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May 2010

Industry Leaders Partner for Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Contractor Accreditation

More than 3,000 people in the U.S. lose their lives each year to fires and 84% of those who die do so in their home. While smoke alarms provide an early warning signal of smoke, fire sprinklers respond to fires while they are still small, controlling the spread of deadly heat, flames and toxic smoke, as well as saving valuable property. The 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) provides a provision that requires newly constructed one- and two-family houses to include the installation of life-saving fire sprinkler systems, designed to dramatically reduce the number of injuries and deaths in the home caused by fires.

To address the huge upswing in demand for contractors who are qualified to install residential fire sprinkler systems driven by these new regulations, The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), the International Code Council (ICC), and the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) are developing a joint Memorandum of Understanding that includes the creation of a new Commission for the Accreditation for Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Contractors. Using the CPSE accreditation model, many additional stakeholders will be brought together to form this newly formed commission to jointly develop programs for accreditation, leveraging their collective knowledge, provisions and expertise.

Although this initiative originated with three important and respected organizations, all construction professionals are encouraged to lend their support to help evolve and grow this life-saving initiative. The collective participation of the construction community will ensure that the industry is fully trained and qualified.

The timing of this agreement couldn't be better: approved fire sprinkler systems will be required in all one- and two-family dwellings constructed after the 2009 IRC is adopted or on January 1, 2011, whichever is later. While there are professionals who are well trained to install commercial fire sprinklers, the demand for qualified residential sprinkler contractors is growing at a tremendous rate. Given the dependence on the life-saving benefits of fire sprinklers in residential properties, it is imperative that there is a system to ensure quality installation.

The program will ensure that the entire industry has access to a superior level of training and have taken the ICC Residential Fire Sprinkler Design and Installation Exam, which is critical to enable construction projects to be completed on schedule and ensure quality installation. These highly qualified contractors will be accredited by a well respected, nationally recognized organization. This will provide home buyers,

contractors and fire and life safety agencies with an added sense of security in knowing these fire sprinkler systems will be properly designed and installed.

NFSA LA Chapter Meets at Rio Hondo Golf Resort Kraig Kirschner of AFCON Honored for 25-year of Membership!

At the April 15, 2010 dinner meeting at the Rio Hondo Golf Resort in Downey, Ca. Chapter Members were greeted by Regional Manager Bruce Lecair who provided the group with a 1-hour presentation and update on NFSA Training Activities, California Fire Prevention Officers as well as Water Discharge, Automatic Extinguishing Systems and NFPA 25 OSFM committees and work groups. The group also discussed issues affecting licence regulations and training for C-16 contractors specializing in NFPA 13-d and 13-r residential fire sprinkler systems. .

In addition to reporting on issues affecting California, Regional Manger Bruce Lecair had the pleasure of presenting a 25-year membership plaque to Kraig Kirschner (pictured right)of AFCON Fire Sprinkler Hanging and Bracing Products located in El Monte, California.



AFCON was founded in 1952 by Joe Kirschner has been a proven leader in the industry for over 40-years (**the plaque was a little overdue!**) and has provided innovative research and special features for engineering and installation of sway bracing and hangers.

Kraig is a third generation fire sprinkler contractor who is licensed in 8-states and a second generation fire sprinkler product manufacturer and Journeyman Fitter. He is a life member of the National Fire Protection Association and is a Principal Member on the NFPA 13 Technical Committee for Hanging and Bracing. He also sits on the Standard Technical Panels for UL 203, UL 203A, FM 1950 and is a national committee member for the American Fire Sprinkler Association. In 2009, Kraig was honored as the “Person of the Year” by the Fire Protection Contractor Magazine.

Nation Association of Fire Marshals Launch New Website Bringing together fire safety and green site to serve as focal point for issues of fire safety and environmental concern

WASHINGTON, DC, April 6, 2010 — The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has launched a web site, Bridging the Gap, www.GreenBuildingFiresafety.org, that will bring together the complex issues relating to building in an environmentally sensitive manner while still meeting the overriding needs of fire safety for the occupants and emergency responders. Funded by a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, this project will look at where fire safety concerns coincide with the rapidly growing field of green buildings.

“It is important that the fire service help facilitate the growing trend toward green construction,” said NASFM President Alan Shuman. “At the same time, there are definite knowledge gaps among fire service officials regarding how to recognize green buildings, as well as how to review plans, issue permits and safely fight fires in structures that may feature unconventional designs and systems.”

Chief Shuman, who is also the Georgia State Fire Marshal, added, “Through this site, NASFM will be able to provide fire officials, building officials, design professionals and other stakeholders with an information exchange to help ensure that both needs are met – protecting the environment while protecting people from fire.”

The growing web site is designed as a community where participants can contribute to the knowledge base and exchange information and experiences. It includes sections focusing on areas such as alternative fuels, building materials and construction, roofs, water conservation and much more. Guiding the project is a national Advisory Working Group of professionals drawn from a number of different fields relating to building and fire safety.

“This site will evolve and grow over time,” explained Karen Deppa, NASFM project manager. “The key is for visitors to the site to share information as well as obtain it. We hope that sections such as the Discussion Forum will foster this type of participation.”

Chief Shuman also hopes that NASFM’s project will lead to a cultural shift in how fire prevention and protection are viewed in the context of environmental sustainability. “When you think about the threat that a fire represents not only to lives, but also to the environment,” he said, “It becomes clear that every fire that is prevented or quickly suppressed protects our natural resources. Fire Safety is a very Green concept.”

Nor Cal FPO’s Meet in San Francisco Big Turnout for California Vendors!!!

The Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association met in San Francisco, California on April 23rd for a Joint S.F. Fire Protection Engineers and Nor Cal FPO meeting with Fire Protection Vendors from Northern California who were in attendance to display and share information on their products. The meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department, San Francisco FD Local 798, the National Fire Sprinkler Association and the San Francisco Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

The meeting provided those in attendance an outstanding presentation from NFSA Training Director Bob Trieber on changes in the upcoming 2010 NFPA 13 and the importance of classes that include information on the 2007 and 2010 codes now that the state is moving from the 2002 editions. Also speaking at the event was Kevin Scott, Regional Director from ICC who gave an update on the new 2010 California amendments effective January 1, 2011.

In addition to the vendors in attendance included, Lubrizol, Tolco-NIBCO, Spears, Tyco, HD Supply, Xerxes Tanks, Flexhead, Victaulic, Sammy Screw and Preferred Sales, the meeting was attended by the staff of Allied Fire Protection that included Ted Vinther, President, Fritz Descovich, Kevin Thomas, Perry Morris, Tim Jausoro and Arnie Moston.

San Diego Fire Protection Association Meets to Discuss FM Global Changes

The San Diego Fire Protection Association met on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 and were provided with a special presentation from Martin Latham, PE, CPCU, Group Manager for Field Engineering, who introduced those in attendance with the new FM Global Data Sheet 2-0 and Revised Data Sheet 8-9. The sheets reflect a new attitude from FM Global on applying water to fire that includes new terminology for

storage, non-storage and special protection and affects K-factors, sprinkler orientation, pressure and number of sprinkler heads. The new data sheets can be obtained at www.FMGlobal.com.

NFSA El Cerrito Class a Tremendous Success!

Classes recently held in El Cerrito, Cal on April 20-22 were a huge success and attended by an average of 20-students per class. The 3-day training seminar taught by NFSA Director of Training Bob Trieber featured the 8-hour Residential Sprinklers, Homes to High-rise, Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D) and the new and specially designed for California, NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D Update (2007-2010).



Regional Manager.

During the classes, Regional Manager Bruce Lecair gave a brief update on NFSA activities that included information on membership, training activities, the NFSA Expert of the Day Program and information on the upcoming statewide OSFM CRC Preparation for Jurisdictions classes that are being scheduled across the state starting in June and scheduled regionally throughout the remainder of the year which are to be instructed by Kevin Rienertson, Division Chief, Code Development and Analysis Division, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Steve Hart, Consultant National Automatic Sprinkler - IP Fund and Bruce Lecair, West

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.

So Cal FPO's Meet in Anaheim

Members of the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, April 14th in Anaheim, California and were provided with a presentation from James Carver and Robert Nolan on “Implementing the Type L License for AHJ's” The class included an power point presentation on the history, the need and benefits to the community and tips for outreach for implementation of the new L-license Program as adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal

The meeting also included updates on FPO committees, OSFM work groups and committees and an NFSA, fire equipment and devices and Water Discharge Committee update from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair.

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association Meets for a Morning of Golf



The Fire Sprinkler Contractor Association met at the Los Serranos Golf Club on April 16, 2010 for a morning of golf and a lunch meeting. Not too many holes in one, but a great time was had by all for this benefit outing. Pictured at left with Regional Manager Bruce Lecair are Walt Sarratt from Golden State Fire Protection and Area Director Jack Thacker from Allan Automatic of Southern California.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th at Mr Stox's in Anahiem. Ca. and will feature Part-2 of a special presentation from Martin Latham, PE, CPCU, Group Manager for Field Engineering, who will be further discussing the new FM Global Data Sheet 2-0 and Revised Data Sheet 8-9 and FM Global's new concept for protecting storage, non-storage and special hazard occupancies. RSVP is required!.

Regulations, Legislation, Codes, etc.

Important New Bill AB 2419, (Cook): Contractors: workers' compensation insurance coverage.

House Location: Assembly

Last Amended Date: 03/25/2010

Type of Bill: Active

Last Historical Action Date: 04/13/2010

Last Historical Action: From committee: Do pass, and re-refer to Committee on Appropriations Re-referred. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (April 13).

Committee Location: Assembly Appropriations

Next Hearing Date: 04/28/2010

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.

IMPORTANT: 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.

SB 1227, (Runner): School Facilities Construction.

Committee Location: Senate Education

Last Historical Action date: 03/04/2010

Last Historical Action: To Committee on Education

Apr. 19, Set first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Apr. 15, From committee with author's amendments. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Committee on Education

Apr. 9, Set for hearing April 21.

Apr. 8, Hearing postponed by committee.

Mar. 17, Set for hearing April 14.

Mar. 4, To Committee on Education

Feb. 19, From print. May be acted upon on or after March 21.

Feb. 18, Introduced. Read first time. To Committee on Regulations for assignment.

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

17077.30. (a) As part of the requirements for submission of an application to the State Allocation Board for funding pursuant to this chapter for any new construction or modernization project, 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*,

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

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **Water Discharge Task Force Meeting April 27, 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, June 17, 2010 at 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, CA 90241.

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

NFSA S.F. California Chapter, Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California

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

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 10 a.m. at El Segundo Fire Department Station #2.

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, May 28, 2010 at 9:30 in South Lake Tahoe, Ca.

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Southern California

- Tuesday, May 18 - 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. at Mr. Stox Restaurant, 1105 Katella Avenue, Anaheim, Ca.

San Diego Fire Protection Association, May 11, 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.