

The Special Legislative Commission
To Study
All Aspects Of Law And Regulation
Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays And Fire Safety

Making Rhode Island the Safest State

A Report
to the
Rhode Island General Assembly

JUNE 5, 2003



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Special Legislative Commission to Study All Aspects of Law and Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety expresses its appreciation for the oral and written testimony of the many citizens, public officials, and experts in fire safety, building codes, fire codes, fire protection engineering, fire suppression systems, loss prevention, insurance, fire safety construction, fire detection systems, crowd management and safety, business assistance and financing, hospitality, entertainment, event management, building materials, public health, pyrotechnics, emergency response, electrical inspections and safety, and other relevant fields.

Above all, the Special Legislative Commission to Study All Aspects of Law and Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety expresses its appreciation to the community of those directly affected by The Station Nightclub tragedy, many of whom reached out to, and some of whom testified before, the Commission. The courage demonstrated by this community served as an inspiration to the Commission in the development of this report.

The Rhode Island Special Legislative Commission to Study All Aspects of Law and
Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety
The State House; Providence, Rhode Island
June 5, 2003



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OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

The letter of transmittal to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate serves as an executive summary for this report.

The testimony of survivors and the families of victims of The Station nightclub fire, which is excerpted and follows this table of contents, eloquently sets forth the need and rationale for action.

The next section of the report - Codes, Compliance, Coherence, and Continuity - provides a conceptual framework, which is derived from oral and written statements to the Commission and a review of literature.

This is followed with an overview of fire experience in Rhode Island, 1990-2000, which is placed in a national context. The history of fire codes in the state is also summarized.

The Commission's recommendations for legislation are a direct response to need, theory, and condition. The summaries of the Commission's hearings and the matrix of recommendations made to the commission together supply the bass for the Commission's recommendations.

The Resolutions creating the Commission are attached.





State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW & REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

SEN. JOHN A. CELONA
Co-Chairman

REP. PETER T. GINAITT
Co-Chairman

Rep. David E. Laroche

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R.I. Hospitality & Tourism Assoc.

Jay Fluck, Exec. VP/Partner
CB Richard Ellis-N.E. Partners

June 5, 2003

His Excellency Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

The Honorable William J. Murphy
Speaker of the House

The Honorable William V. Irons
President of the Senate

Dear Sirs:

It is a true honor and a privilege to submit the report and recommendations of the Special Commission to Study All Aspects of Law and Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety. The Commission has worked expeditiously and diligently. Adoption of its proposals holds a realistic promise of making Rhode Island the safest state in the United States in terms of fire safety. Accomplishing this goal would be one appropriate tribute to the victims of The Station nightclub fire of February 20, 2003, which was among the very worst in United States history.

Catastrophes reveal the underlying weaknesses in a system. That is certainly the case with The Station nightclub fire. During the last decade, National Fire Protection Association and RI Department of Health data show Rhode Island's levels of fire deaths have been among the lowest of any state in the nation. In retrospect, Rhode Island has learned how things could go terribly wrong. The basic lesson is that just because a tragedy has not happened, that does not mean it cannot happen. Rhode Island never had a major nightclub fire before: Now it has, and the state as a whole is deeply sadder, and, hopefully a good deal wiser.

On May 22, 2003, the Commission heard the testimony of the families of victims and of survivors of The Station nightclub fire. The witnesses were heroic. They shared their loss, their pain, their grief, and their anger, and they made far-reaching recommendations regarding how Rhode Island can improve. A number specifically requested action on our part so that their beloved would not have died in vain. Honoring this request is the least we can do.

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In sum we need to do five major things:

- Require the use across the board of up-to-date fire safety codes--this will require the elimination of the "grandfather clause"--and the coordinated administration of fire safety and building codes.
- Prohibit the use of pyrotechnics in places of assembly such as nightclubs and strictly regulate their use in the large venues such as the Providence Performing Arts Center and the Dunkin' Donuts Center that can accommodate them safely.
- Mandate sprinklers in nightclubs with an occupancy of 150 or greater and in all Class A and B places of assembly, except places of worship and state and municipal buildings used for government purposes and place other safety requirements on nightclubs as high risk places of assembly.
- Provide greater enforcement powers to fire marshals to assure their ability: *a)* to make inspections, *b)* to require immediate abatement of conditions that pose an imminent threat to public safety or property and when necessary to order a premises vacated, and *c)* to inspect of nightclubs and other places of assembly during their actual hours of operation.
- Establish comprehensive planning requirements to identify in the future the weaknesses in Rhode Island's approach to fire safety and to recommend actions needed to improve fire safety.

The Commission's report and accompanying legislation fill-in the particulars and expand on these five key recommendations. These proposed actions are not sufficient, however. For example, no level of government has the fiscal capacity to do frequent inspections of all properties: What Rhode Island must develop is a culture of compliance with fire safety practices. If each Rhode Islander made a personal commitment, in memory of the victims of The Station fire, to improve fire safety where they live, work, and play--then Rhode Island would certainly achieve its objective. Codes are only objective standards; compliance, especially full voluntary compliance, is what actually protects lives.

On behalf of the entire Commission, we wish to thank you for this opportunity to serve the people of Rhode Island.

Very truly yours,

Senator John A Celona
Co-chairman

Representative Peter T. Ginaitt
Co-chairman



THE TESTIMONY OF THE DIRECTLY AFFECTED

The testimony at the Commission's final hearing was powerful, profoundly moving, and truly wise. Taken as a whole, it offers keen insights into the factors that caused the tragedy and provides a set of sound, far reaching proposals to prevent such tragedies in the future. In breadth and eloquence, there is no substitute for the words of survivors and the families of victims.

Ms. Katherine Randall:

"It takes a tragedy to realize"

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 22, Line 21)

Mr. Jody King:

"It was a lot of things wrong. A lot of things need to be fixed. A lot of things need to be changed."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 27, Line 20)

Mr. Jay Hargreaves:

"The process that we now have is broken. It doesn't work. It failed us once already. It will fail us again. That system doesn't work."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 37, Lines 14-16)

Ms. Sara Mancini:

"It [The Station fire] was an accident. It was an accident waiting to happen. And it was just one of those times when all the ingredients were put together. . . ."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 39, Lines 15 - 17)

Ms. Eileen DiBonaventura:

"We would not be here if safety issues had been detected and corrected. . . . All safety devices need to be in working order at all times. A fire fighter should be on duty. Ample and adequate emergency exits. All buildings need to be up to current safety standards. No exceptions."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 14, Line 24, Page 15, Lines 1- 2, 9-14)

Mr. Raymond Mattera:

"As we sit here tonight we realize that the code in its present state is unacceptable. The tragedy of The Station nightclub fire proves this point. A proposal . . . is to revoke the grandfather provisions."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 17, Lines 18-23)



Mr. William C. Bonardi:

"Where are the exits? Are they clearly identified? Are the doors single or double with panic bars? Are there enough exits to accommodate a large number of people in case of an emergency? In a large assembly, is a fireman on duty? In a multilevel building, are there stairwells and elevators clearly visible? Are there fire extinguishers available and can they be easily reached?"

"Furthermore, and more importantly, the installation of fire retardant materials must be mandated and the grandfather ruling be eliminated. Finally, fire marshals must dutifully make routine inspections and follow up to make certain that any safety or fire code violations are corrected."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 9, Lines 11-18)

Ms. Chrissy Robbins:

"Make it a law to have these sprinklers installed."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 48, Lines 17-18)

Ms. Renee Walton:

"And I'm sure if you ask one of the owners of the club now if they could go back three months and three days, would they have sprinklers in their building, I'm sure they would say yes."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 32, Lines 19-22)

Ms. Diane Izzo:

"It is really small or no comfort to hear that the State of Rhode Island has a code, a good code. It was inadequately enforced."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 46, Lines 11-13)

Ms. Elizabeth Arruda:

"The things that went on that night should not have happened."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 42, Lines 11-12)

Mr. David Brennan:

"I'd just like to start off by saying I was not aware about the flammable foam in the club.."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 36, Lines 18-19)

Mr. Derek Silva:

"The fact that pyrotechnics were even in a place like that is absolutely absurd. Pyrotechnics should be banned in every nightclub in the state."

(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 45, Lines 3-5)



Ms. Eileen DiBonaventura:

"How can this be? Doors not working properly."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 13, Lines 8-9)

Mr. Paul Pezelli:

"During our experience it wasn't until at least a good minute into the fire that we actually heard any type of like a smoke detector go off. It was something very small."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 23, Lines 3-6)

Mr. Stephen Early:

"Fire has the capability of producing power, cooking your food, warming your houses. But left to its own devices, it will take off and destroy everything in [its] path."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 30, Lines 20-23)

Mr. David Brennan:

"Everybody comes up here and speaks for about three minutes and in that time 100 people died."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 38, Lines 16-17)

Ms. Hoell:

"The laws must change, and we can't have anyone else go through this because this is horrible, and I'm never going to see my sister again."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 20, Lines 15-17)

Miss Shayna Gauvin (child whose mother was severely burned and in intensive care for 68 days):

"I miss her."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 32, Line 5)

Ms. Susan Howorth:

"And that's really the net of the whole situation. It's attitude. We have to change our attitude."
(Transcript May 22, 2003, Page 35, Lines 14-15)



THE MEANS FOR PROGRESS:

CODES, COMPLIANCE, COORDINATION & CONTINUITY

Testimony and theory point to the conclusion that progress with regard to fire safety will require attention to four areas: codes, compliance, coordination, and continuity.

A. CODES

Performance-based designs result in equal or better levels of fire safety and more functional buildings. They encourage flexibility and innovation and ultimately produce more cost-effective structures. – Peter Johnson, WPI Journal. Summer 1999, p. 13.

There are major improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency on the U.S. codes and standards system that would be realized from the joint efforts of appropriate organizations from the fire, emergency services, and building communities. – America At Risk, October 2000, p. 23.

The Commission finds that codes and fire safety go hand in hand:

- Strong, clear, and up-to-date building and fire codes are a key element of fire safety. Codes provide the basis for mitigating risk but, no code or set of codes can eliminate all risk. Codes are only part of the solution.
- Building and fire codes need to be integrated. Building, construction, and fire prevention communities must work collaboratively.
- National model codes continue to evolve; local jurisdictions can benefit from this process. The two tested national model codes are NFPA 1 and 101, and the ICC building code.
- Rhode Island professionals who have been involved with the development of codes tend to understand those codes better than codes with which they are not familiar.
- No existing set of codes addresses fully the risks of assembly occupancies. The Station fire has forced widespread reassessment of codes at the national and state level.

B. COMPLIANCE

The lack of a strong cultural norm around preventing fires may explain another aspect of U.S. attitudes towards fire. Americans tend to view fires as an inevitable part of life and, unlike citizens in other countries, are more prone to characterize fires as unfortunate “accidents.” – Fire Death Rate Trends: An International Perspective.

The Commission finds that modern regulatory theory recognizes the benefits of voluntary compliance as an important complement to traditional command and control enforcement policies. Testimony revealed several key concepts with regard to enforcement and compliance:



- Fostering a “culture of compliance” would greatly enhance fire safety in Rhode Island. Individuals, business owners, and property owners must embrace fire safety as essential for the public good and willingly comply with fire safety practices.
- The cost of compliance is often overestimated while the cost of non-compliance is often underestimated. As The Station fire demonstrates, the cost of non-compliance far exceeds, in both human and financial terms, the cost of compliance.
- Enforcement needs to be fair, reasonable, predictable, consistent, and timely. Arbitrary or inconsistent enforcement drives business and property owners away from the process of compliance.
- The cost of compliance is a cost of doing business or owning property.

C. COORDINATION

A variety of strategies can be used by government agencies and fire departments to prevent fires, and countries (or jurisdictions within countries) adopt unique mixes of them. Among the fire prevention strategies they choose from are regulating the level of fire protection in the built environment, teaching citizens about their responsibilities in preventing fires, and offering citizens practical guidance for avoiding situations that increase the risk of fire. – Fire Death Rate Trends: An International Perspective. FEMA, May, 1997.

The Commission finds that fire safety in Rhode Island will require a systems approach. Testimony revealed several key concepts with regard to the need for strategy, leadership, and coordination:

- Fire safety needs to be included in the larger system of public safety. Threats to public safety in places of assembly, or in any area where the public gathers, need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner: both State and local agencies, and public and private sector entities must collaborate.
- A comprehensive fire safety system needs horizontal integration (e.g. across communities or between building and fire inspectors) and vertical cooperation (e.g. national, state and local consistency, or state and local inspection).
- Fire safety has a number of distinct components, including building standards, crowd control, training, education, enforcement, and risk reduction. These components must function as a whole.
- Rhode Island should have an explicit plan for fire safety, with measurable goals and objectives and regular reporting.



D. CONTINUITY

Today, the threat of fires is still with us. But we have done a lot to address the risk, minimize the incidence and severity of losses, and prevent fires from spreading. Our states and localities have an improving system of codes and standards; most of us are aware of the risks; our communities have everyday heroes who provide the first response to emergency calls; some of our homes and buildings have alarms or sprinkler systems; and our water distribution system for fire suppression stretches further than many imagined in 1900. We have accomplished a lot, but we have much more to do.
– James Lee Witt, Director FEMA. America At Risk.

...a nightclub built in 1973 in Rhode Island may be less safe than a nightclub built right next door one year later. – Morgan J. Hurley. Fire Protection Engineering. Spring 2003.

The Commission finds that progress in fire safety must be a continuous process. Testimony revealed several key concepts with regard to the need for a continuous approach:

- Meaningful change in fire safety often comes only as the result of tragedy. Rhode Island must develop a system of continuous reassessment and improvement to break this backward-looking cycle.
- Codes, programs, and personnel should be subject to periodic review to ensure that fire safety is ongoing.
- National review of codes and standards is underway; Rhode Island must keep abreast of code changes that result from reviews of The Station fire such as that being conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- Fire safety should undergo constant modernization and continuous movement toward best practices.
- Buildings with the same type of occupancy should not have substantially different assessments of risk.



IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission's Mission

The Commission set as its overarching goal to make Rhode Island the safest state in the nation with regard to fire safety.

A wide range of experts and concerned parties presented testimony at the Commission's hearings which are summarized in the next section of this report. In addition, the Commission and its staff received a significant volume of written information.

The Commission's findings and recommendations are a synthesis of testimony and written materials.

This section of the Commission's Report summarizes data provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health on fire deaths in the state during the decade 1990-2000. It then considers this data in the context of national information published by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA in 2001).

This section then examines the history of efforts to reduce the incidence and severity of fires in Rhode Island through the adoption and implementation of fire safety codes.

Finally the section presents recommendations for change that will make it possible for Rhode Island to meet the Commission's goal of making Rhode Island safer.

The crucial activity is the identification and elimination, to the maximum extent feasible, of fire risks. Fire risks will never be zero. Fire safety requires constant vigilance and continuing investment. Fire risks can be categorized in general as follows:

- High Severity, High Frequency
- High Severity, Low Frequency
- Low Severity, High Frequency
- Low Severity, Low Frequency

Environments of high severity and high frequency risk are not reasonably inhabitable--such areas must be either avoided or the risks must be reduced. Environments of low severity and low frequency risk are safe and are to be sought out or created. To produce such environments, a jurisdiction must address two quite different types of risk: high severity, low frequency risks, such as The Station nightclub fire, and low severity, higher frequency risks, such as house fires which claim the lives of thousands of people annually in the United States.

As The Station nightclub fire illustrates, because a particular type of fire is unprecedented in a jurisdiction does not mean that it cannot happen. For Rhode Island, eliminating high severity, low frequency risks will require instituting measures to prevent an incident from happening that has not happened before.

However, reducing the risk of catastrophe is a necessary but not sufficient step to make Rhode Island a truly safe state. High frequency and low severity risks, such as house fires, must also be addressed. House fires cost many lives in Rhode Island. These losses can also be reduced.



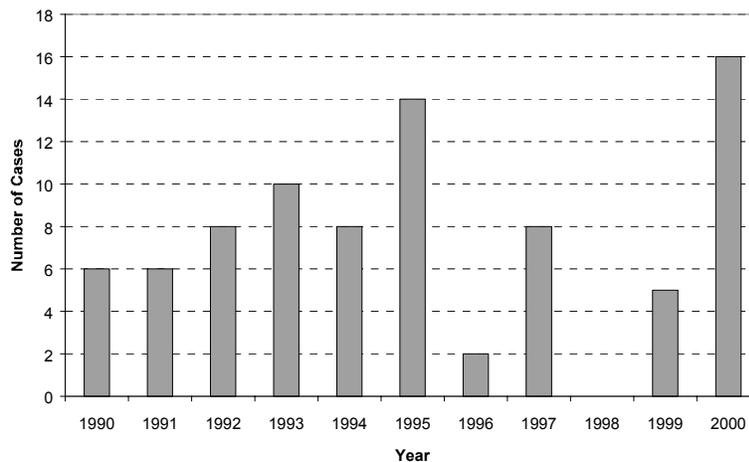
Findings: The Need for Action.

A. Rhode Island Fire Losses 1990 - 2000.

Data from the Rhode Island Department of Health from the years 1990-2000 show a relatively benign picture of Rhode Island fire deaths all of which changed after The Station fire. Overall, RI's record of deaths due to fire for the eleven-year period was among the very lowest of any state in the nation. The most basic measure of fire safety is the loss of life per million population.

1. From 1990-2000, there were eighty-three (83) fire deaths in Rhode Island.
2. The average was less than eight fire deaths per year. As Graph I shows, the highest number of deaths during the period was sixteen (16) in 2000; the lowest number of deaths was zero (0) in 1998.
3. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the deaths were in unintentional fires, while eleven percent (11%) were in fires caused by arson.

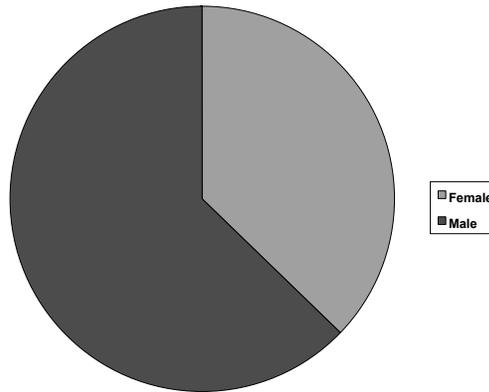
GRAPH I
Deaths Caused by Fires in Structures, by Year
Rhode Island, 1990-2000



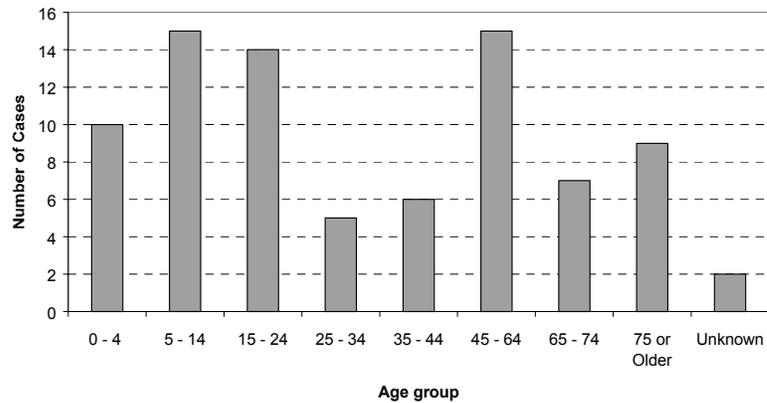
4. Many more males (63%) than females (37%) die in Rhode Island fires (Graph II). The fewest deaths occur among people 25 to 44 years of age, and fire deaths in the state are more frequent among the age groups below 25 and above 44 years of age (Graph III).



GRAPH II
Deaths Caused by Fires in Structures, by Sex
Rhode Island, 1990-2000



GRAPH III
Deaths Caused by Fires in Structures, by Age Group
Rhode Island, 1990-2000



5. Rhode Island is similar to the rest of the nation during this period in that the predominance of fire deaths occur in one, two, and three family dwellings.

B. National Trends and Conditions.

Rhode Island is so small that it is difficult to get a complete picture of fire safety risks by looking only what has happened recently in the State. National data is invaluable in placing the Rhode Island experience in context.

1. Fire deaths per million population in the United States have declined steadily over the last twenty years from 34.7 per million in 1979 to 13.1 per million in 1999; the national average 1995-1999 was 15.9 deaths per million population (NFPA 2001b, 18, 21).



2. The incidence of fire deaths per million population varies significantly by region within the U. S. During the 1995-1999 period, it was highest in the South (19.8 per million) and lowest in the West (10.1 per million); the Northeast had the second lowest rate (15.0 per million). The North Central region (15.8 per million) was almost exactly the national average (15.9 per million) (NFPA 2001b, 21).

3. The fire death rate per million population varies significantly by community size. For the period 1995-1999, the highest rates are found in the smallest communities. Those with a population under 2,500 had an aggregate death rate of 38.7 per million; and those with 2,500 to 5,000 had an aggregate rate of 20.5 per million. The lowest death rates were found in medium sized communities: 10,000 to 25,000=12.2 per million; 25,000 to 50,000=12.7 per million; 50,000 to 100,000=12.6 per million. In larger communities - those with a population above 100,000 - the average was 14 to 15 per million.

4. The percentage of deaths by major property class during the 1995-1999 period were as follows:

- | | |
|--|------|
| a. One and two family dwellings | 68%. |
| b. Apartments | 13%. |
| c. Other residential fires | 1%. |
| d. Structures that are not residential | 4%. |
| (Includes places of assembly, factories, office buildings, retail, etc.) | |
| e. Highway vehicles | 12%. |
| f. Other vehicles | 1%. |
| g. Other | 1%. |

5. The average number of deaths annually (1995-1999) in various types of structures were as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| a. Residential | 3, 575 |
| b. Mercantile and Office | 16 |
| c. Industry, Utility and Defense | 3 |
| d. Manufacturing | 15 |
| e. Storage | 31 |
| f. Special (includes vacant) | 22 |
| g. Public Assembly | 4 |
| h. Educational | 0 |
| i. Institutional | 0 |

6. As national statistics show, ordinary risk is clearly greatest for residential structures. Fires related to cooking were the most frequent; those arising from smoking the most frequent cause of death; and incendiary and suspicious fires caused the most property damage. Auxiliary heating equipment (e.g. space heaters) were a common source of fires in single and two family dwellings, but rarer in apartment buildings, which usually have central heating systems. Fire deaths occurred most frequently in living rooms, family rooms, and dens (31%); bedrooms (27%); and kitchens (15%).

7. The annual average for fire deaths in eating and drinking establishments is low, with three civilian fire deaths per year in restaurants and one civilian fire death per year on average in nightclubs. However, the NFPA cautions: "Although fatal fires in these properties are relatively rare, the potential life safety hazard is high. The second deadliest single-building



fire in U. S. history, the 1942 Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston, Massachusetts, killed 492 people. The 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in Southgate, Kentucky, killed 165 people. **Because of the devastating potential of a single large fire in a crowded establishment, careful adherence to fire prevention and fire protection practices is essential.** (NFPA 2001b, 108 emphasis added).

Based on Rhode Island experience, The Station was not a predictable event--even those who survived it called it an accident-- albeit one that was waiting to happen. A national analysis pointed to both the rarity and the severity of such fires and made clear the need for protective measures to prevent their occurrence.

C. Fire Codes in Rhode Island.

An early purpose of codes was to cause the demolition and replacement of buildings that were considered at high risk for fires. The basic logic of requiring existing buildings to meet standards for new construction if substantial reinvestment was being made or if a change of use was taking place reflected this approach. However, existing buildings are an essential part of the fabric of the built environment. Thus variances from codes for new buildings, and for new operations and occupancies in existing buildings, became common.

Fire safety codes have long historical origins in Rhode Island. Chapter 109 of the Public Laws of 1896 enables local justices of the peace to appoint "six good and lawful men" to inquire into the causes of fires. Chapter 1536 of the Public Laws of 1908 addressed exiting from theatres, halls, churches, and school houses, requiring persons on duty to make sure exits in theatres and halls, were unlocked and passable and requiring the stage area of "places of amusement" to be equipped with sprinklers and a fire alarm box. The law also set up a system of inspections.

The modern era of fire codes in Rhode Island began in the 1930s with the creation of the position of the State Fire Marshal, who was *ex officio* the superintendent of the State Police, with the power to enforce laws pertaining to fire prevention and the suppression of arson and to investigate the causes and circumstances of fires in the state. The General Laws of 1956 codified the powers and duties of the Fire Marshal's office, which remained a part of the State Police until 1973.

In 1966, the Rhode Island General Assembly adopted the State's first comprehensive fire code, which was superseded by an enactment in 1968. The 1968 code has remained the base line for fire safety for thirty five years. Buildings constructed after this date had to meet the most current standards. Chapter 165 of the Public Laws of 1975 established the rule making powers of the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review and commenced the process that has resulted in the adoption of Rhode Island's current codes. However, buildings already in existence were "grandfathered" to the 1968 code.

This brief shows that Rhode Island has a record of changing its fire safety codes in fundamental ways when the need arises and there is a political will to act.

Over the last two decades, the underlying theories of codes have changed significantly. Now, codes, including those of the National Fire Prevention Association, recognize existing buildings and contain specific safety requirements according to the type of occupancy. It should not be assumed that new codes are more difficult to comply with. Indeed, new codes can be more "user friendly," providing a more balanced view of fire safety and an understandable guide for compliance and enforcement.



This change in basic theory and orientation can be more effective in reducing risks than a stringent code where compliance is so onerous that it can only be achieved through enforcement actions.

D. Reducing Fire Losses.

Fire losses can be minimized by reducing the incidence of fires (i.e. the fewer the number of fires the less likely fire losses will be suffered) and by reducing the severity of fires. For example, fire alarms alone do not reduce the likelihood of a fire in a building. However, fire alarms can be critical to reducing the severity of losses. Alarms alert people that they must stop whatever they are doing and exit the building, and immediately signal the fire department to come to the building to extinguish the fire.

The incidence of fires can be reduced by:

- Making buildings safer.
- Reducing or prohibiting behavior that causes fire risks.

The severity of fires can be reduced by:

- Suppressing fires that have started.
- Providing clear, sufficient alarms to people to exit buildings where fires have broken out.
- Requiring that exit ways are clearly identified, fully passable, and unblocked.

There are structural and behavioral components to reducing both the incidence and the severity of fires. The Station nightclub fire of February 20, 2003, is a case in point. The use of highly flammable foam for soundproofing made the structure more susceptible to fire. The use of pyrotechnics in this nightclub setting further increased the fire hazard. Thus, high-risk behavior in a high-risk environment resulted in tragedy.

Issues pertaining to structures and to behavior must be addressed together. Modern fire safety codes such as the NFPA codes, have provisions pertaining to structure *and* behavior.

Codes are subject to revisions, updates, improvements, and overhauls. A jurisdiction is safer from fire risks if it uses current codes. Learning from catastrophes is vital to preventing their recurrence. Agencies such as the National Institutes on Standards and Technology and the National Fire Protection Association are analyzing The Station nightclub catastrophe in order to determine how the fire happened. Codes will change in response to the new knowledge generated from this research. In addition, people in such fields as fire science and fire protection engineering are continually studying how fires occur and how people and structures can be protected from the devastation that they can cause.



Recommendations: Proposals for Action

The testimony and information presented to the Commission and its staff provide the basis for an effective, comprehensive, and far-reaching update of Rhode Island laws and regulations pertaining to pyrotechnics and fire safety.

Rhode Island can achieve the goal set by the Commission to make the State the safest in the nation. The changes in laws and regulations set forth below will contribute to achieving this goal. It must be reiterated, however, that law and regulation changes, while necessary, are not sufficient. Rhode Island needs to be a place where fire safety is valued and considered essential by private individuals, by businesses, and by groups and associations of all types. A culture of compliance is requisite.

Grandfather Clause

- Eliminate the "grandfather clause" effective February 20, 2004.
- Require adoption of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes NFPA 1 (Uniform Fire Code) and NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code), 2003 editions, for new and existing buildings effective February 20, 2004.
- Require the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review and the State Building Code Commission to integrate administration of the fire and building codes by July 1, 2004, and conduct training needed for such purposes.

Sprinklers

- Require fire alarms that are municipally connected in concentrated use places of assembly that are "special amusement buildings" with occupancies of 150 or greater and in all Class A and B places of assembly, by July 1, 2004.
- Require sprinklers in all "special amusement buildings," places of assembly buildings with an occupancy of 150 or greater, by July 1, 2006, and in Class A and B places of assembly, except fully alarmed places of worship and state and municipal buildings used for governmental purposes, by July 1, 2005.
- Require either an occupancy adjustment of minus twenty percent for the lack of sprinklers and ten percent for the lack of fire alarms or a fire fighter on duty at any special amusement building with an occupancy of 150 or greater building that is without sprinklers and fire alarms during periods of special amusement.
- Require by July 1, 2005, that all "special amusement buildings" with an occupancy of less than 150 use fire retardant paints or other coverings, to a standard acceptable to the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review, unless the building has sprinklers.

Pyrotechnics

- Prohibit use of pyrotechnics in all Class B and C places of assembly effective upon passage, and allow pyrotechnics only in class places of assembly that are fully fire alarmed and sprinklered.



- Require NFPA standards for the use of pyrotechnics, and require all licenses issued or renewed after February 20, 2004, to have holder demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of NFPA standards for the use of pyrotechnics.
- Raise the financial responsibility, which is currently \$50,000, to \$1,000,000 for permits to possess or use commercial fireworks or pyrotechnics effective February 20, 2004.
- Make it a felony for violation of requirements for commercial and public use or display of commercial pyrotechnics, effective upon passage.

Fire Alarms

- Retain Rhode Island's fire alarm requirements that are more stringent than NFPA.
- Require "hard wired" smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, with combined detectors specifically allowed, in three family dwellings by July 1, 2008.

Enforcement

- Give power of entry for purposes of inspections to fire marshals similar to those of other State and local inspectors effective upon passage.
- Give power to fire marshals to order the immediate abatement of conditions, such as blocked fire exits or improper storage of flammable materials, that pose an imminent threat to public safety or property--with approval of the fire marshal, or a designee, to order premises to be vacated, effective upon passage.
- Require inspections of places of special amusement and places of assembly that have a Class B or C liquor license at least once annually during actual hours of operation when fire risks are highest and require proof of compliance with the fire code for renewal of Class B and Class C licenses, effective February 20, 2004.
- Give power to fire marshals to issue citations for violations, which are identified in inspections for enforcement purposes, that constitute imminent hazards, effective upon passage.
- For failure to correct routine violations, which are identified in inspections for enforcement purposes, provide for issuance of notice of violation (NOV), and make the failure to respond to the NOV subject to fine and made part of land evidence record; make failure to correct following a second NOV a misdemeanor that includes a greater fine and/or jail time, effective upon passage.

Additional Special Provisions for Nightclubs

- Specify that a nightclub use is considered a "special amusement building" and that use of a restaurant as a nightclub with concentrated occupancy, reduced lighting or food service, constitutes a change in use for the purposes of fire and building codes, effective February 20, 2004.



- Require two fire extinguishers, which shall be at least twenty pounds or such other size as may be established as appropriate by the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review, in all stage areas, effective February 20, 2004.
- Require that alarm systems sound, that all lighting return to normal levels, and that any conflicting sounds or visuals stop on the actuation of any smoke detector or fire alarm, effective February 20, 2004.
- Require floor proximity exit signs for all occupancies greater than 150 by February 20, 2006.
- Require audible announcement of the location of emergency exits prior to each act or set, effective on passage.
- Require that there be an emergency plan for the premises, approved by a fire marshal and consistent with rules established by the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review by July 1, 2004.
- Require that for every occupancy of 300 or greater there shall be a crowd manager present during special amusement events, who has been trained by the Fire Marshal with regard to the emergency plan and basic crowd management techniques, effective October 1, 2004. This requirement shall be in addition to the current requirement for a detail fire fighter.
- Prohibit use of decorative or acoustical materials that are not certified, consistent with NFPA requirements or such other requirements as may be established by the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review, with a penalty of up to \$5,000, effective upon passage.

Coordination and Education

- Augment the duties of the Fire Marshal to include planning, implementing, and overseeing a comprehensive system for fire safety education, fire prevention, fire safety code enforcement and fire investigations, effective upon passage. (Note: current law treats the Fire Marshal as a law enforcement officer, not a system manager.)
- Require the Fire Marshal to make public the repeat and/or uncorrected fire safety code violations of all places of assembly that are special amusement buildings and to provide this information on a web site, effective February 20, 2004.
- Require the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review to approve all local amendments, changes, additions or deletions to fire safety codes, effective February 20, 2004.
- Require the preparation of five-year plans for the improvement of fire safety in Rhode Island, with the first plan due by February 20, 2004, which plans shall include recommendations regarding fire safety education.
- Require annual reports submitted by the Fire Marshal, on or before February 1, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate on fire safety in RI, progress toward meeting goals set forth in the plan, and recommendations for improving fire safety. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Secretary of State, and the report shall be posted on the web site of the Fire Marshal.



Financing

- Sales tax exemption for sprinklers, fire alarms, and hard wired smoke detectors in existing buildings, which are mandated by passage of the act, effective upon passage.
- Support funding for the Fire Marshal's office and the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review in order to implement the requirements of the changes in law.
- Request the Attorney General to monitor for price irregularities vendors and markets that may be affected by passage of new fire safety regulations.



MEETING SUMMARIES

The Commission convened nine meetings between March and June of 2003 in an effort to examine comprehensively fire safety and pyrotechnic displays. The reporting date was extended to June 6, 2003. Meetings were held in Room 313 of the State House and all were televised on Capitol Television. Hundreds of written documents and communications were submitted to the staff and the Co-Chairs of the Commission, and staff consulted with local, regional and national experts in fire safety, crowd safety, and other related topics.

Meeting Dates:

March 20, 2003

March 27, 2003

April 3, 2003

April 24, 2003

May 1, 2003

May 8, 2003

May 15, 2003

May 22, 2003

June 5, 2003



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

March 20, 2003

The organizational meeting was held in order to formally introduce Commission members to the purpose of the Joint Commission to Study All Aspects of Law and Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety and to begin the task of gathering information on the topic. The meeting opened with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of The Station fire. The commission received general instruction into how testimony would be gathered and received and members had the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the nature of the commission or to share other information.

Senator John A. Celona, Commission Co Chair, opened the meeting by stating the goals and procedures of the commission: Listen to witnesses before the Commission without pre-conceived notions; solicit, obtain, and welcome testimony from experts in the fields of fire science, construction, crowd control, insurance regulation, state and local code enforcement, pyrotechnic use, soundproofing, sprinkler systems, and health care; welcome testimony from officials dealing with licenses and permits that should have been in place at The Station nightclub; welcome testimony from employees of The Station nightclub; welcome family members of those who lost their lives, those injured and recovered, and those in attendance who escaped without injury with insights as to how to avoid similar situations in the future; invite those who operate nightclubs in Rhode Island. At the end of the hearings process the Commission would be tasked with deliberating and determining how existing code enforcement could be strengthened, and crafting legislation to that end, such that future disasters in the nature of The Station fire could be averted. The Commission will not interfere with ongoing legal investigation and grand jury proceedings.

Representative Peter T. Ginaitt, Commission Co Chair, opened his remarks with a reminder of the magnitude of the tragedy, one month to the date from this meeting, and of its continuing impact across the state and the country. Recognition was given to those who had participated in the rescue efforts that night. Public safety would be the first and foremost goal of the Commission as decisions were made in addressing change in fire regulation and enforcement.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

March 27, 2003

This was the first Fire Commission Meeting after the organizational meeting on March 20, 2003. During this meeting experts from the fields of fire inspections and enforcement, fire suppression systems, and fire investigation testified before the Commission.

The first speaker was, *Dr. Joseph Goldblatt, Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University and Chair of the RI Economic Development Corporation Task Force on Event & Venue Safety & Security.* Dr. Goldblatt stressed that a partnership of government and private entities is essential to allow all stakeholders to participate and serve the public. Three overarching recommendations were offered: comprehensive education programs to support any new regulations; collaboration among state and local agencies; and attention to those recommendations that are more difficult to enforce, such as announcing emergency exits and procedures, and providing financial incentives for venues that offer crowd safety and control instruction.

Mr. William Howe, Chief of Inspections of the State Fire Marshal's Office, provided the Commission with an overview of the Fire Safety Code. Currently, fire inspectors must refer to multiple iterations of the Fire Code depending on when a building was established. The first code, established in 1968 and adopted by RI in 1974 is still used. There were major rewrites in 1976 (grandfather clause was instated), 1983, and 1986 (NFPA I adopted for new establishments). Chief Howe stated that it takes longer to write an inspection report than to do the inspection and it is also very difficult to teach new inspectors how to use the rewrites and the original code. He also reviewed the procedure for shutting down establishments, the 50% appraisal rule, and how to calculate building occupancy.

Mr. Richard Skinner, Regional Manager of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, provided the Commission with a powerpoint presentation of the simulation of The Station fire that his organization performed in the days after the tragedy. The simulation was in an area that was insulated with a similar foam product to what might have been used in The Station for soundproofing. It was run twice, once with sprinklers and once without. The presentation showed the drastic difference in fire suppression with the use of sprinklers. Mr. Skinner reviewed the deadliest club and dance hall fires in US history, provided cost estimates of sprinkler installation and insurance savings, and urged the Commission to review the rules pertaining to sprinklers and occupancy loads.

The last speaker was *Mr. Vincent Calenda, Senior Investigator for Engineering & Fire Investigations.* Mr. Calenda was asked many questions related to the Station Fire that he was unable to answer due to the continued investigation status of the Station. He did express support for streamlining the Fire Codes and for elimination of the grandfather clause.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

April 3, 2003

Discussion in this meeting focused on two areas: the existing deficiencies in code enforcement in the State and descriptions of two nationally recognized code systems that are available for Rhode Island to adopt. Existing deficiencies were noted in the enforcement of workers' compensation insurance requirements and in the ability of fire and building code enforcers to inspect buildings as changes in use occur. Representatives of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Code Council (ICC) presented their respective code systems.

Mr. Marvin Perry, from the Department of Labor and Training, spoke concerning the difficulty of enforcing the Workers' Compensation insurance requirements in the state. One problem is that some businesses either ignore or are unaware of the requirement to have workers' compensation insurance. The department is working to increase compliance through cross referencing lists of businesses and businesses holding the insurance in order to identify those without. The department is also working to increase awareness of the law.

Mr. Mark W. Tebbets, representing the International Code Council, gave a presentation on the merits of the ICC code system. The ICC code system is a unified code in which building and fire codes are compatible, simplifying interpretation for builders as well as code enforcement officials.

Mr. Dan R. DeDentro, State Building Commissioner, discussed the problems having to do with code enforcement in Rhode Island. Of primary importance was the issue of notification when a property has changed use, which generally results in a change in the required public safety features. If inspectors are not notified of a change in use, they cannot make the determination as to whether a building meets the safety codes necessary for that new use. Mr. DeDentro further recommended that fire code enforcers be given the ability to issue citations resulting in the immediate closure of a building and that they be able to inspect properties during their hours of operation, so that a nightclub would be inspected at night, when the club is at full occupancy and fire code violations may become apparent.

Mr. Gary S. Keith, Vice President, Building Codes & Standards/Regional Operations of the National Fire Protection Association, described the NFPA and the process by which the association develops the regulations in its code system. The codes are created by technical committees in specific subject areas through a collaborative process in which experts in a variety of fields related to buildings and public safety are brought together to draft the codes. The NFPA advocates the use of sprinklers and additional authority for code enforcers.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

April 24, 2003

This Commission meeting focused on the insurance industry and state financial assistance to Rhode Island's restaurant and club owners.

Mr. Mark Hayward, RI District Director of the Small Business Administration, and Mr. Earl Queenan, RI Economic Development Corporation, were the first to testify. Mr. Hayward informed the Commission of the SBA's assistance efforts. Currently there are nine lenders that have submitted assistance plan proposals to the SBA for lending to businesses that require improvements for fire safety. The SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is also available to businesses in the Coweset Avenue area that have been most directly affected by The Station fire. The EDC and the SBA work cooperatively to ensure the success of RI businesses. If a business needs a loan and the SBA and other lenders can provide only a portion, the EDC aims to provide the remainder. The SBA and EDC are pooling resources with the Hospitality Association, insurance industry, and other entities to plan educational seminars and a fire safety symposium that will incorporate any new requirements mandated by a change in the fire safety code.

Mr. Ronald Meehan, an Insurance Underwriting Supervisor, addressed questions regarding insurance coverage. He explained that businesses get different rates and deductibles depending on the building and the operation. Because of this, he was unable to provide the Commission with any estimates for rates for buildings with and without sprinkler systems. He agreed to research base savings for various types of buildings with Dale Venturini, a member of the Commission.

Mr. Donald L. Schmidt, Senior Vice President of Marsh USA, Inc., provided the Commission with an overview of the role of insurers in the process of risk management. He reviewed the process of insuring an operation and noted that different buildings pose different hazards. In terms of fire safety, Mr. Schmidt stressed the importance of addressing the multiple factors of fire safety in order to prevent a domino-effect disaster. These factors include: building construction; fire detection, alarm, occupant notification, and suppression systems; egress; occupancy hazards; emergency planning; and code enforcement.

The remaining two testimonies were from *Mr. Robert and Mrs. Deborah Corriea, Owners of the West Valley Inn, West Warwick, and Mr. Keith Papa of the Greenwood Inn, Warwick.* Both parties spoke about the financial hardship to their businesses that would result from new regulations. They expressed particular concern about a blanket sprinkler requirement. Although not against a requirement for the installation of sprinklers, the panel stated that many restaurants, clubs, and bars would need financial assistance. Since 9/11, insurance policy premiums have increased at both venues.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

May 1, 2003

During this meeting the Commission discussed a variety of specific ways in which public safety at entertainment venues could be enhanced. Topics included fire personnel details, exit location announcements, public safety training for venue staff, and sprinkler systems. There was also discussion of the importance of collaboration between state and local safety officials as well as between building and fire code officials.

Mr. Lawrence Lepore, Executive Director of the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence described the types of public safety features employed by the Dunkin Donuts Center. These included fire details from the Providence Fire Department whose size varies with that of the event, training for staff in public safety and crowd control, and a frequently inspected sprinkler system. The center is now looking into methods of announcing exit locations and emergency procedures before the commencement of the event. Mr. Lepore also discussed the center's procedures for handling pyrotechnic displays and mentioned the growing use of laser and light shows as an alternative.

Local Building Inspectors Mr. Lionel Bernardino, Director of the Division of Inspection for the Town of North Providence, Mr. John Pagliaro, Director of the Warwick Building Department, Mr. Donald L. Gagnon, Building Inspector for the City of Woonsocket, and Mr. Edgar Paxson of the Providence Department of Inspections/Standards testified about the current state of interaction between local building and fire officials and about building inspection standards. All described the close relationship between their offices and that of their local Fire Marshal, which has facilitated their ability to resolve differences in the fire and building codes for the purpose of plan review. The aspects of the current code governing sprinkler requirements were described, as well as the different classifications used for places of public assembly. Testimony was also given on the efficacy of retaining Deputy State Fire Marshals in their positions over a long period of time to build institutional memory of local buildings and conditions. The building inspectors also discussed how many buildings are able to go for long periods of time without inspection by a public safety official under the current system of codes.

Dr. Joe Goldblatt, Dean of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School at Johnson & Wales University brought three primary recommendations to the Commission. The first was on the importance of education and information distribution programs following the adoption of any new set of codes including cross training between building and fire officials. His second recommendation concerned facilitating collaboration between state and local public safety officials. Finally, he described the value of "soft" safety features such as live announcements of exit locations and emergency procedures at a given venue and public safety and crowd control training for venue staff.

Mr. Lee DeVito, a Fire Safety Engineer and President of FirePro Inc. described the Fire Protection Engineer profession and its value towards improving fire safety in the state. Fire Protection Engineering is not currently recognized in Rhode Island. Mr. DeVito also offered testimony on the different types of sprinkler systems available for different places with and without public water supply access and on the functioning of sprinklers in general.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

May 8, 2003

The major discussion topics at this meeting concerned opinions from The Rhode Island Association of Fire Marshals, The Fire Commission Officers Association of Rhode Island, and The Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs. The major topics discussed by these groups included the eliminating the grandfather clause, consolidating codes, limiting pyrotechnics, establishing a citation system, requiring sprinkler systems, and supporting the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review.

The Rhode Island Association of Fire Marshals (RLAFM), represented by Mr. David Vartian, Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RLAFM, Lt. Timothy Hawthorne, Fire Prevention Division of the City of Cranston, Mr. David Costa, Chief Fire Marshal from the City of Providence, and Ms. Susan Hawksley, Fire Marshal from the Town of East Greenwich, spoke in support of the elimination of the grandfather clause, a unified fire & life safety code with Rhode Island amendments, the implementation of sprinkler systems in all places of assembly, restrictions on pyrotechnics in all buildings except for Class “A” places of assembly following NFPA standards, and a citation system for code enforcement.

The Fire Communication Officers Association of Rhode Island (FCOARI), which was represented by Mr. John Mackay, President of the FCOARI, and Mr. Jonathan Smith, Legislative Officer of the FCOARI, spoke in support of the elimination of the grandfather clause, one uniform fire code, requiring sprinkler systems governed by NFPA standards, restricting pyrotechnics to class “A” places of assembly, and full support of the RI Board of Appeal and Review.

The Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs (RIAFC), represented by Mr. Craig Beausoleil, Fire Marshal from the Town of Coventry, and Mr. Robert Salza, Fire Chief from the Town of Coventry, spoke in support of the elimination of the grandfather clause, the implementation of a single code, establishing sprinklers systems in all locations regardless of size, a citation system for giving enforcement officials more latitude to abate unsafe conditions, and the restriction on indoor pyrotechnics to class “A” places of assembly in compliance with NFPA 1126.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

May 15, 2003

This meeting of the Commission was designated to be open for public input from any interested party. Many people took the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the potential results of the Commission's deliberations, to inform the Commission of further issues pertinent to crafting new fire safety legislation, or to inform it of other available fire safety products. Of particular concern to many of the speakers was the possible effect of new fire and building codes on Rhode Island businesses and existing buildings.

A Project Citizen Class from Deering Middle School of West Warwick consisting of teacher Ms. Tamara Paulo and students Miss Angela Appolonia, Miss Jessica Brans, Miss Jennifer Brousseau, Miss Karen Kelliber, Miss Brooke Miller, Mr. Nathan Panicucci, Mr. Jacob Petrarca, Mr. Carlos Pimental Jr., Mr. Joseph Quintiliani, Miss Jillian Rainville, Mr. Jose Segura, and Miss Nichola Thornlimb presented their study of issues surrounding fire safety in their community. First, the students described the background of the fire safety problem, including descriptions of the circumstances surrounding The Station Fire and the state of fire safety codes and enforcement in Rhode Island. The students described fire safety policies from other states. Finally, the students made specific policy recommendations including the adoption of the current NFPA code system and mandating the use of sprinkler systems.

Ms. Colleen Delaney, a Rhode Island resident, friend of someone injured in the fire, and sibling of a first responder on the night of the fire, implored that safety be of primary importance in the crafting of new legislation. Ms. Delaney also noted that over the past ten years the General Assembly had blocked attempts to toughen the state fire code.

Ms. Dennis Ricci, an insurance liability consultant, spoke in favor of a unified code system and of using incentives to induce compliance. He also spoke in favor of mandating sprinkler and alarm systems and more clearly marked exits.

Mr. Arthur Yatsko, Real Estate Agent and President of the Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors, reminded the Commission that requiring sprinklers could potentially raise prices or bankrupt small businesses. He spoke in favor of stricter enforcement, exit location announcements, public safety training for staff, and allowing alternative fire control technologies.

Mr. Joe Cirillo, retired State building Commissioner spoke on the importance of maintaining continuity with past codes. In addition, he advocated for joint training for building and fire officials and securing funding for training and computer technology advancement by requiring that inspection fees go into a fund for that purpose.

Ms. Monica Staaf, legal counsel to the Rhode Island Association of Realtors discussed the importance of recognizing the differences between old and new buildings when considering eliminating the grandfather clause. Also discussed were bringing conformity in codes between towns and not tying the implementation of new requirements to the transfer of ownership.

Mr. Wayne Peacock, resident of Warwick, described the value of public notification of safety measures and the usefulness of benchmarks by which to measure fire safety success over time.



Reverend Susan Asselin, relative and friend of fire victims, spoke strongly in favor of requiring sprinkler systems.

Ms. Sue Huff and Mr. Sam Gotfried, from NoFire Technologies, described their fire resistant paint product.

Ms. Brenda Alves, from Portofino Restaurant in Warwick, reminded the Commission of the difficult economic situation facing restaurant owners and the great expense of installing sprinkler systems.

Mr. Patrick McNierney, a Structural Engineer from New York, informed the Commission of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the research that NIST is undertaking on both the collapse of the World Trade Center and The Station fire.

Mr. Scott Fain, Manager of the Harbourside Lobstermania Restaurant in East Greenwich, discussed the difficulty in defining the difference between a restaurant and a nightclub.

Mr. Don Butler, from Inspect-A-Shield, described his spray-on fire retardant product.

Mr. Raymond Mattera, father of a fire victim, recommended mandating sprinkler systems in public venues holding large numbers of people.



JOINT COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION
CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

May 22, 2003

This Commission meeting, the ninth and last, was dedicated to hearing testimony from those directly affected by The Station fire. Many survivors and families of victims testified. Some offered specific recommendations for fire safety improvements; others shared their experience and showed support for loved ones, urging the Commission to remember that night and make positive changes. Most who testified called for elimination of the grandfather clause and for sprinklers in all places of assembly. Many had served as firefighters or had experience in the field of fire safety; others have rapidly become experts in the subjects of fire suppression, crowd control, and building design since the night of February 20th. The Commission adjourned in memory of the fire victims.

Mr. William & Mrs. Dottie Bonardi lost their only child, Billy, in The Station fire.

Mrs. Eileen & Mr. Albert DiBonaventura lost their son, Al.

Ms. Michelle Hoell testified on behalf of her parents, Mr. Raymond & Mrs. Diane Mattera, who lost their daughter, Ms. Hoell's sister, Tammy.

Ms. Erin Whelan and Richard Morrow were unable to provide testimony.

Mr. Paul Pizelli & Ms. Katherine Randall survived The Station fire.

Mr. Jody King lost his brother, Tracy.

Mr. Stephen Earley, responded to the fire and his sister, Sharon Wilson, survived the fire.

Mr. Paul Vanner had left for another engagement prior to his name being called to testify.

Ms. Renee Walton testified, with Ms. Gauvin's daughter, *Shayna*, on behalf of her sister, Gina Gauvin, who survived the Fire and was in a rehabilitation facility.

Ms. Susan Howorth testified on behalf of her parents, about the loss of her brother.

Mr. David Brennan and Mr. Jason Hargreaves survived the Fire.

Ms. Sara Mancini lost her son, Keith Mancini.

Ms. Elizabeth Arruda survived the Fire but lost her boyfriend, Thomas Marion.

Mr. Derek Silva survived the Fire, but lost a dear friend, Thomas Marion, in the Fire.

Ms. Diane Izzo testified on behalf of the family of Matthew Pickett, a victim of the Fire.

Ms. Chrissy Robbins lost several friends in the Fire.



RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION

2003 – S 0690 AS AMENDED

LC02659

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF
LAW AND REGULATION CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE
SAFETY

Introduced By: Senators Irons, J Montalbano, Alves, Celona, and Polisenia

Date Introduced: February 26, 2003

Referred To: Senate read and passed

1 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
2 consisting of seventeen (17) members who shall be appointed as follows: four (4) members shall
3 be from the House, of whom the Speaker shall appoint three (3) members and designate one (1)
4 member as co-chair, the House Minority Leader shall appoint the remaining member of the
5 House; four (4) members shall be from the Senate of whom the President shall appoint three (3)
6 members and designate one (1) member as co-chair; the Senate Minority Leader shall appoint the
7 remaining member of the Senate; the Governor shall appoint two (2) public members; one (1)
8 member shall be the State Fire Marshal or designee; one (1) member shall be from the Rhode
9 Island Association of Fire Chiefs; one (1) member shall be the Director of the Department of
10 Health or designee; one (1) member shall be the Director of the Emergency Management Agency
11 or designee; one (1) member shall be the executive director of the Fire Safety Code Board of
12 Appeal and Review or designee; one (1) member shall be the president of the Rhode Island State
13 Association of Firefighters union or designee; and one (1) member shall be the Lieutenant
14 Governor or designee.

15 The purpose of said commission shall be to study all aspects of law and regulation
16 relating, but not limited to, pyrotechnic displays, sprinklers and other fire protective devices,
17 nightclub exit and evacuation plans, response efforts, crowd size and all other safety issues
18 including crowd control and crowd management, the adequacy of enforcement and penalties for
19 noncompliance, clarification of existing lines of authority to assert jurisdiction in particular cases,



1 and to recommend changes to applicable law, licensing, and regulation. Forthwith upon passage
2 of this resolution, members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker and President.
3 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.
4 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.
5 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
6 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agent as is deemed necessary or desirable
7 by the commission to facilitate the purpose of this resolution. The Speaker of the House is hereby
8 authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further
9 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General
10 Assembly on or before May 1, 2003 and said commission shall expire on December 31, 2003.
11

LC02659



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

JOINT RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF
LAW AND REGULATION CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS AND FIRE
SAFETY

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Williamson, Landroche, Ginaitt, and Laroche

Date Introduced: February 26, 2003

Referred To: Placed on House Calendar

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4 member as co-chair, the House Minority Leader shall appoint the remaining member of the
5 House; four (4) members shall be from the Senate of whom the President shall appoint three (3)
6 members and designate one (1) member as co-chair; the Senate Minority Leader shall appoint the
7 remaining member of the Senate; the Governor shall appoint two (2) public members; one (1)
8 member shall be the State Fire Marshal or designee; one (1) member shall be from the Rhode
9 Island Association of Fire Chiefs; one (1) member shall be the Director of the Department of
10 Health or designee; one (1) member shall be the Director of the Emergency Management Agency
11 or designee; one (1) member shall be the executive director of the Fire Safety Code Board of
12 Appeal and Review or designee; one (1) member shall be the president of the Rhode Island State
13 Association of Firefighters union or designee; and one (1) member shall be the Lieutenant
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2 of this resolution, members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker and President.
3 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

4 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

5 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,
6 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agent as is deemed necessary or desirable
7 by the commission to facilitate the purpose of this resolution. The Speaker of the House is hereby
8 authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
10 General Assembly on or before May 1, 2003 and said commission shall expire on December 31,
11 2003.

LC02651



2003 -- S 1008

LC03020

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

JOINT RESOLUTION

EXTENDING THE REPORTING DATE OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC
DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

Introduced By: Senators Celona, and Lanzi

Date Introduced: April 09, 2003

Referred To: Senate held on desk

1 RESOLVED, That the special legislative commission created by resolution No. 69
2 passed by the general assembly at its January session, A.D. 2003, and effective February 27, 2003
3 entitled "Joint Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study All Aspects of
4 Law and Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays and Fire Safety" is hereby authorized to
5 continue its study and make a report to the general assembly on or before June 5, 2003; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the time for reporting authorized by resolution No. 69, passed by the
8 general assembly at its January session, A.D. 2003, and effective February 27, 2003 be and the
9 same is hereby rescinded.

LC03020



2003 -- H 6304

LC03009

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

JOINT RESOLUTION

EXTENDING THE REPORTING DATE OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF LAW AND REGULATION CONCERNING PYROTECHNIC
DISPLAYS AND FIRE SAFETY

Introduced By: Representatives Ginaitt, Laroche, Lowe, Trillo, and Landroche

Date Introduced: April 10, 2003

Referred To: House read and passed

1 RESOLVED, That the special legislative commission created by resolution No. 68
2 passed by the general assembly at its January session, A.D. 2003, and effective February 27,
3 2003 entitled "Joint Resolution Creating A Special Legislative Commission To Study All Aspects
4 Of Law And Regulation Concerning Pyrotechnic Displays And Fire Safety" is hereby authorized
5 to continue its study and make a report to the general assembly on or before June 5, 2003, and
6 said commission shall expire on June 12, 2003; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the time for reporting authorized by resolution No. 68, passed by the
8 general assembly at its January session, A.D. 2003, and effective February 27, 2003, be and the
9 same is hereby rescinded.

LC03009



MATRIX OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE COMMISSION

Matrix Sorted by Topic

Note: recommendations summarized by staff to fit matrix

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	NAME	AFFILIATION	DATE	MEDIA
Codes & Standards	Inspection of a building should be triggered by change of occupancy, such as at the point when taking out a trade name certificate	Bernardino, Lionel	Director of the Division of Inspection, Town of North Providence	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	Maintain continuity with existing and national codes	Cirillo, Joe	retired state building commissioner	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	There should be an integrated set of codes for building and fire codes	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	Codes should be simplified	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	Adopt NFPA standards and ensure enforcement	Ruling, Karl G.	Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA)	May 14, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Codes & Standards	For a new document/code to succeed the end user must be able to recognize a common thread of intention and vision from any area of the code as a complete, synchronized body of work	Scandariato, Kenneth	unknown	April 30, 2003	Letter addressed to Senator Celona
Codes & Standards	Try to unify codes across municipalities	Staaf, Monica	Legal counsel to Rhode Island Association of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	RI should adopt the I.C.C codes	Tebbets, Mark W.	M.C.O. of the International Code Council	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Codes & Standards	Fire and building codes should be compatible and consistent	Tebbets, Mark W.	M.C.O. of the International Code Council	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Codes & Standards	Fire and building codes should be streamlined	Tebbets, Mark W.	M.C.O. of the International Code Council	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Codes & Standards	Enact state legislation to make it illegal, with posted fines, to park in fire lanes.	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Codes & Standards	Remove oil heat exemption	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony



Consolidated Code	Adoption of a singular Fire Safety Code, with RI amendments (RI has one of the most comprehensive fire alarm codes in the nation). The RIAFC supports adoption of NFPA I, NFPA 101	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Consolidated Code	Streamline the fire codes	Calenda, Vincent	Senior Investigator, Engineering and Fire Investigations	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Unified codes	Delaney, Colleen	citizen	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Adopt the International Code Council's International Fire Code (it is nationally recognized and uniform)	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Consolidated Code	Fold documents into one code to facilitate inspections and streamline process	Howe, William	Chief of Inspections, State Fire Marshal's Office	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Consider the adoption of the national standards that is now applicable to new buildings, for all buildings (new and existing)	Howe, William	Chief of Inspections, State Fire Marshal's Office	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Single system of codes	Pagliari, John	Director of Warwick Building Department	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Simple, single document, state-of-the-art fire safety regulations	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Consolidated Code	Adopt most recent NFPA codes	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Coordinate building, fire, and other codes	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	Use one code	Smith, Jonathon and Mackay John	President, of FCOARI and Legislative Officer of FCOARI	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Consolidated Code	Unified codes	Staaf, Monica	Legal counsel to Rhode Island Association of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Consolidated Code	One fire code; NFPA 1: The Uniform Fire Code and NFPA 101: Life Safety Code	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Crowd Control	Require the use of crowd managers knowledgeable in public safety for all assembly occupancies	Keith, Gary	Vice President for Building and Life Safety/Regional Operations National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Crowd Control	Crowd control must also be addressed	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Crowd Control	Require that staff be trained in crowd management	Lepore, Lawrence	Executive Director Dunkin Donuts Center	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Crowd Control	In all buildings, especially ones with many occupants, there should a sufficient number of crowd managers trained to respond to emergencies (to facilitate evacuation and supervise the communication, fire suppression, and ventilation systems)	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony



Crowd Control	Require employees of places of assembly to be trained by the state fire marshal's office on proper crowd management and evacuation procedures	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Design & Plan Review	Building Official and Fire Marshal should do plan reviews together	Bernardino, Lionel	Director of the Division of Inspection, Town of North Providence	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Design & Plan Review	Use Balanced Design Construction Methods, which includes fire detection systems, sprinklers, and compartmented buildings in which concrete and other non-combustible materials are used to keep a fire contained in the area of origin within a building.	Dimmick, David L. Foster, Don	Fire Safety Construction Advisory Council	April 1, 2003	Letter addressed to Frederick Stanley of the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District and Senator William Irons
Design & Plan Review	Architects, contractors, and engineers need to be knowledgeable of fire codes and incorporate them into building design from the beginning	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Design & Plan Review	Structural members in buildings should be categorized according to the building materials susceptibility to fire	McNierney, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Design & Plan Review	More fire exits, ensure accessibility	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Design & Plan Review	Design of all systems should meet the latest standards of NFPA	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Design & Plan Review	Means of egress (the number, arrangement, and capacity of exits) is crucial, travel distances can be excessive and the majority of the exit capacity (75%) should be at the main entrance, where the occupants entered the building	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Design & Plan Review	Interior finish should have a low flame spread rating	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Design & Plan Review	For new design require sprinkler system if the exit is not on the same floor as the venue or place of assembly	Skinner, Richard	Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Design & Plan Review	Ensure that construction Trade Offs are used in conjunction with the codes when new buildings are being constructed	Skinner, Richard	Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Design & Plan Review	Require commercial plans be stamped by RI registered architects, registered professional engineers or both	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony



Design & Plan Review	More time for plan reviews (change the 15 day time period according to the size of the project; if it is small then 15 days it okay, if it is big then maybe more time will be necessary)	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Education & Training	Train building and fire officials together	Cirillo, Joe	retired state building commissioner	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Education & Training	Large fire research library	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Education & Training	Workers, such as bouncers, should be trained in fire safety and crowd control	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Education & Training	New fire academy should include facilities and instruction in building codes as well as fire	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Training and education for state and local building and fire code enforcement personnel must receive funding	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Establish comprehensive education and information programs to support any new regulations	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Develop voluntary certification programs in public assembly (crowd) planning and control and offer this training to businesses and organizations within the state on a regular basis	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Fire safety seminars should be conducted for businesses based on the outcome of the Fire Commission	Hayward, Mark	District Director, US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Establish mandatory fire safety training for operators of places of assembly	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Education & Training	Educate citizens on public safety	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Have public safety educational program for venue owners and operators	Ruling, Karl G.	Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA)	May 14, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Education & Training	A separate certification for installation companies to guarantee code compliance and divert responsibility from the state	Scandariato, Kenneth	unknown	April 30, 2003	Letter addressed to Senator Celona
Education & Training	Provide educational classes and certification for code enforcers	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Education & Training	The increasing complexity of codes requires substantial baseline education and continuing education for enforcers	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Education & Training	Provide training for building officials and fire marshals	Tebbetts, Mark W.	M.C.O. of the International Code Council	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Enforcement	Citation system for code enforcement; Code enforcers need to issue citations, which carry serious penalties, to convince building owners to comply with all life safety issues	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)



Enforcement	The legislature needs to increase funding to the division of the state fire marshal	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	RI AFC: Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Enforcement	Needs to be easier for a fire code enforcement officer to shut down a non-compliant building	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Enforcement	Night clubs should be inspected during hours of operation	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	There should be a system whereby code enforcement regularly inspects all public establishments either by requiring inspection at license renewal, annually, or at change of occupancy	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	State Fire Marshal should consider deputizing qualified building officials to assist in fire code enforcement	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	The state should improve communications amongst permitting and inspection agencies to develop greater efficiency for businesses who are attempting to comply with new regulations	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	Identify the best practices/methods to promote cross training amongst inspectors, consolidation amongst permitting agencies, and other methods that allow us to accomplish more with fewer resources	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	Citing fire code deficiencies must be made easier	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	Less time should be allowed in which to correct fire code violations	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	There should be a designated person in attorney general's office with responsibility over prosecuting fire code violations	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	Establish an inspection unit to monitor club occupancy numbers	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	Establish an inspection unit to monitor club occupancy numbers	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	Need on site fire inspection during construction and after completion	Pagliari, John	Director of Warwick Building Department	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Enforcement	Stricter Code Enforcement	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Enforcement	Have stringent inspections to enforce standards, supported by fees from venues if necessary	Ruling, Karl G.	Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA)	May 14, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Enforcement	Facilities should be inspected on a schedule based upon the relative hazard of the facility and the number of occupants at risk	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	Develop a prioritization model to identify the buildings that must be inspected annually and those that can be inspected less frequently	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Enforcement	Building officials and fire inspectors must work cooperatively	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony



Enforcement	Have two different trained public safety officials, such as the building inspector and the fire marshal, perform all inspections on an alternating basis. Reports should be forwarded to a third party in a regulatory agency who can then take action for violations	Sweeney, Bob	President, RES Associates	March 26, 2003	Letter submitted to commission
Enforcement	Fire Marshals and Building Inspectors should be working closely	Tebbets, Mark W.	M.C.O. of the International Code Council	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Enforcement	Citation or ticketing system to be used as a code enforcement tool	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Enforcement	Fire inspections during hours of operation with the power of immediate closure	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Exit Signs	Require exit signs that are visible even in smokey conditions	Gagnon, Donald L.	Building Inspector, City of Woonsocket	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Exit Signs	Exit signs should have green lights	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Exit Signs	In an emergency, have all exit doors light up along with recorded instructions, arrows on the floor	Sweeney, Bob	President, RES Associates	March 26, 2003	Letter submitted to commission
Grandfather Clause	Retire use of the grandfather clause completely	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Grandfather Clause	Should not allow grandfathered rights regarding emergency related codes	Bernardino, Lionel	Director of the Division of Inspection, Town of North Providence	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Eliminate the grandfather clause	Calenda, Vincent	Senior Investigator, Engineering and Fire Investigations	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Grandfather clause is necessary	Cirillo, Joe	retired state building commissioner	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	High risk places should be considered separately in regard to safety codes and perhaps not allowed grandfathering	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Consider a change in the grandfather clause that is based on renovations being more than 50% of the appraised value to be 50% of the replacement value	Howe, William	Chief of Inspections, State Fire Marshal's Office	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Eliminate the grandfather clause	Howe, William	Chief of Inspections, State Fire Marshal's Office	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	No grandfather clause	Mattera, Raymond	Parent of victim	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Disallow the grandfather clause for all buildings and facility owners should be required to abide by a consistent set of guidelines, regardless of past ownership and history of the building	McNierny, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Eliminate the grandfather clause	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony



Grandfather Clause	Remove grandfather clause	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Get rid of the grandfather clause (use phase out period of 5-10 years for compliance)	Skinner, Richard	Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Grandfather Clause	Eliminate Grandfather rights	Smith, Jonathen and Mackay John	President, of FCOARI and Legislative Officer of FCOARI	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Grandfather Clause	Structural features of some older buildings require grandfathering of some parts of the code	Staaf, Monica	Legal counsel to Rhode Island Association of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Grandfather Clause	Remove Grandfather clause	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Occupancy	Look at the fire and building codes being used in all states and determine if the occupancy load thresholds are too high	Skinner, Richard	Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.1-7 (b)(3) That the proposed change in legislation reinstate the grandfathering clause	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.1-2 Clearly establish balanced criteria for the "Board" members of the "Fire Safety Code Board of Appeals"	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.1-6 Changing the portion of the proposed legislation (that would require all structures to be compliant with the code) to cover only new facilities	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.1-6 That the time frame in which the regulatory authority has to review building plans be changed from a "reasonable time period" to 15 days	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.2-20 (b) Further establish operator rights in this section by defining adequate compliance. (The International Fire Code reads that right of entry by the reg. Authority will be at a reasonable time and if no one is there then the official will make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or a person in charge to request entry	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.2-14.1 Citations (a) & (b) Establish clear boundaries for fine assessment by the Deputy or Assistant Deputy Fire Marshall.	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.6-5 (c) – (h) Clearly define the terms "places of assembly of concentrated use" and "places of assembly of less concentrated use"	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Delete Section 23-28.6-5 (c) (d)(e) & (h) from the proposed legislation in its entirety	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office



Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.6-5 (c) (d)(e) & (h) Address whether the building owners liabilities are increased in the case that a fire fighter is injured on the job	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Section 23-28.6-22 (a)(b) That this section, which recommends that all places of assembly be equipped with sprinklers by June 1, 2008, be replaced with the International Codes Uniform recommendations for places of assembly, specifically their sprinkler requirements covering restaurants (i.e. that a sprinkler system is required if one of the following conditions exist: the fire area exceeds 5000 ft ² , the fire area has an occupant load greater than 300, or the fire area is located on a floor other than the level of exit discharge	Grover, Steven F.	VP, Health & Safety Reg. Affairs, National Restaurant Association	May 19, 2003	Letter addressed to Townsend Goddard of the RI Senate Policy Office
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Eliminate the use of festival seating unless certain requirements are met	Keith, Gary	Vice President for Building and Life Safety/Regional Operations National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Support for Rhode Island HB 6141 bill, specifically: increasing the penalties for illegal use of pyrotechnics indoors, amending fire code to apply to existing buildings, and giving more authority to fire code enforcement personnel	Keith, Gary	Vice President for Building and Life Safety/Regional Operations National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Don't connect upgrade requirements to ownership transfer, just set a date by which all should comply	Staaf, Monica	Legal counsel to Rhode Island Association of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Proposed Change in Specific Section of Code	Chapter 23-28.35-2 of the existing law should specify that there shall be a minimum of 1 detector per level in all houses regardless of when they were built	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Public Notification & Disclosure	Public disclosure of fire safety complaints	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Public Notification & Disclosure	Provide written, web-based, or otherwise publicly displayed information on evacuation procedures before the show	Lepore, Lawrence	Executive Director Dunkin Donuts Center	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Public Notification & Disclosure	Risk identification marker displayed at entrance to all public buildings with name and date of last certification	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Public Notification & Disclosure	Transparency in controls and checks and balances affecting public safety	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Public Notification & Disclosure	Develop a rating system for life safety protection that can be posted by owners in public places such as the entrance	Sweeney, Bob	President, RES Associates	March 26, 2003	Letter submitted to commission



Public Notification & Disclosure	Require that a copy of most current fire alarm and sprinkler tests be posted, under glass, next to their respective panels.assist owners in staying in tune with requirements	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Pyrotechnics	The RIAFC supports restriction on indoor pyrotechnics to "Class A" places of assembly, and then only if in compliance with NFPA 1126 (pyrotechnich use before a proximate audience)	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	RIAFM: Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Pyrotechnics	The RIAFC also supports the idea that all pyrotechnic shows (indoor and outdoor) be conducted only by a technician who has been declared competent by the RISFM, and that follows the applicable NFPA standard.	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	RIAFM: Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Pyrotechnics	Require that someone at each venue be designated as responsible for signing for and keeping secure pyrotechnic materials delivered to the venue	Lepore, Lawrence	Executive Director Dunkin Donuts Center	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Pyrotechnics	Prohibit or control hazardous activities (pyrotechnics)	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Pyrotechnics	The FCOARI supports the position of the Fire Marshal and the RIAFM that pyrotechnics should only be used in "Class A" places of assembly (>1000 persons)	Smith, Jonathen and Mackay John	President, of FCOARI and Legislative Officer of FCOARI	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Pyrotechnics	Along with the pyrotechnics concerns, the RIAFM are cognizant of the efforts of the Fireworks industry to relax our laws. The RIAFM only supports outdoor, public displays of fireworks, by state licensed technicians who follow NFPA 1123 (Fireworks Display) standards.	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Pyrotechnics	Pyrotechnics should not be fired in any building except Class A places of assembly (1001 or higher occupant load), and then only by state licensed technicians following NFPA 1126 (Pyrotechnic use before an approximate audience) and/or NFPA 160 (flames before an audience) rules.	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Recorded or Live Announcement System	Require that all venues/event sponsors conducting events with greater than 100 people be required to provide a scripted, live, or pre-recorded, announcement and/or written notice prior to the start of any performance or event	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Recorded or Live Announcement System	Announce the location of exits before the show begins	Lepore, Lawrence	Executive Director Dunkin Donuts Center	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony



Recorded or Live Announcement System	Announcements that provide basic emergency information must be broadcast before big events	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Recorded or Live Announcement System	In all large (over 100?) public assembly venues, make multiple recorded public announcements of all the emergency exits and fire suppressant appliances that the building provides and their locations	Sweeney, Bob	President, RES Associates	March 26, 2003	Letter submitted to commission
Recorded or Live Announcement System	Require management to make an announcement before the entertainment on safety features and exits	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Recorded or Live Announcement System	Require announcements of exit locations	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinklers retrofits for all existing residential structures should be encouraged by tax incentives, low cost financing, or mandatory insurance premium discounts	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinklers should be installed in all new residential structures	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinklers should be installed in all places of assembly, regardless of size	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinklers in all entertainment venues and other large public gathering places	Asselin, Susan	Citizen and Friend of Victims	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinkler heads should be required to be changed every ten years	Bernardino, Lionel	Director of the Division of Inspection, Town of North Providence	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Hard-wired, battery back-up fire detectors with carbon monoxide testers should be required	Bernardino, Lionel	Director of the Division of Inspection, Town of North Providence	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	If sprinklers are mandated then provide financial aid	Correia, Robert & Deborah	Owners, West Valley Inn, West Warwick	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinklers in buildings that warrant them	Gagnon, Donald L.	Building Inspector, City of Woonsocket	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Increase the use of sprinklers in all existing night clubs	Keith, Gary	Vice President for Building and Life Safety/Regional Operations National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinklers are not enough as they can be overpowered by some combustible materials	Laurenson, Arthur S., Jr.	Providence Fire Department	undated	Letter submitted to commission
Sprinkler & Detection System	Multifamily, commercial, and mixed commercial/residential properties should have alarm systems that transmit a signal to the fire station (class A)	Mangiante, Gregory and Dennis Cicchitelli	Alarm Association of Rhode Island	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinklers in buildings holding 100 to 300 people	Mattera, Raymond	Parent of victim	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony



Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinkler systems in all buildings	Patton, Richard M.	Fire Protection Engineer President, Crusade Against Fire Deaths, Inc.	April 8, 2003	Letter addressed to Tom Coffey
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinklers	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require sprinklers	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require integrated alarm and sprinkler systems with audible message on exit locations	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Ensure maintenance	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Gaurantee that all (sprinkler) installation companies conform to a strict set of prerequisites generated specifically for the application of RIGL Fire Code mandates	Scandariato, Kenneth	unknown	April 30, 2003	Letter addressed to Senator Celona
Sprinkler & Detection System	Alarms should be automatically transmitted to the fire department of certified central station alarm company/constantly attended location	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Provide an occupant notification system that is audible and visible throughout the facility above any ambient noise	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Install automatic sprinklers in all occupancies regardless of size	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	All systems should be designed to state of the art NFPA standards, installed by qualified contractors, tested periodically, and maintained to ensure that they will function properly in an emergency	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	All buildings should be fitted with sprinklers regardless of square footage or occupational load	Skinner, Richard	Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require Sprinklers	Smith, Jonathen and Mackay John	President, of FCOARI and Legislative Officer of FCOARI	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Sprinkler & Detection System	Eliminate the Grandfather Clause for sprinklers in public buildings and residential buildings	Sweeney, Bob	President, RES Associates	March 26, 2003	Letter submitted to commission
Sprinkler & Detection System	Automatic sprinkler system to all new buildings with sleeping quarters and encouraging them in existing residential buildings	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony



Sprinkler & Detection System	Require all new residential buildings to have interconnected carbon monoxide detectors at a minimum of 1 per level, regardless of fuel source or use of rooms	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	All places of assembly should have sprinklers installed	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require smoke detectors in all homes	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Require a heat detector in new homes and require an interconnected heat detector in attached garages	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Look into plastic sprinkler systems	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Sprinkler & Detection System	Sprinklers in clubs, with larger room capacity as an incentive	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Staffing	Staff of State Fire Marshal's office and State Building Commissioner's office should be increased	DeDentro, Dan R.	State Building Commissioner	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Staffing	Enforcing agency needs sufficient staffing to ensure that facilities are inspected at least annually	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony



Staffing	The current state of inspections is seriously hampered by understaffed inspection divisions on state and local levels	Vartian, David; Hawthorne, Lt. Timothy; Costa, David; and Hawksley, Susan	RIAFM; Vartian: Fire Marshal, Town of North Providence and President of RIAFM; Hawthorne: Fire Prevention Division, City of Cranston; Costa: Chief Fire Marshal City of Providence; Hawksley: Fire Marshal, Town of East Greenwich	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt) & Written Testimony
Other	Don't put restaurants out of business	Alves, Brenda	Portofino Restaurant in Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Support for the fire safety panel of review, consider a stipend for those individuals that dedicate their time to fire and fire safety in this state	Beausoleil, Craig and Salza, (first name unknown)	Fire Marshal from Coventry and the Fire Chief from Coventry	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Other	Fees from inspections should go into training, buying code books, and computerization/enhancing communication	Cirillo, Joe	retired state building commissioner	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Recognize fire protection engineering as a professional engineering discipline in Rhode Island	DeVito, Lee	Fire Protection Engineer Society of Fire Protection Engineers	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Extend the duration of local deputy fire marshal by enacting 'Removal for Just Cause'	Gagnon, Donald L.	Building Inspector, City of Woonsocket	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Develop a comprehensive public-private approach to event and venue risk management and safety in order to allow all stakeholders to work together	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Financial incentives should be provided to those venue and event sponsors who will provide public assembly (crowd) planning and control training for their full and part time personnel on an annual basis	Goldblatt, Joe	Dean, Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School, Johnson & Wales University	March 27, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	That any changes in regulations weigh the economic concerns of the small businesses that make up 95% of RI business	Hayward, Mark	District Director, US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Consider allowing substitutions of other fire safety products when sprinklers are not feasible	Huff, Susan Gofried, Sam	No Fire Technologies	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	A database of architects, engineers, and contractors who have first-hand knowledge of a particular structure should be established to supplement blue prints etc. in time of disaster	McNierney, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Professional Engineering Associations should be relied upon as a resource of engineering expertise	McNierney, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	After major catastrophic events hold periodic meetings to keep all key personnel informed	McNierney, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	In emergency situations establish an on-site central command site for information collection and distribution	McNierney, Patrick J.	Structural Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Compensation should be provided for the Building Codes Commission	Pagliari, John	Director of Warwick Building Department	May 1, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Create criteria against which to measure success in public safety	Peacock, Wayne	Life Coach, retired Loss Prevention Engineer	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Computerized cross-matching to look for businesses not carrying workers' compensation insurance	Perry, Marvin	Dept. of Labor and Training	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony



Other	Notification to businesses that they need workers' compensation insurance should be improved	Perry, Marvin	Dept. of Labor and Training	April 3, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Regulation on use of extension cords and other temporary electrical	Project Citizen's Class	Deering Middle School in West Warwick	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Incentives for compliance, installing sprinklers including low interest loans, discounted insurance rates, local assistance	Ricci, Dennis	insurance agent	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony
Other	Fire Commission should focus on all hazards and all occupancies rather than exclusively on fire and public assembly occupancies	Schmidt, Donald	Senior Vice President, Marsh USA, Inc.	April 24, 2003	Hearing, Written Testimony
Other	Support the Fire Safety Code Board of appeal	Smith, Jonathen and Mackay John	President, of FCOARI and Legislative Officer of FCOARI	May 8, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony (ppt)
Other	Be careful not to drive small businesses out of business	Yatsko, Arthur	Salisbury Real Estate Agency President, Rhode Island Commercial Appraisal Board of Realtors	May 15, 2003	Hearing, Oral Testimony

