



David L. Bowman

Executive Director

Florida Fire Sprinkler
Association
A Chapter of NFSA

Associate Director
Regional Operations
NFSA

6572 SE 173rd Court
Ocklawaha, FL 32179

Phone: (845) 519-7648
Fax: (661) 455-3968

Email:
bowman@nfsa.org

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Fire Team USA Follow-ups

In the past several years there has been three very successful deliveries of the nationally acclaimed "Fire Team USA". The day and a half seminar is targeted to all of the stakeholders in a community, including: mayors and city managers, council members, water purveyors, fire marshals, building officials and others, who join together to create life saving measures to provide fire sprinklers where we live and work.

Now that the requirement for fire sprinklers in all residential occupancies has become the nation's "Standard of Care", it is more important than ever that we take every opportunity to give folks the information they need to make educated efforts to get the proper legislation and processes in place to move forward with the process.

We are reviewing attendance records from the past deliveries to pinpoint jurisdictions that already have systems in place, to provide support and identify other areas that need assistance moving forward. We are at a very exciting point in fire sprinkler history and are looking forward to building on the foundation that Fire Team USA has created.

Upcoming FFSA Events

Please make sure to check our website at:

www.FloridaFireSprinkler.com for any changes and current information regarding upcoming events. Some of the highlights are:

July Area Interest Meetings:

July 7- Hollywood, **July 8-** Palm Beach, **July 15-** Orlando, **July 20-** Ft. Walton Beach, **July 21-** Jacksonville, **July 22-** Ft. Myers

July 31, Sprinklerman will appear at the Tampa Bay Rays baseball game.

August 26-27, 13 Overview and NFPA Update 2007

Advanced Fire Protection, 37 Tupelo Dr., Ft. Walton Beach, FL
24 CEU's and No Cost to our AHJs

The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry.

2009 Fall Fire Sprinkler Contractor's Conference September 20-24-FFSA Annual Conference

We will be offering a full selection of *new* courses worth 32 CEUs, including all of the Florida mandatory courses, at our annual FFSA Conference at PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. You won't want to miss this conference with many special events planned.

Plans are well underway for our Annual Conference, September 20-24, at PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. We will be offering ALL new courses and presentations and will be able to provide 32 CEU's, including the Florida Mandatory Courses. In addition to the conference, we will be holding a joint meeting with Florida's AFSA Chapter and a required Underground Installation Course. So, this conference is your "one stop shop" for all of your required coursework.

This year's conference will kick off on Sunday with Golf in the morning and sprinkler trailer demonstrations in the afternoon. The afternoon's highlight will feature a "side-by-side" burn demonstration, narrated by Bob Kleinheinz, NFSA's Regional Manager for the Chicago area. Bob is well-known for his informative demonstration narrations and prior to coming to NFSA, was a Chicago Area Fire Marshal, very active in preparing material for residential sprinkler installation, including work with Bob Hazelton in the HFSC presentations. The side-by-side burn will be held at the Palm Beach Garden's Fire Training Center and will include a barbeque for those attending.

Other top presentations include: Fire Sprinklers and the Environment (The Green Initiative) from Dom Kasmauskas, NFSA Regional Manager for New York State, who is becoming one of the industry leaders in the "Green Initiative", Working with Your Legislators, Ron Brown, NFSA Regional Manager for the Great Lake's Region and former Fire Chief and State Senator from Wisconsin, CPVC Update Issues from Top Meyers, Industry leading expert on risk management, Leadership and Team Building, John Bowman. John is a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served combat tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan and is now a sales Associate at Wayne Automatic Fire Sprinklers. Other presentations will include several members of the "Common Voices" advocacy coalition, several sessions from members of the Fire Team USA Team and others.

Please join us for this innovative and educational conference. Each year the FFSA Annual Conference gets bigger and better. This year's conference is shaping up to be the best yet.



REGIONAL REPORT

Florida Edition



2009 Florida Legislative Session Wrap-up

The 2009 Florida Legislative Session is history and was interesting to say the least. There were great challenges with leadership and direction, with personal agendas rather than the interest of the people in the forefront.

In the midst of the current economic conditions and with Florida's two largest tax resources being tourism and construction the focus of the session should have been clear. There are some hard decisions to be made that will test the core beliefs of both political parties to provide a fair and reasonable income for the state, coupled with the continued wasteful spending.

Currently and in the foreseeable future, most statewide politicians are running for something else and it seems hard for them to concentrate on working for the people. Governor Crist is running for the U.S. Senate, CFO Sink has announced a run for Governor, Ag Commissioner Bronson is term limited out and considering a run for Governor, AG McCollum is also expected to run for Governor. With those things said, many in House and Senate seats will be campaigning for cabinet seats.

We had several very disappointing issues this session. A complete summary can be found at: www.FloridaFireSprinkler.com. Several of the "lowlights" included failure of the "Glitch Bill". HB 636 died and a companion bill stalled because of no action on the House Bill. Much of our necessary language was added to SB 2100, but it does not expect to gain passage.

One of the most exciting highlights was proposed changes in our High-Rise Retrofit Law. Language added to SB 714, which proposed to extend the compliance date from 2014 to 2025. The language was amended at the last committee stop in the Senate and quickly passed.

There was much work from our lobbyist and others to seek a veto from the Governor and the work paid off. Governor Crist vetoed the bill citing firefighter and public safety as the key issues that influenced his decision.

When previous Governor Jeb Bush vetoed a similar measure, he cited as a prime reason for vetoing, the lack of proper fiscal details. A study was never conducted. Another huge result of Governor Crist's veto was that he commissioned the study group, which will now result in a detailed study of the facts. All of which serves to put the facts in the proper light and should serve as a "long-term" solution to the high-rise retrofit issue.

The veto was the result of many people working together and shows how successfully Florida's fire protection community can work together.



Business Thursday On-line Seminars Second Half- 2009

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 second half of 2009 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:

Date	Topic	Instructor
July	Business/Professional Communication	Russ Fleming
August	Impairments	Karl Wiegand
September	Roles of the System Inspector and AHJ	Russ Fleming Dom Kasmauskas
October	Inspection Contracts	Mike Friedman
November	Time Scheduling	Mike Friedman
December	Workplace Safety and "Right to	Dave Bowman

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.

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

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

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