

NFSA “Top Tech” Competition Details

The NFSA is looking for the best sprinkler Design Technicians in the land! Do you know NFPA 13 inside and out? Can you figure out optimal spacing for rooms of unusual dimensions in your head? Have you memorized what size suction pipe needs to be used with each size of fire pump? Then you might be just the right person to compete in the “Top Tech” competition.

The competition will begin in January of 2007 with exams being given at numerous locations around the country. These open book exams will test your knowledge on the application and use of NFPA 13. There will be three portions to the exam: multiple choice/short answer, drawing a sprinkler system into a portion of a building, and performing hydraulic calculation of a small system by hand.

The four people who score the best in each Region of the country will form a team (3 members and an alternate with no more than one person from each company) representing that Region at the NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 3 – 4, 2007. The NFSA will provide a small stipend to offset some of the travel costs and will provide free 2-day registrations so that the winners can attend the seminar.

Once at the Annual Seminar & Exhibition, the teams will face each other in an elimination tournament in a game show format competition (similar to “It’s Academic” for those of you that know that show where teams compete against each other earning points for answering the most correct questions asked by a host) until there is only one team left standing. That team will be crowned the “Top Tech Team for 2007” and will win astounding prizes as well as the admiration of their peers and recognition at the NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition as the best Design Technicians in the country.

Do you think you have what it takes? Contact your local Regional Manager to find out when and where the qualifying exams will be given in your Region. Find detailed registration information, rules and regulations at “Top Technician” link at the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org. Help us find the best sprinkler Design Technicians in the country!

Rules for NFSA “Top Tech” Contest

1. Only NFSA members will be allowed to participate in the competition. Individuals interested in the competition will contact the appropriate person listed below based on their location. The deadline for indicating interest in participating is January 10, 2007. Individuals should provide their name, their member company affiliation, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Individuals will be notified no later than January 20, 2007 of testing dates and locations.

2. The contest will start with a 2-hour open-book examination based on the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 offered at various locations. The examination will include a section of multiple-choice questions, a section requiring a hydraulic calculation by hand, and a section relating to sprinkler layout within a building plan. The examinations will be completed by February 14, 2007 and subsequently graded. The only materials that anyone will need to take the exam are a copy of the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 and a calculator with a y^x (raise to a power) function. Computers will not be permitted in the test area. After taking the test, individuals are expected not to reveal the contents of the test to anyone that might be taking the test in the future.

3. By the end of February, the three individuals scoring highest from an area will be offered spots on the team from that area, with the fourth-place finisher designated the official alternate. However, only one individual from a company can be part of the team for any geographic area. In the event a successful contestant declines the position, the offer will be given to the next place finisher who is eligible. Individual scores will not be given back to the participants.

4. Team members from each area (including the alternate) will be given a free two-day registration to the NFSA Annual Seminar in Las Vegas on May 3-4, 2007. Each individual participating in the Las Vegas finals will also be given a travel and subsistence subsidy of \$500 following participation. There is no requirement that the individuals stay at the seminar hotel.

5. At the NFSA Annual Seminar, the teams will compete in a panel format, similar to a television game show. Preliminary competitions will take place in the exhibition hall on Thursday, May 3rd, with the final held in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 4th.

Applicant Location

Contact

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