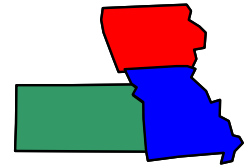




# REGIONAL REPORT

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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)

## **City of Kirksville to be first city in MO to require residential fire sprinklers after 2011 Ban!**

Congratulations to the City of Kirksville, MO, Fire Chief Randy Behrens, and Code Director Brad Shelby. Their recent actions will ensure that new homebuyers, in their City, will be safer against fires in those homes starting January, 1 2012. Below is the news story from the Kirksville Daily Express.

### **City mandates sprinkler code**

By Vincent Brennan  
Daily Express  
Tue Sep 22, 2009, 12:51 PM CDT

KIRKSVILLE — City Councilman Aaron Rodgerson is once again stirring up some controversy, this time over Kirksville adopting international building codes as approved at Monday night's Council meeting by a vote of 4-1.

While the approved ordinance changes multiple codes, the topic that sparked the hottest debate requires new single family and two-family homes to install water sprinkler systems, a protective measure against fires.

At a prior study session, Rodgerson had called the ordinance "Communitistic" and argued the change would cost local contractors thousands of dollars.

Rodgerson read a prepared statement Monday citing the U.S. Constitution as a shield against measures to take away a person's property or wealth.

"It is wrong for any government to impose codes under the guise of safety or further take the property of another," Rodgerson said. "I, for one, would not put a sprinkler system in my house if I was building a new home due to the cost and I am not about to spend the money of future generations."

Additionally, Rodgerson said he was still in favor of safety in the community.

"I am concerned about the safety of all citizens, but I will not steal their property to give them so called 'safety,'" he said.

Countering Rodgerson's argument was Councilman Richard Detweiler, who noted a group of carbon monoxide deaths that occurred in Kirksville in 2006. The incident inspired the inclusion of carbon monoxide detectors as a requirement in the city's building codes.

Detweiler said the city should use the same protocol for sprinkler systems.

"We do this for the betterment and health for everybody," he said. "It's common sense and we didn't do it in that case and seven people died."

Detweiler enforced the idea that the City's responsibility is to insure the safety of everyone in the community, the same idea Codes Director Brad Selby said after the meeting.

"This is a continuation of what's safe and what causes fires," Selby said. "Eighty percent of all fires happen in a house...so this is just a continuation of fire prevention for these single (and double) family homes."

He added the new codes not only protect the residents, but the contractors who build them.

"It makes sure the homeowner knows that the contractor can say that they built the home the way it was suppose to be built," Selby said.

Kirksville Fire Department Chief Randy Behrens was also on hand at the meeting to give his endorsement.

He said the city of Scottsdale, Ariz., instituted the ordinance in 1985 and have recorded six instances where the sprinklers saved the lives of family members.

The sprinklers are triggered by heat between 180-210 degrees. When the temperature in the room rises to a set amount, a link melts on the sprinkler and water flows through the valve.

Only the sprinkler in the immediate room will be activated incase of the rise in temperature, not the entire system, said Selby. He also downplayed the possibility of malfunctions.

"It is not common for these sprinklers to malfunction," Selby added. "They go off 99.9 percent of the time due to heat only."

If the system did activate by accident, Selby said the City would not be liable for incurred water damage because it would be no different than any other type of water damage in the house, such as a pipe leak.

Currently, the sprinklers are required in any building larger than a duplex. Come Jan. 1, 2012, all new single and double family homes must be built with a sprinkler system, an added cost that many contractors and prospective homeowners just cant take, said Rodgerson.

"I've been a builder for several years...I know what goes into a building and if I were to build a house, I don't think I would spend the extra money," the local pastor said. "There may be people that have a life-long dream of building a house and they've pinched their pennies...and now they have a few extra thousand dollars that they are going to have to save in order to build that dream home."

He also thinks this measure could change the housing marketplace and local economy.

"Now, contractors have to put an extra \$5,000 or \$10,000 into a home because of new building codes," Rodgerson said. "And he's going to have to weigh if he can get that [additional cost] out of the home in this kind of economy or [decide] what corners to cut or not cut."

Selby estimated the sprinklers would cost between \$500-\$1,500 for a single-family house.

After calls to a few local insurance companies Tuesday, all said homeowners insurance policies would receive a discount because of the sprinkler systems. The amount of discount would depend on the type of policy purchased for the home.

"I would offer a 2-5 percent discount on a premium," Larry Byers of Whitney-Harrison said. "It helps a bit, but not much. I'm all for any kind of safety a homeowner can have."

Byers believed different insurance companies would offer a wide range of discount amounts, while others would offer nothing at all.

## **The State of Iowa will Hold Public Hearings Reference State Adoption of Residential Building Codes.**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY[661] Notice of Intended Action**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 103A.7, the Building Code Commissioner hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 300, "State Building Code – Administration," Chapter 301, "State Building Code – General Provisions," and Chapter 303, "State Building Code – Energy Conservation in Construction," Iowa Administrative Code.

Iowa Code section 103A.7 authorizes and requires the Building Code Commissioner to adopt the State Building Code and Iowa Code chapter 103A provides for the adoption of a State Building Code. The amendments proposed herein update editions of national codes adopted by reference and revise administrative provisions of the State Building Code to make them clearer, easier to understand, and more tightly integrated with administrative provisions contained in nationally-recognized codes adopted by reference. While many of the changes made by adoption of new editions of the codes are likely not to be controversial, there is one change which has received a lot of attention. The new edition of the *International Residential Code* includes a provision that will require all new homes constructed on or after January 1, 2011 to be fully sprinklered. The State Fire Marshal convened an ad hoc advisory committee to provide input on this requirement prior to the preparation of this Notice. After consideration of the committee's input and other factors, such as the cost involved in installing residential sprinklers, the Building Code Commissioner is proposing in this Notice to retain the residential sprinkler requirement as included in the 2009 edition of the *International Residential Code*, but to delay its implementation by two years, until January 1, 2013. Consideration was given to other delays, especially considering the financial condition of the construction industry, but it was determined that the timely adoption of new editions of the nationally-recognized codes adopted by reference as part of the State Building Code would minimize disruption to the industry and allow the earliest possible implementation of features of the new editions which enhance the safety of the public.

A public hearing to accept comment on the rules proposed here will be held in the first floor public conference room (Room 125) at the State Public Safety Headquarters Building, 215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, at 10:15 a.m. on October 13, 2009. Additional public hearings will be held on October 14, 2009 at the Carroll Recreation Center, 716 N. Grant Road, Carroll, Iowa at 4 p.m. and on October 15, 2009 at Iowa State Patrol Post #11, 5400 - 16th Avenue S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa at 4:30 p.m. All three public hearings will be held jointly with public hearings considering proposals by the State Fire Marshal to amend the rules of the state fire marshal, the core of which is the adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code. Persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should contact the Agency Rules Administrator by telephone at 515-725-6185 or e-mail to [admrule@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:admrule@dps.state.ia.us) at least one day prior to the hearing. Comments on these proposed rules may also be made by e-mail to [admrule@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:admrule@dps.state.ia.us), by telephone to 515-725-6185, or by mail to the Agency Rules Administrator, Iowa Department of Public Safety, 215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Comments should be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on October 16, 2009.

**DON'T FORGET ----- FINAL NOTICE!!!!**

**DON'T MISS OUT THIS OPPURTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED  
Join the ICC Today, Vote in Baltimore to Preserve Fire Sprinklers in IRC**

Just about a year ago to the day the International Code Congress (ICC) membership voted in the affirmative to include residential fire sprinkler requirements in the body of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), potentially representing an unprecedented milestone in the history of public fire safety. It was an achievement realized through a tremendous amount of fire sprinkler industry support and that of its allies.

Since that historical meeting last year in Minneapolis, the very same requirements adopted to prevent the catastrophic fire losses experienced every year in this country have come under attack by the homebuilding industry. For example, they talk about exorbitant installation costs and how newer homes don't burn, all of which, of course, we in the fire protection industry know simply is not the truth. In fact, recent studies have shown for about \$1.61 per square foot, a fire sprinkler system can be installed in the construction of a new home, preventing premature failure of today's often used lightweight construction in the event of fire.

With the next test of residential sprinkler requirements in the IRC being hearings scheduled for the last week of October in Baltimore, now is the time to make plans to attend in support of the current regulations. The first step necessary, if you are not already, is to become an ICC member. To be assured eligibility to vote in Baltimore, the individual membership Building Safety Professional category should be used. Membership costs \$100.00 per year and comes with the ICC code of choice. Apply as an individual in your own name and address, not a business. Corporate membership is not recommended.

**Since the deadline for voting eligibility of new ICC members is 10 days prior to the start of the hearing, the membership process must be completed by Wednesday, October 14, 2009.**

Detailed Information about how to join the ICC can be found at their website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

Due to the nature of the code hearing process, the exact timing for when the residential sprinkler issues will be heard is not available as yet. However, check the NFSA website regularly at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), where a detailed hearing schedule will be posted when it becomes available.



FIRE TEAM USA will be coming to Iowa in January 2010. 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 or state government official, you will not want to miss this free seminar. Stay tuned for more details. For more information about Fire Team USA check out [www.fireteamusa.com](http://www.fireteamusa.com).

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

## **NFSA 2010 Annual Seminar in Chicago April 14-18**

The Fairmont Chicago in Chicago, Illinois will host NFSA's 2010 Annual Seminar. Due to economic conditions, the NFSA Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a recommendation of the Seminar and Exhibition Committee to move the venue from the Hawaiian Islands to the mainland. Look for details on extended business sessions and timely topics on how to maintain a competitive edge in a very difficult business environment. The business sessions will be conducted on Thursday April 15 and Friday April 16. Details will follow in special mailings and on our website.

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## **NFSA Announces Partnership with USFA**

NFSA is proud to announce that we have entered into a partnership with the United States Fire Administration (USFA) for the "Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign," due to launch in November 2009. The campaign will emphasize the need to have working smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers installed in all homes. NFSA will distribute key materials and promote the campaign to our members and the general public. NFSA's name will appear on the campaign fact sheet on the USFA website and on campaign materials. The campaign's website will be linked to the NFSA website and vice versa. We at NFSA are truly excited about this partnership. We see this as a big step forward towards widespread acceptance of residential fire sprinklers and wish to thank USFA for this wonderful opportunity.

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## **Welcome to the Big Leagues!**

Sprinklerman© brought luck, as well as good will, to the Washington Nationals at his major league debut on September 10th. The Nationals beat the Philadelphia Phillies and Sprinklerman took to the field with Screech, the Nationals mascot. It was a night of great exposure, publicity and a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about the life and property saving attributes of fire sprinkler systems. [View photo here](#)

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## **Sprinklerman Makes Major League Debut**

Sprinklerman© will make his major league baseball debut appearance at the brand new Nationals Ballpark as the Washington Nationals face the Philadelphia Phillies! The game is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th at 7:15 p.m. [Full story here](#)

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## **The Latest Winner of Sprinklerman Photo Contest Announced**

Elietzer Allendes of Fishkill, New York is the winner of the Sprinklerman Photo Contest held at the Hudson Valley Renegades game in Wappinger Falls, New York on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Sprinklerman got a great reception from fans at the game. The information booth was bustling with activity and over 1,500 "green" bags stuffed with Sprinklerman coloring books, crayons and stickers were given away.

[View photo here](#)

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## **Fire Pump Acceptance Test Form on Sale While Supplies Last!**

NFSA announces a 50% off sale on our Fire Pump Acceptance Test Forms, while supplies last. The forms cover the minimum requirements of NFPA 20-2003 for performing acceptance tests on fire pumps. Regularly priced for members at \$15.00 for a 2-sheet set of 15, we are offering the sets for \$7.50 each. Contact Gail Repko at 845.878.4200 ext. 111 or [grepko@nfsa.org](mailto:grepko@nfsa.org) to order. Click [here](#) to view the NFSA Resource Center Catalog.

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## **eTechAlert Moves into 2nd Place among NFSA Publications**

eTechAlert has passed SQ to move into second on the list of NFSA publications with the most issues. Started in July of 2004, eTechAlert marks its 157th issue in just over five years. The September/October 2009 issue of NFSA's SQ magazine was a 156th issue. NFSA's Sprinkler TechNotes, started in 1978 as a bi-monthly technical newsletter, holds the lead with 183 issues published. The combined publication of Sprinkler TechNotes and the eTechAlert means that, not counting technical articles in SQ, NFSA has issued 340 technical bulletins to its members over the past 30 years – more than half of them published in the last five years.

## **Central Region to Hold NFSA Classes in Des Moines, IA Dec 1-3, 2009**

**Location:** Iowa Department of Public Safety Building  
215 E. Seventh Street  
ICN room first floor  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
*Co-sponsor: Iowa State Fire Marshal*

**Classes:** Day 1 (DEC 1) - NFPA 13, 13R, 13D Update 2007  
Day 2 (DEC 2) - Hydraulics for Fire Protection Systems  
Day 3 (DEC 3) - Sprinkler Protection For General Storage

Register online at <http://nfsa.org/seminars/seminarchoices.html>

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

**October 13, 2009 - Inspection and Testing of Backflow Devices**  
**Karl Wiegand, Manager of Installation Standards**  
**Intermediate**

Participants will be able to identify different backflow devices and ensure that compliance with state and local health requirements are followed. The six classes of fire protection systems will be discussed as they relate to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Manual M-14, Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control. The forward flow and reverse flow testing requirements of NFPA 25 will also be covered. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 46003)

**October 27, 2009 - Inspection and Testing of Hose Systems and Hose Connections**  
**Kevin J. Kelly, P.E. Consultant to NFSA**  
**Intermediate**

This seminar will cover inspection and testing requirements for hose systems and hose connections installed on sprinkler systems in accordance with NFPA 13 and standpipe systems in accordance with NFPA 14. Participants will be able to determine how to properly perform a standpipe flow test and will understand reporting procedures including recording data, evaluating results, and information necessary for final reports. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 43011 and 45003)

**November 10, 2009 - Inspection and Testing of Tanks**  
**Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering**  
**Intermediate**

This seminar will cover the basic purpose, function and operation of tanks used for fire protection including basic system terminology from NFPA 22. It will also cover the inspection and testing requirements for atmospheric tanks and pressure tanks along with their accessory equipment as required by NFPA 25. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 42003, 44004, and 44005)

**November 24, 2009 - *Obstruction Inspection and Investigation***

**Russell P. Fleming, P.E., Executive Vice President  
Intermediate/Advanced**

In addition to making a distinction between obstruction inspections and obstruction investigations as described in NFPA 25, this seminar deals with the various causes of problems and a review of available data concerning frequency of such problems. It includes some analysis of flushing procedures and discusses other remedial measures. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 45005)

**December 8, 2009 - *Preaction and Deluge Systems***

**Cecil Bilbo, Jr., C.E.T.  
Beginner/Intermediate**

NFPA 25 requires the inspector to report on the installation of preaction and deluge systems. This seminar will discuss the different types of preaction and deluge systems. NFPA 25 also requires certain inspection and testing procedures be performed for these systems. We will also discuss the inspection and testing requirements for these different types of systems. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 44012 and 46010)

## **Business Thursdays**

**October 29, 2009 - *Inspection Contracts***

**Michael J. Friedman, P.E., NFSA Consultant**

This seminar focuses on Inspection Contract language and Form of Agreements. Large dollar settlements and court decisions may depend on the language that is used in an agreement between an owner and an inspecting contractor. For certain, there is concern on the part of the inspecting company as to what kind and how much liability will be incurred should a loss occur after inspections take place. The seminar will include examination of a model agreement and include a few case studies and suggested language for identifying deficiencies

**November 19, 2009 - *Time Scheduling***

**Michael J. Friedman, P.E., NFSA Consultant**

This seminar will cover some of the pertinent aspects of scheduling associated with Inspection and Testing. The need to plan the time that is necessary for the procedures to be performed, as well as, how much time will be necessary to get to the job before embarking will be featured. Also we shall cover concerns for site control, security, and safety.

**December 3, 2009 - *Workplace Safety and "Right to Know" Information***

**Dave Bowman, Ph.D., NFSA Associate Director of Regional Operations and Executive Director of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association**

This seminar focuses on informing the inspector how to recognize workplace hazards that may be encountered, particularly having to do with exposure to hazardous materials. Learn how to recognize the presence of hazards as well as some of the basic characteristics of the various classes of hazardous materials. Included will be labeling and packaging information and some of the things you really wished you would have paid more attention to in high school science class.