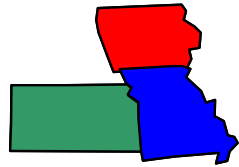




# REGIONAL REPORT

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)

### **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.

**Congratulations to the IFSCA (Iowa Fire Sprinkler Contractor's Association)** who hosted their annual Burn Center Charity Golf Tournament on August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Brown Deer Golf Club in Coralville, IA. Again this year they raised and donated over \$15,000.00 for the Burn Center. The IFSCA would like to thank all of those who participated.

**As many of you know the State Fire Marshal of Iowa, Jim Kenkel,** hosted a residential fire sprinkler fact finding meeting at his office on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. There were many people from both sides of the issue who were asked to participate in the meeting. Jim Sutherland of DeMaranville Installations, of Des Moines, was asked to represent the Iowa Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association. Here is the summary of that meeting from Jim.

*The meeting was chaired by Jim Kenkel, the Iowa Fire Marshal with 4 additional staff also involved. There were 10 people invited to participate – a sprinkler rep, 2 fire service rep's, an insurance rep, 1 building code official, 2 water utility rep's, 1 modular home rep, one HBA rep, and a state of Iowa rep who is responsible for building codes. We had some visitors, including NFPA, NFSA, Mike Durst, an HBA rep from the Dubuque area and a state congressman.*

*Jim made it clear this was only a fact finding session for his dept. They will have 3 public meetings in the near future for input from anyone that wants to present their preference. The first meeting will be 10/13 in Des Moines at a location to be determined. The others will probably be on the east and west sides of the state.*

*They listened to pro's and con's, had some questions and answers, and there was no majority. The HBA was not in favor of have fire sprinklers included into a state residential building code. The fire service and the sprinkler representatives were in favor, and the others were unsure.*

More information and updates will follow in the future so stay tuned! IF you have any question please feel free to contact me.

**A side by side demonstration given at the MO State Fair** was a great opportunity for MO Legislators to see the benefits of fire sprinklers. The demonstration was conducted on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 immediately following the annual Governor's Ham Breakfast. Although there were not as many legislators as we were hoping, the crowd consisted of about 150 people that Thursday morning. The demo was made possible by the St. Louis Fire Sprinkler Alliance and the Local 268 as they were able to utilize the mobile side by side trailer unit. The unit saw it's longest trip ever that day traveling across to the other side of the state. A BIG thank you goes to the MO State Fair Fire Department and Fire Chief Kurt Ploch for assisting with coordinating the efforts of the demonstration. We have already been requested to perform the burn next year with the hopes of leaving the remains up for a couple of days for public view.





**Since August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the “Mandatory Option”** law regarding fire sprinklers has been in effect in Missouri. Fire Sprinkler Contractors should be prepared to field calls from local homebuilders regarding pricing for one and two family dwellings. It is now time for the fire sprinkler industry to step up and be proactive with these requests and, prove that this mandatory option will work in MO. Missouri is be looked at by several other states around the country to see if a model can be established in other areas. As mentioned in previous reports, the mandatory option might not have been the hopefully outcome for fire sprinkler supporters, but it was definitely a better ending than what we saw in Texas and North Dakota. Fire Sprinkler opponents in those states stop the ability for the state or local governments to be able to adopt mandatory residential fire sprinkler legislation and or ordinance. During the last couple of months, fire marshals from around the state have been waiting on directions from the MO Fire Chiefs and the President of the MO Fire Marshal’s Association as to what educational package will be recommend as a uniform state wide. A recommendation has been given and although the language is a base standard fire marshals and building officials are encouraged to modify the material to suit their needs. We are encouraging the fire service to present the material offered by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. This material can be obtained for free by contacting the HFSC at [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

Here are the words of encouragement offered by the President of the MO Fire Marshal’s Association, Jason Webb, to the FMAM.

***Well...the day has arrived! The attached documents are the “final” versions agreed upon by the FSA and the St. Louis HBA. I have also attached HB103 and the agreement that goes along with it.***

***The flyer, option form, none of it...is perfect. It will not fit your specific circumstances to a tee. I would encourage each of us to meet with our local HBA, building officials, whomever, and customize this stuff to fit your needs. The key is that this has all been the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of folks. Now it is time to put it into practice. As you know, the effective date of the “mandatory option” is this Friday.***

***I would like to suggest a couple of things...take them or leave them, but please consider them as you make your next moves:***

***One, we (fire service) needs to make sure we are seeing these forms. If the homebuyer opts out, and you get this form at the time of permit application, you have plenty of time to contact them and answer their questions and do what we do best...EDUCATE. The other reason is that we need to make sure we have the data to go along with any conclusions that will be made...by either side.***

*Two, use this stuff as a base for whatever you do. Although it isn't perfect as I have said, it aint bad... If we totally throw this out, it only gives our detractors ammunition to claim that we didn't negotiate in good faith. Don't go it alone. Involve your local HBA people and building officials. As all of you that attended the conference already know, the HFSC info is excellent and will make a great companion to whatever you hand out. Be sure to spend A LOT of time at [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org) and incorporate their stuff into your educational package.*

*These forms can be downloaded at [www.stlhba.com](http://www.stlhba.com) also.*

*I hope this helps you along in your endeavors. It has been a long and painful journey!! But it is time for us to really step up now and make the case for residential sprinklers.*

*I wish you all the best and offer any help that I may be able to provide. Good luck!!*

*Jason Webb, Asst. Fire Chief  
Fire Prevention Officer  
Belton Fire Department*

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

### **SPRINKLERMAN™© COLORING CONTEST with the New Britain Rock Cats!**

NFSA is teaming up with the New Britain Rock Cats minor league ball club in New Britain, Connecticut to teach children about fire safety and fire sprinklers. Both organizations want to explain about fire hazards and difficulties once a fire begins, share with children ways to prevent and protect against fire, including sprinklers, and pass along knowledge about sprinklers and the benefits they can provide in homes, work places, and recreational areas. Go to [www.rockcats.com](http://www.rockcats.com) for more information and to download the coloring contest page.

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### **National Fire Sprinkler Association on Twitter, Facebook and Myspace**

In an effort to join the social networking revolution and spread the word about the life and property saving attributes of fire sprinkler systems, NFSA now has pages on Twitter, Facebook and Myspace. Join our network and check our pages frequently to gain access to the most up-to-date information on all your association is doing for you and what's going on in the fire sprinkler world.

**Facebook:** send a friend request to Nat Firesprinkler

**Twitter:** follow us at NFSAorg

**Myspace:** send friend request to NFSA

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### **Utah Fire Department Promotes Residential Fire Sprinklers**

In a side by side residential sprinkler burn demonstration, the fire department in Murray, Utah recently made a convincing case to the local media why fire sprinklers should be an integral part of new home construction. Utah is currently considering adopting the IRC and fire officials there want legislators to know how its citizens will benefit from the increased economical public safety that will come with its adoption.

[<see the video>](#)

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## **Fire Team USA Workshop Receives \$732,580 Grant to Continue 2009 – 2010 Tour**

NFSA is very pleased to report that Fire Team USA received notification from the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that their grant in the amount of \$732,580 was funded. Fire Team USA will use the grant funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings together public policy-makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals to learn about fire sprinklers and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community. [<full story>](#)

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## **Chris Gaut Honored by Fire Marshals Association of Missouri**



NFSA Central Regional Manager Chris Gaut has been awarded the “Presidents Award” for 2009 from the Fire Marshals Association of Missouri (FMAM.) The award is presented annually to a person or group that helps FMAM accomplish their mission. Chris was recognized for his hard work campaigning against the recent Missouri state law proposal to restrict residential sprinkler mandates. All of us at

NFSA extend the heartiest of congratulations to Chris for a job well done.

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## **Sprinklerman Joins Mascots at Tampa Yankees Game**

Sprinklerman© was definitely the “best dressed” mascot at the Tampa Yankees game in Florida on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Invited to take part in the team’s Mascot Day, Sprinklerman delighted young and old alike as he took part in many on- and off-field activities. Lorrell Bush, Assistant to the Director of Regional Operations, Buddy Dewar, oversaw the event and was happy to report that the fans were eager to meet, and have their photo taken with, Sprinklerman. Coloring books and green bags disappeared at a healthy pace as they were snatched up by the fans. The NFSA logo was seen not only on the Jumbotron, but on the arms of most of the fans whom carried their green bags throughout the venue.

[Photo 1](#) - [Photo 2](#) - [Photo 3](#)

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## **NFSA Responds to Habitat for Humanity’s Campaign Against Fire Sprinklers**

NFSA has delivered a letter to Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford in response to that organization’s campaigning against governmental adoption of the recently adopted International Residential Code (IRC). The IRC requires fire sprinkler systems to be installed in all new one- and two-family homes in the U.S., starting in 2011. The code is in the process of being adopted at state and/or local jurisdictional levels across the country.

[Read the letter](#)

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## **Longtime NFSA Administrative Assistant Passes Away**



It is with a deep sense of sadness that we report the untimely passing of Moira Ravel, longtime administrative assistant to the President, John Viniello. Moira was born in Ireland, but grew up in Scotland, and came to the United States to live in 1958. She had been with NFSA since the mid 1980’s and will always be remembered as being a very warm, generous, kind hearted person always willing to help with any project.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her memory to: St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

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## **Somerset Patriot's Sprinklerman Photo Contest Winner Announced**

Congratulations to Liliana Jurado of Middlesex, New Jersey! Liliana is the winner of the Sprinklerman© photo contest held at the Somerset Patriots game on July 20th, 2009 at TD Bank Park in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Liliana's dad took the winning photo and emailed us to make sure we knew how much he appreciated the Sprinklerman promotion and the work that NFSA puts into each and every appearance. Thanks to both of them!

[View photo here](#)

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## **Sprinklerman Rocks Rockford**

Mario Tristian and Bernie Arends with NIFSAB joined Illinois Regional Manager Bob Kleinheinz to assist in working the Sprinklerman© event at the Rockford Riverhawks game on July 9th. A special part of the evening, one that was perfect for a Sprinklerman appearance, was a Guns vs. Hoses game for the Rockford Fire Department. Bob was happy to report that NFSA received plenty of support from Rockford area sprinkler contractor members. Absolute Fire Protection brought the whole office and Nelson Fire Protection was also in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the evening and was proud of the work NFSA is doing to bring fire sprinkler awareness to the general public.

[Photo 1](#) - [Photo 2](#) - [Photo 3](#)

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## **Let NFSA Help You Learn About Residential Sprinklers: Are You Prepared for the 2009 IRC?**

NFSA has the following seminars available to help you better understand residential sprinkler requirements. These seminars are designed for code officials, design professionals and for anyone involved with the installation of residential sprinklers:

1. **Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D):** This one-day seminar details the installation and layout of an NFPA 13 D sprinkler system.
2. **Homes to High-rise:** This one-day seminar covers the differences between NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D residential sprinkler requirements.
3. **Layout and Hydraulic Calculation of NFPA 13D Residential Sprinkler Systems:** This three-day seminar will provide the layout technician or anyone who deals with residential systems with the knowledge and skills to layout a NFPA 13D residential system.
4. **On-Line Seminars (NFSA Academy)** several 1 to 1.5 hour classes related to residential sprinklers are also available.

To register or review seminar details for any one of these seminars you can go to the NFSA web site [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on the white button (left side) marked "Seminars". You may also contact Dawn Fitzmaurice – Training Coordinator at (845) 878 – 4200 EXT. 133 or email Dawn at [Seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:Seminars@nfsa.org)

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

**September 15, 2009 - Math**

**Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., Director of Product Standards  
Basic/Intermediate**

Math is a fundamental tool used throughout fire protection systems from their planning and detailing to their inspections as the system matures. This seminar will include a review of mathematical functions, significant figures and interpreting graphs

on a basic level. On the intermediate level problems using algebra, geometry and trigonometry will be discussed. In addition, metric measurements will also be covered focusing on converting. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 41004, 41010, and 43010)

**September 29, 2009 - Inspection and Testing of Dry Pipe Systems**

**Kenneth E. Isman, P.E. Vice President of Engineering  
Basic/Intermediate**

The general inspection and testing of dry-pipe sprinkler systems will be covered in this program including arrangement of components so that they can be inspected and tests correctly, the full-flow trip tests required by NFPA 25 every three years, and the “no flow” trip tests required by NFPA 25 for those years when the full-flow trip test is not conducted. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 43003, 43012, and 44013)

## **Business Thursdays**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Instructor(s)</u></b>
Sept 24	Roles of the System Inspector and AHJ	R. Fleming & D. Kasmauskas
Oct 15	Inspection Contracts	M. Friedman
Nov 19	Planning and Scheduling	M. Friedman
Dec 3	Workplace Safety and the “Right to Know”	D. Bowman