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**December 2009**

## **NFSA Announces 2010 Award Winners**

### **California's Former State Fire Marshal to receive Leadership Award!**

Tuesday, November 10, 2009, Patterson, New York – The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) Awards Committee is pleased to announce that it has named Ausmus Marburger of Fire Protection Industries in Bensalem, Pennsylvania as the 2010 recipient of the Golden Sprinkler Award, the association's highest honor. Aus is a Past Chairman of NFSA's Board of Directors, a position held 2002 – 2006, during which time he made many contributions to the fire sprinkler industry, including playing an integral role in the formation of the Common Voices Coalition – a group of fire survivors turned fire sprinkler advocates.

The committee also named Jerome Pepi, Vice President of Research and Development (ret.) of Grinnell's Fire Protection Products Division, as recipient of the Technical Service Award. Jerry was granted numerous patents over the years for developments advancing fire sprinkler and water mist systems technologies. The Leadership in Public Safety Award will be presented to Ron Coleman and Don Pamplin. Ron is a former California State Fire Marshal, noted columnist, highly sought after keynote speaker and staunch fire sprinkler industry supporter. He is responsible for many of the residential fire sprinkler ordinances in place today throughout the state of California. Don is a former Fire Chief for the City of Vancouver, British Columbia where his work at gaining the city's residential fire sprinkler ordinance is legendary. He now serves as NFSA's Pacific Northwest Regional Manager where he continues on a mission of public safety through advancement of the fire sprinkler concept.

"The Awards Committee could not have made better selections this year," said NFSA President John Viniello. He added, "Each of these gentlemen has dedicated a life's work to the development and advancement of the fire sprinkler industry. It will be an honor to be in their presence at next year's annual seminar in Chicago where they will receive well deserved recognition by an audience of their peers."

The award presentations will be made during NFSA's Annual Seminar scheduled for April 15-16, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Registration materials will be available toward the beginning of the year. Updates will be posted at the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) as they become available

## **ICC Announces the Results of the Baltimore Hearings Announces the changes and dates for the 2010 Hearings**

The International Code Council (ICC) announced recently that results of the ICC Code Hearings are available online for those who wish to obtain them. The results the code hearings may be found at <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Documents/2009-10cycle/ProposedChanges/FinalResults.pdf>

The ICC has also announced that changes have been made to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the code development cycle and that the next half of the code change cycle groupings has been revised. The ICC feels the benefit to the change is the International Fire Code (IFC) and the International Building Code (IBC) will be discussed during the same hearings. The ICC believes the change will enable better coordination of the codes. The ICC acknowledges the disadvantage is that members no longer have several months to develop the Public Comments for the IFC because it is not being heard in Group B and encourages members to begin developing public comments to shape the codes as deemed appropriate for the 2012 edition.



As noted in the bullet items below, the IFC and IRC will be heard in Group A with the IBC.

- For 2010, Group A consists of IBC – Fire Safety; IBC – General; IBC – Means of Egress; IBC – Structural; IEBC; IFC; IFGC; IMC; IPC; IRC – Building; IRC – Mechanical; IRC – Plumbing; and the IWUIC,
- Public Comment Deadline for Group A is February 8, 2010,
- The Final Action Hearings for Group A will be May 14 – 23, 2010 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas , Texas.

## **Sprinklers save Apartment Unit in San Bernardino!**

The San Bernardino City Fire Department, Fire Suppression Division reported in a press release on October 31, 2009 that multiple fires in a second story apartment were extinguished by the fire sprinkler system. San Bernardino Battalion Chief Denis Moon reported that fire unit's arrived on scene at an apartment complex at 839 N. Lugo with light smoke in the area coming from an opened window on the second floor of the complex. When the first crews made entry to the involved unit they found fire sprinklers flowing and determined that the sprinklers extinguished multiple fires that were ignited in the unit. He reported that Arson investigators were requested to arrive and try to determine the exact cause which appeared to be suspicious. No one was injured during the fire but SBPD and SBFD units were at the same address earlier today for a victim of an assault.

## **National Fire Sprinkler Association Joins United States Green Building Council, Advocating Environmentally-Friendly Construction Practices**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association has joined the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as a corporate member, affirming its commitment to promote green construction and environmental

responsibility among building trades.

Fire sprinklers help to reduce the carbon footprint of properties through the entire cycle of construction. They reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fires, reduce the amount of burned or non-recyclable building materials going to landfills, save energy on rebuilding after fire, conserve water, and reduce diesel fuel usage in heavy fire suppression equipment. "Although codes may not require fire sprinklers in certain size buildings, fire sprinklers must be in all green construction projects to truly reflect this designation," said Dominick G. Kasmauskas, NFSA's New York Regional Manager and a member of USGBC. "I ask you, how can a green building, including single-family homes, be considered 'sustainable construction' if it is positioned to burn someday without the benefit of an automatic fire sprinkler system to suppress smoke and save materials?" Kasmauskas said fire sprinklers have been used in property since 1875 and, due to the current green movement have only recently been touted for their positive impact on the environment.

The United States Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization with a vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education, and its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™. According to the USGBC, the LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

NFSA's Board of Directors has instituted a Green Committee - with the motto "Save your building, save our environment" - to promote recognition of the environmental benefits of fire sprinklers and to encourage inclusion of credits for fire sprinkler systems in the LEED program. Jack Thacker, of Allan Automatic Sprinkler Corporation, chairs this new committee, and Kasmauskas serves as secretary. Other committee members include Andrea Basalay, ITW Buildex; Fred Benn, Advanced Automatic Sprinkler Inc.; Mark Coad, Western States Fire Protection Company; Norm MacDonald, FlexHead Industries Inc.; Frank Monikowski, SimplexGrinnell; Larry Thau, Victaulic; and Josh Hildreth, Davis-Ulmer Sprinkler Co.

For more information on the Green Committee, please visit [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org). Author Information; Darcie Borden, R&J Public Relations

## **Viking Announces Merger with German Company**

Two of the world's leading fire protection companies are merging. Hastings-based Viking Group Incorporated and Minimax of Germany announced the merger in November. "They (Minimax) have a high engineering component, but a smaller manufacturing component," said Kevin Ortyl, Viking's president and chief executive officer. "We're in manufacturing and distribution, so our merger really serves the needs of both companies."

No changes are planned for the Hastings facility, which employs 324 people, he said. The plant manufactures and distributes fire sprinklers, valves and other products. "We have deep roots in the Hastings



community," Ortyl said. "We run an outstanding manufacturing and R&D (research and development) facility here, and we have no plans for that to change. This is a very positive merger and a very natural fit." The new company will be headquartered in Germany with Hofmann serving as CEO. Tom Groos, Viking Group chairman, will be chairman of the advisory board. By [Julie Makarewicz | The Grand Rapids Press](#) November 17, 2009, 7:37PM

## Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Meet on the "BIG ISLAND!"

The Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) met on November 19-22 on the Big Island of Hawaii at the Waikoloa on the Kohala Coast for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Those in attendance were welcomed by Fire Chief Darryl Oliveira (right) from the host Hawai'i Fire Department, Mayor William Kenoi, and Lieutenant Governor James "Duke" Alona from the State of Hawai'i. The theme of the conference was "I Mua Me Ka Lokahi" – "Moving Forward Together."



The conference featured the first annual National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament at the beautiful Mauna Lani Resort Golf Course with proceeds going to the National Fallen Firefighters Association. In addition to the golf tournament, the event featured Friday presentations from Mr. James Juneau on the "Ten Commandments of Apparatus Safety, and from Fire Chief Jeff Johnson from the International Association of Fire Chiefs on "Moving Forward Together, Models for Integrity and Principals."

Saturday's featured speakers included Chief Ron Dennis from the National Fallen Firefighters Association with a presentation on the "Everyone Goes Home Program" and from Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran, Chief Administrator, United States Fire Administration whose program included an update on the "National Fire Academy, Present Status and Future Goals.



The conference also featured presentations from Western Fire Chiefs, NFPA, afternoon breakout sessions, venter fairs (ICC West Region Director Kevin Scott is pictured left) and the Aloha Friday and Saturday Night Fever Dinners.

The County of Kauai Fire Department will be the host for next year's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hawai'i Fire Chief Conference on November 18-21, 2010 on the garden Island of Kauai. The location is yet to be announced.

## San Diego Fire Protection Association Discusses Changes to NFPA 13

The San Diego Protection Association (SDFPA) met in La Mesa, California on November 10, 2009 and received a program on "Highlights of Changes to NFPA 13, 2010 edition" from Ken Wagner of Parsley Consulting. Mr. Wagner reviewed the predominate changes that are most likely to affect the members of SDFPA and the fire protection industry.

In addition to the presentation, members reviewed and discussed the changes coming to the San Diego Fire Prevention Bureau and their new fee schedule and submittal process which takes effect on December 21, 2009.

## Regulations, Legislation, Codes, etc.

### **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 Governmental Organization

Committee Action Date: 06/23/2009

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

**See June 2009 for Summary**

### **AB 1127 (Solario) School Facilities: Automatic Fire Sprinkler System**

**Status:** Referred to Committee ASM Appropriations, Hearing Date 05/28/2009

Last Historical Action: Set second hearing, held under submission:

ASM Appropriations. **See June 2009 for Summary**

### **SB 183 (Lowenthal) Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

**Status:** Last Historical Action Date: 06/22/2009,

Last Historical Action: Read second time, amended. Re-referred to Committee on Judicial  
Hearing date: 06/30/2009 **See June 2009 for Summary**

### **SB 405 (Cogdill) Contractors: Fire Sprinkler Installation**

**Status:** 05/21/2009 Last historical action: In Assembly. Read first time, held at Desk.

Committee Location: Senate Labor and Industrial Relations,

Last Action Date: 04/27/2009

Last Historical Action: Set, second hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of the author.

Committee Location: Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development

**See June 2009 for Summary**

## 2010 NFSA Western Region Class Schedule

### **Brea, California**

NFPA 13 2007-2010 California Update	Date:	1/25/10
Basic Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4-hrs)	Date:	1/26/10
Advanced Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4-hrs)	Date:	1/26/10

### **La Mesa, California**

New commissioning and acceptance testing of sprinkler systems (4-hrs)	Date:	1/27/10
Advanced Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4hrs)	Date:	1/27/10
Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems	Date:	1/28/10

### **Sacramento, California**

Commissioning and Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (4-hrs)	Date:	2/9/10
CPVC Piping Installations Requirements and Procedures (4 hrs)	Date:	2/9/10

Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems	Date:	2/10/10
Foam Water Sprinkler Systems (NFPA 16) (4-hrs)	Date:	2/11/10
Low, Medium, High Expansion Foam and Class A Foams (NFPA 11) (4-hrs)	Date:	2/11/10

**La Mesa, California**

NFPA 13 2007 – 2010 Update	Date:	2/17/10
Plan Review Policies and Procedures	Date:	2/18/10

**El Cerrito, California**

1-Day Residential Sprinklers, Homes to High-rise	Date:	4/20/10
1-Day Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D)	Date:	4/21/10
1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007-2010)	Date:	4/22/10

For more information on class information and to sign up, please contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair or the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

## UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

### California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **CSFM AES Task Force Meeting on January 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**
  - California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.
- **CSFM Water Discharge Task Force Meeting on January 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**
  - California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca

**NFSA L.A. California Chapter “Day at the Races, Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010** at Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia, Ca. RSVP to Don Becka at Qualco Fire Protection.

**Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, December 10, 2009 at 10 a.m.** in Arcadia, Ca.

- To RSVP, see the website at [www.firepreventionofficers.org](http://www.firepreventionofficers.org)

**Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, January 22, 2010 at 9:30 in Elk Grove, Ca.**

- To RSVP, see the website at [www.firepreventionofficers.org](http://www.firepreventionofficers.org)

**San Diego Fire Protection Association, December 8, 2009, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar’s Restaurant 11:30 a. m.**

### **32<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **20th Annual California Fire Prevention Institute - March 15-19, 2010**

- Planning is already starting for another GREAT workshop! The Santa Ynez Valley Marriott is once again the site of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CFPI Workshop.