

International
SprinklerScene

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NFSA On-Line Seminars Now Available to IFSA Members Starting at 2:30 pm Greenwich Mean Time

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is now conducting its popular "Technical Tuesday" on-line seminars at 10:30 am Eastern time in the United States, or 2:30 pm Greenwich mean time (3:30 pm beginning October 2000). The seminars are conducted in English over the internet, allowing the participants to hear the instructor while viewing slides. Using their keyboards, participants are able to send in real-time questions, which can be answered by the instructor immediately or at the end of the seminar. A background paper is sent to all registrants in advance of the seminar, and a summary of questions and answers is sent following the seminar. The on-line seminar itself is one to one and a half hours in length. The NFSA on-line seminars are receiving rave reviews for their ability to bring top technical information directly to the desktop. The seminars are economically priced at US\$50 for NFSA (and IFSA) members, and US\$75 for non-members. The best part: it's like going to a seminar but with no travel expense.

The topics for the remainder of 2000 have been announced:

| Date | Topic |
|--------------------|---|
| May 9, 2000 | Alarms for Sprinkler Systems |
| May 23, 2000 | Water Spray Systems |
| June 13, 2000 | Water Tanks |
| June 27, 2000 | Sprinklers in Computer Rooms |
| July 11, 2000 | Sprinkler Obstruction Rules |
| July 25, 2000 | Basic Sprinkler Spacing |
| August 8, 2000 | Advanced Sprinkler Spacing |
| August 29, 2000 | Math for the Sprinkler Industry |
| September 12, 2000 | Backflow Protection for the Fire Sprinkler Industry |
| September 26, 2000 | Underground Piping for Fire Protection |
| October 10, 2000 | Science for the Fire Sprinkler Industry |
| October 24, 2000 | Basic Hydraulics |
| November 21, 2000 | Hydraulic Calculation Theory |
| December 12, 2000 | Sprinkler System Design for Special Occupancy Hazards |

The NFSA website at www.nfsa.org has seminar descriptions and complete registration details.

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World Sprinkler News

Swedish Sprinklerframjandet Joins IFSA - The Swedish organization formed in 1994 to promote automatic fire sprinkler protection has become the first to align itself with the International Fire Sprinkler Association by becoming an Association member. The organization has a membership of 37 companies, including system inspectors, designers, suppliers and contractors. Sprinklerframjandet has sponsored a number of significant programs since its inception, including the construction of a residential sprinkler demonstration unit, a campaign for residential sprinklers in senior citizen dwelling units, and initiatives promoting sprinkler protection of and places of public assembly.

NFSN Successful in UK - The National Fire Sprinkler Network in the United Kingdom has been successful in its effort to lower the threshold for sprinkler requirements in single-story retail buildings. Originally proposed as 4000 m², the maximum nonsprinklered compartment size will be reduced to 2000 m² in the revised Approved Document for Part B of the Building Regulations. The announcement was made by British construction minister Nick Raynsford, speaking at the December Annual Luncheon of the British Automatic Sprinkler Association. Disappointment has been expressed, however, at the exclusion of non-retail storage premises from the new requirements. The NFSN plans to continue its efforts in this area, while also working toward promotion of sprinklers in schools and residences.

School Fire Report Promotes Sprinklers - The West Midlands Fire Service (UK) has released a report on fire sprinklers in schools entitled "*Sprinklers: The Automatic Solution*". The report notes that about 2000 schools are damaged by fires every year in the United Kingdom, 70 to 80% of which are started deliberately.

Irish "Smart Sprinkler" Research - Research is being undertaken at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology in Donegal, Ireland, relative to the development of a "smart sprinkler" that would recognize when it is under sufficient pressure to allow proper operation. The intent is to prevent system malfunction due to closed valves. Researcher Brendon Dalton can be reached by fax at +353 (0)74 64109 or through e-mail at brendon.dalton@lyit.ie.

New Australian Sprinkler Standard Available - The 1999 edition of Australian Standard AS2118.1 - *Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems (Part : General Requirements)* is now available. The 148-page document carries a December 5, 1999 publication date and is available through the Fire Protection Association Australia national office. Contact Bob Sutcliffe at fax (03)9890-1577 or e-mail at bob@fpaa.com.au.

Kidd New BASA Secretary General - Stewart Kidd, the former Director of the Fire Protection Association in the UK, will be assuming the position of Secretary General of the British Automatic Sprinkler Association (BASA) on a part-time basis, effective May 1, 2000. Mr. Ian Brown is retiring from the position he has held since 1990. Mr. Peter Armstrong, managing director of Armstrong Priestley Ltd, Leeds, is the new Chairman of BASA.

Mesa Votes Down Sprinklers - For what is believed to be a first in U.S. history, a fire-related city ordinance intended to address new construction was placed on a ballot for public referendum. Citizens of Mesa, Arizona were asked to vote on whether residential sprinklers should be required in all new dwellings. Despite strong support by the fire chief and other fire professionals in the state, the sprinkler initiative lost by a 2:1 margin. Realtors and builders successfully lobbied against the ordinance with negative information on sprinklers and scare tactics.

US Senate Considers University Retrofit Support - The U.S. Senate is considering legislation that would provide \$100 million per year for five years to help colleges and universities retrofit sprinkler systems in student housing. This comes in the wake of the fire at Seton Hall University that killed three students in late January. Related bills have been introduced in a number of states. The legislature of the

state of Wisconsin, for example, acted on March 31, 2000, to require that all existing University of Wisconsin residence halls and dormitories more than 60 ft in height be retrofit with sprinkler systems and all new student housing be provided with sprinkler protection regardless of height.

Heaviside Honored - Leslie Heaviside, engineering director for Wormald Ansul (UK) Ltd, was designated a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's New Years Honours List. The award was given in recognition of "Services to Fire Protection Systems" and is believed to be the first such award given to an individual in the fire suppression systems industry. Leslie is past chairman of the British Automatic Sprinkler Association and a longtime participant in the activities of ISO/TC21/SC5 on sprinkler and water spray systems.

SP Tests Standard European Commodity - The Swedish National Testing and Research Institute (SP) has released two reports comparing the Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC) standard plastic commodity against a EUR standard commodity. Entitled "*A Small Scale Comparison between the FMRC and the EUR Standard Plastic Commodities*" and "*An Intermediate Scale Comparison between the FMRC and the EUR Standard Plastic Commodities*", the reports are based on studies conducted by Magnus Arvidson and funded by Brandforsk. The EUR commodity was developed by SP due to the fact that the FMRC cartons do not fit on European pallets. Both commodities consist of polystyrene plastic cups without lids placed upside down in compartmented cardboard cartons. On the basis of the small scale tests it was concluded that the EUR commodity is more difficult to suppress, but heat radiation measurements indicated no difference that could explain the results. The subsequent intermediate scale tests verified the greater severity of the EUR commodity. Three reasons proposed for the difference were that the ten EUR cartons (instead of eight FMRC cartons) "protected" the cups with greater stability, that the individual compartments were slightly smaller, and that the individual weight of plastic cups was also smaller.

British Domestic Sprinkler Standard Released - The British Standards Institution is releasing its new Draft for Development DD251 - *Sprinkler systems for residential and domestic occupancies* on April 15, 2000. Work is beginning on DD252, a supporting standard for testing of residential sprinkler systems.

FPA Separated from LPC - The British Research Establishment (BRE), which was privatized about four years ago, has purchased the Loss Prevention Council (LPC), effective March 31, 2000, from the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The Fire Protection Association (FPA) has been separated from LPC and will remain under the control of ABI and Lloyds where it will continue its activities of fire safety education and training. The LPCB, which is LPC's certification business, will be combined with BRE's certification, but BRE, BRE Certification, LPC and LPCB will be maintained as separate brands. The LPC activities will be relocated to new facilities at BRE's location near Watford, England, northwest of London.

European Sprinkler Group Proposed - The Residential Sprinkler Association (UK) plans to promote a new European Fire Sprinkler Association at the Interschutz 2000 exhibition in Augsburg, Germany in June.

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars, and Exhibitions of Interest

June 15-17, 2000 - 3rd International Conference on Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods, Lund University, Sweden, Organized by Lund University and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, USA (Fax 301-718-2242 or www.sfpe.org)

June 20, 2000 - Meeting of International Fire Sprinkler Association Board of Directors, Munich, Germany

June 20-25, 2000 - INTERSHUTZ 2000, Augsburg, Germany, (In US FAX 609-987-0092 or e-mail dhyland@hfusa.com) (In Germany FAX +(49) 511/89-32692 or e-mail Ulrich.koch@messe.de)

July 16-17, 2000 - "Fire Sprinkler Technology and NFPA 13", Tel Aviv, Israel, Organized by NFPA and IFSA in partnership with the Israeli Engineers and Architects Association. (Fax 1-914-878-4215 or www.sprinklerworld.org)

July 19-20, 2000 - "Fire Sprinkler Technology and NFPA 13", Cairo, Egypt, Organized by NFPA and IFSA in partnership with the Egyptian Fire Protection Association (Fax 1-914-878-4215 or www.sprinklerworld.org)

September 7-8, 2000 - "Home Protection 2000", Glasgow, Scotland, UK, Organized by the Fire Protection Association and Straythclyde Fire Brigade (www.thefpa.co.uk)

November 8-11, 2000 - Security China 2000, Beijing, c/o Adsale People Inc., USA, (Fax 1-408-986-1580 or www.adsaleexh.com)