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IRC FIRE SPRINKLER VOTE WINS BIG-TIME IN BALTIMORE

On October 28, 2009, with a majority vote of 7 to 4, the International Residential Code (IRC) Committee voted no to a new code proposal made by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) that would have eliminated the IRC code requirement that mandates fire sprinklers in all new one-and-two family dwellings and townhouses.

Again, this vote was historic and this time unprecedented! Fire sprinklers are currently in the 2009 edition of the IRC because of a **“FIRST HISTORIC VOTE”** that happened in Minneapolis last year when a 2/3 majority floor vote of residential fire sprinkler supporters overturned a decision of this same committee that would have kept fire sprinklers out of the IRC.

For this years’ scheduled IRC Code Hearing in Baltimore, there were four significant proposals and if passed by the IRC Code Committee, they would have totally eliminated or reduced code requirements for residential fire sprinkler systems.

The following is what happened:

Proposal # RB53 which changes threshold requirements for one and two-story townhouses requiring fire sprinklers and separation wall ratings from 1 to 2 hours. This was withdrawn by the submitter.

Proposal #RB54 by the NAHB which would have eliminated sprinklers in all 1 and 2 family dwellings and townhouses. Representing the Michigan Association of Home Builders, one proponent spoke in support of this proposal. There were several excellent speakers opposing this proposal, including **Glen A. Gaines**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration, **Jeff Johnson**, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs, **Gary Keith**, Executive Vice-President, National Fire Protection Association, **Shawn Decrane**, representing the International Association of Firefighters and **Michael Willard**, CEO, Habitat for Humanity, Austin Texas. It was expected that this proposal would have been approved by the IRC Code Committee and that another 2/3 majority floor vote would be needed to overturn the code committee vote. That did not happen.

A motion was made by IRC Code Committee members **Kathi Osmonson** and seconded by **Robert Eugene** to disapprove the NAHB proposal. Considerable discussion by code committee members followed this motion and it was clearly stated by some of the code committee members that the majority voice of the membership of the ICC in favor of residential fire sprinklers should be respected and that the whole issue of implementing these systems should now move forward to produce much-needed and effective safety systems. The hearing chair called for a code committee vote and this is where **“HISTORIC VOTE #2”** took place. Seven members voted to disapprove this proposal. As expected, four members, all representing the NAHB, voted in support of their proposal. Immediately following this code committee vote that defeated RB54, proponents of the NAHB proposal called for an “assembly action” to overturn the code committee vote. That attempt was defeated by a show-of-hands vote that clearly indicated another 2/3 majority win by sprinkler supporters. There were approximately 1700 registered voters in attendance and the NAHB support showed less than 50 hands. It was truly an impressive majority that visibly demonstrated that fire sprinklers should stay in the IRC.

(R) The motion to disapprove RB 54 is made by Mounds View, MN Building Official & Fire Marshal Kathi Osmonson, a member of the IRC Committee, leading to a 7-4 vote supporting residential fire sprinklers in the 2012 IRC.



(L) A call for a floor vote on the IRC Committee motion to disapprove RB 54 was requested. The attending membership voted approximately 1,600 to 50 to support the continuance of the residential fire sprinkler provision in the IRC-2012.

Proposal # RB56 by the NAHB. This proposal would eliminate the code requirements mandating fire sprinklers in all new 1 & 2 family dwellings and townhouses and places the provisions into an optional appendix that must be adopted locally. The consequence of this change if passed would be reverting the code to where it was in the 2006 edition. Again, the IRC Code committee voted on this proposal and defeated it by a 7-4 margin. The proponents of this proposal **did not call for assembly action** to try and overturn the code committee vote because it was obvious from the previous floor action vote on RB54 that they couldn’t win with the overwhelming number of sprinkler supporters in attendance.

Proposal #RB57. This proposal was another attempt to eliminate code requirements mandating fire sprinklers in all new 1 & 2 family dwellings and townhouses. Given what had just happened during this code hearing, the proposal was prudently withdrawn.

What happened on October 28, 2009 in Baltimore was directly linked to a massive effort by those who clearly understand and support the importance of residential fire sprinkler protection. The list of individuals, fire safety leaders, firefighters, fire and building-code officials, IRC code committee members and a vast array of organizations who made this all happen is long and impressive. Each and every one who logged long hours, travelled hundreds of miles and never stopped recruiting support for this historic achievement can equally share in the satisfaction that we **did make a difference and everyone collectively won that day for much-needed residential fire safety in America!!!!**

National Fire Sprinkler Association Partners with the U.S. Fire Administration in Support of Fire Safety

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S., has joined forces with the United States Fire Administration (USFA), an entity of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, to help promote the USFA's Install, Inspect and Protect Campaign. The campaign, which is designed to promote fire safety, will be launched "virtually" on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, with a radio media tour involving U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran.

The Install, Inspect and Protect Campaign is aimed at encouraging Americans to practice fire safety by installing and maintaining smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, practicing fire escape plans and performing home safety walk-throughs to remove fire hazards from the home. NFSA plans to support these goals by distributing key materials to NFSA members and to the general public. NFSA will also promote the campaign on its Web site and will act as a source of information for anyone that is interested in supporting the campaign.

"We are truly excited about this partnership, because our goal to increase awareness about the benefits of fire sprinklers complements the objectives of USFA's Install, Inspect, Protect, Campaign," said John Viniello, president of NFSA. "We see this as a big step forward toward widespread acceptance of residential fire sprinklers and wish to thank USFA for this wonderful opportunity."

Fire Officials Say Fire Sprinkler System Saved Home!

SANTA ROSA (BCN) Fire officials in Santa Rosa are crediting a sprinkler system with containing a residential fire that broke out late Wednesday night. Units responded to a structure fire reported in a home at 1896 Bennett Meadows Lane just after 10 p.m., according to the Santa Rosa Fire Department. Arriving firefighters reported finding a single fire sprinkler head flowing in a second-floor bedroom. Smoke alarms had not been activated, but the sprinkler system had apparently kept the flames from spreading, according to the fire department.

An investigation revealed that an unattended candle in the bedroom had come into contact with decorations and started a fire. A sprinkler in the room had been activated and contained the flames to that room. No one was home at the time. The fire caused about \$21,500 in damage to the structure and contents of the home, according to the fire department. Since 2008, new homes constructed within Santa Rosa are required to have residential fire sprinklers

NFSA Members Mark 50-years with New Clocks!

Longtime NFSA West Region Members recently celebrated 50-years of membership with the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Upon receiving the NFSA 50-year clock, Area Director Jack Thacker (pictured in October) was surprised to count up the years and find that time actually does fly and that 50-years adds up



quickly at Allan Automatic Corporation of Southern California.



Dave Link of Link-Nilsen Corporation whose office is based in Arcadia California, received his plaque several months ago after the company celebrated their 50-year anniversary with NFSA in 2008. Dave is pictured at a lunch with Regional Manager Bruce Lecair admiring their 50-year clock at the Arcadia office.

NFSA on Morning Television to Promote Fire Sprinklers and Fire Prevention Week!

NFSA member Carlos Jara, Project Manager and Fire Protection Engineer with Allan Automatic of Southern California, recently visited KBNT 17 in San Diego, California with Regional Manager Bruce Lecair and Area Director Jack Thacker to interview with the Spanish language affiliate to discuss National Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10) and offer some important fire prevention tips and information.



The on-camera interview conducted by local UNIVISION morning celebrity Suzanna Torres, offered Mr. Jara an opportunity to discuss the upcoming IRC adoption and the inclusion of the chapter requiring residential fire sprinkler in new one and two family homes and townhouses. Mr. Jara shown above with Ms Torres, showed those viewing the morning show examples of fire sprinklers and explained the operation of sprinklers and the impact they have in protecting homeowners from fire.

KBNT is a Spanish language television station serving the San Diego, Ca. and Tijuana, Mexico market.

California FPO's Hold October Meetings

The Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, October 9th at L.A. City Fire Department Camp 1. The meeting was hosted by the Los Angeles Fire Department and featured a

presentation an NFPA 72 update. Regional Manager Bruce Lecair gave an update on current activities within NFSA, and an update on the status of the IRC adoption and the importance of the Baltimore IRC Hearings and the need to attend and vote.

The Northern California Fire Prevention Officers met at UC Merced on October 23rd to also receive as NFPA 72 update. At the meeting, The Fire Equipment and Devices and Public Education Committees received a 1-hour presentation on the outline draft for communities preparing for the upcoming IRC adoption from Regional Manager Bruce Lecair and I.P. Consultant Steve Hart. The outline is in response to the IRC Phase III plan to provide an educational program that will inform stakeholders throughout California on the adoption and how California based their recommendations to the State Fire Marshal and the Governor.

2010 NFSA Classes Scheduled in the West!

NFSA Training has been scheduled for the Western Region for the first half of 2010 and will include a diverse schedule of classes throughout California with a series of 2-day classes in Southern California. Beginning January in Brea, California, NFSA will be featuring the new NFPA 13 2007-2010 California Update and both the Basic and Advanced Seismic Bracing Classes.

La Mesa Fire Department and the San Diego Fire Protection Officers are hosting the New Commissioning and Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems, Advanced Seismic for Fire Protection Systems and the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems on January 27th and 28th. In February, the Training Staff will be back in La Mesa for the new 2007-2010 NFPA 13 Update and the Plan Review Policies and Procedures class on the 17th and 18th.

NFSA is happy to announce a new sponsor to our training classes with Sacramento Fire Department's hosting of classes on February 9-11. The 3-day seminar will feature the new Commissioning and Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (4-hrs), CPVC Piping Installations Requirements and Procedures (4 hrs) Inspection on the 9th, Testing & Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems on the 10th. The foam series, Foam Water Sprinkler Systems (NFPA 16), (4hrs)^h and the Low, Medium, High Expansion Foam and Class A Foams (NFPA 11) (4hrs) will be taught on the 11th.

El Cerrito will once again be the site of NFSA training on April 20-22 for another 3-day seminar. Classes will feature a NFPA 13-d class format in anticipation of the upcoming IRC adoption in California. Classes will include the 1-Day Residential Sprinklers, Homes to High-rise, the 1-Day Sprinklers for Dwellings (NFPA 13D) and the 1-Day NFPA 13, 13R, & 13D 2007-2010 Update.

Brea, California

NFPA 13 2007-2010 California Update	Date:	1/25/10
Basic Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4-hrs)	Date:	1/26/10
Advanced Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4-hrs)	Date:	1/26/10

La Mesa, California

New commissioning and acceptance testing of sprinkler systems (4hrs)	Date:	1/27/10
Advanced Seismic for Fire Protection Systems (4hrs)	Date:	1/27/10
Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Systems	Date:	1/28/10

Sacramento, California

Commissioning and Acceptance Testing of Sprinkler Systems (4hrs)	Date:	2/9/10
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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) (4hrs)	Date:	2/11/10
Low, Medium, High Expansion Foam and Class A Foams (NFPA 11) (4hrs)	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.

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

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- CSFM AES Task Force Meeting on October 29, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

- California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.

NFSA L.A. California Chapter, Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, CA 90241.

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Rancho Cucamonga, Ca.

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

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, November 20, at 9:30 in Roseville, Ca.

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

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Southern California

- **The next gathering will be held on November 3rd at Mr.Stox in Anahiem, Ca. at noon.**

San Diego Fire Protection Association, November 10, 2009, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's Restaurant 11:30 a. m.

Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association Conference-Waikoloa, Hawaii, November 19-22, 2009

- The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association will conduct its next meeting on the island of Hawaii at the Hilton Waikoloa Village in Waikoloa on November 19-22. The annual 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 First Annual Hawaii Burn Foundation Golf Tournament. The event will feature local celebrities and members of the fire service and fire protection industry. Regional Manager Bruce Lecair will be in attendance.

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.