

# FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2010

## **The Proof Is In The Pudding**

By Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, P.E., CBO, EFO, CFO, MIFireE

Just about a month ago in December, the United States Fire Administration (USFA)/National Fire Data Center (NFDC) released their “Fire in the United States, 2003-2007” report, dated October 2009. This document is the Fifteenth major edition of “Fire in The United States” published by the USFA and covers the 5-year period of 2003 to 2007 with a primary focus on 2007. The first edition was published in 1978 and included fire data from 1975 and 1976.  
[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_325.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_325.pdf)

The good news is that the national fire loss statistics continued on a downward trend. The report indicates that annual deaths from fire in the United States were estimated at 12,000 in 1974, the year in which the USFA was established; and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated fire deaths in 2007 was 3,430.

Yet despite all the improvements during the past three decades, the report indicates that *“nevertheless, the United States has a fire death rate 2 to 2 1/2 times that of several European Nations and at least 20 percent higher than many other Nations. Of the 25 industrial Nations examined by the World Fire Statistics Centre, the United States ranked as having the fifth highest fire death rate. This general status has been unchanged for the past 27 years.”*

No, that isn't the bad news either. Actually it is rather important for us to be aware of such global statistics and comparisons, since they help us better realize where we truly stand, recognize the shortcomings, and point out to the areas that we need to focus to do even a better job in the future.

We have come a long way indeed, but the journey is not over, and we still have a long way to go. In my mind, the issue isn't whether the glass is half full or half empty. It is simply about what we in the fire service can do better, where we can improve to provide a higher level of fire protection for our local communities, and how we can best address the fire problem in our country.

On page one of the report, the depth of our national fire problem is clearly depicted in the very first paragraph of the executive summary section, which states:

*“Fire departments in the United States responded to nearly 1.6 million fire calls in 2007. The United States fire problem, on a per capita basis, is one of the worst in the industrial world. Thousands of Americans die each year, tens of thousands of people are injured, and property losses reach billions of dollars. There are huge indirect costs of fire as well—temporary lodging, lost business, medical expenses, psychological damage, and others. These indirect costs may be as much as 8 to 10 times higher than the direct costs of fire. To put this in context, the annual losses from floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters combined in the United States average just a fraction of those from fires. The public, the media, and local governments generally are unaware of the magnitude and seriousness of the fire problem to individuals and their families, to communities, and to the Nation.”*

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## Fire Marshals Quarterly

The mission of the International Fire Marshals Association is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions.

IFMA was incorporated in 1906.

In 1927, IFMA became a membership section of NFPA.

Published quarterly as a service to the membership of the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA).

The articles published in the Quarterly are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of IFMA or NFPA.

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## President's Corner



*Jimmy Hill*



## Executive Secretary's Report



*Steven F. Sawyer*

For those of you who don't know, the NFPA Division Manager of Public Fire Protection Curt Varone is leaving at the end of January. We thank him for his support of IFMA and its activities and wish him well in future endeavors.

Planning for the IFMA activities at the NFPA Conference & Expo is coming along. The complete schedule of activities will be in the Summer 2010 edition of the *Quarterly*. Please make plans to join us in Las Vegas.

Lately, many organizations have been actively involved in alternate energy fire safety and emergency responder safety. Among them are NFPA, which is working on electric vehicles and photovoltaic panels, and NASFM, which received a grant to address fire safety and green buildings. Stay tuned for updates.

The Regional Fire Code Development Committee continues to do good work in developing proposals and comments on NFPA codes and standards. If you get a chance, please attend a meeting near you. If you cannot attend and have a change you would like made, please send it to one of the committee members.

Hopefully, things will warm up soon.

## IFMA 2010 Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has submitted the following 2010 Nominating Committee Report.

President: Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: R.T. “Whitey” Leicht – Delaware State Fire Marshal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Steve Peavey – Altamonte Springs, FL.

Secretary: Dave Lind – North Shore, WI.

Directors

Raymond Walker – Vernon, CT, Term expires 2012.

Bill Galloway – South Carolina State Fire Marshal’s Office, Term expires 2012.

David Kerr – Plano, TX, Term expires 2011.

Candidates other than those named by the Nominating Committee may be nominated by petition of 10 members of the Association provided such petitions are received by the Executive Secretary no less than five and no more than 45 days after publication of the Nominating Committee's nominations. All nominees for office must be members of the Association.

The business meeting will take place in Las Vegas, NV on June 7-9, 2010. Watch the Summer Edition of the Quarterly for the date and location.

## IFMA Proposed By-law Change

In accordance with the by-laws, the Executive Board would like to propose the following by-law change. The proposed change will be voted on at the business meeting which will take place in Las Vegas, NV on June 7-9, 2010. Watch the Summer Edition of the Quarterly for the date and location.

### ARTICLE 7. CHAPTERS

7.1 State(s), Provincial, Territories, Tribal, Countries Fire prevention organizations/associations desiring to become a Chapter of the International Fire Marshals Association for purposes of advancement of the objectives of the Association may apply to the Executive Board on forms provided by the Association by submitting a Chapter Application.

7.2 The Executive Board shall review and evaluate the submitted an application for chapter status at its next meeting.

7.3 Chapter shall not overlap geographic areas.

7.4 If approved by the board, the chapter shall be issued their charter at the business session of a regular or special meeting of the International Fire Marshals Association.

7.5 Chapter status can be revoked or suspended for just cause at the sole discretion of the Executive Board and/or the NFPA Board.

7.6 The Constitution and By-Laws and any amendment thereto of any Chapter shall be approved by the Executive Board of the Association and the Board of Directors of the National Fire Protection Association.

7.2 Chapter Membership:

Qualifications for membership in any Chapter shall be as follows:

(a) Chapter Member: Any Member or Associate Member of the International Fire Marshals Association.

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- (b) Chapter Associate Member: Any person meeting the membership qualifications of the International Fire Marshals Association, but not being a Member; or any person meeting the qualifications of the Chapter.

7.73 Chapter Officers:

- (a) Officers shall be Members or Associate, or Affiliate Members of the International Fire Marshals Association.
- (b) Each chapter shall have at least the following officers. The Secretary and Treasurer may be one individual.
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer

7.84 Chapter Representative:

- (a) Each chapter shall select from their membership a chapter representative who will represent the chapter at regular International Fire Marshals Association meetings. The chapter representative shall be a Member or Associate Member of the International Fire Marshals Association. When the Chapter representative is unable to attend International Fire Marshal's Association Meetings, the Chapter may designate an alternate to carry out those duties.
- (b) Chapter Representative Duties:
  - (1) The Chapter representative shall be responsible for all required reports of this Article.
  - (2) The chapter representative shall be responsible for an annual review of chapter membership.

7.95 Chapter Meetings: Chapters shall hold meetings at least once each year open to all members for the purposes of election of officers, approval of required reports to the International Fire Marshals Association, and for conducting regular business.

7.106 Chapter Reports: The chapter, upon request from the International Fire Marshals Association's Executive Secretary, shall submit reports addressing the following:

- (a) Chapter activities
- (b) Other information as requested

7.117 Chapter Identification and Letterhead:

- (a) Letterheads of chapter stationery may include the following:
  - (1) Chapter number
  - (2) International Fire Marshals Association
  - (3) International Fire Marshals Association logo
  - (4) Geographical location, or area of interest

7.128 Chapter Review: The International Fire Marshals Association's Executive Board, sitting as the Chapter Review Committee, shall review each chapter's reports and activities at least annually. The Executive Board may suspend or terminate chapter charters for cause or may place any chapter on a probation status. A report on each chapter shall be presented at the International Fire Marshals Association's Annual Meeting.

7.139 Chapter Constitution and By-Laws: The Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter shall include appropriate provisions so as to be consistent with the requirements and procedures set out in this article. The Constitution and By-Laws shall be approved by the Executive Board of the International Fire Marshals Association, and the Board of Directors of the National Fire Protection Association.

The Chapter's Constitution shall include a disclaimer to prevent any financial obligations or financial responsibilities being incurred or assumed by the International Fire Marshals Association or the National Fire Protection Association.

Insofar as matters involving the chapter are concerned, this Article shall prevail over any other provision of the Constitution or By-Law.

## **T'was the night before Christmas**

By Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, P.E., CBO, EFO, CFO, MIFireE

The year is almost over and the new one is right around the corner. I am an optimist and believe that despite the negative economic impacts that all the communities across the land have taken during this devastating recession, and the brown outs, station closures, and layoffs that the fire service has experienced in many jurisdictions; we still must count our blessings and work even harder for a brighter future.

As I mentioned in my previous article "Plenty to Be Thankful For" last month, we made great strides and accomplished a great deal in the fire and life safety code development arena last year.

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/fire-prevention-and-investigation/plenty-be-thankful>

Through the well-coordinated efforts of all of the national fire service organizations, the requirements for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors and the residential fire sprinkler systems in all new dwellings are a step closer to being finally adopted in the 2012 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC). We must participate at the ICC's Final Action Code Hearing in Dallas (May 14-23, 2010) to defend our success and once again vote for these life saving technologies.

One of the most important proposals that will be voted on in Dallas; is the requirement for better protection of the light-weight wood construction that is of enormous concern to the fire service. One of our own most dedicated members, Sean DeCrane, representing the International Association of the Fire Fighters (IAFF) has been championing this cause for many years. And with our support this May, his proposal for better protection of the lightweight construction will finally be adopted into the construction codes. Undoubtedly, many firefighters' lives will be saved in future, thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated brother Sean DeCrane.

Sean believes that continuous and systematic fire service participation in the code development arena would undoubtedly lead to consistent improvements in the construction codes, resulting in better protection of the public and our own firefighters alike.

From that perspective, Sean is leading the national Vision 20/20's Strategy 5 "*Refine and improve the application of codes and standards that enhance public and firefighter safety and preserve community assets*". Please visit the Vision 20/20 website to assist Sean with this effort. <http://www.strategicfire.org/08report.pdf>

My friends, we need to continue and intensify our efforts in future. Our success with the residential fire sprinklers is not the end of the line, but only the start of the journey. Fire service must continue being involved in the national code development arena, and must fight for the adoption of these codes at the local levels throughout the fifty states and the many jurisdictions. Remember that our efforts save lives.

Finally, I like to share this attached poem that a friend of mine sent. Neither him, nor I know who wrote this beautiful poem, but it definitely deserves being shared for all to read.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And all through the house,  
Everyone was sleeping, even the mouse.  
When all of a sudden, there appeared some light smoke,  
Then the smoke alarm sounded and everyone woke

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Off in the distance, a fire began to grow  
When all of a sudden, it started to slow,  
Then what to my wondering eyes did appear?  
A group of firefighters, in full turnout gear!  
And I heard one exclaim to the others with a shout  
"THIS HOME HAS SPRINKLERS, THE FIRE IS OUT!"  
As they drove away, they were all full of cheer,  
Knowing that fire sprinklers work every day of the year!



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Knowing that fire sprinklers work every day of the year!*

## **NFPA announces redesign of Sparky the Fire Dog® Web site**

**Children learn fire safety through new interactive features**

The Sparky the Fire Dog® Web site, belonging to the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), has been redesigned to include new features that keep kids entertained, engaged, and most importantly, informed about fire safety.

Since 1951, Sparky has been teaching children about fire safety and today his Web site, [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org), is the way many children are choosing to connect with the fire-safety icon. On the site, children are encouraged to learn by interacting with Sparky and exploring his online world. According to NFPA reports, each year nearly 300 children ages 3-9 die as a result of fire in the U.S.

“Although the internet wasn’t around when Sparky was a pup, children today haven’t known a world without it,” said Amy LeBeau, NFPA’s communications manager of public education. “It not only provides a valuable way to reach children on an individual basis about fire-safety in a format they enjoy, it actually allows them to teach themselves safe behaviors by interacting with Sparky and helping him.”

## **NFPA launches new Web pages to streamline access to technical document information** **Details on more than 300 codes and standards available**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) introduced improved document information Web pages to make finding information on its more than 300 codes and standards easier. This project was developed based on feedback received from a survey of NFPA's technical committee members, the volunteers responsible for developing and revising NFPA documents, and other participants in the process.

"The new 'Doc Info' pages provide one central location for all the information that pertains to each of our more than 300 NFPA technical documents," said Chris Dubay, NFPA's vice president of codes and standards and chief engineer. "This major advancement is part of a continuing effort to use technology to enhance our code development system as well as make it easier for people to find the information they're seeking."

In addition to new search capabilities, users will be able to navigate and find additional details by selecting one of three tabbed sections:

- **Document information** Document scope, archived revision information on current and previous editions, and the ability to view ("read-only") and purchase current and previous editions.
- **Next edition** Information about the current revision cycle, Report on Proposals (ROP), Report on Comments (ROC), Notices of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAMs).
- **Technical Committee** Committee name and scope, NFPA staff liaison, list of committee members, information on how to apply to a committee.

More improvements planned in the near future will include information on upcoming Technical Committee meetings as well as agendas and minutes

## **IAFC and NFPA to host valuable Firewise workshop prior to 2010 WUI Conference** **Two-day workshop takes place March 28-29 at Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, NV**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has announced that the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Program will offer as a pre-conference workshop their "Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone" seminar. Back for a second year by popular demand, the jam-packed two-day session is taking place just prior to the 2010 Wildland Urban Interface Conference, on March 28-29 at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno, Nevada.

This course has been described as a must for all and an eye-opener by many who have participated. Some comments from last year's attendees include, "It was directly applicable to my goals. It was informative, succinct and enjoyable." Other participants stated, "It was very informative on the 'new science' about ignition of homes during a wildfire," and "The ability to see and work with multiple points of view result in an excellent seminar."

The course, which is ideal for seasoned fire professionals as well as those with less tenure, will be conducted by wildland fire experts Hank Blackwell and Pat Durland. The two-day workshop will cover myths of wildland/urban interface (WUI) fire, the history and context of WUI fire disasters, research and case studies, risk factors, how-to conduct and document an assessment, and more. Classroom exercises include performing home ignition zone evaluations and Q&A discussion. Participants will receive a workbook, presentations and a Certificate of Attendance with 1.6 CEUs.

To register and attend at 2009 rates, visit [www.iafc.org/wui](http://www.iafc.org/wui).

## **A wildland fire tops the list of largest loss fires for the fifth time in 10 years** **NFPA Journal publishes Large-Loss Fires report**

For the fifth time in the past 10 years, the largest loss associated with fires and explosions occurred in wildlands, and for the second year in a row, it happened in Southern California, according to the newly released National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report Large-loss fires in the United States-2008. The report appears in the latest issue of NFPA Journal®, the official magazine of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

NFPA reports each year on large-loss fire and explosion losses in the United States, which it defines as any event that results in property damage of at least \$10 million.

Other key findings from the report:

1. Fire departments responded to 35 fires in 2008 which resulted in losses of \$10 million or more each.
2. These 35 fires resulted in 15 deaths, and injured 60 civilians and 32 firefighters.
3. Direct property loss from these fires was \$2.34 billion.
4. Although these fires accounted for only .002 percent of the estimated number of fires in 2008, they accounted for 15.3 percent of the total estimated dollar loss.

In the NFPA Journal story *More. Bigger. Costlier.*, NFPA's Firewise Communities Program Manager Michele Steinberg says "If we choose to acknowledge the reality of wildland fires, we can better anticipate how our cities and towns and neighborhoods will fare when confronted with fire when—not if—it arrives."

The National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. The program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.

## **State Fire Marshals Exploring Green Buildings/Fire Safety Connection**

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has received an Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the US Department of Homeland Security for a project entitled "Fire Safety and Green Buildings: Bridging the Gap." Its objective is to develop and share information for both code enforcement officials and first responders to address the fire safety gap that currently exists in the interface between established fire safety practices and the new building technologies and criteria being employed in "green" building design.

Deliverables include the formation of a Working Group to advise on the project and develop an agenda for needed educational materials; development of an interactive forum/online clearinghouse for outreach and sharing of information; and guideline publications for use by authorities having jurisdiction and first responders.

If you have a topic or a question that you would like NASFM to explore in greater detail through this project, or a resource that you would like the online clearinghouse to post or link to, please contact Project Manager Karen Deppa at [info@greenbuildingfiresafety.org](mailto:info@greenbuildingfiresafety.org).

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Here lays the problem. While it is true that *“the public, the media, and local governments generally are unaware of the magnitude and seriousness of the fire problem to individuals and their families, to communities, and to the Nation”*, I sincerely believe that the same exact lack of awareness also exists among our very own peers in the fire service.

Don't take my word for it, check it out for yourself. Never mind the young rookie firefighters who haven't been around long enough to know, but ask any/all of your best seasoned, most senior chief officers in your departments, to see whether they were even aware that *“the annual losses from floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters combined in the United States average just a fraction of those from fires”*. Forget about asking them about the annual fire loss statistics in the country, or yet even closer in your own state; just ask them, if they know the annual fire loss statistics in your very own community. What did you find out?

The intent of those questions was not to put our chief officers on the spot. But, to point out that we in the fire service are so focused on the trees, that we don't see the forest. Our attention is merely focused on our own day to day operations, that at best we might only have a general idea about our own local fire loss statistics. Regrettably, most of us are not even aware of our own state's statistics, let alone the national fire loss statistics.

Now, if we don't know the true magnitude and seriousness of the national fire problem, how in the world are we going to explain it to *“the public, the media, and the local government”*? And that my friends, is a significant obstacle that we must overcome, both at the local and at the national levels.

Let me put it this way. At a fire, if we haven't done a good complete 360 degree size up, we won't know the extent and magnitude of the problem. It is only when we have an accurate assessment of the immediate challenges that we can call for the adequate resources to address them, right? Quite similarly then, if our public and elected officials are truly unaware of the seriousness and the real magnitude of the fire problem, then how do we expect them to provide us with the necessary resources to address it?

In my mind then, having a valid, detailed, and accurate national data base that can provide us with up to date local, state, and national fire loss statistics, is of utmost importance to all of us in the fire service. And that was the main reason that USFA developed the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) back in 1976. Version 5.0 of NFIRS was developed back in 1999 and is currently in use. Major changes to the NFIRS system are in development, with a web based input tool to be released in the first quarter of 2010, and a new data warehouse with improved output report capabilities to be released early in 2011.

The recently published USFA document *“Fire in the United States, 2003-2007”* indicates that NFIRS was the primary source of data and accounted for 98 percent of the fire incident data reported. This document then, in a sense, could be considered our recent report card. Analyzing some of its findings could be of significant value to us in the fire service and could assist us in identifying our shortcomings and improving our performance.

This document indicates that out of the estimated 33,784 fire departments in our country, only 20,022 of the departments (59%) reported to NFIRS in 2007. Why is it that all of the fire departments in our country do not report to NFIRS? Because participation is only voluntary, thus the other 41% don't feel obligated to report to NFIRS. And even this low level of participation is the highest ever and has increased significantly thanks for the provisions of the Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program that require applicants to be reporting to NFIRS!

Wow! Can you even imagine if only 59% of our counterparts in the law enforcement communities were reported their local crime statistics into their national data base; and the remaining 41% just didn't feel like filling the reports, or

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claimed that they didn't have the time and/or expertise to participate in the program? They have abundant up to date, detailed, and complete national and local crime statistics. That helps them justify their needs assessments, and obtain their necessary resources during good economic times or bad, whether the crimes are up or down. And the best that we can do is only 59%? Why?

Here is the difference. Their rookies get 2-3 weeks of detailed report writing courses that enhance their abilities and skills to write detailed, well-documented, meticulous reports that could be presented in courts and withstand all the cross examinations and all legal challenges. Arresting the criminals is not the end of their job; it is only the beginning.

It is the quality of their documents and reports that finally wins their case and puts the criminals behind the bars. They know that if they take a little more time upfront, to cross all the "t"s and dot all the "i"s, that it will save them a lot more time and much headaches down the line, and make their case much stronger to obtain a conviction. They recognize that it is their professional obligation to gather all the evidence and be very meticulous in their documentation. Simply stated, they know that it is their job. And of course, the fact that their detailed statistics help them obtain much needed local and national funding doesn't hurt either.

Many of the reports that police officers write document alleged crimes, including robbery and assault. These crimes result in property damage, loss of life, or injuries to the individuals. Senior police officials and the elected officials would not tolerate incomplete or sloppy police reports. Yet, although fires result in the same consequences of property damage or, in some cases, loss of life or injuries as previously mentioned, in comparison our documentation and reporting is rather sloppy and many NFIRS reports don't completely tell the story of the incident. Why? Because, unfortunately, such deficiencies are tolerated by our leadership. We need a cultural shift, and we must evolve professionally.

For most, we are just there for the thrill of fighting the fires. And once the fire is out, we consider our job done. Wrong! Let's face it; even the salvage and overhaul operations seem to be not too glamorous and less than desired, let alone the boring task of completing the paperwork.

We don't value report writing much, and we spend little or no time in training our rookies. And no, our newly promoted officers don't get much training either. For most, here are the books now get busy and start writing is the only guidance and their first exposure to report writing. So what do we expect then?

At best, their efforts might be adequate for their local demands. But then they simply "wing it" when submitting the NFIRS reports, just to get it done and out of their hair. After all, they don't see any direct positive value in all those statistics and reporting to the Feds. To them all those national reports are dumped into an abyss in the twilight zone, never to be found. There is nothing in it for them, other than the time spent in writing the reports.

They don't see any substantial values for their efforts, thus even their submitted reports might not be fully complete, valid, or even too accurate. Yet, if they truly recognize the benefits and the value of the NFIRS to them and their local jurisdictions, then the little effort and the additional time that goes in completing a valid and accurate report would certainly be worth it.

After all, there are only eleven modules in NFIRS 5.0, and besides the Basic Module (NFIRS-1) that must be filled for all incidents, only four modules (fire, structural fire, civilian fire casualties, and fire service casualties) are required to be filled, and the other six modules (EMS, hazardous materials, wildland fire, apparatus/resources, personnel, and arson) are only optional to be filled and submitted. And to make it even easier and simpler to submit, in all the forms for those required modules, there are only a certain number of required fields that must be filled. Seriously my friends, how difficult could it really be to do it right?

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[http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/documentation/reference/NFIRS\\_Complete\\_Reference\\_Guide\\_2008.pdf](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/documentation/reference/NFIRS_Complete_Reference_Guide_2008.pdf)

Yet, quality of the submitted reports to the NFIRS is an area of great concern for the USFA. The following excerpts from the “Fire in the United States, 2003-2007” document these concerns and the deficiencies that must be improved:

*Data challenges still exist: many records submitted to NFIRS by participating fire departments provide either incomplete or no information in some of the fields. Additionally, in preparing this report, it is assumed that participating fire departments have reported 100 percent of their fire incidents; however, this is not always the case. The completeness of all the information in the NFIRS modules will contribute to the refinement and confidence level of future analyses...*

*On a fraction of the incident reports or casualty reports sent to NFIRS, the desired information for many data items either is not reported or is reported as “unknown.” The total number of blank or unknown entries is often larger than some of the important subcategories. For example, 43 percent of fatal structure fires reported in 2007 do not have sufficient data recorded in NFIRS to determine fire cause. The lack of data, especially for these fatal fires, masks the true picture of the fire problem. Many prevention and public education programs use NFIRS data to target at-risk groups or to address critical problems, fire officials use the data in decision-making that affects the allocation of firefighting resources, and consumer groups and litigators use the data to assess product fire incidence. When the unknowns are large, the credibility of the data suffers. In some cases, even after the best attempts by fire investigators, the information is truly unknown. In other cases, the information reported as unknown in the initial NFIRS report is not updated after the fire investigation is completed. Fire departments need to be more aware of the effect of incomplete data reporting and need to update the initial NFIRS report if additional information is available after investigation....*

*As troublesome as insufficient data for the various NFIRS data items can be, equally challenging is the apparent non-reporting of injuries and property loss associated with many fire incidents. For example, there are many reported fires where the flame spread indicates damage but property loss is not reported. It is notoriously difficult to estimate dollar loss, but an approximation is more useful than leaving the data item blank. The degree to which there is incomplete reporting of civilian fire deaths is more difficult to identify, as the numbers of deaths are relatively small. Incomplete reporting of civilian injuries also is difficult to ascertain, but the injury-per-fire profiles for most departments are within reason.*

Let’s face it, the fault rests with us, and not the NFIRS or the USFA. We have a great tool available to us that can best describe our challenges and gallant efforts. It can clearly depict our needs both at the local and at the national levels to assist us with obtaining the desperately needed resources, and yet we don’t utilize it the best that we should. My friends, we are just shortchanging ourselves.

All those “undetermined” causes that are marked on the Fire Module (NFIRS-2), just to get it done, don’t help us at all to address the fire problem. When we “wing it” and merely “guesstimate” the dollar losses and values on the Basic Module (NFIRS-1), we are only skewing the data.

We need accurate information in the code development arenas to make sure that the buildings constructed have fire and life safety provisions that can protect our citizens and our firefighters. Why is that important? Because the USFA report clearly points out that the 3 Es of fire prevention (engineering, education, and enforcement) played a key role in reducing our fire losses. Take a look, and you can see that, based on the report, five out of the six factors that directly contributed to these downward fire trends were directly related to fire prevention.

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*This report shows that, overall, the fire problem in the United States continues to improve. Five-year fire loss rates are down. It is likely that several factors continue to contribute to these trends:*

- *Smoke alarms, whose usage has become nearly universal;*
- *Sprinklers, which quickly combat incipient fires, especially in nonresidential and multifamily buildings;*
- *Fire codes, which have been strengthened;*
- *Construction techniques and materials, which have been targeted specifically to fire prevention;*
- *Public education at the community, county, State, and Federal levels; and*
- *Improved firefighter equipment and training.*

To continue this positive trend and to be able to further reduce our national fire loss statistics through our fire prevention efforts, we need detailed statistics. But then, how can we enhance the codes and improve our performance without detail statistics pointing to the roots of the fires. Do you know how many times we were defeated in the code development arenas because we didn't have adequate data and statistics to prove our case? It took us a couple of decades to finally get residential fire sprinklers in the codes.

Under the current circumstances and with their limited resources, the USFA and the NFDC are doing the best that they can to help us depict the local and the national fire problem for our public. Sure, they might be able to further tweak and improve the NFIRS. But, it is entirely up to us at the local levels to recognize the true value of NFIRS as a great tool to clearly tell our story and explain our needs assessments to our public.

The problem is not as much with the system as with our very own traditional and cultural stance and philosophy toward report writing, especially when it comes to sending complete, valid, and accurate reports to the NFIRS. We need a cultural shift. One that reminds us once again, that it is our job to be meticulously documenting and accurately reporting all of our incidents to NFIRS.

The saying "*the job is not done until the paperwork is done*" is absolutely right. It is our job to keep good records. It is our job to report valid, detailed, and accurate statistics. It is our job to make sure that not only the mandatory fields on the NFIRS modules are filled completely and accurately, but that all of the other fields are answered accurately also. Would that be above and beyond what NFIRS currently requires? Certainly, but then who benefits from those detailed reports and statistics after all?

No one but us. It gives us the clearest picture of the fire problem in our communities. It gives us the detailed statistics to justify the needs assessments and the budget requests to the decision makers and politicians in our own jurisdiction. In this great economic recession that we are experiencing, won't those types of detailed reports and statistics give us more ammunition and assist us in proving our case?

In my mind, there is absolutely no reason that we can't have all departments across the land report to NFIRS. Lack of manpower and resources is just an excuse.

First of all, the volume of calls in those little communities with volunteer departments is rather small and manageable. And it isn't like they are so busy running on calls that they don't get a chance to do a good job of reporting. It is just that they have not yet fully realized the benefits of NFIRS. Therefore reporting to NFIRS is not at the top of their priority list. Especially since they are volunteers and have their own jobs that they must attend to.

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But even for that, there is a simple solution. When there is a will, there is a way. At this day and age that computers are available to almost all, and internet has conquered the entire globe where even the small villages in the third world countries have access to the internet, it is inexcusable to claim that we don't have the expertise in our small town volunteer fire departments to fill the NFIRS reports online.

I doubt that there is any little volunteer fire department that could not find a young and enthusiastic Explorer in their own town that won't be willing to help out their local fire department with their documentations and NFIRS reporting. Or, they can even find an older, retired fire buff through the citizens Fire Corps program that would love to serve their local community in such capacity. And, rest assured that they would feel honored and would take pride to do a meticulous and exemplary job.

A complete, detailed, and accurate data base like NFIRS would benefit our communities at the local level, in addition to helping us better identify the trends and solutions to address our national fire problem. Anyone disagree? Then why not take the time to do it right?

We must recognize that good documentation and reporting is an important part of our job that must be performed well. This is an essential cultural shift that the fire service needs to make to step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Here is an idea that can sweeten the deal for the local volunteer fire department to embrace this cultural shift. How about if USFA could establish an incentive program through the Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program that could provide a small grant as a financial incentive to the volunteer departments that submit complete, valid, and accurate NFIRS reports every year?

USFA could either administer it directly or through the fifty State Fire Marshals offices to distribute the grants to those volunteer departments in their states. How about that? It sure can't hurt and can even make more than all the bake sales, fireworks, and all the other fundraising functions that these small volunteer fire departments must do year after year to generate revenue for their operations. That could work for the combination fire departments also.

That being said, there is absolutely no reason in my mind that any career fire department in our country could not fully participate in the NFIRS. I believe that there must be a quality control mechanism in all of the career fire departments, and their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) must be specifically tailored to ensure that high quality, consistent, complete, valid, and accurate reports are submitted to the NFIRS every single year.

Maybe an administrative chief officer could be assigned to these quality control responsibilities to make sure that not just the few required fields, but all of the fields in the NFIRS forms are consistently, accurately, and completely filled and submitted. They would then be the point of contact with the state and the national NFIRS.

Here is another idea for institutionalizing the cultural shift in the career fire departments. USFA's requirement to have all recipients of the Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program participate in the NFIRS has worked great, and the number of participating departments has almost doubled between 2000 and 2007. They should continue with that requirement. But make it even a little more stringent for the career departments, and require them to submit fully completed reports. Simply put, the career fire departments should forget about the little star (\*) on the side of the questions on the forms that designate the required fields. The career fire departments must answer all of the questions and fill out the form completely if they want to be a recipient of the AFG.

Is that too much to ask? I don't think so. After all the NFIRS modules are only a page or two long, and all of the ques-

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## What's New at the Research Foundation?

### *New Projects*

*Tomorrow's Codes and Standards Volunteer* - The U.S. consensus codes- and standards-development system depends strongly on the engagement of its volunteer participants. In recent years, codes- and standards-development organizations have experienced a marked shift in the participation rates and work patterns of these volunteers. These changes have been attributed to changes in demographic factors such as age, workplace demands, technological changes/advancements, and fundamental changes in cultural attitudes towards volunteer participation. The objective of this study, supported by major U.S. standards developers, is to collect, review, and analyze available information from codes and standards developers, other volunteer-based organizations, and general studies on changing social and participatory demographics to paint a picture of tomorrow's U.S. codes and standards volunteers.

### *Inside the Foundation*

*Property Insurance Research Group*- In December 2009, the Foundation held the first meeting of the newly formed Property Insurance Research Group, a group of six major industrial property insurers who have joined together under the Foundation's umbrella. The purpose of the group is to identify and share fire protection issues of interest and concern and to provide a continuing mechanism to set priorities for and implement research projects to inform these issues. The group discussed several issues of concern to the industry and decided to support a major new research thrust related to the impact of HVLS (high volume low speed) fans on sprinkler performance in 2010.

### *New Reports available on the Foundation's Website*

*Oxidizer Classification Research Project: Tests and Criteria-Final Report (2009)* - This report documents Phase II of a project designed to validate the straw man classification scheme developed in Phase I of the program. The test plan for developing a classification system for oxidizers is based on burning rate and includes the following four elements: oxidizer selection criteria, development of a bench scale screening test method through exploration of the validity various methods, medium-scale burn testing to validate the method, and

development of classification scheme with performance-based criteria.

### *Mark Your Calendars*

*Summit on National Trends in Delivery of Health and Long-Term Care: Implications for Safety Codes and Standards* - July 21, 2010, Baltimore, MD

Significant changes are underway in how delivery of health care, long-term care, and personal care is handled in 2010 and beyond. Many of these changes or trends will influence NFPA health care codes and standards. This summit, co-sponsored by the Foundation and NFPA, is designed to bring members of NFPA technical committees and health care industry leaders together to learn about these trends and changes and to determine what areas can be addressed in both near- and long-term time frames. Featured presentations will include cultural change in long-term care facilities; trends in home health care models; hospital design in 2010 and beyond; and others. Full program and registration details will be available on the Foundation's website at the end of January.

### *Symposia*

*High-Challenge Warehouse Workshop Fire Protection Preliminary Design Concepts* Wednesday, February 17, 2009 1:30–6:00 pm Orlando, FL - The objective of this workshop is to review preliminary engineering design concepts that illustrate innovative approaches to fire protection to minimize inventory loss in a high-challenge warehouse with no internal, manual firefighter intervention. Leading fire protection engineering companies, including Schirmer Engineering, RJA, the FPI Consortium, Telgian, Summit Fire Protection, Creative FPE Solutions, Hughes Associates, and others, will present their concepts for an innovative protection strategy for open review and discussion. A summary of the concepts will be presented as the keynote presentation in the Foundation's SupDet symposium, immediately following the workshop. The workshop is open to all SupDet 2010 registrants.

Contact the Foundation at [epeterson@nfpa.org](mailto:epeterson@nfpa.org) for more information or to participate in Foundation programs. Reports available on the Foundation's website at [www.nfpa.org/Foundation](http://www.nfpa.org/Foundation).

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tions on them are quite valuable to accurately depict the nature and the extent of the incidents. If those questions were absolutely useless and irrelevant, they wouldn't have been put there in the first place, right? Those questions help us collect accurate data that serves us in addressing the national fire problem. And yet most importantly and even more directly, it helps the local fire departments to justify their needs and the services they provide to their own local decision makers and politicians.

Money talks, my friends. So, let's use an incentive/disincentive program to institutionalize this cultural shift and get all of the fire departments across our land to participate in the NFIRS program, rather than the current 59%. Yes, participation in NFIRS is only voluntary and not mandatory, but then we must fully participate because our professional obligations demand that. Yet, you surely agree that a little good old fashion incentive program won't hurt to boost up that spirit of voluntarism and encourage better participation either.

As I have mentioned, NFIRS is a great data base and the USFA and NFDC should take pride in their work. However, I believe that more work must be done to keep the statistics more up to date. The "Fire in the United States, 2003-2007" document states that *"because of the time it takes for States to submit data to USFA from the thousands of fire departments that participate in NFIRS, then obtain corrections and edit the data, and analyze and display the results, the publication lags behind the date of data collection. Fortunately, the fire problem does not change very rapidly, so the data usually are quite representative of the situation in the year of publication as well."*

I agree with that statement to a certain extent. Yes, the fire problem does not change rapidly and even this less than precise set of data is still relevant. But let's face it, in this day and age of instant global communication, don't you think that there is something lagging when our latest and greatest fire loss document that was just released in December of 2009 is talking about the 2007 data?

Seriously, how accurate could our current fire problem information be when we are talking about statistics from three years ago, way before our latest economic depression showed its ugly head and crippled all of our communities across the land? How many of our fire departments have the same level of resources and staffing as they had three years ago? What about the adverse impact of all these brown outs, station closures and firefighters layoffs, all while lot of the housing foreclosures and closed off businesses are set to burn?

Are our fire problem trends the same? Sure, for the most part yes. For example, just as it has been for decades, we lose about 80% of our fatalities in home fires. Does it justify us saying that since the fire problem is basically the same, then let's just forget about collecting data for the NFIRS annually and do as the Census does and collect statistics every ten years?

No, at this day and age, we need a lot more than just a silhouette image. We need a detailed and accurate picture of the fire problem. NFIRS must be designed to be up to date and be capable of providing us with the updated data and statistics that could assist us in our day to day battles in our local jurisdictions. And this is exactly the area where NFIRS needs to improve to better help us at the local level.

For example, take a look at the field G2 on the Basic Module (NFIRS-1) where the estimated dollar losses and values are entered. If there was a field created there right after the "Losses" and "Pre-Incident Value", that could automatically fill (by deducting the losses from the pre-incident value) to show the estimated dollar value saved, wouldn't that be a great indication of the value of our service to our community? I mean, for a single incident for example, if the pre-incident value was \$500,000, and the fire losses were \$70,000, then that would show that the savings due to our efforts was \$430,000 for that incident alone. Add that up for all your incidents in one year and that could be a good depiction of your department's value to your jurisdiction. Can that come in handy during the budget hearings?

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During this tough economic climate in all our jurisdictions across the land, we are forced to fiercely compete for the very scarce resources. And to be successful, we need detailed, accurate statistics clearly depicting the magnitude of the problem and the required resources. Gone are the days that simple emotional presentations were adequate to get us an annual 5 percent budget increase year after year. In this day and age of instant global communication and information to the point of saturation, statistics from three years ago don't do us much good. Let's face it, to be successful with the decision-makers and politicians, we need current statistics.

Fires are just a small percentage (6.1% based on the NFPA statistics) of the incidents to which fire departments respond. We are all aware that the majority of our time is spent providing EMS to the public. Many fire departments also provide specialized services including hazmat response, specialized rescue, and wildland fire resources. Some departments even provide other public services in their communities such as doing blood pressure screening, accident prevention, bicycle safety, or other fire and life safety education. We may do all these services, but do we fully document these activities? My friends, detailed documentation of all our services and meticulous reporting of all our daily activities is even more essential now than ever before.

All of us in the fire service, whether career, combination, or volunteer departments, are fighting to survive during these massive budget cuts. In all municipalities, we are fighting for the same shrinking dollars. And the only way to compete with the other municipal departments and agencies for these dollars is to be able to meticulously justify our needs. We must do this ourselves as no one will do it for us. Complete NFIRS reporting will put us on an even playing field with all those agencies with whom we are competing for funding. We must recognize that accurate NFIRS reporting helps us all at the local levels.

I am not at all familiar with the law enforcement data collection system and their data base. But I have heard that it is a lot more centralized and up to date than ours. It might be of value if the USFA could take a look at some of the capabilities of their systems to see if or where they could be tailored to fit our needs. And if suitable, they might then work on updating their technical specifications for the software upgrades for NFIRS.

The technology for the up to date data is available in the private sector side. The insurance companies have detailed statistics that they use for their own internal use. And they even have simplified interactive forms of it available for their customers use. For example, take a look at this link from the Allstate Insurance website. This Allstate web site is called "The most common and costly claims." This program allows anyone to enter a zip code, and it will list the five most common claims and the most costly claims. [http://www.allstate.com/landingpages/common\\_and\\_costly\\_claims.aspx](http://www.allstate.com/landingpages/common_and_costly_claims.aspx)

This was just an example, but I am sure that the technology is available to have similar detailed fire statistics available to us all in our own jurisdictions. Why can't we have an interactive website like this available for the fire service? Can you imagine how useful something like this could be to all of us during budget presentations in our own local jurisdictions? You can show to every one of your Councilmen/women or your District Board members the exact loss statistics in their wards, and explain your needs and resources to better serve your community.

The USFA report stated that "*with continued improvements to the NFIRS system, data collection will also continue to improve. If we better understand the relative importance of the factors that lessen the fire problem, resources can be better targeted to have the most impact.*" That is absolutely right. My friends, the proof is in the pudding. NFIRS is the best tool available to us to clearly tell our story and help us with our efforts to address the fire problem in our country. It is up to us to enhance it, and make sure that it continues to be the most accurate and up to date fire data base in the world.

## NFPA Committees Soliciting Proposals

The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their reports. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content for the documents listed below. Proposals received by 5:00 p.m. ET on the closing date indicated will be acted on by the committee, and that action will be published in the committee's report. Proposals must be submitted to Codes and Standards Administration on proposal forms which are available in the back of all NFPA documents or from NFPA headquarters. (NOTE: For information on specific committee meeting dates, contact Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA.) Copies of **new document** drafts are available from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/codelist>. If you need a current edition of a document, please contact NFPA, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or call 800-344-3555.

Document No./ Edition	Title	Proposal Closing Date	Meeting Reporting
NFPA 13-2010	Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems	10/1/2010	A2012
NFPA 13D-2010	Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes	10/1/2010	A2012
NFPA 13R-2010	Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height	10/1/2010	A2012
NFPA 17-2009	Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 17A-2009	Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 24-2010	Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances	10/1/2010	A2012
NFPA 36-2009	Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants	5/23/2011	F2012
†NFPA 51-2007	Standard for the Design and Installation of Oxygen-Fuel Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes	11/23/2010	A2012
†NFPA 52-2010	Vehicular Gaseous Fuel Systems Code	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 68-2007	Standard on Explosion Protection by Deflagration Venting	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 75-2009	Standard for the Protection of Information Technology Equipment	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 76-2009	Standard for the Fire Protection of Telecommunications Facilities	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 115-2008	Standard for Laser Fire Protection	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 170-2009	Standard for Fire Safety and Emergency Symbols	5/28/2010	F2011
†NFPA 225-2009	Model Manufactured Home Installation Standard	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 252-2008	Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 257-2007	Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 268-2007	Standard Test Method for Determining Ignitibility of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 269-2007	Standard Test Method for Developing Toxic Potency Data for Use in Fire Hazard Modeling	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 271-2009	Standard Method of Test for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 275-2009	Standard Method of Fire Tests for the Evaluation of Thermal Barriers Used Over Foam Plastic Insulation	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 287-2007	Standard Test Methods for Measurement of Flammability of Materials in Cleanrooms Using a Fire Propagation Apparatus (FPA)	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 288-2007	Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Floor Fire Door Assemblies Installed Horizontally in Fire Resistance-Rated Floor Systems	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 291-2010	Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants	10/1/2010	A2012
NFPA 385-2007	Standard for Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 496-2008	Standard for Purged and Pressurized Enclosures for Electrical Equipment	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 497-2008	Recommended Practice for the Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases, or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 499-2008	Recommended Practice for the Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas	5/28/2010	F2011
†NFPA 501-2010	Standard on Manufactured Housing	5/23/2011	F2012
†NFPA 501A-2009	Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Manufactured Home Installations, Sites, and Communities	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 557-P*	Standard for Fire Loads for Engineering Design of Structural Fire Resistance in Buildings	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 560-2007	Standard for the Storage, Handling, and Use of Ethylene Oxide for Sterilization and		

*(Continued on page 19)*

## NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year

Let's celebrate fire and life safety educators! Educators are key to the success of NFPA's programs. That's why NFPA's "Educator of the Year" Award is so important. It gives educators the recognition they deserve for playing the lead role in making their communities safer.

We are looking for fire and life safety educators who:

- work for a local fire department.
- use NFPA's *Risk Watch*®, *Learn Not to Burn*®, *Remembering When*<sup>TM</sup> or Fire Prevention Week materials.
- use NFPA materials in a consistent and creative way.
- demonstrate excellence and innovation, reaching out to the community with NFPA materials.
- view NFPA as the source for safety information.

The 2010 "Educator of the Year" will receive:

- \$1,000 honorarium.
- travel to Las Vegas, in June 2010 for an award presentation at the opening general session of the NFPA annual conference.

The local fire department will receive:

- \$1,000 donation to support public education activities.

Download an application at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Public%20Education/Educatoroftheyear.pdf>. The deadline is February 26, 2010. NFPA will announce the 2010 "Educator of the Year" at the NFPA annual conference.

*(Continued from page 18)*

	Fumigation	5/28/2010	F2011
†NFPA 909–2010	Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources Properties - Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 1005–2007	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1037–2007	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1041–2007	Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1051–2007	Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1061–2007	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Safety Telecommunicator	5/28/2010	F2011
†NFPA 1401–2006	Recommended Practice for Fire Service Training Reports and Records	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1402–2007	Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1403–2007	Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1404–2006	Standard for Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training	5/23/2011	F2012
NFPA 1451–2007	Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program	5/28/2010	F2011
†NFPA 1500–2007	Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program	11/23/2010	A2012
†NFPA 1582–2007	Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments	11/23/2010	A2012
NFPA 1982–2007	Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)	2/26/2010	F2011
NFPA 1911–2007	Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus	5/28/2010	F2011
NFPA 1951–2007	Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents	5/28/2010	F2011
<u>NFPA 1961–2007</u>	<u>Standard on Fire Hose</u>	5/28/2010	F2011

†\* Indicates proposed document

‡ Change in proposal closing date or cycle

## **National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research & Education Foundation and Fireproof Children/Prevention First Present Youth Fire Prevention Program**

The Youth Fire Prevention Program is developed and presented by Fireproof Children for the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research & Education Foundation, funded by a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant.

Fireproof Children, a premier fire safety training and education organization, has previously worked with NASFM in the development and delivery of coalition building and skills building training programs throughout the country. The Youth Fire Prevention program builds on what we learned from these programs. Train the trainer workshops will be delivered in the 10 FEMA regions.

This one-day training is designed to:

- Mobilize community resources and build capacity to prevent and reduce youth firesetting and child fire play;
- Provide best practices for long-term sustainability of youth fire prevention at the local, regional and state levels;
- Address the most current issues, such as the dangers of toy-like lighters;
- Be highly interactive, with small and large group discussion of needs, success stories, and problem solving.

Participants will receive:

- Advanced knowledge, skills and guidance to organize community resources for more effective youth fire prevention, education, advocacy and intervention campaigns.
- Training and materials they can bring to their local networks to create a comprehensive, coordinated community response.
- *Juvenile Firesetting: A Community Guide to Prevention and Intervention* in CD form, providing a comprehensive overview of children and fire. This handbook includes additional topics beyond the scope of this workshop, such as effective educational interventions, communication skills and step-by-step interviewing guide, and sample classroom lesson plans.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED. On-line registration for all sessions will be available on the NASFM website at [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org).

### Recruitment

- These train-the-trainer sessions are for local coalition members and public fire prevention members willing to return to their home areas and conduct training sessions (either at state or local fire academies) for other local intervention coalition members and fire prevention officers.
- Recruiting in each state should include attendees who represent each of the discrete disciplines that make up and are members of local coalitions (e.g., social workers, juvenile officers, prosecutors, etc.) Our goal is to secure at least three or more diverse coalition members from each participating state for each session.
- Recruiting should also target a similar number of fire prevention officers from each state in the FEMA region in which a training session is being held.

### Registration

Each session is one day and will begin at 8:30AM and will end at 3:30 PM. A \$20 registration fee is required for each attendee, which includes a morning beverage break, and a box type lunch, a certificate of attendance, and materials including a CD of the handbook *Juvenile Firesetting: A Community Guide to Prevention and Intervention*.

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## **Saint Paul, Minnesota Fire Department Addresses Serious Juvenile Firesetter Problem**

The Saint Paul, Minnesota Fire Department (SPFD) had a serious juvenile firesetter problem in the late 1980s. Soon afterwards they undertook several educational campaigns. This has ended up as a remarkable success story. In 2009, there were only 28 children enrolled in the Saint Paul Fire Department's Fire Play Intervention Program, an all-time low.

Since 1994, there has been an 85% reduction in children setting fires in Saint Paul - a significant finding considering there are more children in poverty, more children who do not speak English as a primary language and a more effective fire setting referral system in the community. And according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention, up to almost half (47%) of all arson arrests were juveniles.

Of particular interest is that over the past 15 years, the number of Kindergarten aged children (5 & 6) enrolled in the SPFD Fire Play Intervention Program steadily dropped from 41 to 4 per year. One contributing factor is the department's "Follow The Footsteps to Fire Safety" program developed and revised over the years and implemented in almost every Kindergarten classroom in Saint Paul.

Other facts: Since 1994...

- The recidivism rate for the Fire Play Intervention Program was much less than 1%.
- 13% of the children enrolled were motivated by pathology - crisis, stress, familial or social factors.
- 18% were female.

There were 133 fires set on Saint Paul K-12 school property or on school busses; Of school fires...

- 56% were caused by children between 11 and 14 years old.
- 44% were set in lavatories.
- 83% were set by males.

Various Saint Paul Fire Department programs were evaluated empirically and anecdotally showing a direct correlation of programming to results.

For additional information, please contact St. Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard at 651-228-6201 or Public Education Office Paula Peterson at 651-228-6203

## **Comments Sought on Fire Safety Messages**

Comments are now being accepted on NFPA's fire safety education messages, which are used throughout NFPA's educational programs, curricula and handouts. The messages also provide fire and life safety educators with accurate and consistent language for use when offering safety information to the public. Go to [www.nfpa.org/emac](http://www.nfpa.org/emac). The deadline for comments is May 14, 2010.



**THE  
FIRE PROTECTION  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**  
*Research in support of the NFPA mission*

**Fire Protection Research Foundation to host symposium on fire suppression,  
detection and signaling**  
**High challenge warehouse protection to be featured**

The Fire Protection Research Foundation will be hosting SUPDET 2010, the 14th annual technical working conference on suppression, detection and signaling research and applications, in Orlando, FL., February 16 through 19. Professionals working in the areas of fire detection, suppression and signaling will join together to share new information, innovations, and updates on ongoing research. Research is applied to real-world applications as symposium attendees explore new documentation in designs, approvals, and codes.

The Fire Protection Research Foundation is an affiliate of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

This year's program will bring research from 34 compelling projects into practice, including the following program features:

- An engineering workshop on innovative fire protection design concepts for high challenge warehouses and other suppression detection sessions on the topic.
- A special session on research at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.
- New smoke alarm studies from U.S. and international research organizations.

Other symposium topics include: mass notification, the human dimension of emergency communication, developments in extinguishing mechanisms, emerging technologies, and unique applications.

In conjunction with SUPDET, a half day NFPA seminar on *Applying NFPA 13 Requirements for Protection of Storage* is being offered. The seminar will illustrate the concepts and requirements for automatic sprinkler systems in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13 and how they apply to storage occupancies.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be credited for symposium and seminar attendance.

Research Foundation contact: Eric Peterson at [epeterson@nfpa.org](mailto:epeterson@nfpa.org) or +1 617 984-7281. For more information on SUPDET go to <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=1708&URL=Research/Fire%20Protection%20Research%20Foundation/SUPDET%202010>.

## USFA's Work to Improve NFIRS

By Marty Ahrens

On January 13, the USFA conducted its first conference call with the NFIRS Forum, a group of individuals from fire service organizations, users of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), and kindred agencies. Marty Ahrens, Manager of Fire Analysis Services in NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division, was a participant. The Forum allows USFA to provide information about their plans, address rumors, and receive input. NFIRS can only function with fire department participation and support. Like any system, it has room for improvement. NFPA is excited by the planned improvements. We want to share news about the planned improvements with you.

NFIRS is the largest and most detailed fire incident database in the world. The current version of NFIRS was developed in the late 1990s. Because of Y2K concerns and states' needs to move away from expensive mainframe use, NFIRS 5.0 was released before all the planned system functionality could be completed.

The system has grown from 11,000 participating departments in 1999 to 22,000 departments in 2009. The NFIRS infrastructure has not been able to accommodate the growth. Underlying software needs to be modernized. Because the file grew so large, the 2003 national database was the last that could be released to the public with all non-fire incidents included. Output reporting has not met users' needs in terms of the type of reports available or ease in getting them.

Congress included resources for NFIRS enhancements in the USFA Reauthorization Act of 2008. This created an opportunity for USFA to make long needed updates to address the issues outlined above. As part of this effort, USFA conducted a gap analysis to identify strategic needs in 2009. The gap analysis led to a blueprint for modernizing NFIRS that is now underway.

The USFA recognizes that fire service needs for NFIRS vary greatly. Small, typically volunteer departments with only a handful of fires a year need a system that lets them enter their reports easily. Larger, typically career, departments have more incidents. They can obtain meaningful results from statistical analysis of their own data, and they need tools to perform the analyses they want. Their systems are often integrated with CAD systems and need to work well with such systems.

USFA is currently testing their newly developed Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI) web tool. This interface will allow authorized fire departments to enter incidents directly on the web without having to download NFIRS software. No off-line database access will be available. States that do not keep their primary fire incident databases on the national server may choose not to allow their departments to use the new tool. The DEBI is expected to be available later in 2010.

During 2011, USFA hopes to complete major enhancements involving data warehousing and mining. This will make it easier to get output reports and to export data. National analyses of fire department responses to non-fire incidents will also be possible.

The USFA is quite clear that these changes will not directly result in NFIRS 6.0. No changes to NFIRS 5.0 codes or definitions, no new data fields and no new modules will be part of this process. They want to address how the system functions first. These enhancements also will not result in real-time NFIRS. However, an improved NFIRS structure will allow all participants to operate more efficiently. Funding is always an issue in any of these undertakings.

Long-term plans do include a revision to the NFIRS 5.0 standard. However, that is years away. USFA is working closely with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to see how NFIRS should handle EMS reporting. When NFIRS 5.0 was developed, the National EMS Information System (NEMIS) did not exist. USFA is

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## **NFPA launches smoke alarm awareness campaign** **Resource tool kit aimed at reducing home fire deaths**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released new materials to help communities raise awareness about the life-saving benefits of smoke alarms. Keeping Your Community Safe and Sound is a free collection of educational resources that make up an online tool kit to be used by local fire departments and others interested in raising community awareness about the need for smoke alarms, and providing valuable information about them.

“The importance of having smoke alarms in the home is often overlooked even though the benefits of having them are often life saving,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of communications. “The death rate in reported home fires without working smoke alarms is twice as high as homes with working smoke alarms. It is critical that people understand the need to install them and how to maintain them to better protect themselves.”

According to the NFPA report on smoke alarms, 40 percent of home fire deaths resulted from fires with no smoke alarms in the home. Twenty-three percent of home fire deaths resulted from homes where a smoke alarm was present, but did not sound. In over half of these cases, the alarm did not sound because of disconnected or missing batteries. Having a working smoke alarm reduces the risk of death in a home fire by nearly 50 percent.

The resource tool kit materials are available for fire departments, public educators, or the general public and can be found online for no cost at [www.nfpa.org/safeandsound](http://www.nfpa.org/safeandsound). Printable materials include: facts and figures on smoke alarms, handouts, public service print ads, videos on the basics of smoke alarms and safety tips, and other tools for communication.

In addition to being a source for public education materials on smoke alarm awareness and research findings on home fire deaths involving smoke alarms, NFPA is committed to smoke alarm awareness as the developer and publisher of NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code.

Keeping Your Community Safe and Sound is one of seven free educational toolkits available from NFPA. Others include *Keeping Your Community Safe with Home Fire Sprinklers*, *Keeping Your Community Safe and Energized*, *Keeping Your Community Cooking Safely*, *Keeping Your Community Safe and Warm*, *More Ways to Keep Your Community Safe and Warm*, and *Preparing Your Community for a Disaster*.

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trying to decide whether NFIRS should modify the EMS module to meet the formal NEMESIS standards. USFA remains open to working with wildland fire agencies to see if integration of wildland fire reporting with NFIRS is feasible.

NFPA uses NFIRS with the NFPA survey to estimate the size of various aspects of the fire problem. Some of the specific details may not seem important at the local level. However, these details are used to inform the codes and standards process, identify priorities for public education, and monitor the progress we are making in addressing the fire problem. Even with the problems USFA has identified, NFIRS is still a tremendous resource. We applaud the USFA for working to improve the system and creating the NFIRS Forum to share information. NFPA is honored to be part of the process. And we would like to give back to the USFA by connecting them with our networks – that means you – to produce a richer dialogue about NFIRS.

## **NFPA applauds states' actions on home fire sprinklers**

**Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, California adopt sprinkler requirements**

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) President Jim Shannon praised the work of fire officials and fire safety advocates after three states adopted the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC) which will require home fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes.

"The nation's fire service and other fire safety advocates deserve tremendous recognition for their efforts to bring safety home by working to get sprinklers in every community," Shannon said.

On December 10, the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission adopted the IRC, requiring the installation of sprinkler systems in all new townhouses effective January 1, 2010, and in all new one- and two-family homes effective January 1, 2011. On December 11, the New Hampshire State Code Review Board voted, by a 12-2 margin, to adopt the 2009 edition of the IRC. The bill will become effective on April 1, 2012. And on January 12, the California State Building Standards Commission voted unanimously to adopt the 2010 California Residential Code. This measure includes the 2009 IRC and its requirements to install sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes and townhouses, effective January 1, 2011.

"These are significant steps forward in our efforts to eradicate the home fire death problem by requiring home fire sprinklers in new homes, these states are adding an important safeguard for the people in their state," said Shannon. "We are hopeful their actions will lead to more states doing the same in order to save lives from fire."

According to NFPA, about 3,000 people a year die in home fires. When fire sprinklers are present, the chances of dying in a home fire decrease by about 80 percent. Home fire sprinklers control heat, smoke and flames allowing occupants time to escape and giving firefighters a safer environment.

In 2009, NFPA launched the Fire Sprinkler Initiative, a nationwide effort to mandate the use of home fire sprinklers. The site provides research, facts, an interactive blog and other resources for individuals interested in passing similar sprinkler requirements in their communities.



## IFMA/NFPA Winter 2010 Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meetings

To encourage greater fire service participation in the NFPA Codes and Standards Making System, NFPA and IFMA has established four Regional Fire Code Development Committees. The members of these committees are from the fire service in your area, go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for a complete list of committee members. These committees have responsibility for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and act as a liaison to their region's fire service for inputting changes to NFPA Codes and Standards.

Go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) click on "Codes and Standards" then "Regional Fire Code Development Committees" for updated information and for a partial list of the Codes and Standards the committee will be acting on at their next meeting. We would encourage you or a representative to attend, if you are not able to attend and have comments please contact a committee member from your area.

### Northcentral

February 23, 2010, Drury Inn Union Station, St. Louis, MO, starts at 8:00 am and ends by 5:00 pm.

### Northeastern

January 28, 2010, Embassy Suites BWI, Baltimore, MD, starts at 8:00 am and ends by 5:00 pm.

### Southern

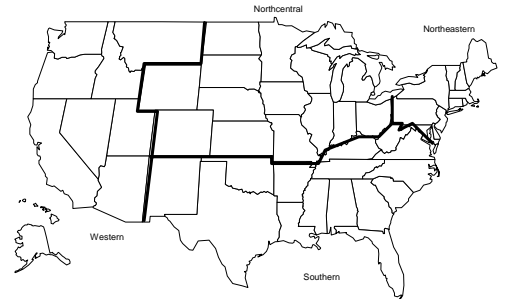
March 2, 2010, Embassy Suites, Ft Lauderdale, FL, starts at 8:00 am and ends by 5:00 pm.

### Western

February 9, 2010, Embassy Suites Anaheim North, Anaheim, CA, starts at 8:00 am and ends by 5:00 pm.

There is no cost to attend the meeting. You are responsible for all costs associated with your travel. These meetings are held twice yearly, the next meetings will take place in the Summer 2010.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the attached form and return ASAP. If you have any questions please contact Steven Sawyer at 617-984-7423 or [ssawyer@nfpa.org](mailto:ssawyer@nfpa.org).



## IFMA/NFPA Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting Winter 2010 Attendance Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan on attending the Winter 2010 Northcentral  Northeastern  Southern  Western   
Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting.

Please return ASAP to:

Steven F. Sawyer  
NFPA  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02269-9101  
or Fax 617-984-7056

## NFPA Call for Technical Committee Members

The **Committee on Aerosol Extinguishing Technology** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 2010, *Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire Extinguishing Systems*.

The **Committee on Aerosol Products** is seeking members in the enforcing authority category only (code official). This Committee is responsible for NFPA 30B, *Code for the Manufacture and Storage of Aerosol Products*.

The **Committee on Agricultural Dusts** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 61, *Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Dust Explosions in Agricultural and Food Processing Facilities*.

The **Committee on Aircraft Maintenance Operations** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 410, *Standard on Aircraft Maintenance*.

The **Committee on Animal Housing Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories except users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 150, *Standard on Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities*.

The **Committee on Boiler Combustion System Hazards—Fluidized Bed Boilers** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Boiler Combustion System Hazards—Fundamentals** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Boiler Combustion System Hazards—Pulverized Fuel Systems** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Boiler Combustion System Hazards—Single Burner Boilers** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Boiler Combustion System Hazards—Stoker Operations** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts and users. This Committee is responsible for stoker material in NFPA 85, *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*.

The **Committee on Building Code—Board and Care Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for Chapter 26 in NFPA 5000<sup>®</sup>, *Building Construction and Safety Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The **Committee on Building Code—Furnishings and Contents** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for Chapter 10 in NFPA 5000<sup>®</sup>, *Building Construction and Safety Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The **Committee on Classification and Properties of Hazardous Chemical Data** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 704, *Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response*.

The **Committee on Combustible Metals and Metal Dusts** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 484, *Standard for Combustible Metals*.

The **Committee on Confined Space Safe Work Practices** is seeking members in all interest categories, especially manufacturers.

The **Committee on Data Exchange for the Fire Service** is seeking members in the following interest categories: manufacturers, research, and insurance.

The **Committee on Drycleaning Plants** is seeking members in all interest categories, especially the enforcing authority category (code official). The Committee is responsible for NFPA 32, *Standard for Drycleaning Plants*.

The **Committee on Electrical Equipment in Chemical Atmospheres** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 496, *Standard for Purged and Pressurized Enclosures for Electrical Equipment*; NFPA 497, *Recommended Practice for the Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases, or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas*; and NFPA 499, *Recommended Practice for the Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas*.

The **Committee on Electrical Equipment Evaluation** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 790, *Standard for Competency of Third Party Field Evaluation Bodies* and NFPA 791, *Recommended Practice and Procedures for Unlabeled Electrical Equipment Evaluation*.

The **Committee on Electrical Equipment of Industrial Machinery** is seeking members in all interest categories except users or manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 79, *Electrical Standard for Industrial Machinery*.

The **Committee on Electrical Equipment Maintenance** is seeking members in all interest categories except users. This committee is responsible for NFPA 70B, *Recommended Practice for Electrical Equipment Maintenance*.

The **Committee on Electrical Systems Maintenance** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 73, *Electrical Inspection Code for Existing Dwellings*.

The **Committee on Emergency Medical Services** is seeking individuals in the following interest categories: special experts, labor,

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insurance, and manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 450, *Guide for Emergency Medical Services and Systems*. The **Committee on Emergency Services Organization Risk Management** is seeking individuals in all categories except enforcers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1201, *Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public* and NFPA 1250, *Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*.

The **Committee on Explosives** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 495, *Explosive Materials Code* and NFPA 498, *Standard for Safe Havens and Interchange Lots for Vehicles Transporting Explosives*.

The **Committee on Exposure Fire Protection** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 80A, *Recommended Practice for Protection of Buildings from Exterior Fire Exposures*.

The **Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment—Electronic Safety Equipment** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers, labor, users and consumers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1800, *Standard on Electronic Safety Equipment for Emergency Services* (Proposed); NFPA 1801, *Standard on Thermal Imagers for the Fire Service* (Proposed); and NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*.

The **Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment—Emergency Medical Services Protective Clothing and Equipment** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers, labor and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1999, *Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations*.

The **Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment—Hazardous Materials Protective Clothing and Equipment** is seeking members in the following interest categories: consumers, enforcers, labor, and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1991, *Standard on Vapor-Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials Emergencies*; NFPA 1992, *Standard on Liquid Splash-Protective Ensembles and Clothing for Hazardous Materials Emergencies*; and NFPA 1994, *Standard on Protective Ensembles for First Responders to CBRN Terrorism Incidents*.

The **Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment—Special Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers, special experts, and consumers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1951, *Standard on Protective Ensemble for Technical Rescue Incidents*; NFPA 1952, *Standard on Surface Water Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment* (Proposed); NFPA 1975, *Station/Work Uniforms for Fire and Emergency Services*; and NFPA 1983, *Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services*.

The **Committee on Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment—Volunteer** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1720, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments*.

The **Committee on Fire Department Rescue Tools** is seeking members in all categories except manufacturers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1936, *Standard on Powered Rescue Tools*.

The **Committee on Fire Hose** is seeking members from all interest categories except manufacturers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1961, *Standard on Fire Hose*; NFPA 1962, *Standard for the Inspection, Care, and Use of Fire Hose, Couplings, and Nozzles and the Service Testing of Fire Hose*; NFPA 1963, *Standard for Fire Hose Connections*; NFPA 1964, *Standard for Spray Nozzles*; NFPA 1965, *Standard for Fire Hose Appliances*.

The **Committee on Fire Risk Assessment Methods** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 550, *Guide to the Fire Safety Concepts Tree* and NFPA 551, *Guide for the Evaluation of Fire Risk Assessments*.

The **Committee on Flash Fire Protective Garments** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 2112, *Standard on Flame-Resistant Garments for Protection of Industrial Personnel Against Flash Fire*, and NFPA 2113, *Standard on Selection, Care, Use, and Maintenance of Flame-Resistant Garments for Protection of Industrial Personnel Against Flash Fire*.

The **Committee on Garages and Parking Structures** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers, special experts, and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 88A, *Standard for Parking Structures*.

The **Committee on Handling and Conveying of Dusts, Vapors, and Gases** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 91, *Standard for Exhaust Systems for Air Conveying of Vapors, Gases, Mists, and Noncombustible Particulate Solids*; NFPA 654, *Standard for the Prevention of Fire and Dust Explosions from the Manufacturing, Processing, and Handling of Combustible Particulate Solids*; and NFPA 655, *Standard for Prevention of Sulfur Fires and Explosions*.

The **Committee on Helicopter Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 418, *Standard for Heliports*.

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The **Committee on Hot Works Operations** is seeking members in all interest categories except special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 51B, *Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*.

The **Committee on Incinerators and Waste Handling Systems** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 82, *Standard on Incinerators and Waste and Linen Handling Systems and Equipment*.

The **Committee on Industrial and Medical Gases** is seeking members in the interest category of enforcers and insurers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 51, *Standard for the Design and Installation of Oxygen–Fuel Gas Systems for Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*; NFPA 51A, *Standard for Acetylene Cylinder Charging Plants*; NFPA 55, *Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed Gases and Cryogenic Fluids in Portable and Stationary Containers, Cylinders, and Tanks*; and NFPA 560, *Standard for the Storage, Handling, and Use of Ethylene Oxide for Sterilization and Fumigation*.

The **Committee on Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems** is seeking members in the enforcer category. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*.

The **Committee on Internal Combustion Engines** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 37, *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines*.

The **Committee on Laser Fire Protection** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 115, *Standard for Laser Fire Protection*.

The **Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers, insurance, and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 31, *Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment*.

The **Committee on Loss Prevention Procedures and Practices** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 600, *Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades*; and NFPA 601, *Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention*.

The **Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 35, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*.

The **Committee on Manufactured Housing** is seeking members in all interest categories except enforcers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 501, *Standard on Manufactured Housing*; NFPA 501A, *Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Manufactured Home Installations, Sites, and Communities*; and NFPA 225, *Model Manufactured Home Installation Standard*.

The **Committee on Marine Fire-Fighting Vessels** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1925, *Standard on Marine Fire Fighting Vessels*.

The **Committee on Marine Terminals** is seeking members in all interest categories except special interest. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 307, *Standard for the Construction and Fire Protection of Marine Terminals, Piers, and Wharves*.

The **Committee on Merchant Vessels** is seeking members from the commercial fishing industry and towing vessel industry. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 301, *Code for Safety to Life from Fire on Merchant Vessels*.

The **Committee on Mining Facilities** is seeking members in the special expert and manufacturing categories, specifically the manufacturers of mining equipment. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 120, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Coal Mines*; and NFPA 122, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Metal/Nonmetal Mining and Metal Mineral Processing Facilities*.

The **Committee on Oxygen Enriched Atmospheres** is seeking members in all interest categories except for special expert and research and testing. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 53, *Recommended Practice on Materials, Equipment and Systems Used in Oxygen-Enriched Atmospheres*.

The **Committee on Pre-Incident Planning** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1620, *Recommended Practice for Pre-Incident Planning*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Accreditation and Certification to Fire Service Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1000, *Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Emergency Vehicle Mechanic Technicians Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1071, *Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*; NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*; NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional*

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(Continued from page 29)

*Qualifications*; and NFPA 1004, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters*. The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Inspector Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1031, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Investigator Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except users and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1033, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except users and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1037, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Officer Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1021, *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except users and special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1041, *Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Industrial Fire Brigades Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1081, *Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Public Fire Educator Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except labor and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1035, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Public Safety Telecommunicator Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories except users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1061, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Safety Telecommunicator*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all categories except labor, special expert, and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescue Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Professional Qualifications—Wildfire Suppression Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*.

The **Committee on Public Emergency Service Communication** is seeking members in the following categories: manufacturers, installer/maintainer, and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*.

The **Committee on Risk Management** is looking for members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1201, *Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public*; and NFPA 1240, *Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*.

The **Committee on Road Tunnel and Highway Fire Protection** is seeking members in the following categories: enforcers, researchers, and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 502, *Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways*.

The **Committee on Safety to Life—Board and Care Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for Chapters 32 and 33 in NFPA 101<sup>®</sup>, *Life Safety Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The **Committee on Safety to Life—Furnishings and Contents** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for Chapter 10 in the NFPA 101<sup>®</sup>, *Life Safety Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The **Committee on Shipbuilding, Repair, and Lay-Up** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 312, *Standard for Fire Protection of Vessels During Construction, Conversion, Repair, and Lay-Up*.

The **Committee on Signaling Systems—Public Fire Reporting Systems** is seeking members in all categories except manufacturers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for chapters in NFPA 72<sup>®</sup>, *National Fire Alarm Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The **Committee on Solvent Extraction Plants** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 36, *Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants*.

The **Committee on Static Electricity** is seeking members in the categories of enforcers, insurance, and research/testing. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 77, *Recommended Practice on Static Electricity*.

The **Committee on Tank Leakage and Repair Safeguards** is seeking members in the interest categories of equipment manufacturers and insurance. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 326, *Standard for the Safeguarding of Tanks and Containers for Entry*,

(Continued on page 31)

## NFPA Conference & Expo Scholarships

Attention fire and life safety educators: we want as many of you as possible to attend the NFPA Conference and Expo in Las Vegas, NV this June. We've got some great educational opportunities designed just for you, as well as some outstanding networking opportunities in the works. To make getting to Las Vegas easier, NFPA is awarding up to 30 scholarships for fire and life safety educators.

Here's what you'll get:

- Free conference registration
- Three nights lodging
- Some meals

Here's what you'll be responsible for:

- Airfare
- Airport transfers
- Some meals
- Miscellaneous expenses

Don't delay – only 30 scholarships are available. Download the application at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Public%20Education/2010NFPAMeetingScholarship.pdf> and return it to NFPA by March 19, 2010.

*(Continued from page 30)*

*Cleaning, or Repair; and NFPA 329, Recommended Practice for Handling Releases of Flammable and Combustible Liquids and Gases.*

The **Committee on Telecommunications** is seeking members in the users category, specifically from the cable industry. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 76, *Standard for the Fire Protection of Telecommunications Facilities*.

The **Committee on Textile and Garment Care Processes** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 32, *Standard for Drycleaning Plants*.

The **Committee on Transportation of Flammable Liquids** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers, insurance, and manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 385, *Standard for Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids*.

The **Committee on Vehicular Alternative Fuel Systems** is seeking members in the interest category of enforcers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 52, *Vehicular Gaseous Fuel Systems Code*.

The **Committee on Wastewater Treatment Plants** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and special experts. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 820, *Standard for Fire Protection in Wastewater Treatment and Collection Facilities*.

The **Committee on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and special expert. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 18, *Standard on Wetting Agents*; and NFPA 18A, *Standard on Water Additives for Fire Control and Vapor Mitigation*.

The **Committee on Water-Cooling Towers** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and installer/maintainer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 214, *Standard on Water-Cooling Towers*.

The **Committee on Water Spray Fixed Systems** is seeking members in the interest category of enforcers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 15, *Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection*.

The **Committee on Water Tanks** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 22, *Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection*.

The **Committee on Wood and Cellulosic Materials Processing** is seeking members in the following interest categories: enforcers (code official) and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 664, *Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Explosions in Wood Processing and Woodworking Facilities*.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees or on any NFPA technical committee can download a technical committee application from NFPA's web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/codesTC>; or by a written request to: Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471. Technical Committee application deadline for the March 2010 Standards Council meeting has closed. The application deadline for the August 2010 Standards Council meeting is May 3, 2010.

## UL Enhanced Online Fire Resistance Information

The UL Online Certifications Directory has been updated to include a more user-friendly format for locating information on fire resistance ratings and roof deck constructions. The update represents a significant enhancement from the pages that have been in use since 1999. The revisions were done in response to requests from code officials, architects and contractors.

The new fire resistance web pages can be accessed from the UL Online Certifications Directory located at [www.ul.com/database](http://www.ul.com/database). To locate the fire resistance home pages go to the “Select a specific search” pull-down menu and select “Fire-resistance-rated Systems and Products”. This launches you into the newly developed fire resistance homepage, allowing access to information on all aspects of fire resistance. A customized web page on roof deck constructions is available by selecting “Roof Deck Constructions”. If the fire resistance related design, system, or assembly number is known, it can be entered immediately to access the specific assembly. Unique web pages have also been developed for all fire resistance related categories, including the following:

- Fire-resistance-rated designs
- Rapid-rise fire-resistance-rated designs
- Through-penetration firestop systems
- Joint systems
- Perimeter fire containment systems
- Fire doors and windows
- Dampers
- Grease duct assemblies
- Ventilation duct assemblies
- Electrical circuit protective systems

Each customized page incorporates technical information and features designed to help you easily locate an appropriate design, system or assembly. The fire-resistance-rated designs homepage also includes a pull-down menu allowing easy access to information on about a hundred key technical topics related to fire resistance designs. These pages also include links to other information designed to enhance the usefulness of the certification information, including:

- Guide Information for the product categories
- UL’s Code Correlation Database, which allows you to correlate specific building and fire code sections and corresponding UL product categories and standards.
- Links to UL’s Architectural Services, Customer Services and Regulatory Services Department pages
- Training courses on fire resistance
- Recent changes or additions to UL Certifications for fire resistance

These enhancements to the Online Certifications Directory are part of a bigger plan to improve the overall functionality of the UL Online Certifications Directory.

“We are pleased to provide these enhancements for users of the Online Certifications Directory.” said Howard Hopper, UL Regulatory Services Manager who coordinated their development. “We are also working on additional enhancements to further meet the needs of design professionals and code authorities who rely on UL for comprehensive fire resistance rated certification information. You can expect to see the next phase of enhancements in early 2010.”

For additional information on the fire resistance related enhancements to the UL Online Certifications Directory contact Rich Walke in Northbrook, IL at:

*(Continued on page 33)*

(Continued from page 32)

Richard.N.Walke@us.ul.com or +1.847.664.3084.

2009 Issue 3



ONLINE CERTIFICATIONS DIRECTORY

[Quick Guide](#) [Contact Us](#) [UL.com](#)

**Fire-resistance-rated Systems and Products**

These designs, systems, assemblies, and products all include, or are related to, hourly fire-resistance ratings.

**SEARCH FOR A DESIGN**

Search for a Design No.

SEARCH

CLEAR

**SEARCH HINTS:** To search for a particular design (or assembly or system), enter the design number above. To search for designs within a series enter the alpha character(s) followed by the first numeric character and an \* (e.g., searching for L5\* yields result for all L500 series designs). If your initial search yields an excessive number of matches, select "Refine Your Search" and tighten the search parameters using the desired hourly rating, company name of components used in the design, and other key words.

**FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED SYSTEMS AND PRODUCTS**

[Fire-resistance Ratings](#)  
(floor-ceilings, roof-ceilings, beams, walls, partitions, columns)

[Through-penetration Firestop Systems](#)  
[Joint Systems](#)

[Perimeter Fire-containment Systems](#)  
[Fire Door and Fire Window Assemblies](#)  
[Dampers](#)

[Grease Duct Assemblies](#)  
[Structural Steel Used in Petrochemical Facilities](#)  
[Electrical Circuit Protective Systems](#)  
[Thermal Barrier Systems](#)  
[Ventilation Duct Assemblies](#)

**RELATED INFORMATION**

Fire-resistant  
[Record Protection Equipment](#)  
and  
[Vault Doors](#)

**FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE**

[Correlate International Building Code requirements with UL certifications](#)  
[Architectural Services](#)  
[Customer Services](#)  
[Regulatory Services](#)  
[Obtain UL Standards](#)  
[Training course on fire resistance](#)  
[General information on fire resistance ratings \(BXRH\)](#)

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I'm Back

## Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association

*Dedicated to the prevention of fire through  
Fire Inspection and Public Education  
By Tod Doebler, Chapter President*

There have been numerous changes within the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association as well as our State.

We have a new President, Susan Phillips; she brings with her many years of experience in the fire service as well as the expertise of being an EFO graduate. Sue has again appointed me to represent our Association with IFMA.

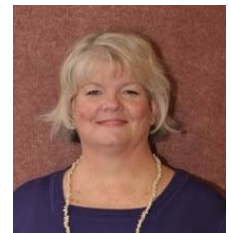
At the state level we are in the process of adopting NFPA 1 2009 addition as our Fire Prevention Code. Many of the Wisconsin amendments have been eliminated and additional chapters have been adopted. We have made it through the public hearing phase and are hoping for adoption by mid 2010. Our Fire Prevention Code counsel has gone through a change of leadership. Bob DuPont the division manager of Prevention had decided that he was just not making any head way fighting the governmental bureaucracy. The new division manager has already made overtones that we need to re-view our fire prevention code because of inconsistencies. This will be the start of a new challenge for the Wisconsin Fire Service that we have gone through before.

Our last annual educational conference was a great success. The committee had set up many different training opportunities and they were well received. The highlight of our executive board meeting was our guest speaker Steve Peavey from the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association and yes on the IFMA board. Steve gave us a great over view of were their association was many years a go and how they have achieved their growth over the years. This will give us a great framework to carry our association forward. President Phillips also mentions this in her first article for the Wisconsin Fire Journal. I have included her article so that you will get a feel of the energy that she brings to our Association.

As we all have experienced the pains of our current economical times, we need to think of new and ingenious ways for us to be able to continue to deliver our messages of good life safety choices. Our association has been fortunate this last year that many corporate sponsors have stepped up to help us. We will keep striving to reach out to all of the citizens within our state to educate them and keep them safe.

President Phillips article follows:

Set to Move Forward  
Susan Phillips, President  
Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association



Like a Challenge? Do you remember President Kennedy's challenge to American "ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country"? If you do you are at least as old as I am, but more importantly you also know that following that speech the nation saw an increase in volunteerism. New programs were started, new alliances forged, a coming together that was somewhat lost over the years until the events of September 11, 2001.

At the board meeting before the conference we had a guest speaker, Steve Peavey from the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. Laurie Frey met him at the NFPA conference and thought his message of customer service and

*(Continued on page 35)*

*(Continued from page 34)*

how the FFMIA turned their organization around to provide greater benefit to their membership was important for us to hear. Throughout the years they increased their membership by making it valuable to them. Rather than just having an annual conference, they branched out offering training in each of their regions on a routine basis. Originally their organization was the Florida State Fire Marshals Association, and to be more inclusive changed their name and membership to include Inspectors.

By working to ensure their members have a benefit to membership, more than just a professional organization on a resume, the FFMIA offers training, a voice at the state and national levels on fire prevention issues and grew their membership from the hundreds to the thousands of fire service professionals throughout the state.

This year's conference provided some unique educational opportunities; specifically including a Lunch 'n Learn with topics for the code officials and public educators. One opportunity was presented by Rinderle Door Company on Passive Fire Protection. Those in attendance let us know that this is a subject they would like to see presented in a longer format. You can never know too much about fire doors. The other Lunch 'n Learn was presented by Dr. Shane Diekman from the Centers for Disease Control on what other nations are doing related to public fire safety education. One of the most interesting things to discover in his presentation was that the CDC recognizes injuries from fire as an issue worthy of their research and program development.

John Dean, Maine Fire Marshal, provided insight on how their state enacted a ban on novelty lighters. If you want to get your legislature on board for this issue, it helps if one of the legislator's burns his hand with a novelty lighter during the hearings. This topic is one which the Association feels the need to be better addressed at a state level and if you look on our website will find a letter detailing our position on the topic.

Other conference topics included presentations by staff from NFPA, Simplex-Grinnell, NSFA, Commerce, Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association, Werner Electric, Menomonee Falls and Kenosha Fire Departments. In closing the conference we asked the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety to help us invite one of their campers turned counselor to close the conference by letting us know the value of the Camp for Burn Injured Youth that the Association supports. Miss Tanya Bolchen did an outstanding job of sharing her experiences at camp with us and how as a counselor she could see the confidence of each camper increase year after year. Few of us will ever know what these young people go through as they grow up with a serious burn injury and Tanya helped us put it in perspective in a way no one other than a camper could. It was a terrific way to end the conference.

During the business meeting of the conference the Association had election of officers. I, Susan Phillips, am the new President. Tom Clark from Pleasant Prairie is the First Vice President and Tom Wendt from Fond du Lac is the Second Vice President. It is our joint belief that the Inspectors Association has many opportunities for us to be a strong voice in the State and on the national front. We plan on developing partnerships with the other fire service agencies in the state to become a unified voice on code and fire safety issues. We look to increase the educational opportunities to the membership so that we provide classes on topics of interest to improve their service to their communities. We will continue to send members to national conference as a means to identify those instructors who may benefit our programs.

These objectives cannot be undertaken by only a few people. We need to hear from the membership at large on what they wish us to do for them. We need people with the flexibility to attend conferences and meetings on the Association's behalf. The people attending these sessions do not need to be just Board members but the membership at large as well. To become a stronger voice in the state and on a national level we need you to ask what you can do for the Association as we look to continue this past year's positive direction. In you are interested in serving on a committee, attending a conference or helping in any other way, please let us know.

*(Continued on page 38)*



One-Stop Data Shop  
 Fire Analysis and Research Division  
 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169  
 Email: osds@nfpa.org  
 www.nfpa.org



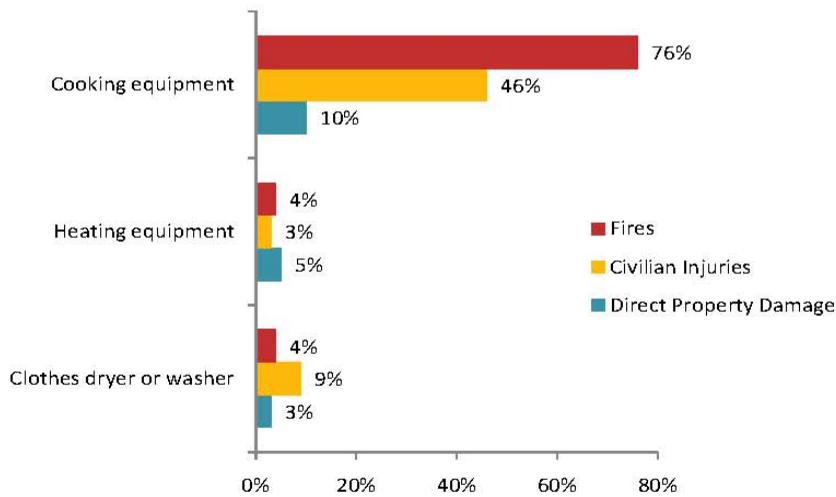
### Structure Fires in Residential Board and Care Facilities

U.S. Fire departments responded to an estimated average of 2,070 structure fires in residential board and care facilities annually during 2003-2007. These fires caused annual averages of:

- 10 civilian deaths
- 70 civilian injuries
- \$10.9 million in direct property damage

Three of every four structure fires in residential board and care facilities were caused by cooking and the kitchen was the leading area of origin.

**Structure Fires in Board and Care Facilities, by Leading Cause  
 2003-2007 Annual Averages**



- Smoking materials caused 3% of fires but 63% of the civilian deaths.
- Fires that started on mattress or bedding material caused 44% of the civilian deaths in these properties.
- Structure fires in these properties peak between 4 and 7 p.m.
- Saturday was the peak day for fires in these properties.

Source: *Structure Fires in Residential Board and Care*, Jennifer Flynn, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, December 2009.



One-Stop Data Shop  
 Fire Analysis and Research Division  
 One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169  
 Email: osds@nfpa.org  
 www.nfpa.org

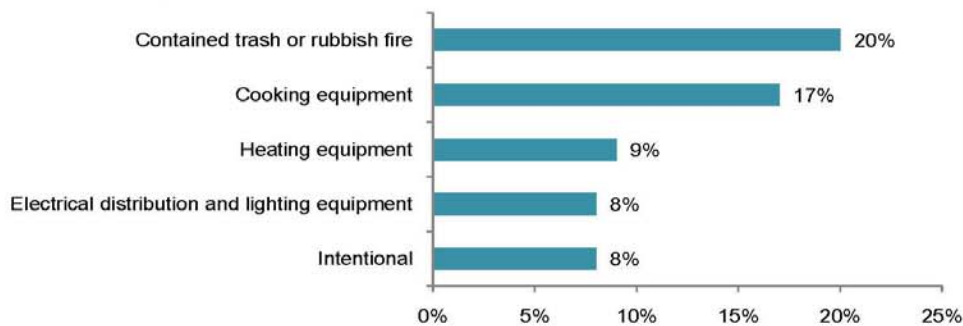


## Non-Residential Structure Fires Fact Sheet

In 2003-2006, an estimated 109,300 structure fires in non-residential properties were reported to municipal fire departments annually. These fires resulted in:

- 100 civilian fire deaths,
  - 1,410 civilian injuries,
  - \$2.4 billion in direct property damage, annually.
- One out of every 5 non-residential structure fires is a contained trash or rubbish fire.

**Leading Cause of Structure Fires in Non-Residential Properties, 2003-2006**



Estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

Property use breakdown for structure fires in nonresidential properties during 2003-2006:

- 22% - Storage properties
  - 19% - Mercantile or business properties
  - 19% - Outside or special properties
  - 14% - Public assembly properties
  - 23% - Other non-residential properties
- One out of every 4 non-residential structure fires occurs in the afternoon, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Source: *Non-Residential Property Structure Fires*, Jennifer D. Flynn, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research Division, Quincy, MA, October 2009.

(Continued from page 20)

The \$20 registration fee can be paid on-line with either a Visa or a MasterCard. Attendees wishing to pay by check, please mail a completed registration form, along with your check, to: NASFM; PO Box 671; Cheyenne, WY 82003-0671 at least 4 weeks before the scheduled session. (Registration Forms can be printed from the website).

**Lodging**

Attendees traveling more than 100 miles to attend the training session in their FEMA Region can qualify for reimbursement of one night's lodging costs at the government rate for the area. NASFM will not guarantee any rooms, but will provide the name of a nearby hotel/motel that accepts government rates. Attendees must make their own arrangements if lodging is desired.

In addition, attendees who qualify for lodging reimbursement can also qualify for a \$20.00 meal stipend. Lodging and meal reimbursement forms will be available at each session for attendees that qualify.

January	February	March	April	May
<p><b><u>FEMA REGION 3</u></b></p> <p><b>PEPCO Headquarters</b> 701 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Conf Rm., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Washington, DC 20001</p> <p><b>January 12, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 8</u></b></p> <p><b>Arvada Fire Department Training Center</b> 6651 Indiana Street Arvada, CO 80007-7547</p> <p><b>Feb 3, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 10</u></b></p> <p><b>WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission</b> 19010 First Ave So Burien, WA 98148</p> <p><b>Mar 3, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 2</u></b></p> <p><b>Bergen Co Fire Academy</b> 281 Campgaw Rd Mahwah, NJ 07430-2509</p> <p><b>Apr 7, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 7</u></b></p> <p><b>Sermon Community Center,</b> 201 N Dodgion Ave, Independence MO 64050.</p> <p><b>May 12, 2010</b></p>
<p><b><u>REGION 1</u></b></p> <p><b>NH Fire Academy</b> 98 Smokey Bear Blvd (off Route 106) Concord, NH</p> <p><b>Jan 19, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 9</u></b></p> <p><b>Veterans Memorial Building</b> 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549</p> <p><b>Feb.17, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 5</u></b></p> <p><b>Kellogg Hotel &amp; Conf. Center</b> 55 S. Harrison Rd E. Lansing, MI 48824</p> <p><b>Mar 17, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 4</u></b></p> <p><b>Georgia Fire Academy</b> 1000 Indian Springs Drive Forsyth, GA 31029</p> <p><b>Apr. 20, 2010</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGION 6</u></b></p> <p>Dallas</p> <p><b>Location TBD</b></p> <p><b>May 18, 2010</b></p>

(Continued from page 35)

In closing, following comments from the 2009 Conference, the conference committee requested permission to look at a new site for the 2010 Annual Conference. Therefore, the 2010 Conference will relocate to the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The week will remain the same, November 2 – 5, 2010. Be sure to check the Association website as well as The Wisconsin Fire Journal for information regarding the conference.

Until next time, stay safe.

**IFMA Merchandise  
Order Form**

IFMA has a line of merchandise to promote IFMA. They include a 100% cotton white golf shirt and a blue nylon windshirt with hand pockets, both come with the IFMA logo on the left breast.



**Golf Shirt** - \$30.00 each, includes postage and handling

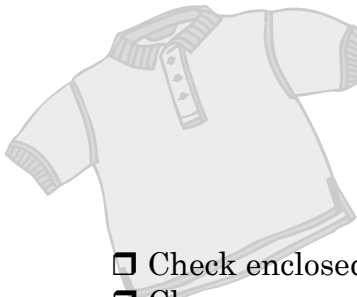
Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$30.00	_____

**Lapel Pin** - \$3.00 each, includes postage and handling

Number	Cost	Total Cost
_____	\$3.00	_____

**Wind Shirt** - \$40.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$40.00	_____



Grand Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed; *please make payable to IFMA*
- Charge my credit card.    MasterCard    Visa    American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or fax to:

IFMA  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02269  
Fax 617-984-7056

## Coming Events

### January 2010

- 19–21 National Fuel Gas Code, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 20–21 Automotive and Marine Service Stations, St. Petersburg, FL
- 20–22 Respiratory Protection Equipment, San Diego, CA
- 20–23 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, Phoenix, AZ
- 21–22 Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas, NV
- 22 Electrical Equipment Evaluation, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA
- 25–26 Health Care Facilities–Fundamentals, Phoenix, AZ
- 26 Aircraft Fuel Servicing, Telephone/Web Conference
- 26–27 LP-Gases at Utility Gas Plants, Tampa, FL
- 26–28 Signaling Systems for the Protection of Life and Property—Carbon Monoxide Detection, Tampa, FL
- 27–29 Health Care Facilities–Electrical Systems, Phoenix, AZ
- 28 Smoke Management Systems, Orlando, FL
- 28 Northeastern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Linthicum, MD**

### February

- 1–2 Pyrotechnics, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2–4 Liquefied Natural Gas, Houston, TX
- 2–4 Forest and Rural Fire Protection, Ft. Myers, FL
- 2–4 Data Exchange for the Fire Service, Orlando, FL
- 8–10 Air Conditioning, Nashville, TN
- 8–12 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, Savannah, GA
  - 8–9 Tank Storage & Piping Systems
  - 10 Operations
  - 10 Fundamentals
  - 10 Technical Correlating Committee
- 11–12 Storage & Warehousing of Containers
- 8–12 Electrical Safety in the Employee Workplace, Memphis, TN
- 9 Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Anaheim, CA**
- 9 Cleanrooms, Telephone/Web Conference
- 11–12 Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health, San Diego, CA
- 22–24 Record Protection, Orlando, FL
- 22–26 National Electrical Code Technical Correlating Committee, Daytona Beach, FL
- 23 Northcentral Regional Fire Code Development Committee, St. Louis, MO**
- 23–25 Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment—Hazardous Materials, Dayton, OH

### March

- 2 Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Fort Lauderdale, FL**
- 2–3 Standards Council, San Juan, PR
- 16–17 Hazardous Materials Response Personnel, Orlando, FL
- 30 TCC Building Code, Rosemont, FL
- 31 TCC Safety to Life Code, Rosemont, FL

### April

- 9–11 Fire Service Training, New Orleans, LA
- 13–15 Commissioning Fire Protection Systems, Charlotte, NC
- 28 IFMA Board Meeting, Washington, DC**
- 29 CFSI Dinner, Washington, DC**