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ICC hearings threaten home sprinkler provision

At the October ICC code development hearings in Baltimore, home fire sprinkler opponents are expected to push toward the removal of requirements for residential fire sprinklers for new one- and two-family homes from the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC). Several anti-sprinkler proposals have been submitted to the ICC and some sprinkler opponents have been found spreading misinformation about the need, cost, and effectiveness of this life-saving technology. The fact is that home fire sprinklers save lives and protect property from destruction by responding quickly and effectively to the presence of a nearby fire. In fact, the risk of dying decreases by about 80% when sprinklers are present. Sprinklers also reduce the average property loss by about 71% per fire.

Fire sprinkler advocates encouraged to **Get involved!** Sprinkler advocates all across the country are gearing up to defend the inclusion of the life-saving sprinkler provision, which was included in the 2009 International Residential Code. Proposals have been submitted to delete the requirement for the 2012 edition and will be considered at the International Code Council (ICC) hearings in Baltimore in late October. It is expected these hearings will take place on October 28th or 29th. It is critical that sprinkler supporters show up and vote at these hearings to preserve the sprinkler provision.

All ICC members present at the hearings are eligible to vote. For more information on efforts to keep the sprinkler provision in the IRC, visit www.ircfiresprinkler.org. If you are already an ICC member, please make plans to attend the hearings in Baltimore and vote "NO" on the anti-sprinkler proposals. There is no cost for ICC members to attend the hearings, but pre-registration is required. Note that individuals who are "individual" members of ICC will be allowed to vote at the hearings.

Fires caused more than \$15.5 billion in direct property loss in 2008

"NFPA Journal publishes new fire loss statistics"

During 2008, fires caused more than \$15.5 billion in directly property loss. Fires in residential properties caused \$8.6 billion of it. Findings from the newly released report U.S. Fire Loss in the United States in 2008 (PDF, 244 KB) appear in the latest issue of NFPA Journal®, the official magazine of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Fire departments responded to an estimated 1.5 million fires in 2008. These fires resulted in 3,320 civilian fire fatalities, 16,705 civilian fire injuries and an estimated \$15.5 billion in direct property loss.

Fire Statistics:

- ❖ 1,451,500 fires were attended by public fire departments, a decrease of 6.8 percent from the year before.
- ❖ 515,000 fires occurred in structures, a decrease of 2.9 percent.
- ❖ 403,000 fires (78 percent) of all structure fires occurred in residential properties.
- ❖ 236,000 fires occurred in vehicles, a decrease of 8.5 percent from the year before.
- ❖ 700,500 fires occurred in outside properties, a decrease of 8.9 percent.
- ❖ A fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation every 22 seconds.

A fire occurs in ...

- ❖ a structure every 61 seconds
- ❖ a residential structure every 78 seconds
- ❖ a vehicle every 134 seconds
- ❖ a fire in outside property every 45 seconds.

Fire deaths and injuries

- ❖ 3,320 civilian fire deaths occurred in 2008, an increase of 3.2 percent.
- ❖ About 83 percent of all fire deaths occurred in the home.
- ❖ 2,755 civilian fire deaths occurred in the home, a decrease of 3.8 percent.
- ❖ 16,705 civilian fire injuries occurred in 2008, a decrease of 5.5 percent. This estimate for civilian injuries is on the low side, because many civilian injuries are not reported to the fire service.
- ❖ 13,560 of all civilian injuries occurred in residential properties
- ❖ There was ...
- ❖ a civilian fire death every 158 minutes
- ❖ a civilian fire injury every 31 minutes.

SoCal Man Accused of Impersonating a Fire Official

Associated Press - September 14, 2009 10:04 PM ET

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) - A Camarillo man who worked for a fire protection company has been charged with impersonating a fire investigator to swindle local businesses. Fire officials say Fernando Castillo was charged Monday with targeting mostly small and immigrant-owned businesses by saying he was a fire marshal and threatening to close the businesses down if the fire extinguishers were not immediately serviced.

Deputy Fire Marshal Rod Thorp says Castillo, an employee of American Fire Protection, was arrested last month after an investigation of business complaints about him. In July, the company's state license was suspended for questionable business practices. Thorp says Castillo sometimes billed the business without servicing the extinguishers. Castillo could not immediately be reached for comment.

Information from: Los Angeles Times, <http://www.latimes.com>

S. F. Chapter Greeted New Acting State Fire Marshal

The NFSA San Francisco Chapter met on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Jack London Square and will greeted Acting State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover. Acting Chief Hoover was appointed by CAL FIRE Director Del Walters as California's new Acting State Fire Marshal on June 30, 2009. Chief Hoover has over 20 years of experience in the fire service at the local and state level.

At the September meeting, Acting Chief Hoover gave a presentation and update on Office of the State Fire Marshal work groups and special task forces, as well as information on the current status of the code adoption process in California including information on the process to adopt requirements for residential fire sprinklers for new one- and two-family homes from the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC).

California FPO's Hold September Meetings

The Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, September 9th at the Orange County Fire Authority in Irvine, Ca. The meeting was hosted by the Orange County Fire Authority and featured a presentation by NFSA on October Fire Prevention Months programs and educational tools for use by local fire authorities. At the meeting, 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 in Petaluma, CA. at the Lucchesi Park Community Center. The featured presentation was entitled, **“Everything You Wanted to Know about Tents and Membrane Structures.”** The meeting featured morning committee meetings and an excellent lunch and raffle.

2009 NFSA Training Continues in Brea!

NFSA 2009 training continued in the “Award Winning City of Brea, CA. on September 22-24 at the Civic Center. The classes were taught by NFSA Director of Training Robert Trieber and hosted by the Brea Fire Department and the Southern California FPO's. The classes averaged 14 attendees per day and offered students opportunities to receive updates on fire sprinkler classes and installation methods.

The last 3-day seminar for the West Region is scheduled for October 20-22 in the historic city of Woodland, CA. The seminar will feature two 1/2 day classes on Underground Piping for Fire Protection and Commissioning, Acceptance and Testing of Sprinkler Systems. In addition, two 1-day classes will be taught on Sprinkler Protection for General Storage and Sprinkler Protection for Special Storage.

For more information on NFSA classes, please contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair or sign up on the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org. **Remember, NFSA members receive discounts for classes!**

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 (Solario) 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.
- **IRC Phase III meetings, October 15 and December 3 at 10:00 a.m.** at the California State Office of the State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.

NFSA S.F. California Chapter, Thursday, November 12, at 6:00 p.m.

- The meeting will be held on at Jake's Seafood and Grill in Jack London Square

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, October, 14, 2009 at 10 a.m.

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

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, October 30, at UC Merced

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

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Southern California

- **The next gathering will be held on October 1st at the Los Serranos Country Club in Downey, Ca. for the 12th Annual Charity Golf Tour at 11:30 a.m.**

San Diego Fire Protection Association, October 13, 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.