

NFPA 13 Advisory Service FAQs. – Jim Lake, NFPA

Each year NFPA staff addresses thousands of advisory service requests on NFPA 13, 13D and 13R by phone and e-mail. These requests are processed through staff opinions, formal interpretations, tentative interim amendments, errata, research projects or proposals and comments to the sprinkler committees. This presentation provides the answers to the most frequently asked questions for the 2007 edition of the sprinkler standards.

AHJ Interpretation Disputes: 2006 Top EOD Questions – Ken Isman, P.E., NFSA

The NFSA's Engineer of the Day (EOD) service responds to more than 2000 requests for assistance each year. Many of these requests come out of a disagreement between the sprinkler contractor and the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) where the NFSA can act as a neutral third party to help settle the dispute. Often, as members of the NFPA committees that write the codes and standards, we have access to committee statements and substantiation that has been balloted by the committee that helps to establish the intent of the standard. This seminar will focus on some of the more interesting interpretations that were issued in 2006.

CPVC Compatibility Issues – Matt Kuwatch, Noveon

This seminar will include discussion on ancillary product chemical compatibility with CPVC fire sprinkler pipe and fittings. Ancillary products will include but not be limited to thread sealants, fire stopping materials, lubricants, freeze protection materials, and system accessories.

Best Practices in System Design – Jack Thacker, FPE

Best practices in fire sprinkler system design include a broad range of subjects. This workshop will review how available water supplies should be evaluated conservatively, how local requirements of authorities having jurisdiction should be considered, and how outside sources should be consulted for information on topics ranging from soil conditions to structural limitations to owner's intent. Special care should be taken with classification of hazard and other factors to help mitigate a fire sprinkler contractor's liability in the layout and installation of a sprinkler system.

Cutting Edge Strategies on Asset Protection, Tax Reduction and Estate Planning – G. Kent Mangelson, National Foundation for Tax Planning and Asset Protection

Our Nation is facing a new epidemic that is devastating the financial lives of many honest business owners from all walks of life. The Lawsuit epidemic has been instrumental in ruining the finances of many business professionals throughout the U.S. Additionally, taxes of all sorts have made it difficult for many to enjoy all the fruits of their hard earned labor. Through this workshop, each attendee will learn how to use the right legal entities to protect 100% of their assets from any lawsuit. Additionally, they will learn how to reduce their income taxes up to 34% while eliminating both capital gains and estate taxes.

Getting Ready for Best Practices – Brian Cullen and John Karnatz

Owning a tool like Best Practices is one thing; using it effectively is another. This session is designed for professionals, supervisors and managers who are responsible for improving operations in their organizations. You are encouraged to become contributors in addition to beneficiaries of the best in class by contributing to Best Practices. In this highly interactive session, based on one of last year's most popular sessions, you'll meet with other professionals to discuss and determine great ideas for improving specific areas of your operations. Staff from the Development Team of the Fire Sprinkler Institute will guide you through a lively and interactive process designed to identify and document industry best practices. You'll also learn how you can create effective dialogs with your employees to identify great improvement ideas. In addition to a preview of the Fire Sprinkler Industry Best Practices web site, Staff from the Development Team of the Fire Sprinkler Institute will help you anticipate how you can implement Best Practices and apply them in your business. You'll get tips for helping you cope with resistance to change - and specific ideas for successfully using and implementing Best Practices in your organization.

Recruiting and Retaining the Right Employee – Panel of Wayne Gey, Jeff Bennett, Rich Ackley and Gene Postma, moderated by Buddy Dewar

Gaining market advantage cannot be accomplished without a viable and effective workforce. As our industry grows the labor force must also grow. But at what rate and how can we effectively train and motivate our employees to maximize their productivity. This panel discussion will involve the sharing of recruitment and retention practices that have worked to create a viable and effective workforce. Recruitment policies and targeting recruitment resources will be discussed as will employee incentives so necessary for long term retention of the exemplary employee.

Unique Fire Sprinkler Applications on the Las Vegas Strip – Steve DiGiovanni, FPE

This workshop reviews the fire sprinkler systems that have been used in various projects located on the Las Vegas Strip. Many buildings along the Strip have unique architectural features in order to enhance the theme and feeling portrayed by project developers. These features, which include moving obstructions, innovative materials, and large ceilings, require special consideration in order to ensure suitable fire protection. The class will present several design options that are employed to meet the challenges presented by these special features.

GPS Technology for Efficient Fleet Management – Steve Tenzer, General Electric Fleet Services

Best in Class Services and Delivery organizations are deploying technology solutions to drive productivity of their mobile workers, reduce operating cost, better serve their customers, and reduce their environmental impact. This session will provide an industry overview, discuss available technologies, and provide case studies on how businesses are increasing the productivity of their mobile workers by 20+ %, Reduce at fault accidents by 20+%, reduce fuel consumption, miles driven, unauthorized use, idling, and other compliance and consumption metrics that drive operating costs.

Estimating, Design and Listing Software – Cecil Bilbo, NFSA

Find where the top three software developers are at and where they are going with industry specific software. See examples of all of the software packages in action. Walk through the flow of one project and ask questions about the benefits of each package. Find out which software other companies are using and why. Understand how any of the software packages can improve the flow of information in your office.

Creating a Workforce of Design Technicians - Panel of Terry Victor, John Hulett, Mike Friedman, Mark Karr, moderated by Cecil Bilbo

This workshop will be an open forum and panel discussion on the state of the industry regarding fire sprinkler design technicians. Topics will include the benefits and disadvantages of both outsourcing sprinkler system design and developing and training an in-house team of design technicians. Find out what technician training programs are available and get an answer to the question; “Should I hire someone with AutoCAD experience or with fire sprinkler industry experience?”