



## **Luck, Preparation Meeting Opportunity**

There are several people being credited with this statement and I'm not sure who in fact did make it. In the fire sprinkler world, some people are just plain lucky when the fire opportunity arises and the building owner prepared for it by quality installing a competently designed automatic fire sprinkler system and maintaining that system as required.

I need to share this lucky tidbit with all readers. On July 23, 2007, I was on my way to catch a flight out of Chicago for the NFSA annual mid-year Regional Managers Meetings in Nashville. A 79-year old woman decided to inch out onto the highway I was traveling. It looked like she was going to let me by when instead she hit the accelerator and gave me less than 40" to respond. This time it was not a game of inches as I was traveling at 60 MPH and was able to only swerve enough not to hit her door head on. We collided with my entire front end collapsing her left front wheel forward. My air bag deployed and along with seat belt saved my life. Hers did the same; in fact, the old bird beat me out of the hospital. Both cars were totaled. Speaking of preparation meeting opportunity, seat belts and air bags!

In a few moments, I was lying in traction in the ambulance unit looking at the ceiling thinking how bummed I was about missing the meetings in Nashville because of this accident. It's always an informative session. We arrived at the hospital in minutes. Because I could only look up, the very first vision I had in the hospital garage was the sprinkler system above. Then traveling on the gurney through the hallways of the hospital, ironically it was the same view except with concealed heads appearing with ceiling tile, lights and the occasional smoke alarm. I started to think that with the mandatory seat belts and airbag protection of my car, and everyone else's vehicles, daily save lives. Then I thought about the required sprinkler protection in the hospital that indeed it was time for all occupancies to be protected against the 79-year old woman or any other perpetrator to life safety from the effects of fire.

I experience some aches and bruises but as I mentioned to someone several days later, they weren't going to have to attend a breakfast that week of July 23, 2007 because I was LUCKY to survive.

### **Charleston, NC Fire Department Internal Review Begins**

As questions persist about the June 18 Sofa Super Store fire, Charleston is set to begin its own internal review of the tragedy that took nine firefighters. While the city's response to concerns over building safety and employee benefits has been swift, a closer look at the fire may provide some comfort to those troubled by suggestions that the response to the next large fire would be business as usual.

Reports of the local review surfaced in late July, more than a month after state and national agencies began investigating the cause and response to the blaze. It has been planned all along, says Mayor Joe Riley. Just as the city's response to Hurricane Hugo became an example for coastal communities to emulate and learn from, Riley says that the Sofa Super Store fire can also provide broader lessons that extend beyond our Lowcountry community.

"Fire services throughout America will want to understand this fire to help those fire departments prepare for this kind of eventuality," he says. "It's a tragic learning experience, but a very important learning experience," he says.

While each agency investigating the fire has a goal — reviewing building permits, causation, or fire protocol — the city is looking at all angles, from the need for sprinkler systems to the benefits and aid to firefighters and their families. Riley plans to pull in national experts to provide an independent eye and a national perspective on how to improve the city's fire response.

"Our common goal is to make sure we all fully understand the fire."

The proliferation of video and photos from the scene, literally from the moment the first trucks pulled into the parking lot, has prompted a wealth of criticism for the fire response. The type of hoses used, the management of the scene, the lack of equipment on some firefighters — all have surfaced in the local media. The drawn-out investigations, though understandably monotonous and grueling, seem to have fanned armchair speculation about the findings.

City Fire Chief Rusty Thomas's response to the review was, "Anything that we can do to help us change for the better, we'll change that day," he says. "If the investigations (find something) that will make this fire department better and make other fire departments better, we'll change that day."

But he insists nothing would have altered the fates of the lost firefighters. "I don't think we could have done anything differently that night that would have made the outcome different than it was," he says.

Some improvements aren't waiting for detailed analysis. The city has successfully lobbied for dramatic cuts to the Charleston Water Services sprinkler rates. The sofa store had no sprinklers and it was the first red flag to go up after the blaze. Reports in the Post and Courier about the excessive rates for sprinkler systems prompted quick action from the mayor, calling for the service to eliminate connection charges and drastically reduce the annual fees. "We led the effort to reverse sprinkler system fees and we see a national opportunity for leadership there," Riley says.

There's no word on when the various investigations and reviews will be completed, but Police Chief Greg Mullen said recently that "it's only been six weeks." While the pressure for answers in a local tragedy may dull as months pass by, the national investment in the story of the Charleston Nine insures the public won't abandon this story until the books are closed and the lingering questions are put to rest.

### **[NFSA Endorses Inaugural Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic](#)**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) has been advised the inaugural Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic will be held on September 10, 2007 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington, Kentucky.

Since the death of her son Michael in a college dormitory fire seven years ago, Gail Minger has been an advocate of fire sprinkler protection in student housing. She has spoken about campus fire safety to college and high school students in many states including Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Florida and others. She has also honored guests by speaking before annual meetings of the National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, Center for Campus Fire Safety, and Sprinkler Fitters Local 669.

To support continued advocacy of fire safety in student housing and to honor Michael's memory, the Minger family has established the non-profit Michael's Foundation. Proceeds from this, the foundation's first fundraiser, will help educate students and parents on campus fire safety and promote the need for fire sprinkler protection. Also, because of the loving heart and generous spirit of Michael, the foundation will be donating a portion of the proceeds to the Fallen Firefighters Fund for the nine victims and families of the Charleston, South Carolina furniture store tragedy.

NFSA President John Viniello said, "As a result of experiencing a parent's worst nightmare – the tragic loss of a child – Ms. Minger has endured to become a tremendous advocate of fire sprinkler protection in student housing. She is an excellent spokesperson of the fire sprinkler concept and has a passion for sharing this powerful message. I would encourage the entire NFSA membership to support this most worthy event with their attendance and sponsorship."

Registration materials for the Michael Minger Memorial Golf Classic can be found by Clicking [Here](#) or by emailing [ming4fam@aol.com](mailto:ming4fam@aol.com).

### [Free Fire Safety Kits](#)

The nonprofit Home Safety Council's Expert Network is offering teaching materials with Fire Safety Month messages. The materials are geared toward elementary school children and hard-to-reach populations such as adults with low-level English reading skills.

The Expert Network is an online resource that serves fire safety educators; it has more than 5,200 members. In honor of Fire Safety Month, the Home Safety Council is offering limited quantities of materials at no cost to members, through Oct. 31 and while supplies last. Shipping and handling charges start at \$7.50 for one to three items. In addition, the Expert Network offers a wide range of downloadable and printable materials. These can be accessed online, and on demand, at no cost. Here are some of the fire safety materials being made available:

All-Ways Fire Safe at Home Toolbox. Print and DVD materials to teach fire safety to preschool, elementary and middle school students as well as older adults.

Home Safety Literacy Project Kit. Highly illustrated print and DVD materials designed to reach adults learning to read English. Be Safe and Sound: Home Fire Safety brochure (in English and Spanish)

A Burning Issue: Is Your Family Safe? DVD and VHS (in English and Spanish), provided by the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety.

"When we recently surveyed fire chiefs to benchmark the state of fire and life safety education in America, the resounding message was that our educators need more support, and more quality materials that they can afford for use in their community," says **HSC President Meri-K Appy**. "We're especially pleased to be able to provide educational materials that address the importance of installing home fire sprinklers. This is such a vital message for all age groups, but it's one that is too often overlooked." "I couldn't achieve the level of outreach that we have here in Plano without the Expert Network," says **Peggy Harrell with the Plano (Texas) Fire Department**.

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition is giving away its new public education kit available to fire service and public educators. HFSC also launched a new interactive educational web site, [SprinklerSmarts.org](http://SprinklerSmarts.org). The new material is part of HFSC's effort to provide the fire service with the materials to educate the public on the benefits of residential fire sprinklers. The kits were funded by a Department of Homeland Security Fire Grant.

The kit includes a CD containing customizable presentations, public relations tools, and programs. The DVD consists of all of HFSC's educational videos including the Protect What You Value Most consumer education video, Built for Life for builders, and Living with Sprinklers for people living in homes protected with sprinklers. The kit also includes new educational brochures for real estate and insurance professionals. Children are the main focus with Sprinkler Smarts, an animated web site, which offers interactive games for children while also providing teaching materials to help public educators, teachers, and parents educate children. Fire safety officials can use worksheets offered on the web site as well as other downloadable material in collaboration with the presentations and games. These materials help children understand fire safety and prevention as well as identify fire sprinklers and their benefits through an entertaining form of education.

### [Senate Passes Lautenberg Bill to Require Fire Safety Information on College Campuses be Made Public](#)

The Senate passed legislation **Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ)** sponsored to provide students and families with crucial fire safety records of colleges and universities. Since 1990, colleges and universities have been publishing crime statistics on campus thefts, assaults, and sexual and capital crimes, but fire-related incidents are not required to be made public.

"There is safety in information. Parents and students need to know that college campuses are doing all they can to keep students safe. We must take every step possible to prevent a tragedy like the Seton Hall fire from ever happening again. This measure would give the public the information it needs to evaluate fire safety at colleges and universities," said Sen. Lautenberg.

An important first step in increasing fire safety, the measure would require campus fire safety information to be made public and would provide a powerful incentive for colleges and universities to voluntarily upgrade their safety systems. Highlights from the legislation include:

Dissemination of statistics on the number of actual fires in each student housing facility, information on deaths, injuries and structural damage over the previous two years; and information about fire safety education, training provided to students, faculty and staff and any planned improvements in fire safety;

Requiring colleges and universities to maintain a log of all campus fires and make this information available to the public; and

Directing the Secretary of Education to identify best practices for campus fire safety, **Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)** has introduced the companion version of the bill in the House.

### [Sprinkler Advocate Recognized](#)

**Ozzie Mirkhah** is winner of 1<sup>st</sup> annual "Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award" (award sponsored by the International Code Council)

The board of directors of the Fire & Life Safety Section is very pleased to announce that Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, PE of the Las Vegas (NV) Fire Rescue Department is the first winner of the new Excellence in Fire & Life Award, sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC). Mr. Mirkhah's nomination cites his many years of research and ongoing communications efforts on behalf of the 1947 President's Conference on Fire Prevention. Following is an excerpt from his nominating abstract:

Since the America Burning Report, few have done more to bring a focus to fire prevention in this country. He has spent countless hours of his own time, through writing and speaking, spreading the word about the need for fire prevention. His dynamic style and passion for the subject raises everyone's awareness of the US fire problem. Ozzie has revitalized the 1947 Presidents Conference on Fire Prevention by retyping the report and making it universally available. It is now a prominent report on the USFA, NFPA, IFMA and other organizations' website. His grasp of the fire problem, the need for change and his ideas in forwarding fire prevention are at the forefront of the fire service.

Mr. Mirkhah was presented his award on-stage in the Thomas Murphy Ballroom on Level 5 at Fire-Rescue International on Thursday, August 23 during the Education Keynote Address.

### [Parents Sue Wesleyan, Fraternity in Fire That Killed Son](#)

The parents of a student who died last year in a fraternity house fire have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the fraternity and the college. James and Mary Stewart of Ord say Nebraska

Wesleyan University and Phi Kappa Tau were negligent in connection with the Nov. 19 blaze that killed their 19-year-old son, Ryan. The lawsuit, filed this week in Lancaster County District Court, asks for more than \$10,000 in medical costs and an unspecified amount for the wrongful death and negligence claims.

The house did not have a fire sprinkler system, nor was one required in the nearly 80-year-old building. Since the fire, sprinkler systems are being installed in buildings across campus. The fraternity's national council suspended the Wesleyan chapter for four years after an investigation into the fatal fire and alleged hazing. The fraternity won't be allowed to operate as a recognized student organization on campus, but the Wesleyan chapter can petition the national council for reinstatement after two years, if the university approves.

### **[2007 Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Needs All to Do Something! Write Your U.S. Senator and Congressmen](#)**

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007* 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> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time. As of mid August only 58 Congressmen and 12 Senators have signed onto the monumental legislation. The bill is identified as HR 1742. Earlier this year an equivalent bill identified as S 582.

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

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

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

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

#### Senate

[Norm Coleman](#), Minnesota  
[Amy Klubuchar](#), Minnesota  
[Russell D. Feingold](#), Wisconsin  
[Heb Kohl](#), Wisconsin

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

##### **Minnesota**

[Bachmann, Michele](#), Minnesota, 6th  
[Kline, John](#), Minnesota, 2nd  
[Oberstar, James L.](#), Minnesota, 8th  
[Ramstad, Jim](#), Minnesota, 3rd

[Ellison, Keith](#), Minnesota, 5th  
[McCollum, Betty](#), Minnesota, 4th  
[Peterson, Collin C.](#), Minnesota, 7th  
[Walz, Timothy J.](#), Minnesota, 1st

## **WISCONSIN**

[Baldwin, Tammy](#), Wisconsin, 2nd  
[Kind, Ron](#), Wisconsin, 3rd  
[Obey, David R.](#), Wisconsin, 7th  
[Ryan, Paul](#), Wisconsin, 1st

[Kagen, Steve](#), Wisconsin, 8th  
[Moore, Gwen](#), Wisconsin, 4th  
[Petri, Thomas](#), Wisconsin, 6th  
[Sensenbrenner, F. James](#), Wisconsin, 5th

**Sample letters to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen can be obtained from the sites below:**

<http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/senateletter.doc>

<http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/houseletter.doc>

### **Water Purveyors Guide Now Available**

The NFSA public water distribution network is one of the most reliable and most commonly used sources of water for fire sprinkler systems. With six model codes now recommending the installation of sprinklers in homes, NFSA has recognized the technical importance and challenges of providing an approved water supply. NFSA now has a Water Purveyor's Guide to assist them in preparing policies for the expansion in the number of sprinklered homes in their jurisdictions.

Get your guide at:

[http://www.nfsa.org/info/Water\\_Purveyors\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.nfsa.org/info/Water_Purveyors_Guide.pdf).

### **IAFC and NFSA Partners Issuing Guide for Adoption of Residential Sprinkler Mandates**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the NFSA announced that they are making available a document titled "Residential Fire Sprinklers...A Step-by-Step Approach for Communities." As noted by IAFC President, Chief Randy Breugman, the guide will be available on the web sites of both organizations for easy access by the nation's fire chiefs.

The document is structured in four booklets covering Planning and Research, Preparation, Presentation and Adoption, and Customer Service and Maintenance, Challenges and Appeals. The NFSA is indebted to the IAFC for their support of the project and to **NFSA Consultant Steve Hart and NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton**, who worked many long hours to bring this project to completion. Get copy at:

<http://www.nfsa.org/news/articles/IAFCbooklet.pdf>

### **Noteworthy Sprinkler Saves**

#### **Sprinkler System Limits Recycling Center Fire in Janesville**

Thanks to its sprinkler system, the Janesville Recycling Center is back to work today after an early morning fire on August 2, 2007. The fire started directly under a sprinkler head in the staging area where employees prepare paper and cardboard for baling, **Lt. Cedric Hathway, Janesville Fire Department**, said. At 2:40 a.m. a passer-by called to report heavy smoke rolling from the back of the center at 340 Black Bridge Road.

The sprinkler contained the fire to a 40-by-10-square-foot space, Hathway said, and prevented damage to equipment. "So they were back in business when we left at 7:30 this morning," Hathway said.

The Janesville Police Department closed Black Bridge Road until 6:15, Hathway said, so firefighters could stretch hoses from the hydrant across the street. It took about 3,000 feet of hose to get the job done, and firefighters were still rolling hoses at 8:30 this morning.

The alert caller and the sprinkler system saved the building, firefighters said.

"The sprinkler system did a really good job of holding the fire in check," said **Captain Bill Ruchti**. "That's probably what saved the building."

#### [Fire at Waukesha Retirement Community Injures One](#)

One resident was taken to the hospital on August 8, 2007 for burns she received in a fire at the Oak Hill Village retirement community in Waukesha, authorities said. The woman has burns to her hands and one leg, and she suffered smoke inhalation, according to the Waukesha Fire Department. She was taken to Waukesha Memorial Hospital. The resident is not expected to stay at the hospital and will go home with her family, said **Beth Anderson, vice president of the Laureate Group**, which owns the independent living facility where the fire broke out.

Two other people were treated at the scene for minor injuries, **Waukesha Fire Department Battalion Chief Joe Hoffman** said.

Firefighters were called to 1800 Kensington Drive at 6:30 a.m. for a fire in an apartment on the third floor. By the time rescuers arrived, smoke had filled much of the third floor. Smoke and water damaged the third floor and activated sprinklers caused water damage to the first and second floors.

Anderson said the sprinkler system and evacuation methods worked as they should have so all residents are back in their homes. The fire was contained to one apartment and the water damage to the rest of the building was minor, she said.

#### [Two Racine firefighters injured during blaze](#)

Two Racine firefighters were treated for exhaustion on July 27, 2007 during a fire at Shurpac Inc., 1700 Phillips Ave., on Thursday.

The fire began in a paint-spraying booth when some flammable paint caught fire. It spread beyond the booth, causing fire, smoke and heat damage. The fire was extinguished by a combination of sprinklers and firefighters.

The two injured firefighters were treated and released from St. Mary's Medical Center. The source of the fire remains under investigation. Damage was estimated at \$40,000.

#### [Fire destroyed part of a plant in Black River Falls](#)

A fire at the Cummins Filtration Plant in Black River Falls, WI on August 16 had all of the employees able to evacuate safely. The fire department says the building sustained \$100,000 in damage. Firefighter's said the started in a paint spray booth.

Firefighter's credit the five sprinklers in the building for containing the fire and say without them the entire building would have likely been lost. The plant was closed for three days over the weekend.

#### [Damages Warehouse at Bitter-Neumann in Sheboygan](#)

A two-alarm fire on August 6 in a warehouse at Bitter Neumann Appliance-TV-Furniture caused an undetermined amount of damage early Sunday morning according to the Sheboygan Fire Department.

The automatic fire call came in just before 6 a.m. and when firefighters arrived two minutes later they found that two sprinkler heads have been activated in the warehouse to the north of the store at 827 N. 14th St.

The sprinkler system for the building contained the fire, according to **Sheboygan Fire Department Shift Commander Joel Daum**, and firefighters completed putting out the fire in about 15 minutes.

Daum said there was extensive smoke in the building and some water damage in the area of the fire caused by the sprinkler system. However, he noted that the damage would likely have been greater had the sprinkler system not functioned properly. Daum said the fire is believed to have started from an electrical source.

### **Brookfield Food Court Fire Causes \$50,000 Damage**

A small fire early this morning at Cinnabon Bakery in Brookfield Square mall caused about \$50,000 in damage. An overheated bathroom fan left on after the store closed Sunday evening started a fire that set off alarms at 1 a.m. Monday, Brookfield fire department officials said.

The automatic sprinkler system contained the fire in the rear of the bakery in the food court. Damage was \$10,000 to the structure and \$40,000 to contains, primarily stock and burned cardboard. Crews from Brookfield and Elm Grove were on the scene for more than two hours removing debris.

### **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." 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.

### **NFSA EXPERT OF THE DAY –Some of Your Competition is getting Great Advice!**

#### **Engineering Department Assistance Evolves**

For more than 100 years, the NFSA has been helping its members deal with the technical aspects of the many codes and standards that affect the fire sprinkler industry. The technical staff of the Association has always responded to requests for assistance that help to clarify the application of these codes and standards. Frequently, we are able to provide opinions as members of the committees that write these documents on the intent behind the words. Many times, this opinion is sufficient to settle a dispute between a sprinkler contractor and an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) that helps public by providing good fire protection and helps the AHJ and the contractor move on to other projects.

In recent years, the NFSA members have asked for this sort of assistance so frequently that it has become a significant portion of the responsibilities of the Engineering Department. In 2003, the NFSA made the commitment to having a member of the Engineering Department "on call" during the business day to do nothing but respond to the questions that came in. The title "Engineer of the Day" was assigned to this individual in the style of the military "Officer of the Day" and the name caught on as a catchy marketing device.

As the program has evolved, we have made continuous improvements to better serve our members. We are now implementing two big improvements, which should make this service even higher quality. The first change that we will immediately implement is to change the name of the program to "Expert of the Day." This new name will more accurately describe the individual that you are being connected with. The value in this service is that you are being connected with an expert in the subject material of fire sprinkler systems, and this new name better reflects that

value. The change also allows us to keep the EOD acronym that has become synonymous with access to knowledgeable NFSA staff.

The second change that we are implementing immediately will be to institute a mechanism for quality control. 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 travel 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)

### **[NFSA Academy Trains You at Your Desk](#)**

To answer the call for a quality distance-learning program, NFSA has introduced the **NFSA Academy**. With 80 modules to pick from, dealing with beginner to advanced training, the Academy has something for everyone! Save on lost billable hours and travel expenses by getting your continuing education needs right from your own desktop. Log onto [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the banner below and sign up for the NFSA Academy, your competition is! ***Wisconsin contractors, get your CEU's here!***

### **[NFSA Project Management Class Scheduled for October in St. Paul](#)**

By popular request, NFSA's Project Management 2-Day Program will be presented in Minneapolis, MN at the MN Fire Museum October 3-4, 2007. This program has a great agenda and promises to help contractors reach a bolder Black bottom line.

The full program begins with a one-day in-class instructional seminar, 7 ½ hours of contact time. This is followed by six weeks of self-directed study and mandated mail-in assignments. The program concludes with another one-day, 7 ½ hours contact time, in-class instructional session. Each participant is provided with a complete reference book and safety manual.

Audiotapes to be utilized in the self-directed study between in-class sessions are supplemental material, with interesting case studies and examples. They are used in conjunction with text to help the participant analyze their company operations, strengths and deficiencies, and to recommend corrective actions.

This program is a must to help ensure job site decisions are in the best interest of the fire sprinkler contractor. The class is limited to the first 20 applicants. For registration information please contact Moira Ravel at (845) 878-4200 Ext. 131 or email at [Ravel@nfsa.org](mailto:Ravel@nfsa.org).

### **[Minnesota](#)**

### **[MN State Fire Marshal Requests Viewing of their Web Site](#)**

The State of Minnesota Fire Marshal encourages interested parties to view their web site at: <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/FireCode/FireCode.html> for updated information on the State Fire Code. Also, new managing employees will be required to test for the licensure. The site also includes many articles of interest for the fire sprinkler industry. Check the main address at: <http://www.fire.state.mn.us>

### **11<sup>th</sup> Annual BurnAid Golf Classic, Comes September 10, It's really Late!**

It's getting late to register for the Monday September 10, 2007 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BurnAid Golf Classic. The annual outing is hosted by the NFSA-Minnesota Chapter, Regions Hospital Foundation and in cooperation with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division. This year's event promises to be the biggest and best yet. The adventure this year moves to a new venue, the Dellwood Hills Country Club. You should have received your registration packet in May-don't wait as the course will fill up before you know it.

The first ten classics have produced over \$500,000 for the Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Monies generated have benefited many children and families over the years and this year's steering committee wants to make even a bigger impact for those who for unwanted seconds suffer the pain of burns.

### **Minnesota Chapter to Work with Fire Service on Authority and Sprinkler Installation Issues**

The NFSA-MN Chapter has entered into a project to help Authorities Having Jurisdiction and contractors find common ground on local ordinances and municipal policies when it comes to design and installation of fire sprinkler systems. It has become apparent that both parties have had some challenges when it comes to the two topics. A session is being planned for mid winter to address these concerns. A joint committee has been established to review the issues and to formulate an educational program complete with expert presenters to hopefully reduce controversial topics between the two parties. On the other side, AHJ's will divulge common complaints they experience with design and installation practices they are experiencing with some contractors. The final resolve would be a better all around and consistent procedure for all.

Assistance from the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division along with the parties will help ensure a successful program.

### **Wisconsin**

#### **Commerce Building Code Revision for Wisconsin Building Code**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) proposal to adopt all provisions of the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) with emphasis on the multifamily fire sprinkler requirements was sent to the state legislature on June 13, 2007. The State Assembly Committee on Housing had scheduled a hearing on August 21, 2007 to review and take action on the matter. Passage or a tie vote through this committee means the multifamily provision would become law. If the committee decided that the proposal should be defeated, then the next and final action would be to forward to a joint Senate and Assembly Committee. A notice was to be sent to members after the August 21 Committee action.

#### **NFSA Summer Meeting, Seminar, Exhibition and Golf Outing Another Success**

Even though attendance could have been larger, the Annual NFSA Wisconsin Chapter Meeting, Seminar, Exhibition and Golf Outing was an informative and fun experience. The Annual Meeting was facilitated by Chapter Chair Dan Gengler. Highlights of the last year's activities were given with reports filed by **Kathy Meulemans, Chapter Publicist** and **Annie Early, Chapter lobbyist** from **Martin Schreiber & Associates**.

**Buddy Dewar, NFSA Director of Regional Operations**, contributed an hour and half seminar on contract pitfalls, a very interesting presentation that will help those in attendance. Vendors had some time to show their products and speak to contractors in attendance. A golf scramble outing completed the day at the Legends of Bergamot Country Club, a challenging beautiful course that left a few golfers looking for the 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

### **Madison Fire Department Wants Sprinklers for Apartments**

The apartment fire on a July Saturday highlighted one thing the Madison Fire Department is pushing for in the state legislature -- requiring that all buildings with 3 or more units have sprinklers. One fire department employee believes if the Glacier Hills apartment complex had sprinklers, the fire would've been smaller and detected sooner. When crews arrived to Saturday's apartment fire they could see flames coming through the roof.

But the fire could've been smaller had there been a sprinkler system in the building. "If sprinklers had been throughout the building and in the attic, it would've made a big difference," **Madison Fire Department PIO Eric Dahl says**. This is one reason that the fire department stands behind a Department of Commerce proposal that would require automatic fire sprinklers in any building with 3 or more living units.

"This package currently before the subcommittee would bring Wisconsin fire sprinkler laws up to the rest of the country. 28 states have already adopted these standards," **Fire Marshal Ed Ruckriegel says**. Even if the new codes are adopted, older apartments would not be required to add sprinklers. "It does not address old buildings, strictly for new buildings only," Ruckriegel adds.

Ruckriegel says the most common argument against these codes is higher costs for builders. But he calls that argument all wet. The cost is 1 to 2 dollars per square foot. If you think about it carpet costs about 20 dollars a square foot. So it costs less than carpet. It costs less than cabinets," Ruckriegel says. Ideally Ruckriegel suggests sprinklers be placed in every room in the home.

Ruckriegel says that sprinklers can be the best fire deterrent. He referenced a few occasions in student housing, when sprinklers woke people up and kept them safe.

In 2006 all University housing buildings were required to be retrofitted with fire sprinklers.

### **Wisconsin Camp for Burn Injured Another Success**

The Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety sponsored its Thirteenth Annual Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youths the second week of August. The camp, held in outside little Troy Center, hosted 81 young burn survivors aged 7-17 years of age and had 51 volunteer counselors and staff for the fantastic week long experience. The camp is totally sponsored by donations and leading the pack is the Burn Center Golf Invitational that is headed by Wisconsin NFSA Chapter members.

The children had memories created every day and this year's Hawaiian theme said it all; **Ohana, Means Family**. It could not have been expressed any better. Hawaiian dancers and a Luau kicked off the week of events that included a 200 motorcycle parade, 30 classic cruiser cars, a fire apparatus parade, a trip to Milwaukee for a campus tour at the Milwaukee Area Technical College and a cruise on Lake Michigan. Fireworks by the world famous Bartolotta Fireworks Company concluded the week. These activities were but just a few of the highlights for the children who qualified for camp by being in the wrong place at the wrong time for just a few seconds of their precious young lives. Riding horses, swimming, arts and crafts and other activities were incorporated with the week of emotional healing for all of the attendees. It certainly helps provide incentive to prevent incidents of pain to anyone by fire. All you readers know the answer.

[NFSA News](#)

Check the NFSA web site, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), for more information on these valuable industry issues. The topics may save you money or they may put money in your business.

[Sprinkler Pre-Op Survey-Help Us Help Protect the Integrity of the Industry-Help Us Help the Industry](#)

[Contractor's Forum Email Program Helpful for NFSA Members](#)

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

[Inspection and Testing Certification Review Seminar](#)

[APS – Foremen and Construction Supervisors-Contract Programs- In Today's Industry Environment, You Need an Advantage and We Have it for You](#)

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

The 2007 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time and run approximately 1.5-hours. Seminar topics are designed to different levels of understanding, Basic (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A) levels. There are several seminars that cross two levels.

NFSA Member Cost: \$125.00\* per seminar per computer  
Non-member Cost: \$250.00\* per seminar per computer  
Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$25.00  
Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$50.00

**Technical Tuesday Schedule** for Summer/Fall 2007  
(B) Basic, (I) Intermediate, (A) Advanced

September 11	Smoke & Heat Vents (I)	Michael Friedman, P.E.
September 25	Cloud Ceilings (I)	Ken Isman, P.E.
October 9	Special Considerations for Dry Systems (I)	Cecil Bilbo Jr.
October 23	Flammable & Combustible Liquids – Part 2 (I)	Victoria Valentine, P.E.
November 6	Spec Buildings (I)	Ken Isman, P.E.
November 20	NFPA 25 – 2007 Update (B/I)	Russell Fleming, P.E.
December 11	Special Storage Sprinkler Systems (I/A)	Cecil Bilbo Jr.

The topics for the 2007 “**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.

September 20	Developing Positive Relationships with Fire Officials	Doyle Sutton
October 18	Recruiting and Retaining Employees	Buddy Dewar
November 15	Tort Reform	Dom Kasmauskas
December 20	Working with your AHJ	Bob Kleinheintz

The Technical 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. **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.

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

**SIX WEEK ON-LINE PROGRAMMING:**

**NEW HYDRAULICS FOR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS,**

**PUMPS FOR FIRE PROTECTION**

**RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS HOMES TO HIGH-RISE**

**INSPECTION, TESTING & MAINTENANCE OF WATER BASED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

**NFSA Midwest Regional In-Class Seminars**

**The Carol Stream, IL Fire Department is co-sponsoring Two-Day Plan Review & Inspection and One-Day Hydraulic seminars September 18-20, 2007 at their 365 Kuhn Rd. station. Get Wisconsin CEU's for attending if you are willing to travel.**

Your Regional Manager is looking to schedule more 2007 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.

**Contact Mike Repko, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 120** for information or registration for any NFSA training program. Check the NFSA web site, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

**Special Discounts:**

Register 5 Attendees for One Class; get a 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Pioneer Fire Protection, Inc.  
Slinger, Wisconsin  
(9-01-80) 27 years**

**Summit Fire Protection Company  
Rochester, MN  
(9—1-99) 8 years**

**Thanks for your industry support!**

**May 14-17, 2008 NFSA Annual Seminar,  
Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas**

**April 29-May 2, 2009 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition  
Omni Championsgate, Orlando, Florida**