

Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Fall 2000

2nd Annual International Fire Marshals Conference **November 11–15, 2000, Orlando, FL**

The International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) is proud to sponsor the 2nd Annual International Fire Marshals Conference. This unique conference brings fire prevention, fire inspection, fire investigation, and fire education personnel together to learn professional development, discuss items of mutual interest, and provide guidance on the future direction of the fire prevention profession.

The mission of IFMA is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting, and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions, and other related hazardous conditions. IFMA's main goals are to unite for mutual benefit those public officials engaged primarily in the prevention of fire, the control of arson, and/or public fire safety education and to provide educational and professional development opportunities through technology, certification, and prevention programs.

This conference consists of four distinct components:

- Educational Programs
- Business Meeting
- Codes and Standards Development
- Networking

During the conference, six educational programs will be held on Saturday, November 11, Sunday, November 12, and Tuesday, November 14. In addition, the "Evaluating Fire Prevention Programs" portion of the four-day "Management Institute for Fire Marshals Course" will be offered.

The business portion of the IFMA conference consists of the Executive Board Meeting and the Business Meeting.

Codes and standards development consists of the Codes and Standards Forum and the NFPA Technical Committee Report

Session. The Codes and Standards Forum permits an open discussion of issues related to codes and standards that will be voted on at the NFPA Technical Committee Report Session, which is where NFPA members vote on the final technical committee reports.

There are many opportunities to network with others in IFMA, other fire prevention personnel, engineers, members of the fire service, and others interested in fire safety. A hospitality room for IFMA members will be open on Sunday, November 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

If you pay by September 29, conference registration is \$305. In addition to the IFMA activities, you are invited to attend any of the NFPA programs offered during the week. (This price does not include pre-conference and other special events, which must be purchased separately.)

All activities will take place at the Wyndham Palace Resort & Spa, 1900 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL; call (407) 827-2727 or (800) 327-2990. Room rates are \$162 for a standard and \$242 for a one-bedroom island suite. Please make reservations directly with the Wyndham Palace by October 20.

For information or to obtain a registration form, please contact NFPA Fall Educational Conference, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101; call (617) 984-7310; or visit our web site at www.NFPA.org.

For information on the International Fire Marshals Association, please contact IFMA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269; call (617) 984-7424; fax (617) 984-7056; or E-mail IFMA@nfpa.org.

PROVIDING NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRE MARSHALS SINCE 1906

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Fire Marshals Quarterly

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We encourage you to send items of interest to:

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Quincy, MA 02269-9101

Cruise Ship Fire

Miami, Florida—July 20, 1998



On July 20, 1998, a fire occurred on the passenger cruise ship *Ecstasy* as it began a four-day trip to Cozumel, Mexico, from the Port of Miami, Florida. This fire injured 60 people, including both passengers and crewmembers. At the time of the incident the ship

was carrying 2,557 passengers and 920 crewmembers.

The ship was constructed in 1990 in Finland and was refurbished in 1995. The ship was 260.6 m (855 ft.) in length and 31.7 m (104 ft.) wide with a draught of 8 m (26 ft.). The ship's gross tonnage was 62,827.7 metric tons (70,367 tons). The vessel had a top speed of 40.7 km/h (22 knots) and was powered by two diesel-electric engines.

The ship contained 10 accommodation and entertainment decks, which housed a combination of passenger cabins and entertainment areas (i.e., casinos and nightclubs), as well as numerous dining areas. Most mechanical spaces were located on the lower three decks of the ship, with equipment closets and chases scattered throughout the ship.

The aft mooring deck, where the majority of the fire damage occurred, was located on Deck 4 (Riviera Deck). There was a similar mooring area in the forward portion of the ship on Deck 6 (Upper Deck). The mooring decks contained the large electric winches that controlled several hundred feet of mooring lines, which consisted of polypropylene rope of approximately 63.5 mm (2-1/2 in.) diameter.

The laundry area, where the fire is reported to have started, was located on Deck 2, forward of the freshwater tanks. The laundry area consisted of washing and drying machines and associated pressing and folding equipment.

While maintenance personnel were conducting repairs on a pressing and folding machine (referred to as a "mangle") in the laundry room, an arc from a welding rod reportedly ignited combustible lint in and around the machine. Attempts to extinguish the initial fire were unsuccessful as personnel were driven from the laundry area by smoke. As personnel were exiting the area, the laundry room manager activated the fire alarm.

Smoke began to spread to the decks above and below the laundry area. Reports and alarms were initially received for smoke on Decks 1 through 5. Upon investigation by fire brigade members, smoke and fire was discovered on the aft mooring deck (Deck 4).

The on-board fire brigade began to deploy to the aft portion of the ship. The brigade members closed fire doors and monitored the conditions in the deck areas surrounding the laundry room and the mooring

deck. An intense fire was discovered on the aft mooring deck, apparently fueled by pallets of polypropylene rope. As the fire on the mooring deck grew in intensity, thick black smoke was seen billowing from the rear of the ship. This smoke became visible to United States Coast Guard cameras at the Port of Miami as well as residents of the Miami Beach area.



The Coast Guard contacted the ship's captain at 5:30 p.m. and asked about the smoke condition. At that point the captain indicated that the crew was controlling the fire and they needed no further assistance. Approximately 30 minutes later, the captain contacted the Coast Guard to request assistance.

Coast Guard and other firefighting vessels were dispatched to the ship's location, now about five kilometers (2.7 miles) northeast of Miami Beach. In the meantime the ship had lost control of propulsion systems and began to drift northward. The Coast Guard and private assistance began arriving between 6:00 and 6:25 p.m.

The combination of the ship's fire brigade and the firefighting vessels brought the fire under control around 7:15 p.m. The vessel was then towed back to the Port of Miami and arrived at 2:20 a.m. on July 21, 1998. Once in port, those passengers and crewmembers that required further medical attention were transported to local hospitals. The injuries included smoke inhalation and chest pains. Seven were hospitalized overnight and another two remained in the hospital for an additional day for observation.

Fire damage was centered on the aft mooring deck (4), the thruster equipment room on Deck 1, the dry goods storage area on Deck 3, and the aft portion of the Main Deck (5). Smoke and water damage was experienced throughout the aft portion of the ship on all decks. Sprinklers activated on Decks 3 through 7.

The ship was moored in the Port of Miami for four days while the investigation was conducted. The ship left on Friday, July 24, 1998, under its own power and sailed to Newport News, Virginia, where extensive repairs were completed. The ship was placed back into service on September 18, 1998.

On the basis of the fire investigation and analysis, the NFPA has determined that the following factors directly contributed to the fire:

- Cutting and welding without proper precautions
- Delay in discovery of the fire on the mooring deck
- Avenue of fire spread through ventilation ducts containing lint and dust accumulations

2000 November Meeting Report on Comments Available

Listed below are documents that may have received comments and would, therefore, have reports appearing in the 2000 November Meeting Report on Comments (ROC).

- NFPA 31 *Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment*
- NFPA 36 *Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants*
- NFPA 50 *Standard for Bulk Oxygen Systems at Consumer Sites*
- NFPA 51A *Standard for Acetylene Cylinder Charging Plants*
- NFPA 58 *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*
- NFPA 59 *Standard for the Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases at Utility Gas Plants*
- NFPA 59A *Standard for the Production, Storage, and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)*
- NFPA 85 *Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code*
- NFPA 101A *Guide on Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*
- NFPA 105 *Recommended Practice for the Installation of Smoke-Control Door Assemblies*
- NFPA 111 *Standard on Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems*
- NFPA 121 *Standard on Fire Protection for Self-Propelled and Mobile Surface Mining Equipment*
- NFPA 160 *Standard for Flame Effects Before an Audience*
- NFPA 258 *Standard Research Test Method for Determining Smoke Generation of Solid Materials*
- NFPA 287 *Standard Test Methods for Measurement of Flammability of Materials in Cleanrooms Using a Fire Propagation Apparatus (FPA)*
- NFPA 418 *Standard for Heliports*
- NFPA 803 *Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Nuclear Power Plants*
- NFPA 804 *Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*
- NFPA 805 *Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*
- NFPA 901 *Standard Classifications for Incident Reporting and Fire Protection Data*
- NFPA 909 *Standard for the Protection of Cultural Resources, Including Museums, Libraries, Places of Worship, and Historic Properties*
- NFPA 914 *Recommended Practice for Fire Protection in Historic Structures*
- NFPA 921 *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*
- NFPA 1126 *Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience*
- NFPA 1401 *Recommended Practice for Fire Service Training Reports and Records*
- NFPA 1405 *Guide for Land-Based Fire Fighters Who Respond to Marine Vessel Fires*
- NFPA 1851 *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire-Fighting Protective Ensembles*
- NFPA 1906 *Standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus*
- NFPA 1912 *Standard on Refurbishing Fire Apparatus*
- NFPA 1951 *Standard on Protective Ensemble for Technical Rescue Incidents*

- NFPA 1983 *Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope and System Components*
- NFPA 8501 *Standard for Single Burner Boiler Operation*
- NFPA 8502 *Standard for Prevention of Furnace Explosions/Implosions in Multiple Burner Boilers*
- NFPA 8503 *Standard for Pulverized Fuel Systems*
- NFPA 8504 *Standard on Atmospheric Fluidized-Bed Boiler Operation*
- NFPA 8505 *Standard for Stoker Operation*
- NFPA 8506 *Standard on Heat Recovery Steam Generator Systems*

The 2000 November Meeting Report on Comments is available on the NFPA web site at www.nfpa.org. Print and CD-ROM versions can be ordered by filling out the attached coupon and returning it to NFPA. Under the NFPA standards-making process, recipients of the Report on Proposals have a period of time in which to make comments on the Report. This comment period ended March 31, 2000. The Report on Comments will contain all comments received on the Report, together with the responses of the respective committees.

Return the coupon to NFPA International, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or fax it to (617) 770-0700.

Please send me:

- 2000 November Meeting Report on Comments (ROC-2000NM) (CD-ROM Version)
- 2000 November Meeting Report on Comments (ROC-2000NM) (Print Version)

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PLEASE NOTE: Organization members of the NFPA, subscribers to NFCSS (National Fire Code Subscription Service), and members of NFPA committees/panels who have printed reports in the Report on Comments will be sent the publication automatically and need not return this coupon.

NFPA Committee Announcements

Call for Members

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

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

Anyone interested in serving on an NFPA technical committee should request a technical committee application form from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA International, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

Coming Events

Committee Calendar

September

- 12-13 Motorsports Venues, Fontana, CA
- 12-14 Recreational Vehicles, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA
- 15-16 Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, Raleigh, NC
- 16-18 Fire Service Occupational Safety Committee, San Francisco, CA
- 18-20 Explosion Protection Systems, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA
- 19-20 Western Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Portland, OR**
- 26-27 Northeastern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Baltimore, MD**
- 27-29 Wood and Cellulosic Materials Processing, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA

October

- 3-4 Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, New Orleans, LA**
- 5-6 NFPA Standards Council, Dublin, Ireland
- 12-15 Fire Tests, Nashville, TN
- 17-18 Finishing Processes, Monterey, CA

23-25

Venting Systems for Cooking Appliances, Cincinnati, OH

23-26

Management Institute for Fire Marshals Course, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

November

- 6-7 Motor Vehicle and Highway Fire Protection, NFPA Headquarters, Quincy, MA
- 9-11 Lightning Protection, Reno, NV
- 11-15 IFMA 2nd Annual International Fire Marshals Conference, Orlando, FL**
- 11-15 NFPA Fall Educational Meeting, Orlando, FL
- 27-Dec. 1 Committee Week, Tampa, FL
- 26-29 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
- 28-30 Water Spray Fixed Systems
- 30-Dec. 1 Aircraft Fuel Servicing
- 2-5 Pyrotechnics

December

- 7-8 Classification and Properties of Hazardous Chemical Data, Savannah, GA
- 12 Public Emergency Service Communication, Tampa, FL

Committees Soliciting Proposals

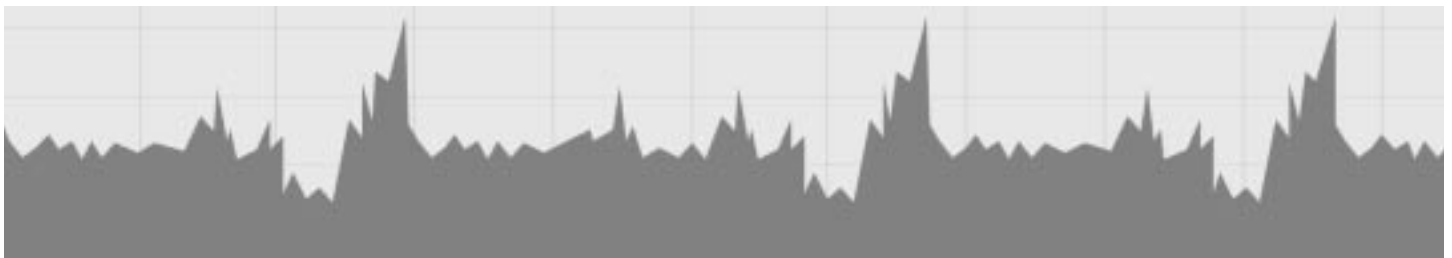
The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their respective reports. In accordance with the *Regulations Governing Committee Projects*, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content for the documents listed below. Proposals received by 5:00 p.m. EDST on the closing date indicated will be acted on by the committee, and that action will be published in the committee's report. Proposals must be submitted to Codes and Standards Administration on proposal forms available in the back of all NFPA documents or from NFPA headquarters. (NOTE: For information on specific committee meeting dates, contact Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA.) Please note that for **new documents (P*)**, a draft copy of the **new document** on which to submit proposals will be available. **Copies of new document (P*)** drafts are available from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA International, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/procom/document.html>. If you need a current edition of a document, please contact NFPA International, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or call (800) 344-3555.

Document No./ Edition	Proposal Title	Meeting Closing Date	Reporting
NFPA 1-2000	<i>Fire Prevention Code</i>	6/8/2001	F2002
NFPA 11-1998	<i>Standard for Low-Expansion Foam</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 13-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i>	11/3/2000	A2002
NFPA 13D-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes</i>	11/3/2000	A2002
NFPA 13R-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and Including Four Stories in Height</i>	11/3/2000	A2002
NFPA 17-1998	<i>Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 17A-1998	<i>Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 20-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 51B-1999	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 52-1998	<i>Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems Code</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 55-1998	<i>Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 57-1999	<i>Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems Code</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 61-1999	<i>Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Dust Explosions in Agricultural and Food Products Facilities</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 69-1997	<i>Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 70B-1998	<i>Recommended Practice for Electrical Equipment Maintenance</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 72-1999	<i>National Fire Alarm Code®</i>	11/10/2000	A2002
NFPA 79-1997	<i>Electrical Standard for Industrial Machinery</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 86-1999	<i>Standard for Ovens and Furnaces</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 86C-1999	<i>Standard for Industrial Furnaces Using a Special Processing Atmosphere</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 86D-1999	<i>Standard for Industrial Furnaces Using Vacuum as an Atmosphere</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 97-2000	<i>Standard Glossary of Terms Relating to Chimneys, Vents, and Heat-Producing Appliances</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 101®-2000	<i>Life Safety Code®</i>	3/30/2001	F2002
NFPA 101B-1999	<i>Code for Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures</i>	9/15/2000	A2002
NFPA 130-2000	<i>Standard for Fixed Guideway Transit and Passenger Rail Systems</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 140-1999	<i>Standard on Motion Picture and Television Production Studio Soundstages and Approved Production Facilities</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 170-1999	<i>Standard for Fire Safety Symbols</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 211-2000	<i>Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 225-P*	<i>Standard for Manufactured Home Sites, Communities, and Setups</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 252-1999	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies</i>	12/28/2001	A2003

International Fire Marshals Association

NFPA 260-1998	<i>Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 261-1998	<i>Standard Method of Test for Determining Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies to Ignition by Smoldering Cigarettes</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 262-1999	<i>Standard Method of Test for Flame Travel and Smoke of Wires and Cables for Use in Air-Handling Spaces</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 265-1998	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Evaluating Room Fire Growth Contribution of Textile Wall Coverings</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 272-1999	<i>Standard Method of Test for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Upholstered Furniture Components or Composites and Mattresses Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 285-1998	<i>Standard Method of Test for the Evaluation of Flammability Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components Using the Intermediate-Scale, Multistory Test Apparatus</i>	12/28/2001	A2003
NFPA 415-1997	<i>Standard on Airport Terminal Buildings, Fueling Ramp Drainage, and Loading Walkways</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 480-1998	<i>Standard for the Storage, Handling and Processing of Magnesium Solids and Powders</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 485-1999	<i>Standard for the Storage, Handling, Processing, and Use of Lithium Metal</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 505-1999	<i>Fire Safety Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks Including Type Designations, Areas of Use, Conversions, Maintenance, and Operation</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 651-1998	<i>Standard for the Machining and Finishing of Aluminum and the Production and Handling of Aluminum Powders</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 705-1997	<i>Recommended Practice for a Field Flame Test for Textiles and Films</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 750-2000	<i>Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems</i>	7/6/2001	F2002
NFPA 1122-1997	<i>Code for Model Rocketry</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 1221-1999	<i>Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 1911-1997	<i>Standard for Service Tests of Fire Pump Systems on Fire Apparatus</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 1914-1997	<i>Standard for Testing Fire Department Aerial Devices</i>	1/5/2001	A2002
NFPA 1999-1997	<i>Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations</i>	12/29/2000	F2002
NFPA 5000-P*	<i>NFPA Building Code™</i>	11/9/2000	A2002

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



Proposed *Bylaw* Change

In accordance with the IFMA *Bylaws*, notice is hereby given on a proposed *Bylaw* change to be brought before the IFMA membership at its meeting to be held on November 14, 2000, in Orlando, FL.

IFMA PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Add a new Article 9, Honors, and renumber the remaining.

ARTICLE 9. HONORS

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

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

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

(c) Meritorious Service Award:
The Meritorious Service Award is to recognize a member or members of the Association for notable and significant service in the public fire safety fields, to include, but not be limited to, fire prevention, fire

inspection, fire safety education, fire investigation, code enforcement, and fire code development in keeping with the highest traditions of association.

- (1) Nominations shall be made to the Executive Secretary by May 1.
- (2) The Meritorious Service Award shall be presented at the Fall Meeting of the association.
- (3) The award shall not be awarded more than once per year.

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

- (1) Nominations shall be made to the Executive Secretary by November 1.
- (2) The Percy Bugbee Award shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the association.
- (3) The award shall not be awarded more than once per year.

If anyone has any questions, please call Executive Secretary Steven Sawyer at (617) 984-7423.

2nd Annual International Fire Marshals Conference Schedule

November 11–15, 2000 • Orlando, FL

Program-at-a-Glance

Saturday, November 11

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—IFMA Executive Board Meeting
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.—“You Too Can Be Sherlock Holmes: Inspecting School Facilities”
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.—“Management Institute for Fire Marshals: Evaluating Fire Prevention Programs” This course is 1-1/2 days long and continues all day Sunday; you must attend both days.

Sunday, November 12

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—“Performance-Based Fire Protection and the Fire Service”
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—“Management Institute for Fire Marshals: Evaluating Fire Prevention Programs” This course is a continuation of Saturday; you must attend both days.
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—“Legal Aspects of Fire Prevention”

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.—“Legal Aspects of Fire Investigations”
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.—IFMA Hospitality Room

Monday, November 13

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—NFPA Opening General Session
12:00 p.m. to end—Open

Tuesday, November 14

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.—IFMA Codes and Standards Forum
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.—IFMA Business Meeting
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.—“Hyperbaric Chambers Fire Safety”

Wednesday, November 15

8:30 a.m. to end—NFPA Technical Committee Report Session

Management Institute for Fire Marshals

October 23–26, 2000 • Calgary, Alberta, Canada

The “Management Institute for Fire Marshals” is another in a series of courses offered by the International Fire Marshals Association’s Fire Protection Institute to assist persons involved with fire prevention. The course consists of three sessions held during four days.

Who should attend? This course is open to all individuals interested in furthering their basic knowledge of managing a fire prevention program. Attendees include fire prevention personnel interested in advancing their career, fire marshals, and other interested in becoming managers.

The following topics are covered:

◆ *Strategic Planning for Fire Prevention Programs*

Developing mission, values, and goals. What is happening now and mapping how to get from here to the future. Essential ingredients in making a strategic plan work. Managing input from participation to obtain commitment to the final product. Monitoring and modifying by formal evaluation and review techniques. And, more!

◆ *Developing Effective Relationships with Elected Officials*

Critical elements of building partnerships with elected officials. What makes good communication with elected officials. What are the best approaches to take to influence political decision(s). How effective partnerships can be established. Scoring political points. Communicating effectively with your elected officials. Critical elements in building partnerships. Tools for communication. And, more!

◆ *Evaluation of Fire Prevention Programs*

Communication with the public on progress toward strategic plan outcomes. Includes how to develop and use workload measures, efficiency measures, and effectiveness measures. Reporting on organizational performance measures annually. Transmitting evaluation and audit report results effectively to policy makers and managers.

The fee is \$295 for IFMA or NFPA members and \$350 for nonmembers. You are responsible for your travel and lodging expenses. There are no refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date. IFMA reserves the right to cancel courses due to limited registration.

Classes will be held at the following location. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

October 23–26, 2000

Holiday Inn Calgary Downtown
119 12th Avenue Southwest
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
1-800-661-9378

A room rate of \$105 (Canadian) + tax/day has been reserved for participants. You must advise the hotel that that you are part of the IFMA Fire Protection Institute group.

IFMA Fire Protection Institute Registration Form

(please print or type)

The registration fee for the four-day Institute program is \$295 for NFPA or IFMA members; \$350 for nonmembers. Note: Registration fees are U.S. dollars. You can register now and we will bill you later (please include purchase order); or, if you prefer, you can send the complete registration fee of \$295/\$350 (USD) with this form.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Purchase Order #: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Social Security #: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

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

Enclosed is a check for the \$295 or \$350 registration fee.

Please make checks payable to NFPA

Charge the \$295 or \$350 registration fee to my credit card.

American Express MasterCard Visa

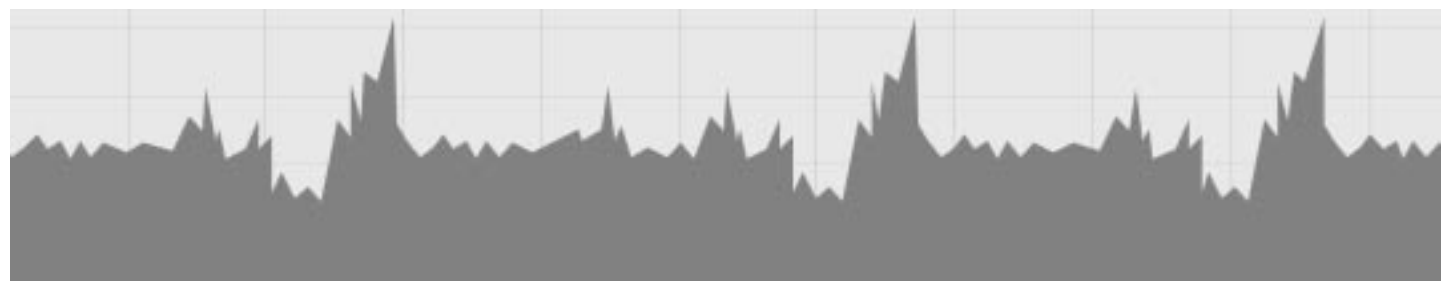
Card #: _____

Card Exp. Date: _____

NFPA Member #: _____

Please enroll me in the **October 23–26, 2000, Calgary, Canada**, “Management Institute for Fire Marshals.”

Please mail to Steven F. Sawyer, Executive Secretary, IFMA,
1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101 USA; call
(617) 984-7424; or fax (617) 984-7056.



IFMA Merchandise Order Form

IFMA has a new line of merchandise to promote IFMA. They include a new 100% cotton white golf shirt with red and blue striped collar and sleeves and a blue nylon windshirt with hand pockets, both come with the IFMA logo on the left breast.

IFMA Order Form

Baseball Hat - \$15.00 each, includes postage and handling

	Number	Cost	Total Cost
	_____	\$15	_____

Golf Shirt - \$38.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X Large	_____	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$30	_____

Lapel pin - \$3.00 each, includes postage and handling

	Number	Cost	Total Cost
	_____	\$3	_____

Wind Shirt - \$40.00 each, includes postage and handling

Size	Number	Cost	Total Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Small	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Large	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> X Large	_____	\$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> XX-Large	_____	\$40	_____

Grand Total \$ _____

- Check enclosed, please make payable to IFMA
- Charge my credit card. MasterCard Visa AmEx
- Card #: _____
- Card Exp. Date: _____
- Signature: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

Please mail or fax to:

IFMA
 Attention - Order
 1 Batterymarch Park
 Quincy, MA 02269
 Fax 617-984-7056



Hurricane Glass and Fire Suppression: A Deadly Combination?

By Jon W. Pasqualone

At approximately 0230 hours on April 7 in Martin County, FL, fire rescue units were dispatched to a reported structure fire in an upscale, gated community nestled between the Intercoastal waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. The initial call reported the home was under construction and heavily involved with fire.

Upon arrival of the first-due units, the lieutenant reported a two-story, "very large," single-family dwelling heavily involved on the second floor. A platform unit was first to arrive and was directed to the fireside of the structure where, moments later, it began to collapse. Knowing it was unsafe to enter the dwelling, the decision was made to attack the fire defensively from the exterior and with the support of the platform.

While suppression crews attempted to gain access to fight the fire by breaking windows to allow entry of hose streams, it was soon discovered that the windows in this house were something we had not seen before in a residence. The owner had installed a hurricane glass product that was virtually unbreakable. We tried to break the glass with pike poles and axes, but we could not penetrate the glass. We soon realized that we were faced with a lexan-type glass, but we did not have a 40-tooth carbide-tip blade to penetrate it. It is common to carry a 24-tip blade on firefighting apparatus. Our inability to gain entry slowed firefighting efforts and became a major concern for us in extinguishing this fire and for future responses to similarly constructed structures.

These windows are listed as an approved means of egress and, along with the fixed glass, were tested for water resistance and air infiltration. Each complies with the county requirement for installation in a 140 mph wind zone. After the fact we talked to Building Department personnel who had no idea that we would encounter an unacceptable access barrier under fire conditions. As such, we were never consulted about the use of this product.

To make matters worse, the roof assembly was covered with "5-V" crimp 26 ga. metal panels and the siding was a concrete composite board. The effect of these "hurricane safe" construction features turned this building into an oven. The result was a fire that, at the time of this writing, is estimated at \$1.5 million of damage and 7,500 square feet of total destruction.

The Problem

This home was approximately six weeks from completion at the time of the fire. Firefighters could not gain access to extinguish this fire. Likewise, if a rescue were necessary, we would not have been able to accomplish this primary firefighting task.

An additional concern is that Martin County requires that all new construction install either impact-resistant glass or hurricane shutters. It is anticipated that commercial construction will opt for the glass to avoid the need to shutter with approaching storms. This is consistent with the new *Uniform*

Building Code, which the State of Florida will put into effect on July 1, 2001. But what if? What if this were an occupied dwelling? What if the first arriving firefighters were faced with the horror of parents screaming, "Rescue my baby!" What if this home had been protected with automatic fire sprinklers? In the case of this home, sprinklers probably would not have helped. There was no power and the home was intentionally set on fire. What about the next one that is occupied?

The Challenge

There is no doubt that a solution will not be met without several challenges. The windows are used as part of an effort to keep residents protected in their homes when a hurricane threatens the coast. The building industry will challenge the extra cost for fire protection. The development community will argue that hurricane protection is required and it created the fire risk. Homeowners and realty groups will no doubt join the campaign. Again I ask, what if that is your home on fire? What if that is your family at risk? Is the construction cost of a built-in safety feature actually going to bankrupt you and foil the plans of building that dream home? I doubt it! Homeowners who build in coastal communities accept extra hurricane protection as the price they pay for building there. Martin County has not been hit by a category two hurricane (96–110mph winds) or greater in more than 20 years. By contrast, we have had over 500 residential structure fires during the same time.

The Solution

Obviously, we in the fire service will entertain any opportunity to introduce residential fire sprinklers. Typically, we write codes that are the result of a tragedy or a series of events that has resulted in the loss of lives or property. While this is only one event and there was no loss of life, just one firefighter injury, this is a serious concern to our department and it is our intention to act on it. We are proposing a requirement that will ensure the installation of fire sprinklers in any structure built with "hurricane resistant" windows. We need your input and support for this effort.

I encourage all coastal communities to talk to their building officials and be sure they have a plan if they encounter this situation. I will write more on the progress of this effort as it goes through the system.

For information on this topic, or if you have a similar experience to share, please contact:

Jon W. Pasqualone
Fire Prevention Chief
Martin County Department of Emergency Services
2401 Southeast Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996
Call (561) 288-5633; fax (561) 221-1457
jpasqual@martin.fl.us

New Book: *Inside the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire*

My name is Wayne Dammert, and on May 28, 1977, I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I was a banquet captain at the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky, and at 9:00 p.m. on that fateful evening, while the club was packed with more than 2,500 patrons and probably 200 employees, the club caught on fire.

At the time I happened to be on the second floor, where more than 200 people were attending two separate parties. The fire had started at the base of a spiral staircase leading to the second floor, and the flames raced up those stairs, immediately blocking any chance to escape.

After being trapped for a while, I was able to lead many people back through a narrow service hallway and down some very narrow and steep stairs into the kitchen.

I did many other things that evening, including praying over at least 50 bodies that were lying in the soft grass in the garden behind the building. As I was doing this, the building was in complete flames before we heard explosions from the many portable bars (whiskey bottles and tanks) in the club.

For four days after the fire, I helped firemen and investigators go through the wreckage of the building because I knew the place so well. On the fourth day I pointed to a spot and told a state policeman to look for bodies. It was an area on the first floor just below

some second-floor dressing rooms, and a lot of people had used those rooms. They searched and found the last two bodies, ladies who had been in one of my parties. That was a real blow to me.

The final toll was 165 dead and as many more injured, some scarred for life. It was the worst fire in America in the last 58 years. I have written a book about the incident, *Inside the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire*, which has 280 pages with some 60 pictures and includes interviews with survivors, policemen, firemen, employees, victims, and family members. It retails for \$21.95. If you are interested, I can send you an autographed copy for \$20.00, including postage.

You can get in touch with me several ways.

Wayne Dammert
3700 Parkview Drive
Alexandria, KY 41001
E-mail: johnwaynebetty@aol.com
Phone: (606) 635-2274



I would be happy to hear from you and to talk to you. Thanks for all the work you do as firemen, paramedics, and rescue workers. God bless each and every one of you.

Wayne Dammert

Leading Code Development Organizations Contribute to NFPA's *Consensus Codes*™ Set

Three of the nation's leading code development organizations are moving forward in the development of NFPA's *Consensus Codes* set – a full set of codes for the built environment. NFPA's partnerships with the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) will result in an historic, integrated set of codes developed through true, open consensus.

“Along with our partners, we are making tremendous progress toward bringing well known and highly respected, quality safety documents into a full set of coordinated and compatible codes and standards,” said George D. Miller, President and CEO of NFPA. “Our members, our partners, and other interested parties are fully committed to this effort because they understand that safety officials are seeking a full set of consensus-based codes.”

As part of the *Consensus Codes* project, NFPA is developing the *NFPA Building Code*™. A draft of that document is available on the NFPA *Building Code* web site at buildingcode.nfpa.org. “NFPA's Standards Council, committee members, and staff have worked hard to bring us to this point,” said Miller. “Our partners also will be key to the development of consistent, compatible codes for the built environment.”

IAPMO and NFPA are partnering to develop plumbing and mechanical codes under American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines. IAPMO already has begun updating the *Uniform Plumbing Code* and the *Uniform Mechanical Code* process to incorporate true consensus. In November 2000, a formal call for proposals will be issued by IAPMO. All interested parties will be invited to participate as these two time-tested, widely used codes are updated and published in 2003.

“IAPMO is committed to an open code development process,” said Russ Chaney, Executive Director of IAPMO. “ANSI accreditation and participation in a full set of consensus codes are the next logical steps for our organization, as we continue to enhance the value of our codes.”

WFCA and NFPA also have initiated efforts to jointly develop a fire code that integrates NFPA 1, *Fire Prevention Code*, and the *Uniform Fire Code*—the two most widely adopted fire codes in the United States. In 2003, the resulting merged fire code will be ANSI-compliant and have gone through NFPA's consensus code development process. “As a result of our partnership with NFPA, jurisdictions seeking a coordinated set of codes will be able to select a package which includes this proven, ANSI-compliant fire code,” said James Rankin, President of WFCA.

***Sparky*[®] Urges Fire Departments to Participate in NFPA's "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!"**

The three-year campaign has already saved 58 lives in two years.

In July, fire departments throughout North America received the free safety campaign kit, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!" as part of NFPA's official sponsorship of Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 8–14. With support and resources provided from FPW 2000 partners, KIDDE Safety, Lowe's Home Safety Council, the U.S. Fire Administration, and The USAA Educational Foundation, key efforts of the campaign will teach school children to plan and practice fire drills in their homes.

NFPA recognizes the lifesaving role that firefighters play in their communities, both on the fireground and off. This year, the official Fire Prevention Week poster celebrates firefighters as leaders in community safety by featuring a firefighter in station gear, talking about home escape planning with a group of kids. Now in its third year, "The Great Escape" campaign is designed to motivate families to develop and practice home fire escape plans so they'll be prepared to survive a deadly home fire. The campaign already has a proven track record. In only its first two years, "The Great Escape" has saved 58 lives in documented accounts—including 35 children under the age of 12.

Here's how the campaign works: Between now and October, fire departments will use the FPW planning toolkit (www.firepreventionweek.org) to prepare families in their communities for a unified North American fire drill. While local times may vary to suit community preferences, NFPA is publicizing "The Great Escape" as taking place on Wednesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m., when families are home together. NFPA and its funding partners are offering incentive prizes to encourage widespread participation in "The Great Escape," including a special grand prize just for immediate family members of fire service personnel—a trip

to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, valued at \$10,000. Fire departments could win the Robotronics[®] *Sparky* Robot, a fully animated *Sparky* that moves, speaks, winks, blinks, and plays audio cassettes—all by remote control (\$8,500 value). Ten prizes of a Shafton *Sparky* costume (\$1,300 each) and 100 full-size *Sparky* puppets (\$100 each) will also be awarded.

For departments conducting fire safety open houses, NFPA offers the new FPW in a box, complete with posters, stickers, fire hats, a banner, and two educational videos for children, along with 200 escape grids to pass out to young friends. To order, please call 1-800-344-3555 or visit www.nfpacatalog.org.

"This three-year campaign has been, without question, the most successful Fire Prevention Week program we've ever conducted," says Meri-K Appy, vice president of Public Education for NFPA. "Now in its third and final year, we're bringing 'The Great Escape' home to fire departments, by celebrating all the firefighter heroes who use education as an additional rescue tool to keep the people and communities they serve safer from fire."

The History of Fire Prevention Week: On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of October 1871, when more than 250 people died and 17,400 structures burned more than 2,000 acres in 27 hours, fire marshals advocated an annual observation as a way to keep the public informed about fire prevention. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed. NFPA has officially sponsored FPW since the observance was established.

NFPA 30A Technical Committee Seeks Information on Refueling Fires

The NFPA Committee on Automotive and Marine Service Stations (NFPA 30A, *Automotive and Marine Service Station Code*) seeks any information related to service station fires that might have been initiated by a static electricity discharge. Over the past 12 to 18 months, a number of such incidents have been reported. The cause appears to involve as a common element a situation whereby the patron begins fueling the vehicle, latches open the dispenser nozzle, then returns to the vehicle until the fuel tank is filled. When the patron grasps the nozzle to remove it, a flash of flame occurs. Usually, there is just a brief flash. In a few instances, a spill and injuries have occurred. We are particularly interested in any incidents in New Jersey or Oregon, since these states do not allow self-serve fueling.

Send information to R. P. Benedetti, NFPA International, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

Question and Answer

NFPA's Codes- and Standards-Making System

Question: How do I make changes to an NFPA code or standard at an NFPA Association Meeting?

Answer: Ever since the first NFPA Association Meeting in 1896, being able to propose changes to NFPA codes and standards has been an important part of these meetings. Although refinements have occurred over the years, this continues to be an integral part of the NFPA codes and standards development process.

Before explaining how someone goes about proposing these document changes, we have to first ask the question: "Exactly what is an Association Meeting?" Answer — These have traditionally been referred to as the NFPA Annual Meeting and the NFPA Fall Meeting, and they are held during May and November, respectively, of each year. As you may know, a name change has occurred with these meetings. The May Association meeting is now known as "the NFPA World Fire Safety Congress and Exposition," while the November meeting is called "the Fall Education Conference."

Changes to NFPA documents (codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides) are considered at every Association Meeting during the Technical Committee Report (TCR) session. These TCR sessions are an integral part of the NFPA codes and standards development process, and they're held in accordance with the *Bylaws* of the Association.

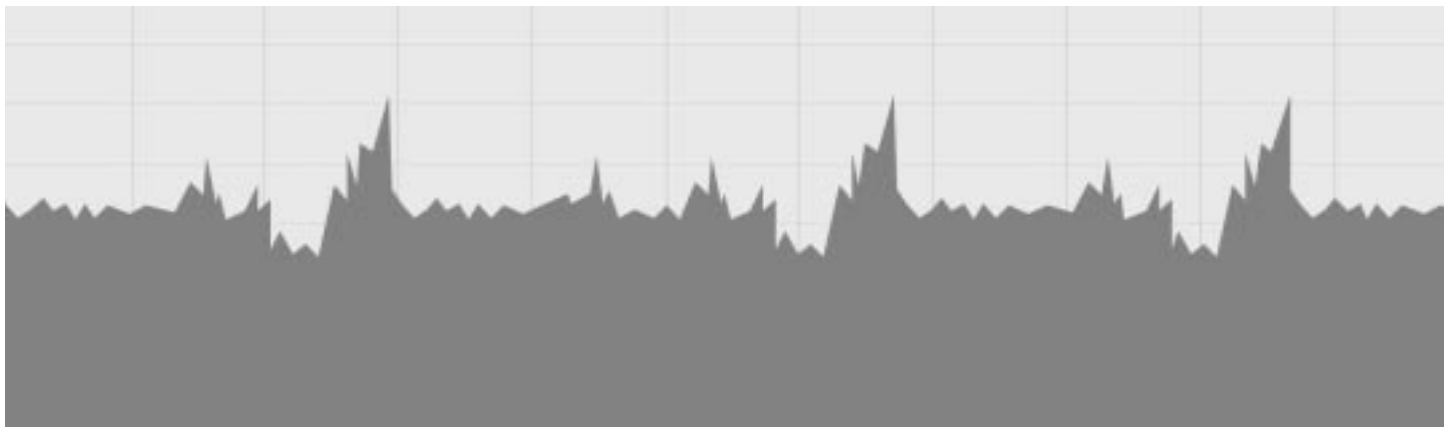
The TCR session is just what its name implies: A forum where technical committees give their reports to the general NFPA membership. The intent is to allow further public review and open debate of the committee's action. This is an important feature in assuring openness and fairness in the codes and standards development process. Anyone, regardless of whether they are an NFPA member or not, may attend the May or November Association Meeting to present their views on the changes occurring to each document as presented by the responsible technical committee.

Although anyone may present their views, only certain motions are valid to initiate changes. The NFPA process is one that narrows and refines all changes occurring to a particular document during its revision cycle, and thus the only amendments that may be proposed from the floor at a TCR session are those that have been previously published as proposals in the *Report on Proposals (ROP)* or comments in the *Report on Comments (ROC)*. At the TCR session, the individual making an amending motion must be either the submitter of the original proposal or comment, or a duly authorized representative.

Anyone, however, may propose that an entire committee report be returned to the committee for further study. Further, anyone may propose that a portion of an *ROP* or *ROC* be returned to the wording in the previous edition of the document if a change has occurred in that portion of the document between the release of the *ROP* and the release of the *ROC*.

Debate at the TCR session occurs in accordance with the NFPA *Convention Rules* and *Robert's Rules of Order*. After the debate at the TCR session, the NFPA membership votes to make a recommendation based on the following actions: approve; amend; return a portion of the report to the committee; or return the entire report to the committee. However, only NFPA members of record for at least 180 days may vote on the membership recommendation to adopt the reports. The technical committee then is letter balloted on any amendments made at the May or November Association meeting to further establish their viewpoint.

Making changes to an NFPA code or standard at an NFPA Association Meeting often seems more complex than it really is. Specific details are included in the NFPA *Regulations Governing Committee Projects* and elsewhere. In addition, it is the job of NFPA's technical staff to facilitate the codes and standards writing process, and assist anyone who has questions. Therefore, don't hesitate to ask for clarification from any technical staff if you wish to propose changes to an NFPA document at an Association Meeting.



New IFMA Members

CANADA

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El Paso, TX 79925

Paul Garcia
Assistant Fire Marshal
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Texas City, TX 77590

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Fire Investigator/Inspector
Suffolk Department of Fire and
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128 Mt. Vernon Ave.
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Richard McDaniel
Safety Engineer
State Fire Marshal's Office
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Roanoke, VA 24019

WEST VIRGINIA

Eric Schmidt
Fire Protection Engineer
NIOSH
1032 Imperial
Morgantown, WV 26508

WYOMING

Jim Wingert
Fire Chief
LCFD #2
5800 N. College
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Meet the Board

Paul Maldonado, Secretary



Paul Maldonado

Paul Maldonado became an Austin, Texas, firefighter in 1980. He steadily moved up through the ranks and was appointed to assistant fire chief in 1995. As the fire marshal, Chief Maldonado is responsible for inspections, investigations, public education, fire protection engineering, and hazardous materials engineering services.

In 1991 Paul received a Certificate of Merit for his efforts in administering and directing the development of the Austin Fire Department Cadet Training program. He went on to help reorganize the department's Technical Rescue team. Serving as the quality facilitator, Paul also has been active in the department's quality management initiatives by participating in winning various Austin Quality Awards.

Paul got his first taste of how city departments are managed when he completed a city manager internship in the early 1990s and later completed the department's executive officer internship. Paul has been an active member of the NFPA since 1995 and currently serves as the International Fire Marshals Association's Executive Board secretary.

Paul earned an associate's degree with honors in business administration and is currently enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin. Paul is married, has two children, and enjoys reading, exercising, and volunteering with any program to help youth grow and develop into good citizens.

President's Corner



Jim Crawford

I frequently hear complaints about how expensive it is to participate in the NFPA process. As a local AHJ, I certainly empathize with those who have severely restricted travel budgets. It is often true that local decision-makers view travel as a perk of business, rather than a critical part of our business. Obviously, many businesses recognize that the codes and standards development process can have a direct impact on their profitability. For some of them, travel is an expensive proposition, too. But it is equally evident that far more businesses than fire departments find the funding to travel to NFPA meetings.

IFMA is working on this problem in three ways. First, NFPA has established regional code committees to increase the fire service's opportunities to participate. IFMA and NFPA jointly operate the regional code committees. I view their creation as a sign of NFPA's support of IFMA and of fire marshals in general. It represents a significant monetary contribution for us because NFPA funds our travel to the code committees. It is a way for us to have our voice heard in the system.

Second, some IFMA Chapters are funding the travel of representatives to specific technical committees. My personal thanks to the Florida and Michigan Chapters for stepping up to bat in this fashion. It is a way for us (collectively) to support a coordinated IFMA representative at the heart of NFPA's system. Of course I'd like to see even more of this because it's a positive way for us to increase our participation.

Finally, IFMA is pursuing the possibilities for another funding source to pay for AHJ participation in NFPA's system. One option being considered now is an endowment fund, which would require some heavy fundraising but would yield ongoing financial support. NFPA is considering this option and others to deal with this problem of participation, but that doesn't mean we're off the hook. While we're working on these solutions, there is something you can do on your own.

You can work to convince your local decision-makers that our participation in the codes and standards development process is as important as the purchase of new firefighting equipment. Don't we espouse the tremendous impact that modern codes and standards have on fire and life safety in our own areas? For those who don't adopt NFPA 1, another model fire code may be used. However, don't our current fire codes reference many NFPA standards as a foundation for fire and life safety? It is critical that the enforcers' voice be heard on codes and standards development issues. It's equally important that our voice is heard at the earliest possible opportunity: the technical committee level.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, and if you have some funding to do so, we'd like to hear from you. We have a codes and standards committee for IFMA that helps to coordinate our collective voice in the process. Your support in this regard helps us all, and if we divide up the work, the burden for one jurisdiction is not too great.

We'll keep working from our end to increase AHJ participation, and find creative ways to fund participation. Meanwhile, I hope to see more actively participate in the process.

Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. As you can tell from this issue we have finalized the plans for the 2nd Annual International Fire Marshals Conference to be held November 11–15, 2000, in Orlando, FL, in conjunction with the NFPA Fall Educational Conference. I believe the educational committee has put together a variety of education programs that should satisfy all attendees. We hope to see you all at the Fall Educational Conference, supporting IFMA's growing role.

IFMA is interested in hearing ideas from its members about one- to two-day courses that IFMA could offer. We are trying to expand our education offering and your input will assist the educational committee in determining our member's needs.

The NFPA/IFMA Regional Fire Code Development Committees have just completed their fall meetings, which were very productive as usual. Their input to the NFPA codes- and standards-making process is a valuable asset to IFMA. It also assists our Codes and Standards Committee with their report.

We have received requests for Chapter applications from the Ohio Fire Marshals Association and the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers. We are in the final stages of approval for Washington State Association of Fire Marshals and hope to have them as a Chapter in November.

The Board is proposing a *Bylaw* change regarding honoring our members. The change suggests that we add the Meritorious Service Award, which can be awarded annually to a member(s) of the association for notable and significant service. This is a key step in recognizing our members for their outstanding service to the organization and community. Please support the *Bylaw* change at the business meeting at the Annual Conference.

We are always looking for individuals to assist IFMA with its goals and objectives. If you are interested in serving, please contact me.

U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms

The following executive summary is from the January 2000 report, *U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Alarms*, by Marty Ahrens. Please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or E-mail osds@nfpa.org to request a complimentary copy of the complete report.

Half of the home fire deaths occur in the 6% of homes with no smoke alarms.

As of 1997, 15 of every 16 (94%) U.S. homes had at least one smoke alarm. However, 1997 fire data show that 38% of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments and 51% of the home fire deaths still occurred in the now small share of homes with no smoke alarms. In three of every ten reported fires in smoke alarm-equipped homes, the devices didn't work. Smoke alarms did not sound in half of the fire deaths that resulted from fires in homes equipped with these devices. Thus, more than two-fifths of the home fires and only one in four home fire deaths occurred in homes in which smoke alarms sounded.

Homes with smoke alarms (whether or not the alarms were operational) typically have a death rate that is about 40–50% less than the rate for homes without alarms.

In 1992, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission sent surveyors to people's homes to find out how common smoke alarms were and what portion of these devices were working in the general population's homes. In one of every five homes that had at least one smoke alarm installed, not a single one was working. This is a smaller share than what is seen in homes with reported fires, but it is still too high. When homes without smoke alarms are added to homes with only non-working alarms, we see that one-quarter of U.S. households do not have the protection of even one working smoke alarm.

Although households without smoke alarms are slightly more likely to be poor, non-white or headed by an adult over 65 years old, the principal common feature is a much greater tendency to have reported fires. Households with smoke alarms can discover and control a larger share of the fires they have without involving the fire department. This influences the statistics. The usual socioeconomic factors correlated with fire risk are less useful as predictors of smoke alarm usage.

Smoke alarm failures usually result from dead, missing, or disconnected batteries.

When smoke alarms don't work, it is usually because the batteries are dead, disconnected or missing. People are most likely to remove or disconnect batteries because of nuisance activations. People need to test the alarm every month to make sure the batteries are still working and to replace the battery every year.

Fortunately, the percentage of smoke alarms that are non-working has leveled off, so the percentage of households with at least one working smoke alarm has followed an upward trend in most years. This is encouraging.

Strategies to ensure that smoke alarms continue to work after installation have not been evaluated in the field, but wired-in (or hard-wired) systems do not need new batteries (except for back-up in power outages), do not permit removal of their primary power sources for use elsewhere, and are statistically much less susceptible to power source interruptions. At present, most homes have battery-powered smoke alarms, which are not interconnected. A single station smoke alarm may not be heard on other floors or in other rooms.

continued on page 18

U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms continued from page 17

Follow these tips

NFPA's *Learn Not to Burn*® Foundation's Technical Advisory Council issued these recommendations in 1989 and 1991 for the testing and maintenance of smoke alarms:

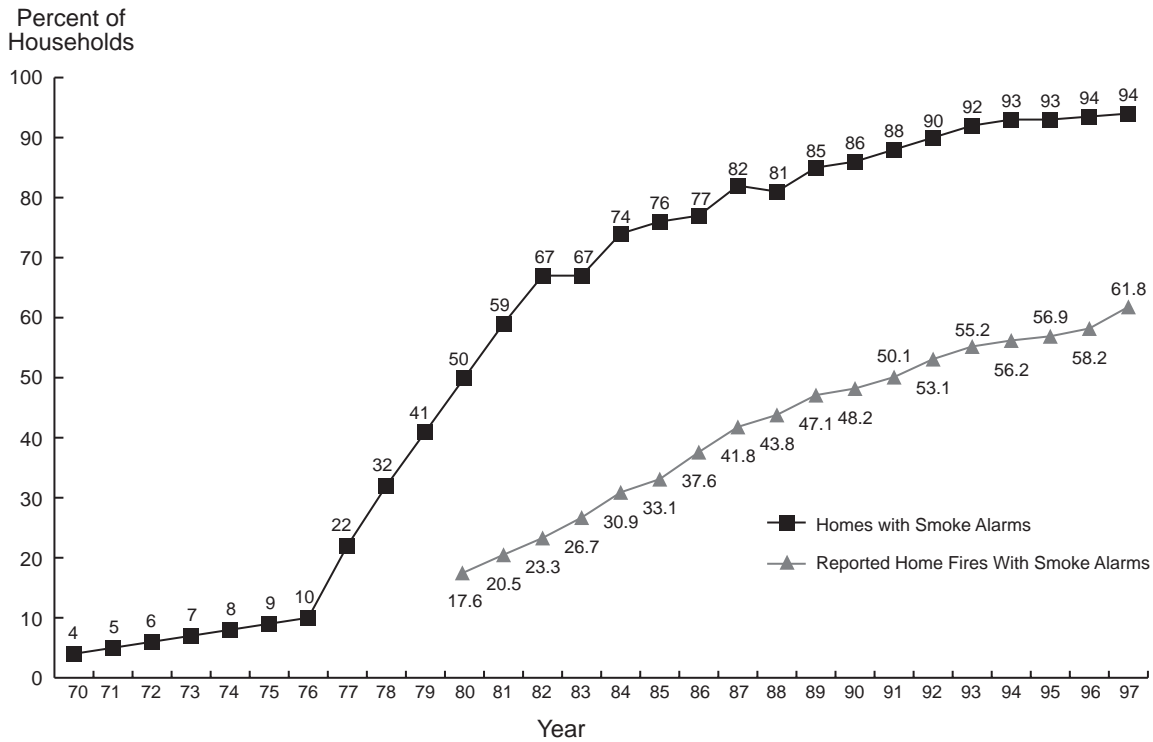
- Install new batteries in all smoke alarms once a year on the day you change your clock from daylight to standard time or when the alarm chirps to warn that the battery is dying.
- Replace all batteries immediately upon moving into a new home.
- Test units monthly, in accordance with NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*. Test the units using the test button or an approved smoke substitute, and clean the units in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. Do not use an open-flame device for testing because of the danger the flame could pose.

The households with smoke alarms that don't work now outnumber the households with no alarms by a substantial margin. Any program

to ensure adequate protection must include smoke alarm maintenance. Although most homes have at least one smoke alarm, many homes do not have a unit on every floor. Also, many people forget that a smoke alarm's sole function is to sound the warning. People need to develop and practice escape plans so that if the alarm sounds, they can get out quickly. Because smoke alarms alert occupants to fires that are still relatively small, some people attempt to fight these fires themselves. Unfortunately, some of these attempts are unsuccessful, either due to rapid fire spread or inappropriate methods of fire control. Meanwhile, precious escape time is lost.

Detection and alarm systems are also needed in many occupancies other than homes. Public assembly properties, store and office properties, and storage properties stand out as occupancies where the majority of fires occur in places without smoke or heat alarms and more than one-fifth of the units present are estimated to be non-operational when fire occurs.

Figure 1. Growth in Home Smoke Alarm Usage 1970-1997



Sources for homes with smoke alarms: 1977, 1980, 1982 estimates from sample surveys by the U.S. Fire Administration; 1983-1995 estimates from Louis Harris Surveys for *Prevention Magazine*; 1997 Fire Awareness Survey for NFPA. Source for home fires with smoke alarms: NFIRS.

U.S. Home Cooking Fire Patterns and Trends

The following executive summary is from the April 2000 report, *U.S. Home Cooking Fire Patterns and Trends*, by John R. Hall, Jr. Please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or E-mail osds@nfpa.org to request a complimentary copy of the complete report.

Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires reported to U.S. fire departments, having passed heating equipment in 1990, when the latter dropped sharply while cooking equipment fires rose slightly. ("Homes" includes one- and two-family dwellings, including manufactured homes and apartments. Heating equipment remains the leading cause of fires in one- and two-family dwellings.) Cooking-equipment fires also account for the majority of home fires *not* reported to fire departments, as indicated in a special U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) study of these fires.

Reported home cooking fires rose above 100,000 in 1997 after two years below 100,000. The 1997 total was still the third lowest total in the 18 years studied.

Home cooking fires reported to U.S. fire departments totaled 102,100 in 1997. These fires caused more than 5,000 civilian (i.e., not firefighter) injuries in 1997, which made cooking fires the leading cause of civilian injuries in homes, accounting for roughly three-tenths of all U.S. home fire injuries. In addition, it is estimated that over 640,000 injuries and illnesses a year are the result of cooking fires that are *not* reported to fire departments.

Civilian deaths caused by cooking equipment fires decreased sharply in 1997. The 273 deaths were the fewest since 1992 and the second lowest total in the 18 years studied. Of these, seven of every eight involved stoves, which also accounted for three of every four home cooking fire incidents, four of every five reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries, and two-thirds of home cooking fire direct property damage.

Kitchen fires are related to the topic of cooking fires. Between 1993 and 1997, an average of 130,200 reported fires per year began in the kitchen area of homes. A significant share of these kitchen fires did not involve cooking equipment.

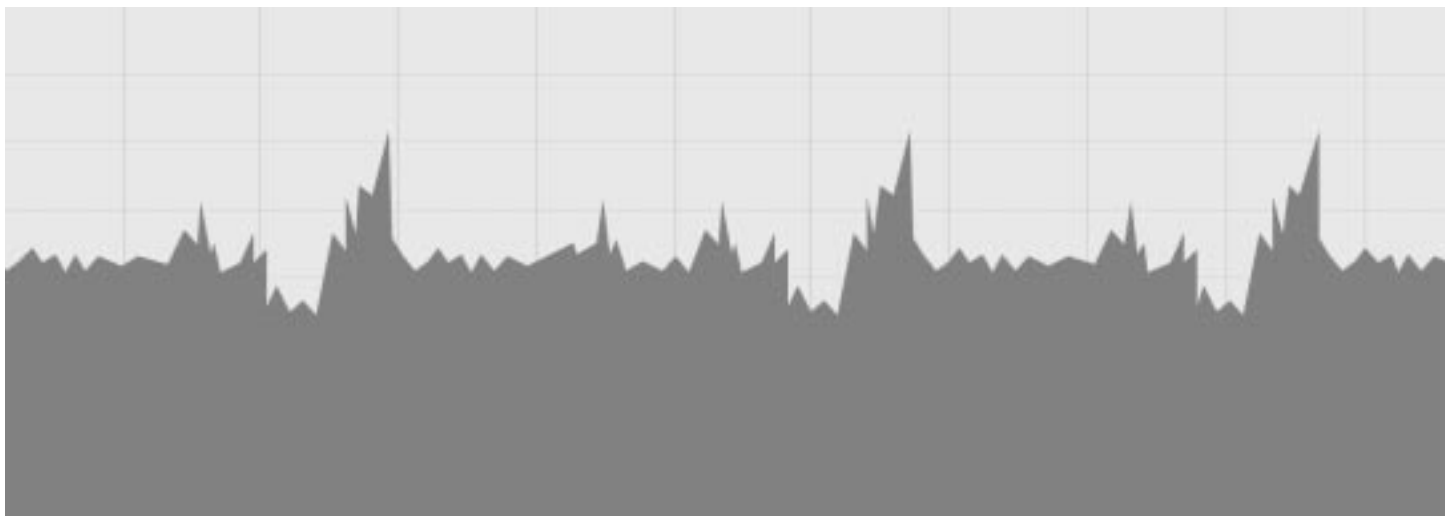
At least since 1980, the first year with available data, stoves have dominated the cooking fire problem. Ovens were usually involved in 12 to 16% of home cooking fires and associated losses, although their 1997 shares of losses were much lower. Portable cooking or warming units were usually involved in 3 to 5% of home cooking fires and associated deaths and injuries. The other home cooking fires involved various types of cooking equipment. ("Cooking equipment" is equipment designed and intended to cook or warm food. This is narrower than "food preparation equipment," which would include such devices as can openers or food processors.)

Unattended cooking is by far the leading cause of home cooking equipment fires and associated losses. Other human errors, such as falling asleep, inadequate control of an open flame, failing to turn off the equipment, and placing combustibles too close to the heat source, also play a role in these fires. Equipment-related failures play a lesser role in these fires but are frequent enough to deserve attention.

Not surprisingly, the majority of cooking equipment fires start with cooking materials, but many other items—including wall coverings, cabinets, the gas fuel used in gas ranges, the wire insulation in electric ranges, paper and plastic bags, curtains, and the housings of appliances—are involved in hundreds, even thousands, of home cooking fires per year.

Gas-fueled stoves and ovens have a higher rate of civilian deaths in home fires, relative to the number of households using that equipment, than electric-powered stoves and ovens. Electric-powered stoves and ovens have the higher rates for home fires, civilian injuries in home fires, and direct property damage from home fires.

In addition to cooking equipment fire deaths, an average of 10 non-fire deaths per year in 1992–1996 resulted from carbon monoxide poisoning involving gas-fueled stoves and ovens. An average of 20 deaths a year involved charcoal-fueled grills.



NFPA News Goes Electronic

In the October 1999 issue of *NFPA News*, we requested feedback on a proposal to distribute the newsletter exclusively on the NFPA web site.

The response to this poll was overwhelmingly positive and we are now proceeding to implement this electronic distribution. To receive automatic notification of the posting of new issues of *NFPA News*, simply access "NFPA News" at <http://www.nfpa.org> and key in your E-mail address. Notification of future newsletter postings will then automatically be sent to you.

Anyone who wishes to continue to receive a print version of the newsletter should fill out the following coupon and return it to NFPA, Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101; fax (617) 770-3500.

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