



REGIONAL REPORT

South Central Edition



Daniel J. Gengler
Regional Manager

PO Box 280
Williams Bay, WI 53191

Phone: (262) 245-5255
Fax: (262) 245-5258
Cell: (914) 414-3336

August 2009

Randall Retires, Drives off into the Sunset

South Central Regional Manager Steve Randall began a new career July 16, 2009 after nearly ten years as a regional manager for the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Steve and wife Linda are now members of the elite “retirees” group that most espouse to be members. Steve had a marvelous career in the fire service and enjoyed his tenure with the NFSA. All wish Steve and Linda the best in health and travels in their home on the road.

Until the Central Regional Manager’s position can be filled, Associate Director of Regional Operations and North Central Regional Manager Dan Gengler will be the interim regional manager for the South Central Region. His contact information is above.

National Fire Sprinkler Association Joins United States Green Building Council, Advocating Environmentally-Friendly Construction Practices

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has joined the United States Green Building Council as a corporate member, affirming its commitment to promote green construction and environmental responsibility among building trades. Fire sprinklers help to reduce the carbon footprint of properties through the entire cycle of construction. They reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fires, reduce the amount of burned or non-recyclable building materials going to landfills, save energy on rebuilding after fire, conserve water, and reduce diesel fuel usage in heavy fire suppression equipment.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has joined the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as a corporate member, affirming its commitment to promote green construction and environmental responsibility among building trades.

Fire sprinklers help to reduce the carbon footprint of properties through the entire cycle of construction. They reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fires, reduce the amount of burned or non-recyclable building materials going to landfills, save energy on rebuilding after fire, conserve water, and reduce diesel fuel usage in heavy fire suppression equipment.

"Although codes may not require fire sprinklers in certain size buildings, fire sprinklers must be in all green construction projects to truly reflect this designation," said Dominick G. Kasmauskas, NFSA's New York

Regional Manager and a member of USGBC. "I ask you - how can a green building, including single-family homes, be considered 'sustainable construction' if it is positioned to burn someday without the benefit of an automatic fire sprinkler system to suppress smoke and save materials?"

Kasmauskas said fire sprinklers have been used in property since 1875 and, due to the current green movement have only recently been touted for their positive impact on the environment.

The United States Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization with a vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education, and its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™.

According to the USGBC, the LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

NFSA's Board of Directors has instituted a Green Committee - with the motto "Save your building, save our environment" - to promote recognition of the environmental benefits of fire sprinklers and to encourage inclusion of credits for fire sprinkler systems in the LEED program. Jack Thacker, of Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation, chairs this new committee, and Kasmauskas serves as secretary. Other committee members include Andrea Basalay, ITW Buildex; Fred Benn, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler Inc.; Mark Coad, Western States Fire Protection Company; Norm MacDonald, FlexHead Industries Inc.; Frank Monikowski, SimplexGrinnell; Larry Thau, Victaulic; and Josh Hildreth, Davis-Ulmer Sprinkler Co.

Please visit www.nfsa.org for more information on its Green Committee, its partnership with USGBC and the environmental benefits of fire sprinklers in all dwellings and structures.

A Letter to Houston Contractors about the IRC

You are a stakeholder in the City of Houston 2006 International Residential Code Review. The committee, Chaired by the Greater Houston Builders Association, met for the second time last Tuesday, July 21st.

The meetings are held every Tuesday at: 3300 South Main Street at 1:30 PM in the large conference room on the second floor. The meetings continue until the entire IRC has been reviewed and approved for presentation to City Council for adoption.

I attended the first two meetings alone and I now definitely believe it is our duty to keep attending and show the City of Houston that TxFSCA, AFSA and NFSA are involved in the code review and making process. So far the GHBA has proposed several amendments that directly effect safety. For some reason the fire department does not participate in the IRC review process, so I basically was there to support the city in obvious fire safety issues that the GHBA wanted to reduce or eliminate. The City of Houston Code representatives on the committee need our technical expertise to support their positions. COH depends on US.

I cannot carry this ball alone. AFSA and NFSA each have a seat on the Construction Industry Council in addition to TxFSCA, All three groups need a representative at each meeting. Please contact me and tell me you are willing to participate and I will let the AFSA and NFSA delegates know who they can call upon if they cannot attend. The alternative is to let the GHBA control the IRC.

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



Carol J. McCain

Executive Director

The Texas Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association

281-361-8069/877-894-3011



Northeast study shows that sprinkler requirements are not detrimental to housing starts!

A recently completed research report concluded that the presence of sprinkler ordinances has no negative impact on the number of homes being built. In fact, in the comparison of two sets of counties, the municipalities actually saw an increase in construction in the year after regulations became effective, compared to the adjacent counties without sprinkler ordinances.

Conducted by Newport Partners, [Comparative Analysis of Housing Cost and Supply Impacts of Sprinkler Ordinances at the Community Level](#) compared residential construction in suburban Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, and Montgomery County, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Virginia. Prince George's County and Montgomery County have sprinkler requirements; Fairfax County and Anne Arundel County do not. The counties were selected based on their demographic matches to each other.

Newport Partner's analysis was based on an extensive review of annual single-family building permits, the U.S. Census Bureau Surveys of Housing and Households, and analysis of local documents before and after sprinkler requirements were imposed. In addition, Newport conducted interviews with builders, trade association staff, and local government officials to provide insight into the housing landscape in these counties pre- and post-requirements. According to the report, "None of the statistical or interview information demonstrated that the requirements led to reduced housing supply."

Legislative Alert

The NFPA has a web site that is monitoring legislation that is threatening the adoption of home fire sprinkler provisions for new one- and two-family dwellings. Across the United States, sprinkler opponents are pushing state legislation that would restrict a community's ability to make its own decision about model safety codes for new construction. The legislation would prevent any community from implementing any new sprinkler mandates in one- and two-family homes. If it becomes law, such legislation will put lives at risk.

NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative *Bringing Safety Home* campaign is encouraging its members by getting involved. They can help make sure that these laws do not pass. The NFPA has resources one can use to help educate others in their community about the issues, plus adding a letter one can use to let elected officials know that you do not support any statewide effort to prevent home fire sprinklers.

The NFPA identifies that more than one in three states, 18 in total have filed bills. States where anti-sprinkler legislation has been filed:

<http://firesprinklerinitiative.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=66&itemID=1100&URL=FeaturedResources/>

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced to 111th Congress

The *Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009*, HR1194 has had very little legislative support for public sponsorship this past month. The bill creates tax incentives for property owners to retrofit buildings with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Similar legislation was introduced in the 108th followed by the 109th & 110th Congresses where it garnered over 140 cosponsors each time. As of late June only 87 Congressmen have signed onto the monumental legislation.

NFSA Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton, remains on point as NFSA's representative working with members of Congress and a coalition of fire protection industry concerns in supplying information and support as required to keep these vital pieces of legislation moving through the legislative process.

This piece of legislation would reduce the tax depreciation time on nonresidential real property from 39 years to only 5 for those that install sprinklers. Benefits of this legislation also include lower local fire department costs, increased loan activity, reduced insurance claims and premium costs and increased retrofitting and installation jobs. A lower 2006 re-scoring of the bill for the fiscal impact that would result with the passage of the fire safety friendly legislation gives proponents great optimism this year.

The NFSA Cap Wiz process has been updated for use and is promoted as a quick means for constituents and others to write in to support this important piece of fire protection legislation. Any and all Senators should be recruited, but members of the Senate Committee on Finance should be primary targets.

Go to this site and help us help America be safer: <http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/fsiahome.html>. For a document explaining the Incentive Act bullet points go to: http://www.nfsa.org/fsia/FSIA_Bullet_points.pdf.

Join now in petitioning those uncommitted by logging onto www.nfsa.org and going to the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act button in the upper right of the Home-page. Click on sponsors to find your representative and forward a letter asking for them to sign on (copy provided) or thank them for their support.

NFSA Submits ICC Code Development Hearing

NFSA's Manager of Codes, Jeff Hugo, has submitted some fire sprinkler code changes for the upcoming OCT/NOV ICC code development hearings in Baltimore, MD. To see the code changes submitted, please visit <http://nfsa.org/departments/codes/code.html> and scroll towards the bottom of the page. If you have any questions concerning the code development process or the submittals, please contact me or Jeff directly at hugo@nfsa.org.

FSI to Consolidate Industry CPVC Information

The FSI Best Practices Board of Directors has authorized a new program to help the fire sprinkler installation industry monitor information about progress and changes related to CPVC compatibility.

According to FSI Best Practices Program Manager Paul Johnson, keeping track of news and information about this important issue can be cumbersome and confusing. "There is a growing base of information about CPVC - but it is spread across many sources and websites. Our goal is to create a simple, effective 'one stop shop' approach."

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



Johnson explains that FSI will place a special icon - called *CPVC LinkSpot* - on the front page of its www.FSI-bp.org website. When clicked, readers will be able to access a consolidated, organized list of links and information sources related to this important industry issue.

Johnson adds that FSI Staff will help post and update information. Manufacturers, suppliers and distributors may submit links to FSI that access direct readers to information and updates free of charge. Additionally, information will be accessible and available to any industry participant at no charge.

CPVC LinkSpot is expected to launch in early September.

The 2009 Fire Sprinkler Industry Perspective Report is Underway

Fire sprinkler contractors from across the US and Canada are invited to participate in *The Fire Sprinkler Industry Perspectives Report (IPR)* - the industry's first ever issues-based survey which is now underway.

The IPR survey, which will be offered during July and August, takes about 5 minutes to complete, and can be completed in any of three ways. A *hard copy* version will be available at all FSI events and conferences and an online web version will be available by July 15th at the www.FSI-bp.org web site. FSI will also offer an *email version* for companies interested in having multiple participants complete the survey.

All participants will receive an invitation to a pre-publication webinar briefing when the results are available in late October as well as a complimentary copy of the seminar report.

IPR Advisory Team Forms

Related to the *Fire Sprinkler Industry Perspectives Report*, FSI board members and staff have established a pool of distinguished contractors to serve as a research Advisory Team. Those selected will provide oversight to the Study Team by assisting in analyzing and interpreting results from participant surveys.

A list of the Advisory Team membership will be published when the team has been fully convened.

Insurability Issues Resurface

Insurance industry watchers are warning of the first signs of a hard insurance market, similar to the nightmare experienced in 2002 and 2003. Among the indicators: according to recent news reports, property and casualty insurers have posted a staggering \$1.31B quarterly loss. Typically, losses lead to premium increases often coupled with changes in risk coverage provisions.

Is it, as Yogi Berra once said, "Deja Vu all over again"? Will insurance market changes strike abruptly? Will the consequences have a punishing impact similar to today's credit crisis? Forecasters do not agree on the expected timing hard market, but there is broad consensus that a turn is inevitable - prompting FSI to reemphasize its services to help contractors assess and improve their insurability.

In most cases, FSI Staff begin with a claim review and overall business vulnerability assessment to provide a realistic view of insurability exposures and a prioritized list of potential improvements. One outcome is often increased leverage and influence with property and casualty underwriters.

For staff member Brian Cullen, the program offers another advantage. According to Cullen, "most improvements that appeal to underwriters have the additional benefit of helping contractors improve their financial performance. It's a double win."

Sprinkler Saves

Austin Records Sprinkler Save

There were some scary moments Monday morning July 20, 2009, for elderly people living in a Northwest Austin assisted-living facility. Fire broke out at The Village at the Arboretum on Great Hills Trail just before 5 a.m.

Investigators say a microwave fire set off the sprinklers. There was some smoke and water damage, but no fire damage. Everyone who lives in the facility was evacuated, but they were all back inside within a couple of hours.

Apartment fire displaces two families

Two families were displaced after a fire damaged a Northwest Side apartment complex Wednesday night, July 22, authorities said. Arson detectives found that the fire, which started around 10:30 p.m. at the Artisan on the Bluff apartments at the intersection of De Zavala and Babcock roads, was deliberately started, said Melissa Sparks a San Antonio Fire Department spokeswoman.

Sprinklers contained the flames and only two units at the complex sustained damages, estimated at \$20,000, Sparks said.

Sparks said detectives believe the fire was started by juveniles, but she wasn't sure exactly how many suspects may have played a role in the fire. No arrests were immediately made. Both of the units that were damaged were occupied at the time of the fire, Sparks said. One family was relocated to another unit owned by the same landlord, and the second family moved in with relatives, Sparks said.

Sprinkler Saves – We need this info to help promote the industry

Contact me **A.S.A.P. at (262) 245-5255** or e-mail: dannfsa@aol.com if you have information regarding a Major Fire or Sprinkler Save. A major fire is defined as "one where there is extensive property loss, multiple death or injury to citizens or firefighters, or any other significant circumstances regarding fire sprinkler protection or lack thereof." Sprinkler Saves will help inform others that the systems do work and will provide life and property saving values.

NFSA Expert of the Day You Can Get Great Advice

While most of the questions are answered within a few hours of being asked, there have been instances where the response to a request has been longer than what our membership considers optimal. To that end, we are instituting a series of checks and balances on our end to insure that your request is answered as soon as possible.

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



You can help us by following one simple procedure. When you have a request that you want answered, please e-mail your request to eod@nfsa.org or call the NFSA at (845) 878-4200 and ask for the Expert of the Day. That way, your request will go directly to the individual assigned the duty that day and we will have mechanisms in place to track it.

Since many of our staff travels extensively, they can't always respond in a timely manner to their individual voice mails and emails. When emailing your requests, we would appreciate if you would use our general email address, eod@nfsa.org, if calling in, please follow the prompt for the expert of the day. These procedures will allow us to insure quicker responses to your questions. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact: NFSA, PO Box 1000, Patterson, New York, 12563; by telephone at (845) 878-4200, by Fax at (845) 878-4215 or at our website: www.nfsa.org

[NFSA Online Interactive Seminars Schedule](#)

The 2009 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Time and run approximately 1.5-hours.

Seminar topics are designed to different levels of understanding, Basic (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A) levels. There are several seminars that cross two levels.

NFSA Member Cost: \$125.00* per seminar per computer

Non-member Cost: \$250.00* per seminar per computer

Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$25.00

Members Participation Verification w/Certification: \$50.00

July – December 2009 Technical On-line Schedule

Inspection and Testing Requirements for the Sprinkler Industry

Learn skills in inspection procedures and testing requirements for sprinkler systems and standpipes. Documents covered include: NFPA 13, NFPA 14, NFPA 22, NFPA 25, and AWWA M14.

- Seminars prepare participants for topics included in the NICET Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems certification exam.
- Join hundreds of Contractors, Engineers, Fire Marshals, Inspectors, Insurance Authorities and Property Managers
- Listen to instructors lecture while viewing a slide presentation
- Ask questions via e-mail that can be answered by the instructor
- Qualify for CEUs or NICET re-certification credits

August 4, 2009

Inspection and Testing of Wet Pipe Sprinkler Systems

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

Basic Programming

This seminar will start with discussing the proper tools used during inspection and testing of sprinkler systems and preparing to perform a proper inspection. It will cover the basic inspection and testing requirements of NFPA 25 for wet pipe sprinkler systems along with a review of the basic system components of a wet pipe sprinkler system for identification purposes. The seminar will wrap up with a discussion of the proper use of forms to report findings to the owner. (Great study guide for NICET Work Elements 41007 and 43002)

August 25, 2009

Field Identification of Sprinklers

Basic/Intermediate

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

Various product recall and replacement programs have made it important to be able to identify particular types and brands of sprinklers, but field identification goes beyond this. Attributes such as temperature rating, orifice size, response sensitivity and orientation determine sprinkler system performance characteristics, and the need to properly replace sprinklers requires a complete understanding of all variations. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 41017)

The topics for the **2009 “BUSINESS THURSDAY”** Seminars have been specifically selected to help the fire sprinkler contractor deal with current problem areas in the business environment. The instructors bring varied backgrounds relevant to the subjects they will be teaching. **Watch for schedule next month!**

From the desktop of an office or the comforts of a home, one can watch the 1½-hour live-interactive seminar and receive credit. When registering for the seminar, the registrant needs to inform the NFSA that they are in need to receive Wisconsin CEU's. Those needing CEU's for their 2008 license need to have their 12-hours of CEU's completed and submitted prior to March 30, 2008. We can help! **NFSA is offering to all AHJ's the member rate for these live on-line seminars. Order all 10 and save 30%. For more information on this offer and information on these seminars please contact Dawn at Dawn@nfsa.org or 845-878-4200 x133.**

August 20, 2009

Impairment Procedures

Karl Wiegand, Manager of Installation Standards, NFSA

NFPA 25 spells out specific duties and responsibilities of impairment coordinators to minimize the length of impairments to fire protection systems and get the systems back up and running. The duties and responsibilities apply to both emergency and preplanned impairments. This seminar will explain the duties and responsibilities required of an impairment coordinator and offer cautions to fire sprinkler contractors that might want to fill this roll for the building owner. (Great study guide for NICET Work Element 43008)

You can attend a NFSA Seminar without traveling to a classroom. For more information and to view a demonstration, visit our Website at www.nfsa.org, or call Dawn at (845) 8784200 x 133. Check these on-line programs:

NFSA South Central Regional In-Class Seminars

Your regional manager is looking to schedule 2009 programming in a facility near you. Please contact at dannfsa@aol.com or call (262) 245-5255. Check the NFSA web site to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

The Lake Jackson Fire Department is sponsoring a one-day Inspection Testing & Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, One-day Fire Protection Hydraulics on August 4 & 5, 2009 respectively. Main Fire

The North Texas Chapter is co-sponsoring seminars October 28-30, 2009 at the Construction Education Foundation, 1401-A Royal Lane in Irving. Three one-day programs commencing with Fire Protection Hydraulics, followed by Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protections Systems and NFPA 13, 13R & 13D Update – 2007.

REGIONAL REPORT

North Central Edition



Contact Dawn Fitzmaurice, NFSA @ (845) 878-4200 ext. 133 for information or registration for any NFSA training program. Check the NFSA web site, www.nfsa.org, to register and to link to our other regions for seminars that may fit your educational needs.

Special Discounts:

Register 5 Attendees for One Class; get a 6th Free for that Same Class.

Non-Member Fire & Building Officials: When a building or a fire official wants to take an NFSA “full-day in-class” seminar, they can get a special discount package that pays for the seminar and also gives them a one-year membership in the NFSA. The regular seminar fee is \$99.00 dollars and the regular one-year subscriber membership is \$85.00 dollars. That totals \$184.00 but when you join the NFSA as a subscriber member when you register for the NFSA seminar, you only pay a combined fee of \$149.00 dollars which saves you \$35.00 dollars on the total package.

Just make sure you check-off the “F&B” box with red pricing on the seminar registration form.

By becoming a member and taking an NFSA seminar all at the same time, you’re getting valuable industry information both ways.

NFSA Code of Ethics Preamble

The members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association recognize that their work has a direct, as well as indirect, impact on the quality of life for all humanity. Accordingly, the services provided by NFSA members require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the preservation of life and property and the further enhancement of the public safety, health and welfare. In practice of their profession, members

of the National Fire Sprinkler Association must maintain and constantly improve their competence and perform under a standard of professional behavior, which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct with balanced regard for the interests of the public, clients, employees, colleagues and the greater fire protection community they serve. Members of the National Fire sprinkler Association are expected to act in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics and all applicable laws, and actively encourage others to do the same.