



Post Indicator



President's Message – Phil Owens

Regretfully, 2006 has dawned with multiple fire fatalities in Minnesota. If the current rate continues, we will surpass by far the 2005 death total.

We must each redouble our efforts in preventing these tragic fire injuries and deaths.

I have said many times, we have not developed new ways to kill people with fire. We are doing it the same way we did it fifty years ago: Failure of alarm notification, failure of interior finish, failure of exit systems. Be ever vigilant in your inspections and untiring in your spreading the fire and life safety message.

On a brighter note, the beginning of 2006 also finds FMAM in the best financial condition in which we have been in years. Due to the efforts of your Board in conducting seminars and other profit ventures, we now have on hand some \$30,000.

The Board has developed and manages our funds with the only line item budget that the organization has ever had. I wish to offer my personal thanks to the Board for their leadership and fiscal management.

Before you begin to think of creative ways to spend our little stash of cash, you should know that much of it is already earmarked for projects beneficial to the organization.

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This summer, your Board will bring to you the **IFMA Basic Fire Protection Institute**. This nationally recognized, four day fire protection seminar has not been provided in Minnesota since 1994. The instruction is very expensive, upwards of \$10,000 and your Board will use a portion of our accumulated funds to absorb costs in order to provide you with this high quality instruction at a greatly reduced cost.

Other training on the more immediate horizon is a series of 3 fire sprinkler seminars sponsored jointly by the NFSA, MSFCA, State Fire Marshal Division and FMAM.

You should have already received advance information on these classes to be held in Minneapolis April 10, 11, 12, & 13, 2006. Space is limited; register early to insure your attendance.

Another benefit of your membership will be provided by your Board to each of you who attend the Annual Meeting in March. The coveted and long awaited return of the **fire hydrant** ink pens.

The March Annual Meeting will also be time for election of our officers. There is a strong slate of candidates who will stand for election to the available posts including President, Vice President and a Board seat. Come, vote and support your candidates.

Finally, one of our most important initiatives of 2006, the Legislation to enact the **Fire Safety Fund** to fully support and fund the State Fire Marshal Division and other fire service issues in Minnesota appears to be moving forward in the very slow legislative process.

Phil Owens

**Financial Report:
2005 FMAM Year-End Report**

The following is the year end Financial Report for 2005 showing the budgeted and actual income and expenses:

Description:	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Membership	\$7,500	\$7,885.00
Interest	100	334.34
Merchandise	1,000	382.08
Seminar/Education	5,000	4350.00
Social Event	1,000	
Total Income.....	<u>\$14,600</u>	<u>\$13,759.92</u>

Expenses:		
Merchandise	\$ 400	\$542.84
Postage	200	277.97
Professional Services	900	595.00
Web	1,000	650.00
Publications	300	0.00
Pub. Ed.	1,000	3,256.06
Code Development	3,000	1,912.10
Awards/Gifts	200	0.00
Meeting Exp.	500	128.35
Advertising	1,000	1,354.44
Office	500	0.00
Legislation	1,500	1,000.00
Seminars	2,500	90.00
Social Events	1,000	962.50
Misc.	600	0.00
Total Expenses.....	<u>\$14,600</u>	<u>\$10,769.26</u>

Balances

Checking:	\$10,463.79
Savings:	<u>\$20,398.14</u>
	\$30,861.93

**Financial Report:
2006 Proposed Budget
(recommended by FMAM Board at it's 2/8/2006 meeting)**

Income:	Proposed Budget-2006:
Membership:	\$7,500
Interest	100
Merchandise	200
Seminar/Education	5,000
Social Event	1,000
Total Income.....	<u>\$13,800</u>

Expenses:

Merchandise	\$ 400
Postage	300
Professional Services	900
Web	1,000
Publications	300
Pub. Ed.	1,000
Code Development	3,000
Awards/Gifts	200
Meeting Exp.	500
Advertising	1,000
Office	100
Legislation	2,000
Seminars	2,500
Social Events	500
Misc.	100
Total Expenses.....	<u>\$13,800</u>

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER: Interim President Phil Owens called the meeting to order at 1:55pm at the New Brighton Fire Station.

Approval of the September, 2005 General Membership Meeting Minutes by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by Gordy Bates, motion passed unanimously.

Bob James is leaving and will be working for U.L. Bob gave the membership an update of U.L. and what his job will be. Interim President Phil Owens presented Bob with a plaque from FMAM in recognition of his services to FMAM and the Minnesota Fire Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report in the December Post Indicator by Gordy Bates and 2nd by Dan Bernardy, motion passed unanimously. We current have \$10, 303.79 in Checking and \$20,398.14 in Savings with some outstanding bills. John Powers also passed out a proposed copy of the 2006 FMAM budget.

We currently have 240 paid members for 2005 with renewals being sent out for 2006.

REPORTS:

Public Education Committee: Connie Forster will

be the new Public Educator for FMAM and will be our representative at the Chief Public Education Committee. We look forward to working with her.

Connie updated the members on the upcoming conference February 18th and 19th in Alexandria. This is a 1-½ day conference for \$250.00, which includes your room. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Training: We are continuing to look for quarterly education, if anyone has any suggestions please contact Phil Owens at Phil.Owens@ci.stpaul.mn.us. If anyone is interested in helping to coordinate and schedule the quarterly training, contact Phil.

Current and Upcoming Classes include:
We are in the process of scheduling the Inspection Basics Course from IFMA and also the Advanced Course for Management. We will send out information as soon as we have a set date.

Gordy Bates reminded the members of the Building Officials Conference in January 12th and 13th. Registration is open until December 23, 2005.

AMBO Conference will be held in February 2006, FMAM will disseminate information to our members on that also.

Jon Nisja will be scheduling a mini-seminar on the World Trade Center after the first of the year. This is a very interesting seminar that Jon has recently presented to the North Suburban Fire Marshal.

Fire Code Hearings: Gene Dugal updated the members on the code hearings. Over 247 code changes were brought forth for the new fire code. Detroit is the most important for the Code Committee hearings. This is a great learning experience. The Board and Members thanked Gene for all his hard work.

Governor's Council On Fire Prevention And Control: Jeff Schadegg reported the Governor's Council is working on legislative initiative of Statewide Building Code Adoption similar to the Fire Code Adoption.

Certification Report: Phil Owens reported that it is again time for recertification our tests through IFSAC. He will be forming a group to verify the tests.

Legislation: Main subject and project is to get funding for the State Fire Marshal Division, to get back what has been lost. There has been a lot of concern in the last couple of week regarding the wording in the bill and the voting rights or shares of the members on the board. The Insurance Federation was added to the board. The funding mechanism is currently flat rate for all homeowner, similar to the 911 surcharge on your phone bill. FMAM is committed on getting this bill introduced and looking for support from Legislatures. FMAM and IAAI initially had one vote a piece on the board; however other groups have insisted on a change giving FMAM and IAAI one vote to share. This may not be the best for our memberships however, neither FMAM nor IAAI want this language change to stop the progression of this bill. For now will we accept the one shared vote and will reserve the right to look for changes sometime in the future. In the effort to get this bill passed we as the Minnesota Fire Service must work together for the greater benefit.

State Fire Marshal's Report: The State Fire Code is still being worked on. The adoption will be in cooperation with the State Building Codes Division. There are some Residential Sprinkler Issues currently being worked on as well as the State Amendments. Balcony sprinkler coverage from 13R systems is also being considered for language changes to fix some problems.

The State Fire Marshal update can be viewed on the State Fire Marshal's Web site at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/fmarshal.html>. Information is also disseminated through the list server for more information about the list server contact Bob Dahm at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/ListServer.html>.

The State Fire Marshal Division has hired Kevin Mahle as Fire Investigator for Northwestern Minnesota. Additional hiring of a Residential Inspector will be forthcoming and Deputy State Fire Marshal Jerry Plague has moved from Health Care Inspections to Residential.

The State Fire Marshal's Division will be reorganizing effective December 28th. There will be no one losing their jobs but a reduction in supervisors.

Merchandise: Sales are still on for merchandise that we have on hand; contact Butch or Kip for

orders. We are getting down on the merchandise we have on hand. All other clothing can be ordered online, various colors and styles. Videos and CDs are being ordered through Kip.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FOR THE GOOD OF THE MEMBERSHIP:

Elections will be held at our March Annual Meeting. We will have a couple of open positions with Bob resigning.

Jon Nisja found pens that FMAM has purchased for our members that attend in March. The left over pens will be given out as presenter gifts and for sale. The pen is red with a fire hydrant on the top with FMAM's logo and web site address on the pen. Make sure you attend in March to get a free pen.

Pat Sheehan has asked FMAM to consider donating to the Minnesota Fallen Fire Fighters Organization. The request will be brought up at the next board meeting and we will get back to Pat on the outcome.

Motion to adjourn at 3:40pm by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by John Powers, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Floyd, Secretary

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2005**

Members Present: Interim President Phil Owens, Secretary Robbie Floyd, Board Members Kip LaMotte and Butch Gervais, Treasurer John Powers, State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl, Fire Safety Educator Connie Forster, Past President Jon Nisja.

Interim President Phil Owens called the meeting to order at 9:20.

Motion to approve the August 10, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by Butch Gervais, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

John Powers presented the board with the current balances \$10,303.79 in checking and \$20,398.14

in savings, a total of \$30,701.93. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Butch Gervais and 2nd by Kip LaMotte, motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: 206 paid members for 2005. Renewal applications will be mailed out. Motion to allow applications received after September 2005 to be considered paid for 2006 by Jon Nisja and 2nd by Butch Gervais, motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the location of the meeting in December the room we usually use will not be available.

Motion by Robbie Floyd and 2nd by John Powers to purchase pens with FMAM's name and logo on them as gifts to members attending the March 2006 meeting and to sell the rest, motion passed unanimously.

Jon Nisja would like to present a class on the World Trade Center Collapse; the date is yet to be determined. Motion by John Powers and 2nd by Kip LaMotte to proceed with the class, motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the increasing of funds to the Chief's Association for legislative initiatives for 2006. Motion to increase from \$1500 to \$2000 by Butch Gervais and 2nd by Connie Forster, motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the 2006 proposed budget and educational opportunities for members in 2006.

State Fire Marshal's Report: State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl provided a handout to the Board regarding the State Fire Marshal Division reorganization effective December 28, 2005. The Commissioner of Public Safety ordered a reduction in upper level staff to increase efficiency and create a better span of control, eliminating a top-heavy administration.

The State Fire Marshal informed the Board of the Commissioner's attempt to assist the Fire Service in supporting the Funding Bill for the State Fire Marshal Division. The Board reviewed the language draft and made the following recommendations: to add the Insurance Federation on the Advisory Committee and to thank the Commissioner for his commitment to the Fire Service. Motion to adopt the draft language with the inclusion of the Insurance Federation to the

Advisor Committee and send a thank you letter to the Commissioner by Robbie Floyd and 2nd by Kip LaMotte, motion passed unanimously. State Fire Marshal Rosendahl abstained from voting.

Public Education Report: Connie Forster updated the Board on the Public Education Conference February 18th and 19th. Jon Nisja will be putting information in the Post Indicator. Shelby Wolfe of West Metro Fire has been scheduling quarterly Public Education Brainstorming Meetings. They share ideas and resources and is becoming very well attended.

Training/Education: The Minnesota Chapter of the Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) will be providing a presentation to the membership at the December 2005 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Web Site: Phil will contact George Magdal regarding the web site. At the May 2005 Board meeting the following motions were made and to date nothing has occurred.

“Bob received an email from George regarding the website. We need to update the web site and this will be accomplished by using an outside source. This will require paying for the site and a transfer fee, motion by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by Robbie Floyd to pay for the site and transfer fee, motion passed unanimously.”

This will make it possible to have a member's only area on the web site. The member's only area will cost about \$300, motion by Butch Gervais and 2nd by Kip LaMotte to pay the set up fee of \$300, motion passed unanimously.”

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections in March, open positions are:
 President – 1 year term to finish Bob James' term. Phil will be running.
 Vice- President – 2 year term.
 Board Seat – 2 year term, held by: Butch Gervais
 Board Seat – 2 year term, held by: Vance Swisher
 Treasurer Seat – 2 year term, held by: John Powers

Motion to adjourn at 12:15pm by Butch Gervais and 2nd by John Powers, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:
 Robbie Floyd, Secretary

Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2006

Members Present: Interim President Phil Owens, Secretary Robbie Floyd, Board Members Kip LaMotte and Vance Swisher, Treasurer John Powers, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bob Dahm, Past President Jon Nisja.

Interim President Phil Owens called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Motion to approve the November 09, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes with corrections by Kip LaMotte and 2nd by Vance Swisher, motion passed unanimously.

Phil Owens has asked Steve Zaccard to be FMAM's legislative liaison on MnFAC regarding our legislative initiatives. Steve had kept the board updated on a regular basis and will be a wonderful asset. The Board would like to extend their appreciation to Steve for taking on this task.

The board went through a list of legislative initiatives to which we will support, monitor, or not support.

- **Fire Safety Fund** - The board **strongly supports** this initiative.
- **Volunteer Fire Relief Pension Study** - Although some of our members are also members of volunteer fire departments. The board does not feel that this issue meets the goals and objectives of the FMAM. We will **monitor the progress**.
- **13-D Certification** - FMAM supports improved initiatives in providing fire sprinklers in 1 & 2 family dwellings. However, the board feels that there are presently in place rules and statute to facilitate this progress. With no draft document in place and no knowledge of who is pushing this issue, FMAM will **monitor the progress**.
- **Sales Tax Exemption** - Although this issue clearly involves large sums of money for the jurisdictions for whom we all work, the board does not feel that this issue meets the goals & objectives of the FMAM, we will **monitor the progress**.
- **Highway Safety** - FMAM has **no position** on this issue.

- **MN Alliance for Safe Highways Coalition** - Heavy Truck weight increase. FMAM has **no position** on this issue
- **MN Electrical Association** - Electrical sign installers. FMAM **opposes** this initiative.
- **MN Ambulance Association** - Primary offense on seat belts. FMAM **supports** this initiative.
- **Fire Resistant Cigarettes** - With no draft legislation in place, FMAM will **monitor the progress**. (It should be noted however, that the NASFM opposes the proposed federal legislation in favor of state jurisdiction. In addition, NY fire and other NY officials report that enforcement is a nightmare requiring several layers of regulatory enforcement, and there are presently no statistical data from NY to support the presumed reduction if fires.)
- **Fireworks** - FMAM strongly opposes expansion of present fireworks legislation and stands ready to assist in repeal if fireworks vendors move for expansion. With no draft document on repeal in place, FMAM will **monitor the progress** of the issue.

Treasurer's Report:

John Powers presented the board with the year end report with the current balances \$10,463.79 in checking and \$20,398.14 in savings, a total of \$30,861.93. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Vance Swisher and 2nd by Robbie Floyd, motion passed unanimously.

The board looked over the proposed 2006 budget and some changes were made. A final budget will be brought to the next meeting for approval. We will be moving some funds around to pay for updates on the web site, etc.

Membership Report: Membership renewals have been sent out and are coming in slowly. Hopefully, a new membership roster to be available at the March meeting.

State Fire Marshal's Report: Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bob Dahm informed the Board that State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl was unable to attend.

Public Education Report: Connie Forster was unable to attend but provided information for the board on upcoming events and web sites to visit. The Public Education Conference February 18th and 19th will be held in Alexandria, Minnesota. To

date they have 89 people registered for the conference, 18 of those will be taking their Public Educators State Certification Test.

Below is a list of information places available to those interested.

- **Home Fire Safety Page** through the State Fire Marshal:
www.fire.state.mn.us/PublicEducation/HomeFireSafety.html
- **Fire Prevention Theme Kits** through the State Fire Marshal:
www.fire.state.mn.us/PublicEducation/MediaThemeKits.html
- **Minnesota Safe Kids** – information on safety packet etc.; great deal of information available:
www.mnsafetycouncil.org/kids/skcoal.htm,
- **Child Passenger Safety Seat Clinic** – 40 hour class on how to install, contact Connie Forster at cforster@sbfmfire.com if interested.
- **Quarterly Public Educator Brainstorming meetings** - if interested contact Shelby Wolf at swolf@westmetrofire.com .

Dan Bernardy and John Powers have been working together on a project dealing with smoke detector installations, companies, pricing, and sales efforts to have smoke detection installed in private homes. As many board members discussed some of these systems are extremely expensive and the smoke detector purchased at the local hardware store would work the same or similar. The board discussed how could the fire service better sell fire prevention and smoke detectors to the public.

A meeting has been scheduled on the 22nd of February for "Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair" Chris Hearden will be our representative attending.

Training/Education: Robbie will contact Shelby Wolf to see if she would be interested in presenting the members with information on the "public educators brainstorming" meetings for the June meeting.

The March Meeting will be earlier than usual since IAAI will not be holding their meeting. We are hoping to get a panel together to discuss sprinkler installation in an effort to try and reduce the differences between cities requirements. Suggestions of including sprinkler contractors, AHJs, and engineers on the panel. We hope this will come together, it should be very interesting.

Jon will contact Steve Sawyer and try and set a date for the IFMA class. He will also be scheduling a mini-seminar on the World Trade Center Collapse.

Sprinkler training class in April is a three-day program that will be held at the Fire Museum in Minneapolis. This is great training at a very reasonable price. (Editor's Note: a 4th day of class has been added as the Inspection class filled up and this will be repeated a second day).

We would also like to talk to Rich Pehrson and Dave Springfield to see if they would be interested in doing a class on the NPFA 13 and 72 changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Web Site: Phil will contact George regarding the web site. John Powers will also work on this with Phil to verify the domain name and who is working on the site. Currently the old site isn't working and very limited information is available. Motion to seek out a professional to create a new web site, have John Powers to head a investigation in the web site and domain issues and to remove George Magdal as the web master by Jon Nisja and 2nd by John Powers, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

IFMA is having their 100-year anniversary this year; FMAM also needs to send a representative for the IFMA Chapter Representative's Meeting. Phil is unable to attend. The board has decided to wait until the March meeting and offer the new Vice-President the option of attending, or having a board member attend.

Robbie and Jon will be working on providing our Chapter information to IFMA.

Phil will contact the committee to meet one day a week for about a month to get our re-validation for Fire Inspector I and II. We will also be looking at Fire Inspector III at a later date. Jon Nisja reported that NFPA has been working on a new document for the qualification of Fire Marshal, it's in a draft proposal and can be accessed at www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/NFPA1037Draft.pdf.

Elections in March; open positions are:
President – 1 year term to finish Bob James' term.
Phil will be running.

Vice- President – 2 year term, interested parties are Butch Gervais and Kip LaMotte.

Board Seat – 2-year term, held by: Vance Swisher
Board Seat – 1 or 2 year term, left by Butch or Kip, interested are Chris Hearden, Roy Kingsley, and Tom Pitschneider.

Treasurer Seat – 2-year term, held by: John Powers

Information regarding the 2003 fire code adoption has been discussed. It seems at this point it would be better to start with 2006 IFC and provide State Amendments to that code. The 2003 IFC is not ready for adoption and moving forward to the 2006 would put us closer today. Motion by Vance Swisher and 2nd by John Powers to Support the withdrawal of adopting the 2003 IFC and move to support of adopting the 2006 IFC with approved State Amendments, motion passes, Jon Nisja abstained.

The Board will be looking at FMAM's Committees to identify and verify the members and if the committee is still meeting or needed. Jeff Schadegg resigned as IAAI's alternative representative on the Governor's Councils for Fire Prevention and Control.

The board discussed new ways of advertising to reach as many Life Safety and Public Educators as possible.

Robbie asked the board to advertise at the Fire Department Conference in June through their magazine that is handed out to every firefighter in attendance. Motion by Jon Nisja and 2nd by Kip LaMotte to spend up to \$125.00 for advertising in the Fire Department Conference Magazine, motion passed unanimously. We will need an ad to send to them, something new and updated.

FMAM and IAAI will be sharing a booth at the Chief's Conference in October. We were offered a deal we couldn't refuse.

At the last general membership meeting in December, Pat Sheehan had asked FMAM to consider donating to the Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Association. A motion to donate \$500.00 for this year by Robbie Floyd and 2nd by Kip LaMotte, motion passed unanimously.

Social events will be looked at later in the year.

Motion to adjourn at 1:40pm by John Powers and 2nd by Kip LaMotte, motion passed

Respectfully Submitted:
Robbie Floyd, Secretary

2006 Public Education Conference Report
Information Provided by Dennis Stark, Connie Forster, and Irene Moore



In the summer of 2005, the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) Public Education Committee began to plan its annual conference for 2006. With the goal of appealing to a wider fire service audience, and utilizing the strengths of various fire service organizations, a partnership was formed with the Fire Instructors Association of Minnesota (FIAM) and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) Fire Training program to develop a new kind of conference for the winter of 2006.

After much discussion among all parties, the Annual Minnesota Fire Education Conference was born. Six separate tracks of emphasis were identified, ranging from classroom techniques for college educators, to hands-on instruction in using "Tools of the Trade." The Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I course was also offered, along with the opportunity to take the certification test.

For a first cooperative effort, the conference was well-attended (96 registrants), and feedback was very positive. Connie Forster, SBM Fire Dept., FMAM representative to the MSFCA Public Education Committee, and instructor of the Fire and Life Safety Educator I class, commented that 13 people took the Certification exam. It is a success all on its own to have 13 more public educators in Minnesota!

Publicity for the event kicked off at the Fall MSFCA Conference in St. Cloud. A brochure with curriculum and facilities information was distributed there, and at other fire service organization meetings. The event took place February 18-19, at

the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. This location proved to be a great choice; its central location and recreational facilities appealed to many, who brought their families along for fun during the Presidents Day weekend. An enormous 24,000 sq. ft. indoor area provided space for demonstrations of the Sprinkler Trailer, Safe Escape House, and other large vendor and instructional exhibits. The students were also able to gather in this space for meals and a keynote address. Nearby rooms were conveniently located for those requiring classroom space. Ninety-six registrants attended, along with a number of vendors and fire department exhibitors.

Following a breakfast buffet, and Presentation of Colors by the Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial Association Honor Guard, conference registrants heard a keynote speech by Jermaine Davis, a professor of Speech Communication at Century College, White Bear Lake, MN and a respected speaker and writer in the areas of communication and motivation. Davis encouraged those who wish to educate to be aware of the varying ways that people learn, and to truly listen to their questions and concerns. Education involves not only the material presented, but an interested and compassionate relationship with students.



Conference Coordinator Dennis Stark, and Keynote Speaker, Jermaine Davis

The following tracks were offered:

- Educating the Adult Learner/Intermediate and Advanced Power Point Users
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention/Risk Watch® / Remembering When (a safety plan aimed at senior citizens)
- Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I course (Certification Test offered Sunday afternoon)
- Public Education: Tools of the Trade (how to use the Hazard House, Sprinkler Trailer, Mobile Safety Education Hopper, Safe Escape House, and Hazard House)
- Instructional Techniques for Company Officers - NFA course
- Live Burn Educators Training, New MNSCU Firefighters I & II Educators Curriculum, Teaching Fire and Life Safety for a College



Exploring the Safe Escape House

On Saturday evening, FIAM held its annual meeting and election of officers. A networking reception followed, highlighted by presentations by four fire departments who shared their local fire safety education programs. Presenters were: Becky Booker, Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Dept., Sara Cwayna, Plymouth Fire Dept., Chuck Fleury and Aaron Johnston, Coon Rapids Fire Dept. (ably assisted by Alex Winkelman, aka Sparky, of Brooklyn Center), and Patrick Sheehan, State Fire Marshal Division.

An evaluation session will be held in March to begin planning and improving next year's conference.

It is hoped that a new partnership has been formed to share the safety message with the people of Minnesota.

Certification & Professional Qualifications Committee

The Certification & Professional Qualifications Committee has several important projects on board at this time.

To maintain our national accreditation thru IFSAC, we will have to again validate both our Fire Inspector I and Fire Inspector II written and skills examinations in 2006.

A peer group has been assembled to review the examinations; this work should be completed in the early summer.

The next item facing the Certification Committee is both writing and validating the written and skills examinations for the long awaited Fire Inspector III. We hope to complete this by late fall.

Also on the horizon, the NFPA is in the early process of developing NFPA 1037 - Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshals. The draft

document is out for review and comment at this time.

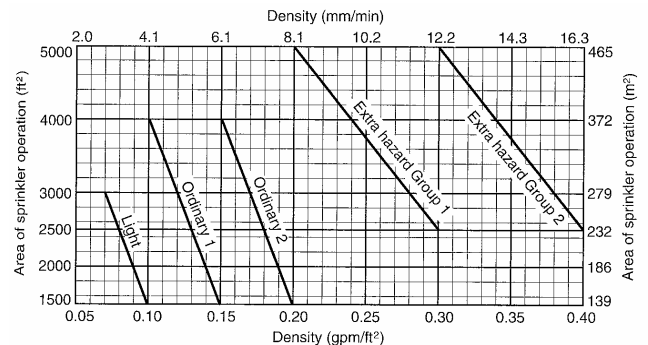
The Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO) is pushing legislation to require certification of all construction code inspectors. This would include construction, carpentry, mechanical, and plumbing code inspectors who perform their duties under the jurisdiction of a certified building official. Electrical construction inspectors are not mentioned in the proposed legislation. Fire Inspectors & Housing Inspectors who enforce their respective codes under the jurisdiction of a Fire Marshal are not covered by the proposed legislation.

Phil Owens
Chair, Certification Committee

A Simpler Way to Design Sprinkler Systems?

The following article was written by Richard Pehrson of Futrell Fire Consult and Design. This article appeared in the recent edition of the IFMA Quarterly.

Committee work on the soon to be published 2007 edition of NFPA 13, *Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, is winding down and one of the more hotly debated items during this development cycle involved how sprinkler design densities are selected, a concept known as **single point density**. For occupancy hazards (i.e. light, ordinary, extra hazard), NFPA 13 currently allows the designer to select a point on the appropriate curve representing the area of operation and corresponding water density:



Similar curves are contained in Chapter 12 of the standard for high piled storage of Class I-IV commodities.

Proposals were submitted by various groups during the 2002 and 2006 development cycles to remove all of the area density curves in the standard and replace them with a single area/density point in a table representing the bottom of each curve. Although this may appear on the surface to be a simple technical change, the Discharge Density Technical Committee responsible for this language spent many hours discussing the impact such a change would have.

Some of the positive reasons given in the proposals for making the change to single point densities include:

- Easier design and plan review – no more confusing graphs.
- Better fire protection – a higher density tends to open fewer sprinklers, thus limiting the size of the fire.
- Reduce confusion in the standard with all of the modifiers that go along with the curves.
- The curves in the standard were based on limited fire testing so the whole concept of any point on the curve being the same is tenuous at best.
- For high piled storage of plastics the standard moved to single point densities some time ago, with no problems reported.

While the reasons given to keep the curves and not move to single point densities include:

- It's not broken – so it doesn't need fixing.
- The majority of systems are already designed to the bottom of the curve because this is usually the most cost effective, so it really won't change things for most systems.
- A fear that AHJ's will require modifications or evaluation of existing systems to meet the new single point which represents the bottom of the curve, even if not originally designed as such.
- Cost, especially for some weak water supplies. There are a few legitimate cases where sliding up the curve can mean the difference between a tank/pump or simply using the municipal water supply.

These were the publicly stated reasons on both sides. In my opinion, there were other arguments that are not stated publicly, but enter the mix:

- Competitive advantage between contractors – a knowledgeable contractor can slide up the

curve to the perfect spot, possibly saving a few percent on system cost. The idea is that the "smart contractors" don't want to see this trick go away.

- For some systems, requiring a higher density forces you to use a larger orifice sprinkler that probably costs more (higher profit margin?). If the designer can slide up the curve on certain systems, less expensive 1/2" or 17/32" sprinklers might be an option.

The IFMA board participated in discussions with representatives of both sides who were attempting to get their message across. At the end of the committee meetings for this cycle, voting was as evenly split as you could get, so the change to single point densities is NOT moving forward, although I suspect it will be back the next time the standard is opened for proposals.

Richard Pehrson is the IFMA and FMAM representative on the NFPA 13 Discharge Criteria Technical Committee. Rich welcomes feedback on this or other issues involving the standard and he can be contacted at richp@ffcdi.com or (763) 425-1001.

Happy 100th Anniversary, IFMA

The year 2006 represents a significant milestone for the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA), the oldest membership section in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It was in 1906 (100 years ago) that the Fire Marshals Association of North America elected its first President, D.S. Creamer of Ohio. The Fire Marshals Association of North America (FMANA) changed its name to the International Fire Marshals Association in 1999.

In its early years and continuing today, fire prevention was a prominent theme for FMANA and IFMA. FMANA played a critical role in promoting Fire Prevention Day in the early 1900s. Due to FMANA's continued focus on fire prevention and fire safety, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first national Fire Prevention Day in 1920. Two years later, in 1922, President Warren G. Harding expanded Fire Prevention Day to Fire Prevention Week, a proclamation issued by every United States president since 1925.

FMANA was instrumental in developing the model arson law and model fireworks law. In 1927 FMANA became the "Fire Marshal Section" of the NFPA; this was NFPA's first member section. NFPA now has sixteen member sections.

During the mid-1900s, FMANA responded to several tragic hotel fires by developing a chapter on hotel safety in the Building Exits Code (now known as the Life Safety Code®). Additional tragic fires, such as the Texas City, Texas ship and harbor fire; St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham, Illinois; and Our Lady of Angels School in Chicago in the late 1940s and 1950s caused fire marshals through FMANA to work on fire and life safety improvements for ammonium nitrate storage, hospitals, and schools.

In 1947, FMANA participated with 2000 other fire safety experts and state and federal government leaders at the President's Conference on Fire Prevention, hosted by President Harry Truman. The report made a number of significant recommendations, but it seemed to get lost for several decades.

The 1970s saw a renewed emphasis on fire safety with the release of *America Burning*; this report seemed to pave the way for the development of an affordable home smoke detector and an emphasis on automatic sprinkler protection for residential occupancies. These were tools that fire marshals had previously only dreamed of; today they are common-place.

In the 1990s, FMANA undertook a major effort to re-write NFPA 1, Fire Prevention Code. Later in the 1990s, FMANA changed its name to the International Fire Marshals Association to reflect its global membership. Today, IFMA has 25 chapters representing well over half the states and one Canadian province.

To commemorate this historic 100th anniversary, the IFMA Board has planned a celebration during the National Fire Protection Association World Safety Conference and Exposition in Orlando, Florida, which runs from June 4–8, 2006. The celebration, with special presentations, will take place on Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. in the Signature Room of the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The IFMA Board will pay tribute to the leadership and vision of its past presidents and recognize FMANA and IFMA for its

achievements in fire and life safety. Many fire service representatives from around the world are expected to attend.

The Quick Response

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division's Fire Protection Section has started a new educational program called the *Quick Response*. These are single page newsletters that focus on a different aspect on fire protection systems. They are intended to assist in understanding the code requirements for these systems. A different topic will be featured each month. Look for the Quick Response at: <http://www.fire.state.mn.us/firesprink.html>

FMAM Website

The FMAM Website is undergoing an overhaul. Look for an improved website with more features and a different look in the near future.

New Blaine Fire Marshal Named

The new Fire Marshal in Blaine is Bob Fiske. Bob replaces Katherine Gove, who retired in January. Bob has recently been the Blaine Deputy Fire Marshal. He previously worked as a fire inspector in Plymouth and is a District Chief for the SBM Fire Department. Bob has also been an instructor for several Fire Inspector classes.

March Meeting Notice

The following is the schedule for the March, 2006 FMAM Meeting:
 8:30 a.m. – Social Time
 9:00 a.m. – Educational Program (Sprinkler Roundtable – NFPA 13 Requirements vs. What the AHJ Wants: At What Point Do Local Policies Turn Into Hindrances to Good Fire Protection?)
 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
 12:30 p.m. – Business Meeting and Elections

New Brighton Public Safety Center - 785 Old Highway 8 – New Brighton, Minnesota.

FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

New Brighton Public Safety Center - 785 Old Highway 8

8:30 a.m. – Social Time; 9:00 a.m. – Education Program: Sprinkler Roundtable

12:30 p.m. – Business Meeting

Other Important Dates:

June 4-8 – NFPA Annual Meeting – Orlando, Florida

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 – Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 – Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 2006 – Quarterly Meeting

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