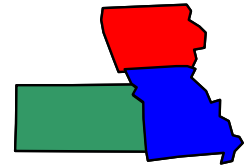




REGIONAL REPORT

Central Edition

www.nfsa.org



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Remember if you have code or technical questions, the Expert of the Day is there for NFSA members.

Email them at eod.nfsa.org

Greetings to all:

We have been very active here in the Central Region over the last month. We participated in handing out material on residential fire sprinklers at the St. Louis Home Show at the beginning of March. This show is rated one out of the top five in the nation and will be visited by over 20,000 people in a course of 4 days. I must thank Denny Webb with Guardian Fire Protection, Wally Miller and John LaVenture with the St. Louis Fire Sprinkler Alliance, and the guys down at Sprinkler Fitters Local 268 for all of the hard work they put into getting this event ready. 268 was able to build the StLFSA a 13D display for our booth which was very instrumental in discussing fire sprinkler and installing techniques with consumers and builders. I also want to thank Bob Kleinheinz; Regional Manager from Illinois who spent three days with us along with the following volunteers who help man the booth:

From Potter Electric:

Tim Freiner, Mike Henke, Judy and Rick Nyhoff who did a double shift.

From Viking Supply Net:

Dan Koziol who did a double shift:

From Ferguson Fabrication

Gabe Kulander

Members of the St. Louis Area Sprinkler Contractors Association:

Dave & Nancy Gagan with St. Louis Automatic Sprinkler CO.
Dennis Coleman and Matt Coleman with Engineer Fire Protection,
Lou Grasse with L. Grasse and Associates,
Bob Neubert of R.J. Neubert Fire Sprinklers,
Jeff Hewitt with Bi-State Fire Protection,
John Schotz with Ahern Fire Protection,
Mike Shelton with Fire-Tech,
Mike Hill with Boyer Fire Protection,
Denny Webb with Guardian Fire Protection, who did a double shift.



Dan Koziol from Viking stands ready to handout fire sprinkler material at the St. Louis Home Show.

NFSA classes were conducted in the St. Louis and Davenport areas in March. Be watching for additional class locations soon. We currently have classes scheduled in Branson, MO in June and the 3 day Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance Class scheduled for the St. Louis area will be in July.

With the insertion that residential fire sprinklers systems be required in all new one and two family dwellings of the 2009 ICC code cycle, HBA groups around the nation have been inserting language into state bills which would not allow code enforcement authorities to require residential sprinklers. To date we have seen these actions take place in 11 different states. The NFSA along with other coalition partners are actively working on have these bills removed. So far in the Central Region we have only been affected in the state of Missouri. For those of you in Iowa and Kansas, please keep an eye out for me and let me know if you happen to see anything.

MO Senate Bill 7, <http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills091/bills/sb007.htm>, was introduced early into legislation this session and as had amendments added to it last week. One of the MAJOR amendments is

Section 67.281

A builder of family residences or multi-unit dwellings with no more than four units must offer purchasers to install fire sprinklers in the residence. No purchaser of such residences shall be denied the right to choose to install the fire sprinkler or decline the offer by the political subdivision's code, ordinance, rule, regulation, order or resolution. Such provisions must provide the mandatory option for purchasers to choose and the requirement that builders offer to purchasers such option.

What this does, is in the event that a political subdivision would adopt an ordinance which would require residential sprinklers the homeowner has the option to waive the installation of that system. **Basically, saying that the local code enforcement process is useless.** This puts the AHJ in a position which will not allow them to enforce their minimum local standard. A couple of other points, Missouri has always been adamantly against mandating issues from a state level but would rather give local government the authority i.e. "Home Rule" enforcement. This bill will obviously contradict this standing practice.

So here is how you can help oppose this bill. Contact all of the following:

Senator John Griesheimer (R-Washington, MO) 573-751-3678

Senator Scott Rupp (pronounced ROOP) (R-Wentzville) 573-751-1282

Senator Tom Dempsey (R-St. Charles) 573-751-1141

Senator Ryan McKenna (D-Crystal City) 573-751-1492

Senator Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield) 573-751-1186

Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Glendale) 573-751-2853

Senator Joan Bray (D-Central St. Louis Co) 573-751-2514

Senator Jim Lembke (R-South St. Louis Co) 573-751-2315

Senator Rita Days (D-North St. Louis Co) 573-751-4106

Senator Tim Green (D-North St. Louis Co) 573-751-2420

Senator Jeff Smith (D-St. Louis City) 573-751-3599

Senator Robin Wright-Jones (D-St. Louis City) 573-751-2606

Senator Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) 573-751-3455

Senator Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau) 573-751-2459

Let them know that this is not in the best interest of the local AHJ officials as this bill will set up future problems for local government to decide what is best for their area.

Also in Missouri Senator Callahan of Independence, MO has introduced MO SB 506 which would require Fire Sprinkler Contractors to obtain a licensing to perform sprinkler work in MO. Check out the Legislative Report Section for more info.

Until next month....

-Chris

From NFSA HQ: Patterson, NY.....

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced to 111th Congress

On Wednesday, February 25, 2009, Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI), introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act to the 111th Congress. The bill, which will become the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009, will be HR1194. The Bill was introduced with 55 co-sponsors already on board including primary cosponsor Representative Eric Cantor (R-VA). Today, March 3, 2009, the NFSA Common Voices advocacy ladies, accompanied by representatives of the national fire and building organizations, fire sprinkler labor representatives and uniformed fire personnel, will be visiting selected Congressional offices on Capitol Hill to drum up additional cosponsor support for the bill.

Common Voices Receives Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Safety Leadership Award

The Congressional Fire Services Institute and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation have selected the Common Voices Coalition to receive the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award. The award recognizes organizations for outstanding contributions to firefighter health and safety.

NFSA Announces Gey as 2009 Golden Sprinkler Award Recipient

NFSA's Awards Committee has announced Wayne Gey as this year's Golden Sprinkler Award recipient. Gey, who is the immediate past chairman of NFSA's Board of Directors, is CEO of the prominent Florida fire sprinkler contractor Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Inc. His longtime support of both the NFSA and Florida Fire Sprinkler Association – a Chapter of NFSA is well documented. He will be presented with the award before hundreds of his peers during the opening ceremony at NFSA's Annual Seminar & Exhibition scheduled for April 30 – May 2 in Orlando.

Unbeatable Airfares Available to NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida

Check out the outstanding airfares available to the 2009 NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida by clicking on the "Sample Airfares Update" link at the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org. We've found some unbeatable deals departing from all parts of the country. Make all your reservations now so you'll be sure to get a seat on the plane and a room at the Omni ChampionsGate. Book NOW for your greatest savings!

NFSA 2009 Annual Seminar & Exhibition

April 29 – May 2, 2009



**Omni ChampionsGate
Orlando, FL**

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[Omni Reservations](#)

[Order Booth Space](#)

[Sample Airfares Update](#)

NFSA Technical Tuesdays Online Seminars Schedule for 2009:

April 7 **Older Systems and Components** *Russell P. Fleming, P.E.*

April 21 **Questions on Single Family Sprinkler Installations** *Jeff Hugo, CBO*

May 12 **Frequently Asked Questions – Part 4** *Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.*

June 2 **Hydraulics for Non-Uniform Layouts** *Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.*

June 16 **Sprinklers and the National Electrical Code** *Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T.*

Member volume discounts are available by contacting NFSA's Internet Services Assistant at Dawn@nfsa.org.

NFSA Online Business Thursday Seminar, 2009 Schedule...

Click [HERE](#) to register online for the seminars

NFSA Live On-Line Business Seminars	
<p>Contractors and the Authority Having Jurisdiction Bob Kleinheinz - February 19, 2009 The NFSA is proud to present a program on dealing with relationships between the Contractor and the Authority Having Jurisdiction. This program will cover the day to day working relationships that each side needs to foster. When an AHJ and a local contractor get along from the plan review process to the final inspection everyone goes home happy. The most important goal for both sides is to keep the customer happy and by following a few simple guidelines both sides can meet that goal.</p>	<p>Starting a State of Local Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition Dan Gengler - March 19, 2009 The adoption of residential sprinkler language in the 2009 International Residential Code requires a formula and plan for understanding. With a January 1, 2011 effective date, educating the public on the benefits of residential fire sprinklers and indoctrinating state and local policy makers will be necessary to pass legislation requiring total IRC adoption and compliance. Partnerships with the fire service, building officials and the sprinkler industry to name a few will be needed for success. Participating in this session will help set a course of coalition development to outreach stakeholders like the general public, developers, home builders, elected officials and new home buyers.</p>
<p>Best Practices Update Brian Cullen - April 16, 2009 Brian Cullen is a seasoned professional who effectively uses his skills in leadership, development and coaching to help clients achieve their most favorable business results. His presentation will include an overview of best practices and what is being done to help the fire sprinkler industry achieve its goals.</p>	<p>CPVC Update Chris Gaut - May 21, 2009 With the large quantity of CPVC pipe being used throughout the country and with the increased need for plastic pipe installation because of future residential sprinkler usage, issues regarding CPVC pipe arise. This presentation will discuss how the industry has taken a proactive step, involving contractors, suppliers and manufacturers and other stakeholders to address the issues.</p>
<p>Strategic Planning for Contractors Don Pamplin - June 18, 2009 The majority of public and private sector organizations do not perform effective strategic planning. They think they do and in many situations, they even call it "strategic planning" but the planning model that they use is not really strategic. In the business world, the bottom line is to make profit and the more profit you consistently make, the better insulated you are from the disastrous effects of economic and/or social change. By practicing effective and efficient strategic planning, you can be better prepared to change direction to meet new market demands and technology shifts. All business organizations within the Fire Sprinkler Industry need to use effective strategic planning to create a realistic and achievable road-map to lead them to where they want to be in the next three to five years.</p>	

Upcoming Onsite Seminars in the Central Region...

June 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2009 – Branson, MO Area.

Classes: 2 Day NFPA 13 Overview and Introduction to Plan Review
1 Day Inspection Testing and Maintenance

July 21st, 22nd, 23rd – St. Louis, MO area

Classes: 3 day Inspection and Testing for the Fire Sprinkler Industry
This three-day seminar has been developed for individuals that inspect and test water-based fire protection systems. The purpose of the seminar is to assist individuals in advancing their careers by reviewing material necessary for Level II certification in the relatively new NICET Subfield of Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems. By the end of the seminar, the student will have an understanding of a sufficient number of Level I, Level II General, and Special work elements to be prepared for Level II.

Other Onsite Training Seminars;

Two-Week Layout Technician Training

March 2 - March 13, 2009	Orlando, FL
March 23 - April 3, 2009	Cincinnati, OH
August 10 - August 21, 2009	Omaha, NE
September 14 - September 25, 2009	Baltimore, MD
October 10 - October 23, 2009	Phoenix, AZ

Inspection & Testing for the Sprinkler Industry

January 6 – 8	Nanuet, NY
January 26 – 28	Marana AZ
April 7 – 9	Champaign, IL
April 21 – 23	Nashville, TN

Legislative Reports.....

Missouri: [SB 7](#) If local government was to adopted an ordinance which would require residential fire sprinklers to be installed; this language would give the homeowner the ability to sign a waiver and opt out of fire sprinklers.

[SB 506](#) The state Fire Marshal shall promulgate rules controlling the registration of persons and entities engaged in the fire sprinkler system business and the requirements for planning, installing and servicing such systems.

Kansas: Nothing to report at this time.

Iowa: House Study Bill 18 click [HERE](#)
Senate Study Bill 1130 click [HERE](#).
Both bills are similar in nature and change language for the Fire Sprinkler Fitter's Licensure Bill which was passed last year.