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FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration Endorses Residential Fire Sprinklers



FEMA

The U.S. Fire Administration Announces its Support of a New Building Code Calling for the Use of Fire Sprinklers in New Homes

Patterson, N.Y. ([PRWEB](#)) July 31, 2009 -- After 30 years of testing, research and development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has announced its support of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), which mandates the installation of fire sprinklers in all new homes beginning in 2011. "Every day firefighters bravely enter homes to rescue people from fire and risk their lives under collapsing roofs and floors, because of the lightweight construction that's so prevalent these days in home building. This endorsement by the USFA comes as great news to fire service professionals across the country, who are supporting the IRC to include residential fire sprinklers as a critical component in fire protection in the home," said John Viniello, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, the longest-tenured fire sprinkler advocacy organization in the U.S.

The new IRC mandate, a response to the growing fire problem in the U.S., is an initiative that could prevent more than 3,000 fire-related deaths and 60,000 serious fire-related injuries across the nation each year. About 90 percent of all fires occur in the home, fueled by new lightweight construction and more flammable home contents. In fact, the new sprinkler regulations are being endorsed by fire service professionals across the country, such as the U.S. Fire Administration, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and the International Association of Firefighters. Groups including these agree smoke detectors are no longer enough in residential fire protection, as lightweight construction has become more prevalent, house contents are more flammable than ever, and the time available to escape a house fire has reduced from 17 minutes 20 years ago to three minutes today, according to a cost-benefit analysis by FEMA.

"It is the position of the U.S. Fire Administration that all Americans should be protected from death, injury and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with both smoke alarms and residential fire sprinklers, and all families should have and practice an emergency

escape plan. The U.S. Fire Administration supports all efforts to reduce the tragic toll of fire losses in this nation, including the recently adopted changes to the International Residential Code that require residential fire sprinklers in all new residential construction. The time has come to use this affordable, simple and effective technology to save lives and property where it matters most - in our homes," said Glenn A. Gaines, Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration.

United States Fire Administration's research regarding residential fire sprinkler systems has indisputably demonstrated that residential fire sprinklers can save the lives of civilians and firefighters and can reduce property loss as well as offset the risk of premature building collapse by lightweight construction when involved in a fire.

NFSA S. F. Chapter to Greet New Acting State Fire Marshal in September!



The NFSA San Francisco Chapter will be meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Jack London Square and will be greeting Acting State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover (pictured right with Cal Fire Director Del Walters). 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, Chief Hoover will be giving an update on programs involving the Office of the State Fire Marshal as well as a report on task forces and committees affecting the fire sprinkler industry.

Confirmation Hearing Held for USFA Nominee

Home sprinklers, fire safety education, radio interoperability and the FIRE Act grant were among issues USFA Administrator Nominee Kelvin J. Cochran addressed Wednesday during his confirmation hearing. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, said he hopes the vote to confirm Cochran will come before Congress recesses on Friday, adding that they'll be gone for a month. Calling home fire sprinklers "one of the greatest fire safety initiatives," Cochran said he sees the USFA playing a greater role in prevention measures. He said it will be his mission to promote projects that will reduce the number of people killed and injured in fires in America. The measures also have a direct impact on firefighter deaths and injuries, he said adding that reducing line-of-duty deaths is high on the agenda.

When asked why he was willing to take the job that will no doubt change his life, Cochran responded: "I believe I can make a difference." He said he believes he was born to serve. Becoming a firefighter was all he ever wanted to do. And, Cochran said he is passionate about learning so he can serve better. That's why in addition to moving up the ladder on the job, he also volunteered for various task forces and committees with the IAFC and Metro Chiefs. As with the new position he is vying for, he believes he can make a difference. In an interview with Firehouse.com last month, Cochran tried to describe how it felt when he was contacted by White House staff about the nomination. "I am humbled beyond words that he would consider my credentials and background for such a position. I consider it a tremendous honor to be asked to lead the American fire service..."

Cochran currently serves as the chief of the Atlanta Fire Department and was first vice-president of the IAFC before taking that position last year. He previously served as chief in Shreveport, La. from 1999 to 2008.

FIRE TEAM USA WORKSHOP TOUR SET

Washington DC - Fire Team USA received notification from the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that their grant in the amount of \$732,580 was funded. Fire Team USA is proud to partner with the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association for delivery of this workshop series. The work of Fire Team USA was piloted in Tennessee in 2005 with a FY04 grant called Fire Team Tennessee, and proved to be successful in communities across the Volunteer state. In 2006, the grant became Fire Team USA and workshops were delivered in states across the nation.

Through the AFG program, the department awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders throughout the country to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public, with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants provide resources for local fire departments and emergency medical services programs to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and fire prevention initiatives such as Fire Team USA. Fire Team USA will use the grant funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings public policy makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals together to learn about fire sprinkler and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community.

The Office of Grants and Training, the federal government's lead agency responsible for preparing the nation against terrorism and other catastrophic events, provides a wide array of support to the emergency preparedness and response community. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) works to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support. "I've been in the business of educating folks about residential fire sprinklers for 25 years, and it is refreshing to see and be involved in this effort," explains Jim Dalton, of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. "The resources are available, the technology is proven, all we need is for caring and committed leaders to step up to the plate and create the plan that works best for their community. It's exciting to be a part of this initiative, building upon the success of Fire Team USA in recent years and taking this important information to the nation."

Campus Firewatch to partner again with People's Burn Foundation in developing program

BELCHERTOWN, Mass., August 14, 2009 — A Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant for \$497,000 was awarded to the [People's Burn Foundation](#) of Indiana to continue its work on the groundbreaking campus fire safety education project "To Hell and Back: College Fire Survival" and its companion web site, www.igot2kno.org as well as deliver burn prevention information to our nation's fire service. Since first introduced in 2007, THB: College Fire Survival has been used by campuses across the United States in providing fire safety training to students in both classrooms and online.

Campus Firewatch will again be working with PBF in developing the content for this innovative training program. "This funding will allow us to produce additional updated and timely modules focusing on some of the most common problems faced on campuses," said Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch. "We'll be focusing on issues such as unattended candles, cooking, careless smoking, alcohol impairment, and improper use of electrical equipment and the lack of automatic sprinkler systems."

In 2007, DVD copies of THB: College Fire Survival was sent to every fire department, college and university in the country. To help further the reach of this program, the companion web site www.igot2kno.org was created and this will serve as the delivery mechanism for this grant program. “The Internet is a primary communications platform for today’s Net Generation,” continued Comeau. “We are going to use this to ensure that we reach as wide an audience as possible in a way that they are familiar with. This partnership with PBF will provide us with an unparalleled opportunity to help campuses all across the nation do what they do best – educate today’s students.”

IRC Phase III Begins at the OSFM

The specific scope of the Task Force is to develop a communication strategy to educate all stakeholders of the recommendations of the Phase I and II Task Forces relevant to the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems. The Phase III Task Force will develop and provide technical training and education in response to the ICC-IRC approval of RB64-07/08 to require residential fire sprinklers in all one and two family dwellings and townhouses during the International Code Council Hearings in Minneapolis, MN on September 21, 2008. The State of California started a comparison review process under the direction of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to compare the current State of Housing Code/Laws (Title 25, CCR) as well as the 2007 California Building Code (Title 24, Part 2) and those of the ICC-International Residential Code (2009 Edition). Minutes of the meetings can be reviewed on the Cal Fire Website.



Jorgensen Company Joins NFSA Complementary Membership Program!

NFSA recently welcomed Jorgensen Company headquartered in Fresno, California to the Complementary Provisional Membership Program. Jorgensen 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.

Joining the NFSA Friend of the Industry program in August was Brad Tham of Invesco Incorporated located in San Francisco, California. Invesco Inc. is one of the largest independent global investment managers. Invesco is dedicated to helping people worldwide build their financial security. Invesco delivers outstanding products and services through a comprehensive array of enduring investment solutions for retail, institutional and private wealth management clients around the world.

NFSA also welcomes Karen Parroff from the Berkley Fire Department, and John Thomas of the City of Murrieta Fire Department and Peter Salgado from Monterey Park FD into the NFSA Subscriber Membership Program. In addition, from the California Office of the State Fire Marshal, NFSA welcomes William H. Robertson to the NFSA Subscriber Membership Program!

California FPO’s Hold August Meetings

The Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, August 12th at the Pechanga Resort located in Temecula, California. The meeting was hosted by the Riverside County Fire Prevention Officers Association and the Riverside County Fire Department.

The Northern California Fire Prevention Officers met in the Beautiful Napa Valley on Friday, August 28, 2009. After a morning of OSFM and regional reports, members in attendance were treated to an afternoon presentation from the NFPA entitled, "Public Education for this Economy--NFPA Resources for You." The very popular Napa meeting location also featured an extensive raffle with a large collection of wines throughout the Napa Valley and a lunch featuring local cuisine.

Maui Seminar is a Huge Success!

The recent 3-day seminar held in Hawaii on the island of Maui was a great 3-days and a huge success for all who participated on August 12-14. The seminar hosted by Battalion Chief Val Martin and the Maui Fire Prevention Bureau, averaged over 20 students per class with students from throughout the islands of Hawaii who consisted of private contractors, fire service personnel and maintenance representatives of the hotel industry. Classes consisted of the 2-day NFPA 13 Introduction to Plan Review class and the 1-day Inspection Testing and Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems class. The classes were taught by NFSA Director of Training Robert Trieber who was assisted by West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair.

NFSA will be in the "Award Winning City of Brea!" September 22-24 and the historic city of Woodland during October 20-22 for the final two 3-day seminars this fall. For more class information on the classes listed below and to sign up, 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!**

Brea, California

NFPA 13, 13R, 13D Update 2007	Date:	09/22/09
Hydraulics for Fire Protection	Date:	09/23/09
½ day Underground Piping for Fire Protection Systems	Date:	09/24/09
½ day Basic Seismic Protection for Sprinkler Systems	Date:	09/24/09

Woodland, California

½ -Day Underground Piping for Fire Protection	Date:	10/20/09
½-Day Commissioning, Acceptance, Testing of Sprinkler Systems	Date:	10/20/09
Sprinkler Protection for General Storage	Date:	10/21/09
Sprinkler Protection for Special Storage	Date:	10/22/09

ICC to Market Popular Titles from McGraw-Hill



eCodes.Biz, the International Code Council's comprehensive online information source for building and construction codes, has expanded its resource library with a range of online books published by McGraw-Hill Professional. The redesigned, easier to navigate eCodes.biz site now offers more than 40 popular McGraw-Hill titles that discuss a range of topics from green to building information modeling, engineering, architecture, remodeling, codes and inspection, wood structures, electrical, seismic, plumbing and dictionaries. The books are available for purchase as pdf downloads to allow code officials, architects, engineers, contractors and other construction industry professionals to digitally "carry" publications with them to the jobsite.

Among the many benefits offered, eCodes.biz downloads allow users to view, search, copy, paste, and print book sections, and create customized, on-line libraries. For a list of titles and descriptions, go to www.eCodes.biz/list.

NFSA on Twitter, Facebook and Myspace!

Monday, August 17, 2009, Patterson, NY-- In an effort to join the social networking revolution and spread the word about the life and property saving attributes of fire sprinkler systems, NFSA now has pages on Twitter, Facebook and Myspace. Join our network and check our pages frequently to gain access to the most up-to-date information on all your association is doing for you and what's going on in the fire sprinkler world.

[Facebook.com](#): send a friend request to Nat Firesprinkler,

[Twitter.com](#): follow us at NFSAorg,

[Myspace.com](#): send friend request to NFSA OR Click a link to take you directly to each page:



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 NFPA 25 Work Group Meeting on September 17, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.**
 - California State Fire Marshals Office in Sacramento, Ca.
- **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 September 24, 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, September 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

- Acting California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover will be the featured guest and will be giving an update on activities at the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- The next meeting will be held on November 12th 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, September 9, 2009 at 10 a.m.

- The meeting is at the Irvine Orange County Fire Authority Headquarters.
- To RSVP, see the website at www.firepreventionofficers.org

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, September 25, in Ca.

- The meeting is in Petaluma, Ca at Lucchesi Park in the Community Center the featured presentation is **"Everything You Wanted to Know about Tents and Membrane Structures."**
- 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, September 8, 2009, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's Restaurant 11:30 a. m.

- **Featured Presentation: "WHEN THE FIRE IS OUT – WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?"**
Presented by Michelle DeWitt, DeWitt Publishing & Consulting and Sean Scott, Champion Construction & Consulting.

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.