

## **NFSA Co-Sponsoring Sprinkler System Corrosion Symposium**

The NFSA, in cooperation with the NFPA Committee on Protection of Cultural Resources and the New England Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), will be sponsoring a special symposium on the subject of corrosion of fire sprinkler systems. The symposium will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the NFPA committee on the afternoon of September 16, 2008 in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and will bring together expertise from a number of different perspectives on problems, prevention techniques and mitigation measures. The following experts have confirmed their participation:

Doug Chartier, Potter Electric Signal Co., St. Louis, MO

Mark Hopkins, P.E., Hughes Associates, Inc., Baltimore, MD

Michael D. Kirn, P.E., Code Consultants, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Frank Monikowski, SimplexGrinnell, Pittsburgh, PA

Ara D. Nalbandian, P.E., Thielsch Engineering, Inc. Cranston, RI

Each of the above individuals has been invited to make an overview presentation regarding some aspect of the topic, after which they will participate as a panel to help the Committee evaluate a number of current questions relative to system corrosion, including the following:

1. Has the recent focus on microbiologically-influenced corrosion (MIC) been warranted or are other types of corrosion of equal concern?
2. To what extent does interior galvanization of steel piping provide a solution to corrosion problems?
3. Because NFPA 13 only recently began to require that preaction sprinkler systems be installed with a pitch to drain, can we expect a large number of premature failures of these types of systems? If so, should they be subject to special inspection or testing measures?
4. Is data available that would establish whether certain installation techniques, such as the use of roll-groove piping in preaction and dry systems, promote premature corrosion?
5. What measures can be undertaken by libraries, museums and other cultural facilities to prevent problems with sprinkler system corrosion?
6. For facilities known to already have system corrosion problems, what remedies are available and what are their relative costs and degrees of effectiveness?

The symposium will be moderated by Russ Fleming, NFSA Executive Vice President and a member of the Cultural Resources Committee. It will be held 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Nantucket Inn and Conference Center, One Miller's Way, Nantucket, MA 02554.

Attendance at the symposium is free of charge but space is limited, so reservations should be made in advance by contacting Diana Romano at [romano@nfsa.org](mailto:romano@nfsa.org) or by calling 845-878-4200 ext 132.