



January 2009



*Chris Gaut*  
Regional Manager

189 Eureka Towne Center Dr., Suite 135  
Eureka, MO 63025  
Office: (636) 549-3173  
Cell: (845) 803-6426  
Fax: (636) 410-7700

[www.nfsacentralregion.org](http://www.nfsacentralregion.org)

Email: [gaut@nfsa.org](mailto:gaut@nfsa.org)

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

Email them at [eod.nfsa.org](mailto:eod.nfsa.org)

## ICC Appeals Board Denies Homebuilders' Claim

*Thursday, December 11, 2008, Patterson, New York* – Earlier today the International Code Council Appeals Board met in Chicago to determine if there were any improprieties or procedural violations leading up to and during the vote by members of the International Code Council (ICC) at its hearing in Minneapolis in September that resulted in fire sprinklers being adopted into the body of the International Residential Code (IRC).

NFSA's Manager of Codes Jeff Hugo was in attendance at the ICC Appeals Board hearing and reported this afternoon that by a unanimous vote of 3-0, the Appeals Board denied the homebuilders' claim that the fire sprinkler industry engaged in practices in violation of ICC established procedures.

After receiving the news about the ICC Appeals Board decision, NFSA President John Viniello said, "As the fire sprinkler industry's leading membership organization, we are extremely pleased at the outcome of this hearing. It reinforces that the members of the ICC recognize that fire sprinklers need to play an integral role in the protection of life from fire within the home."



Photo/[Dann Wunderlich](#)

Bob Hutton, Fire Sprinkler Task Force Committee vice chairman, discusses the goals of the newly formed committee. The group will focus on installing sprinklers throughout Greek residences.

# REGIONAL REPORT

Central Edition



## Fire Safety Task Force works towards sprinkler solution

The committee of specialists debated off-campus fire safety.

By [Katherine Miller](#)  
Dec. 11, 2008

The Fire Safety Task Force Committee discussed the implementation of sprinklers in MU fraternities, sororities and other off-campus student housing at its first meeting Thursday night.

"As a (City Council) person, you can be sure that wouldn't it just be awful if we had a fire and property damage, or far more seriously, if there were serious injuries or a death, and then we said to ourselves, 'Well, if we only had sprinklers, this might not have happened,'" said Columbia mayor Darwin Hindman, who made a brief appearance at the meeting. "On the other hand, we all know that there may be a limit as to what can be done, feasibly and financially, putting the sprinklers in."

The task force was commissioned by the mayor due to a city ordinance passed in Jan. 2007, adopted from the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code. The legislation states that an automatic fire sprinkler system shall be provided in all existing fraternity and sorority houses by Dec. 31, 2012.

When the ordinance first passed, it was tabled because the commission didn't have enough information on the issue. The City Council then directed Hindman to appoint a task force.

The committee includes a diverse group of people, including those affiliated with the Greek system, those insurance companies, safety specialists and the fire chief. John Sudduth, the city's protective inspections manager, helped facilitate the first meeting.

The meeting was open to the public. However, only one city official not on the committee attended.

The committee's first priority was the election of the chairman and vice chairman. Skip Walther, who could not attend the meeting, was elected chairman, and Bob Hutton, Executive Director of Administrative Services at Columbia College, was elected vice chairman.

The task force discussed several issues but came to the conclusion that more information was necessary. The group requested that Sudduth provide more documentation about the history of the ordinances for the next meeting so the group will be better informed about the requirements of the sprinkler propositions.

One of the main issues discussed during the meeting was what actually defines off-campus housing.

"I think that's a big thing," said Steven Sapp, the Columbia Fire Department battalion chief. "They want more definition as to what constitutes a fraternity or sorority, what constitutes student housing. If you live off campus, should you be just as safe as those living on campus? I think it's a hefty responsibility of the task force."

Another issue the task force discussed was the requirements of the ordinance. Sapp said there are various levels of sprinkler protection including 13D systems, which are primarily for domestic residences or one or two family dwellings. The 13R systems don't cover the entire building but provide 10 minutes of life safety protection to allow people to exit the building. They are designed for dwellings with fewer than three stories and 16 or less individual units. NFPA 13 systems cover every part of the residence and are designed primarily for property protection.

One representative of Greek Life thought the meeting was a step in the right direction and would ultimately benefit students.

"What I took away from this meeting is that there's a group of people who are coming from different points of view who want to work on the best solution for our students and for our community," Greek Life Director Janna Basler said.

The report of the group's preliminary discussions from Thursday's meeting will be presented to City Council on Jan. 20.

## From NFSA HQ.....

### NFSA Announces New Membership Category

NFSA is proud to announce the inception of our newest member category, Friend of the Industry. This new membership encompasses companies such as insurance agents, accountants, printers and all others that interact with, but are not part of, the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA would like to encourage its members to ask vendors they are doing business with that would fit into this category, to show their support by joining NFSA as a Friend of the Industry. For further information, call Karyn Hudgens, Director of Membership at 845.878.4200 ext. 156 or by email [Hudgens@nfsa.org](mailto:Hudgens@nfsa.org). Applications can also be found at the NFSA website, [nfsa.org](http://nfsa.org). The applications are writable and can be filled out online. Secure payments are accepted through Paypal© making it easy and safe to join the Friend of the Industry membership category online.

### Classes Scheduled for 2009:

#### Two-Week Layout Technician Training

January 26 - February 6, 2009	Denver, CO
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 26 – 28	Marana AZ
April 7 – 9	Champaign, IL
April 21 – 23	Nashville, TN

## Gail Minger on Don Imus Radio Talk Show

Gail Minger, a member of the National Fire Sprinkler Association's Common Voices Coalition, was a guest on the Don Imus Radio Talk Show on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Common Voices Advocates work to raise the nation's awareness to the deadly impact of fire. Each of the advocates has first-hand experience with the effects of fire in that they have lost a family member in a fire, or they are a burn survivor themselves. Ms. Minger lost her son, Michael in 1998 in a dorm fire at Murray State University in Kentucky and has devoted her life to spreading the message of fire safety on college campuses through both Common Voices and the Michael Minger Foundation. The Michael Minger Memorial Foundation was established after Michael's tragic death. The Foundation serves to educate parents and students on Campus Fire Safety and to promote better fire safe practices on college campuses around the nation. The Foundation also serves to address needs of students with disabilities to aid in their ability to survive campus fires. The Foundation endorses total campus safety and works to improve all issues related to campus safety. Michael's Foundation has also contributed to scholarships for student victims to help with their education.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tragic School Fire

The third largest school tragedy in the United States occurred on Dec. 1, 1958.

The fire at [Our Lady of Angels Catholic school](#) in Chicago, Illinois claimed the lives of three nuns and ninety-two elementary school children.

Our Lady of Angels was a brick-fronted, wooden-framed building that housed 1,200 people — but it only had two fire alarms (and no smoke detectors). There was only one fire escape, and no sprinkler system. This tragedy was one of the things that spurred modern fire regulations for schools and public buildings. Our Lady of the Angels school passed a fire department safety inspection only weeks before the fire, because the school did not have to comply with all fire safety guidelines due to a grandfathering clause in the 1949 standards. Existing schools were not required to retrofit the safety devices that were required in all newly constructed schools. In the only positive outcome of the tragedy, sweeping changes in school fire safety regulations were enacted nationwide, no doubt saving countless lives in subsequent years.

## Sprinkler Saves....

### Emergency crews respond to fire at International Paper

12-03-08 Reported by the Kansas City Star: Robert A. Cronkleton, [bcronkleton@kcstar.com](mailto:bcronkleton@kcstar.com)

Firefighters responded early this morning to a report of a fire in a flue at International Paper Co.

The fire was reported about 7:25 a.m. at the plant at 4343 Clary Blvd.

When crews arrived, they found smoke coming from the building. The fire has been contained and crews are ventilating the building and working to shut off the sprinkler system, said Fire Department spokesman Joe Vitale.

No injuries were reported. No further details were immediately available.

## Fire Strikes Center Twice in One Day

Posted: 10:43 PM Nov 29, 2008

Last Updated: 1:49 AM Nov 30, 2008

Reporter: 13 News [www.wibw.com](http://www.wibw.com) (<http://www.wibw.com/localnews/headlines/35268989.html>)

Fire broke out at [Providence Living Center](#) twice Saturday. [Topeka](#) Firefighters responded to the first fire just before 9:00. The fire was small and damage is estimated at \$500.

Around 2:30 a second fire broke out. This one was located in the common area in the south basement of the facility. The fire caused the sprinkler system to go off.

According to the center's [Chief Operating Officer Frank Trimboli](#), the staff swiftly evacuated the residents. Blowing fans were used to get the smoke out of the building. The fire caused \$7,000 in damage.

No one was displaced by either fire and both remain under investigation to determine the causes.

### Other Sprinkler Saves which did not make media attention.....

## Connector Castings, Inc.

Date: **12/7/2008** Location: **1600 N. 22<sup>nd</sup>**, St. Louis, MO

1600 N. 22nd, Connector Castings Inc.

3 story brick 1/2 block square combined occupancy (production / warehouse).

3 heads activated confining the fire to the first floor room of origin. The fire had originated in a first floor window (arson) and extended straight up to the unenclosed wood ceiling. The sprinklers did a nice job considering most of the fire was above the heads. But enough steam was generated to slow the fire which was quickly extinguished with one hand line. This fire had multiple alarm written all over it if not for the sprinkler system. Interior hazards to the crews also would have been significant including acetylene and oxygen cylinders, and an operating blast furnace (which is left operating during after hours apparently because it is too difficult to power down, then too expensive to repower up).

## 4 Heads contain Grease Fire

Date: **12/5/2008** Location: **Tudor Building, St. Louis, MO**

A small grease fire occurred last night in the Tudor Building at 1916 Lucas around 8:00. The fire was contained to unit #234 and was started by guests of the resident in that unit. Four sprinkler heads popped off when the water rushed to that loft. The water drenched that unit and carried four units to the east, six units to the west, and five units to the north (interior two beds). The fire department responded, shut off the sprinkler system, removed what water they could, replaced the four sprinkler heads, then turned the system back on. The Fire Department arrived about 8:00 and was gone by 10:30.

# REGIONAL REPORT

Central Edition



## Related information

Sprinkler save in an apartment which was reported by Stan Shiner of Fire Protection Systems, whose company installed the system at the time of construction.

*“This area was approximately 21’ x 22’ with a drywall ceiling and protected by 4 sprinklers on exposed steel pipe. We could see where the “small grease fire” had started on the stove and “EXPLODED” across the room. The flames left scorch marks across the entire ceiling and melted parts of the microwave and charred the cabinets above” “The heat buildup that occurred caused the 4 heads to fuse,(the fire) would have easily overtaken the “wood structure”.*

## Wentzville. MO

Reported by: Chris Newbold of the Wentzville Fire Protection District via email 11-26-2008

Our district actually had TWO (2) more sprinkler saves over this last weekend! One at the Enclave Apartments in O’Fallon (Winghaven area) caused by careless use of some “incense” burning, and one at the Peine Lake Apartments in Wentzville (Flint Hill area) cause by dry cooking.

Both would probably have been spectacular blazes making all the news media – but instead, thankfully, nobody really knows anything happened except us.

## NFSA Sets Technical Tuesdays Online Seminars Schedule

NFSA has announced new topics for the first half of 2009 for its acclaimed series of Technical Tuesdays online seminars:

- January 27 **Unsprinklered Spaces** *Kevin J. Kelly, P.E.*
- February 10 **Tanks for Fire Protection** *Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.*
- February 24 **Small Room Rule** *Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T.*
- March 10 **Applying the Seismic Load Tables** *Victoria B. Valentine, P.E.*
- March 24 **Copper Tube for Sprinkler Systems** *Michael Friedman, P.E.*
- 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](mailto:Dawn@nfsa.org).

## Upcoming Onsite Seminars.....

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – St. Louis, MO Area,

Classes: One Day Inspection Testing Maintenance  
½ Day Acceptance and Commissioning of Water Based Systems  
½ Day Underground Piping  
½ Day Basic Seismic  
½ Day Advanced Seismic

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Davenport, IA Area,

Classes: 2 Day NFPA 13 Overview and Introduction to Plan Review  
1 Day Plan Review Policies and Procedures

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Branson, MO Area.

Classes: TBA

## Legislative Reports.....

**Missouri:** House Bill 2539. <http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/biltxt/intro/HB2539I.htm>  
<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bills/hb2539.htm>. This bill was not moved in the 2008  
Legislator. We are waiting to see if it will be reintroduced for the 2009 session. There is another bill  
which was introduced in 2008 which would require any type of contractor to be licensed in the state of  
MO. The bill number is HB 2452 and can be viewed here

Sponsor: <http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/member/mem056.htm>

Bill Location on web:

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bills/hb2452.htm> and  
<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills081/bilsum/intro/sHB2452I.htm>

Again we are waiting to see if this bill will be reintroduced in the 2009 session.

**Kansas:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Iowa:** Nothing to report at this time.

I am looking for known towns or cities which have any type of ordinance which requires fire sprinkler systems above the model code standards. I am specifically looking for any type ordinance and any square footage requirements that may be included. This information is needed to update our database. Please email me any information you may have on this. Thank you.