NFPA e-ACCESS
Your accessible route to fire and life safety information for people with disabilities.

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Do you have a story to tell or information to share?

We'd love to hear it!

Contribute to a future issue of *e-ACCESS* by sending it to afraser@nfpa.org

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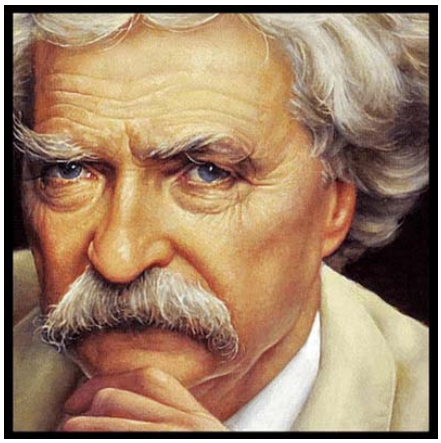
"Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often"–Mark Twain

By Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA, Sr. Building Code Specialist, NFPA

I've always loved Mark Twain's view of the human condition and the way he adds perspective to common phrases. With respect to fire and life safety for people with disabilities, NFPA has taken action both loudly and often since the last issue of e-ACCESS.



Humorist, satirist, and scathing social commentator Mark Twain

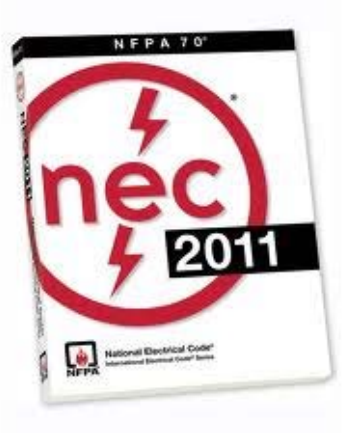
NFPA staff met with staff of the Region One ADA National Network Center Region (DB-TAC), its New England regional affiliates, and the FEMA region one disability coordinator in Boston to discuss forming a strategy to develop training for the various states in emergency evacuation. DB-TACs are funded through five-year grants from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), one of three components of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) at the U.S. Department of Education. Developing the training program is one of the deliverables in the New England DBTAC's grant from NIDRR.

NFPA's Senior Building Code Specialist, Allan B. Fraser presenting a session on the "Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities" at NFPA's Fire & Life Safety Conference in Orlando, Florida.

At NFPA's Fire and Life Safety Conference in Orlando, Florida, from December 7 to 9, 2011, two of the

well-attended sessions were "Changes in the Newest Edition of ANSI/ICC A117.1 Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities" and "'Get Real' Using NFPA's Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities." Both sessions addressed issues central to the ability of people with disabilities to access fire and life safety information and to navigate their way out of buildings in the event of an emergency.

The next stop was the University of Massachusetts Lowell Campus on December 20 to present a half-day seminar on "Using NFPA's Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities." Staff from all five UMASS campuses attended, including people from public safety and emergency management, disability services, and facilities management.



The New Year started off with a bang when Code-Making Panel 1 added a new annex to the proposed 2014 edition of one of NFPA's flagship documents, *National Electrical Code® (NEC®)*, with 2010 DOJ Accessibility Standard reach ranges and protrusion limits. The panel's objective was to have the information readily available for electricians when they are doing work that is required to be accessible. Once finalized in 2013, the *NEC* would include the applicable accessibility requirements for that trade as a part of the code.

Scarcely a month later, several NFPA staff members took part in the "National Mass Evacuation Framework Summit," which was jointly sponsored by NFPA, The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Governors Association (NGA). The purpose of the summit was to bring together a broad range of public, non-profit, government, and private-sector stakeholders to plan for mass evacuations from disaster. Their purpose was to:

- Identify problem areas and coordination challenges to mass evacuation across all sectors;
- Share best practices from emergency preparedness planners, non-profit practitioners, and private-sector risk managers on mass evacuation plans; and
- Develop strategies, foster stakeholder engagement, and build consensus to develop a common mass evacuation framework for state and local decision makers.

The process will move forward through the development of the overarching policy statement, the primary guiding principles, and, ultimately, the standards.

The year 2012 will be full of NFPA actions related to accessibility and fire and life safety for people with disabilities. I'm honored to be a part of NFPA's work that will re-write Mr. Twain's quote so that it will read:

"Action speaks louder than words and NFPA prefers to act."

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27th Annual CSUN Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities, February 27 to March 3, 2012, San Diego, CA

By: Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA – Senior Building Code Specialist, NFPA

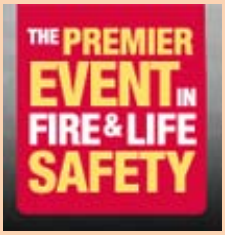
The simple fact is that fire and life safety are even more important to people with disabilities than the rest of the population, since it is much harder for them to access information and to navigate the built environment in the case of emergencies. The 27th Annual CSUN Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities presents a wonderful opportunity for NFPA to educate people with disabilities and others about what we do and how we can work with them.

This will be the fifth year I've attended the CSUN (California State University at Northridge) Conference as NFPA's representative and our second year with a booth in the Exhibition Hall.

This year there will be more than 300 general sessions, workshops, more than 130 exhibitors, and more than 5,000 participants. This is one of the most enlightening, educational, and uplifting conferences that I've had the opportunity to attend. I hope to see you there. Please stop by NFPA's Booth #117 in the Douglas Pavilion at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

Click here for more information

Don't Miss the 2012 NFPA® Conference & Expo!



Click here to register

Accessible Pools: Means of Entry and Exit

New Technical Assistance Document Added to ADA.gov

This new technical assistance document contains important information for Title II (state and local government services) and Title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) entities with pools, including program accessibility, readily achievable barrier removal, new construction vs. alterations, compliance dates, maintenance of accessibility features, training of staff, and tax credits and deductions. The guidance indicates that:

- Lifts must be available and in position at each pool whenever a pool is open to the public.
- Only "fixed" lifts are acceptable, unless an entity, such as a hotel with a swimming pool, can demonstrate that installing such a lift is not "readily achievable."

- For pools owned by state and local governments, sharing lifts between two pools is not allowed, unless the entity can show an "undue burden."
- Lifts cannot be shared between a pool and a spa.
- Pool lift batteries must be fully charged and ready for use at all times the pool is open.

Links to PDF and HTML versions of this document are available at http://www.ada.gov/pools_2010.htm

For more information, visit the ADA website at www.ADA.gov or call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TTY).

Ten-Digit Numbering and New Emergency Call-Handling Procedures for Internet-Based TRS

www.fcc.gov/guides/ten-digit-numbering-and-emergency-call-handling-procedures-internet-based-trs

Since December 31, 2008, VRS and IP Relay users have been able to obtain 10-digit telephone numbers by registering with a VRS or IP Relay provider (their "default" provider). With a 10-digit number, VRS and IP Relay users can:

- Make an emergency call through their preferred VRS or IP Relay provider and have the call, along with the 10-digit number and location information, automatically routed to the appropriate public safety answering point or 911 call center, so that emergency personnel can be dispatched.
- Receive calls from voice telephone users calling the 10-digit number assigned to the VRS or IP Relay user. The caller does not need to know the VRS or IP Relay user's IP address to make the call.

- Make a call directly to, or receive a call directly from, another person using VRS or IP Relay equipment by dialing a 10-digit number.

VRS or IP Relay users can change default relay providers at any time but keep the same telephone number. Providers cannot impose any restrictions or conditions when users request that their number be ported to a new default provider. For more information on local number portability, see the FCC's consumer guide.

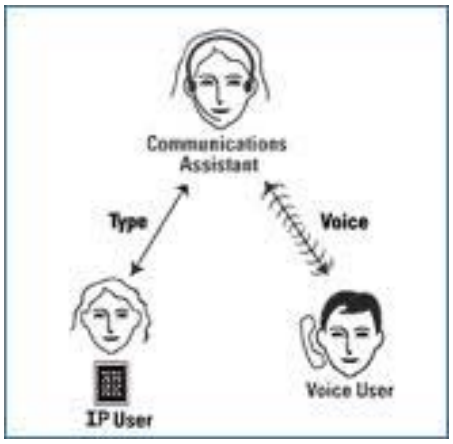
In addition, calls can be placed through providers other than the default provider by clicking on the URL or address of the other provider. Hearing callers may also place a call with a provider other than the default provider by dialing the 800 number of the provider they wish to handle their call.

New Emergency Call Handling Procedures

On August 4, 2011, the FCC adopted new rules to encourage the use of local telephone numbers for VRS and IP Relay and, at the same time, to ensure that the deaf and hard-of-hearing community has the same kind of access to toll-free telephone numbers enjoyed by the hearing community. The new rules became effective on November 22, 2011, and the one-year transition period will end on November 21, 2012.

The FCC's new rules require VRS and IP Relay providers to:

- Obtain from their users the physical location at which the service will first be used when the users register for 10-digit numbers;
- Give users an easy way to update their registered location information if it changes, without cost or additional equipment;
- Route all emergency calls to the appropriate 911 call center and transmit the call-back number and registered location of the caller, the name of the provider, and the CA's identification number;
- Publish a summary of these new procedures, emphasizing the need to keep location information updated, on their websites and in any promotional materials addressing emergency call handling; and
- Obtain and keep records of affirmative acknowledgement from their registered users that they have received and understood the provider's summary.



Interim Emergency Call Handling Procedures for IP CTS

The FCC has adopted interim procedures for IP CTS providers that require them, at a minimum, to automatically and immediately transfer an emergency call to the appropriate 911 call center or ensure that appropriate personnel are notified of the emergency.

Further, IP CTS providers must:

- Take incoming emergency calls before non-emergency calls;
- Request the caller's name and location at the beginning of the emergency call process for Internet-based TRS callers to update their location information;
- Deliver to emergency personnel at the beginning of the outbound link of the call, at a minimum, the name of the Internet-based TRS user and location of the

emergency, the name of the provider, and the CA's callback and identification numbers; and

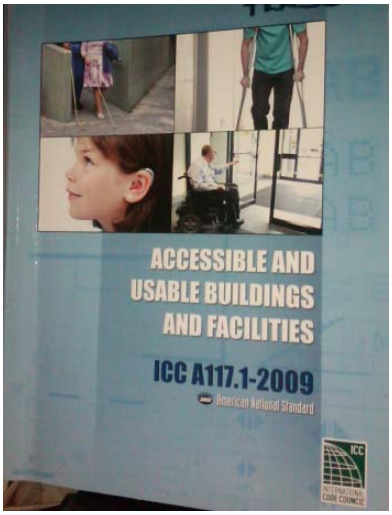
- Reestablish contact between the caller and the emergency personnel or other authority if either or both legs of the call are disconnected.

These interim procedures for IP CTS providers will remain in effect until outstanding technical and regulatory issues are resolved. IP CTS providers are not required to provide 10-digit numbers or automatically pass location information to emergency personnel.

Emergency Calling Tips for VRS and IP Relay Users

- Make sure you are familiar with your provider's procedures for updating your registered physical location and promptly update the information if it changes.
- Know any limitations of your service and have a plan for making emergency calls in the event of a power or Internet outage. You may want to keep a TTY and traditional phone line or install a backup power supply. Dialing 911 from a TTY remains the most reliable and fastest method of reaching emergency personnel.
- Inform children, babysitters, and visitors about using your TRS service and the limitations, if any, on placing emergency calls.

The 2013 cycle for ICC/ANSI A117.1 Standard, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities



The committee process to update the 2009 edition of the ICC A117.1 Standard, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities, has begun.

Deadline to Submit Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals to amend the standard is July 2, 2012. You can submit proposals in your own name or on behalf of an organization any time until the deadline.

Committee Meeting

The A117.1 Committee will meet during the week of August 27–31, 2012, to consider all submitted proposals. The meeting will be held in downtown Washington, D.C., at facilities provided by the United States Access Board, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111.

Committee Membership

NFPA is, and has been, a voting member of the committee since 1992.

Task Groups

At this time, Chairman Schoonover will appoint or re-appoint two task groups, one on wheeled mobility and the second on A117.1/ADA reconciliation. The appointments have to be approved by the full committee by a ballot. It is expected that the task groups will start work on their assignments during the balloting process.

A. Wheeled Mobility

The task group on wheeled mobility is an existing task group. Its focus is to consider the changing demographics of persons with disabilities and changes in the technology of the equipment used by such persons. The task group will also consider whether the provisions of the standard adequately meet these changes and the needs of those communities.

Further information is provided on ICC website under "Standard Development , Click Here.

NFPA Coming Events

March, 2010

4-7 International Summit & Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design and Construction (PDC Summit), Phoenix AZ. Register for this event.

5-8 Suppression, Detection and Signaling Research and Applications— Technical Working Conference (SUPDET 2012), Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ. Register now.

12-16 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Baltimore, MD.
- Sprinkler Seminars
- Fire Alarm Code Seminars
- Other Seminars

12-16 NFPA Training Seminar Week: St. Louis, MO.
- Fire Alarm Code Seminars
- Sprinkler Seminars

19-23 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Baltimore, MD.
- Electrical Seminars
- Life Safety Seminars

19-23 NFPA Training Seminar Week: St. Louis, MO.
- Electrical Seminars
- Life Safety Seminars

28 National Trends in Delivery of Health and Long Term Care: Implications for Safety Codes and Standards, 8:30 a.m. .to 5 p.m., Holiday Inn Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. Register now.

29 Free webinar Code Compliance for Health Care. Sponsored by Koffel Associates, 12:30 to 2 p.m. EST.

April 2012

2-6 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Atlantic City, NJ.
- Electrical
- Life Safety

2-6 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Salt Lake City, UT.
- Electrical
- Life Safety

16-17 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Quincy, MA.
- Life Safety

16-20 NFPA Training Seminar Week: San Diego, CA.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler
- Other

23-27 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Atlanta, GA.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler
- Other

Apr. 30 - May 4 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Northbrook/Oakbrook, IL.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Sprinkler
- Other

May 2012

7-11 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Nashville, TN.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler
- Other

16-18 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Quincy, MA.
- Electrical

21-25 NFPA Training Seminar Week: San Antonio, TX.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler

22 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Quincy, MA.
- Electrical

June 2012

4-7 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Quincy, MA.
- Sprinkler

4-8 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Las Vegas, NV.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler
- Other

11-14 NFPA Conference & Expo, Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV.

18 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Baltimore, MD.
- Other

18-21 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Hershey, PA.
- Electrical
- Life Safety

25-29 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Electrical
- Life Safety
- Fire Alarm Code
- Sprinkler
- Other

25-29 NFPA Training Seminar Week: Baltimore, MD.

- Electrical

27 Global Research Update: High Challenge Storage Protection, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Marriott Rive Gauche, Louis Armstrong Room, Paris, France. Register now.

See NFPA's complete online calendar.

Do you have a story to tell or information to share?

Our readers are people with disabilities, and their relatives, caregivers, and friends.

Our goals are to:

- Provide specialized information about fire and life safety for people with disabilities directly to those with disabilities and to those who help them in order to reduce or eliminate death and injury from fire and other emergencies.
- Provide a forum for the collection and dissemination of information for people with disabilities in support of DARAC's mission.
- Provide personal stories about events, ideas, or solutions from our readers that can guide others in similar circumstances.

Content for future editions will include:

- NFPA-related news
  - DARAC news
  - NFPA codes- and standards-related information
  - Fire safety tips
  - Emergency evacuation information
- Articles relating to the safety of people with disabilities from:
  - NFPA staff
  - DARAC members
  - Other national advocates
  - General news
  - Our readers
- News from other standards-developing organizations' news
  - U.S. Access Board
  - ANSI/ICC A117, *Standard for Accessible Buildings and Facilities*
  - RESNA
  - U.S. Department of Justice
  - Other

We'd love to hear your stories and opinions! If you'd like to contribute an article or information consistent with the outline above, please e-mail them to Allan B. Fraser, senior building code specialist and *e-Access* coordinator, at *afraser@nfpa.org*.

Did You Miss an Issue?

No problem! You can read the back issues of *e-ACCESS* by clicking here.