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Get Registered for NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition Today

While winter's wrath has made it the customary cold and blustery in Northern climes, things are really heating up at NFSA. Plans for the upcoming Annual Seminar & Exhibition have been finalized and registration materials are now available. With programming focused on industry advancement and business survival strategies, fire sprinkler contractors will find immediate value. There are "early-bird" registration discounts, and even a special reduced registration fee for contractors' management teams. Break the winter doldrums. Plan today to meet in Orlando in April with NFSA – the fire sprinkler industry experts.

[Download registration brochure here](#)

NFSA 2009 Annual Seminar
April 29 – May 2, 2009



Omni ChampionsGate
Orlando, FL

[Visit the resort here](#)

Green Hills fire death sparks lawsuit over lack of sprinklers Nashville, Tennessee

(One to Watch)

For a full decade, the proprietors of the Green Hills Apartment for Retired Teachers tried to find a way to fund the legally mandated installation of an automatic sprinkler system throughout their 14-floor building on Abbott Martin Road. And when a fire broke out in the living room of 81-year-old Sarah Regen in the early morning hours of Feb. 11, 2008, the job still had not been done.

Gravely injured by smoke inhalation, former Metro Schools administrative assistant Regen suffered progressive pulmonary disease and other health problems in the months following the blaze. She died on Dec. 3.

Now her children are seeking \$5 million in damages from the nonprofit organization that runs the apartment complex. The entity, Metropolitan Nashville Teachers' Apartment Inc., is still trying to raise \$2.5 million to install the sprinklers that might have saved Regen's life.

In a lawsuit filed Monday in Davidson County Circuit Court, Regen's two sons and daughter claim MNTA "was aware of, but consciously disregarded, a substantial and unjustifiable risk" of which it was warned over and over from 1998 onward.

Metro fire inspectors wrote to the apartment's manager in 2000 after getting no response to the notice they sent in 1998 about a new law requiring that "all existing high-rise buildings must be protected throughout by an approved, supervised, automatic sprinkler system." The manager replied that the nonprofit's board of directors had solicited bids for a system and said "it is our intent to install the system as soon as these bids are received and the board approves one of them."

When there were still no sprinklers by February 2003, the fire marshal's office wrote once more, warning that the building owner might face sanctions if it did not bring the facility into compliance soon.

In September of that year, a fire at a Nashville nursing home that had no sprinklers killed 16 residents, leading to widespread public discussion of the need to retrofit such structures with sprinklers. However, the Green Hills apartments remained without a fire-protection system.

In March 2006, the fire marshal's office notified MNTA that it was required to install a system by the following January. When nothing had happened by January 2008, a year after the deadline, the marshal finally issued a citation.

Before the court date, however, the fire broke out in Regen's apartment.

Property Manager Robert P. Burton said yesterday that after learning of the sprinkler requirement, MNTA's board "tried to research every way possible to do it without increasing rent on our senior citizens." Applicants seeking to live in the property must be 62 or older, "so everybody is on fixed income," Burton explained.

"When I came on board five years ago, it was clear that the board was conscious of who the clientele is and was trying not to pass this cost along to those people," Burton said. The board looked for grants, private donations and other ways to raise the money, without success.

Last summer, under pressure from Metro's Environmental Court, MNTA imposed what Burton calls "a dramatic rent increase" to help fund the \$2.5 million sprinkler project. But it will still have to borrow most of the money. Financing the improvements has involved obtaining a waiver from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding the existing mortgage on the property, a process that has taken some months but which Burton believes will be completed soon.

"Until the sprinklers are installed, we've hired a security firm to maintain constant fire watch on the premises," Burton stated.

The fire department has issued no final report on the cause of the fire, according to the property manager.

"Fires don't spread in this building," Burton said. "It's 100 percent concrete. But the fact that Mrs. Regen got hurt and then passed away has really devastated us. She was well-loved by a lot of us here."

The lawsuit seeks \$2.5 million each in compensatory and punitive damages. John L. Norris, of Norris & Norris PLC in Nashville, represents the Regen family

Many businesses unaware of water rate hike in Rome Georgia

Rome industries and businesses are likely experiencing sticker shock after receiving letters last week from the city about an increase for "fire line services."

Some representatives of hospitals and large manufacturers contacted Tuesday by the Rome News-Tribune said they were either not aware of the letter or the increase.

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There are two ways water rates can affect businesses, City Manager John Bennett said. One is for consumption. The other is the fire line rate. The fire line rate is based on the size of the water lines that feed sprinkler systems.

The letter adds that a review by an engineering consultant found the city was not charging sufficiently for the service. The city compared its rates with those of other cities in Georgia, and "the new rates are comparative with the midrange of those cities," the letter says.

In Cartersville, the rate is \$15 for a 4-inch line in the city and \$30 outside the city; \$20 for a 6-inch line inside the city and \$40 outside; \$40 and \$80 for an 8-inch line; \$100 and \$200 for a 10-inch line; and \$150 and \$300 for a 12-inch line.

In Calhoun, the rate is \$60 for a 4-inch line; \$75 for a 6-inch line; \$85 for an 8-inch line; and \$100 for a 12-inch line.

In Dalton, the flat rate is \$3.45 in the city and \$6.45 in Whitfield County.

Rome also raised the rate for water consumption and its base rate this month, affecting both businesses and residences. Bennett said the average residential water bill would increase around \$3.35 per month.

This month the city raised the rate to \$50 from \$9 for a 4-inch line; to \$100 from \$15 for a 6-inch line; to \$160 from \$24 for an 8-inch line; to \$200 from \$36 for a 10-inch line; and \$225 from \$58 for a 12-inch line.

One business owner was aware of the increase but isn't certain she was appropriately charged.

"I don't think it's fair," said Maxine Plourde, owner of Beyond Your Ears II at 326 Broad St. "My (current) water bill was \$16 (for water consumption). Because of fire line rate, it's \$116."

Leigh Ross, director of Rome's water and sewer division, said he mailed 330 letters about the fire line rate increase and had gotten "about a half a dozen inquiries, and three folks that were complaining about it."

It only affects businesses that have a sprinkler system inside, Ross said.

That may get Plourde off the hook. She doesn't have a sprinkler system, and she's meeting with the water division today.

"For many years the city has not significantly increased the fees related to fire service," the letter states.

Floyd County raised its minimum monthly bill from \$11.36 to \$14 this month. In June, the county rate will increase from \$3.49 to \$3.55 per 1,000 gallons for customers using as much as 25,000 gallons per month.

Columbia South Carolina Fire Department Begins New Program To Encourage Sprinkler Use

Columbia Fire Chief Bradley Anderson, Deputy Chief Aubrey Jenkins and Assistant Chief Carmen Floyd joined Joe Palmer, John Reich, and other dignitaries at a press conference this morning kicking off a new way to promote the use of sprinklers.

The Columbia Fire Marshals, under the direction of Chief Floyd, will put a logo on buildings that have a full operational sprinkler system. This will tell visitors, residents, and firefighters said building is participating in a campaign to reduce fire deaths and property loss. ***Life Saver logo that will be used in Columbia. Thanks to Jim Bowie of the National Fire Sprinkler Association***



Chief Anderson discussed the program as did the Sprinkler Association and State Fire Marshal John Reich. Reich discussed the use of smoke detectors as well as sprinklers and stated that fire marshals from the state were willing to come to any community in South Carolina and discuss sprinklers.

Joe Palmer, the Executive Director of the South Carolina State Firefighters Association, was also on hand . Columbia Ladder 9 and Engine 2 were outside to show their presence.

We will go in-depth on this in tonight's podcast. Please listen as we discuss the state's attempts to address the fire problem in South Carolina.

NFSA Produces Design Technician Recruitment Video

NFSA is pleased to announce that as part of an overall design technician recruitment effort, it has completed production of a Sprinkler Design Technician Recruitment video. The video was produced to bring qualified individuals into the fire sprinkler industry and highlights those aspects of sprinkler design technician work that are unique, challenging and rewarding. While the video is scheduled to be debuted at the NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition in Orlando later this year, a sneak peek is available right now. Follow the "Careers" link at the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org.

FIRE AT COOLSPRINGS GALLERIA IN FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE MALL Blaze Contained to Food Court Area by Automatic Fire Sprinklers

Franklin, TN - A suspicious fire at the CoolSprings Galleria Mall damaged the service corridor behind the Oasis Food Court. According to Franklin Fire Marshal Andy King. The blaze, which evacuated a portion of the mall, was contained by automatic fire sprinklers and extinguished by firefighters.

The fire was reported at 5:34 p.m. Arriving firefighters found light smoke outside the food court service entrance and upon entering the building found fire that had originated in the maintenance employees' break room. The Oasis Food Court was closed the remainder of the evening. Damage is estimated at \$10,000. There were no injuries.

King said, "We are very pleased with the response of the mall staff and security team who assisted in evacuating the area and keeping everyone safe. We're also pleased with how well the fire alarm system worked and that the fire sprinkler system activated and limited the fire damage." King said the fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems were placed back in service within a few hours.

Sprinklers soak Davie salon after fire ignites in bathroom (California Story)

A salon in the Davie Shopping Center is in shambles Tuesday morning after its sprinklers flooded the business while dousing a small fire, according to town spokesman Braulio Rosa. The fire began about 8:30 a.m. in the bathroom of Rosa Nova, 4631 S. Nova Dr., Rosa said. "There was a small fire in the bathroom," Rosa said. "It was nothing of consequence, but it set off sprinklers and apparently caused a large amount of water damage," he said. A Radio shack next door also received some minor water damage, Rosa said. Rosa could not say how the fire started.

Wonder what would have happen if there were not SPRINKLERS

Fire Sprinklers Save an Apartment Building in Columbia, Tennessee

(Thank Goodness for a Fire Department that recognizes the benefit of a fire sprinkler system)



At approximately 12:40 pm today fire broke out at Hallmark Apartments located at 200 Hallmark Drive in Columbia, Tennessee. The apartment was rented by Destiny Manns and occupied by her and 5 children ranging in age from 8 years old to 1 year old. The fire started in one of the bedrooms by children playing with matches when their mother left the children unattended while she went to the store.

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The apartment building is three stories tall, consisting of 24 two-bedroom units. The fire was kept under control by the residential fire sprinkler system. The fire sprinkler system activated when the ceiling temperature in the bedroom reached approximately 135 degrees Fahrenheit. **Without the fire sprinkler system, the fire would have grown much larger and threatened the safety of Columbia's Firefighters as well as the occupants of the entire apartment building.**

There are numerous lessons to be learned from this incident:

1. Fire sprinkler systems save lives and property while reducing firefighting risks to our community's firefighters by quickly extinguishing the fire.
2. Never leave small children unattended and unsupervised.
3. If you must have matches/lighters in the home, keep them stored out of the reach of children.

The building involved in this fire was valued at more than \$500,000.00 including the occupants' belongings. It is estimated that the property saved by the fire sprinkler system and Columbia Firefighters today was approximately \$493,000.00 and most importantly none of the occupants nor any of Columbia's firefighters were injured or killed as a result of this incident.



Respectfully submitted,

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Common Voices Coalition Posts PSA's on You Tube

NFSA is pleased to announce that its Common Voices Coalition, a fire sprinkler advocacy group, has created five new 30-second public service announcements and posted them on You Tube. The first features Common Voices Facilitator Vickie Pritchett who highlights recent code changes requiring fire sprinklers in new single-family homes. The second features Amy Acton, President of the Phoenix Society, who speaks about fire sprinklers from a fire survivor's perspective. The third, by Vina Drennan, addresses how fire sprinklers can impact national firefighter fatality statistics. In the fourth PSA, Bonnie Woodruff highlights the fact that her family is now protected with fire sprinklers, and the fifth features Gail Minger who stresses the importance of fire sprinklers in the residence where your son or daughter will live at college.

Each of these most convincing PSA's is available for viewing and downloads on You Tube and at the Common Voices website at www.fireadvocates.org. Additional PSA's featuring Common Voices advocates Justina Page and Donna Henson are in the developmental stages and will also be posted at both the aforementioned websites as they become available.

INSPECTION AND TESTING TECHNICIAN NICET LEVEL 2 STUDY REVIEW SEMINAR

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Apr 21-23, 2009

Hampton Inn

Please check the Calendar on the TFSCA Web site at www.tfsc.com

Purpose: This three-day seminar has been developed for individuals that inspect and test water-based fire protection systems. The purpose of the seminar is to assist individuals in advancing their careers by reviewing material necessary for Level II certification in the relatively new NICET Subfield of Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Fire Protection

Systems. By the end of the seminar, the student will have an understanding of a sufficient number of Level I, Level II General, and Special work elements to be prepared for Level II.

Target Audience:

- Individuals currently inspecting and testing water-based fire protection systems
- Individuals that want to begin inspection and testing of water-based fire protection systems
- Code Enforcement Officials that want a basic understanding of the workings of water-based fire protection systems

Materials: Each attendee will receive an NFSA workbook and other prepared materials. Each attendee must bring their own copies of NFPA 13 and NFPA 25.

Each paid attendee will receive a certificate upon completion.

Day 1

8:00 – 8:40 Introduction to NFSA, NICET and seminar

8:40 – 9:15 NFPA Standard Definitions 41002

9:15 – 9:30 Break

9:30 – 10:30 Role of the Inspector, Owner and AHJ 41006 and 41018

10:30 – 10:45 Contracts and Forms 42001

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Basic Components and Terminology 41003 and 41008

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 System Appurtenances 41005

1:45 – 2:00 Wet Pipe Systems 43002

2:00 – 2:30 Dry-Pipe Systems 43003

2:30 – 3:00 Fire Protection Water Tanks 42003

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 3:45 Private Fire Service Main Components 42004; 3:45 – 4:00 Plans and Specifications 41014

4:00 – 4:15 Fire Protection Symbols 41013

4:15 – 4:45 Principles of Combustion 42006

4:45 – 5:00 Questions and Answers

Homework: Multiple-choice questions from various subjects during the day

Day 2

8:00 – 8:30 Homework review

8:30 – 9:30 Basic Math 41010 and 43010

9:30 – 9:45 Break

9:45 – 10:45 Physical Sciences 41011

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:30 Metric Units and Conversions 41001

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 Classification of Occupancies and Commodities 41016 and 43013

1:30 – 2:15 Field Inspection of Sprinklers 41017

2:15 – 2:45 Sprinkler Obstruction, Position and Condition 43001

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 3:15 On-site Inspection and Testing Preparation 41007 and 43009

3:15 – 3:45 Inspection Safety Concerns 41009

3:45 – 4:15 Impairment Procedures 43008

4:15 – 5:00 Questions and Answers

Homework: Basic math and science, occupancy class and sprinkler locations

Day 3

8:00 – 9:00 Homework Review

9:00 – 9:45 Inspection and Testing Procedures of General System Components 43004, 43007 and 41001

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9:45 – 10:00 Break
10:00 – 10:15 Valve Inspections 43005
10:15 – 10:45 No Flow and Full Flow Trip Tests of Dry-Pipe Valves 43012 and 44013
10:45 – 11:00 Break
11:00 – 11:30 Preaction and Deluge System Inspection 44012
11:30 – 12:00 Alarm and Supervisory Device Inspection 43015 and 43016
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 1:15 Water Supply Requirements 43006
1:15 – 2:45 Pump Operations and Inspections 42009, 43014, 44002 and 44003
2:45 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 3:45 Standpipe Systems 41015 and 43011
3:45 – 4:00 Residential System Inspection 44001
4:00 – 4:30 Questions and Answers

NFSA Member Cost Structure

I am registering for: 1 person (\$400) 2 people (\$800) 3 people (\$1200) 4 people (\$1600)

NON-NFSA Member Cost Structure

I am registering for: 1 person (\$600) 2 people (\$1200) 3 people (\$1800) 4 people (\$2400)

Register 14 days prior to class and receive \$50 off prices listed above

NFSA Manager of Codes Obtains CBCO Designation

NFSA has announced that its Manager of Codes, Jeff Hugo, recently passed the International Code Council building official exam, earning him the Certified Building Official or CBO designation. Having the CBO credential along with his other inspector and plan review certifications has qualified Jeff to become one of only a few Certified Building Code Officials (CBCO) across the country. Jeff works out of NFSA's Essexville, Michigan office and can be reached by email at Hugo@nfsa.org.

NFSA Announces New Membership Category

NFSA is proud to announce the inception of our newest member category, Friend of the Industry. This new membership encompasses companies such as insurance agents, accountants, printers and all others that interact with, but are not part of, the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA would like to encourage its members to ask vendors they are doing business with that would fit into this category, to show their support by joining NFSA as a Friend of the Industry. For further information or an application, call Karyn Hudgens, Director of Membership at 845.878.4200 ext. 156 or email Hudgens@nfsa.org.

NFSA Partners with IAFC on Sprinkler Resources for Communities

NFSA is very pleased to announce that the Second Edition of the "Residential Fire Sprinklers ... Step by Step Approach for Communities" guide and updated companion *Look Up for Safety* CD/DVD set is now available. By partnering with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the guide is being made available at no charge to fire service and community leaders. For details, contact NFSA's Resource Center at grepko@nfsa.org.

[Download Step-by-step guide here](#)

