



*Martin M. King*  
*WI State Coordinator*

3845 South Clubhouse Drive  
Greenfield, WI 53228  
(414) 531-9542  
king@nfsa.org

Wisconsin Region  
<http://nfsawi.org>

Be at war with your vices,  
At peace with your neighbors,  
And let every new year find you a better person.

Benjamin Franklin

After a stinging announcement that the Attorney General had decided on the fire sprinkler for multi-family conflict that it violates Act 21 forbidding state agencies from making administrative rules stricter than state statutes, we prepare for staffing a booth with the fire service at the Metropolitan Builders Home Show on January 12 – 14, 2018 in Milwaukee. We are also working on a special project with the green home group to provide residential fire sprinklers to a home in the 2018 Parade of Homes. We continue to move forward and learn from the past.

----- Save the Date -----

### **Upcoming NFSA WI Chapter Events**

#### **NFSA Chapter Meeting**

February 13, 2018

4:00 PM Networking and 4:30 PM Meeting

Coopers Hawk Restaurant

Brookfield, WI

June 12, 2018

9:00 AM Training – 11:30 AM Lunch Meeting – 1:00 PM Golf/Networking

Hawks Landing Golf Course

Madison, WI

30<sup>th</sup> Burn Center Golf Invitational

August 27, 2018

Grand Geneva Resort – Lake Geneva, WI

September 11, 2018

11:30 AM Lunch Meeting

Coopers Hawk Restaurant

Brookfield, WI

November 13, 2018

11:30 AM Lunch Meeting

Coopers Hawk Restaurant

Brookfield, WI



## **NFSA Layout Technician Blended Learning Course**

You asked, NFSA listened and delivered. This new approach to fire sprinkler training allows for a combination of self-paced and interactive online learning along with in-class sessions. The course is comprised of:

- A “40 hours of online” portion facilitated by an NFSA instructor who will monitor and assist as needed, and be available for live chat or phone calls. Segments include codes and standards, sprinkler installation, seismic protection, fire pumps and standpipes, and hydraulic calculations.
- A 5-day, in-person portion focuses on intense practical application layout and design work under the guidance of an NFSA instructor. Project management and layout and calculations of wet- and dry-pipe system will be covered.
- The final portion is a required verification that the student has received training or is competent in CAD. This is provided by the employer or mentor of the student.

Find out more at <http://bit.ly/NFSAtrng>

**Because Nobody does Fire Sprinkler Training Like NFSA --- NOBODY!**

**\*\*\*\*\* 2018 Classes \*\*\*\*\***

### **Blended learning - In-Class Practicum Location**

February 26 – March 2, 2018  
Orlando, Maryland

May 14 – 18, 2018  
Richmond, Kentucky

July 16 – 20, 2018  
Baltimore, Maryland

October 22 – 26, 2018  
Phoenix, Arizona

40 Hour online portion available now and must be completed before registering for the in-class practicum.

### **Two Week Layout Technician Class Locations:**

February 19 – March 2, 2018  
Orlando, Florida

May 14 – 25, 2018  
Seattle, Washington

July 9 – 20, 2018  
Baltimore, Maryland

October 15 – 26, 2018  
Phoenix, Arizona

## Wisconsin Fire Sprinkler Saves

**December 20, 2017**

**Lake Delton, WI**

Emergency crews and firefighters were dispatched to a fire at Great Wolf Lodge around 6:15 on Sunday morning. Firefighters arrived to discover guests evacuating the hotel and encountered smoke on the second floor. The fire was contained to one unoccupied room by the building's sprinkler system, but five rooms sustained significant water damage. At the time of the fire, 400 of the 435 rooms at the Great Wolf Lodge were occupied. There were no injuries to hotel guests or first responders. Crews remained on scene for three hours putting out hot spots and investigating. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but foul play is not suspected. Preliminary damage to the hotel is approximately \$100,000.

### **Contact me with your saves!**

Contact me **A.S.A.P. at (414) 531-9542 or e-mail: [king@nfsa.org](mailto:king@nfsa.org)** if you have information regarding a Major Fire or Sprinkler Save or fire is defined as "one where there is extensive property loss, multiple death or injury to citizens or firefighters, or any other significant circumstances regarding fire sprinkler protection or lack thereof." Our goal when the appropriate fire scenario occurs is to influence immediate post-media coverage regarding the application of fire sprinkler protection, or lack of protection." Sprinkler Saves will help inform others that the systems do work and will provide life and property saving values.

When forwarding information of a major fire include; date, time, city, state, address, sprinkled, non-sprinkled, injuries, deaths and any other fire related particulars that may be available. Also, contact me if your company replaces a sprinkler head(s) due to activation by fire.

## NSFA Headquarters Update

Last year was a big year for NFSA with the move from Patterson, New York to Baltimore, Maryland, along with some personnel changes. We continue the pace of new teammates with the addition of Abbie Boeing as the new Membership and Outreach Coordinator. You will probably be receiving correspondence from her regarding membership renewals and updates. Sadly, Louis Guerazzi will be leaving his position as Manager of Product Standards to take a position with the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. We wish him good luck in his new position.

NFSA continues to look for qualified candidates for some open positions: Director of Regional Operations, Inspection Testing & Maintenance Specialist, Training Specialist, and Arizona State Coordinator. The first three positions require relocation to the Baltimore area.

Check the Join Our Team section of the [nfsa.org](http://nfsa.org) website for more information on these and other open positions.

## **Fire Sprinklers included in Tax Reform**

On December 20th, Tax Reform that included our Fire Sprinkler Incentives passed both the House and Senate. What better birthday gift for NFSA's own Jim Dalton, who worked tirelessly for 14 years, along with Director of Government Relations and Outreach Vickie Pritchett and many of our partners in life safety, to see this important initiative through to a successful conclusion. It is with extra pride that we announced the bill's passage on JD's birthday. We know he couldn't have asked for a better gift!

Your NFSA team was quick to take to craft and publish a press release announcing the news to the world. Our social media channels have been buzzing with activity since we broke the news early Thursday morning. Please be sure to check out our Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn feeds and help us spread the good news! Links are available at the bottom of this email.

### **From the release:**

*"This provision in the tax reform bill will save lives," added Dalton, NFSA Senior Policy Advisor. "We are thankful for our partners from the Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Fire Protection Association, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Volunteer Fire Council, Common Voices, Security Industry Association, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, and others who championed this tax incentive."*

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act contained several critically important provisions which will provide significant incentives for property owners to install fire sprinklers. These include:

- Small businesses will now be able to fully expense installation of fire sprinklers under section 179 of the tax code up to a cap of \$1 million in each year of expense. This will allow for the retrofit and upgrading of numerous occupancies such as nightclubs. In addition, small businesses may need to borrow money to pay for the retrofit will be able to deduct the interest expense on the loan.
- Larger entities can fully expense capital expenses over the next five years. Starting in 2023, the amount that can be fully expensed will slowly taper down. This part of the provision means that fire chiefs and local policy officials can now ensure business owners have five years for full expensing, which we believe will provide the opportunity for many high-rise and other high-risk occupancy buildings to improve their fire safety features.

## **Wisconsin Attorney General Opinion Supports DSPS Interpretation**

On December 8, 2017 Attorney General Brad Schimel ruled on the request from the Wisconsin Builders Association and Wisconsin Realtors Association regarding the conflict between the model building code (International Building Code – 2009 edition, as adopted by DSPS Administrative Code) and the Wisconsin State Statute. According to a 2011 legislative bill, a state agency cannot create any administrative code that conflicts with or is more restrictive than state statutes. The question that was unanswered was whether this was retroactive or not. Since enactment no state agency had dealt with the issue, nor had it been enforced as retroactive. Thus, existing legislation remained.

Experts state that this will cause issues where there are conflicts. Some state that state agencies must review all administrative codes and follow the AG opinion regarding existing conflicts. This may cause additional confusion for enforcement agencies and Wisconsin residents/business as to what code/statute to follow. The AG acknowledges that the legislature will need to act to correct this issue or refuse to enforce.

We continue to work with our Madison contacts and fire service partners on this issue.

**Save the Date – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Burn Center Golf Invitational**

With the completion of 29 years of successful fundraising for the Ascension Columbia-St. Mary’s Burn Center, as well as the AFS Burn Camp, the BCGI has donated over \$2.4 million. The fire sprinkler industry leads the way in burn prevention and burn survivor support systems. This is accomplished through the promotion of fire safety, burn prevention, and public safety education.

This year’s event looks to be better than the last (hopefully the weather) with interest before the invites and sponsorship letters have been sent. The committee will be working hard to look at different ways to succeed. Please consider not only a sponsorship, but attending to network with others in the fire sprinkler industry.

**Remember August 27, 2018 and join us for a day of fun for a good cause.**

**NFSA On-Line and In-Class Seminars**

The 2017 On-line Technical Seminars have been scheduled. All seminars are conducted by NFSA staff or consultants on Tuesdays and will start promptly at **10:30 A.M. Eastern Time** and run approximately 1.5-hours. Seminar topics are designed to various levels of understanding, Basic (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A) levels.

**FEES: \$50 per seminar for members and AHJ’s.** Non-member Cost: \$250.00\* per seminar  
 The On-Line Seminars have been approved for 1.5 –hours CEU credit in Wisconsin for the following licenses: Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractor, Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractor – Maintenance, Journeyman Automatic Fire Sprinkler Fitter, Automatic Fire Sprinkler Tester, and Commercial Building Inspector. From the desktop of an office or the comforts of a home, one can watch the 1½-hour live-interactive seminar and receive credit. When registering for the seminar, ***the registrant needs to inform the NFSA that they are in need to receive Wisconsin CEU’s.***

You can attend a NFSA Seminar without traveling to a classroom. For more information and to view a demonstration, visit our Website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org) and click on Training.



**2017 "Technical Tuesday" Online Classes**



- Features Live Q & A
- Qualify for NICET credits (.1 CEU/1 CPD each class)
- AIA/CES approved
- Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. Central Time



<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
1/16	Protecting Buildings under Construction	Bob Upson, Manager of Engineering Services
2/20	Discussing Design Approaches	Louis Guerrazzi, Manager Product Standards