



Quarterly Newsletter

Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota

POST INDICATOR



March 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Bob James

As we start this New Year, FMAM will be working hard to provide you with some exciting opportunities. We are looking at training for all levels of fire prevention staff. We are currently in contact with great instructors to schedule this training throughout 2004. The FMAM board is working with other associations and groups to provide our members training and educational for the new and the seasoned inspectors. Please watch the Post Indicator, FMAM web site and your e-mail box for these announcements soon.

Due to the year 2003 being filled with major life-loss fires and tragedies, the code committees and individual FMAM members have been exploring new ideas and approaches to reducing potential of the occurrences. This code development work and study will assist all of the FMAM members in future protection measures and risk assessment. The committees and research groups will be looking for our input and feedback over the up coming year, so if you approached for your comments by a e-mail survey or asked to join one of these groups, please take the time to assess if you have the ability to join in. Please let the board or me know if you have

questions or concerns with specific topics and items so I can funnel it the appropriate FMAM members.

This March Annual Meeting will be filled with great education on LP gases and issues surrounding the industry. Please bring all the great questions for this excellent presenter. The business meeting following the educational section will need everyone's support. We have a few major parts to this meeting and your attendance is requested. First we have a few proposed changes to the by-laws that will need to be voted upon. The proposed changes have been sent to you for your review so you can ask questions if needed and provide your vote. Second, we have an election to conduct – come and make your voice heard. Finally, we will have many updates and reports from the committees and members that support your association. This is not including the time for all the great opportunities to meet with your peers and solve all the issues of today.

Your voice, opinion, and suggestions are greatly needed to ensure a success in the future of FMAM. Have a great meeting in March Bob

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presidents Message	page 1	November Board Meeting Minutes	page 2
December Membership Mtg Minutes	page 3	State Fire Marshal Update	page 5
1305 Subcommittee Report	page 6	Legislative Committee Report:	page 7
Isn't responding Enough?	page 7	SBM & Homebuilder Partnership	page 8

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
Board Meeting
November 12, 2003**

Present: Bob James, Phil Owens, Robbie Floyd, Kip LaMotte, Butch Gervais, John Powers, Jon Nisja, and Jerry Rosendahl

President Bob James called the meeting to order at 9:05.

No motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2003.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

John Powers reported that we have \$17,485.62 minus outstanding expenses. Motion by Robbie Floyd and 2nd by Butch Gervais to approve the treasurer's report, motion passed unanimously.

Membership report from Robbie Floyd is 205 paid members for 2003. Membership renewal notices will be printed and mailed to members. The same format as last year all the information will be from the database, members will need only need to update if any changes.

The old account from used by Tom Deegan when treasurer will be closed, the money in that account will be transferred to our current account under John Powers. The Minnesota State Chief's Association is looking for a \$1000 for 2002 and 2003 legislative years, for the lobbyist fees. Motion to send two \$1000.00 checks to the Chief's by Phil Owens and 2nd by Kip LaMotte, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT: No Report.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl informed the board that The America Home Fire Safety Act has been introduced into the House in Congress but not into the Senate to get guidelines regarding candles, cigarettes, etc.

The Residential Inspection Fees Task Force has been assigned to look at the fee based inspections for hotel/motel/resorts.

Doug Ackerman will be replacing Bill Reinjes on the School Inspection Team. John Swanson's duties have changed and now he will be spending 50% of his time on school inspections.

TRAINING/EDUCAION:

The training at the December quarterly meeting will be on VESDA air sampling smoke detection systems to enhance familiarity with the technology and increase understanding of how to respond to alarm events from Air Sampling Smoke Detectors. Ryan McIntyre will be the presenter from VESDA.

Future training on U.L. 300 Systems, Building Construction for the Fire Service, Health Care Facility Inspections dealing with the new Life Safety Code, etc.

LEGISLATION:

The Chief's Code Committee is working on the 2004 potential legislative issues. Nothing really new this year, PERA, Retirement/Pensions, State Fire Marshal Tax, Check off on tax forms, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

ICC has given Bob James information regarding Chapter status; we will be receiving the same things offered previously by IFC, including a day of training every year. We are in Region 3 of the ICC.

Merchandise Sales: Butch has been in contact with Creative Promotions and we will now be able to order merchandise from our web site. All merchandise inventory will be through Creative Promotions. Motion by Robbie Floyd and 2nd by Kip LaMotte to approve Creative Promotions shelve sales and web site sales.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed having a booth at the Minnesota Building Official's Institute. We will also be looking at getting a booth at other conferences such as Chief's, Fire Department Association, League of Minnesota Cities, etc. This would improve our visibility, accessibility, and

increase membership. The board needs to go through the committee appointments and board assignments and update them.

Bylaw and Constitution Changes will be done next March at the Annual Meeting; information will be mailed or emailed to the members 30 days prior to the March meeting.

Election of Vice-President, one board seat, and Treasurer will also be held in March.

The board is looking at requirements and testing for flame retardant materials and finishes. Additional information will be available later.

Motion by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by Butch Gervais to adjourn, motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Robbie Floyd, Secretary
Approved as amended on 2/11/04

Minnesota Chapter IAAI 2004 Fire Investigation Conference

March 24-26, 2004

St. Cloud, MN



<http://www.mniaai.org/2004MNIAAIConference.htm>

Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP MEETING Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2003

CALL TO ORDER: President Bob James called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Bloomington City Hall.

Motion to approve the March 12, 2003 and June 11, 2003 minutes by Jeff Schadegg and 2nd by Mike Post, motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

John Powers reported that we currently have \$14,783.60 with some outstanding debits. The treasurer's account under Tom Deegan has been closed. Motion by Jon Nisja and 2nd by Dan Bernardy to accept the treasurer's report as given, motion passed unanimously.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl addressed the members and provided an update on the State Fire Marshal's office. The 2003 Fire Report has been published and was distributed at the Chief's Conference. It is available on the web site as well as highlights of the report. Fire related deaths this year are 36 in comparison to last years 64.

The Commissioner of Public Safety has reconvened the Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory Committee. The State Fire Marshal and representatives from MSFCA, MSFDA, FMAM, MPFF, Minneapolis and St. Paul Fire Departments meet with the Commissioner quarterly to discuss fire service issues.

The State Fire Marshal office has established an email list service, sign up is available through their website. This will be used for updates from the State Fire Marshal's Division.

Staff updates: Jon Nisja will be moving back into the main office and will also be doing Code Development and Training. John Swanson will be 50% Code Specialist and 50% School Inspector. Doug Ackerman is now on the School Inspection Team taking Bill Reinjes southern territory. Bob

Leger, Residential Inspector in the Northern region of the state has retired.

The State Fire Marshal's Division has had to deny civilian requests due to staffing. However, Fire Marshal Rosendahl stressed that the Fire Service is there number one client/customer and would make every attempt possible to assist the Fire Service.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Bill Calder reported – Juvenile Fire Setter Conference will be held February 2004 at the Anoka Hennepin Technical College.

December 19th is the press conference for Fire Safety for the Holidays.

Bob James and John Powers worked with Trish Van Pilsum on Christmas Tree Sprays and as usual has done another wonderful segment on the flammability of some products on the market.

TRAINING:

Jon Nisja will be working on a number of seminars and mini-seminars for the upcoming year including a joint session for Fire Service & Mental Health personnel regarding the new Life Safety Code. A ½ day seminar is set for January or February on Building Construction and will be held at New Brighton. Also trying to set up future classes on IFMA's Basic Fire Inspector and Advanced Fire Inspector.

The Annual Building Officials Institute is scheduled for January.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL:

Jeff Schadegg reported that the new Commissioner of Public Safety has become more involved with the group. The council has a new member RAM and they will add insight on agricultural building and the need for fire and building codes to address those types of buildings/occupancies.

CERTIFICATION REPORT:

Phil Owens informed the members of two new certifications, Public Educator I and II. These will be offered at two State Fire Schools and also at Anoka Hennepin Technical College. These certifications will include both written and practical testing.

LEGISLATION:

Bob James reported that he will be monitoring the 2004 legislation and will be sending out emails updating the members on items of interest to FMAM members. Some of the legislative initiatives are: Hi-Rise Retro Fit, Fireworks, Fees and Funding of SFMD, Sprinkler Laws, & Consolidation of Codes in the State.

The membership discussed fireworks in detail to determine whether we should ask the Joint Council to repeal the current law. Motion was brought forward by Dan Bernardy and 2nd by Gordy Bates to bring this item to the Joint Council, motion was discussed and then voted on, 15 yeas and 16 nays, motion denied. Some members suggested that if FMAM wanted to move forward on the repeal, they would need to coordinate and gather information and support before bring it to the Joint Council.

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER TASK FORCE:

Nothing to report.

CODE COMMITTEE:

Bob James reported that FMAM has three representatives on the Chief's Code Committee, they are Dave Springfield, Gene Dugal, and Tom Jensen. We as FMAM need to be at code hearings to represent Minnesota. The ICC Fire Code hearings are May 12, 2004 in Kansas, FMAM will be sending a representative.

BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE 1305:

Mike Post reported that the committee is going through the 2003 IBC in preparation to adopt. If you have any suggestions or direction for upcoming code review of Chapters 6 – 9 please get a hold of Mike.

ELEVATOR CODE AD. COMMITTEE:

Contact Steve Zaccard if you have anything brought up at the committee meetings.

MERCHANDISE:

Butch Gervais reported that we have set up a contract with Creative Promotions to sell our merchandise on the web. We will be able to add additional colors and styles without having a ton of merchandise on hand to lug all over. Just go to the FMAM web site and order your merchandise directly. If you run into any problems, let Butch know.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Code Amendments are still available through Jon Nisja.

The Fire Inspector and Fire Marshal from Rhode Island have not been indicted on any criminal charges. The membership would like some clarification on what our liability as Fire Inspectors/Marshals is and how do we protect ourselves. Look at getting someone from the Attorney Generals Office to speak to the membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOR THE GOOD OF THE MEMBERSHIP:

The Constitution and By-Laws on the FMAM web site are outdated and were not changed in 2000. We will be updating them and we will be voting on them at the March Meeting.

Elections will also be held in March for Vice-President, Treasurer, and one board seat. If interested see Robbie.

Adjourned at 4:10pm by Phil Owens and 2nd by Robbie Floyd, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Floyd, Secretary

State Fire Marshal Update

Submitted by State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl

Just when you start to celebrate, a dose of reality hits you in the face. We just finished 2003 with a record low number of fire deaths (41) and were collectively celebrating our success, and then we move into 2004 and experience 12 fire deaths in the first 55 days. It just goes to show you that we must look at the big picture and the long-term trend instead of one event or one year in order to see the many successes of fire prevention. The long-term trend downward in fire deaths is incrementally achieved by every single fire inspection and every single fire safety contact. We are collectively making a fire safety difference in Minnesota, and we are allowed to celebrate.

The SFM budget problems continue with July 1, 2004 being a critical next step for us to get over. A further reduction in services will take place unless a solution is found. Several options are being pursued to fix the gap in funding. Legislative action will be required for most of these options. As soon as we know specifics on how you can help us, we will let you know. Thank you very much for your indications of support; we appreciate them and hopefully will be able to see the benefits by July 1.

As an "old-timer" in FMAM I am very impressed with the quality of professionalism and commitment that I see in current FMAM members. This is what drives me and the SFM Division staff to work harder and do better at our jobs. Keep up the great work that you are doing. I think we have a wonderful partnership that is working well. As always, if you have comments or ideas please send them to me.

Jerry Rosendahl
651-215-0503
Jerry.Rosendahl@state.mn.us

2003 Building Code 1305 Subcommittee Report

The last few months I have been attending the preliminary meetings for the adoption process of the 2003 International Building Code. Meetings are bimonthly at State Building Codes and Standards. They are attended by Builders Organizations, Independent Code groups, State divisions, the Fire Chiefs Assc., FMAM and others.

The meeting process has been very informative and educational ...It is very interesting to hear differing views and concerns on the same topic and the different interests each organization has.

Some of the highlights of the meetings have been:

- Post Fire Smoke Control (404.4) – Most of the current language will remain unchanged with language added in Chapter 9 to prohibit moving smoke exhaust through any exit enclosure and that any door opening force when in smoke control mode shall comply with section 1008.1.2 requirements.
- Language from amendment 419 – Use Of Schools By Lower Grades was retained even though it appears to be more restrictive than the code itself. It was created legislatively and would be difficult to remove.
- There was a lot of discussion on Firewalls (705.2) and their structural stability. Inconsistent code application, vague language and overly restrictive construction requirements spurred an exciting discussion about what the original code intent actually was. Discussion will continue 2-20-04.
- There were a lot of organizations that submitted change requests or had concerns with Shaft and Vertical Exit Enclosures (707.7) and Elevator Lobbies (707.14.1). Discussions on smoke spread and lobbies ranged from removing the current amendments entirely to adding more language to allow omission of street floor lobbies in sprinkled B, R 1&2 occupancies. Discussion will continue 2-20-04.

- Chapter 9 Amendments will be reviewed separately by the Fire Chief's Code Committee headed up by John Nisja. I asked that their committee discuss adding language requiring standpipes in larger apartment buildings.
- Chapter 10 has been totally reorganized in the 2003 IBC.
- Chapter 11 may be amended to incorporate three documents: Minnesota 1341, IBC Chapter 11 and ANSI.

Paul Heimkes and Jerry Norman run a very professional meeting and expect to sunset the committee near the end of March to await results of the other 1300 Rule sub-committees. Anyone can submit a change request for consideration. If you would like to submit a request, I can provide you with a request form.

Respectfully:

Mike Post
mpost@ci.stcloud.com

**FMAM Logo Clothing
and other Merchandise**

**The Fire Marshal's
Association has a new
merchandise website.
Merchandise can be ordered
and shipped directly to you
by using a major credit
card. Please go to
<http://www.fmamstore.com>.**

Legislative Committee Report:

Submitted by Bob James

State Fire Marshal Funding - Fee task force report regarding hotel, motel and resorts fee was heard by Senate Finance Committee (Ranum sub-committee). Task force report is located on the State Fire Marshal web page for your viewing. The main point of the recommendations from the task force relates to having state utilize existing Fire Insurance Tax (1/2%) funds and provide a direct allocate fund to State Fire Marshal budget. Possible hearing on this issue in the house soon, check the State web site for up-dates.

Fire Resistive Cigarettes - Bill introduced on senate side (S.F. 0453) and we are currently waiting for house introduction. This will require the commissioner of public safety to adopt rules for the development and enforcement of standards on fire-retardant cigarette and prohibits the sale of cigarettes not meeting the standards. This will help with the reduction of unattended cigarettes starting fires by self-extinguishing. New York is currently in the enforce part of their law. Current members on this Senate bill are Marty, Chaudhary and Dille.

A house file that we are monitoring deals with Permits and Fees. This bill would require additional monitoring and justification of the fee collected from construction permits. The bill has additional parts dealing with the issue and will need to be watched. House File 1801 from Klinzing.

New legislation is currently being crafted by the FMAM regarding the installation of sprinkler systems in all new state owned buildings, plan review and inspection of all sprinkler plans submitted to the State Building Code Division be transferred to the State Fire Marshal Division and providing a direct funding link for sprinkler plan review to the State Fire Marshal Division budget be developed. Watch for more in the near future. Bob James

Isn't responding Enough?

Submitted by Dan Bernardy

Over the last 5 years the state of Minnesota has suffered property loss of \$813.8 million dollars, a loss of 274 fire deaths, 1,088 civilian and 811 firefighters injuries related to fire. The great majority of these fire fatalities and injuries occurred where people feel safe, in one and two family dwellings, with over 20% of the fatalities having either a non working smoke alarm, or none present. In homes which had working alarms installed, 33% of the fatalities were over 65 years of age, and 12% were under the age of 10. In the 15 – 55 year old age group, 55% were found to have a blood alcohol count exceeding the legal limit.

Minnesota's fire departments responded to 173,189 requests for assistance during 2002, an increase of 23% over 2001. Fire calls accounted for 16,817 runs, a 9% decrease. Rescue calls increased by 30%, for a total of 91,229 responses. Minnesota's fire service responded to a call for help every three minutes. A fire response occurred every 31 minutes, resulting in an average dollar loss of \$516,398 per day. 64 Minnesotans lost their lives to fire during 2002, an increase from 2000 when the fire death total was 47. Careless smoking was the cause of 23% of the fire deaths; 73% of those were alcohol or drug related. One death occurred in an arson fire. Two firefighters died in the line of duty in 2002, both while involved in an emergency response.

While we understand the need for increased resources for our suppression and rescue activities, we also believe that statistics above can be greatly reduced through pro-active means. During our recent survey, fire departments across the state informed our committee that time and money were the greatest obstacles to their ability to perform pro-active fire prevention activities.

One way to supplement your efforts may be through the USFA Fire Act Grant program. So far in 2003, Minnesota Fire Departments have received \$12,122,281 in grant money, of which \$178,722 was in the area of fire prevention. This

equates to about 1.5 % of the total dollars granted to states fire departments. While we are very thankful for new resources, it is our goal to greatly increase the percentage of pro-active dollars spent in the coming years. The following departments deserve to be recognized and congratulated for their dedication to fire prevention;

Bemidji	\$32,310
Lakeville	\$41,400
Lester Prairie	\$7,900
St. Louis Park	\$77,292
Stillwater	\$19,800

Thanks to all fire service personnel for their past, present and future efforts in fire prevention, and please feel free to contact any of the committee members for advice or assistance on reaching your goals.

City of Blaine and the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department Form Partnership with Local Home Builder to Promote Residential Sprinklers.

Submitted by Bob Fiske

The City of Blaine and the Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department worked with local homebuilder TJB Homes Inc. to install a residential fire sprinkler system in one of their premier model homes in The Lakes Development in Blaine. The 4300 square foot model is a two level rambler style home priced at just under one million dollars. The sprinkler system was designed and installed by Metro Fire Protection in accordance with NFPA 13D for single-family homes. The cost of the system was \$5500.00 which comes to about \$1.30 per square foot. The system included a few extras such as a dry sidewall head in the garage and a horn/strobe connected to a flow switch.

The Lakes is a comprehensively planned residential community consisting of 1,090 acres located in the

center of Blaine. The Lakes community will include 30 distinct neighborhoods with approximately 4,000 housing units. The city targeted this development for the grant program in hopes of installing sprinkler systems in a broad spectrum of model homes and thus exposing a large number of people to the benefits of sprinkler systems. We asked all of the builders in The Lakes if they would allow the installation of a residential fire sprinkler system in one of their model homes free of charge. TJB Homes Inc. was the only builder that was willing to work with the City. Unfortunately the lack of interest in a free installation is a sign that the fire service has a lot of work to do to convince builders of the value of these systems.

In addition to having the system installed, the builder is allowing us to set up a display in the home which is being staffed on the weekends during the Parade of Homes by City and Fire Department members. We are also promoting the interest free loan program sponsored by SBM Fire Department for residential sprinklers. The fire department will loan up to \$4000.00 interest free for two years to anyone within the SBM Fire District who wants to put in a sprinkler system in their new or existing home.

In the first two weekends of the Parade well over a 500 people a day have gone through this impressive home and when asked, most of them didn't even notice that there was a sprinkler system in the house. The most common response from folks has been "I didn't even know putting sprinklers in a home was an option." Most everyone we talked with seemed genuinely interested in the system and thought it was a good thing to do. We have found this setting to be a very effective way to educate people who are considering building, that sprinkler systems are a cost effective form of protection.

If you would like to see this home for yourself it is home #123 of the 2004 Spring Parade of Homes. The address is 2861 Aspen Lake Drive, or you can go to the builders website at www.TJBHomes.com and see color photos of the house and if you look closely you might just spot a sprinkler or two.

New Resource for FMAM Members

We have added a very impressive list of fire prevention education suppliers on the FMAM web site thanks to Harlan Lundstrom with Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department. View it at <http://www.fmam.org/Suppliers.htm>.

If you have a fire prevention resource you would like to share with the MN public fire education community please send it to magdal@hopkinsmn.com. We are especially looking for camera ready art, preferably in MS Word, that we can put on the website for our members to download for their own use.

Maple Grove Fire Prevention Bureau

POSITION: Fire Inspector Trainee

SALARY RANGE: 38,721.28 with merit increases to \$48,341.28

HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Job Line (763-494-5995)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 4:30 p.m.

See their web site http://www.ci.maple-grove.mn.us/MENUS/MENU_jobs_volunteer.htm

Assistance To Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP)

2004 Program Guidance for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program February 12, 2004

This document provides a summary of the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program's priorities. It explains how to apply, what items can be requested, and how applications will be evaluated. Please read this program guidance carefully. The Final Rule and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) should also be reviewed when made available on the web site of the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Together, these four documents will provide you with the information you need to complete the online application. The online application will be available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp on or about March 1, 2004, or download at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/grants/afgp/prgguide.shtm>

MSFCA Electronic Communications Committee

The MN State Fire Chiefs Assoc Electronic Communications Committee is conducting a survey of the MSFCA membership to help plan and prioritize improvements to our communications process and procedures. The focus of this survey is on the types of information communicated, the methods used in that communication and the relative importance and priority of any proposed or planned improvements. The results of this survey will help our committee determine where our efforts (and money) are spent in the coming year.

MSFCA members can access the survey via the following link: <http://msfcasurvey.no-ip.info/>

This survey will be open through 2-Mar-04. Your assistance in conducting this survey is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Brandon Guest for the MSFCA Electronic Communications Committee

Two Notes:

- 1) While the survey has undergone a fair amount of testing, I'm blazing some new territory here. Should you have technical difficulties or questions, please contact me directly via email at Brandon.Guest@HamelFire.org
- 2) My thanks to those people who helped test the site. To those who helped, please remember that I am not carrying over your responses and you will need to resubmit.

Elections

**Vice-President
Treasurer
One Board Seat**

If interested call or email Robbie.

FMAM 2003 Annual Financial

Starting Balance		\$1188.36
		Income
Membership	\$8195.00	
Merchandise/ Amendments	\$4289.00	
Seminars	\$30657.63	
Interest	\$164.10	
Misc.	\$35.00	
<u>Total Income</u>		\$43,340.73
		Expenses
Postage	\$313.65	
Printing	\$292.04	
Web	\$1290.00	
Seminar	\$19726.17	
Parking	\$95.00	
Post-It/Videos	\$2059.27	
Awards	\$61.77	
Amendments	\$1665.55	
Professional	\$1267.00	
Refreshments	\$122.24	
Merchandise	\$612.79	
MSFCA	\$2088.75	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$29,594.23
Ending Balance		\$14,934.86

Meeting
March 14, 2003
09:30am
Bloomington Fire Station

Education Portion:
LPG Education

Membership Meeting to Follow