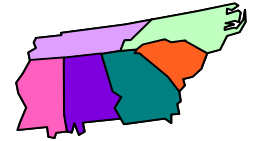




REGIONAL REPORT

Tennessee/South East Edition



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October 2009

Tennessee Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association Elects New Officers

At the 2009 TFSCA Fall Fling the membership elected the following TFSCA members to serve as Officers and the Board of Directors for 2009 – 2011:

President Carl Cutrell Jr. Nashville Sprinkler Company
Vice President Jim Dunlap Fire Protection Systems, Inc.
Secretary Steve Everett Associated Fire Services, LLC
Treasurer Paul Satterwhite Bouchard Fire Protection

The board nominees are:

Louis Morton Sentinel Fire Protection
Chris Mathews American Fire Sprinklers
Jimmy Key Key Fire Protection
Eric Briley Cumberland Fire Protection
Steve Anderson Grand Fire Protection
Ken Brinkley Music City Fire Sprinkler, LLC
Tom Galbreath Guardian Automatic (associate member)

Sprinkler system saves apartments in Cookeville, Tennessee

A sprinkler system saved property and possibly lives when fire erupted in an apartment complex on Cora Road last night, Cookeville Fire Chief John Kendrick said. It happened about 9 p.m. Monday at the Laurel Creek Apartments, a 20-unit complex which is "an assisted living type facility," the fire chief said. A kitchen fire in one unit could easily have spread to the others and caused much more damage than it did, he said. "This is a two-story wood and vinyl siding structure and about 20 people live there," Kendrick said. "One of the tenants was cooking something and left the area briefly and that's when a grease fire started. It caught the cabinets on fire." The resident tried to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher, but it was actually the sprinkler system which did the job, he said. "The sprinkler system activated and put the fire out, confining the damage to that one unit." Firefighters arrived just after 9

p.m. and all tenants of the complex were evacuated for a brief time. With the fire extinguished by the sprinklers, firefighters worked to remove the 80 to 100 gallons of water the system had dropped into the area where the fire was. He estimated the total damage at \$4,000 to \$5,000 and said without the sprinkler, that number would have been much higher. "This is a great example of how residential sprinklers can save property and lives," the chief said. "This kind of system is designed to go off at a low temperature, early while the fire is still in the starting stage, and that allows people time to get out." No one was injured in the fire.

Kingsport, Tennessee Fire Department "Gets it"

The picture below is a billboard that will be displayed in Kingsport Tennessee courtesy of the Kingsport Fire Marshal's office and Fire Marshal Robert Sluss. Great JOB and keep up the Great Work.



Join the ICC Today, Vote in Baltimore to Preserve Fire Sprinklers in IRC

Just about a year ago to the day the International Code Congress (ICC) membership voted in the affirmative to include residential fire sprinkler requirements in the body of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), potentially representing an unprecedented milestone in the history of public fire safety. It was an achievement realized through a tremendous amount of fire sprinkler industry support and that of its allies.

Since that historical meeting last year in Minneapolis, the very same requirements adopted to prevent the catastrophic fire losses experienced every year in this country have come under attack by the homebuilding industry. For example, they talk about exorbitant installation costs and how newer homes don't burn, all of which, of course, we in the fire protection industry know simply is not the truth. In fact, recent studies have shown for about \$1.61 per square foot, a fire sprinkler system can be installed in

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the construction of a new home, preventing premature failure of today's often used lightweight construction in the event of fire.

With the next test of residential sprinkler requirements in the IRC being hearings scheduled for the last week of October in Baltimore, now is the time to make plans to attend in support of the current regulations. The first step necessary, if you are not already, is to become an ICC member. To be assured eligibility to vote in Baltimore, the individual membership Building Safety Professional category should be used. Membership costs \$100.00 per year and comes with the ICC code of choice. Apply as an individual in your own name and address, not a business. Corporate membership is not recommended.

Since the deadline for voting eligibility of new ICC members is 10 days prior to the start of the hearing, the membership process must be completed by Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

Detailed Information about how to join the ICC can be found at their website at www.iccsafe.org.

Let NFSA Help You Learn About Residential Sprinklers: Are You Prepared for the 2009 IRC?

NFSA has the following seminars available to help you better understand residential sprinkler requirements. These seminars are designed for code officials, design professionals and for anyone involved with the installation of residential sprinklers:

1. **Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D):** This one-day seminar details the installation and layout of an NFPA 13 D sprinkler system.
2. **Homes to High-rise:** This one-day seminar covers the differences between NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D residential sprinkler requirements.
3. **Layout and Hydraulic Calculation of NFPA 13D Residential Sprinkler Systems:** This three-day seminar will provide the layout technician or anyone who deals with residential systems with the knowledge and skills to layout a NFPA 13D residential system.
4. **On-Line Seminars (NFSA Academy)** several 1 to 1.5 hour classes related to residential sprinklers are also available.

To register or review seminar details for any one of these seminars you can go to the NFSA web site www.nfsa.org and click on the white button (left side) marked "Seminars". You may also contact Dawn Fitzmaurice – Training Coordinator at (845) 878 – 4200 EXT. 133 or email Dawn at Seminars@nfsa.org.

Gulf Shores, Alabama considers 2009 building codes

The City Council is pondering a switch to the most recent set of International Building Codes, which would mandate, among other things, that single-family homes be outfitted with a fire sprinkler system

Having opted not to adopt the 2006 International Building Code, Gulf Shores Building Official Brandan Franklin has proposed that the resort city become the first in the area to operate under the 2009 rules. "The No. 1 reason for being on the latest, greatest codes is I think we have a better chance of getting insurance coverage back into play," Franklin told council members during a work session

In recent weeks, elected officials have expressed some consternation about the new rules pertaining to fire sprinkler requirement because of the costs to homeowners.

If the 2009 codes are adopted, all new homes built after January 2011 will have to have sprinkler systems, Franklin said.

Franklin said installing the sprinkler system in a 1,900-square-foot home would most likely raise construction costs by about 74 cents a square foot, or about \$1,400. In a larger, 4,000-square-foot home, the added costs would amount to about \$1.72 per square foot, or about \$6,800 total, Franklin said.

While existing homes won't be required to add sprinklers, any structure that is damaged more than 50 percent in a storm or other disaster will have to be rebuilt with sprinklers, Franklin said.

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 96 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

**Fire Sprinkler
Incentive Act**

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U.S. Senate

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.

NFSA Announces Partnership with USFA

NFSA is proud to announce that we have entered into a partnership with the United States Fire Administration (USFA) for the "Install. Inspect. Protect. Campaign," due to launch in November 2009. The campaign will emphasize the need to have working smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers installed in all homes. NFSA will distribute key materials and promote the campaign to our members and the general public. NFSA's name will appear on the campaign fact sheet on the USFA website and on campaign materials. The campaign's website will be linked to the NFSA website and vice versa. We at NFSA are truly excited about this partnership. We see this as a big step forward towards widespread acceptance of residential fire sprinklers and wish to thank USFA for this wonderful opportunity.