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## Cruise Ship Fire Safety

My wife Helen and I have been taking advantage of the short drive from our house to Port Canaveral to spend some time on a cruise ship exploring the Caribbean. Here in Florida, we are so fortunate to be within a short drive of many of the major cruise ship ports that serve the world.

The highest priority of the cruise ship industry is to ensure the safety and security of its passengers and crews. During the past two decades, North American cruise lines have maintained the best safety record in the travel industry while transporting more than 90 million people throughout the world.

A cruise ship is comparable to a secure building with 24-hour security. Since vessels operate in a controlled environment, access can be strictly enforced. Cruise ships comply with a number of standards, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards governing the operation of cruise vessels worldwide. These internationally mandated standards- treaties adopted by the United States government, govern the design, construction and operation of ocean-going vessels and are codified in the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. Additionally, these groups work closely with the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to an agreement that was signed in 1997 supporting the common goal of promoting passenger safety. Some of the topics addressed include passenger vessel emergency response, crew training; joint training opportunities, as well as regulatory development, interpretation and implementation.

In a speech to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, then Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, Jim Hall, stated that while the cruise ship industry was one of the safest forms of travel, ships were getting larger and carrying more passengers and the focus of his testimony was based on his belief that the NTSB believed that the greatest threat to cruise ship safety- was a fire at sea. He cited several examples of fires at sea and when you review the reports, they all share a common theme- the need for fire sprinkler systems. In fact, his number one recommendation regarding fire protection was that sprinkler systems be installed on all cruise ships.

There are several fire protection facts presented by the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL), such as:

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## Cruise Ship Fire Safety- (continued)

**The Average ICCL Cruise Ship (approximately 86,000 Gross Registered Tons) has the following:**



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*“During the past 20 years, North American cruise lines have maintained the best safety record in the transportation industry while transporting more than 90 million people”*

- Five firefighting teams on board
- Over 170 trained personnel to support the fire fighting teams
- Approximately twenty crewmembers with advanced firefighting training (The average town’s fire department usually has an average of six firefighters per station.
- Over 6 miles of firefighting piping
- Over 16 miles of sprinkler piping
- Over 5,000 sprinkler heads onboard in every cabin and room
- Over 5,000 fire extinguishers
- Over 4,000 smoke detectors
- Local sounding alarms in all cabins
- Over 400 fire stations or hydrants
- Sufficient lifeboats and life rafts for everyone on board.

Cruising is an amazing opportunity to relax and get away from the stresses of everyday life, while having the ability to explore exotic locations. By the same token, we need to be aware of the health and safety issues that are no different than what we experience in everyday life.

It is reassuring that the cruise ship industry understands the need for proper fire protection and most importantly fire sprinklers. We need to continue to work toward making sure that fire sprinklers are present and working everywhere that we live, work, and play.



## NFSA Realigns Three Regional Areas of Operation

As NFSA membership continues to grow throughout the country, in order to maintain the highest level of service, from time to time it becomes necessary to realign our regional areas of operation. Such is the case now. As of January 1, 2008, NFSA has moved the state of Nevada from the Mountain Region to the Southwest Region being served by Regional Manager Doyle Sutton. The realignment puts the states of Arizona, Colorado and Nevada in the Southwest Region.

With the recent announcement of Chris Gaut being appointed as Regional Manager for the Central Region, that region has been realigned to include the states of Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. The state of Nebraska, formally a part of the Central Region, has been added to the Mountain Region now being served by Regional Manager Terry Phillips. The Mountain Region now includes the states of Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and Nebraska. For a complete breakout of all NFSA’s regional operations areas, visit the NFSA website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

# REGIONAL REPORT

Florida Edition



## 2007 FFSA Board of Directors- Elections

Congratulations to all of the candidates for the Board of Directors of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association and the Executive Committee of FFSA. The results were:

### ***FFSA Executive Committee***

President-	Mike Crain
1 <sup>st</sup> . Vice-President-	Jay Larson
2 <sup>nd</sup> . Vice-President-	Wendy Rothenburg
Sec/Treas.-	Bill Van Haute

### ***Contractor Board of Directors (Term expires 2010)***

Mike Brown  
Mike Crain  
John Duffin  
Dave Huysman  
Terry Mohr  
Don Robertson  
Wendy Rothenburg  
Alan Wiginton

### ***SAM Board of Directors (Term expires 2008)***

Dennis Marra  
Versie Vegie

\* Special congratulations to John Duffin, Wayne Automatic, Pompano Beach, Terry Mohr, R&T Fire Protection, Ft. Myers, and Versie Vegie, Viking, Tampa on their election as the newest members of the Board. All of the other directors incumbants and were relected to another term.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR NEW DIRECTORS**



## Business Thursday On-line Seminars- 2008

Building on the success of the “Technical Tuesday” online seminars that the NFSA has been conducting for many years, we are pleased to announce its first half of 2008 seminar schedule.

Aimed at the contractor or project manager rather than the technician, these seminars will follow the same format, starting at 10:30 am Eastern time and continuing for 1 to 1-1/2 hours. The schedule of dates and topics is as follows:



*“One of the most effective ways to get the word out about the effectiveness of fire sprinklers is to report sprinkler saves.”*

Date	Topic	Instructor
February 21	Water Utility Fees	Dom Kasmauskas
March 20	Strategic Planning for Contractors	Dom Pamplin
April 17	ICC Code Development Process and FS-FP Proposals	Bruce Johnson and Dorothy Harris
May 8	Best Practices	Brian Cullen
June 19	Safety for Contractors	Ray Lonabaugh

You can attend a NFSA Seminar without traveling to a classroom. For more information and to view a demonstration, visit our Website at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org), or call Dawn at (845) 8784200 x 133.

## Sprinkler Save Information

We need your sprinkler save information. Getting that information out to those who seek it is one of the most beneficial ways we can communicate the fire sprinkler message. Every day fire sprinklers are saving lives and preventing property damage. We need to pass that information on.

Please send us your “sprinkler save” information either by emailing or by directly submitting on the “Sprinkler Save” page of the Florida Web Site at: [www.floridafiresprinkler.com](http://www.floridafiresprinkler.com)

While you are at the web site, don’t forget to check for the most current fire sprinkler information available.