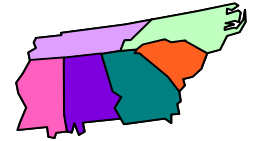




# REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/South East Edition



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January 2010

*I hope that each and every one of you has a Very Happy New Year (Wayne Waggoner)*

*The Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association was fortunate enough this year to be able to provide 9 families that were in need during the Christmas Holidays. I have included a couple of the responses for those that were either a part of the folks that took kids shopping or a family that received a gift from TFSCA.*

*This is why I love getting up each day to work with such fabulous people that make up the fire sprinkler industry.*

Carl and Wayne,

A quick note to let ya'll know that I got together with the Leffew family yesterday. It was a great experience for me and my wife and greatly appreciated by the Leffew family.

Attached are some photos of the entire family at their home and a couple of the shopping trip. I am going to send you a separate e-mail that has a couple of photos of the kids seeing their gifts.

There are three adults in the family: Ricky Leffew, 51 (father and grandfather), Amanada Leffew, 33 (Ricky's daughter and mother of 3), April Leffew, 23 (Ricky's daughter-in-law and mother of 3), and Jo Leann, 10 (Ricky's daughter and the oldest of the children). Amanda's 3 kids are: Chase (9), Zachary (7), and Samantha(4). April's kids are: Gavin (3), Tristin (2), and Hayden (1). April's husband is Ricky's son and was an abusive father/husband and is presently in jail.

Amanda (green Tennessee shirt) and April went with me and my wife to the Wal-Mart Store and had a successful shopping spree, getting bicycles, clothes, shoes and toys for the kids, some clothes, shoes and diapers for the adults and a ham and all the fixings for Christmas dinner. We had 0.68 cents left on the gift card when we finished.

Amanda and April cried as we were saying goodbye and said that the kids would not have had a Christmas without this gift from TFSCA. Ricky, Amanada, and April asked me pass on their thanks and 'God Bless You's' to the Association.



This gift from TFSCA no doubt made Christmas happen for 7 kids (and 3 adults), that would not have happened otherwise.

It gave them a Merry Christmas, it absolutely MADE my Christmas, and every member of TFSCA should feel good and be proud about this program.

**Louis Morton**  
**Sentinel Fire Protection, Inc.**

Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association  
c/o Mr. Paul Satterwhite, Bouchard Fire Protection



First of all, please accept my apologies for my delay in getting this out...things have been a bit hectic since John came home. You all will never know how much your generous donation has touched our lives. I'd like to share a bit of our story with you so that you may get to know us...

My husband John was employed with John Bouchard for nearly 12 years until he was laid off in mid-October. He started having severe headaches soon after and was admitted to the ER on November 5th - they discovered a tumor on his brain. He had brain surgery on November 10th - it was diagnosed as metastatic lung cancer Stage IV with the originating tumor being detected in his upper left lobe. He underwent lung surgery to remove the lobe on December 10th. He started radiation treatments last week and will continue them until after the new year. John will begin chemo in mid-January. Up until this happened John rarely missed work unless it was to take care of me or one of the boys so you can understand how this disease is affecting him probably better than I in some ways. We are so fortunate that John Bouchard & Sons is such a Christian based company and we know that we have not been forgotten.

My name is Cindy and I have primary progressive MS and haven't been able to work for a couple of years - I had brain surgery in 2004 and neck surgery on September 29th of this year.. We have two sons - Justin (a wonderfully special 19 year old who happens to be autistic and developmentally delayed) and John, III (an energetic 12 year old who probably has a higher IQ than both John & me combined)

That's our story in a couple of paragraphs but by no means, is it all there is to us. We believe that God is in control and we feel so blanketed by His love and mercy. We believe in the power of prayer and in God sending reminders of His grace our way. By making this donation to us, you have allowed His loving presence to be known to us. You all have shined His amazing light on us. Since this all began, I have told our "prayer warriors" that God has sustained us by sending "nuggets" our way whenever we were in a valley. It's been nothing short of miraculous - just when we need it most, something like a card, e-mail, food, money, gift card or something of like arrives - and we feel God's care. Imagine - God has put us on someone's heart and they heed His call - how blessed we feel. THANK YOU ALL for heeding HIS call !! Thank you for being part of our family.



I will close this by asking that you all keep us in your prayers and that you ask anyone that you know who believes to pray for us as we will continue to trust God with our future. We will continue to give Him thanks and praise - He has put wonderful people like you in our paths and He continues to use others to care for us.

I've attached a picture of our family so that you may look at our faces and hopefully feel our appreciation. With our hearts full of love and thanks,

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The Ellis Family  
John, Cindy, Justin, & John, III

This is what the Christmas Season is all about  
Thanks to all of the members of the Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association

## Objections raised over new codes in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Builders told the City Council on Tuesday that they object to new building codes that would require sprinkler systems in all new homes.

The council tabled action on adopting the 2009 International Building Code until a workshop is scheduled, probably after the first of the year.

Community Development Director Jerry Creel said the city was notified early in November that it must adopt the newest building codes or the city's insurance rating could drop from a 4 to a 9 and residents would face average increases of \$400 a year in premiums.

Creel said at the meeting he spoke with a representative of the Mississippi State Rating Bureau, who said the ratings are based almost totally on a structure's ability to resist wind forces. ***Eliminating the requirement for a sprinkler system wouldn't affect the city's 4 rating, Creel said.***

Some of the other requirements under the new code for new homes are carbon monoxide sensors and ground fault interrupter plugs throughout a home.

The Mississippi State Rating Bureau recently improved Biloxi's fire rating from a 5 to a 4 and Mayor A.J. Holloway is encouraging home and business owners to ask their insurers for lower fire insurance rates. Premiums could decrease from 5 percent to 8 percent.

The Biloxi Fire Department is the largest in the state, with 181 firefighters. Biloxi is one of only two cities on the Coast and six in the state to have a Class 4 rating. Others are Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Meridian, Yazoo City and Greenwood.

Realizing that the State of Mississippi has its own rating schedule it should be noted the ISO (Insurance Service Offices) letter that was issued on December 7, 2009

## INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE, INC.

4B Eves Drive, Suite 200, Marlton, NJ 08053  
856-985-5600 FAX 800-955-2422

December 7, 2009

Mr. Anthony C. Apfelbeck  
Fire Marshal/Building Official  
City of Altamonte Springs  
225 Newburyport Avenue  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

Dear Mr. Apfelbeck:

As per your request to provide some clarity on the effect of deciding to not incorporate the new national building code 'requirement' of single-family residential fire sprinkler systems. ISO has a procedure that reduces the Needed Fire Flow for new subdivisions that might be built to code with NFPA 13D systems. The procedure is as follows: "Where all 1- and 2-family dwellings in an entire subdivision or other definable area are protected with a residential fire sprinkler system meeting the requirements of NFPA 13D, "Installation of Sprinkler Systems for One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes", a reduction in the Needed Fire Flow may be appropriate. Where evidence is available from local fire or building officials, to document the installation of these systems according to the Standard, the Needed Fire Flow for such subdivisions or areas may be reduced to 500 gpm."

Typically an action such as this would reduce the fire demand and tend to make it easier for the water system – supply works, main capacity and hydrant distribution to meet the lower fire demand. Therefore, the adoption of a model building code containing a residential sprinkler requirement would tend to improve or lower FSRs credit points or a given Public Protection Classification, all other things being equal. In addition ISO is in the process of drafting a revision to the FSRs that may include extra credit for adoption of a model building code with 1- and 2- family residential sprinkler requirements.

The purpose the ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC™) Program is to gather information needed to determine a fire insurance classification that may be used in the calculation of property insurance premiums. It is not for property loss prevention or life safety purposes and no life safety or property loss prevention recommendations will be made.

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) is another community mitigation program administered by ISO. The BCEGS program gathers information on building code enforcement and adoption to develop a building classification similar to the PPC class. Insurers may use the BCEGS classification as a factor in their underwriting and rate making process. The residential BCEGS classification will be one class less favorable when the community decides to amend the adopted code by removing the residential sprinkler requirements.

Additionally insurers use a Homeowners Policy Program Manual to determine the cost of homeowner insurance. This Manual is published by ISO, and approved by the Department of Insurance in each state including Florida. The manual allows an insurer to give up to an 8% discount for homes with residential fire sprinkler systems installed according to NFPA 13D.

Sincerely,  
Hugh "Skip" H. Gibson, IV  
Manager – Community Hazard Mitigation Services  
Insurance Services Office, Inc.  
Office: (856) 985-5600 ext. 350  
Cell: (609) 560-6804  
Email: [hgibson@iso.com](mailto:hgibson@iso.com)

### Early morning fire destroys Germantown, Tennessee home

Fire destroyed a family's million-dollar dream house in Germantown early Saturday after flames spread from the fireplace and burned through a gas line while the family slept.

Mark Murphy, who built the house at 2965 Devonshire Cove, said he, his wife and his mother-in-law were awakened by a call from the alarm company at about 3:45 a.m.

Murphy, who is also owner of Mark Murphy Homes, LLC, ran downstairs and saw flames pouring from behind the living room television set that sat on the fireplace mantel, he said.

"We thought it was a small fire," he said. "We threw water on it, but it was just too much too fast." After working to douse the flames, Murphy said, the family realized that the fire had already spread into the wall.

Germantown spokeswoman Angela Buckley said the flames spread from the fireplace up to the attic of the two-story, 6,885-square foot house. Although firefighters arrived on the scene within minutes of receiving a call from the alarm company, the first and second floors and attic were already engulfed.

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Buckley said by the time the fire was brought under control at about 4:54 a.m., the house had sustained 70 to 80 percent structural damage. The blaze caused more than \$1 million in damage to the brick veneer house and its contents, said Murphy, who said the losses will be covered by insurance.

"It makes me proud to live in Germantown," he said. "I never could have imagined my house going up in flames like this, but I'm absolutely flabbergasted with the kindness of our neighbors, firefighters and friends.

As part of a mutual aid agreement, about 52 firefighters from Germantown, Collierville, Shelby County and Memphis responded to the fire.

Murphy said he and his wife would live in a hotel until they can rebuild. After they receive the insurance money, he said construction would take about a year.

Hours after the fire, Murphy said he was still stunned by the loss. "It was my dream house," he said. "As each hour goes by we remember something else we lost."

## Homewood, Alabama, City Council decides against requiring fire sprinklers in new homes

The Homewood City Council tonight rejected a proposal that would have required fire sprinklers in newly built homes.

The council unanimously adopted the 2009 International Residential Code but removed the most controversial item in it -- a proposed requirement that all homes built in Homewood after Jan 1, 2010 have fire sprinklers.

Council members said they wanted the sprinklers to be optional.

A sprinkler mandate had the support of the city's fire chief, fire marshal and building inspection supervisor, but area home builders opposed it.

***Does it make you wonder where community leaders have their HEAD? (from the Editor)***

## 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  
CONTRACTORS WEB SITE AT [WWW.TFSCA.COM](http://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 111<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.nfsa.org) or click on the***

# REGIONAL REPORT

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## Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2009

(Status as of December 16, 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 have 104 cosponsors.
- Cosponsorship includes 14 committee members plus expecting Stark (D-CA) and Etheridge (D-NC) for a total of 16 committee members by close of year.
- 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), Ways and Means Committee member, has agreed to help carry the ball on Ways and Means Committee on behalf of bill sponsor Mr. Langevin, who is not on Ways and Means.
- Bill rescored this year at 2.6B with retro to April of 03.
- 5 Year Sunset 1.7B with retro to April 03.
- Rescored at 1.7B with retro eliminated.
- 5 Year Sunset with retro eliminated 888M.
- May need a 3 year Sunset score.
- General expectation is to eliminate the retro and consider 5 year sunset, but may need to be prepared to discuss a 3 year Sunset if that's what it takes to be included in future legislation this Congress.
- Still negotiating Senate companion bill.
- Senator Carper (D-DE), a member of Senate Finance Committee, agreed some time back to sponsor the Senate Companion bill.
- Continuing to work through issues involving recruitment of a primary Republican cosponsor, as Senator Carper wants a Republican presently on Senate Finance with him to fill this roll.
- Prior to meeting with Senator Carper we had been talking to Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Richard Burr (R-NC), but neither are on Senate Finance.
- Focused for a number of weeks on Senator Cornyn (R-TX), but he eventually declined.
- Have had some discussion with Senator Enzi (R-WY).
- Recently Senator Kyl (R-AZ) and Senator Hatch (R-UT) have expressed interest.
- With assistance of CFSI and other allied support groups have had several meetings with Kyl and Hatch staff over past couple of weeks and are presently waiting an answer from them.
- Still expecting tax legislation in second session of 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Presently, work on health care legislation is dominating everything.
- Better feel for second session schedule after Congress returns from Holiday recess.
- Plan appears to be to wrap up health care bill by Christmas, return January 4 to begin Conference Committee work and wrap things up by State of the Union address later in January.
- In addition to expected tax related legislation in second session, we are closely monitoring potential for another stimulus effort in the form of a "Jobs Bill" next session. FSIA has not been a fit in past stimulus efforts, but may fit in a job related piece of legislation.
- Will need to intensify recruitment of cosponsor support and continued support of allied groups beginning in January of 2010.
- I routinely work with and coordinate all of my efforts through our lobbyist, Andy Quinn, of McAllister and Quinn and we continue to work hand in hand with CFSI and other allied support groups, which include all of the major national fire organizations.
- I have felt for some time that an additional national fire organization that could be very helpful in efforts to pass the FSIA is the Metro Chiefs, which is an organization of the larger metropolitan fire departments across the country. Recently, with some assistance from John Corso, NFSA National Training Manager, we were able to meet in Washington, DC with the Executive Director of the Metro Chiefs, Russ Sanders, to discuss how they might help the cause. It was a very productive session and Russ agreed to ask his Board to appoint Past Chief Dennis Compton of the Mesa, Arizona Fire Department and still a Metro member, as the liaison from The Metro to our effort.

- In anticipation of this, we met with Chief Compton at CFSI in DC on Wednesday, December 9. Chief Compton has already secured letters to Senator Kyl from four different Arizona fire organizations and will be securing additional letters from several Arizona Fire Departments.
- Chief Compton is also poised to undertake similar efforts regarding letters of support to Senator Hatch and other key senatorial offices.

Jim Dalton  
December 16, 2009

### **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.