AUGUST 2007

THE CENTER FOR Campus Fire Safety

www.campusfire.org

Campus FireZone©

The Official Newsletter of the Center for Campus Fire Safety

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"Authors Wanted"

We are always looking for articles and stories concerning campus fire safety and would be happy to review your working for possible publication.

See page 7 for more information.

Project FireWise Campus—Unveiled

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is excited to announce the start of *Project Firewise Campus.*

This project's centerpiece is the delivery of important training and materials to campus fire safety officers across the nation. The Center, in partnership with UL University, has developed a training seminar titled *"Developing an Effective Campus Fire Safety Education Program."*

The seminar is designed to provide fire safety professionals a chance to gain an understanding of successful training methodologies for the college age group, as well as to receive tools and resources that they can use to effectively educate students and work further to provide a fire-safe campus

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"The Inspector"

by Philip Chandler

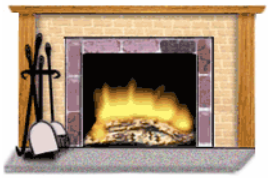
Last month we spoke of the critical importance of routine inspection, testing and maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems in particular, and by inference, other life-safety systems. On a certain level, it matters not what kind of system or device we're talking about; the irreducible fact is that they all need to be kept up according to recognized standards. Otherwise, we cannot reasonably assume that everything will perform as expected when the situation warrants. Needless to say, getting all colleges to fully embrace this notion is no easy task. Unfortunately, not everyone is there yet.

And for institutions that have already committed to comprehensive ITM programs, whether voluntarily or coerced by an aggressive code enforcement official, there is yet another threshold to transverse: getting what you pay for.

High on my list of most annoying situations encountered in the field is finding a vendor of ITM services grabbing bushel baskets full of cash from colleges for shoddy, incomplete or non-existent work. The truth be known, there are a few rogue contractors out there, some even of national repute unfortunately, that simply take the money and run, not delivering on their implied promise of protecting the public by keeping life-safety systems up and running. I bust my you-know-what (pardon my language) getting schools to do the right

- Continued on page 8 -

Code Corner



Chapter 8 of the IFC and Commentary
Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings

This chapter is consistent with the format of the *International Building Code*® (IBC®), which regulates the interior finishes of buildings through the regulation of their flame spread potential. The code goes beyond interior finishes and also regulates furnishings and vegetation within buildings in certain occupancies. Additionally, the code addresses interior finishes and decorative materials in existing buildings.

This chapter is related to fire growth and spread potential in terms of the immediate effect on building occupants. The flame spread characteristics of certain materials will affect the potential fire scenarios within a building. Fire-resistance-rated construction, which is dealt with in Chapter 7 of both the IBC and the code, is more concerned with the spread of fire throughout the structure once the fire has reached a substantial size, with an emphasis on structural failure during a fire.

The regulation of flame spread can be traced back to large life-loss events, such as the Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire that killed 492 people in 1942. This fire was thought to have started when a light bulb in the basement cocktail lounge came in contact with the cotton cloth that had been applied to the ceiling for decorative purposes. Post-fire testing of the cotton cloth indicated that it had a flame spread rating of 2,500, more than 33 times the maximum allowable flame spread in the IBC. This factor, in addition to a series of problems with the egress system, led to one of the worst fire disasters in history. The need for these regulations was further emphasized after the Station Nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, where 100 people died in February 2003. The sound-proofing material in the nightclub was not approved for such use and was a major factor in the fire growth.

In addition to flame spread ratings of surface materials, certain furnishing types and vegetation, such as Christmas trees, pose a large fire hazard because of the potential fire size and intensity. The materials used in furnishings have changed dramatically from past materials and many more plastics are now used for both decoration and furnishings. Plastics not only burn more vigorously than materials such as cotton and wood, but also produce more toxic fire effluents.

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The Training Zone

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify information sources for product recalls of automatic fire sprinklers.

Fire and building officials often have a hard time convincing property owners and tenants to install automatic sprinkler systems due to their installation costs, maintenance demands, and the many popular misconceptions about sprinkler performance.

In recent years, the mandatory and voluntary recalls of several automatic sprinklers have made it more challenging for fire protection personnel to promote sprinkler protection. There is a legitimate concern among fire professionals that, if all of the recalled sprinklers are not replaced, the effectiveness of sprinkler protection—and the public's perception of sprinklers—may diminish.

Work with the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and several sprinkler manufacturers has led to the recall of several famous sprinklers that failed to operate in the event of a fire: the Central Sprinkler Corporation Omega® in 1998, the Central Model GB, and the Star ME-1 both in 2001, among others.

It is important that fire inspectors have the ability to identify these recalled sprinklers that still may be in service, and advise the property owner or tenant on the need to have them replaced. *The Omega Recall Program* is due to expire August 31, 2007, so there is a timely need to address these sprinklers.

The following sites on the World Wide Web can provide additional information, illustrations, and the latest replacement protocols on recalled sprinklers:

www.firesprinkler.org/techservices/recall.html
www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01201.html
www.omegarecall.com/
www.star-recall.com/fireprot.htm
www.ul.com/regulators/sprinklers/cpsc.html

U.S. Fire Administration | Homeland Security

From The President - Mike Halligan

Employee training and education programs are an important part of any fire prevention program. Staff members who are afforded the opportunity to attend conferences and training programs, locally or nationally, network with others who face the same challenges they do on a daily basis. They see alternative ways to solve problems, learn new methods to affect changes in risky behavior and overall, improve the fire safety program on their campus. As their supervisor, you will see a boost in their morale; employees who are sent to training and education sessions see that you value their skills and want to invest in their development. They view themselves as an important part of the team.

Consider sending your fire prevention staff to one of the ten regional fire safety seminars being conducted around the country as part of the Firewise Campus Project. Your staff and program will benefit from a day and half program that gives them the tools to reach out across campus to more effectively deliver fire safety training. The seminars are free – you simply need to get to the location. Once there, the hotel, materials and food each day are included, as is the registration. There are only a limited number of openings in each class – so apply early!

Mike Halligan
President and CEO

THE CENTER FOR Campus Fire Safety
www.campusfire.org

C-NEWS

"The Campus Fire News Wire"

This page is only a Snapshot of what is happening on college campuses around the country.

What you're reading now is a brief overview of each news story we have information on. If you would like to see the entire news article or view more news not listed in this section, please visit:

CampusFireSafety.com

Real Time Campus News - 24 hours a day

Visit: CampusFireSafety.com

Click on: *News Wire*

Information updated daily *(…well almost daily...)*

July 1, 2007

California Polytechnic
San Luis Obispo, CA

Illegal fireworks are the cause of a campus brush fire. More than 120 acres of land were burned.

Radford University
Radford, VA

Three units of an off-campus apartment building were destroyed after a fire broke out. Damage is estimated at $250,000 for the structure and an additional $20,000 for apartment furnishings.

July 2, 2007

University of Mary Washington
Fredericksburg, VA

The University of Mary Washington has purchased a text messaging system to alert faculty, staff and students about campus emergencies. The system will cost the university around $40,000 plus annual renewal fees.

July 5, 2007

Central Michigan Univ.
Mount Pleasant, MI

CMU police are searching for answers in two campus fires that are believed to be arson. Police believe the suspect to be a college-age, white male.

July 12, 2007

The Ohio State Univ.
Columbus, OH

Three buildings were evacuated after a suspicious box was found in the stairwell of an engineering building.

July 24, 2007

University of California
Riverside, CA

University officials are working with a contracted forensics lab to help determine the cause of a dormitory fire. The lab plans to take a similar kitchen to re-create the conditions before the fire. The university's goal is to find out what happened, so it does not happen again.

University of Colorado
Boulder, CO

A power surge is responsible for outages in 11 residences halls as well as a small electrical fire in an engineering building. Nearly 400 people were evacuated because of this fire.

University of Missouri
Columbia, MO

A sprinkler system saved the day after a weekend fire broke out in a campus engineering lab. The fire started by a hot plate that had been left on. Only minor water damage was reported.

University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

An attic fire left several UT students homeless for a few days. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA

Part of a campus theater was damaged by fire. Only minor smoke and water damage has been reported.

University of Hawaii
Hilo, HI

Firefighters were called to an off-campus apartment complex after an electrical short caused several small fires. Only about $5,000 in damages were reported.

Viewer Mail/Career Connection

We did not receive any Viewer Mail or Career postings for the August publication. Please send us your questions, comments, happenings etc… and we'll try to publish them.

Announcements

Sprinkler Save in University of Washington Laboratory

A catastrophic loss was prevented over Independence Day at the University of Washington when an automatic fire sprinkler system functioned as designed, extinguishing a fire in a chemistry laboratory that apparently started in a waste basket. There were no reported injuries. A fire officer on the scene said, "We're glad when the sprinkler does what it is designed to do," "It could have been a lot worse."

This story comes from the NSFA web site: http://www.nfsa.org

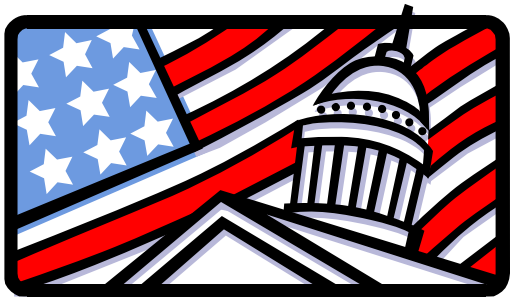
Movement in D.C. on Campus Fire Safety Issues Continues

On July 23rd, The Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act introduced by Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) passed in the United State Senate by a wide margin. The bill is designed to provide students and families with crucial fire safety records of colleges and universities. Since 1990, colleges and universities have been publishing crime statistics on campus thefts, assaults, and sexual and capital crimes, but fire-related incidents are not required to be made public.

"There is safety in information. Parents and students need to know that college campuses are doing all they can to keep students safe. We must take every step possible to prevent a tragedy like the Seton Hall fire from ever happening again. This measure would give the public the information it needs to evaluate fire safety at colleges and universities," said Sen. Lautenberg.

Now matter is now in the hands of the House of Representatives where a companion bill H.R. 592 sponsored by Congressman William Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) is working its way through the legislative process.

The Center will be actively monitoring this legislation and more (see *Legislative Update)* and will keep it you updated. In the meantime, we encourage you to get involved - contact your elected officials and let them know that campus fire safety issues are important to you.



- *FireWise continued from page 1* -

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program, *Project Firewise Campus* will be making its way across the United States over the next six months, providing this valuable training through ten regional seminars.

According to Paul D. Martin, Vice-President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety and project coordinator, the number one goal of *Project Firewise Campus* is to "help better prepare campus fire safety educators, government officials and members of the fire service - to work together to raise college students' consciousness about fire safe behaviors at a critical point in their lives."

A key component of the project is its virtual "zero cost" to the attendees. There is no registration fee associated with the training; attendee's are provided up to two nights of lodging at the host venue, along with most meals. In addition, participants will receive a cache of materials that they will be able to refer to and employ in their own campus fire safety training programs when they get home.

'How do I get in on this?' you might ask. Well it is simple - just visit the *Project Firewise Campus* website www.firewisecampus.org Once there you'll find much more information including a sample program agenda, course delivery schedule including host cities and the all important application portal. Anticipating an overwhelming demand for the program, a two-step registration process has been put in place.

Anyone wishing to participate will be asked to submit an application, a very simple, on-line process. A peer review group will screen the applications to ensure that each class is comprised of a good cross representation – geographically, demographically and professionally. Once student rosters have been made, all applicants will be notified of their selection status.

"The *Project Firewise Campus* team is comprised of some of the most dedicated and passionate folks I know when it comes to campus fire safety" said Martin. "I trust anyone who attends one of these seminars will walk away with a renewed sprite, charged up and ready to begin training back at their home institution."

Be sure to surf on over to the *Project Firewise Campus* website www.firewisecampus.org to learn more about this exciting educational opportunity.

Advertising Opportunities Available in CampusFireZone

As you know *Campus FireZone* is the only FREE monthly publication devoted to empowering and helping professionals in their quest to maintain the safety of America's colleges and universities. To help us continue to keep this publication a free service, we are now offer a very limited advertising opportunities to organizations that will assist campus fire safety professionals in doing their job.

With a direct circulation to more than 5000 college and university professionals, and a known redirect in excess of 20,000 additional recipients, *Campus FireZone* is a great publication in which to share information.

Campus FireZone is an excellent medium for businesses to share information about their products and services to those who are directly responsible for administration, and operation of fire and life safety programs on campus, as well as fire fighting and government officials from campus communities.

Please see page 6 for contact information so we can start advertising your business.

CAMPUSfiresafety.com

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CampusFireZone.Com

Legislative Update

Listed below are several key pieces of legislation related to campus fire safety that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress. Bills highlighted in red are those for which the Board of Directors of the Center for Campus Fire Safety has formally passed a resolution in support of. We encourage you to contact your US senators and representatives and express your support as well. Remember the key to success in the legislative arena— "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

S. 354/H.R. 592 **"The Campus Fire Safety Right to Know Act"** - To provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings, other for other purposes.

H.R. 643 **"The College Fire Prevention Act" -** To establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes.

S. 582/ H.R. 1742 **''Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2007'' -** To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. Res. 105/H. Res. 95 **Resolutions** expressing the sense of the Senate/House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month

H.R. 1409 **"College Life Safety and Fire Prevention Act" -** To establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire alarm detection systems, or other fire prevention technologies, in qualified student housing, dormitories, and other university buildings, and for other purposes.

For more information on these and other bills in Congress visit: THOMAS at www.thomas.loc.gov THOMAS was launched by the Library of Congress, during the 104th Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public.

- The Inspector continued from page 1 -

thing in implementing ITM programs, EH&S officials bust theirs getting the contracts approved and funded, all for what? So that some outside vendor can get rich while their customers still lack the assurance that that if fire breaks out, it will be speedily detected, occupants evacuated and suppression commenced? Of course, there are many service providers that dutifully and conscientiously do every bit of what they are supposed to do, and thankfully they are in the majority. Accordingly, one must not infer from my comments any suggestion that ITM is a waste of money; it is indispensable. Yet one must infer from my words one key message: *Caveat emptor*—Buyer beware!

Consider the following: While conducting a routine inspection, I noticed red wires sticking out of the ceiling over a department chair's desk. The professor informed me that indeed there had been a smoke detector there, though missing for months. (Of course one might ask why this wasn't promptly reported by the faculty member, but that's a whole other discussion.) At the end of the day, I requested the records of the last annual inspection of the fire detection system, which incidentally had taken place only days before my inspection. Guess what? The documents indicated that the missing device had somehow not only been tested, but also had passed! Further, the inspection record indicated that every device in the building had passed; surprising, in that that very fire alarm control panel indicated several troubles, including dirty heads!

Or how about this: One of my informers, a security guard, (Yes, you bet I cultivate an entire network of individuals that keep me current on what's really happening on campus.) reported to me that recently while working the night shift, he provided key access to the science building for the ITM contractor staff that they might test smoke detectors along with horns and strobes. He further reported that every time he passed the building, these guys were spread out on the chairs in the lobby. He further conveyed his curiosity at how the smoke detectors in the faculty offices were being tested, as he was never asked to provide the necessary key access to all of those spaces. My subsequent look at the inspection records of that day indicated complete and satisfactory testing of every device! What gives?

I'll tell you what gives: at the very least, a lack of quality control on the part of some ITM vendors. Too often, these poor performers simply fail to monitor closely the work of their people in the field. Moreover, in many cases, they certainly have failed to adequately develop in their work force those qualities, professionalism, integrity and dedication to life-safety, which the job calls for. Sure they will claim how difficult maintaining a good work force is in these times. So what! No one need accept excuses when lives are on the line!

What is a college to do? Hold outside vendors accountable. One college has taken to assigning an electrician to periodically witnessing ITM activities. Surprisingly, buildings that for years had no exceptions now have many noted deficiencies. This past year, seventeen of forty-six buildings tested failed to transmit a fire alarm signal altogether. Why is this year different from all other years? Someone was standing over the shoulder of the alarm technicians making sure that they did what they were contracted to do.

Unfortunately, the problem goes beyond poor supervision of personnel. Some of the most egregiously bad vendors willfully seek to avoid doing all that is required of them. One firm that was contracted to inspect and test all water-based suppression systems in accordance with NFPA 25 was found to never have visually inspected all sprinklers from the floor level. (2-2.1.1) As a result, they never discovered that every sprinkler in a wood-frame theater had been spray painted black by the scene shop. Not one of them would have activated effectively during a fire. When the contractor was questioned on the matter, he stated: "We only promise that the inspection and testing we do is in accordance with NFPA 25, not that we do all that is required by that standard." What a crock!

There are institutions that long ago concluded that developing an in-house ITM capability made the most sense, economically and practically. The age-old maxim comes to mind: "If you want something done right; do it yourself." A school has many ways in which it can assure the dedication of its life-safety staff. One area college, by offering tuition remission for dependents, has found that at most times their key staff members have children living and learning in the very buildings that they are assigned to protect. How's that for motivation! Of course not every college will find it feasible to do their own ITM. Nor should a college even consider doing so unless they are prepared to guarantee that their folks will have the needed training and expertise. Nonetheless, there is enough anecdotal information out there to at least suggest that colleges do the math themselves. Regardless of how a college decides to affect ITM, the bottom line is the same: Take nothing for granted.

Philip Chandler is a long time firefighter and a fulltime government fire marshal working extensively in the college environment – from large public university centers to small private colleges. His primary responsibilities include code enforcement and education. Phil welcomes your comments, thoughts and opinions (whether in agreement or opposition) to his viewpoints. He may be reached at: theinspector@campusfire.org.

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Purpose
The overall purpose of Chapter 8 is to ensure that interior finishes, furnishings and vegetation do not significantly add to or create fire hazards within buildings. The provisions tend to aim at occupancies with specific risk characteristics, such as vulnerability of occupants, density of occupants, lack of familiarity with the building and societal expectations of importance. Since this is a fire code, there is an emphasis on both new and existing buildings.

801.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern furniture and furnishings, interior finishes, interior trim, decorative materials and decorative vegetation in buildings. Sections 803, 804 and 805 shall be applicable to new and existing buildings. Section 806 shall be applicable to existing buildings.

**This chapter reflects the same scope of issues as Chapter 8 of the IBC but has a slightly different emphasis. Fire codes are intended to address fire hazards of buildings and facilities over their lifespan; therefore, there is greater emphasis on the contents of buildings and on the maintenance of flame spread ratings over time. Section 806 requires the same flame spread ratings as the IBC. Generally, regulating the combustibility of contents is a fairly difficult task once the building is occupied and is considered existing. Because of this difficulty, combustible contents and decorative materials are regulated in a limited number of occupancies. More specifically, the use of combustible furnishings and decorative materials in Group A occupancies is addressed because of the high occupant load and the lack of familiarity of most occupants with the building. The type of furniture allowed in occupancies such as Group I-2 is limited because of the vulnerability of the occupants and the likely fire scenarios that may occur when the building is un-sprinklered.*

2008 - Remember The Date - New Location !

What is the Great Escape on Campus?

Stay low because heat and smoke rise, stop, drop and roll, keep fresh batteries in the smoke detector, and feel doors for heat. These adages of fire safety are easy to take for granted. That is until you are in a residence hall corridor filled with smoke, relying on the walls for balance and direction. You extend an arm and realize your hand has disappeared. Disorientation sets in as a thick haze swirls in the hallway and a blaring smoke alarm makes it difficult to think.

You get low and it is still nearly impossible to see. Exit signs are invisible so you cannot find a door, let alone feel if it is warm. You are wandering blindly in search of an escape route and the smoke continues to thicken.

Yet there is little sense of urgency among these students--only a smattering of giggles and a string of comments about the potency of the enveloping shroud of fog. This was the experience for many college students around the country.

Many campuses have instituted a unique training program called "The Great Escape On Campus." Recent fires and fire related deaths involving college and university students prompted the need to develop a training program that would educate the students while making it fun and exciting.

Developed by Randall L. Hormann, Executive Director of CampusFireSafety.com - The Great Escape on Campus was modeled after the successful NFPA fire safety program. By using "safe smoke," which is the same chemical fog used in fire training programs, dance halls and haunted houses, the disorienting aspects of a smoke-filled corridor that would be experienced in an actual fire was simulated.

The program is designed to teach students the importance of escape planning and early evacuation in their residence halls, fraternity/sorority house, or off campus housing.

We discuss the realities of fire and what students need to know to be prepared for a fire. Using safe smoke, we do a fire simulation program within a student housing facility. We mimic the conditions that would likely exist in a dormitory, residence hall, or Greek housing fire. This program is not designed to surprise or scare students. Instead, its purpose is to demonstrate how quickly one can become lost, disoriented, and confused during a fire situation in the place they call "home".

Ultimately, the program works to reinforce why early evacuation, escape planning, and practice are vital to students' safety, in a "real-world" way which young adults can relate.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has indorsed the creation and implementation of this very unique training program. Randall L. Hormann, was a featured lecturer on the "Great Escape on Campus" at the 2000 and 2001 Fall NFPA Meetings.

Visit: www.GreatEscapeOnCampus.com for more information.

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Campus Fire Safety

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