

FIRE SPRINKLER TIMES

The Wisconsin Chapter of the NFSA

Fall 2005 Edition



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Fire
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Month**

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Automatic Fire Protection "Safety Key" to Campus Housing

Parents sending their kids off to college this fall will struggle enough just relinquishing parental control, dealing with the empty-nest syndrome and making tuition payments.

They shouldn't have to worry about campus housing fires, too!

However, parents whose kids will live in college housing that lacks automatic fire sprinkler protection should be putting fire safety at the top of their back-to-school worries list.

According to the non-profit Center for Campus Fire Safety, this is especially true for off-campus housing in which 75 percent of campus fire fatalities have occurred since 2000.

The sad reality of the campus fire problem hit home in April when Woodridge, IL student Kelly Weimer died

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Fire gutted most of an off-campus apartment building displacing more than 80 Illinois State University students. The fire occurred May 5th, the week of final exams.

Wisconsin Builder Among Top Ten in National Pilot Program

Brookstone Homes, one of Wisconsin's largest builders, has been chosen as one of ten builders in the U.S. to participate in the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's (HFSC) "Built for Life" pilot project focused on homebuilder education.

HFSC is the non-profit group on a mission to increase positive awareness about home fire sprinklers' life and property saving benefits. A Fire Prevention Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has further bolstered its outreach to builders.

The "Built for Life" model home program is a comprehensive team approach involving builders, fire service personnel and fire sprinkler contractors.

HFSC selected the 10 markets based on housing starts, availability of fire service and fire sprinkler partners.

Through funding from the grant, a residential fire sprinkler system was installed in a model home in each market.

Builders and their sales staff participated in an HFSC-coordinated education and training program. After the sprinklered model home was completed, the builder offered the HFSC consumer education material to potential customers.

HFSC managed both pre- and post-program data gathered from builders, sales staff and consumers. Information was collected to determine how many customers choose to have a residential fire sprinkler system installed in their new homes.

As a participant in the project, Brookstone Homes had a residential fire sprinkler system installed during construction of one of its model homes in the Cedar Bluffs subdivision in Slinger.

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The Wisconsin Chapter of
THE NATIONAL
FIRE SPRINKLER
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Updates

By Jim Galbraith, Chapter Director

Contact Jim at (414) 764-1115 or e-mail: JimNFSA@aol.com

Trailer Upgrades Made Possible by Generous Donations

I am pleased to report that this year the sprinkler demonstration trailer has been upgraded with a NFPA 13D residential pump, water storage tank and generator.

Thank you to the following generous donors who made the upgrades possible: Ahern Fire Protection, Milwaukee Valve Company, Inc., Chicago Backflow Inc., H.J. Pertzborn Plumbing & Fire Protection and U.S. Fire Protection.

The power generator allows the trailer to be a total stand-alone demonstration. The upgrades allow us to perform sprinkler demonstrations in remote locations such as parking lots. It also helps us show viewers the ability to have fire sprinklers installed in homes not connected to municipal water

supply by putting in a water storage tank as their supply.

The trailer is great for safety days, open houses and an excellent tool for educating elected officials. As always, if you are in the process of upgrading your codes or introducing new ordinances, consider using the trailer before a town board meeting.

Please call Corey Gall, Sprinkler Fitters Local 183, at (262) 252-0183 to reserve the trailer. It's never too early to make reservations for the 2006 season.

I have attended a number of statewide conferences this year providing my many years of experience in the fire sprinkler industry as a resource. In particular, the state's fire

chiefs' and inspectors' events, in which I answer many questions that, on occasion, dispel myths about fire sprinklers and create a better understanding about the concept and their life-saving benefits.

While speaking with fire professionals, I encourage them to be lead supporters in adopting stricter fire sprinkler thresholds and residential fire sprinkler ordinances.

It's a big step and often a big challenge, so I provide the security of knowing there is a professional group of people with the National Fire Sprinkler Association available to help them.

Don't hesitate to contact me as a resource! ■

NFSA Midwest Notes

By Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager (IL, WI)

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Needs More Support

The Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 already has its supporters from coast to coast, but more help is needed to reach a successful fire safety goal.

Although the federal legislation would reduce the economic burden of retrofitting existing buildings with sprinklers, additional legislative backing is still critical to getting the bill to become a law.

The sprinkler industry has to take a lead role in garnering support for this vital legislation. Without our personal efforts through letter-writing and public proclamations of support, we won't reach the critical mass needed to succeed before the end of the legislative session.

With our help, the current positive direction will continue until that decision is made in favor of the Act. The numbers of co-sponsors are already rising in both the House (HR 1131) and Senate (S512).

Illinois (12) and Wisconsin (4) contingencies joined in support of Rep. Curtis Weldon's House bill in August, bringing the representative number to 116 in favor

of the Act. Twelve Senate co-sponsors are supporting Sen. Rick Santorum's version of measure.

Wisconsin congressmen who had signed on as co-sponsors at press time include: Paul Ryan (1st), Tammy Baldwin (2nd), James F. Sensenbrenner (5th) and Mark Green (8th). Senate co-sponsors who have not signed up in support include Sen. Russell Feingold and Herb Kohl.

While this list is impressive, it isn't complete!

Both the House and Senate versions of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 are posted on the NFSA web site (www.nfsa.org).

In addition to the bills, the site contains a host of other important information that can be downloaded, including a list of current co-sponsors and support organizations.

However, most importantly, it is time to write to your U.S. senators and representatives as an advocate for passage of this landmark fire protection legislation.

It's easy! Just log onto the NFSA web site and click on the "Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act" box at the top right of NFSA's home page.

Use the "Cap Wiz" set-up to send either a prepared or personalized letter to your Congressional representatives, House Ways and Means Committee members or the Senate Finance Committee. These are the committees of jurisdiction over the bills.

It's worth taking a few extra minutes to personalize your letters, too. A constituent's personal letter is more likely to be read and will stand out among the large volume of mail that members of Congress receive each day.

Have your staff, employees, family, friends and acquaintances write, too! Don't procrastinate because we cannot afford to lose the tremendous momentum already gained during the 108th Congress.

The 109th Congress may well be a whole new ball game! As a congressman stated, "It is our fault that this hasn't passed already."

This legislation is important to the entire industry, don't shirk your responsibility.

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Fire Sprinklers at Work: SUCCESSFUL ACTIVATIONS

AUGUST 2005

Commercial Laundry

Wauwatosa, Wauwatosa Fire Department

Around 4 a.m., one sprinkler put out a fire in a bin of dirty rags that had spontaneously ignited at the ABSCO commercial laundry. The bin had been placed under a sprinkler. The fire was contained to the wheeled storage bin and caused minor smoke damage. The fire was extinguished by the time firefighters responded.

William Q. Rice, Deputy Fire Chief,
Wauwatosa Fire Department

G & K Services

Menomonee Falls, Menomonee Falls Fire Dept.

Responding to a smoke detector activation, firefighters arrived at the G & K Services industrial uniform service to find smoke and a slight haze. An activated sprinkler extinguished a fire started by a bag of rags that spontaneously combusted. There was minimal damage.

Tod Doebler, Village of Menomonee Falls
Fire Department

We Want Your Successful Activations!

Send your "Successful Activation" stories to:

Jim Galbraith, Chapter Director,
(414) 764-1115
or via e-mail: JimNFSA@aol.com

Dan Gengler, (262) 245-5255;
Fax: (262) 245-5258
or via e-mail: DanNFSA@aol.com

NFSA 100 Year Anniversary Seminar and Exhibition A Tremendous Success

A record-breaking crowd of more than 1,300 people attended the NFSA's 100th Anniversary at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York last spring. In addition to enjoying NYC, attendees experienced seminars on the latest technical and business issues in the fire sprinkler industry and a sold out Exhibition of the latest products. The highlights of this year's event were the General Sessions which featured the presentation of the 2005 Golden Sprinkler Award to NFSA President John Viniello, a strong call for support of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005 by Congressman Curt Weldon, an appearance by Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Spokesperson Ron Hazelton and NFSA Executive Vice President Russ Fleming's technical review of the industry during the Association's hundred years. ■

Sprinklers In One- and Two-Family Homes Get Decisive Nod During NFPA Technical Session

In an unprecedented floor action on June 9, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) voting members voiced their resolute affirmation of automatic fire sprinkler protection in one and two family homes during a committee session at the NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas.

The NFPA vote support endorsed NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000, "Building Construction Safety Code" for automatic fire sprinkler protection.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) challenged the provision in NFPA 101 by trying to overturn the requirement on procedural grounds (see *Automatic Fire Protection "Safety Key" to Campus Housing* article, page 1). There was no challenge to NFPA 5000.

The votes served as a recommendation to the NFPA's Standards Council.

The NFPA Standards Council issued an August 10, 2005 written report denying the NAHB appeal regarding mandatory sprinkler requirements in one and two family dwellings for the 2006 edition of the "Life Safety Code."

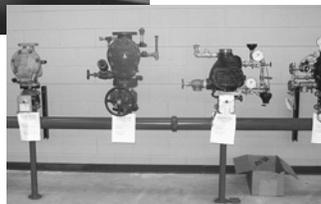
NFPA Standards Council Secretary Casey Grant wrote that all new one and two family dwellings are to be protected throughout the structure with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

The NAHB can file an appeal with the NFPA Board of Directors. However, even if such an appeal is filed, NFPA 101 will go to press with sprinkler requirements and a note in the document that an appeal is pending.

The "Life Safety Code" is the most comprehensive document addressing life safety in new and existing occupancies. The Code is used in every state and adopted as statewide legislation in 38 states. ■



The classroom area at Local Union 183 is centered among the live burn room (above) and manifolds (right) used for instruction. See related story, "Students Hooked on Life Safety for a Career" on page 5.



The Center for Campus Fire Safety

Campus fire safety is an issue that many campuses and communities are addressing across the country.

To help provide a focal point, the Center for Campus Fire Safety was formed, and has emerged as a national leader in the field.

A dedicated Board of Advisors, including John Viniello from the National Fire Sprinkler Association, guides the Center's operations and volunteers its time and expertise.

The Center's director, Ed Comeau, is former chief fire investigator for the National Fire Protection Association, publisher of *Campus Firewatch* and author of the campus fire safety chapter in the current edition of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook.

Funding for the Center is provided by a group of organizations committed to furthering the cause of campus fire safety through the Center. This includes the National Fire Sprinkler Association, SimplexGrinnell, Underwriters Laboratories and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Because of this underwriting, the Center is able to provide many of its services free of charge.

Evolution of the Center

Shortly after leaving the NFPA in 1999, Comeau was retained to manage the first Campus Fire Forum, which brought together a group of 18 experts from across the nation to discuss issues relating to campus fire safety. Shortly after this forum, the tragic fires at Seton Hall and Bloomsburg occurred which moved the subject onto center stage.

In response to the need for information about how to provide effective fire protection on campus, Comeau launched the online newsletter "Campus Firewatch" in 2000 at www.campus-firewatch.com.

As the fatal fires continued to occur, and more people and institutions began focusing on how to best address them, the demand for services also continued to grow.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety was formed in 2003. Reorganized as a non-profit in 2005, the Center has provided leadership needed to bring together experts from across the country to share information and resources.

The Center's Role and Activities

On May 25, 2005 the Center, along with Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, hosted "Campus Fire Safety Summit 2005 – Setting a National Agenda" on Capitol Hill. This was an incredible gathering of professionals and legislators from across the country that provided a unique opportunity to share information.



At a press conference following the Capitol Hill Fire Safety Summit, Members of Congress announced the introduction of key pieces of legislation that will address the issues of student fire safety, both on- and off- campus. Pictured are Congressman Pascrell (NJ), Gail Minger (Board of Advisors, Center for Campus Fire Safety), Representative Weldon (PA), Congresswoman Tubbs Jones (OH) and Ed Comeau (Director, Center for Campus Fire Safety.)

The summit was also an excellent forum to announce the introduction of campus-related fire safety legislation, including bills drafted by the Center that were introduced in the House and Senate proclaiming September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

Starting in 2000, the Center began collecting and publishing information on campus and student housing fires. This was an important service because the US Fire Administration stopped collecting information on campus fires in 1999.

The Center gathers this information by scanning wire services on a daily basis and expanding this review to also include off-campus student housing fires as well. This collection of incidents serves as the basis for developing legislation and promoting the need for improved fire safety on campuses and in communities.

The "Fatal Firelog," from which statistics are frequently quoted in news stories, can be downloaded from the Center's website.

The Center decided to continue publishing the annual gatherings upon realizing the importance and value of the Campus Fire Forum.

Campus Fire Forum 7 – to be held in Tempe, Arizona on November 9-11 – will include a series of educational conferences, the popular Town Meeting, and a vendor exhibit session. Each year the number of attendees and sponsors grows, demonstrating how important campus fire safety is to many fire safety and government people across the nation.

In addition, the Center provides a broad range of other information including bulletins, legislative updates and more made available free on its website at www.campusfire.org.

The Center also has taken the lead in developing several educational resources for campus fire safety professionals.

"Graduation: Fatally Denied" is a video produced by the Center that chronicles a fictional student's encounter with fire as seen from her perspective. Schools across the country are using this acclaimed video.

Other organizations have produced excellent videos as well, donating them to the Center so that they can be included in a DVD compilation for distribution. This compilation includes 10 different videos and provides campus fire safety professionals with a library of training material that is not available from any other source.

The Center has also been working closely with a number of communities and fire departments.

The Boulder Fire Department and the University of Colorado have pioneered a series of student fire academies. In partnership with Underwriters Laboratories, the Center is distributing a pair of videos that outline the effectiveness of these academies in delivering fire safety information to students in an effective and dramatic manner.

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Students Hooked on Life Safety for a Career

There's a certain undeniably good feeling of gratification that students experience as they develop the educational skills for a life-safety career.

Wisconsin's fire sprinkler education programs prepare students well for success in the fire sprinkler industry. And, although those students find interest in the fire sprinkler field for a variety of reasons, they also find themselves "hooked on safety" once they're in.

The Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Marinette offers a two-year Associate Degree program in Fire Protection Engineering Technology. This program provides educational experiences and skill development for individuals preparing to enter careers in fire protection and, in particular, sprinkler design.

Since NWTC started the Fire Protection Engineering program in 1983, hundreds of fire protection professionals have gone through the program.

"There has been a steady increase in fire sprinkler design the last 15 to 20 years due to demand for graduates from our program," instructor Jack Nicholas said. "There are more jobs than we can fill with our graduates."

"I was drawn to the field from a summer course I attended at NWTC that got me interested," said Adam Bjorkman, a recent graduate of NWTC and a sprinkler designer with a Wisconsin company. "Once enrolled, the program was very hands-on and prepared me very well. I loved going to school and actually learning what I would be doing on the job."

Adam was hired two months prior to graduation.

In a typically male dominated industry, Beth DeForest was hooked immediately.

"I was introduced to fire sprinkler design by my cousin who shared his satisfaction in the field," she said. "As a female, I knew I would be a minority in a male dominated industry. I think it made me work harder to prove myself."

"Due to my knowledge and experience, I have gained respect as a fire protection designer," she added. "I love what I do more and more each day. It is a good feeling knowing I provide life-safety for people."

The Milwaukee Area Technical College program partners with Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 183 by providing all coursework and much of the training at the Union's Training Center.

"Our program is unique in that people who are interested in becoming pipefitting specialists go through our sprinkler fitters apprenticeship program rather than through

daily classes working toward a degree," said Chris Schoenbeck, Business Manager, Sprinkler Fitters Local 183.

Currently, there are approximately 75 apprentices in various stages of the five-year program. During the first four years, students attend one class every other week held at the Union Training Center. Courses cover topics such as the basics of sprinkler fitting, codes, economics, human relations and technology. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, students must take the State of Wisconsin's Journeyman's exam.

As an instructor for seven years, Corey Gall is proud of the excellent passing rate on the exam.

"It's a reflection of the students, their hands-on experience and the program as a whole," Gall said.

As a first year apprentice, Jason Hamel is well contented with the decision he made to leave the office job he took after earning his Bachelor's degree.

"I made the decision to get into the fire sprinkler industry because I am a 'hands-on' person and I really like the life saving aspect," Hamel said. "This job provides me more meaning and gratitude."

Jeff Herman, near the completion of his final year in his apprenticeship, said he originally went to school to be a plumber. His schooling, however, prepared him to be an apprentice as a sprinkler fitter.

Ahern Fire Protection offered him an apprenticeship before anyone had a chance to give him a job in the plumbing industry.

"I love my work and the industry is phenomenal," Herman said. "It's gratifying to be in a field that provides people protection that ensures everyone gets out of the building safely in the instance of a fire." ■

Survey Completion Helps Fire Districts and Municipalities

The NFSA-WI has been conducting a survey of fire departments and municipalities throughout the state within the last 18 months to determine needs and resources that NFSA can provide assist in upgrading codes.

This survey information is important to NFSA! And, fortunately, it's not too late to participate.

Please review and complete the survey enclosed in this newsletter. A survey copy may also be obtained from NFSA Communications by emailing Kathy Meulemans at Kathy@ppacom.com.

Results will be published in upcoming *Fire Sprinkler Times* issues as well as posted on the NFSA-WI website at www.NFSAWI.org.

Thank you to the following fire and municipal safety professionals that have completed the survey: Hartford, De Pere and Village of Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue Departments; Watertown Building Safety; City of Two Rivers; Oak Creek; City of Hudson; Altoona; City of Madison; Germantown; Green Bay; West Bend; North Shore; City of Brookfield; Oakdale Area; West Milwaukee; City of Waukesha; Menomonee Falls; Village of Sussex; Greendale and the West Allis Fire Departments.

The information received from these valuable sources provide such information as: the NFPA standards formally adopted by local ordinances; enforcement procedures for NFPA 25 inspections; review practices for local fire sprinkler plans; and witnessed annual fire pump tests according to NFPA 25. ■

Trade Ups Trademark of First WI Development

When Tom O'Brien, of Trinity Ventures, purchased 35 acres of land in Mequon to develop a subdivision, he preferred to not include a cistern.

"Having an environmental studies background, I wanted to develop the property as a conservation steward to the land, community and those who will reside in the new subdivision," said O'Brien of his "Uplands" development. "By adding a cistern, I would not be doing that."

However, the City of Mequon Fire Department requires that all developments with five lots or more have a water source, and there are seven lots in the Uplands subdivision.

Fortunately, both O'Brien and Mequon Fire Chief Jim Wucherer are strong advocates of residential fire sprinklers.

So, the idea of installing sprinklers in all of the new homes became an alternative to the cistern.

Chief Wucherer brought the idea to the Mequon Planning Commission and received approval.

"Fire sprinklers in homes provide excellent protection to the homeowners and my firefighters," he said of the successful plan. ■

Automatic Fire Protection

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in a late-night dormitory fire at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN.

The 20-year-old Weimer was the 74th person killed in a dormitory fire since 2000, according to the Center. Two other students were treated for smoke inhalation after being rescued from the floor of fire origin.

Weimer's tragic death spurred key action and the University announced its intention to install fire sprinklers in residence halls.

Eighty percent of all fire deaths that take place in the United States occur in residential properties. However, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that fire sprinklers are present in only about one-third of dormitory fires analyzed by the organization.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than 15 million undergraduate students are enrolled in U.S. post-secondary schools. That leaves millions of unprotected young people in schools throughout the nation.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety has been pressing Congress to improve student safety on college campuses.

In May, the Center organized a summit on Capitol Hill with the support of Ohio Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who earlier this year introduced the College Fire Prevention Act (HR 128). The Center used the summit to focus attention on the need for greater student safety and to introduce legislation in both the House and the Senate that proclaimed September as "Campus Fire Safety Month."

Participants in "*Campus Fire Safety Summit 2005, Setting a National Agenda*," included Reps. Tubbs Jones, Pascrell and Weldon who have all introduced fire safety legislation that will help safeguard the lives of students.

Also present at the summit were the U.S. Fire Administrator, local, campus and state fire marshals, fire chiefs, and representatives from the National Fire Sprinkler Association, NFPA, ICC, National Electrical Manufacturers, Underwriters Laboratories, National Association of State Fire Marshals, International Fire Marshals Association, Fire Equipment Manufacturers Association and many other fire safety proponents.

In support of the federal legislation, Center Director Ed Comeau also sent a formal request to state fire marshals, urging passage of similar statewide resolutions. Comeau's letter detailed the dormitory fire that killed Weimer as well as four other fatal off-campus fires in April. Combined, six students died in fires during that month.

Following the summit, a large group of campus fire safety professionals dispersed across Capitol Hill and met with senators, representa-

tives and their staff members to discuss the legislation moving through Congress. This was also an opportunity to provide these officials with detailed information about the fires that had occurred within their states and to review the need for improved fire education, detection and suppression in all student housing.

The U.S. Department of Education reported that two-thirds of the students enrolled full-time in four-year institutions live off campus. While dormitory sprinkler requirements are an essential step forward in public fire safety, they are only part of the solution.

Since a majority of the students in this country live off-campus, where most of the fatal fires have occurred, it is important to focus on these occupancies as well.

On the same day of the summit, legislation was also introduced in New York City that required all residence halls throughout the city to be equipped with automatic fire sprinklers. In addition, the bill required that whenever a school referred a student to off-campus housing, that housing must be similarly protected.

At the annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on June 9, members voted overwhelmingly to require that new one and two-family residences are equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems as part of a sweeping update to the NFPA Safety Code. According to the NFPA, the Life Safety Code is currently used in every U.S. state and adopted statewide in 38 states.

Speaking in support of the change at the session, Comeau said, "Since January 2000, over 75% of the fatal student housing fires have occurred in off-campus occupancies, based on information compiled by the Center.

"Many of these fires were in typical one and two-family houses, and recent fatal fires in college communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Mary-

land and Georgia tragically demonstrate the need for this change," he added. "We know a comprehensive program that includes fire prevention education, detection and suppression in the form of fire sprinklers will save lives."

Representatives from organizations across the country also presented their views and information in support of the sprinkler installation. The National Association of Home Builders raised the only opposition to the change in an attempt to overturn the requirement on procedural grounds.

In a report available on the Center's website (www.campusfire.org), 11 students have been killed in student housing fires in the current academic year ending July 31.

Seven students have died in off-campus housing, three in a fraternity fire and one in a residence hall fire.

The deadliest period for fatal fires is April and May (29% of the fatalities), followed by August and September (26%). The common factors in a number of these fires included a lack of automatic fire sprinklers, disabled or missing smoke alarms, careless disposal of smoking materials and alcohol consumption.

"By making this revision, we will be providing for the future safety of students across the nation," Comeau said. "The effectiveness of automatic fire sprinklers is unquestionable, and this is a major step forward. I applaud the NFPA membership for taking a leadership role and dramatically advancing the cause of fire safety."

Information on federal, local and state legislation can be found at the Center for Campus Fire Safety's website at www.campusfire.org.

Please see Dan Gengler's *NFSA Midwest Notes* in this newsletter for information on action taken in Wisconsin. ■

NFSA Midwest Notes *continued from page 2*

Campus Legislation Moves to Committee

The Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities addressed a proposed College Dormitory Fire Sprinkler Bill on September 6, at the Capitol.

The bill requires automatic fire sprinkler protection in all Wisconsin private university high-rise dormitories, privately owned high-rise buildings used as dormitories, all sororities and fraternities, and all new student residential buildings on private campuses.

The day's events included testimonials and a live side-by-side burn demonstration. Assem-

blymen were among the many viewers to witness an actual sprinkler activation control a fire compared to a room of similar size reach flashover not protected by a sprinkler.

Representative Rob Kriebich (R-Eau Claire) is the Assembly side sponsor and Chair of the Committee on Colleges and Universities where the bill first visits. Senator Ron Brown, also of Eau Claire, has sponsored the Senate version of the same bill.

Please watch for updated coverage in our next issue. ■

The Center for Campus Fire Safety

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Heightened Interest in Campus Fire Safety

The Center is ready and willing to meet the dramatically increasing interest in campus fire safety.

When a fatal fire occurs, the Center immediately uses this ultimate "teachable moment" to reach out to the public with educational information about the issues relating to campus fire safety. The Center puts out a press release to local and national media outlining the common factors that have been emerging in these fires and which steps students and parents should take to protect themselves and their children.

This has resulted in widespread press coverage, including a Boston Globe front-page article profiling the Center, a CBS Early Show story on campus fire safety and other media outlet coverage.

An indicator of the increased interest in campus fire safety is the statistics for the Center's website.

Since January 2005, there have been over 350,000 hits on the website. Two of the documents available on the site, the "Fatal Firelog" and "Questions Parents Should Ask" have been downloaded over 12,000 times.

The average visitor stays on the site for approximately 10 minutes, which in Internet time is a significant period. There have been visitors to the website from all across the globe, with almost seven percent of them coming from countries that include Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Singapore, Spain and many more.

The Future

In addition to the upcoming Campus Fire Forum 7, the Center – along with the Boulder Fire Department and University of Colorado – sponsored an engrossing seminar on student fire academies in August. Participants had the opportunity to go through an RA fire academy alongside almost 200 students. This seminar included a session on how to run a student fire academy.

Attendees experience all of the hands-on activities with the students, including fire extinguisher training, navigating smoke-filled corridors and much more. This was the first time that this type of training had ever been made available to campus housing administrators and fire officials.

The Center is also in the process of developing a website that will provide fire safety training directly to students. Five students have been retained to design a program that will deliver training to students in an interac-

tive way easily comprehended and accepted by today's generation. Plans are to roll this site out in Fall 2005, depending upon the availability of funding.

During Campus Fire Safety Month, several schools across the country will be working with the Center on holding events focused on providing training and education to students.

These events will include building sprinklered and un-sprinklered mockups of student rooms in the middle of campuses, and then setting them on fire to demonstrate sprinkler effectiveness. Fire extinguisher training, smoke trailers and other fire safety events will also be occurring at schools from Massachusetts to Utah.

Partners

The Center is always looking for organizations and companies that are interested in partnering with it to help fund and promote the cause of campus fire safety. The Center has assumed the leadership position and is widely recognized as the "go to" source for information and resources dedicated to protecting students.

Donations to the non-profit Center for Campus Fire Safety can also be made through the Campus Firewatch partner website at www.campus-firewatch.com.

Information and Products

More information about the Center for Campus Fire Safety can be found at its website at www.campusfire.org or by contacting Director Ed Comeau at 413-323-6002 or by email at ecomeau@campusfire.org.

Copies of the DVD Compilation can be ordered through the Campus Firewatch Store at www.campus-firewatch.com where registration for Campus Fire Forum 7 and the Student Fire Academy Seminar is also available. ■

Wisconsin Builder

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After the fire sprinkler system was completed, Brookstone Homes' sales staff, other area builders, fire professionals and realtors took advantage of educational sessions on fire sprinkler design and installation.

Hosting a grand opening for Cedar Bluff's model on September 17, Brookstone Homes promoted the fire sprinkler system for potential customers as an option in any of its new homes. Participants viewed the sprinklered home and received educational materials to help them understand the life-saving benefits of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Among other attractions at the event, the Wisconsin Fire Inspector Association's sprinkler demonstration trailer provided participants with the opportunity to watch live activations and see exactly how fire sprinklers work to quickly extinguish a fire.

The Slinger Fire Department provided fire protection information and handouts for children.

WKTI radio also did a live remote from the scene, telling listeners about what was happening at the site and emphasizing the fire sprinkler benefits in the model home.

For more information about the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and residential fire sprinkler systems, visit the HFSC Web site at www.HomeFireSprinkler.org. ■

A live remote by WKTI mentioning the fire sprinkler system, sprinkler activations, fire protection messages by the Slinger Fire Department and an HFSC booth were among the open house activities.





The Wisconsin Chapter of
**THE NATIONAL
FIRE SPRINKLER
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 280
Williams Bay, WI 53191

Standard
PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Tinley Park, IL
Permit #77

For more information about fire sprinklers, contact Dan Gengler, National Fire Sprinkler Association, (262) 245-5255

You can also contact Dan via e-mail: DanNFSA@aol.com

October Fire Prevention Month – Time to Teach Protection

October has served for decades as the traditional month for the fire service to deliver a fire safety campaign, especially to children who are back in school and eager to learn.

It's also the time when the weather turns cooler and people start to think about using their fireplaces and space heaters again. Others may be burning leaves in the cool autumn air. Halloween, one of the most frequent times for fire mishaps, is also just around the corner.

October is also a time to learn from the past by remembering the destructive power of fire on property and lives.

Two of our nation's most destructive conflagrations – the deadliest U.S. fire on record during the Peshtigo, Wisconsin wildfire, and the Great Chicago Fire that reportedly destroyed about a third of the great City – both began on October 8, 1871. Those fire tragedies still serve as a distinctive reminder of the devastating destructive force.

Many fire departments reserve their resources to focus solely on Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15 this year), while other departments elect to spread their fire safety campaign over the entire month.

Regardless of the method, October presents an opportunity for public educators to reinforce the key fire safety messages that are proven to save lives.

When planning a fire prevention event or campaign, remember to include the elements of a complete fire safety system in your presentations.

And, if you're delivering a commercial or residential fire safety message to children or adults, be sure to include these components:

- Prevention
- Early warning (working smoke alarms)
- Escape planning and practice
- Early suppression (fire sprinkler systems)

The fire sprinkler demonstration trailer or NFSA booth will appear at these locations in southeastern Wisconsin during Fire Prevention Month: Waukesha Town Pancake Breakfast; Janesville Firefighter Challenge; Jackson Fire Department Open House; Slinger Fire Fair, Mequon Safety Fair and Cedarburg Safety Fair.

"We are excited to have the sprinkler demonstration trailer among our many open house activities, including the delivery of our new fire truck," said Chief John Skodinksi, Jackson Fire Department. ■



Upgrades to the trailer this year provides more opportunity for a variety of locations.