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June 2010

Office of the State Fire Marshal Announces IRC Preparation Classes

In an announcement on the Cal Fire Website in May, Acting State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover announced the Office of the State Fire Marshal Training Division has convened representatives from various disciplines to provide information and suggest training recommendations to the State Fire Marshal. The task force developed a communications strategy to educate stakeholders on best practices based on recommendations of the phase I (Water Purveyors) and phase II (Installation) reports. This strategy includes additional resources available for training in the permit, design and installation of residential fire sprinklers.

The specific purpose of this training program (“Awareness Level Course” on Residential Fire Sprinklers and the 2010 California Residential Code) is to recognize that the 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. This is in preparation for a statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement for new construction, scheduled for January 1, 2011 in the 2010 California Residential Code.

Key stakeholders include members of the California Fire Service, Building Industry, Building Officials, Manufactured Housing Association, and Public Health Officials, State agencies, National Fire Protection Association, National Fire Sprinkler Association, League of California Cities and design professionals.

The target audience for training includes Fire Department/Fire Prevention Personnel (Plan Review, and Inspections), Building Department Personnel (Plan Review, and Inspections), Water Purveyors (Plan Review, and Inspections), Home Builders (BIA Chapters)/Contractors (Plan Preparation, Submittals, and Installation), Contractors: General Building Contractors [B], Fire Protection Contractor [C-16]).

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

June 1, 2010 - Roseville-
June 2, 2010 - Davis

June 16, 2010 - Humboldt County
June 17, 2010 - Lassen County

July 7, 2010 - San Diego
July 8, 2010 - Riverside County
July 21, 2010 - Santa Rosa
July 22, 2010 - Contra Costa County

August 4, 2010 - San Jose
August 5, 2010 - Monterey
August 18, 2010 - Orange County
August 19, 2010 - Los Angeles

September 1, 2010 - Butte County/Chico

September 2, 2010 - El Dorado County
September 15, 2010 - San Luis Obispo County
September 16, 2010 - Santa Barbara
September 28, 2010 - Fresno
September 29, 2010 - Modesto

October 6, 2010 - Palm Springs

October 19-21, 2010 - North Area*
November 2-4, 2010 - Central/South Area*

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

NFSA launches 40-hour training program for sprinkler contractors

Non-union sprinkler association, AFSA, calls training initiative a slap in the face

By Martha Entwistle -

PATTERSON, N.Y.—More places are adopting laws that mandate the installation of sprinklers in new homes and that, said National Fire Sprinkler Association president John Viniello, has more contractors than ever—plumbers, fire alarm installers and others—getting interested in dabbling in the fire-sprinkler installation business. To ensure that anyone who installs a sprinkler system is qualified, the NFSA on April 30 launched a new training program.

“We’ve developed a comprehensive 40-hour training program. At the end of that time, anyone who completes the course can sit for the ICC exam [International Code Council Residential Fire Sprinkler Design and Installation Exam],” said John Viniello, president of the NFSA. “Several of our top engineers have taken the exam and they feel that it’s an adequate exam,” he continued.

Not everyone is happy with the training program, however. The NFSA’s non-union counterpart, the American Fire Sprinkler Association, says the program is not comprehensive enough. “The one-week training program is a slap in the face of the professional fire sprinkler industry,” Steve Muncie, AFSA president told Security Systems News. The AFSA has six-month and one-year training programs; a one-week course is simply not sufficient, he said: “If we are serious about controlling quality, this is not the way to do it.”

Viniello said controlling quality is what this program is all about. “We view this program as the fire sprinkler good housekeeping seal of approval,” he said. He pointed out that the NFSA is working with the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the International Code Council to form a Commission for the Accreditation for Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Contractors.

Viniello said he’s seeking the endorsement of other fire industry groups. Asked whether the NFPA would endorse the NFSA training program, Gary Keith, NFPA’s VP of field operations said they would not get involved. “We believe that systems should be installed according to national standards by qualified installers. Individual jurisdictions decide what qualified means,” he said. The “huge upswing in demand for contractors who are qualified to install residential sprinklers” is driven by the fact that the International Residential Code requires fire sprinklers to be installed in all new one- and two-family homes after Jan. 1 2010.

Several states have or are considering adopting this mandate. To see what's going on in your state, visit www.nfsa.org/ and click on the IRC update for an interactive map of the U.S. "We've got California, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and a number of other states [adopting or considering adopting] mandates," Viniello said. "There are a lot of people who want to get into this business." Viniello is in discussions with "a very large insurance carrier" about providing a "20-30 percent discount on homeowners insurance if they have a sprinkler systems installed by an installer carrying this accreditation."

Scholarship Awarded to Kamille Nixon

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Northern California/Nevada Chapter, presented their 2010 annual Scholarship Award to Ms. Kamille Nixon (pictured right with James E. Art, P.E) on April 23, 2010, at the combined NFSA Fire Protection Vendors Exhibition and Nor Cal FPO meeting in San Francisco.



Kamille Nixon, of Moraga received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Northern California/Nevada Chapter. The organization awards scholarships every year to promote interest in the field of fire protection engineering. Nixon is a student at Diablo Valley College and plans to transfer to UC Davis and ultimately Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, the only college in the western United States that offers a master's degree in fire protection.

The purpose of the Society is to advance the science and practice of Fire Protection Engineering and its allied fields, to maintain a high ethical standard among its members, and to foster fire protection engineering education. Fire Protection Engineers (FPE's) use science and technology to protect people, property and businesses from destructive fires. FPE's analyze how buildings are used, how fires start, how fires grow, and how fire and smoke affects people, buildings and property.

For more information about the Society, meeting locations and dates, membership, or the SFPE Scholarship please visit: <http://www.ncnsfpe.org/membership.html>

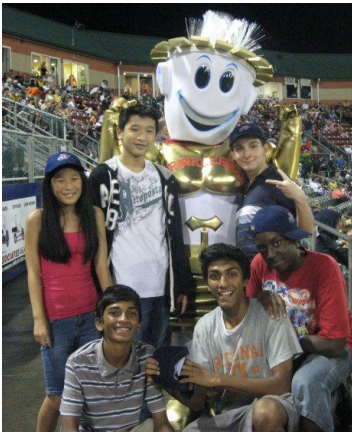
NFSA S.F. Chapter meets in Pleasanton!

The NFSA San Francisco Chapter met on May 20th to greet Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian from Office of the State Fire Marshal who gave a presentation on the new L-license program in California. The Limited License category (Type L) for the Automatic Extinguishing Program allows the building owner or lessee who has trained experienced employees to conduct inspection, annual testing, and maintenance of wet pipe sprinkler systems, standpipe systems or private fire service mains in structures or properties they own or lease. Parsegian noted this license does not include five-year certification. In addition, individuals who possess the newly established SFM Weekly Fire Pump Test Certificate and are employed by a Type L licensed company may perform weekly fire pump tests.

Also at the meeting was West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair who along with Chief Parsegian, gave a brief update on the Water Discharge Task Force formed by the OSFM, the upcoming IRC Preparation classes and as well as activities within NFSA.

Sprinklerman Coming to California!

Attending Minor League Baseball Games in the North and South States



Sprinklerman is coming to California in June and will be attending minor league baseball games in the Western Region. On June 30th Sprinklerman will attend the Inland Empire 66ers Game in San Bernardino, California at 7:05 p.m. The 66ers are a Single-A team for the Los Angeles Dodgers. NFSA and its members will be working with the San Bernardino Fire Department in this fun event that will include a display table on the concourse, 3 PA's/video, Ceremonial First pitch, 25 tickets to the game, and Media tie-ins (Radio and Newspaper) promoting the game.

On July 2nd, Sprinklerman will be at the Sacramento Rivercats game at beautiful Raley Field stadium next to Old Sacramento at 7:05 p.m. The Rivercats are the Triple A franchise for the Oakland A's. At the event, California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover will be there to throw out the first pitch! As in San Bernardino, the event will feature participation from NFSA and its membership in Northern California. The event will include a display table on the concourse, Ceremonial First Pitch, public address announcements and two video board slides, and a 16-person suite for VIP's!

Sprinklerman is the official mascot of NFSA and helps the association promote sprinklers to children and adults nationwide. This will be Sprinklerman's first trip to California and first exposure to the west coast NFSA Chapters. Those wishing to attend or participate should contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair at Lecair@nfsa.org or at (951) 805-8992. All are invited to attend and participate!

So Cal FPO's Meet in El Segundo!

Members of the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 in El Segundo, California and were provided with **"The Latest and Greatest in Fire Protection" Manufacturer Displays and Overviews on New Fire Protection Equipment and Systems.** The vendor show arranged by West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair, featured vendors from throughout the industry including, Tolco, Flexhead, Lubrizol, Potter-Electric, Spears Manufacturing, Siemens, and Reliable Sprinklers. During the afternoon meeting, each of the representatives gave a 10-15 minute presentation on their products as well as allowing those in attendance the opportunity to personally visit the booths.

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.

San Diego Fire Protection Association Meets & Greets Fire and Rescue Chief!

At the May 11th San Diego Fire Protection Association Meeting in La Mesa, California, the Association greeted Javier Mainar who was appointed Fire Chief for the City of San Diego on October 13, 2009 and confirmed by the City Council on October 19, 2009.



Chief Mainar joined the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department as a fire fighter in 1980, and progressed through the ranks of the Department. He became the Assistant Chief of Support Services in 2006. As the Assistant Fire Chief, Mainar was responsible for Logistics areas of the Department for all Fire, Emergency Medical and Lifeguard Services, including Personnel, Budget, Fleet, Facilities, Fire Prevention, Dispatch, and Information Technology Services.

During the luncheon meeting Chief Mainar gave lead an interesting discussion on his department and discussed budget, staffing levels and the state of the Fire Prevention Division and its new policies and fee schedules.

NFSA classes planned for the fall!

The NFSA training division is looking forward to a busy fall of training in California. On the schedule are classes planned for 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.

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.

SB 1227, (Runner): School Facilities Construction.

Committee Location: Senate Education

Last Historical Action date: 05/19/2010

Last Historical Action: Bill cancelled at request of author.

Summary: To amend SECTION 1. Section 17077.30 of the Education Code to read:

17077.30. (a) the applicant school district may, at the time of submission of the final drawings to the ~~Division of the State Architect~~ building department of the appropriate jurisdiction ,

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, June 21, 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, June 17, 2010 at 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, CA 90241.

- James Parsegian will be giving a presentation on the new L-license Program

NFSA S.F. California Chapter, Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California

- Featured Speaker, Cecil Bilbo, NFSA, Update on the Academy Fire Sprinkler Designer Program
- The September 23, 2010 meeting will feature Paul Johnson with a program and update on the NFSA Risk Management Program.

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Department of State Architects in Los Angeles, Ca.

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, June 25, 2010 at 9:30 in Hayward, California at Sprinkler-Fitters Local 483.

San Diego Fire Protection Association, July 13, 2010, La Mesa, Ca. 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.