

THE NATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTH AMERICA



# QUARTERLY FIRE MARSHALS

FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA • December 1996



**PROVIDING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRE MARSHALS SINCE 1906**

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**Assistant Editor:** Sharon S. Roy  
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We encourage you to send items of interest to:

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## **1997 Nominations and Election of Officers**

Article 8 of the FMANA bylaws requires the following:

- The president must appoint a nominating committee consisting of a recently elected Executive Board member, who serves as chair, and two members-at-large who aren't Executive Board members.
- For each office, the nominating committee must nominate at least one candidate who will be available at the next Annual Meeting.
- The nominating committee must report its nominations to the executive secretary by November 30 prior to the Annual Meeting.
- The nominating committee's report must be an official publication no later than March 31 prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Candidates other than those named by the nominating committee may be nominated by a petition of 10 members and shall be received within 45 days after publication of the nominating committee's report.

President Schaefer has appointed the following individuals to the 1997 nominating committee: Chair Lewis Lee from Columbia, SC; Rocco Gabriele from Towson, MD; and Walter Smittle, III, from Charleston, WV.

According to the nominating committee's report, the following offices will be open during the 1997 Annual Meeting:

- President Robert Melton from Dallas, TX
- First Vice President John Robison from Mobile, AL
- Second Vice President Jim Crawford from Portland, OR
- Secretary Davis Parsons from Los Angeles, CA

### **Board at Large**

*(two-year terms):*

- Paul Little** from Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
- John Bender** of the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office in Towson, MD

*(one-year term):*

- Ronald Farr** from Kalamazoo, Michigan
- (To fill the second year of Jim Crawford's term, Fire Marshal Crawford has been nominated to the office of second vice president.)

Additional nominations may be submitted in accordance with Article 8 of the FMANA bylaws and must be received by Executive Secretary Ben Roy by 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, March 7, 1997.

## **Coming Events**

*For more information on any of these events, contact the appropriate sponsoring organization or FMANA Executive Secretary Ben Roy.*

### **February**

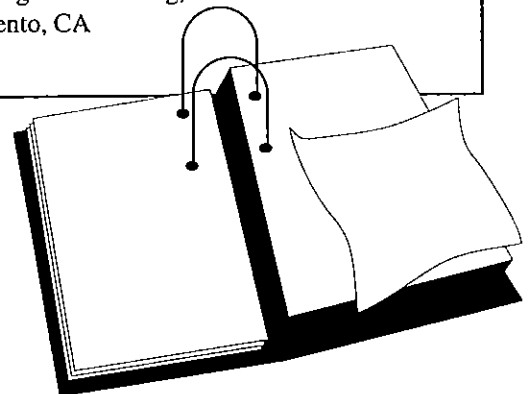
- 3-7 NFPA Continuing Education Seminars: NFPA 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*; NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*®, and NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*, Mesa, AZ
- 21-23 FMANA Executive Board Meeting, West Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- 24-28 NFPA Continuing Education Seminars: NFPA 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*; NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*; and NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*, Houston, TX

### **March**

- 10-14 NFPA Continuing Education Seminars: NFPA 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*; NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*; and NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*, Salt Lake City, UT
- 20 NFPA Regional Meeting, Charlotte, NC
- 17-21 NFPA Continuing Education Seminars: NFPA 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*; NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*; and NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 24-28 FMANA Fire Protection Institute, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### **April**

- 14-18 NFPA Continuing Education Seminars: NFPA 13, *Automatic Sprinkler Systems*; NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*; NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*; and NFPA 101, *Safety to Life from Fire in Buildings and Structures* (1997 edition), Farmington, CT
- 16 NFPA Regional Meeting, Sacramento, CA



## **From the President's Desk**

**by Wade Schaefer, FMANA President**



By the time you read this, 1997 will have arrived. Where did 1996 go? Another year of opportunity presents itself as we continue achieving improved life safety from fire for the public we serve.

- Preceding the NFPA Fall Meeting, the FMANA Executive Board met in Nashville. We also held a joint meeting there with the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) to discuss working together on fire and life safety issues.

- FMANA and NASFM developed unified positions and took action at the NFPA Codes and Standards Technical Session on retaining requirements for portable fire extinguishers in mercantile and business occupancies. FMANA also voiced its concerns regarding several other proposed codes and standards changes in NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code*; NFPA 96, *Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations*; and NFPA 101, *Safety to Life from Fire in Buildings and Structures*.

These actions were taken based upon the passage of motions on various issues during the lively FMANA Fall Business Meeting. Issues included retaining Class C roof coverings and standpipe requirements (NFPA 1); hood fire extinguisher requirements (NFPA 96); and smoke detection in nursing home corridors and smoke detectors in apartment buildings and one- and two-story family dwellings (NFPA 101).

- FMANA has been active in the international fire prevention code debate and resolves to seek a balanced international fire code advisory board. Discussions continue.
- Proposed changes that may require a close analysis of the NFPA *Report on Proposals* (ROP) by FMANA include NFPA 160, *Special Effect Before a Proximate Audience*, and NFPA 921, *Fire and Explosion Investigations*.

Proposed changes to *Special Effect Before a Proximate Audience* include a new definition of proximate distance that may include the measurement of radiated heat on hands.

*Fire and Explosion Investigations* may also propose a change that would approve the concept of courtroom testimony for origin and cause based only on the viewing of photographs.

- FMANA is developing additional educational programs for members. Board member Jim Crawford, fire marshal of Portland, OR, is chair of a committee that is creating new management courses to help fire department administrators deal with political processes and other management issues. Completion dates for these programs are undetermined. These courses may be useable in bachelors programs.
- The Fire Protection Institute programs will be held during March in Fort Lauderdale and during July in Denver. (See related article in this issue.)
- Locations for the NFPA Regional Meetings have been changed to match the geographical boundaries of the regional offices. Topics and agendas based on regional issues are developed by NFPA's regional managers. There are five regions in the U.S., one in Canada, and one in Mexico.
- FMANA seeks qualified persons to represent us on various code and standard technical committees. Please advise us if you're interested.
- The NFPA 1997 Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles from May 19-22. The FMANA Board Meeting will be held immediately preceding it.

### **Do You Have a Story to Tell?**

The Fire Marshals Association of North America is looking for a few good writers! We're trying to make the QUARTERLY a more member-oriented newsletter, and we'd like to hear from you. In an effort to encourage more participation among Section members, we're offering a free FMANA golf shirt to anyone who submits an article that is printed in the QUARTERLY. How can you lose? Please send all submissions to Ben Roy, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 600, Smyrna, DE 19977.

## **Executive Secretary's Corner**

by Ben Roy



By the time you read this, another holiday season will have come and gone. I hope you and your family had joyous holidays and a happy New Year.

We continue to stay very busy with FMANA and fire marshal activities. Articles throughout this edition of *Quarterly* will provide information about several activities, including a meeting for

FMANA Chapter representatives and FMANA Executive Board members; an Executive Board meeting; and the State and Provincial Fire Marshals Forum. In addition, I've included the FMANA work plan for 1997, which is our road map of anticipated activities. Finally, Past President James (Robbie) Robertson has compiled a history of FMANA, and the first installment appears in this edition.

Your Executive Board will meet in February, and part of the meeting's agenda includes a review and update of our master plan. Please don't hesitate to contact any of your Board representatives with your thoughts or ideas. We need your input.

Again, I hope you had wonderful holidays, and our wish is that you have a prosperous New Year.

### **FMANA Membership: Tell a Friend!**

Do you have friends or professional colleagues who might benefit from becoming a member of the Fire Marshals Association of North America?

Please remind them that FMANA is an organization of professional people working toward the goal of minimizing loss of life and property by fire through fire prevention education, enforcement of fire laws, investigation of fire causes, and regulation of fire hazards.

As you know, FMANA members are required to be members of the National Fire Protection Association. The NFPA annual dues (\$95) cover your FMANA membership.

**For more information**, write to Executive Secretary Ben Roy, FMANA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or call (617) 984-7424.

## **Got a Question?**

### **Who to call at the NFPA's Public Fire Protection Division:**

**Gary Tokle**, Assistant Vice President, (617) 984-7490

**Carl Peterson**, Assistant Director, (617) 984-7485  
(apparatus and equipment, fire reporting)

**Jim Smalley**, (617) 984-7483  
(forestry, urban and wild land interface)

**Bruce Teele**, (617) 984-7482  
(protective clothing and equipment, fireboats)

**Jerry Laughlin**, (617) 984-7480  
(fire investigation, fire fighting professional qualifications)

**Chuck Smeby**, (617) 984-7420  
(hazmats and training, NBFSPQ)

**Stephen Foley**, (617) 984-7481  
(fire department occupational health and safety, public fire service organization)

**Steven Sawyer**, Fire Code Coordinator, (617) 984-7423

**Ben Roy**, (617) 984-7424  
(Fire Marshals Association of North America)

Staff members in the Public Fire Protection division are responsible for more than 80 NFPA codes and standards and 4 NFPA Member Sections.

## **1996 State and Provincial Fire Marshals Forum**

From October 24–26, state and provincial fire marshals from across the U.S. and Canada attended the State and Provincial Fire Marshals Forum in Danvers, MA. The NFPA has sponsored this event for nearly 20 years.

The forum's purpose, as declared in its mission statement, is for attendees "to discuss areas of mutual concern and map out strategies whereby the NFPA, the nation's state fire marshals, and Canada's provincial fire marshals can work together to improve fire protection and fire safety into the next century." The forum's Planning Task Force and NFPA staff members determine the agenda by identifying the current problems with national fire safety and the conflicts associated with maintaining effective state and provincial fire marshal offices. The NFPA acts as a facilitator by inviting guest speakers who are expert, fire-protection resources and by providing professional development programs that focus on the effectiveness of the state and provincial fire marshals' offices.

This year's Planning Task Force included Minnesota State Fire Marshal Thomas Brace, British Columbia Fire Commissioner Rick Dumala, Maryland State Fire Marshal Rocco Gabriele, Alabama State Fire Marshal John Robison, and Michigan State Fire Marshal Wade Schaefer.

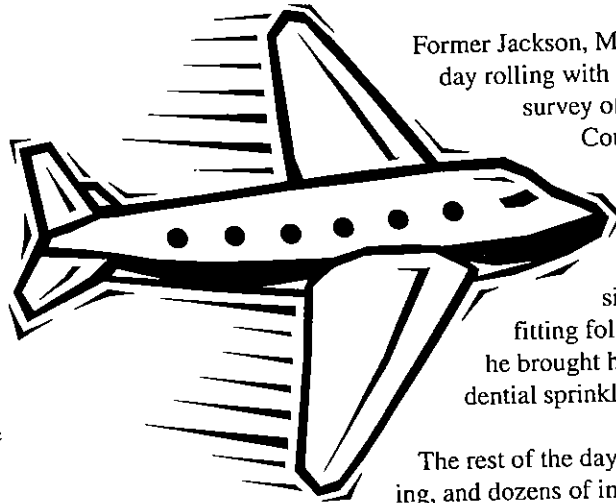
A multitude of topics was touched upon at this year's forum, which began with a new member orientation on Thursday afternoon. Wade Schaefer was the first to address the crowd on Friday morning, and he encouraged people to get involved with codes and standards in their states and provinces.

Tom Brace then spoke about the excitement and challenge of their profession, noting, "We are in a position to make a difference, and we must."

NFPA President George D. Miller welcomed all guests and presented an update on the single national fire code debate. He was followed by Fire Codes Coordinator Stephen Sawyer, who spoke about the regional fire code development committees, which develop proposals on NFPA codes and standards. Regional Manager Program Director Gary Keith discussed the services that NFPA provides upon adoption of a code or standard, which includes on-site training and technical advisory support. Vice President of Government Affairs Tony O'Neill then explained how NFPA's Washington, D.C., office can be of assis-

tance to forum members, and Information Systems Consultant Jeff Thompson delved into electronic communication and demonstrated how to conduct a search on the Internet—once he got connected. (The key is in the connection.) Finally, Vice President and Chief Engineer Art Cote compared prescriptive-based codes and standards to performance-based codes and standards and explored the benefits of the latter.

Following the information presented by the NFPA contingency, Robert Cormier, provincial fire marshal of Nova Scotia and chair of the Canadian Fire Investigation School, spoke about uniform training for fire investigators. And Operation Life Safety Director Pat Coughlin gave a perspective on residential fire sprinklers that included cost effectiveness and a look at future systems.



Former Jackson, MI, Chief Joe Donovan got the second day rolling with results from his needs assessment survey of NFPA training programs, and Pat Coughlin picked up from where he left off the day before, initiating a thought-provoking discussion about residential sprinklers. Rick Dumala, provincial fire commissioner of British Columbia, provided a fitting follow-up to Coughlin's presentation as he brought his Canadian perspective to the residential sprinkler debate.

The rest of the day was devoted to round-table networking, and dozens of important topics were up for grabs. Conversation touched upon the devastating losses people experience due to fires; the importance of volunteer firefighters and methods to recruit them; the political entanglements associated with the job; the cost of belonging to an NFPA Technical Committee; how to get money directly from FEMA; how to find alternative funding; advertising that sends the wrong messages about the dangers of fire; the pros and cons of private inspection agencies; and how to get public schools to comply to building and fire codes.

Alaska State Fire Marshal Craig Goodrich expressed, "We should appreciate and be thankful for this group. It's a relief to become acquainted with others who understand the difficulties we face. We can work together to overcome similar problems, and we can share in our successes."

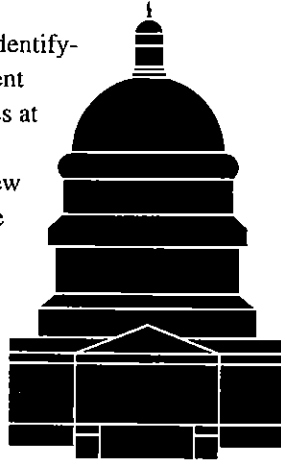
"Although one is from Tallahassee and one is from Nova Scotia, each is keenly aware of the trials and tribulations of the job. We agree that ours is an extremely challenging and rewarding job," he said.

# The Washington Scene

by Tony O'Neill, NFPA Vice President

## NFPA's Washington Office Needs Your Help

NFPA needs FMANA's help with identifying "best practices" in code enforcement procedures and administrative practices at state and local levels. For two years, NFPA will be part of the Project Review Committee of the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCS/BCS) to identify "Who Does What Best at What Level of Government?"



As FMANA members, you can help the project team by identifying model procedures within your jurisdiction that make the building regulatory and local permitting activities of the fire marshals office faster and more user friendly. PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND FAX IT TO NFPA'S WASHINGTON OFFICE.

You'll be contacted by the project staff for a follow up, more in-depth review of your "model program."

## Project Problem Statement

In too many of the 40,000 political jurisdictions in the U.S. that enforce laws regulating construction, cost and effectiveness are hindered by regulatory overlap, duplication, and the slow process between zoning and land use permits that issues occupancy certificates. Effectiveness has also been reduced due to a lack of understanding of the importance of effective code enforcement and streamlined regulations by the general public and elected officials at all levels of government.

Local, state, and federal governments have become increasingly concerned with this problem. To resolve these concerns, numerous studies have been commissioned and many jurisdictions have developed innovative solutions and streamlined processes to facilitate construction and public safety. However, there hasn't been a systematic national effort to eliminate overlap by sorting out "who does what best at what level of government?" No one has been able to bring together the best practices from all levels of government and then consolidate and identify model processes that facilitate public safety, economic development, and the use of innovative technologies.

## Project Mission Statement

The project's mission is to enhance public safety and economic development of states and localities by enabling appropriate levels of government to implement streamlined administrative procedures that identify and eliminate regulatory barriers to safe, decent, affordable, and environmentally sound housing and buildings while fostering innovation and competitiveness of the U.S. construction industry.

- Yes, I would like to participate in the "best practices" project by identifying model programs that reduce regulatory overlap and duplication and are more "user friendly."

Name and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Program \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FAX THIS RESPONSE TO TONY O'NEILL AT (703) 516-4350 OR CALL (703) 516-4346.

If you would like a copy of the complete project description, please let us know.

## **NFPA Metro Chiefs Section Established**

The NFPA has announced the formal organization of a new Metro Chiefs membership section. Approved on October 22, 1996, by NFPA's Board of Directors, the Metro Chiefs Section brings to 15 the number of NFPA membership sections. "NFPA and the Metro Chiefs have a long history of collaboration on important fire service issues," says NFPA President George D. Miller. "This new partnership crystallizes our mutual commitment to strengthening support of fire service issues."

NFPA Central Regional Manager Russ Sanders will serve as the section's executive secretary. "It is inspiring to see formal recognition of this important constituency within the structure of NFPA," says Mr. Sanders. "The membership of the NFPA is well served by the diversity of our sections, and the fire service is no exception. With the Metro Chiefs section, NFPA now offers the men and women in public fire protection a variety of lively sub-groups with which to be involved." Mr. Sanders is a long-time member and former chair of the Metro Chiefs.

The following sections also serve NFPA's fire service members: Public Education, Fire Service, Wildland Fire Management, and Fire Marshals Association of North America. Additional NFPA membership sections include Architects, Engineers, and Building Officials; Aviation; Building Fire Safety Systems; Electrical; Fire Science and Technology Educators; Health Care; Industrial Fire Protection; Lodging Industry; Rail Transportation; and Research.

NFPA membership sections are designed to provide challenging forums for members with specialized interests.

## **State Fire Marshals in the News Utah**

On November 26, 1996, Gary Wise was sworn in as Utah's sixth state fire marshal. He comes to the State Fire Marshal's Office from the Orem City Department of Public Safety, Fire Division, where he has served as the fire chief since 1990.

Mr. Wise began his fire service career in 1967 with the Anaheim Fire Department in Anaheim, CA. He left Anaheim in 1977 and began working for the Orem City Fire Department. He's affiliated with many fire service organizations and committees and currently serves as president of the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association.

## **Codes and Standards Information Update**

### **1997 Directory Available Soon**

The NFPA Directory will be available in January. It contains articles of organization; bylaws; regulations governing committee projects; regulations for sections; a list of officers and staff members; a roster of administrative, advisory, and technical committees; listings of committee scopes and documents; and the schedule of events for processing committee documents.

If you would like to receive the directory, please return the coupon printed on this page to Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

PLEASE NOTE: The directory will automatically be sent to organization members of the NFPA, National Fire Codes Subscription Service (NFCSS) subscribers, and members of NFPA committees; if you belong to one of those categories, you don't need to return the coupon.

Please send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1997 NFPA Directory (-ies)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Technical Committee Meeting Calendar**

Many of you have asked that we include a calendar of technical committee meetings in *The Quarterly*. We're pleased to include this important addition. You're encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the NFPA's codes- and standards-making process. If you wish to address a technical committee on a specific subject, you should make your request in writing to the committee chair or staff liaison at least 21 days before the meeting (the chair may waive the 21-day notice). Please contact the FMANA executive secretary or the technical committee staff liaison for specific meeting locations.

#### **March 1997**

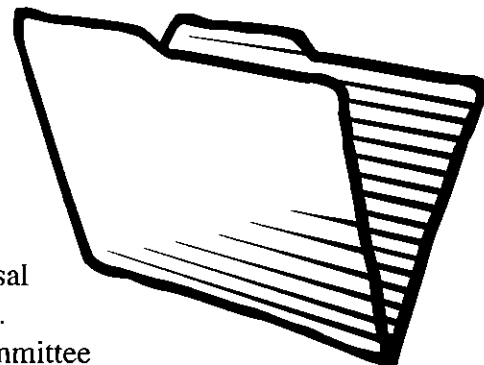
- 17-18 General Storage, San Antonio, TX
- 19-20 Rack Storage, San Antonio, TX
- 25-26 Garages and Parking Structures, San Antonio, TX

## Codes and Standards Information Update

### Committees Soliciting Proposals

The following committees are preparing their respective reports. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content on the documents listed below. Proposals received by 5:00 p.m. EDST/EST on the indicated closing date will be acted on by the committee, and that action will be published in the committee's report. Proposals must be submitted to the Standards Administration Division, NFPA Standards Council, on proposal forms, which are available from the NFPA Standards Administration Office.

(NOTE: For information on specific committee meeting dates, see the "Committee Calendar" printed in this issue or call the Standards Administration at NFPA.) Please note that for new documents, a draft copy will be available on which to submit proposals. Copies of new document drafts are available from the Standards Administration Office, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.



NFPA 13-1996	Installation of Sprinkler Systems	1/2/98	NFPA 99B-1996	<i>Hypobaric Facilities</i>	6/1/97
NFPA 13D-1996	<i>Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 102-1995	<i>Grandstands, Folding and Telescopic Seating, Tents, and Membrane Structures</i>	4/4/97
NFPA 30-1996	<i>Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code</i>	8/1/97	NFPA 110-1996	<i>Emergency and Standby Power Systems</i>	7/18/97
NFPA 30A-1996	<i>Automotive and Marine Service Station Code</i>	8/1/97	NFPA 111-1996	<i>Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems</i>	7/18/97
NFPA 33-1995	<i>Spray Application Using Flammable and Combustible Materials</i>	8/1/97	NFPA 220-1995	<i>Types of Building Construction</i>	1/2/98
NFPA 34-1995	<i>Dipping and Coating Processes Using Flammable or Combustible Liquids</i>	8/1/97	NFPA 701-1996	<i>Fire Tests for Flame-Resistant Textiles and Films</i>	4/1/97
NFPA 45-1996	<i>Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 1470-1994	<i>Search and Rescue Training for Structural Collapse Incidents</i>	7/18/97
NFPA 54-1996	<i>National Fuel Gas Code</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 1975-1994	<i>Station/Work Uniforms for Fire Fighters</i>	6/27/97
NFPA 59A-1996	<i>Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 1991-1994	<i>Vapor-Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies</i>	6/27/97
NFPA 61-1995	<i>Fires and Dust Explosions in Agricultural and Food Products Facilities</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 1992-1994	<i>Liquid Splash-Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies</i>	6/27/97
NFPA 72-1996	<i>National Fire Alarm Code</i>	1/2/98	NFPA 1993-1994	<i>Support Function Protective Clothing for Hazardous Chemical Operations</i>	6/27/97
NFPA 80-1995	<i>Fire Doors and Fire Windows</i>	1/17/97	NFPA 8502-1995	<i>Furnace Explosions/Implosions in Multiple Burner Boilers</i>	7/18/97
NFPA 86-1995	<i>Ovens and Furnaces</i>	1/2/98			
NFPA 86C-1995	<i>Industrial Furnaces Using a Special Processing Atmosphere</i>	1/2/98			
NFPA 86D-1995	<i>Industrial Furnaces Using Vacuum as an Atmosphere</i>	1/2/98			
NFPA 99-1996	<i>Health Care Facilities</i>	6/1/97			

P\* Proposed NEW drafts are available from the NFPA Standards Administration Division, P.O. Box 9101, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

## NFPA President George D. Miller Will Lead Organization Through May of 2002

Citing a determination to keep the exceptional organizational momentum going, NFPA Board of Directors Chair Richard Morris has announced that George D. Miller will extend his position as NFPA president through May of 2002. Mr. Morris made the announcement at a special employee/board gathering at NFPA's headquarters in Quincy, MA, on October 22, 1996.

"George Miller has provided our organization with a strong and charismatic leadership at a crucial time in NFPA's history," Mr. Morris said. "His creative vision and strategic thinking have led NFPA to the most successful financial condition our association has enjoyed in its 100 years of service. Thanks largely to George, NFPA is now able to strongly support progressive public education programs and international outreach, as well as our technical and research activities."

Before becoming president of NFPA, Mr. Miller had been president of the Morris Animal Foundation and secretary general of the U.S. Olympic Committee. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1984 as lieutenant general and vice commander-in-chief of the Strategic Air Command.

"In 40-plus years, my career has taken me down many exciting and rewarding roads," says Mr. Miller. "But I really feel that NFPA offers a potential for service unrivaled by anything else. I was delighted when the Board of Directors offered me the opportunity to continue my work here, because, quite frankly, I'm not done yet."

Naming just a few incentives for staying, Mr. Miller noted the successful collaborations NFPA has struck with numerous allied organizations and his sincere appreciation of working with dedicated volunteers who live their personal missions of greater safety. "It is an honor to lead the dedicated and hard-working employees of NFPA and I eagerly anticipate the next five years."

## Promotions Announced at NFPA



The president of NFPA has announced the promotions of seven senior staff members. Three vice presidents have been promoted to senior vice president:

**Arthur Cote**, formerly vice president and chief engineer, has been named senior vice president of Operations, with expanded responsibilities covering engineering, training, and international operations. Mr. Cote has been with the NFPA since 1977.

**Mark Lawless**, formerly chief financial officer and vice president of Business Services and Development, has been promoted to senior vice president of Business. Mr. Lawless, who has been with the NFPA since 1991, will continue to serve as chief financial officer and will have overall responsibility for the Marketing and Sales Divisions, as well as the Continuing Education, Public Education, and Information Services Divisions.

**James Shannon**, formerly vice president and general counsel, has been named senior vice president of Administration. In addition to continuing to serve as the organization's general legal counsel, Mr. Shannon will have overall responsibility for the organization's building administration, purchasing, duplication/mail functions, and meeting and convention services. Mr. Shannon has served the organization since 1991.

Four NFPA employees have been promoted to vice president:

**Robert Adams**, formerly special assistant to the president, has been named vice president, chief of staff. **Meredith (Meri-K) Appy**, formerly assistant vice president of Public Education, has been promoted to vice president of Public Education. **James Tuominen**, formerly assistant vice president of Information Systems, has been named vice president of Information Products and Services. **Robert Vondrasek**, who was assistant vice president of Engineering, has been promoted to vice president of Codes and Standards Operations.

"These promotions will structure NFPA in a way that allows us to achieve improved member and constituent services, enhanced use of NFPA codes and standards globally, and expanded communication of life-saving messages," said NFPA President **George D. Miller**. "My intention is to move our organization forward so we can achieve even more in NFPA's second century of service."

## **Ten Cities Selected to Receive 1997 Learn Not to Burn® Award**

The NFPA has chosen 10 cities from across the U.S. and Canada to receive a 1997 *Learn Not to Burn* (LNTB) Safe Cities Award, expanding the organization's effort to help major urban centers deal proactively with the problem of fire-related death, injury, and property loss.



## **NFPA • Learn Not to Burn® Safe-Cities**

The 1997 NFPA Safe Cities are Chicago, IL; Colorado Springs, CO; Jacksonville, FL; Kern County, CA; Los Angeles County, CA; Milwaukee, WI; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh, NC; Yonkers, NY; and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Together, these metropolitan areas represent a total population of more than 11.5 million people.

Each city or county will receive, at no cost to the community, NFPA's acclaimed LNTB fire safety education materials along with technical support to establish or enhance the LNTB program in local elementary schools and daycare centers. Safe Cities Awards include specialized training for a team of advocates led by a designated program manager from the local fire department, called the LNTB "Champion," along with a school system representative and a private sector community partner who have pledged to support the program.

"Having made steady progress in reducing the tragic loss of life and property to fire in North America during the 1980s, we've seen home fire deaths in the U.S. plateau at about 3,500 lives lost each year," says NFPA President George D. Miller. "And the tragic fact is that the vast majority of these deaths might have been prevented had the victims known how to prevent or protect themselves from fire. *Learn Not to Burn* introduces children to information they can use to save their lives in a fire and encourages them to take this knowledge home, where we all are most at risk to injury and death."

In January, the Safe Cities Champions and their team members will travel to Boston to participate in a special workshop conducted by NFPA's expert fire safety education representatives on how to motivate teachers and students, manage a successful implementation, and evaluate program results. During 1997, the NFPA fire safety education representative assigned to each Safe City will visit the community to conduct a teacher in-service workshop and provide additional on-site assistance.

"The *Learn Not to Burn*: Safe Cities Awards are part of an ambitious project to expand the LNTB program in communities large and small throughout the U.S. and Canada," says Meri-K Appy, NFPA's assistant vice president for Public Education. "We already know of 36 lives that have been saved as a direct result of lessons learned through the LNTB Champion program since it was introduced in 1994. Most of these are children under the age of 10 who are alive today because of their knowledge of fire safety. It's a life skill we want every child in North America to possess. We're proud to add 10 more Safe Cities to our growing list of communities that are using positive, results-oriented education to help prevent needless fire deaths."

## **NFPA Announces 1997 Fall Meeting Call for Papers**

As established by the Program Committee of NFPA's Board of Directors, the "Call for Papers" deadline for the 1997 NFPA Fall Meeting is March 1. The theme for the meeting, "Fire Safety Tomorrow — Our Mission Today," was chosen to address measures the fire industry can implement now to reduce the threat of fire in years to come.

All papers of technical and professional merit that are non-commercial and aimed at advancing the cause of fire safety will be considered. Of particular interest are papers that address topical areas of urgent concern such as technological breakthroughs, code administration and enforcement, cost-benefit analysis of code enforcement, fire suppression policies, and the role of public education.

All papers must be submitted by March 1, 1997, and should take no more than 30 minutes to present. Authors should include a brief biographical sketch, company or organizational affiliation, title, mailing address, and membership status, if any, with NFPA and/or NFPA member sections.

Abstracts can be mailed to Casey Grant, Technical Director of Codes and Standards, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101. Papers may be faxed to (617) 770-3500 or e-mailed to [cgrant@nfpa.org](mailto:cgrant@nfpa.org).

## **FMANA's Fire Protection Institute Offers Three CEUs**

The FMANA Fire Protection Institute course, "**Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**," has received approval from NFPA's Division of Continuing Education to be part of the curriculum receiving Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

At no additional cost, the NFPA will award 3.0 CEUs to participants who successfully complete this course. To receive the CEUs, you must have at least a 90% attendance rate at the end of the program.

FMANA will maintain a permanent record of your participation, which will be available upon request.

All courses presented in 1996 and 1997 are approved.

"**Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**" is offered to any fire protection-oriented person. Prior to 1995, these seminars were only available to code enforcement personnel. However, people in other disciplines have become interested, so we've opened the seminars to all persons. Seminar attendees have found that the interaction between code enforcement officials and people from other disciplines creates a very positive learning experience and provides valuable points of view. All future offerings of this seminar are also open to all interested attendees.

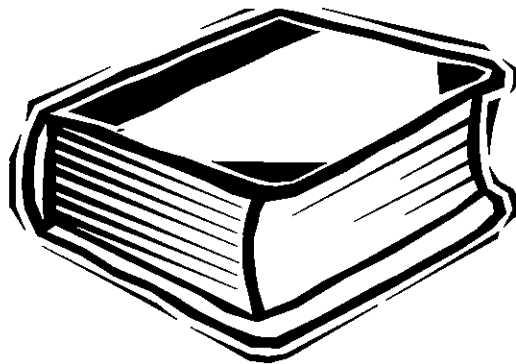
This seminar is principally designed for individuals who have design, enforcement, or advisory responsibilities concerning the fire protection of facilities. This seminar was developed, is updated, and taught each year by Dr. John Bryan, Professor Emeritus, and Dr. James Milke, Assistant Professor, Department of Fire Protection Engineering, University of Maryland.

"**Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**" consists of 10, three-hour

sessions during four and one-half days. The sessions involve the following engineering educational subject areas:

### **Combustion and Ignition Phenomenon**

Theories of diffusion flame combustion, fire dynamics, suppression theory, and suppression agents.



### **Fire Endurance Evaluation**

Review of the development and application of standard and innovative fire endurance test procedures for building assemblies including doors, windows, walls, floors, and ceilings.

### **Construction and Structural Features**

Performance of basic construction materials in the fire environment. The fire compartment involvement process and the concept of designing building compartmentalization.

### **Materials Applications**

Evaluation procedures for flame spread, smoke production, and toxicity of interior finish, floor coverings, and furnishings.

### **Life Risk Analysis**

Human tenability limits. Human behavior variables in fire incidents including convergence clusters, social inhibition-facilitation, altruistic, and non-adaptive actions.

### **Fire Protection Design Evaluation**

Procedures for the evaluation of fire safety. Smoke management systems design principles and evaluation techniques.

### **Sprinkler System Developments**

Characteristics of design and approval of the various types of sprinklers and water mist nozzles with application implications.

### **Design of Water Suppression Systems**

Design of sprinkler and water mist systems with review of standard procedures and innovative research applications.

### **Egress and Exits**

Basic theoretical code concepts with examination of egress components and design variables.

### **Detection and Alarm Systems**

Review of the types of detectors and the laboratory evaluation test procedures. Reliability and installation design characteristics.

"**Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**" was originally developed and offered in August 1989 on a trial basis by FMANA at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies in Linthicum Heights, MD. In the seven years since the initial offering, 560 students have completed the 13 seminars, which have been conducted in the following states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, and West Virginia.

For the first time, we've had to raise the seminar's registration fee due to increased costs. The fee for 1997 is \$295 for FMANA or NFPA members and \$350 for nonmembers of either organiza-

tion. Each seminar participant receives a 345-page seminar instruction course guide complete with detailed references for the seminar session.

The 1997 schedule for "Principles of Fire Protection Engineering" is as follows:

- March 24-28, 1997  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Classes will be held at the Fort Lauderdale Embassy Suites Hotel, which will provide a special room rate of \$129/day for single or double occupancy. This rate includes a full breakfast, a two-hour afternoon reception, use of the health club, and free parking. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel. NOTE: In order to secure the listed rates, you must advise the hotel that you're part of the FMANA group.

Ft. Lauderdale Embassy Suites Hotel  
1100 SE 17th Street  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316  
(954) 527-2700

(Note: Special room rate cut-off date is February 24, 1997.)

- July 7-11, 1997  
Denver, CO

Classes will be held at the Holiday Inn Denver Downtown, which is easily accessible via I-25. The Holiday Inn will provide special room rates of \$80/day single or \$90/day double occupancy. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel. NOTE: In order to secure the listed rates, you must advise the hotel that you're part of the FMANA group.

Holiday Inn Denver Downtown  
1450 Glenarm  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 573-1450

(Note: Special room rate cut-off date is June 16, 1997.)

**FMANA Fire Protection Institute Registration Form**

(Please print or type)

The registration fee for the five-day program is \$295 for NFPA or FMANA members or \$350 for nonmembers. When you send us this registration form, you can include a purchase order, which means that we'll bill you later, include a \$50 deposit, or enclose the entire fee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if you're an NFPA Member - NFPA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_
- Check if you're a FMANA Member
- Check if you're a Chapter Member - Name of Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll me in:**

**Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**

- March 24-28, 1997, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- July 7-11, 1997, in Denver, CO
- Please register me in the course I have selected and bill me later.
- Enclosed is a purchase order - P.O. number \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for the

- \$50 deposit
  - \$295 or \$350 registration fee
- Please make check payable to NFPA

Charge the

- \$50 deposit
- \$295 or
- \$350 registration fee to my credit card

MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The registration fee covers the course and course materials only. Expenses associated with travel, lodging, or meals are not covered by the registration fee.*

**Please mail to:**

Ben Roy, Executive Secretary  
 Dept. FPI  
 Fire Marshals Association of North America  
 P.O. Box 600, Smyrna, DE 19977-0600 USA  
 (617) 984-7424 FAX (302) 653-5712

## **FMANA Executive Board Approves 1997 Work Plan**

### **An Overview**

In January 1996, the FMANA master plan was evaluated as to its progress and effectiveness and an evaluation report was given to each Executive Board member. In February, the Planning Committee, which consists of FMANA officers, reviewed and recommended revisions to the master plan. And, during the Annual Meeting in May, the FMANA Executive Board unanimously approved the revised master plan.

Prior to the Executive Board meeting in July, the Planning Committee developed a draft of the 1997 work plan, which was presented to the Board for discussion and study.

This work plan is based on the goals and objectives of the current FMANA master plan and is presented within that format. The Planning Committee reviewed each of the goals and objectives and developed a work plan for 1997 that is consistent with both the master plan and the potential resources available to the organization in 1997.

The FMANA 1997 work plan was submitted to the Executive Board for final review and was adopted during the FMANA Executive Board Meeting, held on November 17, 1996, in Nashville, TN.

### **The FMANA 1997 Work Plan**

#### **Goal #1**

To provide educational and professional development opportunities through technology, certification, and prevention programs.

#### **Work Elements**

- A. Conduct educational programs at NFPA's Fall and Annual Meetings on new and/or innovative fire prevention topics.
- B. Conduct three (3) Fire Protection Institutes.
- C. Continue to cosponsor Life Safety Code seminars with NFPA for states that have adopted NFPA 101.
- D. Develop a plan for a presentation of the most critical education needs.
- E. Conduct annual forums for both state and urban fire marshals.
- F. Develop an additional Fire Protection Institute course.
- G. Encourage NFPA to develop a seminar on NFPA 1 that's similar to the NFPA 101 seminar.

#### **Goal #2**

To provide a resource service to the members of FMANA.

#### **Work Elements**

- A. Publish four editions of the FMANA newsletter.
- B. Maintain records for a future update to the FMANA directory.
  1. List member e-mail addresses in the directory.
  2. Explore possibility of having an electronic directory.
- C. Provide a detailed listing of FMANA Chapters and chapter officers.
- D. Support the recommendations from the Urban and State & Provincial Fire Marshals Forums.

#### **Goal #3**

Actively market and promote a positive, dynamic, and proactive profile of FMANA.

#### **Work Elements**

- A. Provide a liaison to national and international organizations that have an impact on or interest in fire prevention activities.
  1. Develop a coalition with other organizations to create and implement a National Fire Code.
  2. Establish a meeting between the NASFM and FMANA Executive Boards to discuss common goals and objectives.
- B. Provide speakers for other organizations' events as requested.
- C. Develop a recognition mechanism for individuals and organizations that work for and promote FMANA goals and objectives.
- D. Provide a table-top display regarding FMANA for use at shows, meetings, etc.
- E. Provide a FMANA seal for a podium.

#### **Goal #4**

Actively participate in the codes- and standards-making process.

#### **Work Elements**

- A. Encourage FMANA and Chapter members to serve on technical committees that impact FMANA.
- B. When there are proposed changes to codes and standards that may have an adverse impact on public safety, conduct a codes and standards forum as part of the FMANA business meeting during NFPA's Annual and Fall Meetings.
- C. Make technical committee reports that are to be voted on during NFPA's Annual or Fall Meeting agenda items for the FMANA business meeting to discuss and/or develop a FMANA position.
- D. Maintain a liaison with all FMANA technical committee representatives.
- E. As deemed necessary, establish ad hoc work groups to develop proposals for specific NFPA codes and standards.

**Goal #5**

To monitor and influence fire safety legislation at national, state, and local levels.

**Work Elements**

- A. FMANA will maintain a liaison with the congressional fire services caucus.
- B. Provide for a FMANA table(s) at the caucus dinner.

**Goal #6**

To expand the FMANA membership, create new chapters, and enhance membership participation at all levels.

**Work Elements**

- A. Solicit and encourage fire prevention organizations to seek affiliation with FMANA as FMANA Chapters.
- B. Encourage each FMANA member to recruit at least one new member each year.
- C. Use Chapters as an information conduit between FMANA and regional membership.
- D. Provide a FMANA Executive Committee member to attend Chapter meetings as allowed by the budget.
- E. Conduct semi-annual meetings with Chapter representatives to achieve common goals and develop a work plan to accomplish those goals.
- F. Develop justification for a submittal to the NFPA Board of Directors regarding NFPA membership for Chapter officers.
- G. Encourage the Chapters to sponsor a representative from each Chapter to attend NFPA's Annual and Fall Meetings.

**Goal #7**

To monitor and support research and development of solutions to fire protection and fire prevention problems.

**Work Elements**

- A. Publish results of current research and disseminate to the FMANA membership.
- B. Pursue formulation of a Research and Review Committee.

**Goal #8**

To provide alternative funding mechanisms for the implementation and completion of the goals and objectives contained within this master plan.

**Work Elements**

- A. Develop and implement a nonprofit foundation to provide supplemental funding.
- B. Explore other alternative funding mechanisms.

**Other Activities**

- A. Review and update the FMANA master plan to provide specific goals relative to public education and arson prevention as well as a thorough review of other goals.

## **FMANA Executive Board and Chapter Meeting Held in Nashville**

FMANA held its annual State and Provincial Chapter Meeting in Nashville on November 16, preceding the NFPA Fall Meeting.

The following chapters and their representatives participated: Minnesota's Richard MacAllister; North Carolina's Thomas Bradshaw; Florida's Peter Bergel; New England's John Vendetta; Michigan's Ronald Farr; Texas' Thomas Leggitt; Oklahoma's Kevin Leach; New York's Robert Earley; Delaware Valley's R.T. "Whitey" Leicht; and West Virginia's Ed Blehschmidt.

Issues discussed included the single national fire prevention code activities, the FMANA strategic plan and its effects on the Chapters, present and future fire protection and administration courses available through FMANA, FMANA newsletter articles, NFPA technical committee representation from the Chapters, and development of a fireworks survey to determine the status of enforcement in each province and state. Each Chapter representative gave an overview of the association's activities and issues of concern. As usual, we all saw that our problems aren't unique to our state or province!

The Chapter representatives agreed that future work needs to include more FMANA action on proposed code changes, contact with legislators on fire service legislative proposals, assistance to Chapters for consistent and proper code enforcement, news releases on major fire service issues, and unity of voice to accomplish our goals.

There's much more work to accomplish regarding residential sprinkler system installation, including "selling" the idea through advertisements and getting media promotion. For instance, the Bob Villa television program which aired on October 26, 1996, had 67 feet of video on installing a residential fire sprinkler system.

The FMANA Board and the Chapter participants believe that the most progress toward reaching the FMANA and Chapter goals and needs will occur if the Chapters are able to lend continuity to the Annual Meetings by sending the same representatives each year to participate when reasonably possible. The Chapters are asked to take this into consideration when selecting their representatives.

Chapter representatives, please mark your calendars for the next TENTATIVE annual meeting date of Saturday, November 15, 1997, in Kansas City, MO.

## A History of FMANA

by James "Robbie" Robertson  
(First of a several-part overview of the history of FMANA)

### The Founding Years of FMANA: 1906-1916

The founding of the Fire Marshals Association of North America in 1906 was described by Mr. Alfred Lindback, Manitoba Fire Commissioner, in an address before the First American National Fire Prevention Convention held in Philadelphia from October 13-18, 1918. The day before, Mr. Lindback had just completed his term as the sixth president of FMANA.

In his remarks, Mr. Lindback stated: "I must give you a little synopsis of the bringing into existence of the Fire Marshals Association of North America. Seven years ago, and that was a time shortly after my appointment by my Government, I communicated with the fire marshal of Ohio with the idea and suggestion that the fire marshals should form an organization for mutual help and benefit. At this time particularly I had in mind that when some of these fire-bugs we so generally hear about have started their business in this country [U.S.] come to our country [Canada], we would have some means to control them. We met in Washington, D.C., at the same time as the insurance convention because we didn't know how many of us would be there, and we felt that we would have some backing if we met with a large organization. When we counted noses, there were three states represented. We've had annual meetings ever since. At that time I regret we could not talk anything but fire incendiarism and fire bugs, although some attempt was made to talk fire prevention."

Mr. Lindback noted the NFPA's early influence on forming FMANA as he stated: "The National Fire Protection Association, I understand, has been

in existence for some 10 years... Out of the work of that association some years ago the Fire Marshals Association was evolved; and while in 1906 only seven or eight states were represented, today thirty-two states and three provinces all over the land have fire marshals."

In this reference, Mr. Lindback was obviously speaking of potential members.

The importance of the fire marshals role in government was emphasized when he stated:

"...There isn't any official of the state or municipality who owes more honor and duty to the local government and derives as much power as the fire marshal. He and his deputies or assistants have the power to visit any building at any reasonable hour and inspect it. He has more power than the insurance inspectors who enter buildings more by sufferance than with power behind them like the fire marshal."

It should be noted that, at the time of this talk, FMANA consisted entirely of state and provincial members.

As a sign of the high level of this conference in Philadelphia, the next speaker after Mr. Lindback was the Secretary of Commerce of the United States, William Redfield. E.R. Defenbaugh, who had replaced D.S. Creamer, FMANA's first president, as Ohio's fire marshal, was also in attendance as were other state, provincial, and municipal fire marshals.

In addition to Mr. Creamer, FMANA presidents who proceeded Mr. Lindback were State Fire Marshals Peterson of Minnesota, Purtell of Wisconsin, Doyle of Illinois, and Palmer of Michigan. Mr.

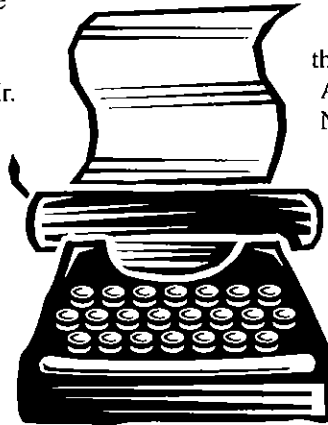
Lindback's comments also addressed his concerns about political influences upon state fire marshals and the short tenures for office in the U.S.

Even prior to the founding of FMANA, fire marshals had influence in the NFPA. Battalion Chief W.T. Beggen of the Bureau of Violations and Auxiliary Fire Appliances at the New York Fire Department had become this first fire service officer to join NFPA. During the same month in 1905, Ohio Fire Marshal H.D. Davis became the first state fire marshal to join.

Ohio's long-time interest in fire safety was evident by the 1908 enactment of legislation mandating a school fire safety program for students. In 1911, FMANA and the Western Insurance Union jointly promoted Fire Prevention Day, which was observed primarily in Indianapolis, IN, on October 9. In 1916, FMANA and the National Safety Council jointly sponsored a national Fire and Accident Prevention Day. This approach didn't appear to work very well.

In addition to the presidents mentioned above, others who served during the first 10 years were Fire Marshals Roe of Iowa, Parkman of Kansas, Bennett of Illinois, and Hussey of Kansas. These were exciting years for FMANA. In 1913, fire fatalities were estimated at 8,900, and it was seen as the first year in which good national data was available. According to NFPA's Dr. John Hall, Jr., the death rate was 9.1% then as compared to an estimated 1.4% in 1996.

In the next issue, a brief history of FMANA will continue, and references will be listed in that article. Members who have material relating to the early days of the organization are urged to send copies to the executive secretary.



## To reach NFPA via the INTERNET

- Customer Service:**  
Custserv@NFPA.org
- FMANA:**  
FMANA@NFPA.org
- Fire Investigations:**  
Investigations@NFPA.org
- Fire News:**  
Firenews@NFPA.org
- International Department:**  
NFPA\_international@NFPA.org
- Library:**  
Library@NFPA.org
- NFPA Journal:**  
NFPAJournal@NFPA.org
- One-Stop Data Shop:**  
OSDS@NFPA.org
- Public Affairs:**  
Public\_affairs@NFPA.org
- Research Foundation:**  
NFPAresfdn@NFPA.org

In addition, you may reach the NFPA's regional offices at the following Internet addresses:

- New England:**  
Gkeith@NFPA.org
- Southern:**  
Ogreene@NFPA.org
- Central:**  
Rsanders@NFPA.org
- Western:**  
Rmiller@NFPA.org
- Mid-Atlantic:**  
FMANA@NFPA.org
- Washington, D.C.:**  
WDC@NFPA.org

NFPA's Site on the World Wide Web:  
Uniform Resource Locator (URL)  
<http://www.nfpa.org>

## FMANA Merchandise for Sale

We're pleased to offer merchandise that allows you to proudly display your affiliation with FMANA. If there's enough interest, we'll be adding to this line of merchandise. Please let us know what you think.

### FMANA Golf Shirt

The golf shirt is a 50% cotton/50% polyester blend and is machine washable. The shirt is white, features a three-color embroidered FMANA logo, and is available in sizes small, medium, large, and extra large. The price is \$26.95, which includes shipping and handling.



### FMANA Lapel Pin

The lapel pin measures 7/8" and features a two-color FMANA logo on a brass background. The price is \$3.00, which includes shipping and handling.



Please use this coupon to order FMANA materials. Return the coupon to FMANA, Dept. ORD, P.O. Box 600, Smyrna, DE 19977.

#### Please send me:

- \_\_\_\_\_ FMANA lapel pins @ \$3.00 ea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ FMANA golf shirts @ \$26.95 ea. in the following sizes:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ small                      \_\_\_\_\_ medium
  - \_\_\_\_\_ large                        \_\_\_\_\_ extra large

**NOTE:** All prices are U.S. funds.

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to FMANA

Please send merchandise to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## Enforcement of NFPA 101—A Fire Code Official's Perspective

by John Bender, P.E.

(This is a reprint of a talk given by Mr. Bender during a joint educational session between FMANA and the Architects, Engineers, and Building Officials Membership Sections at the 1996 NFPA Fall Meeting held in Nashville, TN.)

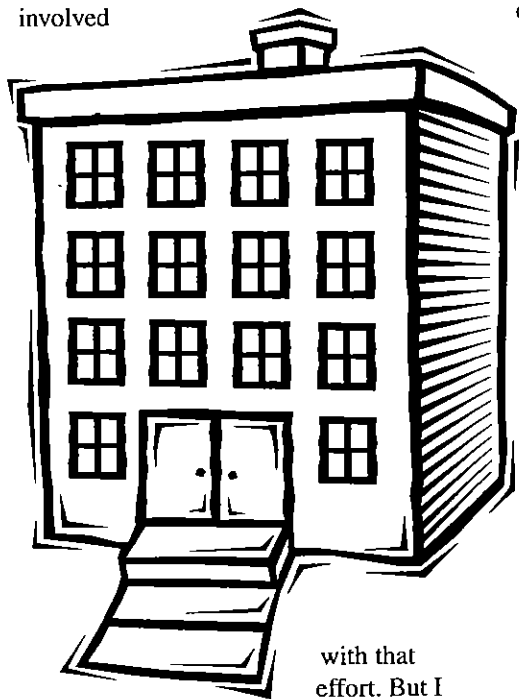
Good morning! Thank you for the opportunity to be here this morning. I can't think of a better group to address regarding some observations and ideas about enforcement of both NFPA 1 and 101, especially as they relate to building code enforcement.

Much has been said about the potential conflict between building and fire codes, but my experience has shown that it's largely a matter of perception and how the codes are adopted, administered, and enforced at the local level. I come from a jurisdiction that enforces NFPA 101 on a statewide basis. We interact with local building departments which enforce either the BOCA or Standard Building Code. We also have some county jurisdictions that have no local building code or lack adequate resources to enforce a building code, so, in those jurisdictions, we're the only agency to enforce fire related issues. And, perhaps most important, we're the only legal authority to enforce those provisions in both new and existing facilities.

Rather than look at a potential code conflict as a problem, and something that needs to be resolved at the national level, we approach the issue as an opportunity to evaluate the conflicting requirements at the state or local level and to determine the most appropriate solution in a given situation. Most codes state something to the effect that "the more restrictive requirement shall apply." But often, it's not clear which requirement is more restrictive, or it simply doesn't make good common sense to apply a certain requirement because of all the other pro-

tection features that may exist or be planned.

Let me add very quickly, this is not to say there is no need to seek more uniformity with national codes and standards or proceed with the movement toward a single code, because I believe there most definitely is a need to do that and I commend those involved



with that effort. But I think the issue

of conflicting code requirements is often exaggerated and used as an excuse for inadequate planning or for political purposes. I have found that when a conflict in a requirement is brought to the attention of the code officials involved and looked at objectively and evaluated by qualified individuals in a cooperative atmosphere, the problem gets resolved to almost everyone's satisfaction.

In this regard, I would like to focus on these three main issues:

1. The need to establish a good professional working relationship with building officials and other allied agencies.

2. The need to be proactive and customer oriented.
3. The need to be flexible and use good common sense.

I believe that these three elements are part of the formula for success! If you develop and maintain a proper working relationship and a professional attitude and environment, including technically qualified people who are allowed to exercise professional judgment, then I

believe you have the means to properly administer and enforce codes as they're meant to be enforced in order to resolve conflicts. The reality is that no matter what the conflict is, it will be resolved one way or the other by either you, your boss, the mayor, county executive, or some other higher authority, and chances are you will not like the solution—and your reputation or credibility as a code official may suffer as a result.

So, obviously, if at all possible within accepted moral and ethical standards, it's in your best interest to resolve potential code conflicts at the lowest level possible.

It has also been my experience that code enforcement is like politics in many respects. As former Speaker of the House from Massachusetts Tip O'Neill once said, "All politics is local." Well, the same can be said about code enforcement. Some might even say that code enforcement is politics. That's certainly true for most people who are state fire marshals, fire chiefs, or similar leaders of organizations responsible for code enforcement. To be successful today, more than ever, they need to balance the public safety demands of the job and the interest of their agency with certain realities of the political environment in which they operate, such as their budget for example. We're all competing for the shrinking tax dollar and we're all trying to do more with less.

Increasingly, this means the fire code community must form and maintain partnerships and coalitions with the building department and other related professional associations in order to share resources, training, develop new sources of revenue, and streamline the building permit and inspection process. Building and fire code officials must develop strong professional working relationships and be proactive to eliminate needless duplication of effort and resolve code conflicts in order to provide better customer service and thus be able to survive and do our job. Thanks in part to the long-term efforts of the Board, among other groups, for coordination of model codes, there is more uniformity of requirements between codes today. But much more work remains to be done, as evidenced by the continuing efforts of the NFPA and its member sections and technical committees.

Who are our customers? Ultimately, it's the general public whose safety we are sworn to protect, but more directly it's the architects, engineers, contractors, developers, building owners, managers, and users that we come in contact with everyday and who depend on, indeed demand, timely, accurate, and thorough plan review and inspection services. To them, time is money. How often have we heard that? We understand that. Time is money to code enforcers as well. If we don't please our customers, then they have the right to complain to the elected officials who control our budget. But that, of course, can be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on whether we're doing a good job and can truly justify our actions. If we have good justification, perhaps we can turn the situation around and have our critics support our need for better resources. So, it's a given that we need to maintain good public relations and service with our customers and the general public.

A good professional working relationship between building and fire code offi-

cial involves commitment, dedication, good communication, trust, professional qualification, education, respect for each others' position, integrity, character, and a personal awareness and acknowledgment of our own limitations and experience. It means investing whatever time, energy, and initiative it takes so that when a potential conflict is presented, it may only take a phone call or a meeting to resolve the issues in a timely fashion—that's customer service.

Thus, it's absolutely essential that each code enforcement jurisdiction adequately plan and establish its own local or regional code administration and enforcement procedures based on modern code management practices. Much depends on the resources available at the local level. For example, in Maryland, we do plan review and inspection work out of five regional offices. Each office has to coordinate its activities differently because we have different levels of capability in the local building department. In the counties that have no building code or only have a part-time building permits office, we have to be very careful and specific in our comments, or the local contractors may not understand or follow exactly what is required. This takes time and patience and close follow-up. In the more developed counties, our comments can be more general in nature and still be effectively administered. These are things that must be planned, evaluated, and controlled at the local level. Federal, state, and local building construction requirements usually get implemented at the local permit level, and this requires the cooperation and coordination of all parties concerned.

The National Codes, of course, have a vital role to play in all of this. They provide a model set of codes and requirements. It would be absolute chaos if every local political subdivision developed and adopted its own building and fire code based on only its own experi-

ence and political influence. That's why we support and have come to rely on, and respect, the consensus process of the NFPA. We know and trust, and have been able to demonstrate and justify through our own adoption process at the state level, the value and benefit of the codes and standards produced through the NFPA as being the most open, balanced, and democratic system of code development. As fire officials, we may not always agree with the outcome, but we respect the process and the product produced. This is one reason we have supported the adoption of NFPA 101 since our office was formed in 1964 and why we're now looking forward to supporting the adoption of NFPA 1 as currently proposed.

Finally, the need to be flexible and use good common sense is perhaps the most challenging and controversial aspect of being a code official. You're vulnerable to potential criticism and you've an increased risk of potential legal liability. No code can anticipate every circumstance. There are always going to be differences between codes and referenced standards and how they're interpreted and applied. There's always some new situation that doesn't fit neatly into some prescribed code requirement. Issues aren't black and white. If they were, you could program a robot to do plan review.

Flexibility and good common sense come with maturity, training, and experience in the code enforcement business. Over time, you become aware of which requirements are absolute and which are more or less a reasonable guideline. Many technical conflicts between codes can be evaluated in the overall context of their relationship to the total package of design and construction features. But it takes leadership and a spirit of professional cooperation, understanding, and flexibility between the building official and the fire official to make it happen.



**FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA  
SECTION NEWSLETTER**

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