

# Campus FireZone™

VOLUME 2

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTER FOR CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2009

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## Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety due to be released later this summer.

Representing the Center for Campus Fire Safety, Vice President Paul D. Martin participated as a primary negotiator on a committee appointed by the United States Department of Education (ED.) Serving along side him were representatives of several CCFS partner organizations: CSHEMA, IACLEA, Security on Campus, Inc. and the Michael Minger Foundation. Rounding out the full negotiating committee were representatives of the many other college and university special interest organizations.

The negotiating sessions were intended to help develop the regulations that will ultimately be promulgated to carry out the Higher Education Opportunity Act, wherein the fire safety standards were incorporated (see related story March 2009 Campus Firezone.)

The full 25 member negotiating committee had an eclectic list of 31 issues to be considered and in order for there to be consider a "final consensus" by the committee; agreement was re-

quired on the full 31 issue package, not just the individual issues.

After three rounds of meetings, the full Team V negotiating committee was unable to reach a consensus on two non-fire issues in its final meeting on May 13, 2009, so therefore a "full package deal" was not achieved. As a result, the Department of Education will now publish the proposed regulations in the Federal Register <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/> using what they believe to be the most appropriate language. While it is anticipated that they will use the language developed by the Safety Subcommittee relative to the fire safety and evacuation issues -especially given that a tentative accord had been reached by the full committee - this will not be known until the proposed regulations are published later this summer.

The following is the language that was negotiated and tentatively agreed to for those sections of the Higher Education Act of 2008 related to Disclosure of Fire Safety Standards and Measures and

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The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and participants in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Center for Campus Fire Safety or official policies of the Center for Campus Fire Safety.

## Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

Reporting Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures. Exact language for the pending regulations will be published this summer in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which opens the door for public com-

ment on them. Those comments will be reviewed by the Department of Education and a final set of rules will be published this later this fall.

## Issue: Disclosure of Fire Safety Standards and Measures

**Summary of issue:** The HEOA requires that all Title IV eligible institutions that participate in any Title IV program and that maintain on-campus student housing facilities publish an annual fire safety report, maintain a fire log, and report fire statistics to the Secretary.

>> Continued Page 27



## FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Summer has finally arrived on campus. While this used to bring a welcome relief to many a campus safety officer, not so is the case anymore. Summer is now a period of significant activity on campus - full of rehab and renovation ventures; inspection, testing and maintenance projects; new construction starts; sports and music camps; corporate training programs and even summer classes.

With all this activity on your campus, rest and relaxation is likely not on your horizon. In fact, extra vigilance is the order of the day. Construction is one of the riskiest times for fire in the life of a building. The nature of the work, shut down or lack of early detection, alarm and/or suppression systems increases the potential that even a small fire can quickly grow. So take the time now to review with campus shops and outside contractors basic fire safety guidelines to be followed during construction and review. Review the applicable codes for your institution in an effort to assure that the basic precautions against fire are in place.

The departure of students and faculty generally brings to the campus the opportune time for a period of intense inspection, testing and maintenance of our fire protection systems. As budget belts tighten everywhere, routine ITM is a favored area for some folks to cut corners. We must educate the fiscal managers that these actions are not just a required to comply with various codes or regulations; they are required to ensure that vital fire and life safety devices function when needed. Don't let anyone mistake good luck for good practice.

As if all of the above weren't enough to keep you hopping - many a campus finds itself host to

all types of summer events, programs and classes. This influx of these new "occupants" is certain to bring many who are unfamiliar with established fire safety and evacuation policies and procedures, necessitating additional orientation sessions, information workshops and even fire drills - all imperative to ensure that they enjoy just as fire safe an experience on your campus as your traditional matriculated students.

For each of you for whom the lazy, hazy days of summer is nothing more than a hope and a prayer - hang in there, because despite all the chaos, your efforts are never for naught. I have an anonymous saying I enjoy sharing with those in our line of work to help them get through the times when they feel things have become just too daunting.

**"Even on those days when I feel as though I have accomplished nothing, I remind myself how important this work is. I must remain aware that every time I come to work, that what I convey to the public, may save their life some day."**

So, despite all the important tasks you face this summer, I hope that you will find a few moments to enjoy family and friends - for that too is vital to experiencing a safe and happy life.

#### About our Vice President

Paul D. Martin is chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control where he served as a principle architect of New York State's nationally acclaimed Campus Fire Safety Program. Charged with enforcing the fire safety laws and regulations of the state, one of the Bureau's many responsibilities is conducting fire and life safety inspections of more than 15,000 buildings across the state of New York - including all colleges and universities. Additionally, Bureau staff conducts a wide range of public fire safety education, fire and emergency preparedness training, including numerous specialty programs aimed at the college and university populace. Holding an associate degree in fire science and a bachelor's in public administration, Paul is a fire service veteran of thirty years and has served in several line and administrative positions.

## 2009 Center for Campus Fire Safety

### Election Announcement Call for Candidates



Dear Members,

The election of a President, Vice President, and two Directors will be held prior to the Annual Business Meeting of the Center for Campus Fire Safety.

Members who desire to be candidates and are qualified in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the constitution, shall submit their name, office being sought, a profile of their qualifications, and their platform (not to exceed 500 words) to the Elections Committee, Center for Campus Fire Safety, 10 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, in writing by August 1, 2009.

Candidate profiles and platforms, and balloting procedures and instructions, will be published in the August 2009 issue of Campus Fire Zone and will be available on the CCFS website.

I encourage members to participate in this opportunity to become part of the CCFS leadership.

**Alan Sactor**

Chair, CCFS Elections Committee



# CAMPUS FIRE FACTS

## Residential Pool and Spa Safety

For students moving off-campus to housing with pools or spas, there is a new level of safety and responsibility that must be recognized. Please note the following safety tips and enjoy your off-campus oasis.

### Cleaning

- When preparing to open the pool for the season, remove all leaves and other debris from the cover, and around the deck.
- Empty the skimmer baskets frequently. This helps reduce the amount of debris that gets into the pump basket, and helps maintain proper water flow through the system.
- Keep the trees and shrubs around your pool trimmed back to minimize the amount of leaves and debris that end up in the pool.
- An automatic pool cleaner will dramatically reduce the time spent on maintenance.

### Water clarity

- When opening the pool at the beginning of the season, run the filter continuously, until the water is completely clear.
- If the pool water appears green or has an unpleasant odor, algae are probably the cause of the problem. First test for proper chlorine level, then add an algaecide, flocculant, or clarifier,

and vacuum to waste. If the problem persists, consult a pool professional.

- Keep your recirculation system (filter, pump, lint trap, and skimmer baskets) clean and in proper working condition to help ensure that your pool water remains clear.
- Pool inlets should be adjusted so the water is circulated throughout the basin to avoid stagnant areas ("dead spots").
- If you use well water to fill the pool, you may need to add a metal remover.

### Water testing

- To ensure accurate readings, replace all test kit reagents at the beginning of each swimming season, or on an annual basis.
- To ensure the highest water quality, test the pool's pH and free chlorine levels daily, and add chemicals as needed.
- Maintain a residual chlorine level of consistent with the product's label directions. pH should be maintained between 7.4-7.6. A pH range of 7.2-7.8 is considered acceptable.
- Proper chemical usage is important for maintaining stable water chemistry in the pool. Be sure to follow the chemical manufacturers' instructions closely regarding proper dosage for your size pool.

### Chlorine

- To maintain the proper level of residual chlorine when bather load is heavy, you may need to add large doses of chlorinating chemicals (shock, super chlorinate or breakpoint chlorinate) to the water. Follow the directions for the type of "chlorine or "shock" used since some oxidizing chemicals do not kill algae or bacteria, they react with and oxidize chemicals in the water. Do not allow bathers to enter the pool until the chlorine is back to the proper level.
- Maintain a residual chlorine level consistent with the product's label directions.

### pH level

- The ideal range for pH of pool water is 7.4-7.6. A pH range of 7.2-7.8 is considered acceptable.
- Maintaining a total alkalinity (T.A.) range from 80-120 ppm (parts per million) will help minimize changes in pH, which can result in scaling and corrosion. Frequent testing can help prevent these problems before they get out of hand.

### Chemical storage

- Keep chemicals out of the reach of children and pets.
- Store in a cool, dry place, and out of direct sunlight.
- Store in their original containers.

- Do not use contents of unlabeled containers.
- Containers should always be kept closed when not in use.
- Be sure storage area is well ventilated.
- Never store chlorinating chemicals near acid. Chlorinating chemicals will release toxic chlorine gas if they come in contact with acids.
- Do not store liquids above powders or solids. Do not stack containers.
- Do not store materials or chemicals above your head.
- Do not store pool chemicals near gasoline, fertilizers, herbicides, grease, paints, tile cleaners, turpentine, flammable materials, or other chemicals if possible. This tip is especially important when pool chemicals are stored in sheds or small storage rooms.
- Do not reuse containers.

#### Handling chemicals

- Always read and follow the chemical's instructions to ensure safe use of chemicals.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment and clothing including gloves, footwear and eyewear.
- Handle chemicals in a well-ventilated area.
- Use separate, clean metal or plastic measuring cups for each chemical to transfer or measure chemicals. Never use wood scoops.
- Protect chemicals from moisture and water -- such as a cup of water or coffee. Even putting the wet scoop back in the pail may cause a reaction.
- When applicable, always dilute chemicals by adding to water, never the other way around unless the container's label instructs you to do so.
- Do not mix different chemicals together.
- Do not put spilled chemicals back into their containers.
- Do not smoke when handling chemicals.
- Do not expose to heat or flames.

#### Filters

- When cleaning cartridge filters, follow the product label directions. Not following directions can cause the cartridge to plug and no longer be effective.
- If the sand in the filter is 3-5 years old, ask your pool professional if it's time to replace the sand.
- If your filter pressure gauge indicates that pressure has dropped below the normal reading for a clean filter, check to see if you have a clogged pump or skimmer basket.
- Clean your sand filters when you close your pool for the season.
- To obtain maximum filtration and energy efficiency, backwash or clean your filter regularly, as required.

#### Heaters

- To maintain your heater's efficiency, follow a regular program of preventive maintenance described in the heater's installation and operations manual including annual inspection and de-liming of the heat exchanger when necessary. Maintaining water balance is important to make sure that scale does not form on the heater elements reducing energy transfer and increasing energy cost.

#### Pumps

- Turn the pool pump off before operating the multi-port valve.
- If your pump starts running louder or making unusual noises, shut it off and contact your pool professional.
- Make a habit of checking and emptying pump baskets regularly.

#### Skimmers

- Check to make sure the skimmer weir is in place and is moving freely.
- Make a habit of checking and emptying skimmer baskets regularly.
- Maintain your pool water level halfway up the skimmer box opening.

## Leaks

- A pool may typically lose a minimal amount of water each day (no more than ¼ inch) due to evaporation and/or splash out. If your pool is losing more water than that, there could possibly be a leak. Monitor closely and consult your pool professional if you suspect a leak.
- Loose tiles in the pool, or cracks in the pool deck may be an indication of a leaking pool.
- If you notice water-saturated soils in the area around the pool, pool pumps or plumbing, your pool may be leaking.
- If you see bubbles in the return water when the pool's pump is running, it's likely there's a leak in the suction side of the filtration system.

## Spas and hot tubs

- An emergency shut-off switch for the pool circulation pump and the spa jet pump in an easily accessible, obvious place near the pool or spa. Make sure bathers know where it is, and how to use it in case of emergency.

- Get out of the spa or hot tub immediately if you experience nausea, dizziness or fainting. These are signs of hyperthermia, which can be fatal. Cool your body with cold towels or a cool shower. Call a doctor or 9-1-1 if the symptoms do not go away.
- Keep the water temperature in your spa below 104°F (40°C). Age or health conditions (especially pregnancy) may require a lower temperature. Consult your physician for more information.
- Never use the spa or hot tub if you are using alcohol or drugs. The combination of hot water and alcohol and/or drugs can cause dizziness, falling, unconsciousness or a heart attack.
- Make sure your spa or hot tub has dual suction outlets. All tub suction fittings should be certified to meet the current ASME/ANSI Standards that apply.
- Never alter the electrical cord or plug on the spa system.
- Never use an extension cord to connect a spa system to an existing electrical outlet. A spa system must operate from a GFCI-protected circuit or outlet. If in doubt, consult a licensed electrician.
- Maintain proper disinfection and pH at all times.



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[CTabor@campusfiresafety.org](mailto:CTabor@campusfiresafety.org)

“Campus Firezone is an excellent medium to reach professionals directly responsible for campus administration, management and operation of fire and life safety programs, as well as fire & government officials from college communities.

With a **direct circulation to more than 15,000 college and university professionals**, and a known redirect in excess of 20,000 additional recipients, Campus Firezone is a great publication to share information.”

# SPRINKLER WORKS



## DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPRINKLER DESIGN STANDARDS AND CHOOSING THE OPTIMUM SYSTEM FOR YOUR PROPERTY

There are three fire sprinkler design standards that may be applied during fire sprinkler retrofit or in installing a new fire sprinkler system in a Greek house. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) cites **NFPA 13** as the fire sprinkler design standard used for fire sprinkler installations in most commercial buildings. This standard may also be used for fire sprinkler design criteria when the installation is in a Greek house. The standard requires water flow of not less than four fire sprinklers and may impose additional water flow if large places of assembly exist within the property. The NFPA 13 fire sprinkler design standard requires the installation of fire sprinklers in attics and other unoccupied spaces where fires rarely originate. Compliance with the NFPA 13 standard is the most costly of the three fire sprinkler design standards.

A fire sprinkler design standard has been developed specifically for residential occupancies that are four and less stories in height. The **NFPA 13R** fire sprinkler design standard does not require fire sprinklers in unoccupied spaces such as attics and allows design criteria of up to four fire sprinklers in the property. If the largest room can be protected with less than four fire sprinklers (400 square feet each maximum coverage), then the water supply needed can be reduced to the lesser requirement, which means smaller pipes and lower costs. NFPA 13R fire sprinkler design standard is the document that should be used for the vast majority of the fire sprinkler retrofits in Greek houses. Application of NFPA 13R is less costly than the NFPA 13 design standard.

There also exists an **NFPA 13D** fire sprinkler design standard, the least costly of all, which is designed for one and two family dwellings. While some Greek houses may have been originally classified as a single-family home, fire codes are applied based upon how a building

is being used, not how it was originally constructed. Most fire officials will classify a Greek house as a rooming and lodging facility and may be reluctant to allow the use of a fire sprinkler design standard developed for single-family properties. The NFPA 13D design calls for water supply to feed up to two fire sprinklers, a criterion that should not be applied to the typical Greek house.

You need to specify that your fire sprinkler system be designed using the least costly fire sprinkler design standard which typically will be the criteria found in NFPA 13R. If NFPA 13R cannot be used, investigate why not. Let the NFSA know if you do run into issues as we have industry experts that can be called upon to help you fight this requirement. You don't want an uninformed person to put you in a position whereby you have to make an unnecessary investment beyond what you are already doing.

There are two different types of sprinkler systems, a wet pipe system, which has water present in the piping at all times and a dry pipe system, which does not. There are distinctive differences in the costs and the response times of these two systems.

The wet pipe fire sprinkler system is much more common and is a "rapid response" sprinkler, unlike the dry pipe system, which is not common and does not respond as rapidly. The dry system is generally chosen for those more unique circumstances such as:

- Concern about freezing exposure for the pipes themselves, which in a habitational type property is not a problem and in problem areas such as attics, insulation with an R-19 rating will properly address this situation.
- Concern about the potential for water damage being a greater risk than that of a fire, such as a fine arts museum.

In potential freeze conditions, some have attempted to use anti-freeze in the pipes, which is not recommended from an occupant health standpoint. While anti-freeze is code allowed in limited conditions, the added costs to adequately protect the drinking water could be prohibitive, as is the increased liability exposure if frequent maintenance does not take place. Dry systems are more complex, require more maintenance, and are more expensive than wet systems because they require more hardware and have more design standards to comply with such as larger pipes to provide larger flows to offset time delays in getting water to the fire.

Our recommendation would be to go with a wet system with increased insulation packed around piping in freeze danger zones. We feel that it provides the best level of protection, the best response time, it is less expensive and it has lower service requirements.

Serious fires in student housing can wreak almost unimaginable devastation and disruption; this potential warrants careful consideration of fire safety options. In particular, automatic sprinkler systems should be considered as a viable option; they have established an impressive record of preventing residential fire catastrophes, particularly in the hospitality industry. With technologies developed specifically for residential applications, automatic sprinkler systems are now commonplace in hotels and motels, where they afford the traveling public with a high level of fire safety. College students deserve this same high level of protection ... and their parents expect it.

Compiled from the "Automatic Fire Sprinkler Toolbox" by the Sorority Department of MJ Insurance; by Timothy P. Travers, EFO, CFO, New England Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Assn.



### Timothy P. Travers

Tim has an extensive background in fire protection including over 35 years of service with the Whitman, Massachusetts Fire Department, a suburb of Boston.

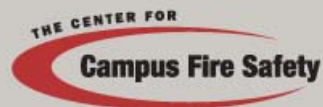
With over twenty years as Chief of Department, he has many appointments to his credit, including the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Special Operations Team where he served as an Operations Chief; the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission where he was elected as Chairman; the Task Force on Fire & Building Safety, a committee charged with making a comprehensive review of the Commonwealth's building and fire codes; and the Fire Science Technology Program Advisory Board at Massasoit Community College.

Tim is a Life Member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He can be contacted at [Travers@NFSA.org](mailto:Travers@NFSA.org).

Non-Profit

**PARTNER PROFILE**

Partnering with the Center for Campus Fire Safety



## Non-Profit Partner Profile: The Fire Science Club at the University of New Haven

The Fire Science Club at the University of New Haven is proud to collaborate with the Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) and is particularly satisfied to take the lead in CCFS's new Campus Fire Safety News Daily.

The 60-member Fire Science Club is one of the most active organizations on campus. The group is mostly fire science students and it meets regularly to plan educational events, social events, and trips that focus on the fire service. For example, past activities consist of community service, tour of fire science related facilities and sponsoring guest speakers. The club has taken trips to the Boston and NYC fire departments.

One of the organization's most recent activities is its involvement with CCFS and its new Campus Fire Safety News Daily.

Working the CCFS staff, club members review news related to campus fire-safety issues and post the material daily on the CCFS website ([www.campusfiresafety.org/News](http://www.campusfiresafety.org/News)).

The news material is from internet media sources, posted daily, and then stored in a searchable archive.

According to the club's president Christopher Rinck, the club takes fire prevention on campus and in the surrounding community and very seriously. For example, the club uses its Bullex Fire Extinguisher Training System to assist with fire extinguisher training.

The Fire Science Club also sponsors Fire Prevention Week activities on campus. Its members also attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute's National Fire Service Dinner. Recently, the Fire Science Club was the sole student group represented at the Congressional Fire Services Institute dinner and seminars, where the club was praised for its professionalism and the students who represented UNH.

The club also hosts great BBQs for all students to enjoy during the nice days of the fall and spring. Contact the Fire Science Club by e-mailing them at [FSC@newhaven.edu](mailto:FSC@newhaven.edu).

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## Fire Chief

### Kokomo Fire Department Kokomo, Indiana

#### ABOUT THE JOB

The Fire Chief plans and directs activities related to fire suppression, fire prevention, and develops long-range plans for meeting fire suppression needs of the city. The Fire Chief develops and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of department policies, procedures and programs in accordance with all safety codes and emergency policies to ensure adequate firefighting services and prevention. Additionally, the Fire Chief directs the activities and personnel of the Fire Department and is expected to provide leadership and integrity for all of the City's fire operations. The Fire Chief is also responsible for budgeting, strategic planning, and directing the department. The Fire Chief is responsible for managing all aspects of a fully paid Fire Department. The Fire Chief receives general instructions as to work results desired from the Mayor, Council, and Board of Works.

Approximate department size: 100 employees. The Fire Chief must possess the ability to carry out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and applicable laws. Responsibilities include training employees; planning, scheduling, assigning, and directing work; appraising performance, disciplining employees; addressing complaints and resolving problems.

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily and must maintain regular attendance. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

#### EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

Applicants should possess a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science and/or administration or any equivalent combination of education, experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Applicants must have at least ten (10) years of prior qualified experience in a full-time paid firefighter position. Applicants must also meet all other applicable firefighter training as provided by Indiana Statute/Administrative Code.

#### OTHER REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of firefighting and emergency response; thorough knowledge of Department's Rules and Regulations; knowledge of applicable fire laws and ordinances and city geography. Ability to lead, command, assign and coordinate activities performed by a large group of employees in varied firefighting work. Must obtain and maintain certifications as firefighter I/II, Fire Instructor I/II/III, Fire Officer I/II, EMT, and HazMat Technician. **MUST POSSESS AND MAINTAIN A VALID INDIANA DRIVERS LICENCE.**

#### KOKOMO FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

The Kokomo Fire Department is a 124 member career department (121 sworn firefighters and 3 civilian employees).

Human Resource Department  
100 S. Union St.  
Kokomo, IN 46901  
(765) 456-7470

Email: [firedept@cityofkokomo.org](mailto:firedept@cityofkokomo.org)

The Kokomo Fire Department is an equal opportunity employer and encourage females and minorities to participate in our testing process.

#### JOB SUMMARY

Location	Kokomo, IN 46901
Industries	Government and Military
Job Type	Full Time
Relevant Work Experience	10+ to 15 Years
Education Level	Professional
Career Level	Executive

# Fire System Technician

## College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

State University of New York

### ABOUT THE JOB

Reports to: Senior Electrical Engineer  
Posting No: R09-28

Employment is with the Research Foundation of SUNY, a private, nonprofit, educational corporation that administers sponsored program activity for the University at Albany.

### DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The Fire System Technician will be responsible for a broad range of tasks, tasks that include, but are not limited to: overseeing general maintenance, repair and testing of fire alarm, fire protection and access control systems. Individuals would also be responsible for overseeing system inspections, coordinating with outside vendors for repairing/testing of fire alarm, fire protection, card access, and security and CCTV systems.

As a member of the electrical department the position will also provide support in operation and maintenance of electrical systems; including cutting, bending and installing of all forms of conduits and raceways, including flexible conduit; installation of fusing, circuit breakers and other forms of current limiting devices; working knowledge of digital multi-meters, meggers, and hot pot systems as well as confined space and lock-out tag-out protocol, NFPA 70E and OSHA regulations; working knowledge of HVAC and mechanical systems supporting cleanroom and office operations; preventive maintenance; an understanding of related disciplines such as process, waste and water treatment, automation, responding to facility alarms; customer satisfaction and support.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A minimum of 5 years experience in installation, maintenance and repair of fire alarm and fire protection systems; thorough knowledge of NFPA as it relates to fire alarm and fire protection systems; experience in the maintenance, replacement and retrofit of breakers and relays; proficiency in electro-mechanical and mi-

croprocessor based relay operation, maintenance, testing and repair; a professional appearance and attitude with the ability to conduct work in an independent manner; the ability to work from single line and 3 line drawings, diagram electrical circuitry, and calculate current loads, KW, MVA, etc.; troubleshooting of AC & DC systems; the ability to work from heights using ladders, scaffolding, JLG, etc., and the use PPE; off shift coverage; good communications skills and proficient use of Microsoft Office and Maintenance Management programs; candidates must be able to address in their applications their ability to work with culturally diverse populations.

### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Experience in card access, security and CCTV systems are a plus.

### NOTES

Position contingent on the availability of funding.

Persons interested in the above position should submit a resume, three work-related references, along with a letter of application to:

Ms. Christy Spadaro  
Search for Fire System Technician  
College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering  
257 Fuller Road  
Albany, NY 12203

[CNSEHR@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:CNSEHR@uamail.albany.edu)

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:** Until position is filled.

The Research Foundation of SUNY, an EEO/AA/IRCA/ADA employer, offers exceptional benefits such as healthcare, dental, vision, pension plans, competitive pay, generous paid time off, tuition assistance, life insurance and long-term disability insurance. The University at Albany offers a variety of performing arts, world class libraries, and competitive sporting events.

### JOB SUMMARY

Company	University at Albany
Job Type	Full Time
Relevant Work Experience	5+ to 7 Years
Career Level	Experienced (Non-Manager)

# SUNY Plattsburgh ... 02 09 09



February 09, 2009,

**O**VERVIEW: Albany, NY --- An early morning fire on February 09, 2009, took the life of 18-year-old Plattsburgh State freshman Steven Fanning and left Matt Ames, a student at the University of Albany, in critical condition.

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC), launched for the first time, its campus related critical fire response. Comprised of fire safety professionals, the team is intended to provide a rapid response in the early hours after a fire that claims the live of a college student. Capturing the "teachable moment", the strike team works with officials from the affected college, local government and the community in an effort to disseminate factual information related to the incident, as well as raise general fire safety awareness.

## Part 2— another point of view

The following article is the account of Fire Protection Specialist, Chris Taylor who was the primary inspector assigned to SUNY Plattsburgh. Last month we featured the account of Deputy Chief Guy Swartwout, who lead the OFPC response in Plattsburgh. Despite being members of the same organization and sharing its common goal - the safety of the one million plus people who make up New York's college community - the perspective each of these gentlemen bring to this incident is unique.

### Chris Taylor:

My relaxing cup of coffee on the cold, sunny Sunday morning was interrupted by a ringing telephone. A quick glance at the caller ID brought about some immediate concern as I wondered why the chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention would be calling me directly, at home, and let alone so early on a Sunday morning. As I picked up the cordless phone, I also heard my cell phone ringing in the distance in another room. I suddenly realized this wasn't going to be good.

I was quickly informed of an off-campus fatal fire that occurred overnight in the City of Plattsburgh and requested to respond to the scene. State fire investigators, colleagues in my office, were already on-scene working diligently to determine the origin and cause of this unfortunate incident. One State University of New York at Plattsburgh student lay dead and a University at Albany (also a SUNY campus) student was in critical condition, fighting for his life.

My heart sank at hearing the news. I had just returned

home from this university on Friday after completing four days of re-inspections to ensure that the violations identified during the annual fire and life safety inspection were being corrected. I began to wonder if this had been one of the hundreds of students I had interacted with while conducting fire safety training or inspection activities on the campus. Eventually I would learn his name, see his photo, and hear his peers recall their fond memories of him. In all reality, I had just lost "one of my students", as I so frequently referred to them.

I had missed the cell phone call while receiving my assignment from HQ, but as I listened to the voice mail I heard the same tragic incident report from the assistant chief of University Police. I returned his call, expressed my condolences and made preparations to meet with him upon my arrival at the scene.

I knew this would be a difficult assignment as I could hear the raw emotions in the voice of the normally stoic assistant chief of University Police. He knew that

fire was one of the most serious threats the university faced. Only a few years earlier he had given up a major portion of his presentation time with the RAs (resident assistants) so our office would have adequate time to discuss the perils of fire with these campus leaders. I could sense that he was feeling disappointed and discouraged with the events that had unfolded over the past few hours but I was confident that he would rise to the challenge as we worked to prevent another senseless tragedy.

The university was already in response mode. The director of residence life was instrumental in drafting the university president's notification to the campus community. The notification included numerous fire safety tips and reminded the campus community that this unfortunate event should serve as a catalyst to reeducate ourselves about these important fire safety measures.



My assignment was to obtain timely information from the scene, assist city and campus officials with the proper and necessary steps to effectively and efficiently react to this situation and to assist the local police and investigators as needed.

While responding to the scene, I had hundreds of images running through my mind. What would I see when I arrived? I imagined the investigators sifting through a pile of smoldering rubble surrounded by fire line tape waving in the breeze, but I was surprised when I arrived. The yellow fire line tape marked the scene and the investigators were hard at work but the structure was still standing with very little visible indications of the tragic incident that occurred just hours earlier.

I was greeted by one of our investigators and quickly updated on the situation. The city building inspector introduced himself and immediately expressed a desire to work with our agency in hopes of preventing another

tragedy in his city.

There were no territorial issues, just a genuine concern to promote life safety. The city fire chief, city police, and university police were equally determined to work with our agency and the local community to spread the fire safety message.

After just a few moments on scene and only brief conversations with these officials it was clear to me that our mission was established. We needed to create something positive out of the ashes that remained from this horrible incident.

The challenge before us was to keep all the parties focused and to actually get something accomplished. All too often meetings occur, promises are made and nothing ever materializes. Thankfully this would not be the case here.

That afternoon our agency began an informational door-to-door campaign in the immediate vicinity. This area included a number of off-campus student housing units. We had an opportunity to speak with several students and local city residents alike and took that opportunity to remind them about many important fire safety issues. We left each with a fire safety handout that included phone numbers and a website address to obtain additional information. It was obvious from these brief encounters that many people still think these tragedies occur in other communities.

Monday morning came and many opportunities to enhance fire safety education presented themselves. We met with the city fire chief and city building inspector. We discussed opportunities for their departments to work together to enhance the fire and life safety inspection process. We provided contact information for other small cities and communities with similar programs in place. These efforts are moving forward.

The city officials were on board, the campus safety committee had pledged their cooperation, and a meeting with the Campus-City Coalition was arranged for Wednesday morning. Plans were finalized to expand the informational door-to-door campaign on Wednesday afternoon utilizing a GIS map from the city building department to target high concentrations of the off-campus student population. State fire officials would be paired with local officials from the city and university to distribute fire safety information and interact with the public to address fire safety issues. This was a great success. The door-to-door campaign reaffirmed the need for addi-

tional fire safety education programs and even resulted in a few referrals for the city to follow up on.

We discovered the Campus-City Coalition had already scheduled an off-campus housing forum prior to this unfortunate incident. The primary focus of that event had been planned to discuss neighborhood, tenant and legal issues. After a brief discussion of this incident, the group realized this forum was an excellent opportunity to capitalize on this teachable moment by allotting time at this event for city, county and state fire officials to discuss off-campus fire safety issues. The city building department would produce fire safety related handouts to be distributed during this event and include fire safety topics in the PowerPoint presentation.

The student newspaper agreed to cover the upcoming events and promised articles to focus on fire safety. A proposal to develop and implement a required on-line course before students could move off-campus is moving forward. Several other long range opportunities were discussed including using the university's communication studies program to develop public service announcements for the university television and radio stations. Our goal was to ensure the fire safety message remained consistent, specific, and easily understood.

The university has many outstanding fire safety proponents and they immediately stepped forward to organize a public fire and life safety education event in the memory of the deceased student. We were able to capitalize on this and maximize resources by scheduling an additional fire safety education presentation for the university maintenance and operations personnel. Residence Life set up a mock dorm room using office partitions and displayed 12 safety violations. The director of residence life, members of Pi Alpha Nu fraternity and Delta Phi Epsilon sorority staffed a table throughout day in the Angell College Center promoting the evening presentation. Memorial ribbons, attached to a flyer promoting the event, were distributed in memory of Steven Fanning. As an incentive, Residence Life sponsored a fire safety quiz with a \$50 Cardinal Cash prize. Participants were given a half sheet of paper numbered 1-12 and were allowed to view the mock dorm room set-up and attempt to identify the 12 safety violations. Upon completion they turned in their answer sheet and were provided with a list of the 12 safety violations displayed. All correct entries were entered into the drawing for the \$50 prize. Everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge and it provoked many fire safety discussions. Many of the university maintenance and operations per-

sonnel also participated in this challenge.



The evening presentation was attended by over 200 people. Residence Life sponsored light refreshments. Fire Chief Paul Williams spoke about the City of Plattsburgh Fire Department response to the incident and reminded students of several key fire safety points. He also offered his department's assistance in helping the off campus students should they have problems or concerns with fire safety issues in their apartments. Jessica Osias, a resident of 104 Court Street, at the time of the fire spoke briefly about her experience that morning. Ms. Osias resided in a downstairs apartment and recalled the difficulty she experienced navigating bicycles obstructing the means of egress, her surprise that the incident was actually occurring, and about the importance of not re-entering the building. These personal encounters resonated deeply with the audience. I wrapped up the event by delivering a fire and life safety presentation titled: Fire Safety: Survivor or Statistic? You Decide! This presentation focused on personal responsibility and many of the common problems observed at campus related fires. We received very positive feedback from the audience and I was even stopped by students on campus the following day to answer fire safety questions.

This event would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of many dedicated individuals at SUNY Plattsburgh. Although each department at the university has a different mission, they understood they share the common goal in providing for the safety and welfare of the campus community. It was a pleasure to assist them in working to achieve that goal.

As I look back on this incident, one of the most difficult tasks was reaching out to the off-campus community

where similar incidents are more likely to occur. The door-to-door campaign, while labor intensive and time consuming, was effective. It provided for one on one interaction and reinforced, at least in my mind, the overwhelming need for continued education and increased inspections and enforcement.

In testament to the success seen in Plattsburgh, staff of the University at Albany was instrumental in implementing a similar door-to-door outreach to their off-campus community with the aid of the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control. This event had all that much more feeling as one their own students was also seriously injured in the Plattsburgh incident.

Back in Plattsburgh, after seeing the success of the door-to-door fire safety campaign, the Campus-City Coalition even utilized this bring-it-to-the-streets method, during early April to reach out to the off-campus community on the topic of being good neighbors.

While I believe our rapid response to this incident and efforts to enhance fire and life safety education for this campus community were successful, our work is far from complete. We must continue to develop relationships that will allow us additional opportunities to spread the fire safety message. Teamwork, education and frequent communication are the keys to our success. We must look outside the box and seize unconventional opportunities to promote fire and life safety awareness.

While the smell of smoke in the air has dissipated and the yellow fire line tape that was covering the perimeter of the fire scene is gone. The memory of Steven Fanning and the tragedy that occurred during the early morning hours of February 8th on Court Street in the City of Plattsburgh is not forgotten. We will continue to work to enhance fire and life safety in the campus communities throughout the state in hopes of preventing tragedies such as this from occurring again.

Chris Taylor is a Fire Protection Specialist assigned to the Bureau of Fire Prevention in the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. His duties include conducting public fire and life safety education presentations throughout the state as well as completing inspections at college campuses and state owned properties across northern New York.

Chris has been involved in the emergency services for over 24 years including serving 7 years as Chief of the Village of Potsdam Fire Department, a combination agency which protects two college campuses and over 7,500 students. Chris has an extensive background in the emergency services field having served as an Emergency Medical Technician, State Fire Instructor and Emergency Services Dispatcher in St. Lawrence County. He has also been active in local government having served 8 years as a Potsdam Town Councilman.

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# “The Inspector” by Philip Chandler

Let the truth be known: As hard as we work to keep our colleges and universities safe from the ravages of fire, our efforts fall short of their mark when it comes to preventing off-campus fires. We read way too many accounts of property damaged, educations interrupted and yes, lives lost. Yet we must not despair, nor give up; there are still, for many of us, a few untried stratagems out there that just might make a difference.

Right off the bat, we need to redouble our efforts to reach students in their freshman and sophomore years before they move off campus. In an ideal world, we would hope to develop critical skills needed to aid students assess all situations out there so they will make sensible decisions when it comes to their personal safety. However, I don't think we are quite there yet. Consequently, we most definitely have a need to somehow directly engage ourselves with the neighborhoods surrounding our campuses in which students live and play. But, exactly how is this to be accomplished?

Many of us, whether because we lack clear administrative direction or legal authority, are stymied in our efforts at affecting improvements in conditions off campus. We are unable to conduct life safety inspections, issue code citations or enforce any of the standards of personal conduct that apply on the campus. We are largely dependent on the efforts of local police, fire and building departments to keep our students safe.

Simply walking through student housing is enough to give us codes guys and gals heart palpitations. Barbecue grills on wooden porches, careless disposal of smoking material, accumulations of combustible waste, you name it, they're all there aplenty.



Add copious alcohol consumption, a warm breeze and you have the recipe for disaster.



Local government agencies, however, have a lot more to do than devoting all of their resources to protecting the student population of their communities. They might argue that significant resources are already dedicated to protecting neighborhoods from the deterioration in the quality of life associated with student life. Municipalities, especially in these hard times, struggle to maintain the most basic levels of service. Code enforcement, especially involving existing structures, is unfortunately not always their highest priority.

Yet, without a doubt, block by block building inspections, even those conducted from the sidewalk, are incomparable in their ability to identify the known markers of fire risk. Simply counting mailboxes or electric meters will uncover zoning violations. Buildings housing students are frequently carved up illegally, creating unsafe conditions. As a result, crowding, unpermitted construction and poor 911 address identification are common.



Moreover, the general appearance of a building speaks volumes about the safety of its occupants. Poor property maintenance in my book always spells fire hazard. They don't call them fire traps for nothing! And, as we discussed last month regarding broken windows, building neglect signifies one thing, loud and clear: no one seems to care. In such an environment, students are easily able to infer that even in their personal safety choices, anything goes.



Of course we can call on local government to step up their building inspection efforts—to be more diligent in enforcing property maintenance codes. Our calls may, however, go unheeded. Municipalities are already sore that they provide services to colleges in their midst without the benefit of offsetting tax revenues. They are already up to their eyeballs in just trying to maintain public order; the last thing they want to hear from us is a request for more services for the student community. Short of handing over a huge chunk of change in lieu of taxes, the suggestion of which is beyond my pay grade to make, the question remains: What are we to do?

One sure thing is to open up as many possible channels of communication with as many community stakeholders as there are—elected officials, municipal agencies, neighborhood associations, tavern owners, landlord organizations and of course, student groups. For instance, Albany, New York accomplishes this through a very effective organization, The Committee on University and Community Relations. Meeting once a month in a neighborhood police station, the group is made up of a consortium of area colleges and all the above named interested parties. Under the talented and energetic leadership of Thomas Gebhardt, the committee regularly tackles the core problems of town-gown relations. Nothing is off the table and every issue gets the attention of all members. As one member comments: “The Committee demonstrates that what seems to be the

tradition of increasing town-gown antagonism isn't necessarily inevitable. The energy of both can, when combined, be effective in developing creative solutions to many quality of life issues.”

There is one core principle that makes the Committee effective: “You have to give to get.” The city administration was at one time besieged by residents complaining of rowdy student behavior, alcoholism, littering, loitering, illegal parking, and vandalism. Long time citizens contemplated moving out and property values began to fall. At the same time, students were increasingly becoming the victims of crime in the deteriorating neighborhoods while also endangered by frequently substandard housing conditions. By being able to sit at the same table, the city and its colleges were able to enter into a de facto partnership. The schools would expand their efforts in addressing the conduct of students when off the campus, thus taking some of the burden off the police and other city agencies. In turn, the city would be more receptive to helping address the issues of particular concern to the colleges and their students, especially issues of personal safety.

An ongoing mechanism is now in place to deal with all problems as they arise. One particularly effective outgrowth of the process is Committee organized neighborhood walks. Small groups made up of representatives of all interested parties walk the neighborhoods, positively engaging with all residents. These eyes and ears on the street are able to identify the important concerns of all residents and refer them to the appropriate agencies for immediate attention. In this way, fire safety issues and building problems are immediately brought to the attention of the fire department, especially so because they have designated the captain of the fire prevention bureau a permanent member of the Committee. It is not uncommon for this veteran officer to join in on door-to-door walkabouts. Captain LaJoy, along with other Committee members, puts in frequent guest appearances at late night neighborhood gatherings. Life safety is not a nine-to-five occupation!

To be sure, the Committee or similar committees elsewhere do not have all the answers. Tom Gebhardt reminded attendees at a recent monthly meeting: “When it comes to life safety, there are no silver bullets; we have to keep trying many new things all the time.” Yet for many communities, venturing beyond the normal institutional boundaries we all encounter and joining together

with others in a meaningful collaborative venture is a necessary first step and certainly a worthwhile "new thing."

*The viewpoints expressed in The Inspector are those of the author alone. They are offered to initiate thought and debate, however, they do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, its officers, directors or its editorial staff.*

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:

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## CODE CORNER

### ABOUT CODE CORNER

CCFS would like to remind you to check with your local "Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)" for questions and opinions concerning your local Fire and Building Codes. The information contained in this article is supplied as a courtesy by the International Code Council (ICC) and is based on the International Fire and Building Codes and their respective commentaries. Your local codes or ordinances may vary.

## Chapter 5

### Fire Service Features

#### SECTION 503

##### FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS

**503.1 Where required.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided and maintained in accordance with Sections 503.1.1 through 503.1.3.

*The code official may require additional access roads to get fire apparatus closer to fire hydrants, fire department connections (FDCs) or emergency access points.*

**503.1.1 Buildings and facilities.** Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirements of this section and shall extend to within 150 feet (45 720 mm) of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

\*Please Note The Exceptions

**503.1.2 Additional access.** The fire code official is authorized to require more than one fire apparatus access road based on the potential for impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access.

**503.2.1 Dimensions.** Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6096 mm), except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed ver-

tical clearance of not less than 13 feet 6 inches (4115 mm).

**503.2.2 Authority.** The fire code official shall have the authority to require an increase in the minimum access

**503.2.3 Surface.** Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities.

**503.2.5 Dead ends.** Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet (45 720 mm) in length shall be provided with an approved area for turning around fire apparatus.

**503.3 Marking.** Where required by the fire code official, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction thereof. Signs or notices shall be maintained in a clean and legible condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when necessary to provide adequate visibility.

**503.6 Security gates.** The installation of security gates across a fire apparatus access road shall be approved by the fire chief. Where security gates are installed, they shall have an approved means of emergency operation. The security gates and the emergency operation shall be maintained operational at all times.

#### SECTION 505

##### PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

**505.1 Address numbers.** New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their

background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).

*Buildings must be easily identified by emergency responders from the emergency response vehicle. This should include the backs of buildings that face alleys or roads, since the emergency response unit may often be directed to the back entrance to a building, such as in a strip shopping center. The back door of each tenant space should have the numerical address and the store name on or above the door.*

**505.2 Street or road signs.** Streets and roads shall be identified with approved signs. Temporary signs shall be installed at each street intersection when construction of new roadways allows passage by vehicles. Signs shall be of an approved size, weather resistant and be maintained until replaced by permanent signs.

*The names of streets in new developments may not be on maps, making them hard for emergency responders to find. Temporary street signs must be installed before construction begins and replaced later with permanent signs.*

## SECTION 506

### KEY BOXES

**506.1 Where required.** Where access to or within a structure or an area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the fire code official is authorized to require a key box to be installed in an approved location. The key box shall be of an approved type and shall contain keys to gain necessary access as required by the fire code official.

*The fire code official has the authority to require spe-*

*cial key vaults when, in his or her opinion, the need for rapid entry into facilities warrants it. The key boxes or vaults are located on the exterior of the building for ready access, and are openable with a special master key in the possession of the emergency responders.*

**506.1.1 Locks.** An approved lock shall be installed on gates or similar barriers when required by the fire code official.

*The key-box suppliers also have special padlocks and electronic-key-operated switches that are controlled by the same master key that opens the key vaults. These padlocks can be required by the fire code official for security gates. The key-activated electronic switches may be required for the control of certain equipment in the building, such as smoke control equipment, or to shut down a dangerous process.*

## SECTION 508

### FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLIES

**508.1 Required water supply.** An approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings or portions of buildings are hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction.

*This section requires that adequate fire protection water be provided to premises upon which new buildings are constructed or onto which a building is moved, from either outside of the jurisdiction or another location within the jurisdiction. See Appendix B (IFC) for further information on fire flows. It is important to note that the appendices are not considered as part of the code unless specifically adopted (see Section 1 of the sample adopting ordinance on page v of the code).*

*Code Corner is compiled monthly by Randall H. Hormann, Member of the Board of Directors for CCFS and Founding Editor of Campus Firezone.*

*Randall L. Hormann has been a fire fighter for the last 25 years. He spent 15 plus years in fire safety and public education for two larger division 1 schools in Ohio. Currently, Randy is responsible for firefighter, Fire Inspector, and Fire Instructor training for a large fire training academy. As the executive director for a campus fire safety consulting firm, he has lectured all over the county and for such organizations as NFPA & CSHEMA. Randy is a strong proponent of fire safety education at the college level.*

# get<sup>2</sup>know NFPA Codes

CCFS would like to remind you to check with your local "Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)" for questions and opinions concerning your local Fire and Building Codes. The information contained in this article is supplied as a courtesy by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and is based on the codes and standards promulgated by the NFPA.

**JIM DOLAN** . . After completing 25 years in the fire service retiring as deputy director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety responsible for administering and enforcing New Jersey's Uniform Fire Code. Jim joined NFPA in 2001 as regional manager, fire code office. He is responsible for, providing fire code training for enforcing agencies, expanding field outreach and support for NFPA's various fire codes by working with state and local officials and associations, as well as representing NFPA at code hearings and legislative sessions. Jim Dolan Fire Code Field Office National Fire Protection Association  
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In last month's article we discussed section NFPA 1:10.15 Special Outdoor Events, Carnivals, and Fairs. Section 10.15.3 permitted the AHJ to order a life safety evaluation in accordance with 12.4.1 of NFPA 101. In this article we will look at the requirements for a life safety evaluation.

Crowd behavior in large assembly occupancy venues is difficult to predict and manage. The life safety evaluation required of large assembly occupancies by the provisions of Chapters 12 and 13, of the Life Safety Code deals not only with fire but also with storm, collapse, crowd behavior, and other related factors, a list of which is provided in Annex A.

Section 12.4 covers special provisions for assembly occupancies. Chapter 13 addresses existing assembly occupancies which for life safety evaluations are identical to the requirements for new assembly.

## 12.4.1 Life Safety Evaluation.

12.4.1.1\* Where a life safety evaluation is required by other provisions of the Code, it shall comply with the following:

- (1) The life safety evaluation shall be performed by persons acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.
- (2) The life safety evaluation shall include a written assessment of safety measures for conditions listed in 12.4.1.2.
- (3) The life safety evaluation shall be approved annually by the authority having jurisdiction and shall be updated for special or unusual conditions.
- (4) *A.12.4.1.1 Life safety evaluations are examples of performance-based approaches to life safety. In this respect, significant guidance in the form and process of life safety evaluations is provided by Chapter 5,*

*keeping in mind the fire safety emphasis in Chapter 5. Performance criteria, scenarios, evaluation, safety factors, documentation, maintenance, and periodic assessment (including a warrant of fitness) all apply to the broader considerations in a life safety evaluation. A life safety evaluation deals not only with fire but also with storms, collapse, crowd behavior, and other related safety considerations for which a checklist is provided in A.12.4.1.3. Chapter 5 provides guidance, based on fire safety requirements, for establishing a documented case showing that products of combustion in all conceivable fire scenarios will not significantly endanger occupants using means of egress in the facility (for example, due to fire detection, automatic suppression, smoke control, large volume space, or management procedures). Moreover, means of egress facilities plus facility management capabilities should be adequate to cope with scenarios where certain egress routes are blocked for some reason. In addition to making realistic assumptions about the capabilities of persons in the facility (e.g., an assembled crowd including many disabled persons or persons unfamiliar with the facility), the life safety evaluation should include a factor of safety of not less than 2.0 in all calculations relating to hazard development time and required egress time (the combination of flow time and other time needed to detect and assess an emergency condition, initiate egress, and move along the egress routes). The factor of safety takes into account the possibility that half of the egress routes might not be used (or be usable) in certain situations. Regarding crowd behavior, the potential hazards created by larger masses of people and greater crowd densities (which can be problematic during ingress, occupancy, and egress) demand that technology be used by designers, managers, and authorities*

responsible for buildings to compensate for the relaxed egress capacity provisions of Table 12.4.2.3. In very large buildings for assembly use, the hazard of crowd crushes can exceed that of fire or structural failure. Therefore, the building designers, managers, event planners, security personnel, police authorities, and fire authorities, as well as the building construction authorities, should understand the potential problems and solutions, including coordination of their activities. For crowd behavior, this understanding includes factors of space, energy, time, and information, as well as specific crowd management techniques, such as metering. Published guidance on these factors and techniques is found in the SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering, Section 3, Chapter 13, pp. 3-342-3-366 (Proulx, G., "Movement of People"), and the publications referenced therein.

12.4.1.2 Life safety evaluations shall include an assessment of the following conditions and related appropriate safety measures:

- (1) Nature of the events and the participants and attendees
- (2) Access and egress movement, including crowd density problems

- (3) Medical emergencies
- (4) Fire hazards
- (5) Permanent and temporary structural systems
- (6) Severe weather conditions
- (7) Earthquakes
- (8) Civil or other disturbances
- (9) Hazardous materials incidents within and near the facility
- (10) Relationships among facility management, event participants, emergency response agencies, and others having a role in the events accommodated in the facility

12.4.1.3\* Life safety evaluations shall include assessments of both building systems and management features upon which reliance is placed for the safety of facility occupants, and such assessments shall consider scenarios appropriate to the facility.

#### REFERENCES THIS MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND IN:

*NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*, 2009 edition.

Commentary/Annex comments are in *italic font*.  
Code References: *NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code*, 2009 edition.



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**CCFS News**

**The Voice of the Campus Fire Official** [CCFS Administration] [April 17, 2009 6:22 am ] [Views 79] [full article](#)

**The Voice of the Campus Fire Official ... Paul D. Martin, Vice President of the Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) has been selected by the Department of Education ...**

**Fire Sprinkler Act** [CCFS Administration] [April 16, 2009 10:35 am ] [Views 66] [full article](#)

**Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced to 111th Congress**

**Sprinkler Saves** [CCFS Administration] [February 5, 2009 5:22 am ] [Views 106] [full article](#)

**Sprinkler Saves**

**Clemson Dorm Evacuated During Fire**

**NEWS ARCHIVES**

**NEWS**

**Crews respond to small explosion at Boston University** [CCFS Reporter] [Today 7:16 am ] [Full article](#)

BOSTON -- Emergency crews responded to an explosion at a Boston University science building Wednesday evening.

**Arson Suspects Sought in UNR Campus Fires** [CCFS Reporter] [Today 7:16 am ] [Full article](#)

University of Nevada police are looking for several arson suspects.

**Fire at Queen's University** [CCFS Reporter] [Yesterday 8:36 am ] [Full article](#)

A forklift working at the construction site of the mammoth new Queen's University athletics complex caught fire this morning at 8:30. Firefighters are still at the property at Division and Earl streets clearing smoke.[...]

**Fire at NTU College of Medicine lab put out, no casualties reported - eTaiwan News** [CCFS Reporter] [June 23, 2009 7:39 am ] [Full article](#)

Fire at NTU College of Medicine lab put out, no casualties reported eTaiwan News, TaiwanHe said that this was the third fire that had broken out this year at the College of Medicine. The first fire broke out in an operating room at National Taiwan University Hospital, while the second time was a small fire in a lab on the sixth floor.

**Fire on Caracas Campus Sparks Suspicions - Latin American Herald Tribune** [CCFS Reporter] [June 23, 2009 7:39 am ] [Full article](#)

Latin American Herald TribuneFire on Caracas Campus Sparks SuspicionsLatin American Herald Tribune, VenezuelaBy Jeremy Morgan CARACAS – Suspicions swirled in opposing directions after a fire in an office on the first floor of the student center on the campus of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) early Thursday. At the middle of the morning, ...



# NEWS BITZ

## CCFS Vice President to speak at Security on Campus Seminar and NACUBO

### Security on Campus training seminar

Paul D. Martin, vice president of the Center for Campus Fire Safety, will participate as a panelist in the Security on Campus Jeanne Clery Act Training Seminar.

The program is being presented by Security on Campus, Inc. in partnership with Fairfield University, Department of Public Safety, in Fairfield, Connecticut. The seminar is scheduled for August 3-4.

Chief Martin was invited because of his work with the Center for Campus Fire Safety and his more than 30 years of fire safety experience. In addition to serving as vice president of the CCFS board, Paul served as a primary negotiator on campus fire safety standards as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

The seminar guides participants through each aspect of compliance including:

- Collecting, Classifying and Counting Crime Statistics
- Ongoing Disclosures - Timely Warning and Public Crime Log
- Victim Support Services & Security Programs
- Annual Security Report
- Also included are the new 2008 reporting requirements on:
- Expanded Hate Crime Reporting
- Partnering With Local Police
- Emergency Response and Immediate Notification
- Campus Fire Safety Reporting
- Missing Students

For more information, visit [www.securityoncampus.org](http://www.securityoncampus.org)

### National Association of College and University Business Officers webinar

Changes to Campus Safety Rules are on the horizon, making the expertise of the Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) in demand.

On July 7, vice president Paul D. Martin answers the call by participating in a National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) webinar on the changes.

Under new regulations, colleges and universities must notify their community immediately of confirmed emergencies on their campuses.

In addition, categories were added to hate crime reporting under the Clery Act and campuses with residential facilities for students need to develop policies and practices to respond to missing student reports, and track fires and report statistics.

The webinar focuses on:

The requirements of the HEOA related to campus safety, including emergency notification and missing student protocols

- What to expect in the forthcoming proposed regulations from the Department of Education, and how you can impact the final rules.
- Information on the compliance timeline and when you need to act
- How to develop appropriate fire safety policies and report fire statistics

The NACUBO 2009 Webcast, "Upcoming Changes to Campus Safety Rules," is scheduled for July 7, 2009 at 1:30 PM ET. For more information, visit [www.nacubo.org](http://www.nacubo.org).



Left to Right: Shane Clary, Lee Richardson, Kathleen Almand, Boyd Petty, and Tom Hammerberg.

## AFAA Presents Person of the Year Awards to Key Industry Associates

June 17, 2009, Jasper, GA ... The Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) presented three individual 'Person of the Year Awards' at its Annual Breakfast on June 10, 2009, which was held in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Conference & Expo in Chicago.

Recipients of the 2009 awards included Boyd Petty, Manager of the Licensing Section, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office; Lee Richardson, Staff Liaison to NFPA 72, NFPA; and Kathleen Almand, Executive Director of the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation.

AFAA presents awards annually in recognition and appreciation for significant, individual contributions made to improve fire and life-safety. This year, plaques were presented by Shane Clary, Chairman of the AFAA Board of Directors and Tom Hammerberg, President /Executive Director of AFAA.

Approximately 200 people were on hand to offer their congratulations at AFAA's annual breakfast and awards. According to Tom Hammerberg, "The event was a great success. We filled the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency, McCormick Place to honor the recipients and to listen to keynote speakers discuss the importance and the future of Mass Notification Systems (MNS). Speakers included Kenneth E. Lauziere, P.E., Office of the Architect of the Capitol; Wayne D. Moore, P.E., SET, FSFPE, Hughes Associates; and Thomas Van Essen, Former Fire Commissioner of NYC." Discussions also included changes to the next edition of the National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA 72) to include a new chapter on emergency communication including Mass Notification Systems.

## Partial collapse at Atlanta parking garage

Associated Press (WFAA.com)

ATLANTA — Part of a parking deck at a building near downtown Atlanta has collapsed and firefighters are waiting to make sure it's safe before searching through piles of crushed cars for possible victims.

Atlanta firefighter Bobby Stewart says there are no immediate reports of injuries. He says about 50 firefighters are at the scene waiting until they determine the deck is safe to enter.

The parking deck is close to a book store and gym frequented by students from nearby Georgia Tech.

Shawn Dodson says he was eating lunch in his car on the far side of the building and the collapse "sounded like the building was being demolished."

## CCFS Launches Campus Fire Data Website



### CCFS new data collection tool stores statistics on fire incidents on US Campuses.

The CCFS data collection tool was launched in response to the need for more accurate statistics on the fire incidents occurring on US campuses. The tool, free to use for educational institutions, allows campuses and local fire departments responding to Campus incidents, to input incident data, create reports to analyze their fire problem and tailor their public education and awareness campaigns to their specific needs.

Campuses and fire departments are encouraged to register and begin submitting data now to be prepared for the requirements that will be outlined by the Department of Higher Education.

Visit: [www.campusfiredata.org](http://www.campusfiredata.org) or go to our main site [www.campusfiresafety.org](http://www.campusfiresafety.org) and click on Campus Fire Data.

*This project was funded by the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program of the Department of Homeland Security, and was showcased as part of the 2008-09 FireWise Campus training program.*

**Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know****Regulatory language:**

§668.41 Reporting and disclosure of information.

(e) Annual security report and annual fire safety report -

(1) *Enrolled students and current employees - annual security report and annual fire safety report.* By October 1 of each year, an institution must distribute to all enrolled students and current employees, its annual security report described in §668.46(b), and, if the institution maintains an on-campus student housing facility, its annual fire safety report described in §668.49(b), through appropriate publications and mailings, including--

(2) *Enrolled students - annual security report and annual fire safety report.* If an institution chooses to distribute either its annual security report or annual fire safety report to enrolled students by posting the disclosure or disclosures on an Internet Web site or an Intranet Web site, the institution must comply with the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(3) *Current employees - annual security report and annual fire safety report.* If an institution chooses to distribute either its annual security report or annual fire safety report to current employees by posting the disclosure or disclosures on an Internet Web site or an Intranet Web site, the institution must, by October 1 of each year, distribute to all current employees a notice that includes a statement of the report's availability, the exact electronic address at which the report is posted, a brief description of the report's contents, and a statement that the institution will provide a paper copy of the report upon request.

(4) *Prospective students and prospective employees - annual security report and annual fire safety report.* For each of the reports, the institution must provide a notice to prospective students and prospective employees that includes a statement of the report's availability, a description of its contents, and an opportunity to request a copy. An institution must provide its annual security report and annual fire safety report, upon request, to a prospective student or prospective employee. If the institution chooses to provide either its annual security report or annual fire safety report to prospective students and prospective employees by posting the disclosure on an Internet Web site, the notice described in this paragraph must include the exact electronic address at which the report is posted, a brief description of the report, and a statement that the institution will provide a paper copy of the report upon request.

(5) *Submission to the Secretary - annual security report and annual fire safety*

## Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

report. Each year, by the date and in a form specified by the Secretary, an institution must submit the statistics required by §668.46(c) and §668.49(c) to the Secretary.

(6) *Publication of the annual fire safety report.* An institution may publish its annual fire safety report concurrently with its annual security report only if the title of the report clearly states that the report contains both the annual security report and the annual fire safety report. If an institution chooses to publish the annual fire safety report separately from the annual security report, it must include information in each of the two reports about how to directly access the other report.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **§668.49 Institutional fire safety policies and fire statistics.**

(a) Additional definitions that apply to this section.

*Cause of fire:* The factor or factors that give rise to a fire. The causal factor may be, but is not limited to, the result of an intentional or unintentional action, mechanical failure, or act of nature.

*Fire:* Any instance of open flame or other burning in a place not intended to contain the burning or in an uncontrolled manner.

*Fire drill:* A supervised practice of a mandatory evacuation of a building for a fire.

*Fire-related injury:* Any instance in which a person is injured as a result of a fire, including an injury sustained from a natural or accidental cause while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of the fire. The term person may include students, faculty, staff, visitors, firefighters, or any other individuals.

*Fire-related death:* Any instance in which a person

(1) Is killed as a result of a fire, including death resulting from a natural or accidental cause while involved in fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of a fire; or

(2) Dies within one year of injuries sustained as a result of the fire.

*Fire safety system:* Any mechanism or system related to the detection of a fire, the warning resulting from a fire, or the control of a fire. This system may include sprinkler systems or other fire extinguishing systems, fire detection devices, stand-alone smoke alarms, devices that alert one to the presence of a fire, such as horns,

## Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

bells, or strobe lights; smoke-control and reduction mechanisms; and fire doors and walls that reduce the spread of a fire.

*Value of Property Damage:* The estimated value of the loss of the structure and contents, in terms of the cost of replacement in like kind and quantity. This estimate should include contents damaged by fire, and related damages caused by smoke, water, and overhaul; however, it does not include indirect loss, such as business interruption.

(b) Annual fire safety report. Beginning by October 1, 2010, an institution that maintains any on-campus student housing facility must prepare an annual fire safety report that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The fire statistics described in paragraph (c) of this section.
- (2) A description of each on-campus student housing facility fire safety system.
- (3) The number of fire drills held during the previous calendar year.
- (4) The institution's policies or rules on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames in a student housing facility.
- (5) The institution's procedures for student housing evacuation in the case of a fire.
- (6) The policies regarding fire safety education and training programs provided to the students, faculty, and staff. In these policies, the institution must describe the procedures that students and employees should follow in the case of a fire.
- (7) For purposes of including a fire in the statistics in the annual fire safety report, a list of the titles of each person or organization to which students and employees should report that a fire occurred.
- (8) Plans for future improvements in fire safety, if determined necessary by the institution.

(c) Fire statistics. (1) An institution must report statistics for each on-campus student housing facility, for the three most recent calendar years for which data are available, concerning-

- (i) The number of fires and the cause of each fire;
- (ii) The number of injuries related to a fire that resulted in treatment at a medical facility, including at an on-campus health center;

## Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

(iii) The number of deaths related to a fire; and

(iv) The value of property damage caused by a fire.

(2) An institution is required to submit a copy of the fire statistics in paragraph (c)(1) of this section to the Secretary on an annual basis.

(d) Fire log. (1) An institution that maintains on-campus student housing facilities must maintain a written, easily understood fire log that records, by the date that the fire was reported, any fire that occurred in an on-campus student housing facility. This log must include the nature, date, time and general location of each fire.

(2) An institution must make an entry or an addition to an entry to the log within two business days, as defined under §668.46(a), of the receipt of the information.

(3) An institution must make the fire log for the most recent 60-day period open to public inspection during normal business hours. The institution must make any portion of the log older than 60 days available within two business days of a request for public inspection.

(4) An institution must make an annual report to the campus community on the fires recorded in the fire log. This requirement may be satisfied by the annual fire safety report described in paragraph (b) of this section.

### Issue: Reporting Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures

**Summary of issue:** The HEOA requires institutions to include a statement of emergency response and evacuation procedures in the annual security report that describes how the institution will immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring on the campus, unless the notification will compromise efforts to contain the emergency.

**Regulatory language:**

§668.46 Institutional security policies and crime statistics

*Additional definitions that apply to this section.*

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## Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

Test: Regularly scheduled drills, exercises, and appropriate follow-through activities, designed for assessment and evaluation of emergency plans and capabilities.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Annual security report.* An institution must prepare an annual security report that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

\* \* \* \* \*

(13) Beginning with the annual security report distributed by October 1, 2010, a statement of policy regarding emergency response and evacuation procedures, as described in paragraph (g) of this section.

(14) Beginning with the annual security report distributed by October 1, 2010, a statement of policy regarding missing student notification procedures, as described in paragraph (h) of this section.

\* \* \*

(e) *Timely warning and emergency notification.* (1) An institution must, in a manner that is timely and will aid in the prevention of similar crimes, report to the campus community on crimes that are -

(i) Described in paragraph (c)(1) and (3) of this section;

(ii) Reported to campus security authorities as identified under the institution's statement of current campus policies pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section or local police agencies; and

(iii) Considered by the institution to represent a threat to students and employees.

(2) An institution is not required to provide a timely warning with respect to crimes reported to a pastoral or professional counselor.

(3) If there is an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on campus, as described in paragraph (g)(1) of this section, an institution must follow its emergency notification procedures. An institution that follows its emergency notification procedures is not required to issue a timely warning based on the same circumstances; however, the institution must provide adequate follow-up information to the community as needed.

(g) *Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures.* An institution must include a statement of policy regarding its emergency response and evacuation procedures in

**Continued ... Anticipated Federal Regulations on Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know**

the annual security report. This statement must include --

(1) Procedures to immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on the campus.

(2) A description of the process the institution will use to:

(i) Confirm that there is a significant emergency or dangerous situation as described in paragraph (g)(1) of this section;

(ii) Determine the appropriate segment or segments of the campus community to receive a notification;

(iii) Determine the content of the notification; and

(iv) Initiate the notification system.

(3) A statement that the institution will, without delay, and taking into account the safety of the community, determine the content of the notification and initiate the notification system, unless issuing a notification will, in the professional judgment of responsible authorities, compromise efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency.

(4) A list of the titles of the person(s) or organization(s) responsible for carrying out the actions described in paragraph (g)(2) of this section.

(5) Procedures for disseminating emergency information to the larger community.

(6) Procedures to test the emergency response and evacuation procedures on at least an annual basis.

(i) A test may be announced or unannounced.

(ii) The institution must publicize its emergency response and evacuation procedures in conjunction with at least one test per calendar year.

(iii) An institution must document each test, including a description of the exercise, the date, time, and whether it was announced or unannounced.



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