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Qualifying Rounds for NFSA's 2011 Top Tech Competition Starts Soon!

Time to get psyched! NFSA's Top Tech Competition will take place at the NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition in [Baltimore, Maryland April 7-8, 2011](#) and the search is on again to find the best [Fire Sprinkler Technicians in North America](#). Sure, great prizes are at stake, including cash. But most importantly, the winners come away with two years worth of bragging rights – and you just can't put a price on that, says Team Northeast who look to defend their title. Teams from each Region in the United States and several teams from Canada will compete for the title of "Top Techs". Reigning champs Team Northeast have thrown down the gauntlet and it is up to our region's best to meet the challenge head on. Do you have what it takes to compete on a national stage? Come find out. Teams will be forming shortly and we need the best this region has to offer. If you got game, it's time to step up and prove it!

In order to qualify for the Regional Team, you'll have to take an exam and have a score that is one of the three best in the Region (with only one person per company per Region allowed to make the team). The exam will take about two hours to complete and consists of three parts:

- 1) [Multiple choice questions](#) from NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D and NFPA 20 (2010 editions of these standards will be used, but the questions will be basic rules that have not changed in years).
- 2) Hydraulic calculation that you'll have to do by hand.
- 3) A small layout that you'll have to put into a building plan.

You'll be allowed to have a copy of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D and NFPA 20 with you when you take the exam as well as a regular (non-programmable) pocket calculator. If you have any question about the calculator, make sure that it is one of the calculators permitted by NICET for their exams (information available on the NICET website at www.nicet.org).

If you think you've got what it takes to represent our Region, please contact the Top Tech Coordinator, Mike Repko, at toptech@nfsa.org or call him at (845) 878-4200 x120. Once you let Mike know that you're interested, you'll be informed of test dates and locations in your Region.
Good luck!



Office of the State Fire Marshal IRC Preparation Continues in Northern and Southern California!!!

(Steve Hart discussing the latest Technology) The CRC Awareness Level Preparedness classes continued throughout August with classes conducted up and down the State of California in Petaluma, Hayward, Sunnyvale, Monterey, Glendale and Anaheim. To date, over 550 students have attended the 4-hour class sessions with an average attendance per class of 49-students and some classes as large as 72-students. See the schedule below for classes held in September and October.

The Awareness Level Course on Residential Fire Sprinklers and the 2010 California Residential Code are designed to assist and train stakeholders in California that requirements for residential fire sprinklers are designed to be a “life safety system” to prevent flash over and allow for the evacuation or rescue from fire. The classes which include recommendations from the Phase I, II, and III IRC Task Forces are in preparation for the statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement for new construction, scheduled for January 1, 2011 in the 2010 California Residential Code. The Office of the State Fire Marshal in conjunction with Cal Chiefs Fire Prevention Officers Section, Building Officials and other stakeholders has tentatively scheduled dates and general locations for the Awareness Level Course. Additional information will follow over the coming weeks and months.



(Regional Manager Bruce Lecair talking about IRC stuff!)

2010 TRAINING CALENDAR

September 1, 2010 - Butte County/Chico	September 29, 2010 - Modesto, Ca
September 2, 2010 - El Dorado County	October 6, 2010 - Palm Springs
September 15, 2010 - San Luis Obispo County	October 19-21, 2010 - North Area*
September 16, 2010 - Santa Barbara, Ca.	November 2-4, 2010 - Central/South Area*
September 28, 2010 - Fresno, Ca.	*Tentative date

Editor Note: the classes will be instructed by West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair, Steve Hart NAS IP, Kevin Reinsertion, OSFM Deputy Fire Marshal Codes and Regulations

California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Interim Safety Alert Regarding Antifreeze in Residential Sprinklers



Issued: July 6, 2010

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) continues to strongly emphasize the importance of residential fire sprinklers as one of the most effective ways to prevent fire injury and death in the home and other residential occupancies. In California, thousands of residential fire sprinklers have successfully prevented fire injury and deaths and have protected communities from large fire losses. With the recent release of a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Safety Alert, this Information Bulletin is to assist in clarifying and assure our Stakeholder’s and the public’s perspective has a balanced understanding of the issue. As is always the case, fire and life safety is the uppermost priority in the fire service.

The areas in California typically impacted by freezing temperatures which accounts for less than five percent (5%) of the total residential fire sprinkler installations; the NFPA safety alert specifically addresses the ratio/proportion of antifreeze additives to residential fire sprinkler systems. This is the result of the outcome of an initial set of fire tests conducted as part of a research study with the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation.

Based on information from these efforts, NFPA issued this interim safety alert and provided suggested recommendations until results of further testing on antifreeze is available. They have initiated additional fire tests to gain further information on antifreeze solution performance under various fire scenarios. The testing, conducted in conjunction with the NFPA Research Foundation, indicated that 70/30% glycerin and 60/40% propylene glycol antifreeze solutions may provide an unacceptable risk of harm to occupants in **certain** types of fire scenarios, in particular kitchen grease fires. The complete safety alert and research product may be viewed at the NFPA website: <http://www.nfpa.org/antifreeze>

For existing systems, the NFPA recommends contacting a sprinkler contractor to ascertain if there is antifreeze in the system; and suggested interim measures. The NFPA anticipates further guidance before the winter freezing months. Sprinkler piping can be protected by other means such as insulation, pipe wrap, and setting the temperatures in the house to prevent freezing. In new residential construction, there are options for fire sprinkler installations that do not require antifreeze; alternative sprinkler layout and designs and insulation over piping can provide the necessary protection from freezing conditions; and increased levels of insulation in exposed attic spaces may also serve to assist in compliance with California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Part 6, Title 24). For more information concerning new construction techniques and the reports from the residential fire sprinkler task force groups, please visit the OSFM website at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>.

The sustained efforts of all stakeholders must focus on sharing information; working together; and continue to support the message that fire sprinklers are one of the most effective ways to save lives and property from fire; and to that end, assure the successful implementation of the 2010 California Residential Code and the residential fire sprinkler provisions.

For more information please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

Hawaii Chapter SFPE Begins 2010 Fire Protection Engineers Exam Study Sessions

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) Hawaii is sponsoring a Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) exam study group that started on August 12th. Classes are free of charge and those desiring to participate can contact Samuel S. Dannaway, P.E, President and Chief Fire Protection Engineer at (808) 526-9019 or email at ssda@ssdafire.com to register for the remaining study sessions. Priority for attendees will be given to those who are planning on taking the exam this year.

Students taking study group classes will be assigned two sessions to provide instruction and problem solving for fellow participants. A total of 8-hours of preparation are required for each 1-hour presentation followed by the 1-hour problem solving session. Participants are required to complete problems in the reference book (**Reference Manual/Answer Manual for the P.E. Exam, 3rd Edition**) applicable to the subject matter before each session. There are 12-sessions planned and the tentative session schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, August 12, 2010, Division 1 Fire Protection Analysis-Types
- Tuesday, August 17, 2010, Division 2 Fire Protection Analysis – Information Sources
- Thursday, August 19, 2010, Division 3 Fire Protection Management
- Wednesday, September 08, 2010, Division 4 Fire Science & Human Behavior – Fire Dynamics
- Tuesday, September 14, 2010, Division 5 Fire Science & Human Behavior – Human Response
- Wednesday, September 15, 2010, Division 6 Fire Protection Systems - Water-Based Suppression
- Wednesday, September 22, 2010, Division 7 Special Hazard Systems
- Tuesday, September 28, 2010, Division 8 Fire Detection and Alarm Systems
- Wednesday, September 29, 2010 Division 9 Fire Protection Systems – Smoke Management

- Tuesday, October 12, 2010, Division 10 Fire Protection Systems – Explosion Protection and Prevention
- Wednesday, October 13, 2010, Division 11 Passive Building Systems – Building Construction
- Wednesday, October 20, 2010, Division 12 Passive Building Systems - Means of Egress

Roseville Yamaha Saved by Fire Sprinklers

The Roseville Fire Department responded to a structure fire on August 8th at Roseville Yamaha located at 2014 Taylor Road. The call came in at 5:21 p.m. and a full fire department assignment was dispatched, including three engines, two trucks and two battalion chiefs. Witnesses at the business reported visible smoke and flames in the building. They also reported that the building's fire sprinkler system had activated.

When firefighters arrived they found smoke pouring from a service bay in the rear of the building. The fire had been extinguished by fire sprinklers. Fire and smoke damage was minimal and contained to the room of origin. The building did sustain moderate water damage due to the activation of the fire sprinkler system. There were approximately 30 employees and customers in the building when the fire erupted. Two employees were in the room where the fire started. "We were lucky today", stated Battalion Chief Kathy Finney. "In light of the fact that this fire involved flammable liquids there was a lot of potential that this could have been devastating. The fire sprinklers did their job."

No injuries were reported. Interruption to the business was minimal. The fire started in a service area where Yamaha employees were working on a Wave Runner. The exact cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

Fire Sprinklers Prevent Major Lakeside Blaze

Lakeside, CA - While returning to quarters from another call, the Engine 1 crew from Lakeside's Riverside Fire Station #1. Crews noticed a ringing fire alarm on a multi-occupancy commercial building in the 11900 block of Woodside Avenue on Monday evening on August 2, 2010. Engine 1 Captain Wes Barnes requested a first-alarm commercial structure assignment when his investigation revealed water flow from the building's sprinkler system and moderate smoke showing from the structure.

Engine 1's crew forced entry to one of the roll-up doors and located the source of the smoke utilizing their thermal imaging camera. The small fire had been extinguished when a single-head was activated from the wet-pipe sprinkler system installed in the building. Crews removed the smoldering material from the building and then focused on removing the remaining smoke and water.

This incident is a pointed reminder of the ability of sprinkler systems to extinguish fires in many types of occupancies. Despite a popular misconception, this fire was extinguished by a single sprinkler head resulting in minimal water damage. The cause of this fire is under investigation.

Story by: Captain Scott Culkin, Lakeside Fire District

Information submitted by: Captain Wes Barnes, Lakeside Fire District

NFSA L.A. Chapter Meet in August

The Los Angeles NFSA Chapter met on Thursday, August 19, 2010, 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey, California and received a report and update from NFSA's Kevin Kelly P.E. on education and engineering as well as water discharge issues nationwide. The Chapter also discussed local issues including a proposal to conduct a Strategic Planning Session which was decided to be tabled until 2011 when the Chapter moves past some other objectives and has an opportunity to review other NFSA Chapter Strategic Plans and hold further discussions on developing strategies for industry improvement and a mutual direction that will assist NFSA in improving and promoting the fire sprinkler industry in Southern California.

In addition, Regional Manager Bruce Lecair provided a lengthy NFSA update and a report on the current OSFM CRC Preparation Classes, Office of the State Fire Marshal committee work which included a NFPA 25 update and the current progress of the Water Discharge for Fire Protection Systems Work Group. The next L.A. NFSA Chapter meeting will be on October 21, 2010.

NFSA Membership

Qualco Fire Protection recently celebrated their National Fire Sprinkler Association 10-year milestone with a lunch with Regional Manager Bruce Lecair. Qualco Fire Protection is located in Santa Fe Springs in Southern California and was founded as a complete service fire protection company, offering 24 hour emergency service, as well as new construction, tenant improvement, and inspection services. The focus of the company is to provide personal attention to a select group of clients; primarily building owners and managers, as well as value conscious general contractors that maintain a symbiotic relationship with all parties involved in the construction process.



(Almost pictured is Qualco President Don Becka and Operation Manager Mike Ayers with West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair)

In addition, NFSA welcomed a new professional member from the state of Hawaii. NFSA welcomes Douglas L. Gomes of Engineering Dynamics! Engineering Dynamics Corp is a private engineering established in 1995 and is located in Wailuku, Hawaii!

So Cal FPO's Meet in Rancho Cucamonga!

Members of the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers met on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 in Rancho Cucamonga and received State Fire Marshal updates and a presentation entitled "Cerro Grand Fire, A 10-year Retrospective." The class was instructed by Rolland Crawford and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Committee and included photos and personal observations and perspectives from the time of the fire to present with dramatic contrasts of how the community and the surrounding wildland has recovered since the devastation occurred from the fire.

In addition to the featured presentation, the meeting featured an in depth report from members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal updates on FPO committees, OSFM work groups and committees.

San Diego Fire Protection Meet in La Mesa, California

The San Diego Fire Protection Association met on July 10th in La Mesa, California and discussed the recent bulletin from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on antifreeze systems in residential fire sprinkler systems. The discussion led by Terri Leyton-Simmons of Production Design and Consulting was conducted to discuss the bulletin and procedures for managing antifreeze in fire protection systems.

NFSA Maui Classes a HUGE Success for the West Region!



The Second Annual NFSA August 2010 3-day Training Seminar held at the Maui Palms Hotel in Wailluku, Hawaii in the county of Maui was attended by an average of over 30-students per class with the highest student total of over 40-students. The classes included a wide variety of topics including CPVC piping requirements, underground piping in fire protection systems, standpipe systems for fire protection, commissioning and acceptance of fire protection systems and the

Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems class. The classes taught by NFSA

Director of Training Bob Trieber (left) provided students with a rare opportunity to develop a broader base knowledge of fire sprinklers, while reconnecting with friends from across the State of Hawaii. Students came from the big island of Hawaii, Kuai, and Maui to attend the seminar, which included a diverse group of student from the building, fire, contractors and students from the hotel industry.

The last two seminars scheduled for this year in California are scheduled for Brea, California in September and Woodland, California in October. For more information on classes or to sign up, please contact West Regional Manager Bruce Lecair or the NFSA website at www.nfsa.org.

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

Regulations, Legislation, Codes, etc.

Bill AB 2419, (Cook): Contractors.

House Location: Assembly Appropriations

Last Amended Date: 05/06/2010

Type of Bill: Active

Last Historical Action Date: 08/12/2010

Last Historical Action: Senate amendments concurred in. To enrollment. (Ayes 78. Noes 0.)

Committee Location: Senate Appropriations

Committee Action Date: 6/28/2010

Committee Action: Senate Rule 28.8.

Summary: 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.

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.

AB 660 (Torrico) Sprinkler fitters: Licensing

Last Historical Action: BILL HISTORY 2010

Aug. 12 In committee: Held under submission.

Aug. 2 In committee: Set, second hearing. Referred to APPR suspense file.

June 30 From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Committee on Appropriations

Committee Action: Held under submission

UPCOMING WESTERN REGION MEETINGS

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cal Fire Meetings

- **Water Discharge Task Force Meeting, September 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** at the California State Office of the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento, Ca.
- **NFSA 25 Work Group, August 31, 2010, 09:30 a.m.**
- **Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Meeting, October 21, 2010** at 10:00 a.m. at the California State Office of the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento, Ca.

NFSA S.F. California Chapter, Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California

- The guest speaker will be Paul Johnson with a program and update on the NFSA Risk Management Program.

NFSA L.A. California Chapter Meeting, Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 5 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center at 10627 Old River School Road in Downey, CA. 90241.

- The meeting will follow the NFSA L.A. Chapter Strategic Planning Session conducted earlier on the same day.

NFSA S.F. California Chapter Strategic Planning Session, Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 0800-4:00 p.m. at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California

- The meeting is for the purpose of conducting a strategic planning session for the contractor members of the NFSA S.F. California Chapter

San Diego Fire Protection Association, September 7, 2010, La Mesa, Ca. at Marie Callendar's 11:30 a.m.

Southern California FPO Mtg. Wednesday, October September 8, 2010 at 10 a.m. in Irvine, California at the Orange County Fire Authority.

Northern California FPO Mtg. Friday, September 24, 2010 at 9:30 in Petaluma, California at the Luccesi Community Center, 320 North McDowell Blvd.

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 Hawaii National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament. The event will feature local celebrities and members of the fire service and fire protection industry.