

## NFSA Cancels 2010 Hawaii Annual Seminar, Cites Responsibility to Industry

*Tuesday, June 16, 2009, Patterson New York* – Today, the Board of Directors of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) made the very difficult – but in light of the current economic climate – the prudent decision to cancel next year’s Annual Seminar scheduled for May 12 – 15 at the Fairmont Orchid on Hawaii’s Big Island. After reviewing results of a survey conducted by NFSA designed to gauge the membership’s interest in attending next year’s conference in Hawaii, it became obvious that the most responsible course of action was to cancel the event.

“The Association takes its contractual obligations very seriously,” said NFSA President John Viniello commenting on the Board’s action. “That’s what made the decision to cancel next year’s seminar in Hawaii such a difficult one. After taking every possible detail into consideration, the Board felt that it would be in the best interest of the membership to cancel the event.” While this is an extraordinary measure driven by the severity of the times, NFSA’s move to cancel the Annual Seminar is not without precedent. During a similar period of economic crisis in the early 1990’s, NFSA cancelled its Annual Seminar in Cancun, Mexico, opting for a more downsized, strictly business oriented event held in New Orleans in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association’s annual meeting.

As a result of cancelling the conference in Hawaii, NFSA’s convention manager has been directed to investigate possible alternative cities and hotels in the Midwest including the Chicago Fairmont, site of NFSA’s very well-attended 1999 Annual Seminar & Exhibition. While not definite, it is possible that NFSA will host a downsized, two-day annual event in a Midwestern city within easy, cost-effective reach of the entire membership. As plans develop, additional information will be posted at the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) as it becomes available.