



# American Fire Sprinkler Association

## Southern California Chapter

### July 2010 Issue

Submitted By Penney Vaughn

Welcome to the July 2010 issue of the AFSA Southern California Chapter newsletter. This newsletter will be coming to you on a periodic basis to inform you of what is happening in our chapter. If you have any comments or feedback about the contents of this newsletter, please contact Penney Vaughn at [penneyvaughn@cox.net](mailto:penneyvaughn@cox.net).

#### **Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2010 Joint Meeting**

News from the Members

- All meeting attendees were reminded about the AFSA National Convention which will be on September 29 – October 3 in Providence.
- An announcement was made about our seminar: CA Edition of NFPA 25 in Carlsbad on May 18, 2010 was a success. The class was full, a few people even traveled from Northern California to attend, and we made a profit.
- The AFSA Southern California Chapter website is updated monthly and can be found at <http://www.afsasocal.org>. Comments and suggestions for the website should be sent to Penney Vaughn.

#### **Jim Lake, Staff Liaison 2011 NFPA 25 & 2010 NFPA 13**

- Jim announced that Ken Wagoner would be the new committee head for the NFPA 1124 committee.
- Jim brought up several issues that NFPA is currently investigating and researching. These issues are as follows:
  - Anti-freeze in residential systems. This has been an issue based on a case where a fire ball occurred when a sprinkler system was activated. There is a safety alert that has been issued about this and NFPA and UL are currently doing testing on the issue.
  - NFPA 1124 (Pyrotechnics document) is currently investigating the storage of consumer fireworks in retail space.
  - FM has issued new datasheets and in many cases these differ from NFPA 13. NFPA will be looking into explaining these differences in a technical response.
  - Research is currently being done on high volume low speed fans. The research is looking into the impact of fans on ESFR, heat plume and spray patterns.
  - A research project was just completed that looks at the effects of sloped ceilings on residential spray.
  - Another project is being undertaken that is looking into the impact of low flow water meters in residential systems.
  - A residential cost assessment is being done to investigate what is being done to make residential systems more affordable.
- The deadline for NFPA 13 technical questions or proposals is October 1, 2010 (if you want this to be considered in the next round of changes).
- NFPA 25 (2011 edition) was heard at the NFPA convention in June in Las Vegas. It has now finished its cycle.
  - Some of the changes will have an impact on those that do system maintenance.
  - The role of the building owner is now more clearly defined. The owner is responsible to document changes in occupancy or usage of the building (anything that could possibly affect the sprinkler code).
  - An addendum was added with a form that building owners can use to document changes in the building.
  - A clarification was made regarding inspectors (contractors) that they are not required to do any evaluation as to whether or not the system was installed properly. Under NFPA 25, the evaluation of the system is a separate process. This shifts the responsibility to owners as to whether or not the systems was designed and installed properly.
  - Another clarification was made as to the definition of "Deficiency". Sub-definitions were created for critical and non-critical deficiencies. Critical means that something could affect the system operation. Also, an annex was added that gives some examples of critical and non-critical deficiencies.
  - New definitions were added for the testing of fire pumps. Electric pumps now only need to be tested monthly.
  - In Chapter 14, there has been some re-organization to further clarify the internal inspection of piping and obstruction inspection.
- Jim Lake fielded several questions from the group in attendance regarding the information that is listed above.

## **AFSA So Cal Chapter Upcoming Events**

### **September Chapter Meeting**

Date: September 22, 2010

Location: Mr. Stox  
1105 E. Katella Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92805

Time: 11:30 am Social  
12:00 noon Meeting and Lunch

Speaker: Steve Behunin, Director of Consulting,  
Management Action Programs

Topic: Managing Your Business Profitably  
Through These Challenging Times

### **AFSA Convention & Exhibition: Knowledge for the Future**

Date: September 29 – October 3, 2010

Location: Providence, Rhode Island

Register

<http://www.firesprinkler.org/convention/index.htm>



## **Fire Sprinkler News**

### **AFSA Member Alert: Important NFPA Announcement**

7/7/2010 - On July 6, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) issued a safety alert recommending that residential fire sprinkler systems containing antifreeze should be drained and the antifreeze replaced with water. The alert follows a research study and an initial set of fire tests conducted after a fire incident raised concerns about antifreeze solutions in residential sprinkler systems.

More Information:

<http://www.firesprinkler.org/pressarea/pr/pressrelease.cfm?id=94>

### **St. Charles, Ill., will wait on requiring sprinklers in new homes**

7/22/2010 - With many homebuilders showing up to the recent St. Charles, Ill., City Council meeting, the city voted to wait on requiring the installation of fire sprinkler system in townhouses and one or two family homes until

2012. The ordinance, which was passed by a 6-2 vote and states builders will be required to install the systems on Jan. 1, 2012, will be under the watchful eye of the city council after aldermen also voted to direct the city staff to draft a brochure telling new home buyers of an option to have a sprinkler system installed.

More Information:

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/marengo/topstories/x1080706123/City-will-wait-on-requiring-builders-to-install-sprinklers-in-new-homes>

### **Sprinklers requirement for new homes sparks debate in N.M.**

7/22/2010 - The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) met in Aztec, N.M., for a heated public meeting about proposed state regulations requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in newly constructed houses. State Fire Marshal John Standefer supports the sprinkler requirement, saying similar regulations for commercial buildings and schools have saved lives.

More Information:

<http://newmexicoindependent.com/59696/sprinklers-requirement-for-new-homes-sparks-debate>

### **Fort Collins, Colo., officials weigh requiring home sprinklers**

7/22/2010 - Residential fire sprinkler systems could become a hot-button issue in Fort Collins, Colo. City officials are considering a proposal to require fire-suppression systems similar to those found in commercial buildings and apartment complexes in new single-family houses and townhomes beginning in 2013.

More Information:

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20100719/NEWS01/7190328/Officials-weigh-requiring-sprinklers-in-new-homes>

### **Baltimore City Council members push for sprinklers in homes**

6/16/2010 - Sprinkler systems save lives and two Baltimore City Council members want more of them in the city. Councilman Warren Branch and Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke are pushing to get them installed in rehabbed and newly constructed homes.

More Information:

[http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore\\_city/city-council-members-push-for-sprinklers-in-homes](http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore_city/city-council-members-push-for-sprinklers-in-homes)

## **Marion, Ohio, Fire Dept gets grant for sprinklers in station**

6/16/2010 - The Marion, Ohio, Fire Department received a federal assistance to firefighters grant to install sprinklers in its station, said Capt. Mike Makowski. The \$78,300 grant comes from the Department of Homeland Security and the city has received others in the past to replace airpacks and defibrillators, Makowski said. The sprinkler installation is necessary in the 100-year-old building, especially because there are people sleeping there at times, he said.

More Information:

<http://www.marionstar.com/article/20100612/NEWS01/6120304>