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**April 2010**

Grassroots leads to successful education. Have you planted yours today?

Engineering Questions?  
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## **Updates on those pesky Anti- Residential Fire Sprinkler Bills.**

### **IOWA.....**

Right now all independent bills which would have taken the rights away from local policy makers the ability to enforce residential fire sprinklers appear to have been defeated. But we are not of the woods just yet. This is still the standings bill which could include an amendment by the homebuilders to continue the path they are on. Although we think it is unlikely it will happen, we are still closely monitoring all actions.

A resolution to stop the residential fire sprinklers in the state code was written late in March:

Bill key: 2009 IA SJR 2009  
Version: Introduced  
Version date: 03/22/2010  
Author: Gronstal

Senate Joint Resolution 2009 - Introduced Iowa 83rd Iowa General Assembly -- Second Session

#### **EXPLANATION**

This joint resolution nullifies portions of an administrative rule adopted by the department of public safety requiring the installation of automatic residential fire sprinkler systems in townhouses and one-family and two-family dwellings. A session delay was imposed on these provisions by the administrative rules review committee in December 2009. The joint resolution takes effect upon enactment.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION BY GRONSTAL and McKINLEY  
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION A Joint Resolution to nullify administrative rules of the department of public safety concerning automatic residential fire sprinkler systems and providing an effective date.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. The portions of 661 Iowa administrative code, rule 301.8, that adopt by reference sections R313.1 and R313.2 of the international residential code, 2009 edition, and that amend sections R313.1 and R313.2, by deleting and inserting in lieu thereof and providing exceptions thereto, are nullified.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This joint resolution, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

At the time that I have written this newsletter, this resolution has not been passed and by the time you receive this update, the IA legislation should have ended since they planned to have a shortened legislative session. Hopefully nothing has changed.

## Kansas.....

Well just when we thought it was over in Kansas, the Senate side decided to propose a bill against RFFS. This was really disappointing after the House had defeated the House bill twice. Unfortunately the Senate bill moved very fast as a hearing was quickly set and from my understanding fairness was not given in favor to the Opponents of this bill during the public hearing. This resulted in a quick passage out of Senate committee and became favorable on the Senate floor with a vote of 40-0.

The bill was then referred to a Conference Committee (CC) between the House and the Senate. Here is the outcome relayed by the KS Fire Service Lobbyist Pat Lehman:

*The CC met at 7:30 this morning on HB 2472 which included the sprinkler bill. After much discussion Senator Kultula D-Kansas City suggested the sprinkler language be taken out of 2472 and that a task force made up of homebuilders, realtors, manufacture homes the supporters of HB 2515 and SB 573 and the opponents The League, The Association of Counties, Fire Chiefs/Firefighters, city Code representatives, sprinkler sales and others representatives that are in support of house sprinklers.*

*Sandy Jacquot who is with the League of Municipalities will contact groups and put the task force together. The task force will be asked to come to a compromise on the language that is acceptable to both sides. The report to the Legislature will be due July 1, 2011. Sandy said she would put it together after the Legislature adjourns in May.*

*This at least slows this process down and gives everyone involved time to work this out but at least it is stopped for this year.*

We will be requesting a seat at the table!

## **MISSOURI.....**

We now have a Contractor Registration Bill filed in both the Senate and the House. You can read the text and follow the history of the Senate Bill (SB927) at:

[http://www.senate.mo.gov/10info/BTS\\_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=3274906](http://www.senate.mo.gov/10info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=3274906), and the House Bill (HB2132) at: <http://www.house.mo.gov/content.aspx?info=/bills101/bills/hb2132.htm>

To date a neither a Senate or a House Committee public hearing as not been held. I want to thank everyone who has been in support of these bills and the support letters, email, and calls you have placed to the legislators concerning these bills. It has been very helpful and gaining a lot of attention to the matter in a favorable way. Please continue to contact your legislators and ask them to move this bill forward.

## **Couple other Updates:**

The Iowa Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association will be holding their first Strategic Planning Session April 22, 2010, In Iowa City, IA. If you are interested in attending please contact myself or Jan Vrban at [janvrban@tvrban.com](mailto:janvrban@tvrban.com).

On March 24, 2010 the Metro and Jefferson County Fire Marshals Assoc held a 13D Conference which was attended by over 150 people in St. Louis. This was a fantastic day and a huge round of applause should go to the conference committee who made this happen. A big thank you to the speakers Jason Webb, Cecil Bilbo, and Tom Lia for their excellent presentations. I also want to thank Russ Sanders of the NFPA who attended to give opening remarks. A side by side demonstration was also given at the conference which made quite the impression on several people within the audience. The conference was a huge success.

The Fire Sprinkler Association of Kansas City is currently working on setting up a one day training for NFPA 25 and 13D. We are currently in the development stages and are hoping to hold the classes sometime in late Spring. Be watching for more details.

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

### **NFSA Annual Seminar Room Block Hits the Mark!**

At almost 100% of contract, NFSA's Annual Seminar scheduled to take place at the Chicago Fairmont is proving to be the place to be from April 14 to 17 this year. If you plan to attend, please take a moment to reserve your room between now and the end of the day, Friday, March 19. After this date any remaining rooms will be released but rooms may still be booked for NFSA attendees on a space and rate available basis. NFSA is very pleased with such a good turnout at this point and looks forward to welcoming everyone in Chicago. For more information regarding the seminar program, registration, or sleeping room reservations, please the link to the right.

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## **Judge Denies Pennsylvania Builders Association Request for Injunction**

On Wednesday, March 10 Commonwealth Court Judge Johnny J. Butler denied the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) request for a preliminary injunction enjoining the Department from enforcing its regulation adopting the 2009 International Codes. The result of this decision is that the 2009 ICC Codes remain in effect in Pennsylvania.

Read the full article here: [<PennLive>](#)

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## **TEAM PHOENIX is Looking for Runners**

TEAM PHOENIX is looking for runners to run the Chicago Marathon and support the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors. [<More Information>](#)

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## **Anti-Sprinkler Legislation Dead in Iowa**

According to the Des Moines Register, house file (HF 2508), which would have prevented counties and cities in Iowa from adopting the residential fire sprinkler requirement as outlined in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) is now dead. The NFSA would like to thank everyone who was involved in defeating this piece of legislation, especially the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association and Iowa Fire Marshals Association. To read the full story, [please click here](#).

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## **Fire Sprinkler Industry Meets With National Association of Home Builders**

By recommendation of NFSA President John Viniello, on Wednesday, March 3rd in Washington, D.C., the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) met with Jerry Howard, Chief Executive Officer of The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and his key staff. [<full story>](#)

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## **Scranton Times Tribune Publishes Article in Support of Residential Fire Sprinklers**

In response to The Pennsylvania Builders Association lawsuit against the state to try and block Pennsylvania's adoption of the 2009 International Residential Code, Joe Ferrary of NFSA's Public Relations Firm, R&J, wrote this article that appeared in Sunday's Scranton Times Tribune. Please be sure to post a comment of your own in support of residential fire sprinklers! Our message IS getting across! [\(LINK TO FULL STORY HERE\)](#)

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## **NFSA Online Seminars Schedule for 2010: Technical Tuesdays**

### **2010 Technical Tuesday Seminars Announced**

Recent changes to the sprinkler and pump standards have helped solve some common sprinkler system installation problems. The 2010 Technical Tuesday seminars will assist contractors in utilizing the newer documents in order to become more effective and efficient with their system layout and detailing. As usual, the NFSA will offer a 30 percent discount for anyone signing up for all ten seminars scheduled for the first half of the year. For the first time, however, an additional 5% discount is being offered to anyone who signs up for all 20 seminars to be offered in 2010.

April 20, 2010 - **Problem Solutions in Building and Life Safety Codes**

Jeff Hugo, C.B.O., NFSA Manager of Codes

May 4, 2010 - **Control Mode Specific Application Sprinkler Rules**

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

May 18, 2010 - **Diesel Fuel Tanks for Fire Pumps**

Kevin J. Kelly, P.E., NFSA Consultant

June 15, 2010 - **Soffits, Eaves and Overhangs**

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., NFSA Executive Vice President

July 20, 2010 - **Calculating Sprinklers Under Obstructions**

Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T., NFSA Consultant

August 10, 2010 - **Air Venting and Relief Valves**

Karl Wiegand, NFSA Manager of Installation Standards

August 31, 2010 - **When to Use NFPA 13R**

Jeff Hugo, C.B.O., NFSA Manager of Codes

September 14, 2010 - **Alarm System Interface**

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., NFSA Executive Vice President

September 28, 2010 - **Changes to Water Supply and Hose Stream Requirements**

Karl Wiegand, NFSA Manager of Installation Standards

October 12, 2010 - **Dry Systems and Residential Occupancies**

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

October 26, 2010 - **High-Rise Buildings with Relationship to NFPA 14 and NFPA 20**

Kevin J. Kelly, P.E., NFSA Consultant

November 9, 2010 - **Clearance to Storage**

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

November 30, 2010 - **Rules for Revamping Systems**

Russell P. Fleming, P.E., NFSA Executive Vice President

December 14, 2010 - **Pumps in Series**

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

## **Business Thursdays**

Live web based seminars scheduled on various Thursdays. The topics for the "Business Thursday" seminars have been specially selected to help the fire sprinkler contractor deal with current problem areas in the business environment.

**April 15, 2010 - How to Use Sprinkler Save Information**  
**Bob Kleinheinz - Illinois Regional Manager**

This presentation will give the audience an idea of how important sprinklers save information can be and will give an idea of how information is being used in various parts of the country. This program will also demonstrate some very simple and free programs offered by different fire service

**May 20, 2010 - Working with the News Media**  
**Dominick Kasmauskas - New York Regional Manager & Bob Kleinheinz - Illinois Regional Manager**

Whether you are a fire official, building official, or sprinkler contractor, we all must work on providing a proper message when interviewed by the local press or TV stations. Providing proper message to the media will help to alleviate

organizations and agencies.

any negative reports on sprinkler systems. Getting the media to report the proper facts and figures can bring a positive light on fire protection systems. This session will show us how to locate stories through media methods and also how to properly present the story.

**June 17, 2010 - Gathering Stakeholders and Building Bridges- Planning for the IRC adoption**  
**Bruce Lecair - West Regional Manager**

Tips on the importance of starting the IRC adoption process early, reaching out to potential opponents, building a strategic plan, setting common goals and objectives, identifying key stakeholders, identifying and resolving stakeholder issues, the importance of educating and listening, utilizing the STEEP (social, technological, economic, ecological and political) model for developing the final recommendations report, and getting the final product out to the stakeholders.