

Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Spring 2001



Washington State Association of Fire Marshals Becomes IFMA Chapter 18

On November 14, 2000, at the IFMA Business Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals became Chapter 18. On hand to accept their Charter were Wayne Senter, Chapter Vice President, and Chief Mike Brown. We would like to welcome and congratulate the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals in becoming an IFMA Chapter.

Do "Pizza Ovens" Require Cooking Protection?

By R. T. Leicht, CFI, CFPS, Delaware State Fire Marshals Office

NFPA 96, *Standard for Ventilation, Control, and Protection of Commercial Cooking Equipment*, does not specify what equipment does or does not require a fire extinguishing system. The focus of the standard is on the potential fire hazard of cooking operations, irrespective of the type of cooking equipment being utilized. Because the standard cannot address every specific installation, ultimately, the decision depends on the judgment of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), whether it is the fire official, owner, or insurance company.

Therefore, in order to answer the title question, one needs to ascertain whether or not a potential fire hazard exists when only pizza is being baked. It has been claimed that pizza, when being baked, does not generate any significant level of grease-laden vapors. This may be true, but what if a pizza oven is being used for more than just pizza? In the early 1990s, a national family pizza chain announced they were going to expand their menu without investing any additional capital. Indeed, the restaurant chain now serves meat items such as buffalo wings and barbecued ribs, which are cooked in the same continuous (conveyor-type) ovens that were previously used for baking only pizza. In many other chain restaurants, as a final step to being served, all hot menu items are passed through a "pizza oven" that may be referred to as a food-warmer or a cheese-melter. Regardless of what the equipment is called, if the food generates enough grease-laden vapors to justify protection when it is being initially cooked, then it generates enough grease-laden vapors to justify protection when it is being recooked or reheated.

Let's return to the claim that pizza, when being baked, does not generate any significant level of grease-laden vapors. We need to physically observe how much grease is or is not being generated. In order to reach some sort of a conclusion, an informal study of exhaust ducts over pizza ovens was conducted in a number of restaurants. No grease accumulation was noted after more than a year of use when the use was restricted to pizza only. As such, exhaust systems over ovens (batch or continuous) used for only pizza do not appear to need fixed fire protection. However, if other foods containing fats are placed in these ovens, regardless of what these ovens are being called, fixed fire protection is required.

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Fire Marshals Quarterly

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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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IFMA Nominating Committee Report: 2001 Executive Board Election

In accordance with Article 8 of the IFMA *Bylaws*, the report of the Nominating Committee was submitted to the Executive Secretary by the November 30 deadline. The Nominating Committee report will be acted upon by the IFMA membership at the IFMA Annual Business Meeting to be held in Anaheim, California, on May 15, 2001.

The Nominating Committee hereby submits the following report to the IFMA members:

Ron Farr, President
John Bender, 1st Vice President
Paul Maldonado, 2nd Vice President

Jon Nisja, Secretary
Scott Adams—Term Expires 5/2003
Jim Hill—Term Expires 5/2003

Congress Funds Fire Act at \$100 Million

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) is pleased to announce that Congress has funded the Fire Act for FY 2001. When Congress passed the FY 2001 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill (HR 4577) on December 15, 2000, the American fire service took the next step in securing substantial funding from the federal government. Congress has recognized that the federal government has a responsibility to provide financial support to our 1.2 million first responders. Securing this funding has been the major priority of CFSI and all the national fire service organizations for over three years. It is also a testament to the sacrifice and hard work of every first responder throughout this nation.

Once the authorizing legislation was passed in October, Senator William V. Roth Jr. (DE) did much of the work to secure funding for 2001. "It is truly an honor that one of my last acts in the Senate was helping to secure \$100 million in funding for the American fire and emergency services," said Senator Roth. "In the state of Delaware, the volunteer fire services deserve this type of support for the protection they provide to all Delawareans. I wish them all good luck and Godspeed."

"Fire fighters respond to just about every kind of emergency imaginable, from terrorist attacks and earthquakes, to wildfires and floods. These are among the bravest of Americans and up to now, they have done their jobs without any real monetary support from the federal government," said Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD).

This funding could never have been possible without the work of Congressman Curt Weldon (PA). Congressman Weldon, a former fire chief, founded the Congressional Fire Services

Caucus and Institute, which have served as major catalysts for legislative activity. "America's first responders put their lives on the line to protect our families and our communities. Friday, the federal government ended years of neglect by finally providing them with desperately needed funding," stated Congressman Weldon.

The root of this funding was the Fire Fighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act, introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell (NJ). He is credited with the idea to create a grant program to assist local first responders. "Today is truly the day we stop paying lip service to our fire fighters at holiday parades—without putting our money where our mouth is the rest of the year," stated Pascrell.

The national fire service organizations were also directly responsible. CFSI worked together with a number of other national fire organizations in this effort, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Fire Protection Association, International Association of Arson Investigators, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, and all of the members of CFSI's National Advisory Committee. Time and time again, there were circumstances that easily could have divided the groups, but they did not allow this to happen.

CFSI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to educate Congress about fire and life safety issues. This is accomplished through interaction with members of Congress and the staffs and through educational workshops we hold throughout the year. For more information on CFSI, go to www.cfsi.org, e-mail us at info@cfsi.org, or call (202) 371-1277.

NFPA Announces Chief Executive's 2002 Retirement Plans

The president and CEO of NFPA has announced his intention to retire, marking the formal start of the search for his successor. George D. Miller, who has led the NFPA since 1992, will step down in May 2002. A search committee has been appointed by NFPA's Board of Directors and is being led by Second Vice Chair of the NFPA Board, George Ockuly. Commenting on Miller's plans, NFPA Board Chair Martin H. (Mickey) Reiss said, "NFPA has greatly benefited from George Miller's leadership, wisdom, and vision these past nine years. George came to NFPA at a challenging time in our organization's long history and his acute business acumen and strong personal character helped guide NFPA through that transition. Under George's leadership, NFPA has become stronger than ever, with a clear strategic direction and a renewed commitment to mission. When he steps down in 2002, George will have left our organization and fire safety in very good stead."

The search committee begins advertising for the position this week and anticipates a 9–12 month process to complete the selection of Miller's successor. Catherine Scifres, NFPA Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, is coordinating the committee's efforts from NFPA's headquarters. Inquiries may be sent to her attention at 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA, USA 02269-9101.

Miller is a retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General who joined NFPA following a post as president of the Morris Animal Foundation, a Colorado foundation concerned with companion animal health and research. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of the U.S. Olympic Committee, where he oversaw revenue raising and was credited with persuading Fidel Castro to include Cuba's participation in the Pan American Games of 1987. Miller retired from the United States Air Force in 1984 as vice commander-in chief of the Strategic Air Command. Miller is the recipient of numerous medals and honors, including the Defense Distinguished Service medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.

"Throughout my career I have been fortunate to work in positions that have allowed me to focus my energies on public service," Miller said. "One of the qualities that drew me to NFPA was the opportunity to continue pursuing my lifelong interest in missions that help humanity. Over the past nine years at NFPA, I have watched our mission deepen and grow, which has positioned our organization to move decidedly into a broader arena of safety. My tenure at NFPA is proving to be among the most rewarding experiences in my career and I look forward to the next year and a half, which I know will bring even greater satisfaction."

Marcelo Olivieri de Lima Named First NFPA Regional Director for Brazil

Marcelo Olivieri de Lima, a chemical engineer from Sao Paulo, has been appointed by the nonprofit NFPA as the first regional director for Brazil, effective immediately. As a founding member of NFPA's Latin American Chapter, Lima will promote use and adoption of NFPA codes and standards with industry experts, distributors, and inspectors in Brazil and will continue to develop NFPA's partnership with the Brazilian Association of Risk Managers (ABGR), which has signed an agreement to translate NFPA standards into Portuguese. He will report to Nick Candee, NFPA's executive director for global operations. Lima is the director of the Fire Protection Committee for the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT). He also serves in the work group responsible for drafting the Brazilian standard on fire pumps and is a

member of the engineering committee of ABGR. Before joining NFPA, Lima spent 15 years in loss prevention, serving as chief engineer for Allianz Risk Consultants in South America and as senior consultant engineer for Factory Mutual. He also worked as a product specialist for Dow Chemical.

"Brazil is a growing market for NFPA, and we are pleased to appoint Marcelo Lima as our first regional director for this growing membership area. His leadership in the areas of fire protection, risk management, and standards development will serve Brazilian NFPA stakeholders well," said Candee. Lima may be reached at Av. Sao Camilo, 412—cj 16, Granja Viana, Cotia 06709-150, Brasil; tel./fax: +55-11-4612-5146; and e-mail: mlima@nfpa.org.

NFPA Announces Winners of Fire Prevention Week 2000 "The Great Escape" Contests

New Minas, Nova Scotia, and Petersburg, Alaska, Residents Are Going to Walt Disney World!

NFPA, the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 75 years, announced grand prizewinners for the Fire Prevention Week 2000 "The Great Escape" home fire escape planning contests. Roderick Vasquez, a third-grader from Petersburg, Alaska, is the winner of "The Great Escape" contest from the general public category. Charles Huntley, a second-grade student from New Minas, Nova Scotia, and the son of Joseph Huntley of the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department, is the winner of "The Great Escape" contest for immediate family members of the fire service. The winners will each receive a grand prize vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, valued at \$10,000. In addition, the school and local fire department of each winner will receive a set of NFPA's *Risk Watch*™ comprehensive injury prevention curriculum.

Launched by NFPA in October 1998, "The Great Escape" was a three-year public safety campaign aimed at teaching children and families to develop and practice home fire drills. To date, NFPA has documented 60 lives saved—36 of them under age

12—as a direct result of the campaign. The centerpiece of "The Great Escape" has been NFPA's unified North American fire drill, held during Fire Prevention Week in October. The grand prize contests, for all fire drill participants, estimated at 120,000 this year, provide a fun incentive for everyone to get actively involved in the campaign. "I'm extremely pleased to see that 'The Great Escape' has continued to be a key educational activity in communities throughout North America during Fire Prevention Week," says Meri-K Appy, NFPA's vice president for public education. "As 'The Great Escape' continues to reach and impact more people, we hope that more families will be prepared in the event of a home fire, which is really what this campaign is all about."

Funding partners for NFPA's Fire Prevention Week 2000 "The Great Escape" were KIDDE Safety, Lowe's Home Safety Council, the U.S. Fire Administration, and The USAA Educational Foundation.

Nominate IFMA Members for Awards

At its November 2000 Business Meeting the IFMA members approved a bylaw change in relation to honoring IFMA members (see below). If anyone has an IFMA member who they believe may qualify for an award, please contact the Executive Secretary for a nomination form.

ARTICLE 9. HONORS

9-1 The association shall have the ability to bestow the following honors on individuals they feel have benefited the association: Honorary Membership, Life Membership, Meritorious Service Award, and the Percy Bugbee Award.

(a) Honorary Membership:
See Section 3.1(d).

(b) Life Membership:
See Section 3.1(c).

(c) Meritorious Service Award:
The Meritorious Service Award is to recognize a member or members of the Association for notable and significant service in the public fire safety fields, to include, but not be limited to, fire prevention, fire inspection, fire safety education, fire investigation, code enforcement, fire code development, etc., in keeping with the highest traditions of the association.

(1) Nominations shall be made to the Executive Secretary by May 1st.

(2) The Meritorious Service Award shall be presented at the Fall Meeting of the association.

(3) The award shall not be awarded more than once per year.

(d) Percy Bugbee Award:

The Percy Bugbee Award recognizes a person whose notable, significant, and enduring contributions to the public safety are in keeping with the highest traditions of the association.

(1) Nominations shall be made to the Executive Secretary by November 1st.

(2) The Percy Bugbee Award shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the association.

(3) The award shall not be awarded more than once per year.

Carbon Monoxide Risks at Home

In the past decade, people have become more aware of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home. NFPA offers the following fact sheet to help people protect themselves and their families against carbon monoxide poisoning.

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are possible sources of CO. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of CO.

However, consumers can protect themselves against CO poisoning by properly installing, using, venting, and maintaining their heating and cooking equipment; by installing CO alarms inside their homes; and by being cautious with vehicles or generators in attached garages.

What is the effect of exposure to CO?

CO is poisonous and can kill cells of the body. CO also replaces oxygen in the bloodstream, leading to suffocation. Mild effects feel like the flu, while severe effects include difficulty breathing and even death.

Just how sick people get from CO exposure varies greatly from person to person, depending on age, overall health, concentration of exposure (measured in parts per million), and length of exposure. As with anything harmful that is inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed by the body, the severity of harm depends on the dose. The same dose of CO can be received through a long exposure to a low concentration or a brief exposure to a high concentration. Given time, the body will get rid of CO, unlike substances like lead or arsenic. Therefore, at the end of a long exposure to a low concentration, some of the initial CO may already have been expelled. That means if the same amount of CO is received over a long period of time, its effect on the body may be less than if the same amount of CO had been received quickly, in high concentration. Table 1 shows typical symptoms, based on concentration and time of exposure.

When blood carries CO rather than oxygen, the CO-carrying cells are called carboxyhemoglobin (COHb), in contrast to normal oxygen-carrying hemoglobin. The percentage of the blood that is carboxyhemoglobin—also called carboxyhemoglobin saturation—measures how badly a person is affected by CO. A doctor can measure COHb in the blood but cannot measure CO in the body directly. The more CO in the body, the higher the COHb, and the sicker the person will be. Table 2 links typical symptoms to the level of COHb saturation.

Table 1: Effects of Exposure to CO*

<i>Concentration (parts per million)</i>	<i>Symptoms</i>
100	Threshold limit value for no adverse effects even with 6–8 hours exposure
200	Possible mild headache after 2–3 hours
400	Headache and nausea after 1–2 hours
800	Headache, nausea, and dizziness after 45 minutes; collapse and possible unconsciousness after 2 hours
1,000	Loss of consciousness after 1 hour
1,600	Headache, nausea, and dizziness after 20 minutes
3,200	Headache and dizziness after 5–10 minutes; unconsciousness after 30 minutes
6,400	Headache and dizziness after 1–2 minutes; unconsciousness and danger of death after 10–15 minutes
12,800	Immediate physiological effects; unconsciousness and danger of death after 1–3 minutes

Source: James H. Meidl, *Explosive and Toxic Hazardous Materials*, Glencoe Press, 1970, Table 28, p. 293.

* Just how sick people get from CO exposure varies greatly from person to person, depending on age, overall health, concentration of exposure (measured in parts per million), and length of exposure.

Table 2: Effects of COHb Saturation

<i>COHb Saturation (%)</i>	<i>Symptoms</i>
0–10	None
10–20	Tension in forehead, dilation of skin vessels
20–30	Headache and pulsating temples
30–40	Severe headache, weariness, dizziness, weakened sight, nausea, vomiting, prostration
40–50	Same as above, plus increased breathing and pulse rates, and asphyxiation
50–60	Same as above, plus coma, convulsions, Cheyne-Stokes respiration
60–70	Coma, convulsions, weak respiration and pulse; death is possible
70–80	Slowing and stopping of breathing; death within hours
80–90	Death in less than one hour
90–100	Death within a few minutes

Source: Gordon E. Hartzell, Ed., *Advances in Combustion Toxicology, Volume One*, Technomic Publishing, Inc., 1989, p. 23.

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What is your risk of CO poisoning?

Deaths from unintentional poisoning by gas or vapors, chiefly CO—about 600 in 1998, including 500 in homes, according to the National Safety Council—are fairly rare, and the number has been declining somewhat steadily, down by half since the early 1980s. Of all the unintentional gas and vapor poisoning deaths in the United States, more than one-third involve motor vehicle exhaust gas, and more than one-fourth involve heating or cooking equipment. The total reflects more than CO-related deaths; it also reflects deaths resulting from other gases, such as natural gas leaks from pipelines.*

Deaths from unintentional CO poisoning have dropped in recent years, thanks to lower CO emissions from automobiles and safer heating and cooking appliances.

Deaths from “smoke inhalation” (largely CO) in fires and suicides involving CO are both far more common causes of gas-related suffocation deaths.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 207 CO-related nonfire deaths were attributed to heating and cooking equipment in 1996.** The specific types of equipment were as follows:

- Gas-fueled space heaters (99 deaths)
- Gas-fueled furnaces (35 deaths)
- Liquid-fueled heating equipment (21 deaths)
- Charcoal grills (19 deaths)
- Gas-fueled ranges (15 deaths)
- Solid-fueled heating equipment (10 deaths)
- Gas-fueled water heaters (8 deaths)

As with fire deaths, the risk of unintentional CO death is highest for the very young (ages 4 or under) and the very old (ages 75 or above).

How can you protect yourself from CO poisoning?

Install CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. However, a CO alarm is no substitute for safe practices.

The best defenses against CO poisoning are safe use of vehicles (particularly in attached garages) and proper installation, use, venting, and maintenance of household cooking and heating equipment.

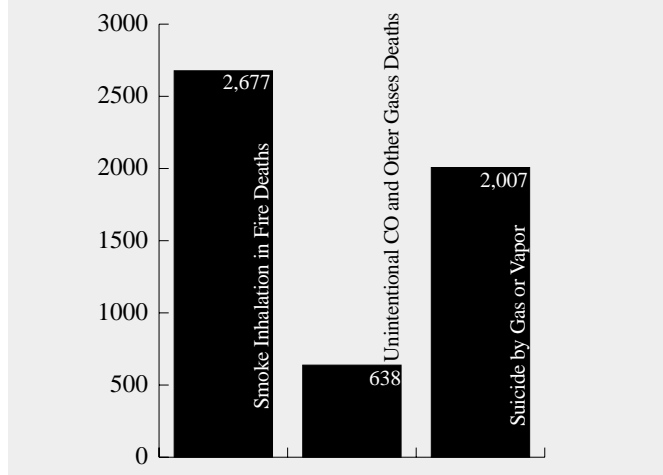
What are CO alarms?

Household CO alarms measure how much CO has accumulated. Currently, CO alarms sound when the concentration of CO in the air corresponds to 10% COHb level in the blood. Since 10% COHb is at the very low end of CO poisoning, the alarm may sound before people feel particularly sick. Most CO

* National Safety Council's *Accident Facts*, 1981–1999.

** The latest year for which statistics are available at this level of detail.

Table 3: 1996 Deaths Involving CO and Related Gases



Source: Dr. John Hall Jr., Burns, Toxic Gases, and Other Hazards Associated With Fires, *Fire Analysis and Research Division, NFPA, November 1999.*

alarms now have silence/reset buttons and must be immune to elevated ambient levels such as those found in urban areas.

Do I need a CO alarm?

NFPA 720, *Recommended Practice for the Installation of Household Carbon Monoxide (CO) Warning Equipment*, 1998 Edition, recommends installing a CO alarm in households containing a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace, or in those having an attached garage.

What causes CO nuisance alarms?

Pollution and atmospheric conditions in some areas cause low levels of CO to be present for long periods of time. In fact, these “background” conditions may increase CO to over the 10% COHb equivalency level, causing older CO alarms to sound even though conditions inside the home are not truly hazardous. However, newer alarms have been designed to reduce sensitivities to compensate for these background conditions. Treat all CO alarm warning sounds as real, until it has been verified that there is no threat from equipment inside the dwelling.

Safety Tips

If you need to warm up a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle, generator, or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. CO from a running vehicle or generator inside an attached garage can get inside the house, even with the garage door open. Normal circulation does not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent dangerous accumulations inside.

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If you have any symptoms of CO poisoning, have your vehicle inspected for exhaust leaks.

Have fuel-burning household heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, and space or portable heaters) checked every year before cold weather sets in.

All chimneys and chimney connectors should be evaluated by a qualified technician to verify proper installation, and check for cracks, blockages, or leaks. Make needed repairs before using the equipment. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation.

Before enclosing central heating equipment in a smaller room, check with your fuel supplier to ensure that air for proper combustion is provided. NFPA 54, *National Fuel Gas Code*, provides requirements for openings to allow sufficient air for the proper combustion of gas.

Open a window slightly whenever using a kerosene or gas heater. (Kerosene heaters are illegal in many states. Always check with local authorities before buying or using one.) Only refuel outside, after the device has cooled.

Only use barbecue grills—which can produce CO—outside. Never use them in the home or garage.

When purchasing new heating and cooking equipment, select products tested and labeled by an independent testing laboratory. Do not accept damaged equipment. Hire a qualified technician (usually employed by the local oil or gas company) to install the equipment. Ask about—and insist that the technician follow—applicable fire safety and building codes.

When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house.

When camping, remember to use battery-powered heaters and flashlights in tents, trailers, and motorhomes. Using fossil fuels inside these structures is extremely dangerous. NFPA 1192, *Standard on Recreational Vehicles*, requires the installation of CO detectors in recreational vehicles.

Boat operators should be aware that CO is emitted from any boat's exhaust. When your boat is moored or anchored alongside others', be aware of the effect your exhaust may have on those vessels and vice versa. The trim of the boat, as well as side curtains, can contribute to increased concentrations of CO by altering the airflow. Fuel burning appliances located in accommodation spaces need to be properly ventilated and maintained.

If you buy CO alarms:

- Select alarms listed by a qualified, independent testing laboratory.
- Follow recommendations of NFPA 720 and manufacturer's recommendations for placement in your home.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. Each alarm should be installed on the wall, ceiling, or other location as specified by the manufacturer's instructions that accompany the unit.
- Call your local fire department's nonemergency telephone number. Tell the operator that you have purchased a CO alarm and ask what number to call if the CO alarm sounds. Clearly post that number by your telephone(s). Make sure everyone in the household knows the difference between the fire emergency and CO emergency numbers (if there is a difference).
- Test CO alarms at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for battery replacement.

What to do if your CO alarm sounds:

- Have everyone move to an area with fresh (outside) air. Open windows to ventilate.
- Report the CO alarm warning, following the instructions you received from the fire department when you bought the alarm.
- Be on the lookout for any symptoms of CO poisoning. Evacuate the home if symptoms are present. Get immediate medical attention if anyone shows signs of CO poisoning.
- Call a qualified technician to inspect all equipment.

Safety checklist:

- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Smoke alarms react to fire by-products, before CO alarms would sound. Smoke alarms give earlier warning of a fire, providing more time to escape.
- To guard against smoke and fire, be sure that your home has working smoke alarms on every level and directly outside and inside all sleeping rooms.
- Know the difference between the sound of the smoke alarms and the sound of the CO alarms.
- Have a home escape plan for any home emergency and practice the plan with all members of the household regularly, at least twice a year.

What Better Example!

By Michael Moran, Director, Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley

In the 18th century, Benjamin Franklin championed fire prevention by encouraging fire-retardant construction, pioneering an effective but safe heating appliance, and organizing community fire companies. It is only fitting that, in the 21st century, a simple automatic sprinkler system would extinguish a small fire in the same Independence Square complex in Philadelphia where Ben made his mark in history.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on January 8, 2001, a small fire broke out in "Olde City Hall." This structure served as the U.S. Supreme Court from 1791 to 1800. The building is masonry and wood joist construction and was built in the 1700s. It is also situated directly next to Independence Hall, the birthplace of the country where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were promulgated.

The building, as is most of the complex, is now owned by the federal government and under the supervision of the Park Service. In one of the somewhat recent restorations, a decision was made to install sprinklers throughout, including in the electrical service areas. It is beyond belief that this decision was made without considerable debate. Since electricity was another study of Franklin's, it is nothing less than ironic that a fire in the electric transformer area was controlled by the fire protection system.

We have our fire protection forefathers to thank for their contribution to safeguarding our history. The loss of these landmarks would have never been fully comprehended.

Call for Members

The **Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings** is seeking members in the interest categories of enforcing authority and insurer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 35, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*.

The **Committee on Motor Vehicle and Highway Fire Protection** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 502, *Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways*, and NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*.

The **Committee on Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert or user. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 801, *Standard for Fire Protection for Facilities Handling Radioactive Materials*; NFPA 803, *Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Nuclear Power Plants*; NFPA 804, *Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*; and NFPA 805, *Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generation Plants*.

The **Committee on Fire Service Training** is seeking members in the following interest categories: user, special expert, and enforcer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 13E, *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*; NFPA 1401, *Recommended Practice for Fire Service Training Reports and Records*; NFPA 1402, *Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers*; NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions*; NFPA 1404, *Standard for a Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Program*;

NFPA 1405, *Guide for Land-Based Fire Fighters Who Respond to Marine Vessel Fires*; NFPA 1410, *Standard on Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations*; NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*; and NFPA 1452, *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Dwelling Fire Safety Surveys*.

The **Committee on Premises Security** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee will be responsible for the development of documents on premises security.

The **Committee on Public Fire Educator Professional Qualifications** is seeking members in the user category. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1035, *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator*.

The **Committee on Solvent Extraction Plants** is seeking members in the interest categories of equipment manufacturer, insurer, and enforcing authority. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 36, *Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants*.

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

Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees or on any NFPA technical committee should request a technical committee application form from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

Coming Events Committee Calendar

March

- 1–2 Residential Sprinkler Systems, Tampa, FL
6–7 Western Regional Fire Code Dev Comm., Sacramento, CA
 7–8 Aerosol Products, Tampa, FL
 8–10 Forest and Rural Fire Protection, Springfield, MO
 9–11 Public Emergency Service Communications, Phoenix, AZ
 12–16 Electrical Equipment of Industrial Machinery, Melbourne, FL
 13–14 Air Conditioning, Washington, DC
 14–15 Foam, Austin, TX
 16–17 Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, Phoenix, AZ
 21–23 Electrical Equipment Maintenance, Clearwater, FL
22–23 Northeastern Regional Fire Code Dev. Comm., Portsmouth, NH
 27–28 Airport Facilities, Houston, TX

April

- 5–6 NFPA Standards Council, Washington, DC
 6 Fire Tests, Baltimore, MD
 23–24 TCC Automatic Sprinklers, Baltimore, MD
 23–25 Fire Service Occupational Safety, Norwood, MA
 24–25 Smoke Management Systems, Baltimore, MD
 25–27 Telecommunications, Denver, CO
 26–27 TCC Building Code, Baltimore, MD

May

- 7–8 Hazardous Materials Response Personnel, Mudelein, IL
13–17 World Fire Safety Congress and Exposition™, Anaheim, CA

Committees Soliciting Proposals

The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their respective 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. EDST 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 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.) Please note that for **new documents (P*)**, a draft copy of the **new document** on which to submit proposals will be available. Copies of **new document (P*)** drafts are available from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/procom/document.html>. 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 1-2000†	<i>Fire Prevention Code</i>	6/8/2001	F2002
NFPA 20-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 22-1998	<i>Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 50A-1999	<i>Standard for Gaseous Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 50B-1999	<i>Standard for Liquefied Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 51B-1999	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 55-1998	<i>Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 86-1999	<i>Standard for Ovens and Furnaces</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 86C-1999	<i>Standard for Industrial Furnaces Using a Special Processing Atmosphere</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 86D-1999	<i>Standard for Industrial Furnaces Using Vacuum as an Atmosphere</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 97-2000	<i>Standard Glossary of Terms Relating to Chimneys, Vents, and Heat-Producing Appliances</i>	7/6/2001	F2002

NFPA 101®-2000	<i>Life Safety Code®</i>	3/30/2001	F2002
NFPA 130-2000	<i>Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 140-1999	<i>Standard on Motion Picture and Television Production Studio Soundstages and Approved Production Facilities</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 211-2000	<i>Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 225-P*	<i>Standard for Manufactured Home Sites, Communities, and Setups</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 230-1999	<i>Standard for the Fire Protection of Storage</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 252-1999	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 256-1998	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Roof Coverings</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 259-1998	<i>Standard Test Method for Potential Heat of Building Materials</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 260-1998	<i>Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 261-1998	<i>Standard Method of Test for Determining Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies to Ignition by Smoldering Cigarettes</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 272-1999	<i>Standard Method of Test for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Upholstered Furniture Components or Composites and Mattresses Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 285-1998	<i>Standard Method of Test for the Evaluation of Flammability Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components Using the Intermediate-Scale, Multistory Test Apparatus</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 302-1998	<i>Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure and Commercial Motor Craft</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 497-1997	<i>Recommended Practice for Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 499-1997	<i>Recommended Practice for Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Processing Plants</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 501-2000	<i>Standard on Manufactured Housing</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 501A-2000	<i>Standard for Fire Safety Criteria for Manufactured Home Installations, Sites, and Communities</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 610-P*	<i>Recommended Practice for Safety of Motorsports Venues</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 720-1998	<i>Recommended Practice for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Fuel Gas Alarm Systems and Equipment</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 750-2000	<i>Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 1006-2000	<i>Standard for Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 1670-1999	<i>Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 1901-1999	<i>Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus</i>	12/28/2001	A2003

P* Proposed NEW drafts are available from NFPA Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's Web site http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/Current_Codes_and_Standards/Info_About_Documents/Drafts_of_Proposed_Documents/drafts_of_proposed_documents.html.

† A proposed preprint combining NFPA 1 and the *Uniform Fire Code* will be available in February 2001 to assist in the submission of proposals. Preprints are available from NFPA Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's Web site at http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/Current_Codes_and_Standards/Info_About_Documents/Drafts_of_Proposed_Documents/drafts_of_proposed_documents.html.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Training

The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute (NTPI) of St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) presents “Live Response.” “Live Response” is a 60-minute satellite broadcast in which a panel of experts explores topics related to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) consequence management and engages in question and answer sessions with the program audience.

Consequence Management News, Equipment and Training (CoMNET) and “Live Response” programs. In 2001, we are scheduled to do six CoMNET and six “Live Response” programs, all scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month, except for the December broadcast, which will be aired the second Wednesday. The specific program dates are below:

2001 Broadcast Schedule

28 Feb	CoMNET	22 Aug	CoMNET
28 Mar	Live Response	26 Sep	Live Response
25 Apr	CoMNET	24 Oct	CoMNET
23 May	Live Response	28 Nov	Live Response
27 Jun	CoMNET	12 Dec	CoMNET
25 Jul	Live Response		

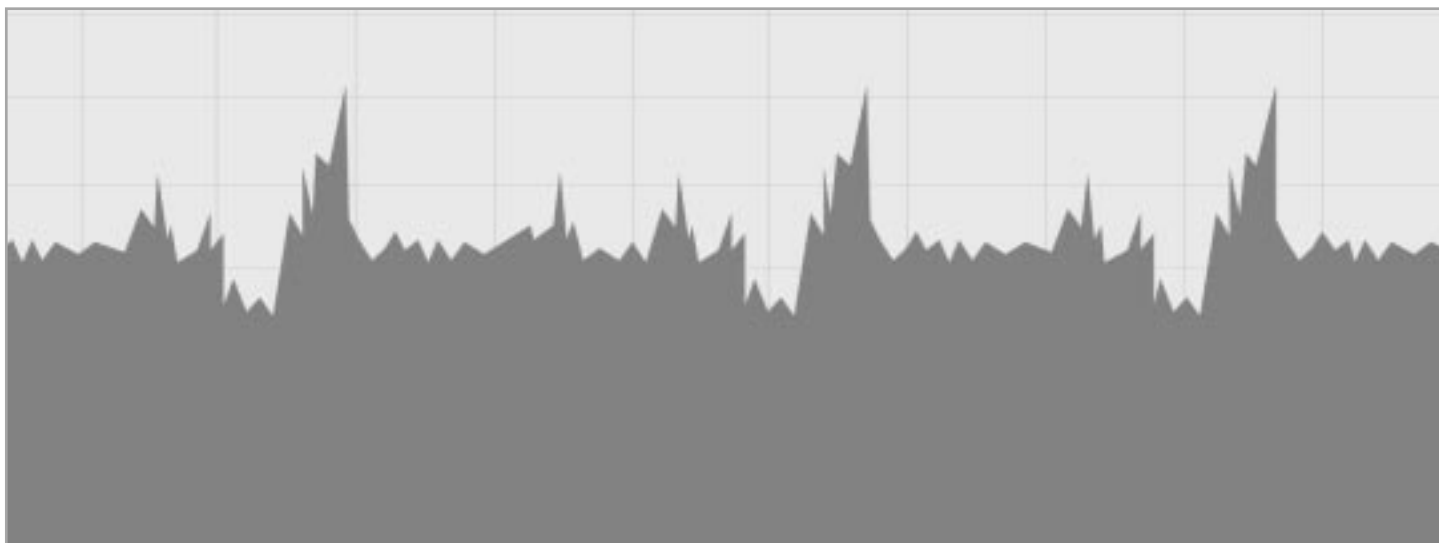
CoMNET and “Live Response” programs are recurring satellite broadcast programs offering WMD-related awareness information to the nation’s civilian and military emergency response communities. CoMNET is a news magazine-style program consisting of multiple segments, similar to the National Alert programs aired on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Education Network (EENET) while “Live Response” is a 60-minute satellite broadcast in

which a panel of experts explore topics related to WMD consequence management and engage in question and answer sessions with the program audience.

CoMNET and “Live Response” are the products of an inter-agency program effort bringing together the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) / Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support (OSLDPS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Director of Military Support (DOMS) Consequence Management Program Integration Office (CoMPIO), and the Combating Terrorism Technology Support Office (CTTSO)—Technical Support Working Group (TSWG). “Live Response” is produced by the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute, a division of the Southeastern Public Safety Institute at SPJC, St. Petersburg, Florida. Further information on both these programs may be found at <http://terrorism.spjc.edu>.

Our viewership includes both the civilian and military emergency response communities at all levels of government, to include law enforcement, fire service, EMS, emergency management, and local, state, and federal response personnel. The “Live Response” broadcast is also useful in keeping local, state, and federal administrators informed of WMD resources and operational considerations that may impact their communities.

For more information and an up-to-date listing of network carriers and instructions for viewers, please visit <http://terrorism.spjc.edu/network.html>. In addition to our satellite network partners, approved locations with a satellite dish may register to carry the “Live Response” broadcast. Following registration, satellite coordinates for the broadcast are provided to requesting parties. Additional information regarding “Live Response” can be found on the NTPI Web site (<http://terrorism.spjc.edu/liveresponse.html>), or by calling NTPI at (727) 893-9800, ext. 240.



During Burn Awareness Week, Shriners Focus Attention on Time Safety of Infants' and Children's Sleepwear

During Burn Awareness Week, February 4–10, 2001, the Shriners—members of the fraternal organization that operates 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children throughout North America—want people to take precautions when selecting sleepwear for infants and children to help keep them safe from potential burn injuries that could occur while wearing non-flame-resistant sleepwear.

“The greatest tragedy is that many burn injuries are preventable,” said John D. VerMaas, chairman of the board of trustees of Shriners Hospitals for Children. “If a child is severely burned, he might require years of treatment to minimize scarring and rehabilitation to return him to an active lifestyle. Even the best medical care can't prevent scars that will last a lifetime.”

The safety of infants' and children's sleepwear has been the heart of legislative efforts supported by Shriners Hospitals since the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lowered the standards in 1996. At that time, the CPSC eliminated the requirement that infants' sleepwear had to be flame resistant, as well as allowed the sale of “snug-fitting,” non-flame-resistant cotton sleepwear for size 9 months to size 14. Since then, Shriners Hospitals—which treat more than 20 percent of all major pediatric burn injuries in the United States—have seen a 150% increase in sleepwear-related burn injuries, according to David Herndon, M.D., chief of staff of the Galveston Shriners burn hospital.

In early 2001, a task force that includes Shriners Hospitals will reintroduce bipartisan legislation to Congress in support of new stricter standards for infants' and children's sleepwear.

Shriners Hospitals for Children offer the following tips to help keep children safe:

- Children should wear clothing that is specifically designed as sleepwear and labeled “flame resistant” to prevent burn injury or death as a result of fire. Do not allow children to sleep in daywear, such as T-shirts or fleecewear, which are less likely to be flame retardant.
- According to *Consumer Reports* magazine, liquid fabric softeners may have a negative impact on the fire resistance

of sleepwear. Their study showed that clothing can become more flammable when laundered with liquid fabric softener, increasing the speed at which certain fabrics burned; however, dryer sheets had little effect.

- Many children sustain burn injuries in the early morning when they awaken before the adults in the home. Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach from children. A combination of flame-resistant sleepwear and working smoke detectors in the child's room and throughout the home are essential to reduce the risk of injury or death as a result of fire.
- Check the smoke detector batteries regularly and replace when needed, or at least annually. Because Shriners Hospitals treat pediatric patients, the Shrine's focus is on preventing burns among children. Young children face greater risks from burn injuries than do adults and older children, and it is up to the adults in the home to follow safety precautions and keep young children from harm.

Known as the experts in pediatric burn care, Shriners Hospitals operate four burn hospitals in Galveston, Cincinnati, Boston, and Sacramento. Through intensive research and state-of-the-art clinical care, a burned child's chance of survival has more than doubled since the Shriners first opened the burn hospitals in the mid-1960s. Much of today's research now focuses on improving the quality of life for burn survivors.

The 22 Shriners Hospitals provide orthopedic and burn care totally free of charge to children up to their 18th birthday. The hospitals were founded by the Shrine of North America, an international fraternity with approximately 530,000 members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Republic of Panama.

The Shriners are offering a booklet on burn prevention free of charge. For your copy of “Burn Prevention Tips,” write to the Public Relations Department, Shriners International Headquarters, P.O. Box 31356, Tampa, FL 33631-3356, or visit the Shrine's Web site at www.shrinershq.org.

CODES AND STANDARDS ON THE NFPA WEB SITE

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Once on the document page, you can download proposals received, a preliminary draft (if applicable), the Report on Proposals after balloting, public comments received, and the Report on

Comments after balloting, depending on where the document is in cycle. Also on this page is the proposal closing date and the comment closing date for the document.

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To download a draft of a new document seeking proposals

Click on [Codes and Standards](#) from any page within the NFPA home page.

Click on [Drafts of proposed new documents](#).

Click on the document you want to see. Downloading a document automatically downloads a proposal form and instructions for submitting proposals as well.

President's Corner



Jim Crawford

Why is professional development for fire marshal types so important? I thought you'd never ask.

What do you know about performance codes, computer modeling, and the formulas used to project fire scenarios in the built environment? What do you know about the legal aspects of a code enforcement program, and how much trouble can be caused by identifying hazards without following up to see that they are abated? How much do you know about NFPA 921, and how it is being used in court as a benchmark for your own investigation methods? How much do you know about the five-step planning process for public education programs, and what materials are age appropriate? Do you know much about market segmentation and demographics of a target audience?

If a modern fire prevention effort is comprehensive, it involves everything from public education, code enforcement, fire investigation, and plan review efforts. Don't we realize that managing all those diverse functions means we should know something about each? And, how many fire departments are still selecting their fire marshal, or fire prevention personnel by default instead of design?

I imagine there are far fewer today, but people I speak with about this topic share my concern that we need the credentials to go along with our job responsibilities. If you're sitting down at the table with design professionals to discuss building construction, you're usually dealing with very well-educated people, though they may be ignorant of some code issues. When we're trying to pitch programs like *Risk Watch*™ in our schools, we end up

dealing with teachers, doctors, nurses, and public health professionals. They are all well-educated professionals in their field. How do we measure up compared to the people we profess to regulate or convince?

IFMA has been concerned about these issues for some time. Luckily, we have the pleasure of working with a small group from Oregon and Washington who share the vision of a professional development plan that ensures some level of competency for those in our line of work. We also have a standing committee for professional development that is in the process of developing some ideas about how best to proceed on this issue. We do offer some educational opportunities, but frankly I'm concerned that there are so few in the field willing (or able) to take advantage of them.

Like so many other issues, it takes time and effort to develop an educational track for fire prevention personnel. We (the fire service collective) have done an excellent job of ensuring professional qualifications for inspectors, public educators, and fire investigators. But by what standard is a fire marshal judged?

Seems to me a big hole exists, but we're beginning the work to fill it. I'm confident we will make progress in this area if we just keep our shoulders to the wheel. And, if you're interested in helping, you can e-mail me. I'll put you on a distribution list to keep you abreast of our progress, and concurrently expand our network of professionals concerned with the advancement of our field.

Like all my other messages, it is a call to action. Your presence on the dance floor is requested.

Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

Well another year has gone by, I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. We are gearing up for another full year of IFMA activities. First I would like to welcome the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals as the latest IFMA Chapter, they make number 18! We hope the Oregon Fire Marshals Association will be the first new chapter of this year.

The NFPA World Fire Congress and Exposition is scheduled for May 12–17, 2001, in Anaheim, California. IFMA has numerous activities scheduled during the week. The Annual Chapter Presidents Meeting, Business Meeting, and Election of Officers and educational offerings are all scheduled for that week. Let's also not forget the Technical Sessions where NFPA members can vote on the codes and standards in the spring 2001 cycle. We hope you take the time out of your busy schedules to join us.

The 3rd Annual Fire Marshals Conference scheduled for November 10–14, 2001, in Dallas, Texas, is in the planning stages. Look for additional information in future issues.

The 100th Anniversary of IFMA is soon approaching (2006). Anyone wishing to serve on the planning committee, please contact me. We want this to be a celebration to outdo all celebrations.

As usual we are looking for articles for the *Quarterly*. We want to make the *Quarterly* a true fire prevention newsletter and we want to include items you believe are of interest. Forward any items to me. I would like to thank past contributors. If you have any input on what IFMA is doing, needs to be doing, or anything else, please contact me.

NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee Releases Draft

The NFPA Technical Committee responsible for the NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code*, has released a preprint of the combined fire code jointly developed by the Western Fire Chiefs Association and NFPA. Members of the ad hoc drafting committee completed their work in December 2000 and forwarded the draft document to the NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee for review and release. The document is now available for public review and proposals. The draft incorporates current technical provisions from the 2000 edition of the *Uniform Fire Code* and the 2000 edition of the *Fire Prevention Code*. The draft is available and can be downloaded off the NFPA Web site at www.nfpa.org, or printed copies or CD-ROM versions are available from NFPA Standards Administration at (617) 984-7249.

The first edition of the NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*, is currently in the Fall Meeting 2002 revision cycle. Outlined below is the cycle that will be followed for the development of the fire code:

February 2001	Draft document is released by NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee for public review and proposals. Recommended provisions outside of the scope of NFPA 1 will become proposals to the appropriate technical committee(s).
June 8, 2001	<i>Proposal Closing Date.</i> This is the last day to submit proposals for consideration by the NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee. Recommended changes can be made to the draft document or to the 2000 edition of NFPA 1 by 5 p.m. EST.
August/Sept. 2001	NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee meets to review proposals.
February 2002	Report on Proposals (ROP) mailed to members and other interested parties.
April 5, 2002 (Tentative)	Final date to receive comments on the ROP.
May/June 2002	NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee meets to consider comments.
October 2002	Report on Comments (ROC) mailed to members and other interested parties.
November 16–20, 2002	NFPA Fire Prevention Code Technical Committee reports to membership at the NFPA Fall Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
December 13, 2002	Final day for appeals to the Standards Council.
January 17, 2003	Final document issued by Standards Council.

Fire in 1999: The Big Picture

This information was compiled by Marty Ahrens of the Fire Analysis and Research Division. The source document was *Fire Loss in the United States During 1999*. Please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or osds@nfpa.org to request a complimentary copy of the full fire loss report for 1999.

Civilian casualties hit a record low in 1999.

In 1999, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 1,823,000 fires. These fires killed 3,570 civilians and caused 21,875 reported civilian fire injuries. This was the smallest number of reported fires, deaths, and injuries since the NFPA began collecting data in 1977. Direct property damage was estimated at \$10 billion dollars. One hundred and twelve (112) fire fighters died while on duty, an increase of 23%, and the highest number since 1989. Firefighter deaths had been hovering around 100 per year for the past few years after dipping into the seventies in 1992 and 1993. The table compares the fire experience in 1999 to the problem seen one year earlier in 1998, ten years earlier in 1989, and 20 years earlier in 1979.

Structure fires caused largest share of fire losses.

During 1999, the 523,000 structure fires accounted for 29% of the reported fires. These fires caused 3,040 civilian fire deaths, 18,525 civilian fire injuries, and \$8.5 billion in direct property damage. Structure fires accounted for 85% of the civilian fire deaths, civilian fire injuries, and direct property loss. Reported structure fires fell 52% from 1,098,000 in 1977 to 523,000 in 1999. From 1998 to 1999, they rose 1.1%. According to NFPA 901, *Uniform Coding for Fire Protection*, 1976 edition (the data classification system used by NFIRS), any fire in or on a structure is considered a structure fire, even if only the contents were involved and there was no structural damage.

Home fires dominate the structure fire problem.

Seventy-three percent (383,000) of the 523,000 structure fires occurred in residential properties, including homes, hotels, motels, rooming houses, and dormitories; 71% (371,000) occurred in homes. (Homes include one- and two-family dwellings, apartments, and manufactured housing.) Home fires fell 49% from the 723,500 reported in 1977. Home structure fires rose very slightly (less than 1%) from the 369,500 reported in 1998.

Fifty-four percent (282,500) of all reported structure fires occurred in one- and two-family homes, and 17% (88,500) occurred in apartments.

Four of every fire deaths occurred in home structure fires.

Eighty-one percent (81%) of the 3,570 total civilian deaths occurred in home structure fires. Although only 15% of all

reported fires occurred in one- and two-family structures, these fires caused 67% (2,375) of the fire deaths. Apartment fires accounted for 5% of all reported fires, but resulted in 15% (520) of the deaths.

Fire deaths continued their downward trend.

Total civilian fire deaths and home fire deaths specifically fell 52% and 51%, respectively, from 1977 to 1999. From 1998 to 1999, total civilian fire deaths fell 12% while home fire deaths fell 10%. Fire deaths followed a generally downward trend since 1977.

Vehicle fires are also a significant cause of fire deaths.

During 1999, the 368,500 reported vehicle fires caused 470 civilian deaths, 1,850 civilian injuries, and \$1.3 billion in direct property loss. These fires accounted for 20% of the reported fires, 13% of the civilian fire deaths, 8% of the civilian fire injuries, and 13% of the total direct property damage. The 470 civilian fire deaths accounted for almost four times the 120 deaths reported in nonresidential structure fires and more than three times the 145 fire deaths occurring any type of building other than a home. During 1999, almost 13% of all civilian fire deaths were in highway vehicles; less than 1% occurred in nonhighway vehicles such as planes, trains, ships or boats, or construction equipment. Vehicle fires fell 27% from 508,000 in 1977. From 1998 to 1999, highway vehicle fires fell 4%, while nonhighway vehicle fires rose 4%. A detailed report describing vehicle fires categorized by mobile property type category may be ordered from NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop.

Half of the reported fires were considered "outside or other."

Fifty-one percent (931,500) of the 1,823,000 total reported fires were considered outside or other. These fires caused 60, or 2%, of the civilian deaths; 1,500, or 7%, of the civilian injuries; and \$210 million, or 2%, of the direct property damage. These fires rose 9% from 1998 to 1999, but have fallen 44% from 1977 to 1999.

These outside and other fires include: 64,000 outside fires involving property of value; 498,000 brush, grass, or wildland fires; 226,500 outside rubbish fires; and 143,000 other fires including outside spills or leaks with ensuing fires, explosions with no after-fire, and unclassified or unknown-type fires. These statistics were extracted from the annual report *Fire Loss in the United States*, by Michael J. Karter Jr. These reports are published each September in *NFPA Journal*®. Copies may be ordered from the One-Stop Data Shop in NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division.

continued on next page

The U.S. Fire Problem—1999

Reported to Fire Departments	1999	Compared to		
		1998	1989	1979
Fire Incidents	1,823,000	Up 4%	Down 14%	Down 36%
Civilian Deaths	3,570	Down 12%	Down 34%	Down 53%
Firefighter Deaths	112	Up 23%	Down 5%	Down 10%
Civilian Injuries	21,875	Down 5%	Down 23%	Down 30%
Firefighter Injuries	88,500	Up 1%	Down 12%	Down 8%
Direct Property Damage Adjusted for Inflation*	\$10,024,000,000	Up 16%	Up 16%	Up 74%
		Up 14%	Down 15%	Down 307%
Civilian Deaths per Thousand Fires	1.96	Up 15%	Down 23%	Down 36%
Civilian Deaths per Million Population	13.1	Down 12%	Down 40%	Down 61%
Property Damage per Fire Adjusted for Inflation*	\$5,499	Up 12%	Up 34%	Up 172%
		Up 10%	Down 2%	Up 10%

* Using the consumer price index on the Inflation Calculator at www.westegg.com/inflation/infl.cgi on 11/28/00.

Sources: Fire Loss in the United States, (1979, 1989, 1998, and 1999), by Michael J. Karter Jr; Fire Incident Data Organization (FIDO), and U.S. Census Bureau.

Fire Department Activities**1999 was a record year for fire department calls.**

Municipal fire departments responded to 19,667,000 calls during 1999. This was the largest number of calls since the NFPA survey began collecting this data in 1977. Only 1,823,000, or 9%, were to fires; 11,484,000, or 58%, were to medical aid calls. From 1980 to 1999, medical aid responses and false alarms (including malicious reports and unwanted activations of automatic systems), and other calls, including hazardous material calls and other hazardous condition calls, all at least doubled, mutual aid responses tripled, and reported fire incidents fell 39%. (At least part of the increase seen in false alarms from 1986 to 1987 may be explained by a change in the wording of that particular question on the survey.) Information about hazardous material calls was first collected in 1986. Since then, these calls have increased 73%, from 171,500 in 1986 to 297,500 in 1999. Other hazardous condition calls increased 76% from 318,000 in 1986 to 560,000 in 1999.

To put these numbers in perspective, the average frequency for different types of calls in 1999 is shown below.

Type of Call	Rate
All fire department calls	37.4 per minute (or 1 every 1.6 seconds)
Medical aid calls	21.8 per minute (or 1 every 2.7 seconds)
Any fire call	3.5 per minute
Structure fire calls	1.0 per minute
False alarm calls	3.9 per minute
Hazardous material calls	0.6 per minute (or 1 every 1.8 minutes)

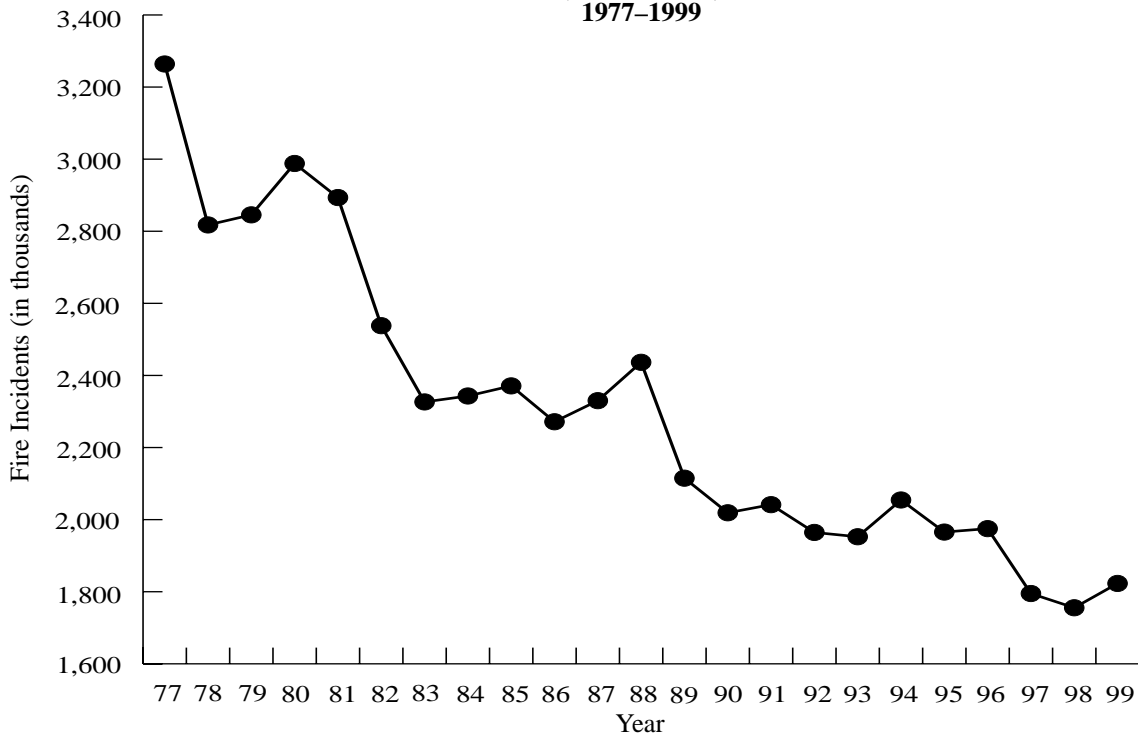
Emergency response totals tell only part of the story.

Although these statistics show that fire service responsibilities are growing and changing, they do not show the complete picture. Most fire prevention activities, such as inspections, plan review, and public fire education, are not captured in call counts. Training is generally ongoing to ensure that fire fighters can protect their communities as safely and efficiently as possible. Equipment must be checked regularly. Many time-consuming, essential activities are invisible to the general public.

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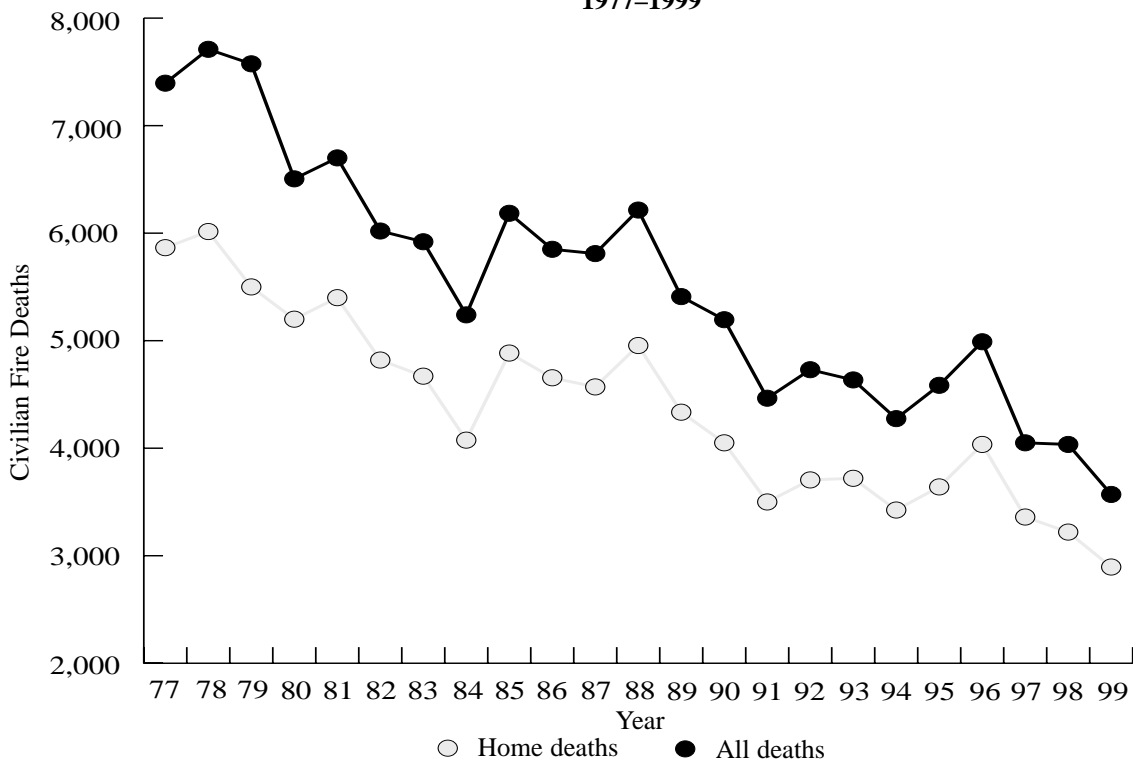
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**U.S. Fire Incident Trends
(in thousands)
1977-1999**



Source: Fire Loss in the United States, by Michael J. Karter Jr., NFPA.

**All Civilian Fire Deaths and Home Fire Deaths
1977-1999**



Source: Fire Loss in the United States, by Michael J. Karter Jr., NFPA.

Third Annual Fire Marshals Conference

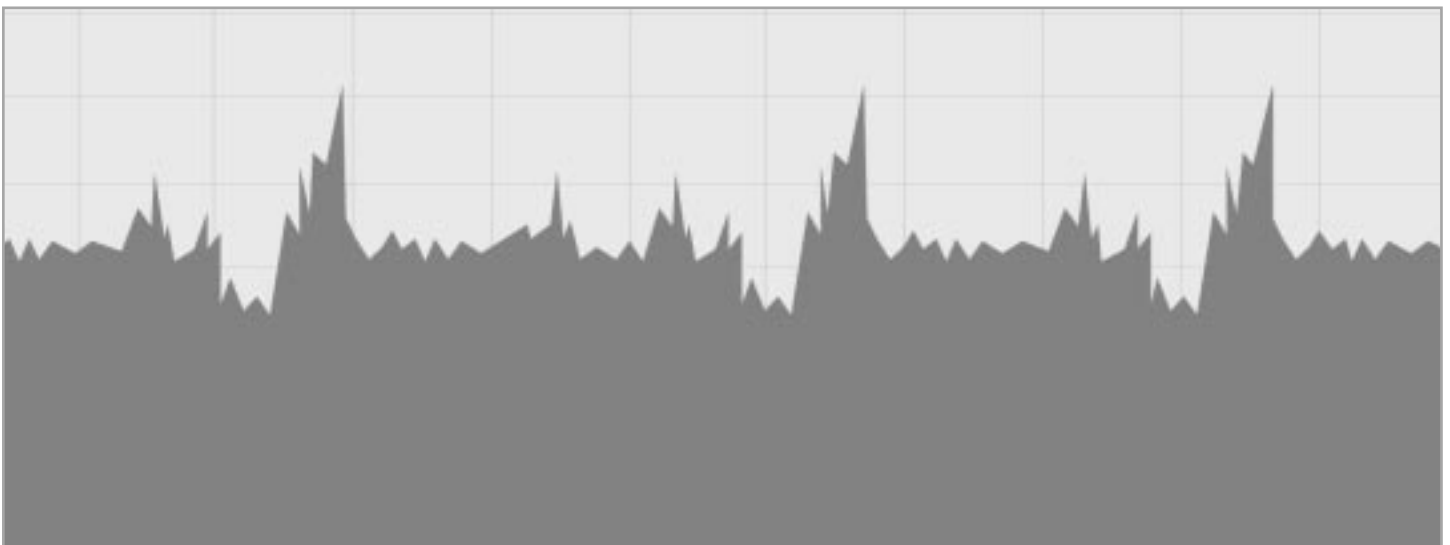
The Third Annual Fire Marshals Conference is scheduled for November 10–14, 2001, in Dallas, Texas. The conference will feature educational offerings, business meetings, networking sessions, and codes and standards technical sessions. Further information will be forthcoming. Please make plans to attend.

Seeking Volunteers for the 2002 Winter Olympics, Utah

IFMA has been working with officials for the Utah Olympics to assist them in finding fire prevention personnel to perform fire prevention duties from August 2001 to February 2002 for the 2002 Winter Olympics to be held in Utah. These positions are volunteer positions. Selected volunteers must provide their own transportation to and from Utah. Deadline for IFMA to receive application is March 15, 2001. Applications can be received by contacting IFMA, the IFMA Web site or jrfmarshal@aol.com. For additional information, contact Steven Sawyer at (617) 984-7423 or ssawyer@nfpa.org, or John Robison at (334) 462-1793 or jrfmarshal@aol.com.

IFMA Web Board

The IFMA Web board is a service to all fire prevention personnel. Interested parties can post questions, concerns, or other information important to fire prevention personnel in three areas: Education, General, and Employment Opportunities. To sign up and access the Web board, go to www.nfpa.org and enter the membership sections area, select IFMA, and go to the Web board. A new service has been added that permits you to receive e-mail notification of new message postings. When in the Web board, under profile go to e-mail notification and mailing lists and check options you want.



NEW FIRE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Work continued this week on the new \$100 million federal grant program for our nation's fire service community. Representatives from major fire service organizations met with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) Jan. 23–25 at the National Emergency Training Center to help develop criteria for evaluating grant proposals.

“The participation of these organizations is critical to the success of this new program,” said Ken Burris, acting USFA administrator. “Their support and expertise will help us meet our goal to award all the grants before the end of September.”

Several key actions have been taken to speed this process:

- In addition to the traditional paper form, an online application form is being developed. Fire departments will be able to log on to the FEMA/USFA Web site, fill out the application, and submit it electronically via the Internet.
- As previously announced, grants will be awarded in six specific categories: training, wellness/fitness programs, vehicles, firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and fire prevention programs.
- Each fire department will be allowed to apply for grants in a maximum of two different categories.

“We are also soliciting input on how we should to run the new grant program from rural, suburban, and urban fire departments as well as volunteer, combination, and career departments,” Burris said. “They are both our partners and customers in this effort and must be part of the development process if we are going to be successful.”

A Federal Register notice announcing specific regulations governing the grant program will be published in the near future. Fire departments are encouraged to monitor the USFA Web site for the latest grant program information at www.usfa.fema.gov. An e-mail list is also available for news updates.



NFPA International
INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
SECTION NEWSLETTER
1 Batterymarch Park • Quincy, MA 02269-9101

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