

Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Summer 2002

Winter Olympics

By Scott Adams, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal,
Park City, Utah



Well, the 2002 Winter Olympics have come and gone. It was amazing, the time and effort that went into planning such a large event, and once the Games started, it was over. To coin a phrase used by the Atlanta Planners for their Summer games, "However big you think the Olympics are, they are bigger."

The Park City Fire Service District (PCFSD) provided emergency services, strategic prevention management programs, and fire and life safety enforcement to four of the nine Olympic Venue Sites. The staffing for the PCFSD increased from 71 employees, pre 2002 Olympic Winter Games, to about 400 employees during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

The PCFSD met early in the planning process with the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) to solicit their help. At the time, John Robison, state fire marshal for Alabama, was the IFMA president. The Olympic Fire Marshal's Task Group (OFMTG) was organized. The OFMTG consisted of highly qualified fire prevention personnel that responded to and managed fire and life safety enforcement. The group consisted of state fire marshals, metro fire marshals and senior fire inspectors from around the country.

The OFMTG group assisted the PCFSD in managing and enforcing fire and life safety code requirements.

The OFMTG was comprised of the following members:

John Robison, State Fire Marshal of Alabama

Ron Farr, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal,
Kalamazoo Township, MI

Richard Brock, Safety Harbor Fire Department, FL

Jeffrey Bunch, Fernandina Beach Fire Department, FL

Kenneth Bush, Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office

Richard Butcher, Tarpon Springs Fire Department, FL

Renzie Davidson, Casselberry Fire Department, FL

Glenn Dean, Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office

Thomas Dickinson, Logan City Building Dept, UT

Darren Drake, San Luis Obispo Fire Department, CA

Paul Forsberg, Tamarac Fire Department, FL

Bert Hunsaker, Logan, UT

Liz Hunsaker, Logan Fire Department, UT

Pete Jaroscak, North Memorial Health Care, MN

Ralph Jones, Lake Mary Fire Department, FL

Alan Joos, Utah Fire & Rescue Academy

John Lake, Marion County Fire Department, FL

David Lind, North Shore Fire Department, WI

Steve Peavey, Altamonte Springs Fire Department, FL

Tony Sanfilippo, Director of Fire Safety of Michigan

Steven Sawyer, IFMA

Arthur Shaw, Petoskey Department of Public Safety, MI

Scott Spencer, Payson Fire Department, UT

These individuals' work assignments included Utah Olympic Park, Park City Mountain Resort, Deer Valley, and downtown Park City Main Street. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people attended each of the Olympic events on a daily basis. Park City Main Street had an average daily attendance of 40,000 to 50,000 people a day.

It was through the dedication of the OFMTG, that a safe and enjoyable time was had by those visitors to the Park City area.

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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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New STI Standard SP001-00, Inspection of Shop-Fabricated ASTs

STI has published STI SP001-00, *Standard for Inspection of In-Service Shop Fabricated Aboveground Tanks for Storage of Combustible and Flammable Liquids*. This standard includes requirements for inspection of fittings, emergency vents, and other fire-safety devices, as well as spill control and secondary containment inspection.

The NFPA 30 Committee on Tank Storage & Pipe Systems is recommending that the tank maintenance requirements within the next edition of the *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code* (2003) be strengthened to require that tanks are inspected in compliance with the the Code. The STI standard offers one such means of inspecting shop-fabricated tanks.

In addition to the new STI standard, API 653, *Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction*, addresses inspection of aboveground storage tanks for flammable and combustible fluids. The main subjects for API 653 are the large field-fabricated tanks that are fabricated according to API 650. API 650 includes equations for calculating the steel thickness needed for a particular tank. These equations take into account pressure encountered, the type of steel used, the weld joints used, and the weld inspection testing used. Extensive inspection requirements are included in API 653 because of the large volumes and hydrostatic pressures encountered in these larger tanks.

The construction and installation of smaller shop-fabricated tanks differ greatly from that needed for large field-fabricated tanks. The shop-fabricated tanks covered by STI SP001-00 are commonly manufactured to third-party standards, such as UL 142 or UL 2085. These Underwriters Laboratories standards use tables, rather than equations, to specify steel thickness based on tank diameter and capacity. Shop-fabricated tank capacity is rarely more than 50,000 gallons and this smaller capacity means a lower hydrostatic pressure encountered at the tank bottom. Further, whereas API 650 tanks are always vertical, shop-fabricated tanks are commonly horizontal-cylindrical. The bottom of the horizontal cylindrical tank is visible and the tank supports used to elevate the tank must be inspected. The STI SP001-00 standard includes inspection techniques for all types of shop-fabricated tanks, including those that are horizontal-cylindrical, vertical, and rectangular; tanks that are either single or double wall; and tanks that rest directly on the ground or that are elevated on supports.

A copy of the standard is available for \$35.00 (plus \$5.00 shipping and handling) from the Steel Tank Institute, 570 Oakwood Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047; Phone: (847) 438-8265; Fax: (847) 438-8766. In addition, STI is providing AST inspector training certification courses. View STI's Web site at www.steeltank.com for additional information.

James M. Shannon Unanimously Elected as President and Chief Executive Officer of NFPA

At its March 6th meeting, the NFPA Board of Directors unanimously elected James M. Shannon president and chief executive officer of NFPA, effective June 1, 2002. Shannon will succeed George D. Miller, who will retire after ten years.

Shannon has served as NFPA senior vice president and general counsel since 1991. He oversees all legal affairs of the association and also has administrative and real estate responsibility for NFPA's properties. Shannon has had a visible role in the organization's operations and government affairs, both domestically and abroad. Previously, he was elected Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts where he pursued numerous policy issues, including a focus on antitrust. Shannon was senior partner in the Boston law firm Hale & Dorr, and from 1979 to 1985, he

served in the U.S. House of Representatives. Shannon earned his BA degree at Johns Hopkins University and his JD at George Washington University School of Law.

"The NFPA Board of Directors Search Committee has conducted a long and demanding search," said NFPA Board Chair Martin (Mickey) Reiss. "With assistance from Korn/Ferry International and active support from the entire Board of Directors, the Search Committee focused its efforts on identifying and recruiting a leader whose background, personal qualities, and skills set comprise the most appropriate fit for NFPA. Jim Shannon is an outstanding model of leadership and equal to the demands necessary to achieve NFPA's important mission."

Fire Investigation Summary

Warehouse, Phoenix, Arizona

August 2, 2000

by Robert F. Duval, Senior Fire Investigator, NFPA

A fire that began in a home and garden supply area of a multi-tenanted warehouse building spread rapidly and eventually destroyed the building (see picture page 7).

The fire was discovered after workers had left for the day. When fire department units arrived, portions of the outer walls of the building were collapsing.

The home and garden supply portion of the building was found to contain the storage of oxidizers, including pool chemicals, as well as fertilizers and pesticides.

Oxidizers pose unique storage and fire fighting challenges. Contamination by incompatible materials can cause all classes of oxidizers to undergo exothermic or explosive reactions.

On August 2, 2000 a fire was discovered in a multi-tenanted warehouse in Phoenix, AZ at approximately 4:58 p.m. By the time the fire was extinguished the next day, it had completely destroyed the 85,000 sq ft warehouse. The damage to property and the commodities stored inside from the fire has been estimated at over \$100 million.

Two tenants occupied the warehouse: a home and garden supply company and a pharmaceuticals distribution operation. The fire began in the home and garden supply portion of the building. Less than an hour after workers had left for the day, smoke was spotted coming from the south portion of the warehouse. Simultaneously, occupants from the pharmaceutical operation reported hearing banging noises from the home and garden supply portion of the building. Some employees, thinking it was a passing thunderstorm, went outside to look and then saw a column of smoke rising from the building. A Battalion Chief from nearby Tempe was traveling on the freeway adjacent to the warehouse when he noticed a large plume of smoke in the vicinity of Broadway and 40th Street. He notified the fire dispatch center and responded to the area to investigate further. At this time, two Department of Public Safety (DPS) deputies were stopped at the intersection of 32nd Street and Broadway when they noticed the column of smoke and notified their dispatcher center of the fire.

A first alarm structural response was assigned to the vicinity of 38th Place and Broadway as reports of the fire continued to pour into the 911 center. The Tempe Battalion Chief arrived shortly before the first Phoenix Fire Department units at 5:01 p.m. and reported a working fire in a warehouse building. The Tempe Battalion Chief established command and set up a temporary command post on 38th Place opposite the east side of the building. Phoenix Engine 23 was the next to arrive at 5:02 p.m.

E23 established a water supply and proceeded to a position at the southeast corner of the building and began to apply water on the fire with the deluge gun on the engine.

A second alarm was requested by command at 5:03 p.m.

Engine 272 arrived at 5:05 p.m. and then supplied the automatic sprinkler system within the building through the fire department connection on 38th Place. E23 was confronted with a rapidly spreading fire within the building and numerous exposure fires comprised of stored materials outside the southeast corner of the building.

Phoenix Battalion Chief 5 took command at 5:06 p.m.

At 5:07 p.m., Engine, Rescue and Ladder 22 arrived on the west side of the building and at 5:11 p.m. reported that a portion of the west tilt-panel concrete wall was leaning outward and a collapse hazard existed. By 5:17 p.m. most of the south wall had collapsed.

A third alarm was requested at 5:12 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. the order was given that all personnel operating near the fire building were to be equipped with self-contained breathing apparatus (including apparatus operators), due to the amount of smoke being generated.

The smoke, which was originally traveling straight up, began to overrun E23's position. The crew of E23 had to retreat north along 38th Place toward the command post as their breathing air supplies were depleted.

Ladder 273 set up in the southeast corner of the property and continued to extinguish the exposure fires in the materials stored in the yard and to protect the plastics fabrication facility. Ladder 11 and E 276 set up to protect the air conditioning facility located less than 100 ft. to the south of the fire building. Crews from Station 22 continued to extinguish the exposure fires from the east side at the same time.

Fire had now begun to spread throughout the home and garden portion of the warehouse. A solid concrete wall separated the two sections of the building. However, as large sections of the outer concrete panel walls began to collapse, the integrity of the wall between the two sections of the building became a concern.

Four alarms and numerous special requests for apparatus were dispatched to the scene throughout the next several hours and into the next day.

By morning, on August 3, the entire building and all contents were destroyed. The fire department maintained a fire watch for several days extinguishing hot spots and monitoring the hazardous contents.

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Does your backyard gas grill have the new required safety valve?



Top view of valve, showing unique triangular tamper-resistant handwheel

A new provision of an existing safety code developed by NFPA, which takes effect on April 1, requires overfilling prevention devices (OPDs) on propane cylinders weighing between 4 and 40 lbs., commonly used for appliances like outdoor gas grills.

An OPD is a safety valve that shuts off the flow of gas to a cylinder after 80% capacity has been reached. This limits the potential for release of gas when the cylinder is heated, averting a fire hazard or personal injury. Since 1998, all new propane cylinders from 4- to 40-pound propane capacity have been equipped with OPDs. Cylinders manufactured after September 30, 1998, are equipped with OPDs and require no change.

Older cylinder models must now be retrofitted with the device before refilling can occur, under the requirement, or the cylinder should be discarded properly and replaced with an OPD-equipped cylinder. Many filling outlets have the capacity to retrofit or recycle obsolete cylinders. In many parts of the United States, exchange cylinder racks can be used to swap an empty cylinder without an OPD for a full cylinder equipped with an OPD, for a nominal fee, eliminating the need to dispose of the cylinder or to have it retrofitted.

NFPA 58, *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*, a consensus code developed by NFPA that contains the new provision, is adopted in every U.S. state and is enforceable by the authority having jurisdiction in individual states, be it the fire service, building officials, state agencies, or other bodies. Because adoptions within states are not always to the current editions, there are some states that have not adopted either the 1998 or 2001 edition of the Code, which include the OPD requirement.

However, because manufacturers have been producing OPD-equipped cylinders since 1998, these cylinders will eventually replace the non-OPD cylinders even in states where the current NFPA 58 has not been adopted.

“OPDs will protect against overfilling cylinders and decrease the number of possible fires from this source,” said Ted Lemoff, principal gases engineer at NFPA. “This requirement will enhance consumer safety.”

How can one tell if a cylinder currently lacks an OPD? If the cylinder valve has either a round or star-shaped hand wheel, it needs an OPD. OPDs have hand-wheels that are triangular in shape, but a small number of early production OPD-equipped cylinders did not. These are stamped “OPD” on the brass valve body.

Costs to upgrade or replace a cylinder vary. For information on discarding an old cylinder, please contact your propane refiller, hazardous waste collection site, or local fire department.

An overfilling prevention device (OPD) is a safety device incorporated into the filling valve of a propane cylinder (i.e., those used on gas grills, RVs, etc.). The device shuts off the flow of gas to a cylinder after 80 percent capacity has been reached. This limits the potential for release of gas when the cylinder is heated, averting a fire or possible injury.

Facts & Figures

As of April 1, 2002, OPDs are required on all propane cylinders between 4- and 40-pounds propane capacity, per the 1998 edition of NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code. Cylinders of this size manufactured after September 30, 1998, were required to have an OPD. A typical gas grill cylinder holds about 20 pounds of propane.

Propane cylinders with OPDs can be identified by a triangular hand-wheel (pictured above). Some earlier model cylinders were produced with a round hand-wheel but “OPD” is stamped on the brass valve body.

After April 1, 2002, propane cylinders not equipped with an OPD must be retrofitted with the device before refilling can occur or properly disposed of and replaced with an OPD-equipped cylinder.

Many propane dealers will retrofit older cylinders with an OPD. As there is a charge for this, it may be more economical to replace the entire cylinder, especially if it is rusty. In many parts of the United States, exchange cylinder racks can be used to swap an empty cylinder without an OPD for a full cylinder equipped with an OPD, for a nominal fee, eliminating the need to dispose of the cylinder or to have it retrofitted.

Dispose of propane cylinders safely. Questions about safe disposal should be answered by local fire departments, hazardous waste collection sites, or propane refillers.

The 2001 edition of NFPA 58 modified requirements to exempt horizontal cylinders manufactured before October 1, 1998, from requiring OPDs. Also exempt are cylinders used for industrial trucks, industrial welding, and cutting gases (these cylinders must be labeled with their use).

White paper on post-fire analysis now available from NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation Advisory panel recommends technical guidelines

The Research Advisory Council on Post-Fire Analysis of NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation has issued a white paper on post-fire analysis in an effort to help improve the technical aspects of fire investigation. The paper, available at no cost from the foundation, is the first in a series of recommendations that will be issued from several other advisory councils, each convened by the foundation to examine one area of fire-related activity.

The paper, developed by an independent 14-member panel from industry, research, insurance, government, and the fire service, reviews the status of the techniques and knowledge base of post-fire investigations and presents recommendations addressing the research and development needs that the council has identified. The council's aim is to prompt industry, insurance groups, and researchers to move forward on initiatives to improve the technical aspects of fire investigation and analysis.

Post-fire analysis comprises a wide range of activities, aiming to identify where and how a given fire or group of fires started and the factors contributing to fire loss. Traditionally, most post-fire analysis efforts have been focused on origin and cause with emphasis on civil and criminal litigation. The basis for identification of fire origin and cause has evolved mainly from practical knowledge rather than scientific research.

"The fire investigation community has just begun to benefit from scientific validation that supports traditional interpretation of fire patterns," says Daniel Churchward, president of Kodiak Enterprises, Inc.; chair of NFPA's Technical Committee on Fire Investigations, which develops NFPA 921, *Guide to Fire and Explosion Investigation*; and a member of the council.

The council identified five broad areas where progress is needed in post-fire analysis. These are: (1) origin and cause investigation methods, (2) deaths, injuries, property losses and building costs, (3) education, training and dissemination, (4) environmental impacts of fire and fire protection, and (5) business impacts. The white paper addresses impact, research/development, and benefit to groups from advances in these categories.

Research undertaken as a result of the white paper's recommendations could subsequently be incorporated into proposed new fire codes and standards or into the appendix of NFPA 921.

The white paper is available in hard copy by contacting the Research Foundation at (617) 984-7283, or in PDF format by logging on to NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org/Research/Foundation/Foundation.asp.

Gas-Fueled Barbeque Grill Fires

The following material is taken from the One-Stop Data Shop's annual *U.S. Home Cooking Fire and Patterns and Trends* report by John R. Hall, Jr. More information on gas-fueled grill fires, charcoal-fueled grill fires, and other cooking equipment-related fires can be found at www.nfpa.org/Research/OneStopDataShop/Reports/MajorCauses/major_causes.asp. NFPA members can download sections from this report at no charge. As a reminder, the password needed to access the reports is the first letter of the member's last name followed by the membership number (leaving off any preceding zeros). To contact the One-Stop Data Shop, e-mail osds@nfpa or call Nancy Schwartz at (617) 984-7450.

Barbecue grills—called "open-fired grills" in fire reporting terminology—are typically designed for safe use only outdoors, where ventilation is not an issue and combustibles are well separated from heat. Gas-fueled barbecue grills are involved in far more outdoor fires than structure fires (four times as many in recent years), but nearly all deaths and property damage occur in fires that start in or spread to the structure. During the five-year period of 1994–1998, gas grills were involved in an estimated average of 1,100 structure fires and 4,500 outdoor fires per year. Combined, these 5,600 fires caused an average of 2 civilian deaths, 73 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property damage of \$15 million per year.

Fires involving gas-fueled grills increased two-and-a-half times from 1980 to 1998, although a prime reason for this is the sub-

stantial increase in usage of gas-fueled grills. From 1982 to 1993 the number of households with gas-fueled grills nearly tripled from 9.4 million to 27.5 million.* (Statistics are not available prior to or after these years.)

In contrast to other types of cooking devices, unattended cooking is not the leading cause of fires involving gas-fueled grills. Leaving cooking unattended was cited as the cause of 11.7% of structure fires and 2.8% of outdoor fires involving gas-fueled grills. The leading cause is part failure, leak, or break, which accounted for 37.1% of structure fires and 60.5% of outdoor fires. Consistent with the leading cause, the two leading items first ignited are fuel and accelerant or other gas or liquid in or from a pipe or container, which collectively accounted for 40.6% of structure fires and 68.4% of outdoor fires involving gas-fueled grills. Other leading items first ignited include cooking materials and for structure fires, exterior sidewall covering.

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NFPA refreshes Web site for Sparky the Firedog®

Lively, interactive safety messages posted for kids on www.sparky.org

Sparky the Fire Dog®, NFPA's Dalmatian safety-mascot for a half-century, today unveiled his rejuvenated, vibrant Web site, designed for young children eager to learn about fire and life safety. The improved Web site, www.sparky.org, promises to fascinate and to coach children into living safer and healthier lifestyles.

Sparky's Web site rules!

With a festive carnival-like feel, Sparky's re-engineered site offers activities like sending Internet greeting cards to loved ones and game-playing that kids and their families can appreciate, all intended to teach while entertaining. Snappy, welcoming presentations encourage participation and help strengthen developing eye-hand coordination and reading and decision-making skills for kids.

Sections like "Fun with Fire Trucks," support manipulative navigation through traffic simulations with helpful toots from a horn. "Hot Diggity Dalmatians" tempts youngsters to ferret out the snouts of Dalmatians in what appears to be a sea of black and white. "Family Stuff" promotes drawing a home fire escape plan from a provided grid and then practicing with all family members.

"My new site has coloring pages, origami exercises, and Ask Sparky, but it features so much more. Learning about safety is enormous family fun! I love my new Web site!" beamed Sparky from NFPA's headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts.

In just four years, the popularity of Sparky's site has rocked the critics, who've bestowed upon it recognition after recognition, including praise from Kidz Printz, that labeled www.sparky.org as "one of the best child safety education Web sites." The Ask Jeeves Silver Platter was awarded to the site "because the Sparky site is polished, easy to read, and

easy to navigate." A "Five Star Award" comes from the syndicated newspaper column, Surfing the Net with Kids. Also, the site was selected to participate in the CyberSafari program, a free Internet treasure hunt that lets kids explore educational Web sites, solve clues, and win prizes.

Last year, Sparky celebrated his 50th birthday (that was 350 dog years), serving all those years as NFPA's trademarked icon and long-time best friend to the fire service.

Learn the most about the site, by visiting it at www.sparky.org. NFPA's other public education Web site, www.riskwatch.org, featuring

child-injury prevention information, is targeted to kids, families, teachers, and other advocates.



Warehouse fire in Phoenix, Arizona, August 2, 2000

President's Corner



Ron Farr

As I write this President's Corner I look back at the past three months and can't believe the winter is over (well, for most of us at least) and many of us are already planning summer vacations or other activities.

The IFMA Board of Directors held their Winter Executive Board Meeting at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the first week of March. We were honored to have R. David Paulison, USFA administrator, take time from his very busy schedule to meet with us and found his comments energizing and poignant. During this meeting we were able to meet with many senior staff of the USFA's National Fire Academy regarding programs and activities that are taking place. We reviewed not only current programs, but also plans for the future that will enhance the learning level of the fire service as well as efforts to make America a safer place to live. As a result of the meeting, I feel that IFMA and USFA are on the road to a successful partnership that will help them reach the five operational objectives they have identified as priorities. A special and big THANK YOU to Wayne Powell, of the USFA, for all his hard work to make this meeting such a huge success.

As many of you are aware, IFMA assisted the Park City (Utah) Fire Service District with fire prevention activities

the last of January and most of February during the 2002 Olympics. There were fire marshals/inspectors from Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Alabama, and Utah (about 25 in all) who participated in this project. (Assistant Chief Adams and his staff were great hosts, always making sure the inspectors' needs were met.) The days were long and the work was plentiful and tiring, but all said they valued the opportunity to be involved and would do it again. The residents of Park City and the visitors we had the opportunity to meet were just wonderful. Some of the inspectors even had the opportunity to experience snow for the first time and said they enjoyed that part too.

I have been attending the NFPA Regional Code Development Meetings this spring, and on behalf of IFMA, I would like to thank all the Regional Code Committee members for their commitment and hard work. Many good proposals for various documents have originated with this group. I would also like to thank the noncommittee members that have been attending from various agencies (both fire service and private sector) in the areas where these meetings have been held. Those guests in attendance have provided valuable input and have demonstrated their commitment to fire safety.

Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

We had another busy session at the NFPA World Congress and Exhibition, with many educational offerings, the executive board meeting, and the chapter presidents meeting. We can now look forward to the Annual Fire Marshal Conference on November 16-20, 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The executive board had its winter meeting at the USFA. The meeting provided a forum for both IFMA and USFA to educate each other on current programs and activities and to discuss plans for the future. We believe that this meeting will help further strengthen an already good relationship. A special thanks to Wayne Powell and his staff for setting the meeting up.

IFMA was invited to and participated in an USFA Needs Analysis Meeting on the Partnership in Fire Safe Design

course. This course is designed to bring the fire service and design professional together to work toward a common goal. We also participated in a "Collaborative Partners Group" meeting between various groups set up by USFA, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Center for Disease Control.

IFMA once again sponsored a table at the CFSI Dinner held on April 18th in Washington, DC. President Bush was the keynote speaker. Also in attendance were FEMA Director Allbaugh and Fire Administrator Paulison.

As I hope you can see, IFMA is gaining more recognition as a viable voice on fire safety issues.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, please feel free to contact any board member (listed on the first page) or myself.

Have a fire-safe summer.

Fall 2002 NFPA/IFMA Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meetings

To encourage greater fire service participation in the NFPA Codes and Standards Making System, NFPA has established four Regional Fire Code Development Committees cosponsored with IFMA. The members of these committees are from the fire service in your area. The committees are responsible for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and acting as liaisons to their region's fire service for inputting changes to NFPA Codes and Standards. The Fall 2002 meetings are joint meetings and will be held on the following dates and times.

Northcentral and Southern

September 24, 2002: DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville, TN, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Northeastern and Western

September 26, 2002: DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville, TN, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the meeting. You are responsible for all costs associated with your travel. If you are interested in attending, please complete the attached form and return it by August 23, 2002, or contact Steven Sawyer at (617) 984-7423.

Fall 2002 NFPA/IFMA Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting Attendance Form

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Fax Number: _____
 Email: _____

I plan on attending the Fall 2002

- Northcentral and Southern or
 Northeastern and Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee Meeting.

Please return form by August 23, 2002 to:

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

NFPA PARTNERS WITH JONES AND BARTLETT PUBLISHERS TO OFFER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING MATERIALS

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) announces a partnership with Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Inc. (J&B) to publish state-of-the-art training materials based on the 2002 edition of NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. A 12-member national steering committee,* jointly established by NFPA and J&B, will guide the publisher in the development of comprehensive, innovative, and highly visual training materials for Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II. The training materials will include a textbook designed for use by students and instructors, other student materials, and a CD-ROM.

“Jones and Bartlett has extensive experience in publishing comprehensive EMS training packages,” according to NFPA Publisher William Gibson. “They will apply their experience in publishing training materials for emergency medical services personnel in developing high-quality training materials for the fire service.”

Based in Sudbury, Massachusetts, J&B is the ninth largest academic publisher in the United States and is known to the

fire service as publishers of American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons “Orange Book” series for EMS. Jones and Bartlett also have partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association, and the National Safety Council.

“Jones and Bartlett has a long-standing commitment to the safety and efficiency of emergency responders, which is demonstrated by the innovative training materials we produce for EMS providers,” said Clayton Jones, CEO of Jones and Bartlett. “This new partnership with the NFPA solidifies our position as a leading publisher for emergency responders.”

*The national steering committee members include the following: Chief Terry Allen, Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge, ON; Fire Marshal Mary L. Corso, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Olympia, WA.; Art Cota, division chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento, CA.; Chief Luther Fincher, Charlotte Fire Department, Charlotte, NC; Chief Tim Fuller, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, St. Paul, MN; Chief Anthony (Chick) R. Granito, New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, East Schodack, NY; Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Jimmy Hall, Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles, CA; Lt. Col. Maureen T. Hennessy, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, Largo, MD; Jerry Laughlin, assistant director Alabama Fire College, Tuscaloosa, AL; Jack Peltier, president, International Society of Fire Service Instructors in Stafford, VA; Captain Bill Perrin, Stevensville Fire Department, Stevensville, MO; Gary Tokle, assistant vice president, NFPA Public Fire Protection Division, Quincy, MA.

USFA National Fire Academy Launches Performance-Based Pilots

After more than a year of planning and development, the USFA's National Fire Academy has scheduled two pilot offerings of its new six-day course, Performance-based Fire Safe Building Design.

A diverse group of fire service and industry professionals will attend the first course delivery May 26–31 at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. A second pilot will occur in the same location July 27 to August 2.

Pilot deliveries give course developers the chance to review the materials in front of a live audience, before the class is readied for inclusion in the National Fire Academy's fire prevention technical curriculum.

The course is intended to help local fire and building officials gain better understanding of performance-based design concepts so they may feel more confident reviewing plans submitted for their approval.

Performance-based Fire Safe Building Design will be offered four times on the campus of the National Fire Academy during the upcoming academic year. The first regularly scheduled class is planned for December 15, 2002.

"We've taken steps to assure this first group of students will represent a diverse audience," said R. Wayne Powell, USFA's National Fire Programs Mitigation Branch chief. "We have attendees from all parts of the United States; a wide variety of

experience; small, medium, and large communities; and the building, fire, insurance, and corporate professions. I am confident they will help us make this course among the most modern and informative that the National Fire Academy has to offer."

Professional Technologies, Inc. of Annandale, Virginia, developed the pilot materials. The IFMA, Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) made significant contributions to course content, said Training Specialist Robert Neale of the USFA.

In addition to covering basic concepts of performance-based design, the course uses a "case study" approach to evaluate fire and life safety issues. Schirmer Engineering of Chicago contributed design documents for the Arundel Mills Shopping Mall in Severn, Maryland, for use as a real-world example.

Course content includes a comparison of prescriptive and performance design and building codes, an introduction to fire dynamics, an overview of available fire models, the SFPE "process method" for fire-safe design, and the importance of documentation and on-going inspection to the success of performance-based design.

Fire service and allied professionals interested in taking the regularly scheduled courses should check their 2003 National Fire Academy Catalog of Activities for a course synopsis, prerequisites, and upcoming dates.

Fire Investigation Summary continued from page 4

Five fire fighters (including the crew from E23) were treated for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion. Several police officers that were handling site access and traffic control were also treated for breathing related problems. At the height of the fire over 80 civilians from the surrounding neighborhoods were evacuated from their homes. All were allowed to return the next day.

Investigation into the cause of the fire continues as of this report. For their initial entry into the building, fire investigators had to don protective hazardous materials suits and were limited to only several minutes in the rubble due to the presence of hazardous materials and air temperatures above 100°F. Based on this investigation and analysis of other incidents involving oxidizers, the NFPA has determined that the following significant factors may contribute to large losses in similar facilities:

- Lack of segregation between incompatible materials (i.e., oxidizers and hydrocarbon-based materials and other materials)
- Lack of proper storage configuration for oxidizers
- Inadequate sprinkler protection for commodities stored in the warehouse

Related reports published by the NFPA Fire Investigations Department include the following:

- Quincy, MA – May 23, 1995
- Albany, GA – April 16, 1996
- West Helena, AR – May 8, 1997
- Pool Chemical Alert Bulletin—July 1996

Firewise Communities: You hear about it—but what is it?

By Michele Steinberg, Firewise Communities Support Manager
and Ken Tremblay, Firewise Technical Assistant



The Firewise Communities Program is a national, multi-agency effort developed to try to reduce the staggering impact and cost of severe wildfire through sound land-use planning, creative mitigation, supportive community infrastructure, and collaborative decision-making. Fire departments play an important role in this process and have often been successful in encouraging community participation in this program.

“Making sensible choices for safety from fire in the wildland/urban interface.” The Firewise Communities Program tagline assumes that those who live in the wildland/urban interface understand the risk of wildfire and the array of choices they have in providing for their own safety. Firewise founders envision a future in which communities are built with homes and businesses that can survive fire in the wildland/urban interface without the intervention of the fire department. Limited fire resources can then be focused on controlling the main body of the fire without making individual stands to save certain homes in threatened areas.

On an individual homeowner level, reducing wildfire risk and hazard severity to help one’s home resist the spread of fire is not as difficult as it may seem. Techniques include the following:

- Creating a defensible space around your home by cutting back brush and shrubs a minimum of 30 feet from the dwelling
- Pruning low-hanging branches six to eight feet from the roof
- Choosing drought resistant plantings as a way of eliminating ladders fuels
- Selecting building materials for the roof, siding, or deck that are more resistant to ignition
- Choosing building sites away from slopes when building or remodeling
- Providing access to your property for the safe operation of fire apparatus
- Marking your home and driveway clearly for emergency response

To teach these principles, the National Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group created and launched the Firewise Communities Workshop series in 1999. Designed to bring together representatives from diverse disciplines to create awareness and understanding about wildfire risks, participants learn how to assess wildland fire risk and hazard severity, and how to build partnerships in their own communities to reduce the risk of damage from wildfire.

The workshops provide a method of performing a wildland fire risk and hazard severity assessment, modeled after NFPA 299, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire*. A successful workshop will include a diverse cross-section of participants, including homeowners, planners, community leaders, fire service representatives, architects, and developers. This diversity lays the groundwork for cooperation with hazard reduction as a goal.

Reaching the community at different levels is a successful key to this program, as the wildland/urban interface fire problem is everyone’s responsibility, not just that of the homeowner, fire department, builder, or community leader alone. Working together, participants can make a neighborhood or community safer from wildfire and initiate creative solutions to reach their goals.

One community that has benefited from the Firewise Communities Workshops is Santa Fe County, New Mexico. Fire Marshal Hank Blackwell has taken the Firewise workshops into the community, by participating in an interagency team from the Santa Fe area that recently presented two single-day training workshops to over 100 people. Blackwell also organized community clean-up days in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the County’s solid waste division to provide chippers, hauling equipment, and personnel. Blackwell states, “Our community cleanup days provide education, risk assessment, mitigation, and guidance that people find informative and that builds bridges for the future.”

“Currently in development in our county is the identification and training of Wildland Fire Coordinators,” says Blackwell. “During our community clean-up days individuals were

continued on next page

Firewise Communities *continued from previous page*

identified that wanted to do more.” The program Blackwell is developing will provide eight hours of training, usually over a weekend day, to teach individuals to conduct fire risk hazard assessments. Upon completion they will be provided with risk assessment forms, special fire department t-shirts and hats, and will go into their neighborhoods to conduct free property assessments. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 20 hours of assessments per year and must attend a 4-hour training refresher every subsequent year. “The program will augment needed staffing and provide an important piece of the mitigation process, while creating a unique community partnership with the fire department. The volunteers will allow the fire department to reach people that may be unaware of Firewise principles, but may have a friendship with the volunteer,” states Blackwell.

To learn more about the national Firewise Communities Program as well as local efforts like Hank Blackwell’s,

visit www.firewise.org. A wealth of information and resources are available, including contacts with community support staff and the new Firewise Resource Library at www.firewise.org/library, which is searchable by state/region, category, and keyword. For the ultimate Firewise learning experience, attend one of the national workshops being offered this year and next (see schedule below). Registration forms and workshop details area available online at www.firewise.org/communities.

The Firewise Communities Program is having measurable results in helping citizens to live within the wildland/urban interface safely. The most important result will be saving the lives of homeowners and fire fighters. You owe it to yourself to visit our Web site or attend a workshop to learn about Firewise first-hand and spread the message to others.

Firewise Communities Workshop Schedule as of June 1, 2002

2002		2003	
Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico	<i>September 10–12, 2002</i>	Medford, Oregon	<i>March 2003</i>
Bolton Landing, New York	<i>September 24–26, 2002</i>	Pueblo, Colorado	<i>early April 2003</i>
Norman, Oklahoma	<i>October 23–25, 2002</i>	Seattle, Washington	<i>late April 2003</i>
		Nashville, Tennessee	<i>September 2003</i>
		Boise, Idaho	<i>October 2003</i>
		Santa Fe, New Mexico	<i>November 2003</i>

Check for details on these national workshops as well as regional and state offerings at www.firewise.org.



Santa Fe County Fire Marshal Hank Blackwell (far left) receives a Firewise Communities Award along with team members at a March 2002 Firewise Communities Summit. Team members shown (from left to right) include Claudia Standish of the Santa Fe National Forest, and Bill Light of the Hyde Park Estates homeowners’ Firewise Committee in the Santa Fe area. At far right is David Halstead of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, chairman of the national Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team.

Can ADA UL 1971 Listed Strobes Be Used for Cold and Harsh Environments? Yes! Due to Recent Developments

By Vic Humm

Historically speaking the first visual notification appliances were listed under UL Standard 1638. The standard and its evolving revisions list units rated for indoors in a temperature band of 0°C (+32°F) to +49°C (+120°F) at 85% relative humidity, the outdoor rating is from -35°C (-31°F) to +66°C (+150.8°F).

Then Underwriters Laboratories conducted the extensive research and determined the required amount of light necessary to notify, when reflected off opposite walls, occupants in the alert, awake, or sleeping mode of danger and when evacuation is necessary. This generated UL Standard 1971 for the hearing impaired and allowed the fire protection community to meet the requirements of the American Disability Act (ADA) for the hearing impaired.

ADA requires visual notification appliances in public areas such as public gathering places, buildings, lodging corridors, restrooms, handicap sleeping accommodations, and conference areas.

ADA also requires accommodations for hearing-impaired employees, and OSHA requires means of notification for employees who wear hearing protection due to work noise-level. In order to extend the UL 1971 listed notification appliances to these areas, the unit may have to be listed for temperatures well below freezing such as in large cold storage facilities used in food processing and the cold storage facilities in the various distribution points in the conveyance to market.

Strobe enclosures are now available and listed by UL to NEMA 4X criteria. This means visual notification appliances can now be safely installed in areas, where deluge sprinkler systems or foam type-extinguishing systems are required. Thus as the result of system actuation or periodic testing, the visual notification appliance will not have to be replaced.

However, because of the light loss through the transparent polycarbonate media, the listing establishes the worse light loss values. UL lists by manufacturer with respect to a series or family of strobes and references in the MISC Accessories category of UXKV.

Any guard for an audible or visual notification that affects the performance either in sound loss or affects the light out requires adjusted spacing according to NFPA 72. The adjusted light loss candela value is determined by basic arithmetic. To do this, take the listed light loss percentage and multiply it with the original candela value. Then take this value and subtract it from the original candela value to establish the new configured candela rating. Now apply the spacing requirements of NFPA 72 in the chapter of notification appliances and the spacing is apparent.

Please note that since the 1996 editions chapter numbers of NFPA 72 have changed with the various editions.

To see covers listed by UL visit www.ul.com and select the "Certification" section. Then select "UL Category Code/Guide Information" and search for "UXKV". Other categories of interest include "UUKC" for the hearing impaired (ADA UL 1971) and "UVAV" for UL 1638 listings for regular strobes.

In outdoor environments, the accumulation of weather elements such as snow or ice will greatly reduce the light output or even total obscure the effective amount of light needed for the application.



*Photo of STI 1229 HTR
courtesy of Safety
Technology International.*

Enclosures tested with heater option allow the use of UL 1971 listed indoor strobes in harsh cold environments indoors or outdoors with a variety of different manufacturer's strobes. Due to the geometry and configuration of various strobe manufactures, the light loss percentage must be reviewed for each manufacturer.

Any accumulation of nature's elements such as snow or ice will be easily melted. The hemispherical dome in the wall-mounted configuration photo allows practical water run-off to occur easily.

Now the fire protection community, professional system designers, and the authorities having jurisdiction have choices for the improved application of the NFPA Standard No.72 and can professionally better assist in an improved enforcement of the requirements of ADA and OSHA. A common example of this would be notification appliances on outside corridors of lodging facilities. The typical roof or floor overhang will normally shield the notification appliance from accumulation of the elements of weather, but the temperature range is critically important, and thus appliances with outdoor ratings are required for this application.

Principles of Fire Protection Engineering

June 10–13, 2002
Auburn Hills, MI

September 16–19, 2002
Baltimore, MD

The International Fire Marshals Association and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers are offering the Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course on June 10–13 and September 16–19, 2002.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course is open to all individuals interested in gaining or refreshing their basic to intermediate knowledge of the principles of fire protection engineering. Who should attend? Individuals that have design, enforcement, or advisory responsibilities; fire protection engineers; architects; fire prevention personnel; and others concerned with fire protection. The course will be offered in three options to allow greater flexibility in meeting your educational needs:

1. Four-day option covers all ten subjects.
2. Session 1 two-day option covers subjects 1–5.
3. Session 2 two-day option covers subjects 6–10.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course consists of ten sessions over a total period of four days. The sessions include the following engineering educational subject areas:

- 1. Combustion and Ignition Phenomenon:** Theories of diffusion flame combustion, fire dynamics, suppression theory, and suppression agents.
- 2. Fire Endurance Evaluation:** Review of the development and application of standard and innovative fire endurance test procedures for building assemblies including doors, windows, walls, floors, and ceilings.
- 3. Construction and Structural Features:** Performance of basic construction materials in the fire environment. The fire compartment involvement process and the concept of designing building compartmentalization.
- 4. Materials Applications:** Evaluation procedures for flame spread, smoke production, and toxicity of interior finish, floor coverings, and furnishings.
- 5. Fire Protection Design Evaluation:** Procedures for the evaluation of fire safety. Smoke management systems design principles and evaluation techniques.
- 6. Life Risk Analysis:** Human tenability limits. Human behavior variables in fire incidents including convergence

clusters, social inhibition–facilitation, altruistic, and nonadaptive actions.

- 7. Detection and Alarm Systems:** Review of the types of detectors and the laboratory evaluation test procedures. Reliability and installation design characteristics.
- 8. Sprinkler System Developments:** Characteristics of design and approval of the various types of sprinklers and water mist nozzles with application implications.
- 9. Design of Water Suppression Systems:** Design of sprinkler and water mist systems with review of standard procedures and innovative research applications.
- 10. Egress and Exits:** Basic theoretical code concepts with examination of egress components and design variables.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course has been approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). SFPE will award CEUs to all participants who successfully complete this course, at no additional cost.

Participants are responsible for their own travel, meals, and lodging expenses. There are no refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date. IFMA and SFPE reserve the right to cancel courses due to limited registration. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel. Classes will be held at the following locations.

June 10–13, 2002

Oakland Community College
Attn: James Shank, Program Coordinator
2900 Featherstone Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2845
(248) 232-4580 Fax (248) 232-4095
All registrations for this course should be sent to this address.

September 16–19, 2002

Mt. Washington Conference Center
5801 Smith Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209
(410) 578-7674 or (800) 488-8734

All registrations for this course should be sent to SFPE, 7315 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 1225, Bethesda, MD 20814. A room rate of \$116 (USD) + tax/day has been reserved for participants. You must advise the hotel you are a part of the SFPE educational group in order to secure the listed rates. The cut-off date for advanced reservations is August 16, 2002. Reservations received after the cut-off date are subject to availability.

continued on next page

Principles of Fire Protection Engineering continued from previous page

IFMA/SFPE Principles of Fire Protection Engineering Registration Form (please print or type)

You can register now and we will bill you later (please include Purchase Order); or if you prefer you can send in the complete registration fee with this form.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Social Security #: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Enforcer

IFMA Member NFPA Member – NFPA #: _____

SFPE Member – SFPE #: _____

Please register me and bill me later. Enclosed is a purchase order.

Purchase Order #: _____

Enclosed is a check for the registration fee.

Please make checks payable to Oakland Community College for the June course and SFPE for the September course.

Charge the registration fee to my credit card.

MasterCard Visa American Express

Card #: _____ Card Exp. Date: _____

Please enroll me in the four-day option June 10–13 September 16–19, 2002, registration fee of \$365 enforcers, \$440 member, \$540 nonmember.

Please enroll me in the Session 1 two-day option June 10–11 September 16–17, 2002, registration fee of \$195 enforcers, \$245 member, \$345 nonmember.

Please enroll me in the Session 2 two-day option June 12–13 September 18–19, 2002, registration fee of \$195 enforcers, \$245 member, \$345 nonmember.

Please send registration forms to the addresses listed. No refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date.

Gas-Fueled Barbeque Grill Fires continued from page 6

Safety Tips

Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to follow all manufacturer's instructions regarding operation, set-up, maintenance, and clearance to combustibles.

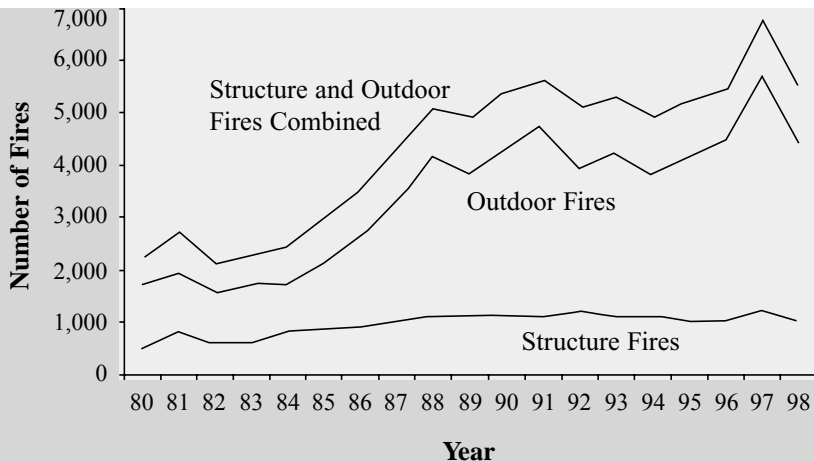
Grills should never be used in, on, or too near a structure. This includes balconies, garages, kitchens, or any other location in a

structure. When using grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space for siding and eaves.

Check hose integrity and hose connections to ensure there is no release of gas. Soapy water applied to hoses and connections will easily and safely reveal any leaks.

*Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1986 and 1997, Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1985 and 1997, Tables 1316 and 1207, respectively.

Home Fires Involving Gas-Fueled Barbeque Grills, 1980-1998



Source: National estimates based on NFIRS and NFPA survey.

Free online access to two major NFPA codes planned

NFPA seeks to increase access to safety information

As part of the nonprofit NFPA's commitment to enhancing public safety through the adoption and enforcement of key safety codes and standards, the Association announced that it will make two prominent consensus codes available for review online by the public. Following its scheduled August 2002 issuance, NFPA 5000, Building Code™, will be available along with NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code*, through NFPA's Web site.

Free access to NFPA's safety documents will make available important safety information to people who may not use the codes in their daily work. With the convenience of hyperlinks, the public can quickly access the NFPA documents directly from an adopting jurisdiction's site.

"Free online access will allow interested citizens to review the consensus documents whenever they like," said NFPA President George Miller. "In addition to being a resource for information, I believe this will help us to interest and involve more people in the consensus code development process."

NFPA 5000 is the first building code being developed through an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited

process. NFPA 1 and the *Uniform Fire Code* (UFC), the two most widely adopted fire codes in the United States, are being merged in 2003 to become NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*, addressing basic fire prevention requirements necessary to establish a reasonable level of fire safety and property protection from the hazards created by fire and explosion. Both NFPA 5000 and NFPA 1 will be part of the only full set of integrated consensus-based safety codes and standards, currently being developed by NFPA and its partners, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), and the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA).

NFPA is also committed to making training and code documents available to code enforcers. When a state adopts a major NFPA safety code, NFPA will make available free training and codebooks for code enforcers in the state, at no cost to taxpayers.



NFPA International
INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
SECTION NEWSLETTER

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