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California adopts 2010 California Residential Code Mandates Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems in "All Newly Constructed" Single-Family Dwellings and Townhouses, effective January 1, 2011.



On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, the State of California, Building Standards Commission (BSC), voted 10-0 to adopt the new 2010 California Residential Code (Title 24, Part 2.5), which will include a historical chapter requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in all new residential construction including 1 and 2 family dwellings and townhouses.

At approximately 3:35 p.m. Acting California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover and Acting Division Chief Kevin Reinertson, (Regulations Unit) brought the 2010 California Residential Code (Title-24, Part 2.5) before the Building Standards Commission. Following a short presentation by both, the hearing was opened to anyone wishing to speak in favor or opposition to the proposal. Those speaking in favor of the adoption were Technical Director Robert "Bob" Raymer/California Building Industry Association (CBIA); followed by Patricia Mieszala, R.N, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and former California State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan in support of the process California had gone through to get to this point. No one spoke against the adoption. At approximately 3:45 p.m. the Chairman called for a motion to approve, obtained a second, and the motion to approve the 2010 California Residential Code was history by a vote of 10-0.

Those in attendance and in support of the proposal included Regional Manager Bruce Lecair, NFSA, Consultant Steve Hart, NAS-IP, Fire Chief Joe Perry, University of California Davis Campus F.D; Fire Marshal Laura Blaul, Orange County F.D, Fire Marshal Dennis Mathisen, City of Roseville F.D, Fire Marshal Darren Drake, City of Napa F.D and members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal staff and Chief Officers. Also in attendance was former OSFM State Fire Marshal and former Fire Chief Ronny J. Coleman who back in 1975 adopted the "FIRST" Residential Fire Sprinkler Ordinance while with the City of San Clemente in Southern California.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) have been working to adopt the 2009 ICC-International Residential Code (ICC-IRC) for many years and under several State Fire Marshals. Those stakeholders who participated in the 18-month planning process included members of the California Fire Service, Building Industry; California Building

Officials Association, Water Purveyors, American Water Works Association, California Public Health Officials, various state agencies, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, American Fire Sprinkler Association, California Sprinkler Fitters and the California League of Cities. The information compiled by these stakeholders served as information and background used in the final action report to adopt the 2010 California Residential Code.

Following the vote by the BSC, the final document(s) will be submitted to International Code Council for publication by February 9, 2010. The publication period is to be completed no later than July 4, 2010. Then under statutory requirements (State Law) a period of 180-days is granted for local enforcing agencies (cities, counties, and cities and counties) to become educated and trained in the new provisions, and to make any local amendments and filings when appropriate. The new code will serve as the "*MINIMUM Building Standard*" and a local enforcing agency may not "opt-out" of the residential fire sprinkler requirements. It is state mandated and as such a local agency cannot be "*less restrictive.*"

California Adopts Nation's 1st Green Code

Special Note: Following 2-1/2 hours of public testimony, the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CAL-GREEN), Title 24, part 11, was unanimously approved on January 12, 2010 and became the nations first comprehensive Green Building Standard Code (for both residential and commercial buildings), and includes an APPENDICES, which allows the local agency to adopt the level of CAL-GREEN compliance they wish to attain through local amendment. The effective date is January 1, 2011.

California is first state to adopt a statewide green building code. The California Green Building Standards Code, which contains standards for health facilities, commercial buildings and single-family homes, will bring a significant improvement in water efficiency. The code targets a 50 percent reduction in landscape water use and calls for dual plumbing fixtures for recyclable and potable water. The code also pushes for a 15 percent reduction in energy use compared with current standards, encourages the use of recycled materials in carpets and building materials, and identifies site improvements, like parking for hybrid vehicles and better storm water management.



Jack Thacker Re-elected as AREA 10 Director!

In an announcement to Area 10 members in January, NFSA Vice President Russell Fleming, Secretary of Corporation, announced that the incumbent, Mr. Jack Thacker of Allan Automatic Sprinkler, will serve another 3-year term of office as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Fire Sprinkler Association. The term of office will commence February 2010 and expire in February of 2013. Area 10 encompasses both California and Hawaii. Congratulations to Area Director Jack Thacker!

California FPO's Meet Throughout the State

During the Month of January the Northern and Southern California Fire Prevention Officer started off the new year with meetings in Palm Springs and Elk Grove. The SoCal Group were guests at the Annual CAFFA Conference in Palm Springs, Ca. on January 20th and the Nor Cal FPO's met in Elk Grove Ca. on Friday the 22nd at a meeting that featured an OSFM update from Assistant Chief Michael Richwine, OSFM and a presentation on fire doors from the Smith Company and Cornell Iron Works.

San Diego Fire Protection Association Meets to Discuss New Fee Schedule

On January 12, the San Diego FPA met and welcomed Sergio Periera from the San Diego Fire Department to discuss and final draft document of San Diego policies for submittal of plans and to learn about the new fee schedule specifically related to plan review for area contractors. The meeting is a monthly forum for Fire Sprinkler Contractors, Fire Alarm and Related System Designers, Contractors, Engineers & Equipment Suppliers, AHJ's, Fire Marshals, Inspectors, Plan Reviewers and Building Officials. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at Marie Callender's in La Mesa, Ca.

FM Global states that Fire Sprinklers are **GREEN!**

Dr. Christopher Wieczorek of FM Global discussed the initial findings of a groundbreaking study on the environmental impact of home fire sprinklers at a January press conference at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas. The study, a collaborative effort of FM Global and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, involved burning of two living rooms (each measuring 15x20x8), one of which had been outfitted with a quick-response sprinkler. The rooms were completely furnished with furniture, carpeting, flat-screen TVs, and curtains. In each room, a fire was ignited in a magazine rack.



Dr. Christopher Wieczorek of FM Global talks about the initial results of the sprinkler environmental study at a news conference in Las Vegas on January 19.

Christopher Wieczorek, PhD, a senior research specialist at FM Global, showed dramatic, side-by-side video of the two living rooms burning. Forty-four seconds after ignition, the single sprinkler head in the protected living room activated and began to fight the fire, while fire raged in the unprotected room. After five minutes, the fire in the sprinklered room continued to be contained, while in the unprotected room, every combustible item was burning. After the test, FM Global began work to compare the environmental impact of each fire, specifically:

- The types, quantity and duration of air and water pollutants released from a home fire
- Water usage from fire sprinklers and firefighters' hoses
- The environmental impact resulting from burning household furnishings and finish materials as well as disposing the fire-damaged contents of a home
- The carbon footprint associated with rebuilding a burnt home

Dr. Wieczorek said that in the event of a home fire where sprinklers are present:

- the release of greenhouse gases (CO₂) are reduced by 99%
- the amount of water usage is reduced by 50%
- the amount of fire damage to the room is less than 3%, compared to a 100% loss in the unprotected room.

Dr. Wieczorek added that the amount of materials burned by the fire that had to go into a landfill, and the amount of raw materials needed to rebuild after a fire were also reduced. The final results of this study will be released in March. Reported by Mike Hazell, NFPA

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 (Solorio) 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

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.

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **CSFM AES Task Force Meeting on March 25, 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, February 18, 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, March 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Jake's Seafood and Grill in Jack London Square

- The Guest Speaker is yet to be announced

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 10 a.m. (Location to be announced)

- To RSVP, see the website at www.firepreventionofficers.org

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, February 26, 2010 at 9:30 in Woodland, Ca.

- This the annual "Past Presidents" Meeting!
- To RSVP, see the website at www.firepreventionofficers.org

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Southern California

- **Special Meeting:** Wednesday March 17, 2010 - 11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.,
- Location: Mr. Stox Restaurant, 1105 Katella Ave. Anaheim, Ca.

San Diego Fire Protection Association, February 9, 2010, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's Restaurant 11:30 a. m.

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.

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 20th Annual CFPI Workshop.
- West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair and Steve Hart, Consultant will be teaching a 4-hour class on Wednesday from 8-12 designed to prepare jurisdictions for the upcoming California Residential Code and review California's recommendations prepared in the Phase I–III planning process.