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Michael Bartlett of the Murfreesboro, Tennessee Fire Department receives NICET Level II

Murfreesboro Fire Prevention Bureau has the only NICET Level II Fire Inspector in the State of Tennessee. On November 4th of 2009 Michael was notified by NICET of his designation of Level II in Fire Protection Engineering Technology/Inspection of Water Based Systems. Michael recently attended the Inspection and Testing NICET Review Seminar 3 day to Learn the skills required to pass NICET Level II exam that is offered by NFSA.

At the November meeting of the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association, Michael was awarded the Fred Davis Award. The Fred Davis was established by the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association to recognize those Jurisdictions or people that have shown their support to the Fire Sprinkler Industry. That support could be from passing ordinance, adopting codes or developing a way for the fire sprinkler industry to do business.



Wayne Waggoner, Executive Director of TFSCA presenting Michael Bartlett the Fred Davis Award

Seeing the difference sprinklers can make In Alabama

Two rooms started out looking very similar, but after just a few short minutes they were as different as night and day. Safe Home Alabama demonstrated Thursday afternoon the difference a sprinkler system in a home can make. The unprotected

room was engulfed in flames and emitted heat that could be felt many yards from the flame. The room equipped with sprinklers had a little damage from the smoke and some from the fire. Most importantly though was the sprinkler system kept heat from the fire from reaching 1,000 degrees and it contained the flames and smoke. "Sometimes people just need to see it to believe it," Prattville Fire Department Assistant Chief Dallis Johnson said. "With our side-by-side comparison, we can show both the danger of fire and the value of having a fire sprinkler system installed. We don't use any gasoline during the fires. It will be two controlled burns that are identical except for one thing — sprinklers." Firefighters, city and county officials and other curious parties came out to the controlled burn near the Selma Public Works building, 4555 Water Ave. First set to burn was the unprotected room. Typically response time for firefighters to reach a home would be five minutes. However, the room was destroyed in just under two minutes leaving plenty of time before firefighters would have arrived on scene. One of the scarier parts of the exercise was hearing how quickly a fire alarm's warning tone begins to fade. Once the heat of the fire grows too hot, then the alarm begins to be affected. "When a fire reaches flashback temperatures, which is about 1,000 degrees, a firefighter in full turnout can't even survive," Johnson said. "If a firefighter can't survive, then how would a family survive?" Exercises like the one held in Selma are being done all around the state. It isn't some grand scheme to sell more sprinkler systems, but to alert Alabama residents of the problem that plagues this state. Every year Alabama has 90-100 fatalities in fires and most of them are at home. Alabama ranks in the top ten of states with the most fatalities in fires. Sprinkler systems cut a family's chance of dying in a home fire by 82 percent. But families aren't the only ones in danger in a fire. Eighty-five percent of firefighters who have died while responding to a fire have died in a single family dwelling. Some states require homes to have sprinkler systems installed, but Alabama does not. Safe Home Alabama wants to encourage people to install the systems for a very important reason – to get Alabama out of the top 10 for home fire related deaths. According to a report by the Fire Protection Research Foundation Sprinkler systems are estimated to cost \$1,61 per sprinklered square foot. Cosmetics shouldn't be an issue though because residential fire sprinklers can be fully retractable. In fact, you can purchase them in any color to match your home's ceiling. Remember that sprinkler heads should never be painted. Residential sprinklers are supplied by the home's water and when activated contain the fire's temperature to 135-165 degrees instead of 1,000 degrees from an untamed fire.

Lexington County Apartment Fire Contained by Sprinkler System

On Saturday October 31, 2009 the Lexington County Fire Service responded to a report of an apartment fire at 123 Brevard Parkway. Upon arrival firefighters observed light smoke coming from a first floor apartment as a result of a grease fire on the stove in the apartment's kitchen. Upon further investigation it was discovered that a single sprinkler head activated in the kitchen and quickly extinguished the fire prior to firefighters arriving on scene thus preventing the fire from further spreading and causing more significant damage.

Due to the quick activation of the apartments installed sprinkler system the multi unit apartment building suffered only minor water and heat damage. Damage is estimated at approximately \$2500.00 and nobody was injured during the incident.



Also with this incident and the approaching cold weather months ahead the Lexington County Fire Service would like to remind all residents to please check the batteries in their smoke detectors and to keep combustible items away from heating appliances.

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REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/Southeast Edition



From the Monthly Fire Report that goes to the City of Bristol Tennessee City Manager and City County Council

Submitted by Jack Spurgeon, Assistant Fire Chief Bristol, Tennessee Fire Department

- A grease fire occurred at 613 Meadow View Road at 7:07 p. m. on October 18, 2009. The occupant was fixing French fries in a skillet on the stove when the grease ignited; the occupant through water on the fire creating a larger flame. The area is the newly developed residential apartment complex consisting of 11 buildings; *the buildings have a residential sprinkler system installed per NFPA 13R. The **improved assessed value of the entire property being \$6,847,800.00***; with the average value of each building being approximately \$622,527.00. The sprinkler system head located in the kitchen activated and extinguished the fire. Suppression personnel shut down the system and assisted with the water removal in the kitchen, thus eliminating any damage.

Wonder what would have happen if the buildings did not have a fire sprinkler system..

Bristol Tennessee is a city that removed the fire sprinkler requirements for entertainment venues that have an occupant load of 100 more.

Life-saving sprinklers face code test in South Carolina.

The good news is that a misguided attempt to reverse last year's hard-fought national building code mandate for fire sprinklers in new residential construction has gone down to overwhelming defeat. It's safe to say that when the committee and floor votes were taken late last month, no one in the Baltimore, Md., audience of several thousand was more elated than S.C.'s State Fire Marshal John Reich.

Reich describes the International Code Council's reaffirmed commitment to the residential sprinkler mandate as 'fantastic.' Now, the question is whether homebuilder opposition to the mandate can be overcome at the state level. Expect to wait much of next year for the answer.

The prolonged process for adopting a new national building code in this state says the 2009 code won't be up for approval until the middle of 2010. The comment period will end Dec. 2 and hearings will be conducted for another six months. It would then be up for approval by the S.C. Building Code Council. If there are no hitches, the new sprinkler mandate could go into effect as scheduled in January 2011.

But Reich is realistic enough to recognize that the homebuilder opposition that was recently thwarted at the ICC gathering in Baltimore will re-emerge in the state adoption process. While he appreciates the need to keep increases in construction costs at a minimum, he contends that the savings in lives and property to be gained by the \$2 per square foot cost of sprinklers in single and two-family homes should be 'a no brainer.' According to Reich, some 400 communities already have new residential sprinkler requirements.

ICC votes to keep residential fire sprinklers mandatory

Building codes mandating fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes were upheld as the International Code Council voted Wednesday to disapprove a motion to remove them. Representatives from the IAFC, IAFF, NFPA and other organizations gave testimony in support of the existing rules mandating sprinklers as the council met in Baltimore. "Most Americans who die in fires die where they live," said USFA Deputy Administrator Chief Glenn Gaines. "In addition to saving the lives of building occupants, residential sprinklers significantly reduce the risk that residential fires pose to firefighters." While Gaines went on to cite supporting statistics, other testimony included



impassioned pleas. "On what basis would we look to step backwards from this point?" said Jeff Johnson, president of the IAFC. After a seven to four vote and a majority of the ICC audience in opposition to the motion to remove mandatory sprinklers from the guidelines, the moderator was met with cheers as he said "that motion clearly fails." Advocates in the home sprinkler debate were so numerous at the hearing that organizers were warned by the Baltimore Fire Department that the event was becoming a fire hazard by exceeding maximum occupancy of the building. An estimated 1,500 supporters of fire sprinklers were in the audience, according to Ronny Coleman, president of the International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Coalition. "This is a watershed day for the American fire service that people will look back on 100 years from now," said Coleman. The IRC Fire Sprinkler Coalition was formed 3 years ago to unify the fire service to put together a coalition in support of sprinklers, and took the lead role in gathering the supporters. Coleman described the supporters as a diverse crowd that included firefighters, fire prevention officers, citizens, sprinkler makers and others. "The challenge now is to determine how to incorporate residential fire sprinklers as part of our overall toolbox to protect our communities," said Coleman. Statistics show that nationally, residential fire sprinklers cost approximately \$1.61 per-square-foot of finished space, or one percent of the value of the home to install, according to the National Fire Sprinkler Association. This cost is expected to account for approximately \$3,500 to \$5,000 of the price of a new home. "Over a 30-year mortgage, that's less than the price of a cup of coffee per week. This is a big win for the fire service and American residents. In order to reduce this country's fire problem, it must be attacked where fires happen the most, which is in the home," said John Viniello, president of the association.

NFSA Offers Online Support

Efforts to block the adoption of residential fire-sprinkler regulations prompted the National Fire Sprinkler Association to an [online resource toolbox](#), which will provide community leaders with the information necessary to make the case for fire-sprinkler code adoption.

"The NFSA has experienced an upswing in requests for information regarding local code adoption and/or standalone fire sprinkler legislation," President John Viniello said.

The NFSA's free resource toolbox offers reports, articles, documents and brochures related to residential fire sprinklers and fire safety that provide guidance for making the case for fire-sprinkler code adoption. The goal of the toolbox is to highlight resources that have proved beneficial at the local level. Reports include the *Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment* and the *Residential Fire Sprinklers and Housing Economics /A Legislator's Guide to Life Safety*.

"Local community leaders need all of the latest information in one place, where it is easy to access and use for their specific needs," said Shane Ray, the organization's director of public fire protection. "It can be overwhelming when you realize how many resources are available."

Tennessee FIRE SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

IS OFFERING:

**INSPECTION AND TESTING NICET REVIEW SEMINAR 3 DAY
LEARN THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO PASS NICET LEVEL II EXAM
And take NICET Examination on day 4**

DATE OF CLASS

APRIL 5,6,7, 2009 – MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE



Chapter of NFSA

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO THE TENNESSEE FIRE SPRINKLER

REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/Southeast Edition



CONTRACTORS WEB SITE AT WWW.TFSCA.COM AND CLICK ON THE TRAINING TAB

Update on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009

- Re-filed in House February 25, 2009 by Mr. Langevin (D-RI) and Mr. Cantor (R-VA).
- Assigned as HR 1194 to House Ways and Means Committee
- Currently has 104 cosponsors
- Has support of Committee Chair Charles Rangel (D-NY)
- Has support of Select Revenue Measures Sub-Committee Chair Richard Neal (D-MA)
- Mr. Pascrell (D-NJ) has agreed to be W&M Committee “Bull Dog” on behalf of Mr. Langevin. Dinner with Pascrell scheduled for Wednesday July 22. NFSA NJ principles to attend
- Rescored at 2.6B with retro to April of 03
- 5 Year Sunset 1.7B with retro to April 03
- Rescored at 1.79B with retro eliminated and effective 2009
- 5 Year Sunset with retro eliminated 888M
- General expectation is to eliminate the retro and consider 5 year sunset
- Still negotiating Senate companion bill
- Senator Carper (D-DE) a member of Senate Finance Committee has agreed to sponsor
- Working through issues involving a primary Republican cosponsor
- Presently focusing on Senator Cornyn (R-TX)
- Still expecting tax legislation in second session of 111th Congress
- Will need to intensify recruitment of support and input of allied support groups beginning this Fall
- A big “thanks” to David Vandeyar and Jeanne Kozlowski for their efforts regarding funding of NFSA PAC

To view the up to date information on the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act please go to www.nfsa.org or click on the

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.