

Rules for NFSA “Top Tech” Competition

1. Only employees of NFSA member companies will be allowed to participate in the competition. Individuals interested in the competition shall contact NFSA’s Top Tech Competition Coordinator at 845.878.4200 ext. 120 or email TopTech@nfsa.org. The deadline for indicating interest in participating is December 31, 2008. Individuals should provide their name, their member company affiliation, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Individuals will be notified no later than January 15, 2009 of testing dates and locations.

2. The contest will start with a two-hour open-book examination based on the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 offered at various locations. The examination will include a section of multiple-choice questions, a section requiring a hydraulic calculation by hand, and a section relating to sprinkler layout within a building plan. The examinations will be completed by January 31, 2009 and subsequently graded. The only materials that anyone will need to take the exam are a copy of the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 and a calculator with a y^x (raise to a power) function. Computers will not be permitted in the test area. After taking the test, individuals are expected not to reveal the contents of the test to anyone that might be taking the test in the future.

3. By the end of February, the three individuals scoring highest from each region will be offered spots on the team from that region. Unlike 2007, no alternates will be assigned for the 2009 competition. Only one individual from a company can be part of the team for any geographic region. In the event a successful contestant declines the position, the offer will be given to the next place finisher who is eligible. Individual scores will not be given back to the participants.

4. Team members from each region will be given a free two-day registration to the NFSA Annual Seminar in Orlando on April 30 and May 1, 2009. Each individual participating in the Orlando finals will also be given a travel and subsistence subsidy of \$500 following participation. There is no requirement that the individuals stay at the seminar hotel.

5. At the NFSA Annual Seminar, the teams will compete in a panel format, similar to a television game show. The first round will take place during the Annual Seminar opening session with subsequent and final rounds to be held in the exhibition hall on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1.

6. Teams will be formed from competitors representing the following NFSA regions and Canada: New England, New York, Mid Atlantic, Southeast, Florida & Puerto Rico, Great Lakes, Illinois, North Central, Central, South Central, Great Plains, Southwest, West, Pacific Northwest and Eastern and Western Canada. Regional alignments can be found at NFSA’s website at www.nfsa.org.