



Post Indicator

Quarterly Newsletter

December, 2007

President's Message – Phil Owens

Fellow FMAM Members:

Fall has passed and winter has descended upon us. I hope that each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, as we look forward to enjoying the coming holiday season with family and friends. I am told that in this age of political correctness that the holidays will now be referred to as "HanuaRamaKwanzaMas". Whatever you call it, enjoy it safely, and remember the added hazards associated with the celebrations. Candles, fire places, added storage, decorated trees, accumulation of combustibles and crowds of well-wishers.

Fire Code:

IT IS DONE ! After months of hard and often frustrating work, the first ever Minnesota Edition of the International Fire Code, including state amendments is published. The 2007 MN State Fire Code is available from your usual ICC outlets. Please give special consideration to ordering your code books from MnFIAM book sales. You can get a small discount from them over other ICC sales outlets and keep the money here, supporting the Minnesota fire service. Special thanks to Jon Nisja, Supervisor, State Fire Marshal Division for his valuable contributions and a tip of the helmet to ICC Board Member, Greg Johnson, Building Inspector Saint Paul for his assistance in negotiations with the ICC.

Committee Appointments:

I, with the advice and consent of your Board of Directors, have made several new committee appointments. We look forward to the service and contributions of these revitalized committees on behalf of FMAM. Please see a list of the appointments elsewhere in this quarter's *Post Indicator*.

Budget:

The 2008 FMAM budget has been finalized by your Board of Directors. We, as an organization are in excellent financial condition, having approximately \$10,000 in ready funds and another \$20,000 in available reserve. Our expected expenditures for line items in 2008 are approximately \$15,000. Please see the full Treasurer's Report for detailed information.

Legislation:

FMAM along with other groups in MnFAC, have begun to develop our legislative agenda. There are a number of interesting topics to be discussed including; volunteer responder incentives, certification of auxiliary fire protection system (alarm, hood systems, fire extinguishers) installers, repeal of legalized fireworks, repeal of required radio permit for public safety radios in POV, repeal of mini-maxi requirements of the SBC as they apply to fire suppression systems, state wide mutual aid for other than declared emergencies, and a number of others. Remember this is only the beginning and the list will be quite fluid during the legislative session. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact our MnFAC representative, Saint Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard.

Fire Sprinkler Plans Examiners:

The State Fire Marshal's Fire Sprinkler Advisory Committee is working on the issue of competency for those involved in the review and approval of fire sprinkler plans on behalf of an Authority Having Jurisdiction.

I have heard many comments from our members expressing thoughts and concern on both sides of the topic. In order to establish the FMAM position on this important issue, I have proposed a Draft

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position statement which is published elsewhere in this issue if the *Post Indicator*. Please take the opportunity to review this draft statement which will be discussed at the December meeting.

Membership Dues:

It is almost that time again. Membership renewals are due in January 2008. You will be receiving your 2008 dues invoices in the mail soon. Those not paid by the March quarterly membership meeting will be purged from the membership rolls. Sorry if this sounds harsh, but it is our membership dues that partially fund the projects and benefits that we offer to our members. You should not expect benefits if you do not support the organization.

Election:

It is not too early to begin to think about the March 2008 elections. There will be several seats up for re-election, including Vice President, Treasurer, and two board seats. Interested persons should contact Secretary John Swanson.

Yours in the Fire Service;
Phillip Owens, CFPS
President

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report was received at the time that this edition of the Post Indicator went to press.

Financial Report - 2008 Budget

The following 2008 budget was approved by the FMAM Board of Directors at the November, 2007 Meeting.

Item:	Budget 2007	Budget 2008
Income:		
Membership	\$7,500	\$ 7,500
Interest	100	100
Merchandise	200	200
Seminar/Education	5,500	5,500
Social Event	500	500
Other		1,000
Total Income.....	\$13,800	\$ 14,800
Expenses:		
Merchandise	\$ 400	\$ 400
Postage	300	300

Professional Services	900	900
Web	1,000	1,000
Publications	300	300
Public Educ.	1,000	1,000
Code Development	3,000	4,000
Awards/Gifts	200	200
Meeting Expense	500	500
Advertising	1,000	1,000
Office	100	100
Legislation	2,000	2,000
Seminars	2,500	2,500
Social Events	500	500
Misc.	100	100
Total Expenses.....	\$13,800	\$ 14,800

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Minutes – September 12th, 2007
New Brighton, MN**

12:30pm -Training & Education: Elevator Code Update-John Roche; Construction Codes and Licensing Division

911 Interface Information: Pete Eggiman, 911 Board

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 13:25 hours:

- Motion by Joe Berg / Gordy Bates to approve the June 13th, 2007 Membership Meeting Minutes

President Owens asked if the membership was interested in giving money to flood relief. The membership felt it was not something we typically deal with or give money to.

Treasurer's Report (John Powers):

Balances:

- \$10,060-Checking;
- \$20,883-Savings,
- \$30,943-Total

 If the membership has general budget ideas please speak with a board member.

Membership Report (John Swanson):

Current Members-217 paid members. Two e-mails have been sent out to past members who have not renewed that they will lose all membership

privileges after the 9/12/07 general membership meeting.

Committee Reports

Public Fire Safety Education (Connie Forster):
MNSCU is looking into a fire prevention degree. Anyone interested in being a part of this process please contact Kathi Osmonson.

Training & Education (Kip LaMotte & Jon Nisja):

- FMAM is looking into a fire alarm presentation by Art Black. Possibly a two-day course and we're looking at spring, 2008.
- SFMD code update classes are in the works. Will probably be conducted in November and December.
- December quarterly meeting will be in Bloomington at fire station #1. Kip is working on fire-stopping and caulking materials for the educational portion.

Governor's Council on Fire Prevention & Control (Jeff Schadegg):

Great turn-out for Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair.

Code Committee (Mike Post):

- Committee just finalized a residential sprinkler policy installation fact sheet.
- Questionnaire will be sent out to local jurisdictions to get more information about local policies and ordinances.
- Committee will start looking at NPFA 1 and compare to IFC.
- Committee is looking for new members. If interested contact Mike Post.

Certification (Phil Owens):

- John Powers and several others looked at the fire inspector certification exams. The tests will be evaluated by IFSAC.
- Brad Schmoll will be senior representative for FMAM on the Fire Service Certification Board.

Commissioners Fire Service Committee (Phil Owens):

- HSEM has established a school safety center.
- Legislation (Steve Zaccard) 800 mhz study.
- Volunteer firefighter pension study.

Legislation (Jerry Rosendahl):

Possible legislation includes:

- Firefighter license plate changes (active and retired).
- Recruitment and retention study; income tax deduction for volunteer emergency responders.
- Negligent fire statute - working on the definition of negligent fire.
- Volunteer pension plan.
- State Fire Marshal becomes a classified position.
- Possible licensing of fire alarm, extinguishing and hood system installers.
- Repeal of SFMD hotel/motel lodging facility inspection fees.

Fire Safety Account (Steve Zaccard):

Money started being collected on July 1, 2007. Money will not show up in account until November, 2007.

State Fire Marshal's Report (Jerry Rosendahl):

- Code books have been printed and are in the warehouse at ICC.
- Home Depot is now installing self-service propane facilities at their stores.
- 2006 Fire in Minnesota is about ready for print and will be available at the Fire Chiefs Conference in October.
- Fire deaths are at 30 for 2007 (32 this time last year).

New Business:

Jon Nisja suggested having IFMA involved in fire inspections before the Republican National Convention.

Gordy Bates is proposing new language for NFPA 13 regarding size of fire department connections.

Nisja reported that FMAM has ordered "Fire Line – Do Not Cross" lanyards. Should be available in the next few weeks.

Marilyn Arnlund stated Minnesota is working with people at the national level on the residential sprinkler ordinance; looking for interested code officials from around the state. Contact Marilyn if interested.

Old Business:

Gordy Bates brought up the issue of certification of inspectors that was addressed at the last meeting. Based on the survey that Gordy had conducted a majority of FMAM members felt that inspector qualifications should be verified by testing.

If interested in merchandise contact Kip LaMotte.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mike Post / Jon Nisja to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 15:20 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

John Swanson

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
BOARD MEETING
November 14, 2007**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. The following board members were present: Phil Owens (President), Kip LaMotte (Vice President), John Swanson (Secretary), John Powers (Treasurer), Roy Kingsley (Director), Vance Swisher (Director), Connie Forster (Public Education Chair), Jerry Rosendahl (State Fire Marshal), and Jon Nisja (Past President).

Absent:

Butch Gervais (Director).

- Motion by Swanson, second by Kingsley to approve May Board meeting minutes. Motion was approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report (John Powers)

Financial report current balances:

- Checking: \$10,100.47
- Savings: \$20,882.88

The Board discussed better ways to spend our advertising budget in order to do a better job reaching our members and the general public.

- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Nisja / Forster. Motion was approved by the members present.

2008 FMAM Budget:

Board would like to increase budget for code development to send members to the ICC hearing in 2008 to vote on the residential sprinkler issue.

- Motion by Nisja, seconded by Swisher to approve the budget for 2008 being the same as 2007 with the exception of code development being increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 with the

difference being taken from the savings account. Motion was approved by the members present.

Income under "Other" was increased from \$0 to \$1,000.

FMAM Credit Card – Up-date: Forms just need to be signed by the people involved.

Membership report / renewals:

Currently at 224 paid members for 2007. A few weeks ago non-paying members were purged from the membership roster and no longer receive regular updates or e-mails that go out to the FMAM membership.

Will send out an e-mail reminding members to pay 2008 membership dues.

FMAM will also bring 75 copies of the membership roster to the December quarterly meeting.

An e-mail will be sent out soon notifying members that the December meeting will be in Bloomington.

Merchandise:

Current Sales and Product reduction sale; trying to reduce current inventory.

The Board would like to consider moving all merchandise to Streich Designs. The board is in agreement to move all merchandise sales to Streich Designs. Motion by Nisja, seconded by LaMotte to move all clothing to Streich Designs and accommodate any expenditure not to exceed \$500 to make it happen. Motion was approved by the members present.

Committee Reports

Public Fire Safety Education (Connie Forster):

Conference is Jan. 26th & 27th in Alexandria.

A new safety heating element on the back of electric stoves caps the heat at approximately 600 degrees in an attempt to reduce cooking fires (see page 10 of the Post Indicator for more information).

Informational public education discussion group organized by Shelby Wolf will be Dec. 3rd in Plymouth. Contact Shelby for more information.

Several departments from around the state met to discuss the new Fire Corps program to implement the idea in more departments.

Conferences/Seminars:

Nisja is working with Art Black on a fire alarm course. Rich Pehrson is also interested in teaching an NFPA 13 (2007) class.

SFMD has started the fire code training. First class is 11/15-16/07 in Hopkins.

Quarterly Meetings (Kip LaMotte):

December quarterly meeting training will be on firestopping materials.

Legislation (Phil Owens):

MnFAC Updates and suggestions received to date:

- Repealing/modifying the statute covering radios with law enforcement frequencies.
- Statewide mutual aid for fire departments which would eliminate the need for mutual aid contracts.
- First Responder access to all cell phone towers in emergency situations.
- Identification lights in private vehicles to eliminate the 3" diameter light specifications and allow light bars.
- Auxiliary fire suppression system certification. Proposal would expand certification to alarm, hood systems and extinguisher contractors.
- Eliminate the SFMD hotel/motel lodging fee. Fire service feels the legislature needs to replace that funding if lost.
- Repeal/legalize all fireworks.

Certification (Phil Owens):

Committee reevaluated the certification program through IFSAC and should have the results back by the September meeting.

Sprinkler Advisory Council is currently reviewing certification for code officials for sprinkler plan review and inspection.

New Business:

December Meeting Location - Bloomington Fire Station #1; Educational Program: Firestopping – Hilti Corporation.

Members attending the December meeting will receive one of the FMAM lanyards (Fire Line * Do Not Cross).

There will also be a drawing at the December meeting for 2007 MSFC CD ROMs. FMAM has a couple extra copies to give away at the meeting.

Minnesota State Fire Code books can be purchased from ICC, MN FIAM, or MN State Bookstore.

The Board discussed any needed By-law changes. If any are identified they should be brought forth for action by the February board meeting.

Suggestions for articles for Post Indicator; send articles to Jon Nisja if anyone has any suggestions.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
John Swanson

Public Education Report
By Connie Forster

The next education conference will be held January 26-27, 2008 in Alexandria at Arrowwood. There will be six tracts to choose from including: Desktop Publisher and Powerpoint for Intermediate and Advanced Users, Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Strategies, Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Overview, Marketing Your Public Education Program and Multi-Cultural Prevention Programs, Fire Instructor I Overview, and Fire Department Training Program Management. There will be certification testing for Fire Instructor I as well as Fire & Life Safety Educator I following the conference. For more information, contact Committee Chair Dennis Stark at 320-763-6489 or dstark@rea-alp.com.

The Home Safety Council is conducting Webinars each month from July 2007 to May 2008. These are excellent one hour on line learning opportunities. One or more respected national safety education experts present the Webinar on a specific topic related to either home fire safety or disaster preparedness. These Webinars are available to members of the Home Safety Council Expert Network. It does not cost to be a member of the expert network and members receive free materials that are some of the best out there. The most

recent Webinar on November 27 was titled Multiculturalism and Fire Service. To view any of the archived Webinars, go to: www.homesafetycouncil.org for more information.

If you would like to get news about fire and life safety education from around the nation, consider joining the NFLSE email list group. Joining this list group may add to your email, but it can also provide some valuable information. NFLSE (National Fire and Life Safety Educators) is a group specifically related to fire and life safety educators nationally. Fire and Life Safety Education is that critical element aimed at using education to change unsafe human behavior. The group may include people associated with fire and burn safety, Risk Watch, injury prevention, evacuation planning, safety for the elderly, poisoning prevention, stroke and heart attack prevention and any other area that focuses on educating the general public about risks. The group will provide real time opportunity to discuss topical issues, problem solve, make announcements related to safety education and just plain communicate.

The group is closely moderated and will require membership approval by the moderator. Conditions of approval will be that candidate members must either be active fire and life safety educators, work in government or private agencies that have a logical link to fire and life safety education. Free lance and private citizens who have a passion, niche or are interested in fire and life safety education are also welcome. The group moderator will screen candidates requesting membership and may require the candidate to provide data or information, ideas about education or otherwise useful information as a condition of membership. The group moderator will also guard the integrity of the group to prevent harm from spammers and other threats. Contact the NFLSE Group Moderator Mike Love at: michael.love@montgomerycountymd.gov if you are interested in joining.

Music Trivia (with a fire theme)

By Jon Nisja

For those of us from the “baby-boomer” generation, music has often been a big influence in our lives. Below is a challenge to test your music trivia knowledge. All of the songs involved have a fire theme to them; see if you know the answers (Note:

the answers can be found elsewhere in the Post Indicator).

1. This rather up-tempo song was sung by the “one-hit wonder” group of Sanford & Townsend in 1977.
2. A Minneapolis, Minnesota group called the Castaways performed this song in 1965. It mocks a common childhood saying when someone’s comments are being called into question.
3. Name the “one-hit wonder” who performed the hate-filled song “Fire” in 1968.
4. This song by the Platters was immortalized as one of the classic slow-dance songs in the 1973 movie “American Graffiti”.
5. This song was the first hit for Singer/Songwriter James Taylor in 1970.
6. Glen Frey sang this song in 1985; it was made popular in the movie “Beverly Hills Cop”.
7. Martha and the Vandellas sang about this phenomenon in 1963.
8. This song Hot Rod Lincoln talks about a fast car. It was sung by three artists but the most-recognized version was done in 1972 by this group.
9. This 1974 song by Brownsville Station sings about a rebellious act now discouraged:
10. Even “The King” had a fire-themed song; name Elvis Presley’s 1972 song.

Sprinkler Plan Review and Inspection Competency

By Phil Owens – FMAM President

This following draft is issued for discussion purposes only to assist in the ratification of the position of the membership of the Fire Marshal’s Association of Minnesota on this topic.

A number of FMAM members have made known their personal positions on both sides of this issue. We must now form a cohesive position from which to work and with which to advise the State Fire Marshal on this issue.

DRAFT Position Statement on the Competency of Fire Sprinkler Plan Examiners

The Fire Marshal’s Association of Minnesota (FMAM) has long supported professional development and competency.

The FMAM supports professional competency for individuals conducting the review and approval of fire sprinkler plans on behalf of an Authority Having Jurisdiction.

The FMAM believes that this competency can be demonstrated by a review of the individual's training and experience in this field of endeavor.

The FMAM feels that in establishing an acceptable criterion for this training and experience that it must include examined course work provided by an accredited institution (i.e. the class must include a test or examination).

The FMAM believes that recognition of the competency is granted to the individual rather than to the jurisdiction.

Sprinkler Plan Review and Inspection Competency – FMAM Representative

By Gordon Bates – Assistant Fire Marshal –
Minneapolis Fire Department

As the appointed representative for FMAM on the Fire Protection Advisory Council, my position is to represent the wishes and best interests of the members of the organization.

The issue of plan review and inspector competency was informally brought up by the sprinkler contractors and fitters at one of the committee meetings, but a formal motion has not been proposed as of this writing.

I asked for the organization's position on competency at the June meeting, a short discussion ensued; the debate was cut short due to time considerations. I left the meeting with mixed messages. I developed a simple survey that was e-mailed to the membership and received 41 responses. 25 responded that they thought that plan reviewers and inspectors needed to have their competency verified by testing, 15 responded that documentation of education and experience is adequate (1 did not offer an opinion). I took the survey to be the organization's wishes and defacto direction.

My vote on a proposal will be in accordance with my understanding of the organization's directions. If

FMAM wants something other than what was reflected in the survey: I need clear direction.

Note:

My reading of the committee, based on past comments of the members, is that there are enough votes to pass a recommendation to require plan review and inspector competency testing even with FMAM and the building officials reps voting against it.

Sprinkler Plan Review and Inspection Competency – Personal Position

Editorial Article by Gordon Bates – Assistant Fire
Marshal – Minneapolis Fire Department

The following comments are my personal position on the issue of plan reviewer and inspector competency.

Fire sprinkler systems have become the first and last line of defense for protection of life from fires therefore it is important that they are designed and installed properly. Building and fire codes have evolved to recognize sprinklers as being the most effective means of providing fire protection and those codes allow other fire safety systems to be diminished or eliminated when sprinklers are installed.

Fire sprinkler systems have become more complex as time goes on. The Minnesota rules relating to fire protection systems, formulated in 1992, required plan reviewers and inspectors to only document their sprinkler related education to become certified to do that work. The 1991 edition of NFPA # 13 had rules for only three types of sprinkler heads, upright, pendent and sidewall. The rules for a Grinnell sprinkler were the same as for a Reliable or Globe sprinkler. Today there are dozens (possibly hundreds?) of sprinkler types and styles, each with their own set of design and installation rules dictated by #13 or the specific listing for that head. Add to that the number of types of pipe and their flow characteristics (See note 1 below for examples of changes in complexity). Many of the plan reviewers and inspectors that were certified by documentation 15 years ago have not kept up with changes in the sprinkler industry.

This increased complexity has created more opportunities for error. Those who do a lot of

sprinkler plan review and inspections are finding many problems with these systems, from phantom piping in the calculations to the miss-application of sprinklers. Anyone who has not kept up with the changes in sprinkler technology or NFPA # 13 rules “doesn’t know what he doesn’t know”, to paraphrase a former U. S. Secretary of Defense.

In Minneapolis we are constantly “educating” designers on an issue by issue and project by project basis, which has convinced me that the designers in this industry are not getting the training that they need, nor adequate time to do their design work. AHJ’s from other parts of the country have voiced similar concerns about the quality of sprinkler design and installation.

I have become convinced that plan reviewers and inspectors working for government are the last line of quality control, and in too many cases the only quality control, for the systems that are the last line of defense from fire.

The old saying of “You don’t get what you expect, you get what you inspect” is true in general, and true in particular when applied to sprinkler systems. I reviewed a design where my detailed inspection of the hydraulic calculations revealed a phantom pipe in the calculations which didn’t show up on the drawing. My rough calculation of the hydraulic demand of that system shown on drawing indicated that it would have only produced about 1/3 of the code required density if that design had been installed. I would not want to stay in, nor have my family or friends stay in an apartment, hotel, hospital or nursing home that was “protected” by a similarly flawed sprinkler system.

I have been told by sprinkler contractors that there are numerous municipalities that only do a cursory review of the drawings and approve the designs with a note: “The hydraulic calculations are the responsibility of the designer”. These plan reviewers either don’t care or don’t know. The municipalities that have done substandard reviews and inspections have been identified by some sprinkler contractors who prefer not to have their systems subjected to detailed scrutiny and hence those contractors tend to be more successful in bidding projects in those areas, I have been told this by a couple of contractors who can’t compete in those areas while maintaining a clear conscience.

The only way that you can be reasonable assured that an individual is competent to do a task is to subject them to a test of those skills and knowledge. I don’t enjoy tests, neither blood tests nor certification tests, but they are necessary when you need to know what is going on inside. I believe that everyone who is doing this work needs to pass a reasonable, legitimate test to show competency and needs to document periodic ongoing relevant continuing education.

Competency is determined by testing in all the professional fields that I am aware of. Medical professionals from EMT to Surgeons are certified by testing; engineers, architects, lawyers, police, etc, all have to pass tests to receive their certifications. If our profession is serious about “professional competency” we need to show it. The fact that I may have a badge or a Building Officials Certificate may give me the right, but doesn’t give me the ability, to do plan review and inspection.

The concept of certifying plan reviewers and inspectors is not a Minnesota original idea. Based on the information I found at least 13 other states are requiring similar certifications for those reviewing sprinkler design and installations. Municipalities that presently do their own reviews or inspections and feel that they do not want to continue that work have options available such as contracting to a third party or turn those responsibilities over to the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Sprinkler systems are too important and too complex not to have thorough, non partisan review by a certified person.

Note 1: The changes in the size of NFPA Standard # 13 hint at the changes in complexity of the design of sprinkler systems.

- The 1991 edition consists of 135 pages.
- The 2002 edition grew to 331 pages (some of the growth due to inclusion of sprinkler requirements from standards 231, 231C, etc.).
- The 2007 edition has 382 pages, a 182% increase in size from 1991! The 1991 edition has less than 3 pages addressing sprinkler position and obstructions; the 2007 edition devotes 28 pages to those same issues.

FMAM Organizational & Committee Representatives – 2008

The following FMAM members have been appointed by President Phil Owens and confirmed by the Board to represent FMAM on these various committees or assignments.

FMAM members should feel free to contact these individuals with questions, concerns, or suggestions on issues regarding the various committees or assignments.

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) Code Committee:

- Gene Dugal – Bloomington
- Tom Jenson – Edina
- Angie Leitner – St. Paul

SFM Fire Protection Advisory Committee:

- Gordy Bates – Minneapolis
- Angie Leitner (Alternate) – St. Paul

Governor's Council on Fire Protection & Control:

- Jeff Schadegg – Inver Grove Heights
- Lisa Douglas (Alternate) – Maple Grove

Certification & Professional Qualifications – MFSCB:

- Brad Schmoll – Minneapolis
- Phil Owens (Alternate) – St. Paul

Fire Service Advisory:

- Steve Zaccard (representing both FMAM and MnIAAI) – St. Paul
- Robbie Bartholomew (Alternate) – Andover

MN Public Safety Commissioner's Fire Service Policy Advisory:

- Phil Owens – St. Paul
- Kip LaMotte (Alternate) – New Brighton

IFMA – Chapter Liaison:

- Phil Owens – St. Paul
- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton
- Jon Nisja – State Fire Marshal

ICC – Region III Chapter Liaison:

- Phil Owens – St. Paul
- Kip LaMotte (Alternate) – New Brighton

Training & Education, Curriculum Development - U of M Code Officials Conference:

- Gordy Bates – Minneapolis
- Gene Dugal – Bloomington
- Chris Hearnden – Vadnais Heights
- Thierry Chevallier – Minneapolis

Training & Education, Curriculum Development - ICC Code Conference:

- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton

MnSCU Curriculum Development – Fire Inspector AAS – BS Degree Programs:

- Leanna Schaff – St. Paul

Legislation – MnFAC:

- Steve Zaccard (Chair) – St. Paul
- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton

Public Education:

- Connie Forster (Chair) – SBM
- Shelby Wolfe – West Metro

Membership:

- John Swanson – State Fire Marshal

Meeting Sites & Host Arrangements:

- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton

Quarterly Meeting & Training:

- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton

Training & Seminars:

- Jon Nisja – State Fire Marshal

Merchandise Sales:

- Butch Gervais – Maplewood
- Kip LaMotte – New Brighton

Media Relations:

- Butch Gervais – Maplewood
- Vance Swisher – Rochester

Web Site Development & Maintenance:

- Jon Nisja (Webmaster) – State Fire Marshal
- John Powers – Farmington

Post Indicator Editor

- Jon Nisja – State Fire Marshal

Music Trivia - Answers

Here are the answers to the fire-themed music trivia questions from page 6:

Answer 1: Smoke From a Distant Fire

Answer 2: Liar, Liar (Pants on Fire)

Answer 3: The Crazy World of Arthur Brown

Answer 4: Platters: Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Answer 5: Fire and Rain

Answer 6: The Heat is On

Answer 7: Heat Wave

Answer 8: Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen

Answer 9: Smokin' in the Boy's Room

Answer 10: Burning Love

Pages 11-16 contain information from NFPA's One Stop Data Shop on Holiday Safety Issues, Heating fires, Smoking fires, and fire department profiles.

Contact NFPA for copies of the full reports.

safe Telement™

Fire Prevention



**SAFE-T-ELEMENT™ HELPS
PREVENT COOKING FIRES
BEFORE THEY START.**

WHY SAFE-T-ELEMENT™?

The Safe-T-element™ cooking system was created to address one of the most serious problems in the household – stovetop-cooking fires. Stovetop cooking is the number one cause of household fires in North America.

Most fire safety products alert you to the fact that there is already a problem or help you suppress the problem. Safe-T-element™ was engineered to help prevent these fires from starting in the first place.

FACTS:

- A kitchen fire occurs every 8 minutes in North America
- Unattended cooking is responsible for over 70% of these fires
- Cooking accounts for 42% of all apartment fires
- Seniors are the most vulnerable to fire and are the highest risk group
- Cooking is the leading cause of fire on college campuses
- Ignition temperature for cooking oil is 370°C/698°F and household materials such as cotton and paper ignite between 400°C/752°F and 570°C/1,058°F
- A burner on high reaches temperatures in excess of 700°C/1,291°F

Source: NFPA

WHAT IS SAFE-T-ELEMENT™?

The Safe-T-element™ cooking system is a patented product upgrade for electric coiled stovetops, engineered to help prevent cooking fires before they start while reducing the amount of electricity required to cook.

An element on high, red hot and unattended for even a short period of time is one that has reached a dangerously high temperature and is out of control. That amount of heat is never necessary. No one needs 700°C/1291°F when oil ignites at as low as 370°C/698°F.

Each Safe-T-element™ is an electronically controlled solid cover plate that is installed on top of your existing stovetop burner. A patented control unit inside the stove controls the temperature of the plate cover allowing it to only reach a maximum of 350°C/662°F.

When the plate reaches a temperature of 350°C/662°F, it automatically shuts the stove off and conversely as it cools to just below 350°C/662°F the stovetop is turned on again. In this way the burner plate maintains a temperature of 350°C/662°F, more than enough for efficient and effective cooking, while not allowing household materials to ignite.



**PIONEERING
TECHNOLOGY**

PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY INC.

220 Britannia Road East, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4Z 1S6

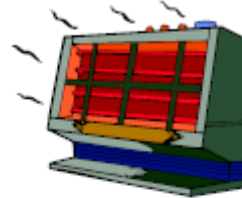
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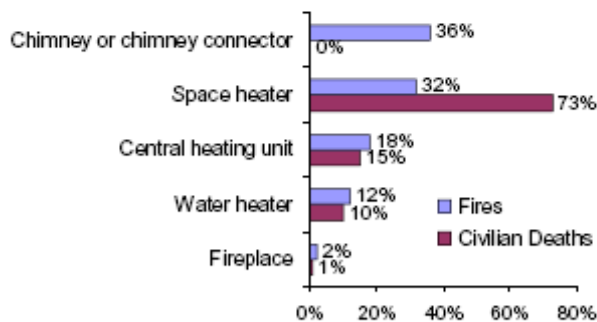
U.S. Home Heating Equipment Fires

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 62,200 home¹ structure fires that involved heating equipment in 2005. These fires caused

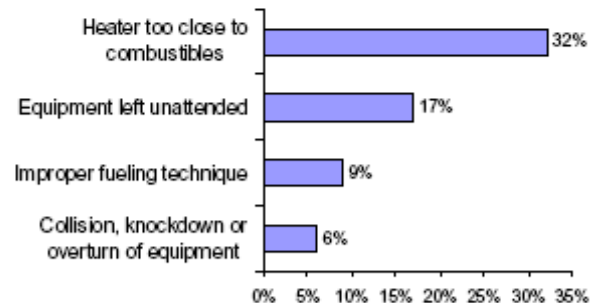


- 670 civilian fire deaths
 - 1,550 civilian fire injuries
 - \$909 million in direct property damage
- Heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires in 2005 (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths.
 - In 2002-2005, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and deaths (53%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding. These statistics exclude fires that were confined to a chimney, flue, fuel burner, or boiler.
 - Nearly half (44%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2002-2005.
 - The peak time of home heating fires is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

U.S. Home Heating Fires by Equipment Involved: 2005



Leading Factors in Space Heater Fires 2002-2005



- Chimneys and chimney connectors accounted for the largest share (36%) of home heating fire incidents in 2005.
- Failure to clean accounted for two thirds (64 %) of the confined chimney and chimney connector fires in 2002-2005.

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.
- One-third of space heater fires started when the heater was too close to something that could catch fire. Improper fueling was a particular problem for kerosene heaters.

¹ Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses and condominiums.



Smoking-Material Fire Problem

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 82,400 smoking-material fires in 2005. These fires caused:



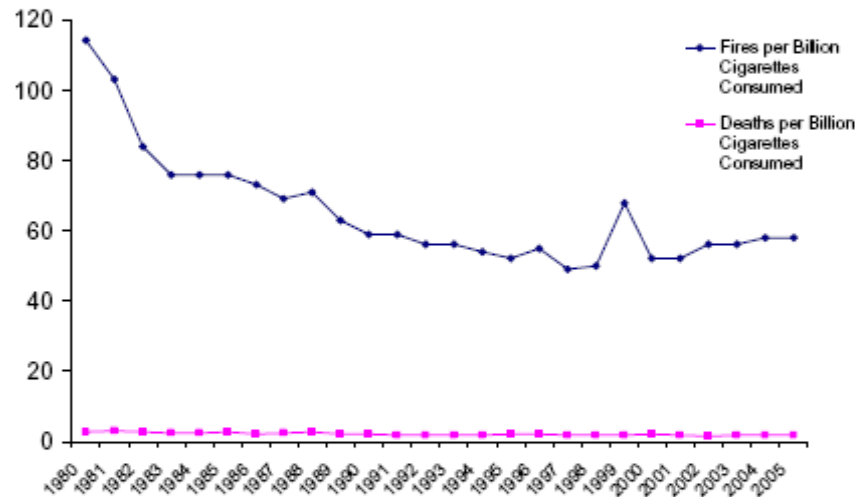
- 800 civilian deaths
- 1,660 civilian injuries, and
- \$575 million in direct property damage.

These estimates are derived from the U.S. Fire Administration national Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Version 5.0 and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

Trends in the Smoke-Material Fire Problem, by Fire Loss Rates 1980-2005

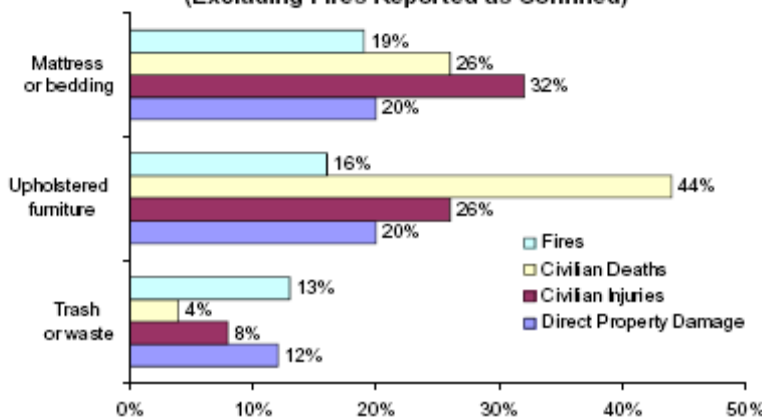


FACT: One out of four fatal victims of smoking-materials is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.



In recent years, Canada and nearly half of all U.S. states – including the three most populous – California, Texas, and New York – have required that all cigarettes sold must be “fire safe,” that is, have sharply reduced ignition strength or ability to start fires.

Smoking-Material Fires in Homes, by Leading Item First Ignited in 2002-2005 (Excluding Fires Reported as Confined)



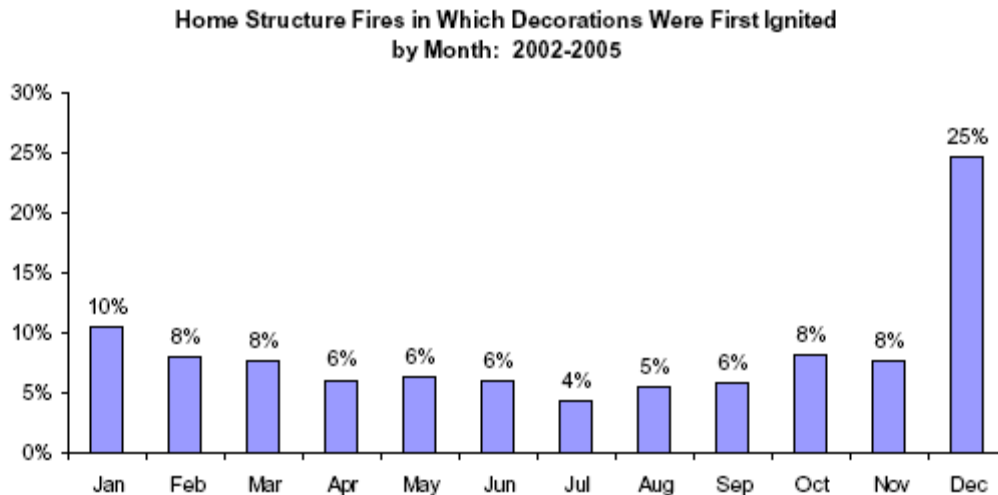
FACT: More fatal smoking-material fires start in living rooms, family rooms, and dens



FACT: The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.

December has three times as many home decoration fires as an average month. Figure 2 shows that 25% of home structure decoration fires occurred in December and 10% occurred in January.

Figure 2.



Source: NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA survey.

Flame damage was confined to the object of origin in 43% of these fires.

These fires tend to be small. Table 2 shows that flame damage extended beyond the room of origin in only 12% of these fires.

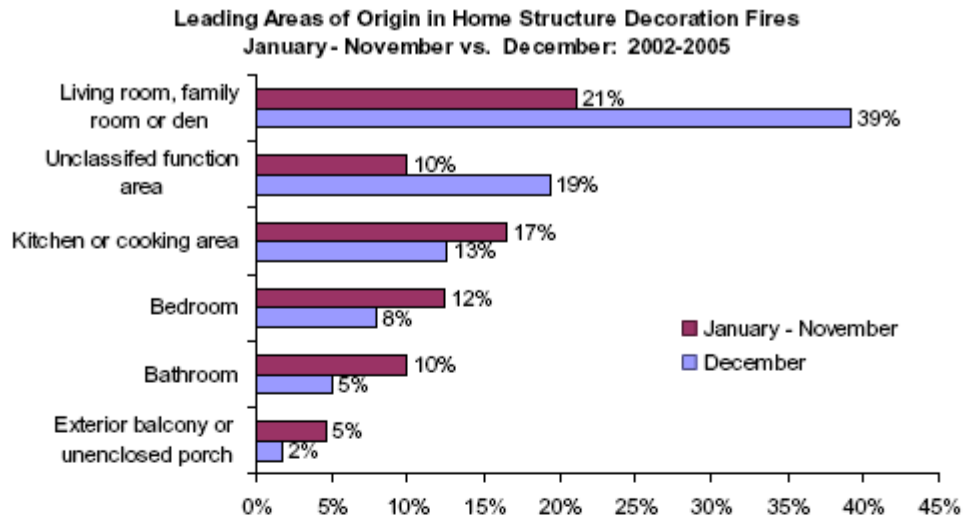
Half of these fires were caused by decorations too close to heat sources

Only 7% of the home structure decoration fires were intentionally set. (See Table 3) Table 4 shows that a heat source too close to the decoration was a factor in 52% of these incidents, abandoned or discarded material was a factor in 11%, and unattended equipment was a factor in 7% of these fires.

Seventy-six percent of home structure decoration fires were coded as no equipment involved. Ranges or cooktops were involved in 7%; lamps or lighting, including decorative lighting, in 5%; and fixed or portable space heaters were involved in 3% of these incidents. (See Table 5.)

The leading area of origin for these fires is the living room, family room or den.

One-quarter (26%) of these fires started in the living room, family room or den. Sixteen percent started in the kitchen, 12% in an unclassified function area, 11% in a bedroom, and 9% in a bathroom. (See Table 6.)



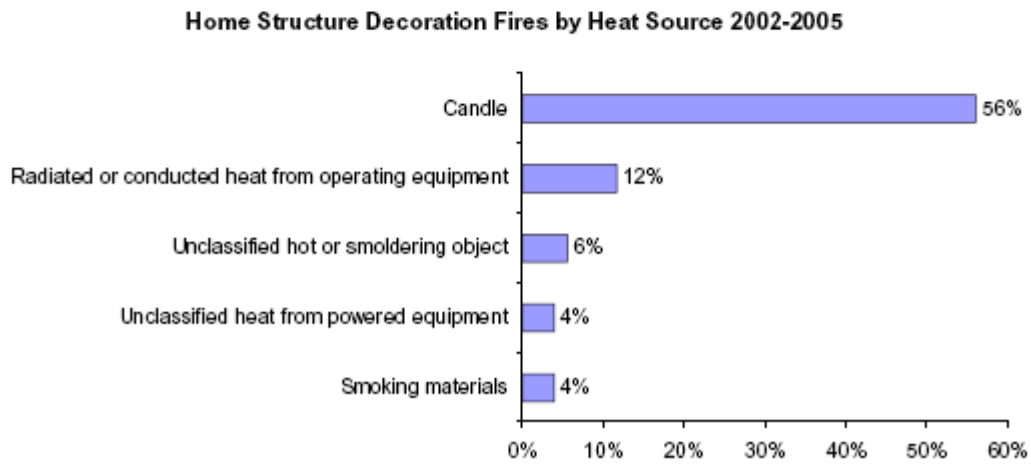
Source: NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA survey.

While the living room, family room or den is the most common area of origin for decoration fires throughout the year, Figure 3 shows that the percentage of fires starting in these areas is nearly twice as high in December as it is during the rest of the year.

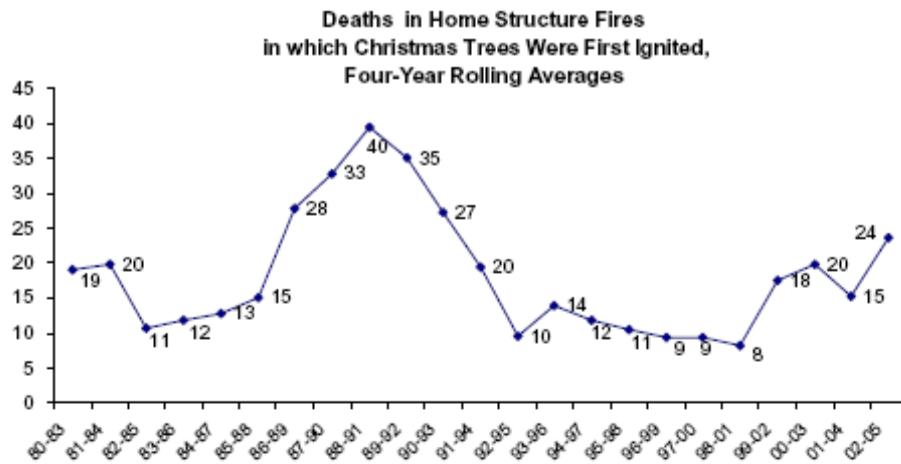
More than half of home decoration structure fires were started by candles.

Table 7 and Figure 4 show that candles were the heat source in 56% of these fires. In December, the candle share of decoration fires jumped to 71%, compared to 51% in the remainder of the year.

Figure 4.

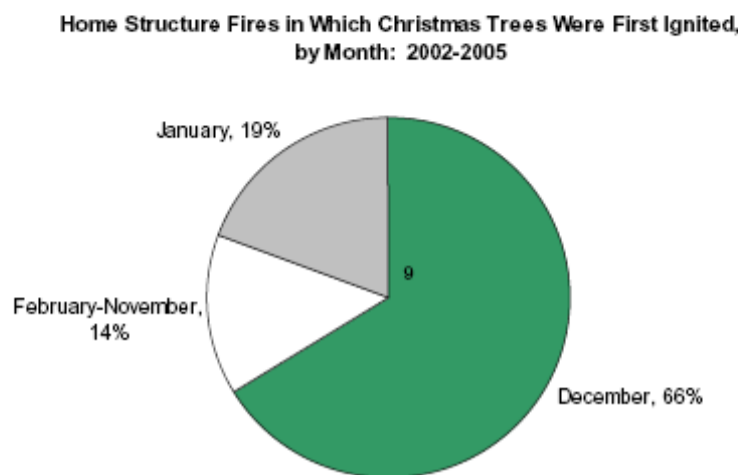


Source: NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA survey.



Deaths from Christmas tree fires were higher in recent years than in the late 1990s. Over the 26-year period of 1980 to 2005, the projected number of Christmas tree fire deaths ranged from a low of zero to a high of 54. Because these statistics are projections and not a census, it is possible to have an estimate of zero deaths in a year when some deaths actually occurred. A fire that kills several people, when projected, can result in an artificially high estimate of deaths. Figure 2 shows four-year estimated averages of deaths, beginning with the period of 1980-1983, and ending with 2002-2005. Civilian deaths, civilian injuries, and direct property damage all peaked in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Although it appears in Figure 2 that deaths from these fires have recently been trending upward, the actual numbers are small and subject to considerable normal variation. While Christmas tree death estimates for two of the last four years in the period studied were substantially higher than the 1980-2005 average, the estimate was zero in one of these four years.

Figure 3.





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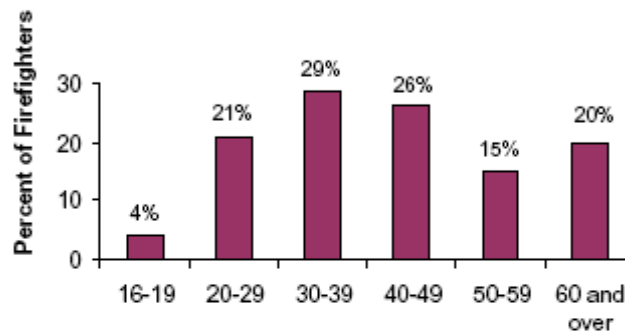


The U.S. Fire Department Profile

There are **1,140,900** firefighters in the United States

- **28%** (316,950) are career firefighters.
- **72%** (823,950) are volunteer firefighters.
- Firefighters in smaller communities are more likely to be volunteers.
- Departments protecting larger communities tend to have a higher proportion of firefighters in the age groups 30-39 and 40-49 than smaller communities.

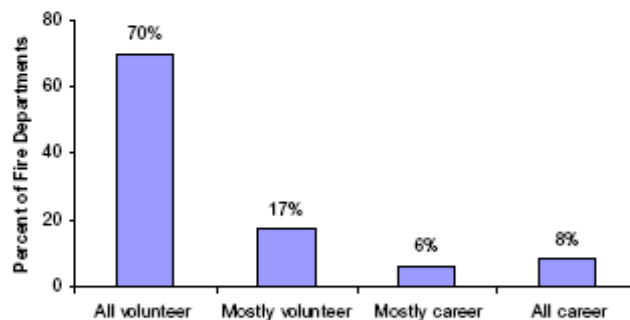
Number of Firefighters in the U.S. by Age Group, 2006



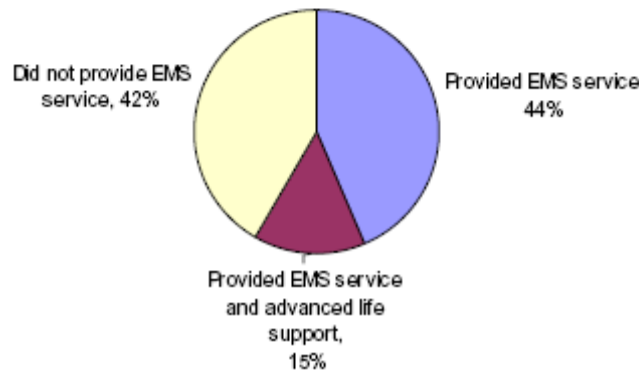
30,635 fire departments protected the United States in 2006

- All career 2,321
- Mostly career 1,731
- Mostly volunteer 5,134
- All volunteer 21,449

Fire Departments by Type, 2006



Fire Department Provision of Emergency Medical Service, 2004-2006 Annual Averages



FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Bloomington Fire Station #1 – 95th & Nicollet

12:30 p.m. – Education Program – Firestopping by Hilti Products

1:30 p.m. – Business Meeting

Other Important Dates (2008):

January 9-18, 2008 – Annual U of MN Building Official Conference

January 26-27, 2008 – Public Fire Safety Educators Conference

February 4-8, 2008 – AMBO Conference

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 – FMAM Annual Meeting & Elections

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 – Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 – Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 – Quarterly Meeting

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