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California Office of the State Fire Marshal Issues Important Safety Bulletin

In response to the National Fire Protection Interim Safety Alert Regarding Antifreeze in Residential Sprinklers

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continues to strongly emphasize the importance of residential fire sprinklers as one of the most effective ways to prevent fire injury and death in the home and other residential occupancies. In California, thousands of residential fire sprinklers have successfully prevented fire injury and deaths and have protected communities from large fire losses. With the recent release of a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Safety Alert, this Information Bulletin is to assist in clarifying and assure our stakeholders and the public's perspective has a balanced understanding of the issue. As is always the case, fire and life safety is the uppermost priority in the fire service.

The areas in California typically impacted by freezing temperatures which accounts for less than five percent (5%) of the total residential fire sprinkler installations; the NFPA safety alert specifically addresses the ratio/proportion of antifreeze additives to residential fire sprinkler systems. This is the result of the outcome of an initial set of fire tests conducted as part of a research study with the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation.

Based on information from these efforts, NFPA issued this interim safety alert and provided suggested recommendations until results of further testing on antifreeze is available. They have initiated additional fire tests to gain further information on antifreeze solution performance under various fire scenarios. The testing, conducted in conjunction with the NFPA Research Foundation, indicated that 70/30% glycerin and 60/40% propylene glycol antifreeze solutions may provide an unacceptable risk of harm to occupants in **certain** types of fire scenarios, in particular kitchen grease fires.

The complete safety alert and research product may be viewed at the NFPA website: <http://www.nfpa.org/antifreeze> For existing systems, the NFPA recommends contacting a sprinkler contractor to ascertain if there is antifreeze in the system; and suggested interim measures. The NFPA anticipates further guidance before the winter freezing months. Sprinkler piping can be protected by other means such as insulation, pipe wrap, and setting the temperatures in the house to prevent freezing. In new residential construction, there are options for fire sprinkler installations that do not require antifreeze;

alternative sprinkler layout and designs and insulation over piping can provide the necessary protection from freezing conditions; and increased levels of insulation in exposed attic spaces may also serve to assist in compliance with California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Part 6, Title 24). For more information concerning new construction techniques and the reports from the residential fire sprinkler task force groups, please visit the OSFM website at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>.

The sustained efforts of all stakeholders must focus on sharing information; working together; and continuing to support the message that fire sprinklers are one of the most effective ways to save lives and property from fire; and to that end, assure the successful implementation of the 2010 California Residential Code and the residential fire sprinkler provisions.

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>



Jack Thacker throwing out the first pitch



Jack Thacker, 66er's Jonathon, Regional Manager Bruce Lecair waving to the fans w/ Sprinklerman!

Sprinklerman Comes to California!!!

Sprinklerman made his California debut in a big way during his June 30th debut at the Inland Empire 66'ers Single A game in San Bernardino versus the Lake Elsinore Storm. The game featured game time events with Sprinklerman throwing out the first pitch with Area Director Jack Thacker and participating in several fund events.



The second big event for Sprinklerman was on July 2nd at the Triple AAA Sacramento Rivercats game versus the Fresno Grizzlies in Sacramento where Sprinklerman visited kids and participated during the game in races and other fund activities. The night game was also the site of the Rivercats Firefighter Appreciation Night with State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover throwing out the 1st pitch and a fireworks show after the game.

NFSA hosted a suite at both events and entertained guests and helpers from Allan Automatic of Southern California, San Bernardino Fire Department Fire Prevention Staff, current and former State Fire Marshals Tonya Hoover and Kate Dargan, members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and NFSA members from Brian Burke and Richard Babb from Spears Manufacturing, Stephanie Burke from Reliable Sprinkler, Amy Donahoo from Action Fire and Fabrication, Chris Smith from Lubrizol and Justin (aka.Sprinklerman) and Anette Lecair



State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover and Sprinklerman

Special thanks to all who attended and made the two games a great success!!!!

Office of the State Fire Marshal IRC Preparation Continues in Northern and Southern California!!!

The CRC Awareness Level Preparedness classes continued in July with classes conducted throughout the State of California. In June, the Office of the State Fire Marshals conducted classes in Rancho Cucamonga and Oceanside in Southern California on July 7th and 8th. The July 7th classes were followed by an NFSA NFPA 13, 13-d and 13-r Overview Class conducted by Director of Training, Robert Trieber that was well attended and a great follow-up to the morning class. Later in the month, the CRC Awareness Level classes were taught in Petaluma on July 21st and again in Hayward on July 22nd at the Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 483.

The Awareness Level Course on Residential Fire Sprinklers and the 2010 California Residential Code are designed to assist and train stakeholders in California that requirements for residential fire sprinklers are designed to be a “life safety system” to prevent flash over and allow for the evacuation or rescue from fire. The classes which include recommendations from the Phase I, II, III IRC Task Forces are in preparation for the statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement for new construction, scheduled for January 1, 2011 in the 2010 California Residential Code.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal in conjunction with Cal Chiefs Fire Prevention Officers Section, Building Officials and other stakeholders has tentatively scheduled dates and general locations for the Awareness Level Course. Additional information will follow over the coming weeks and months.

2010 TRAINING CALENDAR

August 4, 2010 – Sunnyvale, Ca.	September 16, 2010 - Santa Barbara, Ca.
August 5, 2010 – Monterey, Ca.	September 28, 2010 – Fresno, Ca.
August 18, 2010 – Glendale, Ca	September 29, 2010 – Modesto, Ca
August 19, 2010 – Anaheim, Ca.	October 6, 2010 - Palm Springs
September 1, 2010 - Butte County/Chico	October 19-21, 2010 - North Area*
September 2, 2010 - El Dorado County	November 2-4, 2010 - Central/South Area*
September 15, 2010 - San Luis Obispo County	

Editor Note: the classes will be instructed by West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair, Steve Hart NAS IP, Kevin Reinsertion, OSFM Deputy Fire Marshal Codes and Regulations

NOTICE THAT CALIFORNIA’S PEX REGULATIONS ARE VACATED AND SET ASIDE

The Alameda Superior Court has ordered the California Building Standards Commission to vacate and set aside its decision approving and adopting the regulations amending the California Buildings Standards Code to allow the use of PEX plastic plumbing pipe and any actions taken founded on those regulations until the State has fully complied with CEQA.

THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU THAT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2010, THE PEX REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN THE CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, section 604.11 and Table 6-4) ARE REPEALED. Based on the court’s order, at its June 17, 2010, meeting the Building Standards Commission repealed the amendments to the 2007 edition of the California Plumbing Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5) relating to PEX tubing. The

provisions being repealed are California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, section 604.11 and Table 6-4, which were adopted in January 2009 and authorized the use of PEX water supply piping.

Additionally, this action repeals the amendments added to California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, Table 6-4 that reflected findings in the Environmental Impact Report upon which CBSC relied in its rulemaking. This Commission's June 17, 2010, action repeals to the following rulemaking proposals adopted and/or approved by the Commission in January 2009:

I. Building Standards Commission (BSC 01/07)

II. Division of the State Architect (DSA-SS 02/07)

III. Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD 01/07)

IV. Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD 06/07)

V. Department of Public Health (CDPH 01/07)

VI. Department of Food and Agriculture (AGR 01/07)

Please note that pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 18938.5, the repeal of the PEX regulations does not apply to building permit applications that have been submitted, issued or completed prior to July 1, 2010. Please also note that PEX plastic plumbing pipe may remain authorized for use if your local jurisdiction has adopted an ordinance or regulation approving its use (see Health and Safety Code sections 17923, 17958 and 18941.5). Also, PEX may be authorized for use by local jurisdictions pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 17591(e) [Alternate Materials and Construction Methods], or California Plumbing Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, sections 108.7 [Alternate Materials, Designs, Tests and Methods of Construction] or 301.2 [Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency].

Additional information regarding the Commission's actions related to PEX is available on the commission's website: <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/default.htm>. If you have additional questions regarding the Commission's actions related to PEX, please call Commission staff at 916-263-0916.

NFSA S.F. Chapter Greet Cecil Bilbo!

The San Francisco NFSA Chapter met on Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California and greeted Cecil Bilbo, P.E. NFSA Consultant, Director of the Academy Fire Sprinkler Designer Program located in Champaign, Illinois. Mr. Bilbo gave a presentation that included information on the completion of the first graduation class, curriculum and academy development and current status of the academy's next class scheduled for this fall. Mr. Bilbo also discussed recruitment of students for the next academy year and is soliciting help from the West Region for recruitment of new students for the 2-year degree program.

Regional Manager Bruce Lecair provided an NFSA update and a report on the current OSFM CRC Preparation Classes. The September 23, 2010 meeting will feature Paul Johnson with a program and update on the NFSA Risk Management Program.

So Cal FPO's Meet in Brea

Members of the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at the City of Brea City Council Chambers in Brea, Ca. The meeting featured an in depth report from State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover and staff from the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) on residential fire sprinkler systems containing antifreeze, the recent efforts to curb gasoline spills and injuries caused by faulty gasoline fuel dispensing nozzles and the implementation of the next series of

Codes beginning in January of 2011. The afternoon session featured an update on the new OSFM certification tracks for Fire Prevention Officers and the new curriculum design and format for OSFM Instructors.

The meeting also included updates on FPO committees, OSFM work groups and committees and an NFSA and Water Discharge Committee update from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair.

Nor Cal FPO's hold Summer Meetings

The Northern California Fire Prevention Officers held meetings in June and July and are expecting a huge turnout for the upcoming 1st Annual Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Golf Tournament at the Silverado Golf Club in Napa California on August 26th.

The June meeting featured a great meeting in Hayward, Ca. at Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 483. The meeting featured an update on the new California State Fire Marshal Training Curriculum and program overall that contains an updated Fire Prevention Officers Track and lesson plan and testing format for instructors and students.

The July 23rd meeting was hosted by Cal State University Santa Cruz at the Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton, California. The outdoor meeting featured a barbecue lunch and an afternoon presentation on Residential Fire Sprinkler and Design from James D. Lake Senior Fire Protection Specialist, NFPA.

San Diego Fire Protection Meet in La Mesa, California

The San Diego Fire Protection Association met on July 13th in La Mesa, California and greeted Augie Ghio, Fire Marshal of La Mesa Fire Department and current President of the San Diego Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Ghio gave a presentation on the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association, an overview of the state of Fire and EMS services in San Diego County, regionalization efforts, studies, and next steps toward improving service within the current fiscal situation and discussed the challenges and opportunities facing local fire agencies.

NFSA Regional Manager Bruce Lecair and Terri Leyton-Simmons from Protection Design and Consulting gave a short presentation on the CRC Preparation Classes in Ranch Cucamonga and Oceanside and Bruce Lecair also gave a report on the California Fire Prevention Officer's Association meetings.

NFSA Classes Scheduled for the West Region!

Although the Training Division is teaching classes in the South State for the California Residential Preparation classes, it will still be active in the West with classes scheduled for Maui, Hawaii in August, Brea, California in September and Woodland, California in October. For more information on classes or to sign up, please contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair or the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org.

Maui, Hawaii

CPVC piping installation requirements and procedures	Date:	08/09/10
Underground piping for Fire Protection Systems	Date:	08/09/10

Standpipe systems for Fire Protection	Date:	08/10/10
Commissioning and Acceptance of Fire Protection Systems	Date:	08/10/10
Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems.	Date:	08/11/10

Brea, California

NFPA 13 2010 Overview and Intro to Plan Review- (2-day class)	Date:	9/21 and 9/22, 2010
1-day Plan Review Procedures and Policies (2010 NFPA 13)	Date:	9/23/10

Woodland, California

NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007-10)	Date:	10/19/10
Sprinklers for Dwellings	Date:	10/20/10
Residential Sprinklers – Homes to High-rise	Date:	10/21/10

Regulations, Legislation, Codes, etc.

Bill AB 2419, (Cook): Contractors.

House Location: Assembly Appropriations

Last Amended Date: 05/06/2010

Type of Bill: Active

Last Historical Action Date: 05/20/2010

Last Historical Action: Re-referred to Committee on Business and Professions and Education: Do pass, (Ayes 15. Noes 0.)

Summary: Existing law, the Contractors' State License Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of contractors by the Contractors' State License Board. This bill would rename that law the Contractors State License Law and would rename the board the Contractors State License Board. The bill would rename specified classifications of contractors, and would make other technical, non-substantive, and conforming changes to related provisions.

Section.23. Section 7026.12 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7026.12. The installation of a fire protection system, excluding an electrical alarm system, shall be performed only by a contractor holding a fire protection contractor Fire Protection (C-16) classification as defined in the regulations of the board or by an owner-builder of an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, if not more than two single-family dwellings on the same parcel are constructed within one year, plans are submitted to and approved by the city, county, or city and county authority, and the city, county, or city and county authority inspects and approves the installation.

AB 660 (Torrico) Sprinkler fitters: Licensing

Last Historical Action: From Committee chair, with author's amendments, amend and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Committee on Governmental Organization

Committee location: Senate Appropriations

Committee Action Date: 08/24/2009

Committee Action: Do pass as amended, and re-referred to the Committee on Public Safety

See June 2009 for Summary

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **Water Discharge Task Force Meeting, August 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** at the California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.

NFSA L.A. California Chapter Meeting, August 19, 2010 at 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, CA 90241.

NFSA S.F. California Chapter, Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California

- The guest speaker will be Paul Johnson with a program and update on the NFSA Risk Management Program.

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at 10 a.m. in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

- The featured program is the “Cerro Grande Fire: 10 yr. Retrospective.”

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, August 27, 2010 at 9:30 in Napa, California

- August 2010: Napa - 1st Annual Golf Tournament

San Diego Fire Protection Association, August 10, 2010, La Mesa, Cas at Marie Callendar’s 11:30 a.m.

20th Annual California Fire Prevention Institute - March 14-18, 2011

- The site of the 21st Annual CFPI Workshop will be at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott

32nd Annual Hawai’i Fire Chiefs Association Conference-Kauai, Hawai’i, November 18-21, 2010

The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association will conduct its next meeting on the Island of Kauai on November 18-21, 2010. The Annual HAFC Conference features education and training seminars, presentations from the fire industry, a vendor’s day and meetings and events. This year’s event will also feature the Second Annual Hawai’i National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament. The event will feature local celebrities and members of the fire service and fire protection industry.