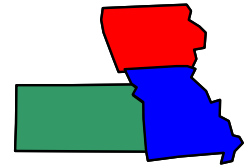




# REGIONAL REPORT

Central Edition [www.nfsa.org](http://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](mailto:eod.nfsa.org)

## Missouri:

Last month I reported that the opponents to residential fire sprinklers had introduced language in the MO Legislation which would restrict local government the ability to adopt mandatory residential fire sprinkler installation requirements throughout MO. If passed, the state law would allow the home buyer to “opt out” of a residential fire sprinkler if mandated by a local jurisdiction. There were several concerns with this concept;

- 1) What if a “spec” home was built and the homeowner wanted the fire sprinkler installed? This would double or triple the cost for a retrofit obviously per swaying the potential homebuyer not to have the system installed.
- 2) How was the “opt out” process going to be handled? Who was going to take care of the education process for fire sprinklers? Would it be the home builder?
- 3) Where do the “opt out” abilities stop in the future? Will the home buyer start requesting the ability to “opt out” of other required safety features such as window glazing and handrails? After all model code requirements are built around the fact that past built homes were not built correctly, the structure became a failure, or a safety concern to the occupant. Model Codes are not developed on the BISO (Because I Said So) factor. Now maybe local ordinances in a local community are developed that way, but folks model let’s be honest, model codes are developed because people die from failures. Codes are reactive not proactive. “Opt out” options puts us right back to square one not with just residential fire sprinkler, but will all safety features. Now there is an argument that “more people will die” in home with “opt out” abilities.
- 4) The main concern with this issue was not really about sprinkler at all but rather the ability for local government the opportunity to make local code enforcement decisions for their community. MO has always been a strong supporter “home rule” state concept, part of the reason why there is not a current state wide code.

There has been a lot happen over the last 4 weeks. The MO Fire Service Alliance along with the St. Louis Home Builders Association had signed a written agreement which would have been eliminated the “opt out” option as a state wide law, but rather allow the local government jurisdiction the ability to adopt local “opt out” ordinances. Unfortunately MO Legislators and other HBA chapters around MO felt that the deal was not good enough, therefore “opt out” sprinkler language was being introduced throughout many Senate and House Bills. After some Senators questions whether a deal had been

struck on the Senate floor, the original sponsor of SB 7 demanded that a meeting of all interested parties be conducted at the State Capital in Jefferson City to resolve the issues.

This meeting took place on 4-23-09. There were about 50 people in the meeting consisting of Fire Service Reps, Homebuilders, Fire Sprinkler Industry Folks, and many lobbyists from all parties. After 3 hours of discussion, and a mini caucus briefing, a final deal was struck. By the time you read this the specifics should have worked out something like the following:

- 1) The statewide HBA was going to pursue with a state wide mandatory option requirement,
- 2) This law, which we expect to pass (or as already), will sunset and go away December 31, 2011.
- 3) The HBA will also agree to not pursue state wide language after the sunset, and will only lobby the mandatory option at a local government level.
- 4) The homebuilder will also have to give out literature to all potential homebuyers, which has been approved by the MO Fire Service Alliance. There are no restrictions on how a local fire department or fire district will require how the homeowner is properly informed or educated out the sprinkler systems, but there will be a great effort to make sure that most fire service departments use the same material and outline.
- 5) It was agreed upon that both parties will sign off on the proposed agreement in a written letter which will be kept with lobbyist and legislators so that in the future if any party should go against the agreement it will be brought to everyone's attention.

In my opinion #4 was a big success. In essence even if a fire department stays with or adopts a difference code standard other than the 2009 IRC, the home builder (by law) will still have to show the potential home buyer fire sprinkler material.

## **IOWA:**

**NFPA 25** classes will be held June 8-10<sup>th</sup> at either the City of Iowa City training center or UI Public Safety, depending on enrollment. Be watching for more information to come. IFSCA will once again provide the books. This class will be provided by the IFSCA and the Sprinkler Fitters Local 669.

### **Golf Outing Update**

The IFSCA will once again hold their annual golf tournament to raise funds for the burn treatment center. This year's event is August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Brown Deer Golf Course in Coralville. A shotgun start will be at noon with box lunches. There will be a product show from 8-11AM in the ballroom. Booths will stay up all day and during dinner. A cash bar will start upstairs at 4:30pm. Dinner will follow at 5:30pm. Registration forms will go out May 1<sup>st</sup>. Auction Items are requested and always appreciated. Please contact Jan Vrban with Vrban Fire Protection for any donations, suggestions, etc.

### **Iowa Contractors License Review**

There appears to have been an increasing number of out of state contractors bidding in our markets. The problem with this is some are not certified with the state to install sprinklers in Iowa. There are approximately 90 companies listed on the state's website as having registered and paid their \$500/year fee. And then there are those who either don't know or don't care and are still bidding and working in Iowa without having registered and paid. Brian Bishop at the Dept. of Public Safety says if they are turned in, the DPS will follow up with a letter giving them 30-45 days in which to register. Use this email address: [alarminfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:alarminfo@dps.state.ia.us) and provide the company name and contact info, jobs they are bidding and whether they have been awarded or still in the bidding phase.

At this time, the next general IFSA meeting will be held **July 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in the **Edgewater Grill 8-10:00AM**. Please contact Jan Vrban at [janvrban@tvrban.com](mailto:janvrban@tvrban.com) if you are interested in attending.

## **KANSAS:**

FIRE TEAM USA will be coming to Overland Park, KS in May. If you are a fire official, building official, public works director, water purveyor official, planning or zoning official, or any type of elected or appointed local government official, you will not want to miss this free seminar.

***Does your community use code enforcement for new residential construction?***

***Have you heard of the new fire sprinkler requirements in the 2009 International Residential Code?***

***Should fire sprinklers really be in new homes?***

***If you question the new sprinkler code requirements like so many others, then you need to join us for a FREE seminar May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Overland Park, KS.\****

Click [HERE](#) to Sign up FREE TODAY!

**This Grant Funded Seminar also includes 2 nights Lodging and Meals\*\***

### ***What is Fire Team USA?***

Team USA is a special day and a half informational / training conference on fire protection and your community. Fire Team USA is about bringing resources to help you enhance the fire protection that your community offers. Creating partnerships in the community and working with all stakeholders is important to improving the public policy on fire protection.

All you have to do is coordinate your team, sign up, and show up!

### ***Who should be on your team?***

FTUSA is partnering for public policy with a focus on cooperating for quality communities. This seminar is an initiative to bring Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshals, Elected Officials, Building Officials, and other stakeholders from communities across your state and region together to learn and share fire prevention methods and alternatives that affect quality of life.

**Don't miss out on this one of a kind opportunity which can help you make the informed decisions to the FUTURE of YOUR Community!**

For More Information about Fire Team USA please visit  
[www.fireteamusa.com](http://www.fireteamusa.com).



\*Seminar is limited to the first 75 people who register online

\*\* Lodging would be provided for the nights of May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. 2 Breakfasts and 1 Lunch are provided during the seminar days. More information included in registration information

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

### **SQ Buyer's Guide Issue**

The 2009 Buyer's Guide issue has hit the streets and is bigger and better than ever. This year, in addition to a listing of all of our Supplier and Manufacturer Members (SAM,) we have a Professional listing as well. These listings are free to all of our SAM and Professional members. An information sheet is sent out at the end of the year to qualifying members to fill out and return for publication. An optional logo insertion is available for a nominal \$125 printing fee. This is a great way to get your goods and services advertised to potential customers at no cost to you. The Buyer's Guide issue receives free bonus distribution at NFSA's Annual Seminar & Exhibition, this year in Orlando, Florida. The issue is kept by our readers all year long as a reference guide, used when they are looking for a certain product or service. If you missed out on this year's listings, mark your calendars and look for your Buyer's Guide Information form, to be sent by email and regular mail, towards the end of December. Plan ahead now, you'll be glad you did. For further information, please contact Advertising and Publications Coordinator, Joanne Genadio at [genadio@nfsa.org](mailto:genadio@nfsa.org) or 845.878.4200 ext. 118.

### **New Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Form Available with Insurance Information**

The NFSA has updated its most popular Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Form (the Wet Pipe Sprinkler System Form, #25-13W) to the 2008 edition of NFPA 25. In addition, the NFSA has added a place on the form to identify the owner's insurance company. This will allow the inspection company to send a copy of the report of inspection directly to the insurance AHJ. By placing the insurance company's information on the form, it is hoped that the owner will be more serious about fixing any problems that are found during the inspection, testing or maintenance of the system.

The form is available through the NFSA Resource Center. The form is sold in packets that will allow for 15 inspections to be completed with an original sheet and four copies made automatically as you write on the top form. Each packet sells for \$20 to members of the NFSA and \$30 for nonmembers. Additional shipping and handling charges apply. For more information, or to receive a Resource Center Catalog, contact the NFSA at (845) 878-4200 x111 or go to our website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on "Catalog" in the menu on the left to download a copy of the catalog and order form.

For a short period of time, the NFSA will continue to make the old form (based on the 2002/2005 edition of NFPA 25) available. Please let us know when you order which form you would like. The NFSA will continue to make the old form available if there is a consistent demand for the product.

At the moment, the Wet Pipe Sprinkler System Form (#25-13W) is the only one available that has been updated to the 2008 edition of NFPA 25 and has the insurance company information on it. As inventory and time allow, the NFSA will be updating the other forms in our catalog.

### **NFSA Personnel Featured in Firehouse.Com Podcast**

This month on Fire Marshal's Corner, host Ed Comeau focuses on the growing issue of efforts to remove the requirements for residential sprinklers that were put into the International Residential Code, at the state level. A number of bills have been introduced in state legislatures and the fire service is rising to the cause and working hard to make sure that profits are not coming ahead of public and firefighter safety.

Guests include: Gary Keith, Vice President of Field Operations for the National Fire Protection Association; Tom Lia, Executive Director of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board; Alan Perdue, International Director of the IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section; and Shane Ray, Associate Director of Public Fire Protection for the National Fire Sprinkler Association. You can access the podcast at <http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/category/fire-marshals-corner/>.

### **NFSA Announces New Partnership with Human Resources Provider SingleSource Services**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has announced a new business partnership with SingleSource Services, a human resources service provider which will offer NFSA members a discount and peace of mind.

SingleSource Services is a human resources outsourcing company established in 1995 and based in Jacksonville Beach, Fla. All services are geared towards taking the pain out of dealing with HR. Serving 1,000-plus customers nationwide, from two-person shops to thousands of employees, each program is designed specifically to the needs of that organization.

SingleSource offers services such as: pre-employment assessments, drug testing, payroll, background screening, exit interviews, surveys, a Human Resources Management (HRM) system and an HR legal helpline. The goal is to help businesses run more smoothly, while taking care of all HR functions.

Members will be able to choose HR services ala carte or as a package. SingleSource will have a booth set up at the NFSA Annual Seminar and Exhibition, in Orlando, where Donald Dyer, president, and Paul Meese, vice president of client relations, can help members design a program specifically tailored to their needs. SingleSource will be offering a gift certificate prize of \$250 at their booth to help a lucky member get started.

For more information on SingleSource, contact Paul Meese at 800-713-3412 or visit [www.SingleSourceServices.com](http://www.SingleSourceServices.com).

### **Sprinklerman®™ Set to Make Appearances at Minor League Baseball Games**

Updated, snazzy and ready to go, Sprinklerman®™ is set to make appearances at minor league ballparks east of the Mississippi. The new and improved Sprinklerman®™ will spread goodwill and educate fans at the following venues. If there's one near you, mark your calendars and come on out to support your association's efforts to get information about the benefits of fire sprinkler systems out to the general public.

Daytona Cubs, Daytona, Florida-April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Brockton Rox, Brockton, Massachusetts-May 30  
Portland Sea Dogs, Portland, Maine-June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Chattanooga Lookouts, Chattanooga, Tennessee-June 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ft. Wayne Tin Caps, Ft. Wayne, Indiana-June 13<sup>th</sup>  
Reading Phillies, Reading, Pennsylvania-July 6<sup>th</sup>  
New Britain Rock Cats, New Britain, Connecticut-July 9<sup>th</sup>  
Rockford Riverhawks, Rockford, Illinois-July 9<sup>th</sup>  
Somerset Patriots, Somerset, New Jersey-July 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tampa Yankees, Tampa, Florida-July 31<sup>st</sup>  
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Appleton, Wisconsin-August 21<sup>st</sup>  
Hudson Valley Renegades, Wappinger Falls, New York-August 26<sup>th</sup>

## **NFSA Technical Tuesdays Online Seminars Schedule for 2009:**

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).

# NFSA Online Business Thursday Seminar, 2009 Schedule...

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

## 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.

## Starting a State of Local Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition

**Dan Gengler - June 18, 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.

## Upcoming Onsite Seminars in the Central Region...

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Branson, MO Area.** DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP TODAY!

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

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. Louis, MO.** LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

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

August 10 - August 21, 2009	Omaha, NE
September 14 - September 25, 2009	Baltimore, MD
October 10 - October 23, 2009	Phoenix, AZ

## 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. **UPDATE: PLEASE SEE REPORT ABOVE.**

[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. **UPDATE: THIS BILL HAS NOT OR WILL NOT BE MOVING THIS YEAR.**

**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.