allows Fire Team USA to deliver these workshops around the country at absolutely no cost to the registrant. In fact, it even covers the cost of lodging. With the goal of improving fire safety for every community across the country, this program really delivers.”

## Legislative Alert

The NFPA has a web site that is monitoring legislation that is threatening the adoption of home fire sprinkler provisions for new one- and two-family dwellings. Across the United States, sprinkler opponents are pushing state legislation that would restrict a community’s ability to make its own decision about model safety codes for new construction. The legislation would prevent any community from implementing any new sprinkler mandates in one- and two-family homes. If it becomes law, such legislation will put lives at risk.

NFPA’s Fire Sprinkler Initiative *Bringing Safety Home* campaign is encouraging its members by getting involved. They can help make sure that these laws do not pass. The NFPA has resources one can use to help educate others in their community about the issues, plus adding a letter one can use to let elected officials know that you do not support any statewide effort to prevent home fire sprinklers.

The NFPA identifies that more than one in three states, 18 in total have filed bills. States where anti-sprinkler legislation has been filed:

<http://firesprinklerinitiative.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=66&itemID=1100&URL=FeaturedResources/>

## Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced to 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009*, HR1194 has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship this past month. The bill creates tax incentives for property owners to retrofit buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Similar legislation was introduced in the 108<sup>th</sup> followed by the 109<sup>th</sup> & 110<sup>th</sup> Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time. As of late August, 93 Congressmen have signed onto the monumental legislation. Region cosponsors include: MN Representative Oberstar and WI Representatives Baldwin, Kagen and Kind. Presently there is no companion Senate bill.

NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton, remains on point as NFSA’s representative working with members of Congress and a coalition of fire protection industry concerns in supplying information and support as required to keep these vital pieces of legislation moving through the legislative process.

This piece of legislation would reduce the tax depreciation time on nonresidential real property from 39 years to only 5 for those that install sprinklers. Benefits of this legislation also include lower local fire department costs, increased loan activity, reduced insurance claims and premium costs and increased retrofitting and installation jobs. A lower 2006 re-scoring of the bill for the fiscal impact that would result with the passage of the fire safety friendly legislation gives proponents great optimism this year.

The NFSA Cap Wiz process has been updated for use and is promoted as a quick means for constituents and others to write in to support this important piece of fire protection legislation. Any and all Senators should be recruited, but members of the Senate Committee on Finance should be primary targets.

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Go to this site and help us help America be safer: <http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/fsiahome.html>. For a document explaining the Incentive Act bullet points go to: [http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/FSIA\\_Bullet\\_points.pdf](http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/FSIA_Bullet_points.pdf).

Join now in petitioning those uncommitted by logging onto [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and going to the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act button in the upper right of the Home-page. Click on sponsors to find your representative and forward a letter asking for them to sign on (copy provided) or thank them for their support.

## **NFSA Submits ICC Code Development Hearing**

NFSA's Manager of Codes, Jeff Hugo, has submitted some fire sprinkler code changes for the upcoming OCT/NOV ICC code development hearings in Baltimore, MD. To see the code changes submitted, please visit <http://nfsa.org/departments/codes/code.html> and scroll towards the bottom of the page. If you have any questions concerning the code development process or the submittals, please contact me or Jeff directly at [hugo@nfsa.org](mailto:hugo@nfsa.org).

## **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.

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact: NFSA, PO Box 1000, Patterson, New York, 12563; by telephone at (845) 878-4200, by Fax at (845) 878-4215 or at our website: [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

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

**Jon Nisja receives International Fire Marshals Association Meritorious Service Award**

The International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) presented Jon Nisja with the International Fire Marshals Association Meritorious Service Award at the NFPA Conference & Expo in Chicago, Ill. The IFMA Meritorious Service Award, established in 2000, recognizes a member, or members, of the International Fire Marshals Association for notable, significant service to fire safety in keeping with the highest traditions of the IFMA.

Nisja, of Shoreview, Minn., has been an active member of IFMA, NFPA, and the rest of the fire prevention community for many years. He was IFMA president in 2006 and 2007 and served on the IFMA board of directors. Nisja is also a member of the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota and served as both president and secretary of the association.

Along with assisting NFPA in updating the NFPA Fire Inspector Certification Exam, Nisja has served on numerous code and standard committees; including NFPA 1, NFPA/IFC Fire Code Drafting, Northcentral Regional Fire Code Development Committee, and other state committees.

Currently as a supervisor at the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, Nisja oversees Data Management/Systems, Fire Code, Fire Protection, and the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention/Public Education teams. Nisja, who has dedicated his life to fire protection and education, has also contributed to improving fire code training in fire departments throughout Minnesota. Congrats Jon on a meritorious career.

## **Annual Burn Aid Needs Your Help-Last Call**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Burn Aid Golf Classic has been scheduled for September 14, 2009 at the North Oaks Golf Club. The steering committee is working hard to make the day memorable, challenging and fun. A slow economy threatens to challenge the events sponsorship & participation this year. Not unlike other events, the outing needs the continued support of all to help ensure the great good continues.

The annual fundraiser gives participants fantastic golf and good times but also left all knowing they helped a great cause, the Regions Hospital Burn Unit in St. Paul. Monies from the outing will benefit many children and families for those who for unwanted seconds suffer the pain of burns. The event raised \$42,000 in 2008 making the twelve year total approximately \$592,000.

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

## **Committee established to promote life-safety of residential fire sprinklers**

The Fire and EMS Coalition announced that it established the residential fire sprinkler committee to address the need for increased education about the design, installation and life-saving benefits of home fire sprinklers installation according to NFPA 13D in one- and two-family homes.

Members of the fire service representing the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association, Wisconsin State Firefighters Association, Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin and professionals from the fire sprinkler industry will serve on the committee and report to the Fire and EMS Coalition.

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The committee will target its messages and programs toward members of the fire service, authorities having jurisdiction, public officials, building inspectors, home builders and developers, architects and the general public. Committee members will present to the various groups as well as prepare “teams” of people throughout the state for maximum educational outreach.

For more information about the subcommittee and/or their activities, please call Chairperson Lt. Tom Clark, Pleasant Prairie Fire Department at 262-694-8027.

**Vision statement:** Dedicated to the people of WI, living now and in the future in one and two family dwellings; to protect those families from death or injuries, and protect their personal property from the devastating effects of fire.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the WI Res. Fire Sprinkler Coalition is to enhance and improve the life safety of all WI residents and firefighters through the installation and maintenance of residential fire sprinkler systems.

- To provide the people of WI with factual information and education; safety advantages and benefits of fire sprinkler systems and how it addresses current hazards and reduced evacuation times due to plastics, foams and lightweight construction in our homes.
- Partner with state and local governments, citizens, home builders, and construction industry stakeholders to use legislative channels to give communities the opportunity to adopt legislation requiring fire sprinklers in all one and two-family homes.

## **Madison News Station Interviews RM Gengler in Wake of Fitchburg Fire Death**

Following a multi-family unit fire in Fitchburg and the resulting death of a woman, Channel 27 News contacted Annie for information relating to fire sprinklers and their effectiveness, state building codes and why this building was not sprinklered, as well as a video demonstrating how fire sprinklers activate.

Dan Gengler was in Madison the day of the story and we worked to set up an interview with the news station. Dan gave a fantastic interview and in conjunction with our office, we were able to provide a significant amount of information promoting fire sprinklers.

## **Division of State Facilities Working Towards Compromise with Bidding Changes**

The State Division of State Facilities (DSF) is yet again proposing options for revising the manner in which the state bids construction contracts. Recent discussions include allowing the state full flexibility to choose among three bidding methods: multiple prime, single prime, and construction manager (CM), and allow design-build with a waiver request. Subcontractor protections such as prompt payment, preventing the transfer of risk and others will be standard among all methods.

Additionally, we are working to ensure single prime will be modified to include open and competitive bidding on the front end, but allow the prime contractor to still manage the project. The State is looking at processes in other states, including Minnesota. The structure in Minnesota is as follows:

- Allows the subcontractors to bid to the state
- General contractors wanting to bid open sub bids with state officials
- It is in the best interest of general contractors to choose the lowest responsible bid; but they have the option of choosing subs
- General contractors then package a bid with subs and submit to state to win project; again, they do NOT have to select lowest responsible, but must still win the bid so it's in their best interest to do so

The modified single prime that we have suggested is similar but the general contractor must take the lowest responsible bid. DSF is also looking at that model, but might offer a one percent "management fee" to the general contractor for "forcing" them to be assigned subcontractors.

Additionally, we have discussed with DSF Administrator Dave Helbach about which contractors would be classified as "prime" under the new system. He informed us that he understands why fire sprinkler contractors should be included as a prime contractor and we will continue to push that in future discussions.

Please contact Annie directly at 414-405-1050 if you have any questions or concerns about either of these modified single prime bidding options or about the process altogether.

### **Wisconsin Fire Protection Conduit Established**

George Ermert, Martin Schreiber & Associates-NFSA Wisconsin lobbyist, met with M&I Bank in Madison to open the Wisconsin Fire Protection Conduit in late July. Thank you to those who submitted \$100 checks to help open the account.

The new conduit for political action is waiting to receive its registration number from the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board; once that information has been received the conduit will be officially registered with the State of Wisconsin.

Members should look for a future mailer describing the conduit and requesting support during a meeting to discuss legislative updates (not soliciting any funds), and decide how to proceed with raising contributions for the conduit. Anticipate this meeting could take place in late September in Madison.

### **Building contractors need to be registered with the Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce!**

As of July 1, 2009, construction businesses working under these Wisconsin codes – commercial building, uniform dwelling, electrical, plumbing, and swimming pool - need a Building Contractor Registration issued by the state Dept. of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division, unless the company already holds a contractor credential issued by the division. The registration is for businesses, including one-person businesses, not for individual employees.

The registration will help identify whether the construction work is being done by an employee or a business. The registration will support maximum participation in unemployment and workers compensation insurance programs, and proper payment of taxes. The registration also helps S&B provide code information to contractors.

Get more information and register on the Safety and Buildings Division WebSite:

<http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SBBuildingContractorProgram.html>

### **Grand repairs defining vote for council**

Make no mistake. The Oshkosh Common Council under the leadership of Mayor Paul Esslinger and Deputy Mayor Tony Palmeri will be defined by the outcome of the vote on repairs for the historic Grand Opera House. The question the pair face is this: "Do you want to be known as the council that gutted the Grand?"

Despite their comments at the Aug. 11 council meeting about the need for private contributions to supplement public dollars in paying for repairs to the building's roof and ceiling, both have spoken about understanding the unique and significant role the building and organization play in the cultural, educational and economic heart of our community.

As the Grand began renovating the lounge area, it became clear that fire sprinklers would need to be added to the building. The council stepped forward to fund the sprinklers last year, correctly taking responsibility for protecting the municipally owned building. It was during the installation of the sprinklers that the ceiling and roof support issues were uncovered.

This is an emergency. The money raised for the expansion was part of a planned campaign. Raising hundreds of thousands of dollars doesn't happen in a matter of days – it takes months, even years. Closing a theater and moving its performances in mid-season is nothing less than an emergency.

Demanding that contributors instantly fork over dollars is not a reasonable expectation, especially given that the scope and cost of the repairs wasn't even known until late last month when bids for the project were received. With many community organizations shifting to fund basic human needs during the recession, rightfully so, and the United Way getting ready to kick off its annual campaign, significant private dollars will be hard to garner under such short notice.

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

The 2009 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time and run approximately 1.5-hours.

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

NFSA Member Cost: \$125.00\* per seminar per computer

Non-member Cost: \$250.00\* per seminar per computer

Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$25.00

Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$50.00

### **July – December 2009 Technical On-line Schedule**

### **Inspection and Testing Requirements for the Sprinkler Industry**

Learn skills in inspection procedures and testing requirements for sprinkler systems and standpipes. Documents covered include: NFPA 13, NFPA 14, NFPA 22, NFPA 25, and AWWA M14.

- Seminars prepare participants for topics included in the NICET Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems certification exam.
- Join hundreds of Contractors, Engineers, Fire Marshals, Inspectors, Insurance Authorities and Property Managers
- Listen to instructors lecture while viewing a slide presentation
- Ask questions via e-mail that can be answered by the instructor
- Qualify for CEUs or NICET re-certification credits

### September 15, 2009

#### Math

#### Basic/Intermediate

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

Math is a fundamental tool used throughout fire protection systems from their planning and detailing to their inspections as the systems mature. This seminar will include a review of mathematical functions, significant figures and interpreting graphs on a basic level. On the intermediate level problems using algebra, geometry and trigonometry will be discussed. In addition, metric measurements will also be covered focusing on converting. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 41004, 41010, and 43010)

### September 29, 2009

#### Inspection and Testing of Dry Pipe Systems

#### Basic/Intermediate

Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering

The general inspection and testing of dry-pipe sprinkler systems will be covered in this program including arrangement of components so that they can be inspected and tests correctly, the full-flow trip tests required by NFPA 25 every three years, and the “no flow” trip tests required by NFPA 25 for those years when the full-flow trip test is not conducted. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 43003, 43012, and 44013)

### October 13, 2009

#### Inspection and Testing of Backflow Devices

#### Intermediate

Karl Wiegand, Manager of Installation Standards

Participants will be able to identify different backflow devices and ensure that compliance with state and local health requirements are followed. The six classes of fire protection systems will be discussed as they relate to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-14, *Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control*. The forward flow and reverse flow testing requirements of NFPA 25 will also be covered. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 46003)

The topics for the **2009 “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 2008 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU's completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2008. We can help! **NFSA is offering to all AHJ's the**

# REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



member rate for these live on-line seminars. Order all 10 and save 30%. For more information on this offer and information on these seminars please contact Dawn at [Dawn@nfsa.org](mailto:Dawn@nfsa.org) or 845-878-4200 x133.

**September 24, 2009**

## **Roles of the System Inspector and AHJ**

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., NFSA Executive Vice President and Dominick Kasmauskas, NFSA New York  
This seminar focuses on the assigned roles and obligations of both the system inspector and the Authority Having Jurisdiction charged with the enforcement of NFPA 25. It will highlight areas in which the inspector must be careful to avoid crossing the line into hazard analysis and evaluation of system design capabilities. What are the options for the AHJ who would like to see these issues addressed? How are system deficiencies and impairments best reported?

**You can attend a NFSA Seminar without traveling to a classroom. For more information and to view a demonstration, visit our Website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), or call Dawn at (845) 8784200 x 133. Check these on-line programs:**

## **NFSA North Central Regional In-Class Seminars**

Your regional manager is looking to schedule 2009 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 Alexandria Fire Department is sponsoring half-day Introduction to Sprinkler Systems and NFPA 13, 13R & 13D (2002) Update Classes on September 8, One-day Plan Review Procedures & Policies on September 9 and Inspection Testing & Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems on September 10, 2009 at their 302 Fillmore Street Station.

The Town of Menasha Fire Department is co-sponsoring seminars October 28-30, 2009 at their 1326 Cold Spring Road station. Get Wisconsin CEU's for attending if you are willing to travel. Specific classes will be announced next month.

Contact Dawn Fitzmaurice, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 133 for information or registration for any NFSA training program. Check the NFSA web site, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

Special Discounts:

Register 5 Attendees for One Class; get a 6th Free for that Same Class.

Non-Member Fire & Building Officials: When a building or a fire official wants to take an NFSA "full-day in-class" seminar, they can get a special discount package that pays for the seminar and also gives them a one-year membership in the NFSA. The regular seminar fee is \$99.00 dollars and the regular one-year subscriber membership is \$85.00 dollars. That totals \$184.00 but when you join the NFSA as a subscriber member when you register for the NFSA seminar, you only pay a combined fee of \$149.00 dollars which saves you \$35.00 dollars on the total package.

Just make sure you check-off the "F&B" box with red pricing on the seminar registration form.

By becoming a member and taking an NFSA seminar all at the same time, you're getting valuable industry information both ways.

**NFSA Honor Role**

**Thanks for your industry support!**

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**Rochester, Minnesota**

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## **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.*