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National Association of Fire Marshals Joins United States Fire Academy in Declaring National Fire Emergency

Series of Multi-Fatality Fires Sounds National Alarm

On Wednesday, January 7, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) joined the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and other national fire service groups and metropolitan fire departments in declaring a national fire emergency in the wake of several multi-fatality fire incidents in major U.S. cities. In the span of two weeks, more than 30 people have been killed in multi-fatality residential fires due to various causes, making this one of the deadliest holiday seasons in recent memory.

“On top of way too many single-fatality residential fires across the nation that occur every day, in recent weeks we have seen an alarming number of multiple-fatality fires. This situation begs for education and action,” says Alan R. Shuman, NASFM President and State Fire Marshal of Georgia. Shuman joins the U.S. Fire Administrator, Chief Gregory Cade, in calling upon the fire service, public educators, consumer groups and community leaders to focus on the need for more fire safety education and awareness, as well as working smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers in every residence.

“We know that most fires are preventable if people are careful,” says Shuman. “But if a fire does start, working smoke alarms will give early warning to occupants, and residential sprinklers will suppress or keep a fire small, to give occupants the best chance of escape.” Having all occupants practice a home fire escape plan is another way to increase their chances of surviving a house fire, Shuman added.

Since Thanksgiving 2008, more than 158 fatal fires have occurred in the United States, resulting in over 200 fire fatalities. Among the multiple-fatality fires recorded recently are the following:

- In the week before Christmas, two people, an 87-year-old man and a woman in her 70s, were killed in a home fire in Detroit that officials believe may have been caused by a cigarette; two sisters in Chicago, ages 6 and 9, were killed in a home fire whose cause is under investigation; and two people were killed in a home fire in South Carthage, Tennessee, near Nashville, that is under investigation.
- On Christmas Eve, four children died in a house fire in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, near Lexington. Officials cannot be certain whether smoke alarms worked.

- Four adults and three children died in a southwest Philadelphia home the day after Christmas when gasoline was used to fuel a kerosene heater. There were no working smoke alarms in the home.
- A 39-year-old man and his two children, ages 11 and 7, were killed in a home fire on New Year's Day in Victoria Township, Missouri, near St. Louis. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- In Washington, DC, on New Year's Day, six died in a house fire on Jackson Street, Northeast. While the cause was listed as accidental/electrical, officials are not sure smoke alarms worked properly.
- Eight people, including four young brothers, died in a house fire January 5 in Richland, New York, near Syracuse. Officials said the fire was possibly caused by a wood stove.
- Five residents of a homeless shelter were killed in northeastern Texas on January 5 by a fire that appears to have started in a pile of donated clothes.
- Three people, including two teenage girls, died after an early morning house fire in Ringling, Oklahoma, on January 5.

Fire and safety officials from across the United States; including Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, stood with USFA's Chief Cade in an effort to bring national attention to the problem at the height of the fire season. Maryland State Fire Marshal Bill Barnard represented NASFM at this important event.

No Campus-Related Fire Deaths during the Fall Semester across the Nation!

BELCHERTO WN, Mass., January 13, 2009 — For the first time in eight years, there have been no campus-related fire deaths recorded by Campus Firewatch in the fall semester at colleges and universities across the nation. Since January 2000, when Campus Firewatch began tracking campus-related fire deaths, 129 people have died and 40% of the fire fatalities have occurred in the fall semester.

“The cause for this is unclear,” reports Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch, “however, it is certainly what everyone has been hoping for. More schools across the nation are taking action to educate students about fire safety and there is a greater awareness among parents about the importance of fire safety practices at schools including the use of automatic fire sprinklers, fire alarms, smoke alarms and fire safety education.”

Campus Firewatch monitors the wire services on a daily basis to identify campus-related fire deaths. These incidents include on-campus, off-campus and Greek housing and any death that occurs in these occupancies that are related to student occupancy is included. This is the only source available for this comprehensive level of information which is made publicly available on the Resource page of the Campus Firewatch website at www.campus-firewatch.com under “Current Fire Information.”

Fire Sprinklers save Commercial Structure in Napa!

Napa Fire Department Fire Marshal Darren Drake recently reported a successful fire sprinkler activation at a 52,000 square foot commercial structure located in Napa's Corporate Park located at 2511 Napa Valley Corporate Drive on December 28, 2009 in an early morning fire just before 3 a.m.

REGIONAL REPORT

West Edition



Firefighters arriving on scene to a report of a fire alarm sounding found nothing unusual at a large commercial occupancy in spite of the activation of the audible fire alarm. Upon further investigation, firefighters noted water flowing through the riser and the smell of smoke with light smoke noticeable from the upper areas of the commercial structure. Firefighters heard a sprinkler operating in an office area and found that a small portable electric pressure washer had been left plugged in and had ignited.

Fortunately, the sprinkler head was located directly over the unit and extinguished the fire. The fire did not extend to any other portions of the commercial occupancy. The property representative stated that he "would not be surprised if the unit was left on". Napa Fire Captain Mike Fridolfs stated that "the fire sprinkler system worked well. Damage was limited to minor water damage and one lost pressure washer."

The damage from the fire was reported to have been limited to a cabinet and the pressure washer. The business remained in operation and experienced no lost time.

Indoor Sacramento Pot Garden Sparks Fire

SACRAMENTO, CA - A Sacramento man faces felony charges after an indoor marijuana garden started a fire.

Firefighters were called to an apartment complex off El Camino Avenue shortly before 6 Friday morning on December 5, 2008. A fire had started in Stefan Dorman's guest bedroom. "They knocked on my door. I didn't have a clue. I was still asleep," Dorman said. But Dorman soon realized there was a fire in his indoor pot growing operation. He said an electric cord to grow lights melted and caught the carpet on fire. The flames spread to a cardboard box surrounding 20 small plants. Dorman has a doctor's permission to use pot for pain. "I have a condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta," he said. "I have very brittle bones. I have broken about 65 bones and I've had multiple compound fractures and lots of surgeries."

Sacramento Metro Fire spokesman Christian Pebbles said Dorman won't get in trouble for the marijuana. But he is in trouble for plugging six lights and a power strip into an extension cord. "We had hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to a facility. The person responsible is looking at felony charges for recklessly starting a fire," Pebbles said.

Fortunately, the apartment's sprinklers doused the fire before it grew. However, the water went through the floor to a downstairs apartment. Five people living below Dorman's unit were forced to evacuate. "I feel horrible for the people downstairs. It was a lot of water," Dorman said. "Even after the firefighters got here they couldn't turn it off. It took them about 10 minutes to turn the water off." But Dorman is thankful the sprinklers kicked on. "I made fun of them when I first got here. I wondered why they had so many but it's kind of a good thing. They saved my life," he said.

News10/KXTV

California State Fire Marshal Issues Statewide Consumer Alert

Fire Alarm Control Panel Recalled by Notifier Due to Alert Failure

The California State Fire Marshal on January 8, 2009 issues an information bulleting advising that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in cooperation with Notifier, of Northford, Connecticut has issued a voluntary recall of about 2000 Fire Alarm Control Panels. This recall involves

the Notifier brand operating system firmware control panels in fire alarm systems. The control panel is black or red with a silver screen. The panels control display and emergency communications.

“NOTIFIER” or “NOTIFIER by Honeywell” is printed on the front of the fire alarm unit. NOTIFIER has identified an issue affecting a limited number of NFS-640, NFS2-640 and NFS-320 fire alarm control panels operating with addressable beam detectors (FSB-200) that use a specific device polling protocol known as FlashScan. The following State Fire Marshal Listings are affected by this recall: 7165-0028:214, 7165-0028:243, 7170-0028:216 and 7170-0028:244.

Affected panels are:

- NFS2-640 and NFS-320 manufactured between May 21, 2008 and July 15, 2008 with version 011.002.002 (11.2.2) firmware
- NFS-640 manufactured between June 6, 2008 and July 15, 2008 with version 003.014.001 (3.14.1) firmware.

Systems using these versions of firmware that utilize FSB-200 beam detectors operating in FlashScan mode will not properly process an alarm condition originating from the beam detector. This may result in delayed reporting in the actual event of a fire. Note that this issue would have been identified with all new installations during initial acceptance testing required by NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code.

This firmware was also available for download by NOTIFIER distributors from May 30, 2008 to July 21, 2008. Therefore, any previously installed and commissioned systems upgraded to these firmware versions utilizing FSB-200 beam detectors in FlashScan mode would be affected.

If your NFS-640, NFS2-640 or NFS-320 with FSB-200 beam detectors was installed or serviced on or after May 21, 2008, contact your authorized NOTIFIER distributor to confirm your panel has been upgraded to the latest firmware version.

Remedy: Distributors should immediately contact the company for replacement software. All known users of have been contacted.

Consumer Contact: For additional information or to locate an authorized NOTIFIER distributor for your area, please contact Notifier at (800) 289-3473 and select option 2 for the customer service operator between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the company’s Web site at www.notifier.com

If you have further questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator Francis Mateo at francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov or (916) 445-8200. For information regarding the California State Fire Marshal Office please visit the website [www.http://osfm.fire.ca.gov](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov).

Contractors State License Board Issues Statewide Consumer Alert Regarding Fire Protection Equipment Scam

Investigators believe consumers and businesses are victims of Maintenance and Installation Company.

SACRAMENTO – The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is joining the Tulare County Fire Department and Tulare County District Attorney’s Office in warning consumers and businesses across California to be on alert for anyone coming to their offices, stores or restaurants to service their fire

REGIONAL REPORT

West Edition



extinguishers, to perform service on the hood and duct systems over cooking areas, or to conduct maintenance on automatic sprinkler systems.

Investigators believe that representatives of “American Fire Protection” (CSLB License #726110) have been using high-pressure sales tactics and deceptive methods to convince business owners to buy their service. These methods include:

- Wearing uniforms with patches similar to those worn by fire department staff, giving the impression that they are from the fire department.
- Claiming they are fire marshals and authorized to close the business if not allowed to do an inspection of the fire protection systems and make subsequent repairs.
- Claiming they are there to service fire extinguishers or hood and duct systems prior to the date those devices are to be serviced.
- Claiming they are at a business to provide service on extinguishers or hood duct systems that have previously been serviced by another company.

In many cases, when hired by the business owner, they will do sub-standard work without proper building code inspections. Investigators believe that American Fire Protection, which is based in Camarillo (Ventura County), operates throughout California, from the San Francisco Bay Area to Sacramento in the north, through the central valley counties of Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Mariposa, the San Luis Obispo coastal area and into Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and other Southern California regions.

Contractors State License Board Issues Consumer Alert Regarding Fire Protection Equipment Scam 2-2-2

A Tulare County Superior Court judge has granted a temporary restraining order, restricting Company Chief Executive Officer Danny Victor Williams, Anthony David Ash and Ken Gordon Speck from:

- Impersonating governmental fire protection officials to gain admission to places of business; falsely representing that they have serviced fire protection equipment and placing inspection tags on equipment that has not been properly inspected and serviced; and
- Making untrue and misleading statements in connection with the sale or attempted sale of fire equipment contracting services.

The Tulare County District Attorney’s Office is also seeking a Preliminary Injunction, as part of a civil suit filed to stop the company from engaging in “unlawful business practices,” under Business and Professions Code 17200 and 17500. “We’re extremely concerned for anyone who’s been pressured into using this company’s services over the past four years,” said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. “Their shoddy work has put human lives in danger, and the likelihood that property will be destroyed should fire break out.” Anyone who has contracted with “American Fire Protection” is urged to either contact the Tulare County Fire Department Fire Prevention Division at (559) 747-8233, or the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office at (559) 624-1054.



REGIONAL REPORT

West Edition

NFSA Seminars Scheduled for Apple Valley, California in July 2009

In addition to the currently scheduled NFSA classes for 2009, the NFSA Training Division is announcing that it will be conducting a 3-day seminar this July at the Apple Valley Fire Training Facility located at 19235 Yucca Loma Road in Apple Valley. This new seminar is in addition to the classes have been scheduled in El Cerrito, Ca. April 21-23, Anaheim Ca. May 19-21 and again September 22-24 and Woodland, Ca. October 20-22. The Woodland and El Cerrito Fire Departments have sponsored many great classes over the last 10-years.

In addition to adding Apple Valley to the 2009 schedule, the first seminar held at the Contra Costa County Fire Department in Concord, Ca. December 16-18 was a great success. The Concord training session, taught by NFSA Director of Training Robert Treiber provided 81 students with 364 hours of training in four 4-hour classes and one 8-hour class.

Anaheim, California

NFPA 13 and Intro to Plan Review (2-day)	Date:	5/26/09
NFPA 13 and Intro to Plan Review (2-day continued)	Date:	5/27/09
(New) Plan Review Procedures and Policies	Date:	5/28/09
NFPA 13, 13R, 13D Update 2007	Date:	10/22/09
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Date:	10/23/09
½ day Underground Piping for Fire Protection Systems	Date:	10/24/09
½ day Basic Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems	Date:	10/24/09

El Cerrito, California

NFPA 13 and Intro to Plan Review (2-day)	Date:	4/21/09
NFPA and Intro to Plan Review (2-day continued)	Date:	4/22/09
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Date:	4/23/09

Apple Valley, California

½ day Commissioning, & Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems	Date:	7/28/09
½ day CPVC Piping Installations Requirements & Procedures	Date:	7/28/09
Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems	Date:	7/29/09
Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage	Date:	7/30/09

Woodland, California

NFPA 13 and Intro to Plan Review (2-day)	Date:	10/20/09
NFPA 13 and Intro to Plan Review (2-day continued)	Date:	10/21/09
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Date:	10/22/09

NFSA Top Tech Competition 2009 Starts Soon!

Yes, the NFSA is hosting its Top Tech competition to find the best Fire Sprinkler Technicians in North America. We'll be forming a team to represent the West Region and we're looking for the best! To qualify for the Regional Team, participants will have to score as one of the top three people in a two-hour exam. The exam contains multiple choice questions on NFPA 13, a hydraulic calculation that participants will have to perform by hand and a small layout that will have to be put into a building plan.

REGIONAL REPORT

West Edition



If you think you've got what it takes to represent the West, please contact the Top Tech Competition Coordinator, Mike Repko, at toptech@nfsa.org or call him at (845) 878-4200 x120. Once you let Mike know that you're interested, you'll be informed of test dates and locations in your Region.

Visit the NFSA web-site at www.nfsa.org for complete rules and regulations and while you are there, sneak a peek at the Omni Champions-Gate, where the final rounds of the Top Tech Competition will be held in conjunction with NFSA's 2009 Annual Seminar.

NFSA Welcomes New Members!

In December NFSA welcomed two new professional members and one new Friends of the Industry member to NFSA. Area Director and long-time member Jack Thacker of Allan Automatic Sprinkler Co of SoCal became the first new member in California to join the **Friends of the Industry Membership Program!**

NFSA also welcomes into our organization Peter Sahmel of PSRA in San Francisco and James Benton, of Ametek Programmable Power in of San Diego, California into the NFPA Professional Membership Program.

For further information on membership, please feel free to contact Regional Manager Bruce Lecair at Lecair@nfsa.org or, contact Karyn Hudgens, Director of Membership at 845.878.4200 ext. 156 or by email Hudgens@nfsa.org. Membership applications can also be found at the NFSA website, nfsa.org. The applications are writable and can be filled out online. Secure payments are accepted through Paypal making it easy and safe to join the Friend of the Industry membership category online.

Regulations, Legislation, Codes, etc.

CA-AB 2288. Automatic Fire Extinguisher Systems: Certificate of Registration. As of August 14, 2008, the Legislative Inquiry reports the last historical action date was on August 8, 2008. The bill is reported to be withdrawn from committee and held in the Committee on Regulations.

CA-AB 1239. Property Taxation: Exclusion from Newly Constructed – Fire Safety Devices.

T. Garrick (Principal co-author: Leno) (Co-authors: Jeffries, Karnette, and Ma). As of August 14, 2008, the bill was reported in the Legislative Inquiry that the last historical action date was August 28, 2007. The bill has been referred to the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

CA-AB 759. Fire Protection: Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly. Karnette (Co-author: Senator Alquist). As of August 14, 2008, the bill is reported by the Legislative Inquiry to have been sent to the Appropriations Committee on June 10, 2008 where it was passed with amendments and referred to the Senate. On September 28, 2008, the bill is reported by the Legislative Inquiry to have been vetoed.

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION STATEWIDE MEETINGS:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- January 15, 2009 Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee Regional Manager Bruce Lecair is appointed to this committee and will be in attendance in El Segundo, Ca. The



REGIONAL REPORT

West Edition

- next meeting for the AES Committee will be held on April 9, 2009 in Sacramento at the State Fire Marshals Office.
- January 21, 2009, Residential Fire Sprinkler Water Task Force
- Steve Hart and Regional Manager Bruce Lecair are appointed to this committee and will be in attendance in Ontario, Ca.
- January 22, 2009, NFPA 13 Correlation Meeting
Area Director Jack Thacker and Steve Hart are appointed to this committee and will be in attendance in El Segundo, Ca.
- NFPA 25 Work Group, This work group will be meeting in mid-February in Sacramento at the State Fire Marshals Office. The exact time and date are pending.

NFSA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:00 p.m. at Brandon's in Milpitas, Ca.

- The first Chapter meeting of 2009 will feature an update on NFSA programs from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair.

California Fire Prevention Officers Association

- Southern California FPO Mtg. Thursday, January 22, 2009 in Palm Springs, Ca.
- Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, February 11, 2009 in Los Angeles, Ca.
- Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, January 23, 2009 in Elk Grove, Ca.
- Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, February 27, 2009 in Yolo County
 - To RSVP or for additional information on please see the website at www.firepreventionofficers.org

San Diego Fire Protection Association, February 10, 2008, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's Restaurant 11:30 a. m.

- The monthly meeting agenda is pending. West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair will be in attendance.

19th Annual California Fire Prevention Institute Workshop, Santa Ynez Marriott, March 16-20, 2009

- The workshop will feature training sessions, breakout sessions, committee meetings and a vendors day. **Former West Regional Manager Sam Husoe** will be the featured Master of Ceremonies at the Annual Banquet on Thursday, March 19th. Regional Manager Bruce Lecair will attend.
 - To sign up for the workshop or for additional information, please refer to the website at www.firepreventionofficers.org

Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association-County of Hawaii November, 2009

- The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association will conduct its next meeting on the island of Hawaii in November to discuss issues and attend training seminars. Regional Manager Bruce Lecair will be in attendance. (Dates and additional information to be announced.)

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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.