

AFAANJ Spec-I-Fire

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2008

Our Next Meeting is this Thursday, February 21.

It will be preceded by a full day of training and a board meeting.

Our speakers will be Mr. Pete Carey & Mr. Tim Freiner from Potter Electrical Signal Company.

This is a technical presentation and not sales oriented! It will be a one hour technical presentation on sprinkler monitoring products and is worth one hour of contact training or 1 CDP.

Often improperly installed and tested supervisory and alarm causing devices have long been a problem for many technicians. Though they no longer (hopefully) have code wheels and McCulloh clocks in them, proper installation is critical to the operation of the devices.

Our presentation will focus on the proper installation and adjustment of OS & Y and PIV switches as well as both Waterflow vane and pressure switches. The proper adjustment of high/low air pressure for dry systems will also be addressed. The why's and wherefore's of proper testing will also be included.

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A word from your President;

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and has a happy, healthy, profitable and safe New Year. AFAANJ is starting the new year off with a one day training seminar prior to our February 21st meeting. The details of that seminar and upcoming ones will be found under training news.

AFAA's national offices have been relocated and all of the new contact information is available on their website www.AFAA.org don't forget you can order NFPA and ICC materials from our National Office at a discounted rate to members.

Your board of directors is now meeting on months without a general meeting at the offices of Alarm & Communication Technologies thanks to Frank Minutillo president of ACT and a member of our board.

I am personally looking forward to the AFAA Codes Conference and Annual Meeting which will be April 15-18, at the Historic Menger Hotel located at the Alamo Plaza in San Antonio, TX. The format has been changed and the focus as the name implies is on codes and standards.

There is a link on our website www.AFAANJ.org for the national meeting info as well as a link to download the program and registration.


AFAANJ has created committees and want all of our members to step-up and take part in them. You will find a list of committees on page 2 in this issue of the Spec-I-Fire. We are inviting all members that wish to take a more active role in the association to attend our February 21st board meeting.

Please take the time to fill out your 2008 membership forms and send them back along with your checks.

As Keith Kesheneff has stepped down as our treasurer we will be changing the forms shortly so all correspondence will go to Dennis DeCarlo who has agreed to take over as treasurer.

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Our Next Meeting Continued










Established in 1898, Potter Electric Signal Company has earned a reputation worldwide as an elite provider of goods and services. The Potter brand name and their logo  have become synonymous with quality products and service.

Please join us.



In an effort to increase membership I believe that the first step is to increase participation. To that end the AFAANJ is creating committees that we hope to include our general membership on.

All AFAANJ Committees are seeking volunteers;

-  COMMUNICATIONS – SPEC-I-FIRE
 - o Chair, Ed Armm
-  LEGISLATIVE
 - o Chair, Scott Nichols
-  WEB
 - o Chair, Ed Armm
-  MEMBERSHIP
 - o Chair, Frank Minutillo
-  FIRE SERVICE LIAISON
 - o New
-  TRAINING
 - o Chair, Ed Armm
-  BY-LAWS
 - o Chair, Bob Boyer
-  NOMINATING
 - o All past presidents
-  PROGRAM
 - o Chair, Dennis DeCarlo

If you wish to serve as a committee member please come to the February 21st Board of Directors Meeting.

Our Next Meeting Continued

Take part in our board meeting, see how your organization is run, commit to a minimal amount of time to help with committee work and the health of AFAANJ as a whole. Some committees will meet monthly, most only as needed.

You are the AFAANJ

Where And How To Register;

All of our General meetings are held at:

Holiday Inn

Carteret-Rahway

1000 Roosevelt Avenue

Carteret, NJ 07008

The hotel is conveniently located at Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike.

Hotel Front Desk: 732 – 541 – 9500

Be sure to get a seat, please **RSVP** to:

Maryann mfse@optonline.net

(973) 472 - 3300 or;

Dennis DeCarlo

D.DeCarloMetroFire@Verizon.net

(973) 429 - 4846

All meetings are open to nonmembers as long as you register;

Each member company is entitled to one meal covered by their dues; any other attendee from the same company or nonmembers will be charged \$25.00 for their meal.

If you attended the earlier technical training class your invited to stay for the general meeting on AFAANJ

Contact Information;

Ed Armm, President
212-695-6670 x 1013

Richard Ravaoli, Vice President
908-272-0066

Bob Ryan, Secretary
(908) 688-0300 x 225

Dennis DeCarlo, Treasurer
Program Director 973-429-4846

Bob Boyer, National AFAA
Chairman of the Board of
Directors 908 – 730 – 7505

Frank Minutillo 973-664-1440

Rov Polizzi 201-934-9316

Upcoming Training;

As mentioned on page one AFAANJ will be holding a one day seminar the day of each of the four upcoming meetings, these are all AFAA one day training programs which carry CPDs for your NICET Certification. We are in the process of gaining approval for continuing education credit for these courses from the Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm & Locksmiths Advisory Committee. As a reminder you're required to achieve 36 hours of continuing education credits over the three year period beginning September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2012 in order to qualify for the renewal of your license. As a reminder there are a few mandatory courses which you must take over the three year period, they include a minimum of one credit per three year period in each of the following:
N.J. A. C. 5:23-7 the Barrier Free Subcode,
N.J. A. C. 5:23 the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code exclusive of 5:23-7 and 36 CFR s 1191 the Americans with Disabilities Act. Your AFAANJ is working on courses for the above that will be approved for credit by the time renewal comes around.

The following one day programs will be offered over the next 12 months;

February 21 Automatic Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems

May 15 Plan review

September 15 Fire Alarm System Testing and Inspections Seminar

November 20 Understanding Fire Alarm Requirements of the 2006 IBC

**A Word From Your President
Continued;**

Our membership has increased in the past year which is our goal; we have to grow both the AFAANJ and AFAA if our voice is to be heard in Trenton, Washington and on NFPA and ICC committees.

UP COMING MEETINGS;**02/ 21 Board 4:30 General Membership 6:00 PM**

Our speakers per the detailed information on page one and two will be from Potter and cover installation, test and maintenance of sprinkler supervisory and alarm devices.

03/20 Board Meeting 5:00

04/17 Board Meeting 5:00

05/15 Board 4:30 General Membership 6:00 PM

Our topic for this evening will be the proper firestopping of through penetrations.

Our speaker is Peter Schmidt who is an Account Manager with Firestop Solutions. They are a fireproofing and firestop installation specialist in the tri-state area. Their services also include barrier reconstruction, fire/smoke damper surveys and inspections along with fireproof/monocote repair of I-Beams and photoluminescent sign installation. They offer complete installation, consultation, education, and independent testing for all fireproofing and firestop needs.

06/19 Board Meeting 5:00

August (TBD) Yearly Planning Meeting – Full Day

09/18 Board 4:30 General Membership 6:00 PM

10/16 Board Meeting 5:00

11/20 Board Meeting 4:30 General Membership 6:00 PM

All those that attend the seminars prior to our general meetings are invited to attend the night's meeting at no charge.



AHJ's Comments;

System Maintenance, Merely A Code Requirement?

By John Drucker, Fire Protection Subcode Official

The acceptance test has been successfully completed the certificate of occupancy issued and responsibility for ongoing inspection test and maintenance (ITM) turned over to the service department.

In actuality the latter is just if not more important than the initial installation. A lapse in ITM may actually jeopardize the continued occupancy of a building. The NJ Uniform Construction Code (NJUCC) regards a Certificate of Occupancy as a "living document" the assumption being that the required level of protection be continuous throughout the life of the building. In NJ continued ITM is assured by virtue of the NJ Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70 (NJUFC). The NJUFC serves as a continuation of the NJUCC stipulating the same goals to protect the health, welfare and safety of the people.

Aside from the regulatory part just why is ITM so important? First and foremost are false alarms, they are the scourge of the industry and have a domino effect on public safety. Whatever the politically correct term is, alarms that occur absent an actual fire condition are simply unacceptable.

False alarms result in complacency, or simply stated when building occupants fail to heed the warning. They remain in the building despite potentially fatal consequences from doing so. By the time they realize there's an actual fire the opportunity to self rescue may have passed, they are no longer simply building occupants but rather potential victims.

The local fire department is dispatched to a fire alarm activation at a particular building. They've been dispatched to this address many times before, believing it is merely just another false alarm the fire department has become an inadvertent participant in what is about to unfold.

It should be pointed out that the vast majority of all fire departments in NJ are volunteer. False alarms

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Legislative New\$

Industry Independent Contractor Reform

Office of The Governor

GOVERNOR CORZINE SIGNS ORDER CREATING ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR REFORM

TRENTON -- Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed the following Executive Order creating the Governor's Advisory Commission on Construction Industry Independent Contractor Reform.

The full text of the executive order is below.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 96

WHEREAS, the practice of misclassifying workers as alleged independent contractors, rather than in accordance with their actual status as employees, causes serious negative repercussions to our State's economy; and

WHEREAS, workers who are improperly classified suffer an economic disadvantage and are involuntary disenfranchised from the social insurance benefits and basic worker protections provided to individuals classified as employees, including unemployment and disability insurance, Social Security wage credits, and employee health and pension benefits offered by the employer to its workforce; and

WHEREAS, employers who willfully misclassify workers as independent contractors realize an unfair competitive advantage over employers who properly identify their workers as employees; and

WHEREAS, the State has undertaken significant efforts to address these problems, including the enactment on August 21, 2006, of P.L.2006, c.85, requiring the use of a unified single definition of "employee" for purposes of withholding State income, unemployment insurance and disability insurance taxes, and the enactment on July 13, 2007, of the "Construction Industry Independent Contractor Act," P.L.2007, c.114; and

WHEREAS, the State's efforts to address the problem of employee misclassification in the construction industry and to ensure contractor compliance with the Construction Industry Independent Contractor Act will be enhanced through the creation of an advisory body comprised of government officials and private sector representatives with expertise in this subject;

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AHJ's Comments Continued

have a direct and negative impact on the number of volunteers who respond. Upon arrival the first arriving units report "smoke showing" and request additional assistance and manpower. The fire officer discovers that despite an activated fire alarm many of the buildings occupants have remained inside and are now trapped. The prospect of having to rescue an overwhelming number of occupants is daunting. Firefighters must be placed at risk to rescue occupants who simply had no confidence in the fire alarm system. The lives of occupants and firefighters are placed at risk unnecessarily.

Fire departments typically preplan buildings based on certain assumptions including active fire protection systems such as fire alarm systems. They believe that early warning will result in early evacuation while conditions are still tenable. Upon arrival the fire department expects to see everyone outside and away from the building in accordance with the building evacuation plan.

In 2006 the NFPA reported that there were an estimated 16,020 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles while responding to or returning from incidents, 19 firefighters died in vehicle crashes, while three others were fatally struck by vehicles and one firefighter fell from a moving fire apparatus and 4,745 were injured responding to, or returning from an incident. (NFPA Online-Research and Reports-Fire Statistics-US Fire Service). So as we can see false alarms not only result in complacency on the part of building occupants and first responders but unnecessarily increase the risk of injury or death to responding firefighters and the public.

Proper and timely ITM is a critical component of life safety and more than just another code requirement. When systems aren't properly maintained & tested we run the risk of increased false alarms and the domino effect begins. Restoring trust and confidence in fire alarm systems is a win for everyone.

John Drucker, CET in addition to being a municipal fire protection subcode official, is a 32 year veteran of the fire service attaining the rank of captain of a combination truck/engine company. He also holds NICET Certification in Fire Alarm Systems & is a member of AFAANJ.

Legislative New\$ Continued

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created, pursuant to Art. V, Sec. IV, par. I of the New Jersey Constitution, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Construction Industry Independent Contractor Reform (the "Advisory Commission"). The mission of the Advisory Commission is to develop recommendations for a comprehensive and strategic statewide approach to addressing the problem of employee misclassification in the construction industry and to ensuring contractor compliance with the "Construction Industry Independent Contractor Act," P.L.2007, c.114.

2. The Advisory Commission shall be composed of the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development or a designee, serving ex officio; the Attorney General or a designee, serving ex officio; the State Treasurer or a designee, serving ex officio; and eight public members who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure as follows: three representatives from three different building trades unions; one representative of the New Jersey AFL-CIO; one representative of residential developers; one representative of residential construction contractors; one representative of commercial developers; and one representative of commercial construction contractors.

3. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development shall serve as chair of the Advisory Commission. All public members of the Advisory Commission shall serve without compensation. Vacancies on the Advisory Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

4. In furtherance of its mission stated in paragraph one, above, the Advisory Commission shall be authorized to:

a. make recommendations to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of the Treasury with respect to synchronizing each respective Department's regulations and policies regarding employee misclassification;

b. conduct public hearings to increase public awareness of the illegal nature and harms inflicted by employee misclassification in the construction industry and to highlight potential significant cases of

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Legislative New\$ Continued

misclassification that may warrant investigation by the appropriate government agency;

c. make recommendations to enhance mechanisms for identifying employee misclassification where it does occur;

d. work with business, labor and community groups to develop educational materials that distinguish the difference between an independent contractor and an employee; and

e. cooperate with State, Federal and local social service agencies to identify ways to provide assistance to vulnerable populations that have been exploited by employee misclassification, including, but not limited to, immigrant workers.

5. The Advisory Commission shall issue a report annually to the Governor on the status of implementation of the Construction Industry Independent Contractor Act, to include publicly available information regarding: cases brought, wages and taxes recovered on behalf of the State, outcomes of cases, legal or administrative barriers to successful implementation, a review of the process used to adjudicate misclassification cases, and proposals for any additional legislative action that may be needed to enhance the State's efforts to address employee misclassification in the construction industry.

6. The Advisory Commission is authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of this State to supply it with data and other information, personnel or assistance available to such agency as the Advisory Commission deems necessary to discharge its duties under this Order. Each department, office, division or agency of this State is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the Advisory Commission and to furnish the Advisory Commission such assistance on as timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order. The Advisory Commission may consult with experts or other knowledgeable individuals in the public or private sector on any aspect of its mission.

7. This Order shall take effect immediately.

The "Safe Cigarette" law becomes effective June 2008. All cigarette manufacturers are required to submit their products for testing. DFS is working on regulations.

N.J.A.C. 5:74-2.3 (d) the following certification requirements are hereby established for the fire protection contractor classifications:

1. An All Fire Protection Equipment Contractor shall have a valid Level II certification issued by NICET in the following areas: Fire Alarm Systems, Inspection and Testing of Water-based Systems, and Special Hazards Suppression Systems, and successfully pass the following Sprinkler Layout work elements: 11003, 11004, 11005, 13001, 13005, 13008, 13010, 13011, 13012, 13013, 13018, 13020, 13021, 13023, 13026, 14013, 14015, 16001 and 16009.

Additionally, an All Fire Protection Equipment Contractor shall successfully pass the "Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician: and "Restaurant Fire Suppression System: examinations administered by NAFED.

2. A Fire Sprinkler System Contractor shall have a valid Level II certification issued by NICET in the following areas: Inspection and Testing of Water-based Systems, and successfully pass the following Sprinkler Layout work elements: 11003, 11004, 11005, 13001, 13005, 13008, 13010, 13011, 13012, 13013, 13018, 13020, 13021, 13023, 13026, 14013, 14015, 16001 and 16009.

3. A Special Hazard Fire Suppression System Contractor shall hold a valid Level II certification issued by NICET in the following area: Special Hazards Suppression Systems.

4. A Fire Alarm System Contractor shall have a valid Level II certification issued by NICET in the following area: Fire Alarm Systems.

5. A Portable Fire Extinguisher Contractor shall successfully pass the "Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician Examination" administered by NAFED.

6. A Kitchen Fire Suppression System Contractor shall successfully pass the "Restaurant Fire Suppression System Examination" administered by NAFED

