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Office of the State Fire Marshal to Address Water Discharge for Fire Protection



On Tuesday, March 2, 2010 the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento will be the site of the first meeting of the Water Discharge for Fire Protection Task Force. The Task Force was developed at the request of the National Fire Sprinkler Association California Chapters and the California Fire Prevention Officers to address state mandated requirements (issues) and to develop Best Management Practices for discharge of “water-based fire protection systems” as required for acceptance testing and maintenance procedures in conjunction with NFPA-13, NFPA-13R, NFPA-13D, NFPA-14, NFPA-20, NFPA-24, and NFPA 25 (2006 California edition). The Task Force will identify Water Reclamation (re-use and recycle criteria), Environmental Protection (discharge criteria) and those respective regulations (Federal, State and Regional) with a focus on issues relating to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act [CWA]), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting, and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Title-23, CCR [Water Code]).

The Task Force will bring together the various State Agencies (State Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, State Department of Health, and State Fire Marshal), Local/Regional Fire Departments, Local/Regional Water Purveyors, Fire Protection Associations/Contractors, Building Owners Associations, Environmental Engineers/Contractors, and other interested stakeholders. Stakeholders will be tasked with researching and reviewing current regulation, policies and trends that impact the Fire Protection Community, and address concerns, which have or may have an impact on current business practices. The Task Force will develop a report (white paper) to educate/inform local government agencies, business/building owners and fire protection industry as to what is required as an operational resolution to the current uncertainty and/or non-awareness of the respective requirements. The Goals of the Task Force have been identified as:

1. Develop a statewide understanding of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act [CWA]), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting, and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Title-23, CCR [Water Code]).
2. Identify Best Management Practices for compliance with NFPA-13, NFPA-13R, NFPA-13D, NFPA-14, NFPA-20, NFPA-24, and NFPA 25 (2006 California edition) and the discharge of water from these fire protection systems.

3. Develop and institute a statewide education program for all stakeholders within the Water Regulatory Agencies, Regional Water Control Boards, Fire Sprinkler Industry, Fire Service and Statewide and local governments on the Best Management Practices identified and agreed upon by this Task Force.
4. Develop a process for obtaining necessary permits for discharging water during required NFPA-13, NFPA-13R, NFPA-13D, NFPA-14, NFPA-20, NFPA-24, and NFPA 25 (2006 California edition) acceptance testing, maintenance testing or the draining of these water-based fire protection systems.

The Task Force Steering Team consists of Co-chair James Parsegian, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Co-Chair James Carver, Deputy Fire Marshal, City of El Segundo Fire Department, Bruce Lecair, West Regional Manager, National Automatic Sprinkler Association and Steve Hart, Consultant – National Automatic Sprinkler IP-Fund.

Jorgensen Company Joins NFSA Contractor Membership Program



NFSA recently welcomed Jorgensen Company headquartered in Fresno, California to the Contractor Membership Program. Darrell Hefley (pictured above) is the President of Jorgensen Company and is the first 2010 Contractor Member to join the NFSA's West Region this year. Jorgensen is a California based company with its main office located at 2691 South East Avenue in Fresno. Jorgensen is a diverse company who installs a complete line of Fire Protection Equipment that includes portable extinguishers, suppression systems, fire sprinkler and alarm systems and sells a complete line of safety products including first aid supplies, industrial safety and personal protective equipment and extinguisher cabinets.

In addition NFSA welcomes our new Professional Member Jindra Skala of WSP Flack & Kurtz 405 Howard St, Ste 500, San Francisco, CA 94105. WSP Flack & Kurtz is one of the leading building-services engineering firms in the US. The company provides a range of electrical and mechanical engineering, plumbing, air-conditioning, lighting, telecommunications, and fire protection services.

NFSA is also proud to welcome Subscriber member James Neumeister of the City of Mountain View Fire Department located at 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA 94041.

PPFA Appeal Keeps 2009 PEX Regulations in Place

Glen Ellyn, IL—The Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association (PPFA) on December 31, 2009 filed an appeal of a ruling by a lower court on the question of the approval of Cross-Linked Polyethylene (PEX) piping in the California Plumbing Code. The ruling addressed the adequacy of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on PEX prepared for the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) as a condition of code approval. The appeal keeps in place the regulations, which took effect August 1, 2009, approving the use of PEX in the California Plumbing Code. CBSC's actions certifying the EIR and approving PEX in the code had been challenged by a group of organizations, led by the California Pipe Trades Council, who have a long history of opposition to approval of any plastic pipe use in California.

According to Richard Church, Executive Director of PFFA, “the court’s ruling is disturbing in many respects. It fails to recognize substantial and key evidence in the EIR and administrative record supporting the CBSC determination that PEX does not pose a significant risk to human health. In many instances the court inappropriately substituted its judgment for that of the BSC and, consequently, failed to accord the proper deference to the agency’s expertise in highly technical areas. PEX has been the most studied plumbing product ever considered for use in California, and there is simply no credible evidence that PEX has any adverse effects. We are confident the Court of Appeal will agree.”

The EIR was conducted under the guidelines set forth by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and resulted in a comprehensive 868 page document supported by almost 10,000 pages of additional information submitted as part of the administrative record. The EIR was certified by CBSC on January 22, 2009, and PEX was subsequently included in the California Plumbing Code effective August 1, 2009.

PPFA is a voluntary, non-profit organization of North American companies primarily engaged in the manufacture of plastic pipe and fittings for plumbing and piping applications typically installed on the building premises. For additional information, contact the Association at 800 Roosevelt Road, Building C, Suite 312, Glen Ellyn , IL 60137 ; 630/858-6540; fax 630/790-3095; or visit the website at www.ppfahome.org.

NFSA Annual Seminar Registration now available!



Registration materials for NFSA’s 2010 Annual Seminar are now available. Registration materials can be easily accessed by the link at the right of our homepage, www.nfsa.org. Hard copies are also in the mail and should be received this week. The seminar will be held at the Fairmont Chicago, April 15-16. The Fairmont is a premier property, located within walking distance to Chicago’s Navy Pier and shopping on the famed “Magnificent Mile”. Springtime in Chicago is an experience not to be missed! The seminar has been compressed into two days, minimizing the time our members have to take away from their businesses. The number of workshop sessions has increased, providing maximum training opportunities in a minimum amount of time. Program topics include Worker’s Compensation Tips, Fire Dynamics for the Sprinkler Industry, How to Sell Sprinkler Retrofit, Green Sprinkler Issues and so much more. Go to the NFSA website to take a look through the materials and see the great programs we have lined up for you. Space is filling up fast. **Make sure to take advantage of the March 1st “early-bird” registration deadline. You’ll save \$125.00 off the already discounted registration fee!**

California FPO’s Meet Throughout the State

Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met at the Los Angeles Fire Department Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center on February 10, 2010 at the Annual Joint SCFPO/ ICC Board Representatives Business Meeting. Members in attendance received a Code Adoption Update from Kevin Scott, ICC Western Regional Manager in the morning session and an afternoon class titled, “Standard on Commissioning and Integrated Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems – A preview of NFPA 3” presented by Craig Studer, Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc. Member, NFPA 3 Committee.

The meeting also featured board, state OFSM and committee reports as well lunch and an afternoon raffle.

San Diego Fire Protection Association Meets to Discuss New Fee Schedule

On February 9th, the San Diego Fire Protection association welcomed Frankie Murphy from San Diego Fire and Rescue who was the guest speaker and provided the SDFPA with an update on the current state of the Inspections and Plans division with information on how the new organization is working, challenges, and how the division is planning to address the current challenges affecting their services.

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.

NEW Classes Scheduled for fall '10

The NFSA West Region is pleased to announce 2-new seminars scheduled for fall of 2010. In September, the Training Division will be teaching a 3-day seminar in Brea, California consisting of the 2-day NFPA 13 Overview and Introduction to Plan Review on September 21-22 and the 1-day Plan Review Procedures and Policies class. In October, NFSA will be traveling to Woodland, California for a NFPA 13, 13R and 13D 2007-10 Update class on September 19th with a Sprinklers for Dwellings and Residential Sprinklers – Homes to High-rise on the 20th and 21st.



Recently, NFSA held 2-successful seminars in Brea in January and February taught by NFSA Training Director Bob Trieber and assisted with a Advanced Seismic Class taught by Michael Friedman P.E. (pictured above) from the NFSA Training staff.

Sacramento was the site of another very successful 3-seminar taught by Bob Trieber. Classes were attended by students from industry and fire service from the Sacramento valley area.

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

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

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.

NFSA LA Chapter Meets, Re-elects Don Becka!

At the February 23, 2010 dinner meeting at the Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey California, NFSA L.A. Chapter members voted unanimously to re-elect long-time Chapter President and current President of Qualco Fire Protection, Don Becka to another 3-year term. In addition, Stuart Cook of Potter Roemer will remain Chapter Treasurer and Paul Bennet of Star Fire Inc. will remain as Chapter Secretary.

At the meeting, NFSA West Regional Manager gave a lengthy report on new State Codes, OSFM inspection, testing and maintenance regulations and an update on NFSA training activities throughout California.

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **Water Discharge Task Force Meeting March 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** at the California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.
- **CSFM AES Task Force Meeting on April 29, 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, April 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

- Featured speakers are Kevin Rienertson, Acting Division Chief, Regulations Unit, Office of the State Fire Marshal who will be discussing the upcoming code changes taking place on January 1, 2011 and Buddy Dewar, Vice President of Operations for NFSA who will be discussing training needs and regional updates throughout the United States.

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, April 8, 2010 at 10 a.m. Anaheim, Ca

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

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, April 23, 2010 at 9:30 in San Francisco, Ca.

- This the annual Joint NorCal FPO/SFFPE Meeting featuring Fire Protection Vendors from throughout Northern California
- 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, March 9, 2010, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's Restaurant 11:30 a. m.

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.

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.

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 - Pass

Status: Last Historical Action Date: 09/09/2009,

Assembly Floor Senate Third Reading by Torres (AAYES 54. NOES 21)

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