



# Post Indicator

Quarterly Newsletter

September, 2007

## President’s Message – Phil Owens

Fellow FMAM Members:

Summer is rapidly passing and I hope that each of you have had a chance to enjoy it.

The tragedy of the I-35 Bridge collapse is still fresh in our minds and it has thrust Minnesota into the forefront of national and worldwide news. The fatalities and injuries were horrific and some of the survivors miraculous. The scenes will be etched into our memory. I think however, that it was our response to this unbelievable incident for which Minnesota will be remembered. Immediate, forceful, cooperative, effective and compassionate are words that come to mind. A number of our state and local member agencies were involved in this massive interagency response and are to be congratulated on their professional display under the harsh light of the catastrophic emergency and massive media coverage. The bridge collapse also brings into focus, the parallels with what we do every day, and the importance of proper occupancy and use, through inspection and timely compliance. A quote prominently displayed in our office says, “Nobody knows what we do until we don’t do it”.

### State Fair:

The State Fair just ended and our members again staffed Fire Safety displays in connection with the Governor’s Fire Safety Day at the State Fair.

Many thanks to Chris Hearden, Fire Technician,

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Vadnais Heights and his State Fair crew along with Dan Bernardy, Fire Safety Educator, State Fire Marshal Division, and Jeff Schadegg, Fire Marshal, Inver Grove Heights, FMAM Representative to the Governor’s Council for their activities at this important event.

### Fire Code:

The 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code has been adopted and FMAM has entered into an agreement with the ICC to publish the first ever **Minnesota Edition** of the International Fire Code, complete with all state amendments. In writing this, the project sounds so easy. Let me assure you that it was not! Months of hard work and long negotiations went into this project. Special thanks to Jon Nisja, Supervisor, State Fire Marshal Division for his valuable contributions and to ICC Board Member, Greg Johnson, Building Inspector Saint. Paul, for his assistance and intervention with the ICC.

The code books should be available in hard copy and disc in September from your usual ICC vendors.

### Legislative Update:

Once again FMAM will partner with MnFAC to push forward our fire safety legislative agenda. The list of proposals is already growing with such ideas as repeal of the mini-maxi portions of the SBC as they relate to fire protection systems and opposing fireworks expansion, as well as clarifying existing fireworks legislation. Obviously, the legislature will be strongly focused on transportation issues. We must insure that fire safety is not sacrificed in the bridge repair fracas. Thanks to our legislative reps, Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal, Saint Paul and Kip Lamotte, Fire Marshal, New Brighton for their excellent work on our behalf. If you have legislative issues you wish to identify for consideration, please contact one of these representatives soon.

### Fire Service Advisory Committee – (Fire Safety Account):

The FMAM supported law to provide dedicated funding for the State Fire Marshal Division went into

effect in July. There will, however, be some lag time in accumulating the funds in the account.

Thanks to Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal, Saint Paul and Robbie Bartholomew, Fire Marshal, Andover, who serve as the FMAM-IAAI representatives to the Fire Service Advisory Committee.

**Fire Fatalities:**

2007 state fire fatality total at 29 compared to 31 at this time in 2006.

**FMAM Committee Assignments:**

Currently, the Board of Directors and I are reviewing committee assignments.

We are looking toward refreshing some of our committees. This process has taken longer than I had anticipated. Some of you will be tapped in the near future to serve.

When asked, please seriously consider the opportunity to participate in the activities of your organization. I know that each of you is busy, but it is important that FMAM have vibrant, knowledgeable representation on each of these important committees. I hope to have all assignments made prior to our December meeting.

Phil-osophies: ...

Some people spend a lifetime wondering if they have made a difference in the world.

Fire Inspectors don't have that problem.

Yours in the Fire Service;

Phillip Owens, CFPS  
President

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**Treasurer's Report**

by John Powers, FMAM Treasurer

The following is the FMAM budget and expenses to date (as of 8/07/2007).

<b>Income:</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Actual:</b>
Membership	\$7,500	7,280.00
Interest	100	78.28
Merchandise	200	156.00
Seminar/Education	5,500	900.00
Social Event	500	
Other		43.26
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,800</b>	<b>\$ 8,457.54</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Actual:</b>
Merchandise	400	
Postage	300	256.65
Professional Services	900	552.50
Web	1,000	240.00
Publications	300	650.00
Pub. Ed.	1,000	
Code Development	3,000	1,110.00
Awards/Gifts	200	
Meeting Expense	500	36.63
Advertising	1,000	
Office	100	
Legislation	2,000	3,000.00
Seminars	2,500	
Social Events	500	
Misc.	100	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,800</b>	<b>\$ 5,845.78</b>

Balances:

- Checking: \$ 9,605.47
- Savings: \$ 20,882.88

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**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2007**

The meeting began at 1:00pm with the Training & Education session on: Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Equipment by Christian Gendron of Nardini Fire Equipment Co., Inc.

**I. Call to Order:**

The Business Meeting was called to order at 14:20 hours by President Phil Owens:

- Motion by Marilyn Arnlund/Jeff Schadegg for approval of March 14, 2007 Membership Meeting Minutes – passed.

Additional agenda items can be added.

**II. Treasurer's Report:**

There was no Treasurer's or Financial Report as Treasurer John Powers was absent from meeting.

President Owens reported that a preliminary 2007 Budget had been approved by the FMAM Board at May Directors Meeting.

Membership Report:

Current Members-184 Paid Members; several past members have not paid dues for 2007. After the June meeting non-paying members will be removed

from e-mail distribution list. Renewal notices have been sent.

### III. Committee Reports:

#### Public Fire Safety Education:

Connie Forster is absent from meeting but sent some information. June is home safety month. "Hands on Home Safety" is the theme. Leading hazards are falls, poisons, choking/suffocation and drowning.

#### Training & Education:

Jon Nisja and Kip LaMotte gave an update on the NFPA and IFMA annual conference.

#### Governor's Council on Fire Prevention & Control:

Jeff Schadeegg reported that Friday, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> is Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the MN State Fair.

#### Code Committee:

Mike Post reported that ICC will host their annual convention in Minneapolis in 2008.

#### Certification:

Phil Owens reported that the Fire Inspector I Certification exam has been updated. Fire Inspector II will be updated shortly.

#### Legislation:

Sherry Munyon provided a legislative update. Fire resistive cigarettes passed.

### IV. State Fire Marshal's Report:

Jerry Rosendahl advised that one of his goals is to train small town code officials on fire code requirements.

The 2007 State Fire Code will be adopted on 7/10/07.

The SFMD is receiving a lot of questions on fireworks. Jerry encouraged everyone to visit NFPA's fireworks web site.

The preliminary Fire in Minnesota report will be posted on SFMD web site shortly. Cooking is still #1 cause of fires.

There have been 23 fire deaths to date in 2007.

Jerry Rosendahl introduced Lora Nichols, SFMD limited term code specialist.

Jon Nisja updated the members on the status of the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code. Books will probably not be done by 7/10/07.

### V. New Business:

Gordy Bates gave an updated on the status of the Fire Protection Advisory Council. The sprinkler industry would like more regulation on certification of code officials doing the plan review and inspections.

### VI. Old Business:

Merchandise is available for purchase; speak to Kip LaMotte if interested.

### VII. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

John Swanson, Secretary

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### Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota BOARD MEETING August 8, 2007

The August, 2007 FMAM Board of Directors meeting was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at the New Brighton Public Safety Building.

#### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Phil Owens. The following members were present: Phil Owens, Kip LaMotte, John Swanson, John Powers, Roy Kingsley, Connie Forster, Jerry Rosendahl, and Jon Nisja.

The following members were absent: Butch Gervais and Vance Swisher.

- Motion by Nisja/Kingsley to approve the minutes from the May Board meeting – passed.

#### Treasurer's Report (John Powers):

Current balances:

- Checking - \$ 9,605.47
- Savings - \$ 20,882.88

Finalize and approval of 2007 Budget

Membership report / renewals:

- 181 paid members to date. Several (79) have not renewed. An e-mail message will be sent to

non-paying members to inform them fees are due or their membership will end.

#### FMAM Credit Card Update:

John Powers updated the FMAM Board on the obtaining credit cards for the association board. Credit cards may be difficult to obtain and could require credit applications and credit history checks by individual board members. It would probably be better to look into obtaining check cards.

- Motion by Swanson / Forster to discontinue the credit card process and pursue check cards for Nisja, Powers and LaMotte - passed.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Public Fire Safety Education (Connie Forster):

FM Global has a new grant available for the fire service focused on fire prevention activities. Interested departments can go to [www.fmglobal.com](http://www.fmglobal.com) to receive more information.

A Fire Prevention degree program is in the works through MNSCU.

Fire Prevention Day at the Fair will be Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sealy Mattress has a new flame retardant material they place on their mattresses.

The Public Education Committee would like to establish a common fire-safety theme for National Night Out.

#### Training & Education:

Jon Nisja discussed making arrangements for a fire alarm seminar with Art Black. Art Black has done several presentations on fire alarm requirements and NFPA 72.

- Motion by Powers / Kingsley to have Jon contact Art Black to negotiate a one or two day seminar on fire alarm systems and plan review.

Jerry Rosendahl and Jon Nisja briefed the FMAM Board of the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) training; the State Fire Marshal is looking at 8-10 classes total with 6 in the metro and 3-4 out-state. These classes will start after the MSFCA Conference in October.

The 2007 MSFC code books are in process. Thanks to Greg Johnson, ICC waived a \$3,500 fee

for the printing of the 2007 MSFC. FMAM logo and SFMD logo will be on the cover. Books should be available in 4-8 weeks. Electronic version may be available sooner on ICC's web site.

Kip LaMotte is looking into the elevator code update at the September quarterly meeting. If anyone has future training needs or Ideas, please contact Kip.

#### Legislation:

MnFAC is collecting input from around Minnesota on possible legislative issues. Possible issues include: Fireworks; income tax incentive for volunteers; negligent fire statute; require licensure for personnel who install hood systems, fire alarms and extinguishers; and repeal of lodging inspection fee.

John Swanson will send an e-mail that MnFAC is seeking input on possible legislative issues. People can send e-mails to Steve Zaccard.

#### Certification (Phil Owens):

John Powers is working along with others from FMAM to conduct a review and update of the Fire Inspector certification exams.

Effective October, Phil Owens is stepping down from the certification board and Brad Schmoll from the Minneapolis Fire Department is taking his place.

#### Committee Designations/Assignments:

Phil Owens is looking for the FMAM Board to recommend qualified personnel for certain committees to represent FMAM. The following recommendations were made (still looking for more FMAM members who may be interested):

- MSFCA Code Committee: Tom Jenson (Edina), Gene Dugal (Bloomington) and Angie Leitner (St. Paul).
- SFMD Sprinkler Advisory Group: Gordy Bates (Minneapolis)-primary; Angie Leitner-alternate.
- Training & Education – U of MN: Gordy Bates, Thierry Chevalier (Minneapolis), Chris Hearden (Vadnais Heights).
- Training & Education – ICC: Kip LaMotte (New Brighton).
- Governor's Council: Jeff Schadegg (Inver Grove Heights)-primary; looking for alternates – Lisa Douglas (Maple Grove) was suggested.
- Building Code 1305 Committee: Looking for anyone interested.

- Residential Sprinkler Task Force: moving to Public Education Committee. Contact Connie Forster if interested.
- Certification: Brad Schmoll (Minneapolis)-primary; Phil Owens (St. Paul)-alternate (effective October, 2007).
- Fire Service Policy Advisors: Phil Owens-primary; Kip Lamotte-alternate.
- MnFAC-Steve Zaccard (St. Paul)-primary; Kip Lamotte-alternate.

**Old Business:**

No By-Law Changes were identified.

Jerry Rosendahl is asking MnFAC to discuss fireworks issues and enforcement.

The initiative for a State-wide building code was not a priority in last legislative session.

Jerry Rosendahl is asking the fire service for their ideas on going to a six year code cycle instead of a three year code cycle.

Jon Nisja advised that the Fire Protection Advisory Council is discussing competency of AHJ's. Gordy Bates brought this issue up at the June FMAM membership meeting and will be surveying FMAM members on this issue.

Jon also reported that NFPA/IFMA received a federal grant and will be studying the effectiveness of fire inspections.

**New Business:**

No new business.

**Good & Welfare:**

No Good & Welfare.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Swanson, Secretary

Sincerely,  
Phil Owens, President

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**Public Fire Safety Education Update**  
by Connie Forster

Recently, Minnesota State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl sent an email stating, "We currently

stand at 29 fire deaths in 2007, which compares to 31 at this point in 2006. There is nothing new in the causes and circumstances in these deaths - preventable, smoking, cooking, juvenile fire-setting, heating, suicide, elderly, etc. Did I say preventable? What is the lowest number you think we can achieve in fire deaths in Minnesota in one year? What is an acceptable number?"

Everybody is somebody's son, daughter, friend, or loved one. If we all approached fire deaths from a personal perspective, there would be no acceptable fire death. Truly, the only number we can shoot for is zero. Yet, how can fire departments in Minnesota achieve this goal? Maybe we would all be a little more passionate about prevention if we took **all** fire deaths personally. We need to start educating people about fire and injury prevention and advocating for residential fire sprinklers and other means to slow or stop the growth of fire thereby preventing fire deaths and bringing the number of fire deaths in Minnesota to zero. This would be a good day for all of Minnesota.

The Home Safety Council conducted a Webinar (an internet based discussion) on July 31, highlighting the findings from a survey conducted by the John Hopkins University and the Home Safety Council. This nationwide survey of fire chiefs was conducted to benchmark the existing educational programming and fire and life safety services currently provided by U.S. fire departments. While some of the results offered hope in prevention, some of the responses proved we have a long way to go.

The results indicated that 86% of the fire departments surveyed conducted fire and life safety education. Volunteer departments were less likely than career departments to provide fire and life safety education (FLSE). Typically, members doing the education had a variety of responsibilities within the department. Larger communities were more likely to provide the education, the most common being school visits and fire safety/month activities. Most of the departments responding (85%) reported that they conduct programs for smoke alarms but sadly only 30% of the departments reported conducting advocacy for residential sprinklers. The fire service as a whole needs to do a better job of residential fire sprinkler advocacy.

The responding departments listed financial and time restraints as barriers to conducting FLSE. There are more quality resources available at no or low cost than ever before. Sometimes it just takes a little time networking or on the internet to find them.

What is your department doing to prevent fire and injuries? What are the barriers in your community to conducting FLSE activities? Are you focusing more on fire safety or fire prevention? Only after we take a critical look at what we are doing and make a commitment to prevention can we reduce the number of fire deaths in Minnesota.

#### **OTHER UPDATES:**

Fire prevention week is October 7-13, 2007. The theme is "Practice your escape plan." There are several free downloadable resources on the NFPA web site: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition has created Sprinkler Smarts, a resource about sprinklers for parents and children. Go to: [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

The next Minnesota Prevention Group quarterly meeting will be held December 3 at the Plymouth Fire Department at 10:00 a.m. Shelby Wolfe at West Metro Fire coordinates these informational meetings.

The next education conference will be held in January of 2008 in Alexandria at Arrowwood. Look for more information in the next couple months.

The Home Safety Council will conduct a Webinar each month from July 2007-May 2008. One or more respected national safety education experts will present a 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. If you miss any of the Webinars, the archived presentations are available. Go to [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org) for more information.

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### **Find the Code Violations**

#1 – Look carefully at the following single dry-pipe sprinkler system and see if you can identify what is wrong about this installation.



#2 – The following photo was taken of a new school just prior to occupancy.



#3 – The following photo was taken of a stairway in an existing building.



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### **Newly Appointed Assistant Fire Marshal for St. Paul**

by Steve Zaccard – St. Paul Fire Marshal

I am pleased to announce that PHIL OWENS has been promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal by Bob Kessler. Phil will be responsible to me for the day-to-day running of the Division of Fire Inspections (DSI). He will also continue to supervise the Commercial Section. He will continue as one of the DSI Transition Leaders as well.

Phil brings to the position of Assistant Fire Marshal over 30 years of experience in the fire service, mostly in code compliance. He has a wide variety of training and professional certifications, and he is presently the President of the Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota (FMAM). Phil began his career with us as a Fire Prevention Inspector 1 in 1988. In 1990 he was promoted to Fire Prevention Inspector 2.

Phil competed with Mike Urmann in an arduous testing process. I want to commend Mike Urmann as well for successfully passing the Assistant Fire Marshal test.

Please join me in congratulating PHIL OWENS on his promotion to Assistant Fire Marshal. There will be a promotional ceremony hosted by Bob Kessler in the near future and you're all invited to attend. Thank you.

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### **2007 Minnesota State Fire Code Training**

The State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) is currently developing a two-day 2007 MSFC Update Class. This class will be taught at various locations across the state. The preliminary plan is to have 4-5 classes in the out-state regions (NW Minnesota, NE Minnesota, SW Minnesota, SE Minnesota, and possibly Central Minnesota) and 5-6 classes in the metro area.

The classes will cover the changes between the 2000 and 2006 editions of the International Fire Code along with the changes to the state amendments between 2003 and 2007. In addition, this class will serve as a refresher for identifying and correcting common fire and life safety violations.

The class is being pilot-tested to State Fire Marshal Division staff the last week in September and will be given to code officials, design professionals, and contractors starting in late-October or early November.

Training locations are being reviewed at this time. Once locations and dates are finalized, you will be notified and able to register using the SFMD on-line training registration system. You must pre-register for these classes and they are filled on a first-come, first-served basis although "wait-lists" are established to fill cancellations.

Students will get a hand-book and a CD ROM containing SFMD policies and fire code resource materials in addition to two days of training.

Watch your e-mail in the upcoming weeks for registration information.

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### **Minnesota State Fire Code Books**

Watch your e-mail in the next few weeks for information on ordering the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code books.

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### **Find the Code Violation Answers**

Did you correctly identify the problems? Hopefully, you did but, if not, nobody knows but you.

In the first photo of the dry-pipe sprinkler riser, the fire department connection is located below the shut-off valve. NFPA #13 requires that the FDC be located above the system shut-off valve so that the fire department can still pump in and supply water to the sprinkler system.

The egress arrangement in the second photo forms a "dead-end" corridor. The maximum distance allowed by the building or fire code is 20 feet or 2.5 times the width of the corridor.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> photo, an unprotected vertical opening exists; the lower level, the level being photographed, and the upper level are connected via an open stairway. The fire code requires that vertical openings connecting more than two stories be enclosed or the building must be sprinkler-protected throughout.

**FMAM Meeting Notice & Calendar**

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

New Brighton Public Safety Center - 785 Old Highway 8

12:30 p.m. – Education Program: New State Elevator Code Requirements – John Roche, Chief State Elevator Inspector

1:30 p.m. – Business Meeting

**Other Important Dates:**

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – FMAM Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – Quarterly Meeting – Bloomington Fire Station #1

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