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## **NFSA Cancels 2010 Hawaii Annual Seminar, Cites Responsibility to Industry**

The Board of Directors of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) made the very difficult but prudent decision to cancel next year's Annual Seminar scheduled for May 12 – 15 at the Fairmont Orchid on Hawaii's Big Island. While not definite, it is possible that NFSA will host a downsized, two-day annual event in a Midwestern city within easy, cost-effective reach of the entire membership. As plans develop, additional information will be posted here as it becomes available.

## **Sprinklerman becomes a Lookout**



Sprinklerman the sprinkler industry's Hero was sited at the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lookout's Baseball game last month. It was \$1000.00 give away night by a local radio station which meant that several thousand people were in attendance. Sprinkler man (aka Weston Waggoner) and his trusty side kick Caitlin Mitchell (pictured with Sprinklerman) visited with several of the Ball Park Attendees.



Sprinklerman signed autographs, participated in field activities such as the Frisbee throw, the dizzie bat, and the hamburger roll (in which sprinklerman's participant won each event). Sprinklerman also handed out several hundred brochures that explained the effectiveness of a fire sprinkler system.

Sprinklerman was in action beside the Lookout's own mascot Louie.



## Dean Cornwell Golf Classic



The Twelfth Annual Dean Cornwell Golf Classic was held in June at Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee and was well attended.

President of TFSCA Carl Cutrell would like to thank all of the participants, Hole Sponsors, Corporate, and Tournament Sponsors for helping to make the 2009 Edition of the Dean Cornwell a huge success.



## NFSA Wins Award for Fire Sprinkler Technician Recruitment Video

NFSA has won a Public Relations Society of America New Jersey Chapter "Pyramid Award" for its Fire Sprinkler Technician Recruitment Video, targeting entry-level workers to join the fire sprinkler industry. The annual awards program recognizes exceptional performance generating public relations visions, strategies, and programs that result in measurable return for their client's brands and bottom lines. The project was lead by NFSA's Technician Recruitment Committee, co-chaired by Terry Victor of SimplexGrinnell and Alan Wiginton of Wiginton Fire Systems. The winning video can be [viewed here](#).

## Special SAM Council Election Results

At the request of the NFSA Supplier and Manufacturers (SAM) Council, the NFSA Board recently amended the Association's By-Laws to expand the membership of the Council from 9 to 12 members. A special election was held among the SAM members of the Association, and three individuals have been elected to staggered terms:

**Robert Lopuzzo** – Ferguson Fire and Fabrication, Passaic, NJ, will serve through 2012

**Randal Greenslate** – Fire Protection Products, Carlsbad, CA, will serve through 2011

**Patrick Wallis** – Allied Tube and Conduit, Harvey, IL, will serve through 2010

These individuals will be seated at the June 15, 2009 meeting of the NFSA Councils, which will take place in Quebec in conjunction with the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association's Annual General Meeting.

## Hotel Employees Fooled by Prank Caller

A prank caller has called a number of hotels across the South, fooling hotel employees and customers into causing thousands of dollars of damage to the hotel. The calls are always the same. A frantic man, claiming to be from the fire sprinkler company, saying they must act now, or else the systems will go off.

Here's a description of my personal favorite, which resulted in over \$50,000 in damage...

The caller phoned the hotel, saying he was from the sprinkler company. He told the employee that there was a problem with the sprinkler system and it needed to be reset. That much seems believable. But, not what happened next.

The caller informed the employee that, to reset sprinkler system, she needed to pull the fire alarm. She did, which caused the alarm sound throughout the hotel. He then told her to push the alarm lever back up. When it wouldn't go back up, the prankster said she needed to break out all of the lobby windows to reset the system and avoid the sprinkler from going off. So, she did, with the help of a hotel customer. It gets better.



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Next, the caller said that a portion of the sprinkler head needed to be broken off. This, too, was to reset the system and avoid the sprinklers from going off. Unfortunately, when the sprinkler head was broken, it caused a steady, strong stream of

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water to fill the lobby. Then, the caller told the employee to find the breaker and all power to the hotel.

So, the alarm is going off, all the windows of the lobby are smashed out, there is standing water on the ground, and power has been cut to the whole hotel.

Finally, the fire department arrived, determined the hotel was safe and let the hotel guests return to their rooms.

No one is sure how many hotels this person has called, but we do know that 4 hotel employees have fallen for it. (All in southern states.) (Not that that matters.)

There's a lesson to be learned here. If someone calls, telling you to break a bunch of windows, when you could just have easily opened them, think twice.

## **New Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Form Available with Insurance Information**

NFSA has updated its most popular Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Form (the Wet Pipe Sprinkler System Form, #25-13W) to the 2008 edition of NFPA 25. In addition, the NFSA has added a place on the form to identify the owner's insurance company. This will allow the inspection company to send a copy of the report of inspection directly to the insurance AHJ. For more information, or to receive a Resource Center Catalog, contact the NFSA at (845) 878-4200 x111 or click on "Catalog" in the menu on the left to download a copy of the catalog and order form. When ordering these new forms, please note on the order form, which version (2004, or 2008) that you wish to receive.

## **NFSA Announces New Partnership with Human Resources Provider Single Source Services**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has announced a new business partnership with Single Source Services, a human resources service provider which will offer NFSA members a discount and peace of mind.

Single Source Services is a human resources outsourcing company established in 1995 and based in Jacksonville Beach, Fla. All services are geared towards taking the pain out of dealing with HR. Serving 1,000-plus customers nationwide, from two-person shops to thousands of employees, each program is designed specifically to the needs of that organization.

Single Source offers services such as: pre-employment assessments, drug testing, payroll, background screening, exit interviews, surveys, a Human Resources Management (HRM) system and an HR legal helpline. The goal is to help businesses run more smoothly, while taking care of all HR functions.

Members will be able to choose HR services ala carte or as a package. Single Source will have a booth set up at the NFSA Annual Seminar and Exhibition, in Orlando, where Donald Dyer, president, and Paul Meese, vice president of client relations, can help members design a program specifically tailored to their needs. Single Source will be offering a gift certificate prize of \$250 at their booth to help a lucky member get started.

For more information on Single Source, contact Paul Meese at 800-713-3412 or visit [www.SingleSourceServices.com](http://www.SingleSourceServices.com).

## **Joint ITM "Technical Tuesday" and "Business Thursday" Effort**

Beginning in July of 2009, the NFSA will be sponsoring new series of "Technical Tuesday" and "Business Thursday" seminars that combine to present coordinated training aimed at helping individuals train for the work elements in the NICET

Inspection and Testing certification program. As usual, ten “Technical Tuesday” online training programs will be offered for the second half of 2009, along with a series of six “Business Thursday” online seminars. What is unusual is that, for the first time ever, topics have been selected that allow a comprehensive review of both technical and nontechnical topics in the same overall subject area:

**Technical Tuesdays – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half 2009**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor(s)</i>
July 21	System Terminology	V. Valentine
Aug 4	Wet Systems and Testing Preparations	J. Hugo
Aug 25	Field Identification of Sprinklers	R. Fleming
Sept 15	Basic Math	V. Valentine
Sept 29	ITM for Dry Systems	K. Isman
Oct 13	ITM for Backflow Devices	K. Wiegand
Oct 27	ITM for Hose, Hose Connections & Valves	K. Isman
Nov 10	Tank Inspections	K. Isman
Nov 24	Obstruction Inspections and Investigations	R. Fleming
Dec 8	ITM for Preaction and Deluge Systems	C. Bilbo

**Business Thursdays – 2<sup>nd</sup> Half 2009**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor(s)</i>
July 30	Business & Professional Communications	R. Fleming
Aug 20	Impairment Procedures	K. Wiegand
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

To register or for more information, contact Dawn Fitzmaurice at (845) 878-4207.

***It is not to late to start making plans to attend the 2009 Edition of the TFSCA Fall Fling in Sevierville, Tennessee September 24 – 26, 2009***



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