AFAANJ SPEC-I-FIRE

November 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

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President's Message;

This is our first shot at a real newsletter so please be patient and send all comments to Ed Armm. I'm told that the purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Members as well as those we hope to attract to AFAANJ as potential members would be the actual target, however, I am trying to add material to the newsletter that you can take home and share with your family and friends.

It snowed this morning, our clocks were turned back last week and hopefully the batteries in all smoke alarms were changed as well.

If this newsletter works the AFAANJ will solicit advertising which will be the posting of members and supporters business cards. This will offset the cost of mailing this out.

The national offices are being relocated from Florida to Atlanta so if you order any manuals or NFPA material from them (remember these things are discounted to members) there may be a delay.

Thanks to my good friend John Drucker Deputy Fire Marshal of Red Bank, NJ Edward Armm, SET President and publisher

who is providing us with a column in our newsletter called "AHJ's Comments". Thanks also to Scott Nichols chairman of our legislative committee's for two very interesting items for this month's Legislative News.

Another column will be dedicated to training. As always we need the input of ALL members of AFAANJ if we are to provide training in a timely and useful manner.

What do you think about a guest editorial section? There is nothing like opinions and observations to stir controversy and conversation.

As time gets closer we will also have ballots and a little about those running for your board of directors.

Please pass this around and make as many copies as you wish,

As always you can find a wealth of information at www.afaanj.org

A HAPPY, HEALTHY & SAFE THANKSGIVING & HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL.

Our Next Meeting is Thursday November 15

Our guest speaker will be Mr. John Cholin, P.E. FSFPE, of J.M. Cholin Consultants, Inc. John has been a friend to AFAANJ since we were chartered. His presentation will be the final report from the Fire Detection Institute's "Investigation into the Application of Duct Smoke Detectors in HVAC Systems". This came about because a proposal was made to delete the requirements for duct smoke detectors from NFPA 90A-1996 edition.

The proposal alleged that there was no basis for duct smoke detection and that these devices do not provide the performance purported.

The Fire Detection Institute (FDI) was requested to develop a research proposal to address the issues raised in the public proposal.

The FDI issued a RFP to the research community in August of 1997. As a result of the replies, the FDI developed a collaborative research program using both the University of Maryland and the National Research Council - CANADA as both offered sections of the RFP and satisfied the total proposal by working both separately and together.

The FDI received commitments for the requisite funding (some of which came from AFAANJ) and executed the research contracts in May, 1999. In a nutshell, the organization had the University of Maryland and the National Research Council - CANADA working independently while reporting to a Project Manager who was responsible to the FDI.

If you have never attended one of John's presentations you owe it to yourself to attend Thursday night's meeting.

A second guest speaker;

Philip L. Gaughan, S.E.T. VP of the Northeast Region of ASCET and a member of the NICET Board of Governors Will be speaking to us about ASCET as well as NICET during our meal.



Legislative New\$

Ed Armm President 212-695-6670 x 1013

Keith Kesheneff Treasurer 973-472-3300

Bob Ryan Secretary (908) 688-0300 x 225

Dennis DeCarlo Program Director 973-429-4846

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Scott Nichols 973 616 8771

Robert A. Hall Emeritus

George N. Mosley, Sr. Emeritus

Fire protection is funny; no matter how much it costs if it's not maintained it's not worth a dime!

Office of the Governor GOVERNOR ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING PREVAILING WAGE FOR BUILDING SERVICES

TRENTON -- Governor Jon S. Corzine signed an executive order regarding prevailing wage requirements for contractors who provide building services for State-leased government buildings.

The executive order ensures that prevailing wage requirements apply to situations where the State is a tenant in the building but the building owner, rather than the State, contracts for the provision of building services.

The full text of the executive order is below.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 86

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of this State to establish prevailing wage levels for the employees of contractors and subcontractors furnishing building services for any property or premises owned or leased by the State in order to safeguard the efficiency and general well-being of those employees and to protect them and their employers from the effects of serious and unfair competition based on low wage levels which are detrimental to efficiency and well-being; and

WHEREAS, through the enactment on January 12, 2006, of P.L.2005, c.379, this policy was implemented in the context of the employees of contractors and subcontractors that, pursuant to a contract with the State, provide building services in certain property or premises owned or leased by the State; and

WHEREAS, this policy should also apply to those employees of contractors and subcontractors that, pursuant to contracts with lessors, providing buildings services in certain properties or premises leased to the State:

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. All of the definitions set forth in Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.379 (C.34:11-56.59) ("Chapter 379"), shall apply to this Order
- 2. Every lease for property or premises "leased by the State," as defined in Section 2 of Chapter 379, shall contain the following terms and conditions:
- a. A provision requiring the lessor to ascertain from the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development the prevailing wage rates for the performance of building services and to specify in all contracts for the performance of building services in the property or premises leased by the State what the prevailing wage rate in the locality is for each worker employed in the performance of such contracts;
- b. A provision requiring the lessor to include in all contracts for the performance of building services in the property or premises leased by the State a stipulation that the workers performing such building services shall be paid not less than the applicable prevailing wage rates as ascertained by the lessor from the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, and that the contractor shall provide to each such worker individual written notification every six months of the prevailing wage rates for each classification involved in the contractor's performance of building services;
- c. A provision requiring the lessor to include in all contracts for the performance of building services in the property or premises leased by the State a statement that the contractor and any subcontractor covered under the contract shall: (i) keep accurate records showing the name, classification, and actual hourly rate of wages and any benefits paid to each worker employed by the contractor subcontractor to perform building services in the property of premises leased by the State:

We're on the web at www.afaanj.org

Legislative News Continued

- (ii) preserve those records for two years after the date of payment; and (iii) make the contracts and the records available at all reasonable hours to the inspection of the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and to any other party to the lease:
- d. A provision requiring the lessor to include in all contracts for the performance of building services in the property or premises leased by the State a stipulation that the contractor and any subcontractor covered under the contract shall provide to the lessor on a biannual basis (no later than January 15 and July 15 of each year) a sworn under penalty certification, perjury, that during the preceding period six-month the workers performing such building services were paid not less than the applicable prevailing wage rates as ascertained by the lessor from the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and that these workers were provided with individual written notification of the prevailing wage rates for each classification involved in the contractor's performance of building services;
- e. A provision requiring the lessor to provide to the State no later than January 31 and July 31 of each year a copy of the sworn certification required pursuant to Paragraph 2(d) above;
- f. A provision stating that, if the State has not received a copy of the sworn certification required to be provided in accordance with Paragraph 2(e) above within 30 days of the due date under Paragraph 2(e), the State has the right to withhold up to 15% of the rent until the State receives the copy of the sworn certification and to take other action it deems appropriate to enforce this Order; and
- g. A provision stating that if the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development determines that a contractor's certification pursuant to paragraph (d) is false and that the contractor has failed to pay its

employees the prevailing wage rates required by this Order, Commissioner may formally request that the State leasing agency effect a rent abatement of no less than the amount of wages due to said employees and to take other action it deems appropriate to enforce this Order. The State leasing agency may take unilateral action without such written request in the case of a written decision by the Division of Wage and Hour Compliance finding a prevailing wage violation following the contractor's opportunity to be heard before the Director of the Division of Wage and Hour Compliance. lf the contractor disagrees with the written decision of the Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, the contractor may appeal the decision the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act." P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

3. This Order shall take effect 30 days after its execution and shall apply to all leases entered into by the State after that date.

Our next item is a letter written by Mr. Craig Voelkert Chair, FEMA Government Relations Committee to Michael L. Ticktin, Esq. Chief, Legislative Analysis NJ Dept. of Community Affairs

Concerning;

RE: Adoption of the 2006 IFC in New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ticktin:

On behalf of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association (FEMA) and its members, I am writing to you regarding New Jersey's movement towards adopting the 2006 version of the International Fire Code (IFC) as the basis for New Jersey's new fire code.

The 2006 IFC contains an exception that allows for a possibly dangerous tradeoff that weakens redundancy and balanced fire protection that is vital towards fire safety.

I would respectively suggest that as New Jersey adopts the 2006 IFC, that this exception be deleted. In the past three years, Alaska, California, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota and Virginia have deleted this exception.

Section 906.1, (Line 1 exception) of the 2006 International Fire Code, states "In all Group A, B and E occupancies equipped throughout with quick-response sprinklers, fire extinguishers shall be required only in special-hazard areas."

Both the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommend portable fire extinguishers as a part of a fire safety plan regardless of the presence of sprinklers. According to the NFPA, a balanced fire protection plan must not be based upon any single such safeguard as sprinklers. Additional safeguards should be provided for life safety in case any single safeguard is ineffective due to inappropriate human actions or system failure. NASFM has advocated to Legislative and Regulatory bodies across the country on the importance of having fire extinguishers in buildings even if those buildings have sprinklers, citing the importance of redundancy in fire protection. NASFM states "we know of no scientific justification for abandoning the central principle of fire protection redundancy".

Section 906.1, the exception, is contrary to the just released 2007 edition of NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers. Section 1.1.1 states: "the selection and installation of extinguishers is independent of whether the building is equipped with sprinklers".

Additionally, section 5.4.2 states: "Fire extinguishers shall be provided for the protection of both the building structure and the occupancy hazards contained therein regardless of the presence of any fixed fire suppression systems."

Legislative News Continued

Fire extinguishers are a proven instrument of life safety, not only can they successfully extinguish a fire at its initial stages, but when available and used properly, extinguishers can also provide individuals assistance to allow them to rescue a coworker or escape a fire safely. This additional time can be the difference between life and death.

FEMA is an international group of leading fire protection manufacturers working together to educate the public about fire prevention to save lives and reduce property damage. Member companies include Amerex Corporation, American **Pacific** Corporation, Ansul Incorporated, Brooks Equipment Co, Buckeye Fire Equipment, DuPont Fluoroproducts, Elkhart Brass Manufacturing Co., Fire-End Croker Corp., & Getz Manufacturing, Globe Technologies Corporation, JL Industries, JOB GMBH, Kidde Fire Fighting, USA, Kidde Fenwal, Larsen's Manufacturing Company, Luxfer Gas Cylinders, Mercedes Textiles Limited, Potter Roemer, Seal Seat Company and Member Wilson and Cousins. companies manufacture top quality fire protection products such as portable fire extinguishers, fire hose systems, fire suppression systems, and interior equipment - all necessary components of a complete and balanced fire protection plan.

I would like to again respectfully request that you consider recommending that the 2006 IFC be amended by deleting the exception in Section 906.1 (Line 1). Thank you for your consideration and attention to this letter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Craig Voelkert



Upcoming Meetings

2007

11/15 Board Meeting 4:30 General Membership 6:00 PM

2008

01/17 Board Meeting 5:00

02/ 21 Board 4:30 General 6:00 PM topic and speaker TBD

03/20 Board Meeting 5:00

04/17 Board Meeting 5:00

05/15 Board 4:30 General 6:00 PM topic and speaker TBD

06/19 Board Meeting 5:00

August (TBD) Yearly Planning Meeting - Full Day

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

10/16 Board Meeting 5:00

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

Our Board of Directors is looking for a home; currently meet at restaurant which is not favorable to a productive meeting. We are looking for a member company willing to provide a conference room where we can meet. We would bring in pizza, our culinary tastes will suffer but the results will be far superior.



AHJ's Comments;

The Basics of Filing and Obtaining Permits.

The permit application and release process need not be difficult, however often enough applicants are overheard expressing their angst regarding the procedure. In this article I will share some of the common errors and omissions that cause applications to be rejected and permits to be denied.

Consider for a moment that you are now the plan reviewer. Your duty is to verify that the proposed work including all applications, plans, calculations and submittals demonstrate compliance with the applicable codes and standards.

The starting point for any plan reviewer is identifying the underlying "code" requirement. The so called "when and where" requirements of the NJ Uniform Construction Code N.J.A.C. 5:23 (UCC), including but not limited to the 2006 International Building Code/NJ Edition, N.J Rehabilitation Subcode. Mechanical Subcode or the NJ Uniform Fire Code N.J.A.C. 5:70 (UFC). Often a requirement that is prescribed in one these codes is overlooked or omitted. A common oversight is the notification requirements of the 2006 IBC/NJ including visible alarms in "public and common areas" found at 907.9.1.1 and the "adaptability requirements" for R-2 occupancies found at 907.9.2. Did you know that 2006 IBC/NJ IBC 907.2.1.3 contains provisions where an automatic fire detection system provided in an A-2 Nightclub is required to mute the performance sound system and restore the intensity of illumination upon It suffices to say that activation? system designers must be familiar with the building code requirements on par with those of NFPA-72.

Plans and Submittals - N.J.A.C. 5:23-

AHJ's Comments Continued;

2.15(f) 1. provides that "no fewer than two copies of specifications and of plans drawn to scale, with sufficient clarity and detail dimensions to show the nature and character of the work to be performed" and "When quality of materials is essential for conformity the regulations, specific shall be given to information establish such quality." It goes without saying that fire alarm equipment must be listed and labeled for the intended purpose and evidence of the listing and use must be provided for the plan reviewer to establish compliance. However given these requirements we still receive applications devoid of equipment cut sheets and technical specifications.

Remember the UCC stipulation "no fewer than two copies", and the UCC requirement that a released set of plans be on site at all times. It is quite common to arrive at an inspection where the set of plans on site does not bear the release signatures of the subcode and construction official. The inspector has no way of knowing if what he/she is looking at has been released.

It should also come as no surprise that applications, plans, risers and calculations submitted simply don't add up. This is especially true with secondary battery power calculations. There has been many an occasion where the quantities stated on the plans, risers and calculations don't Remember agree. plan reviewers are not designers and don't have the authority to make judgment calls so double check the math before submission. This is especially true of strobe candela output settings. The plans must indicate the desired candela output setting of each appliance so that the plan reviewer can check the loads against the notification appliance circuits and the secondary power capacity.

LASTLY NFPA-72, IT'S THE BIBLE OF THE FIRE ALARM DESIGNER YET DESIGNS ARE SUBMITTED THAT FLY IN THE FACE OF ITS PROVISIONS. YES IT'S IMPORTANT TO STATE ON THE PLANS IF THE CEILING IS FLAT, SMOOTH, BEAMED OR JOISTED AND THEN LAYOUT THE DETECTION DEVICES ACCORDINGLY.

IN SUMMARY I LIKEN THE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS TO SELLING. AS AN APPLICANT YOU ARE TRYING TO GET THE CODE OFFICIAL TO "BUY YOUR PRODUCT." IN ORDER TO DO THAT THE "PITCH" HAS TO BE CLEAR, CONCISE AND COMPLETE. IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT TRYING TO GET A CLIENT TO BUY YOUR PRODUCT WHEN YOU DON'T TELL THEM WHAT IT IS.

JOHN DRUCKER

JOHN IS THE FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL WITH THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, NJ RESPONSIBLE FOR PLAN REVIEW AND FIELD INSPECTION OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS. HE IS NICET CERTIFIED IN FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS AND HOLDS A NJ ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LICENSE. IN 2006 HE WAS HONORED AS FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS.



Training News

AFAANJ is currently working on two projects to provide our membership and the Fire Protection Community with offerings of value.

Our first idea results in members commenting that the loss employee's time outweighs the benefit to the company of the training. To this end AFAANJ will be holding half day training sessions at the Carteret Holiday Inn on the afternoons of meeting days. This will allow all 3 of AFAA's one day programs to be offered over six half day sessions. The classes will start at 1:00 PM, there will be one break and the class will end at 5:00 PM. The trainee now has the option of staying at the hotel for the dinner meeting and earning a total of five CPDs for the day. This seems to be a win, win, win situation, the employee gets the points needed to maintain their license as well as training, the owner only loses a half day of productivity while getting training at a reduced rate as there will be no meal. Finally the AFAANJ improves relations with the hotel by increasing attendance for dinner even if only a few trainees stay over for the dinner meeting and technical presentation it will be more than currently attend.

The second idea is to provide training at county police and fire academies, this program would be accomplished by holding a two day class for profit followed by a one day class open at no cost to AHJs. One or two weeks prior to the training dates if the one day class is not full it will be opened for profit. Tom Hammerberg, our National President, has made the generous offer of providing the class workbooks at cost and the program for free. I will teach the class for AHJs for free as well. This will allow AFAANJ to provide free training at a very low deliverable cost to those that need it our code and sub-code officials. This still depends on getting the county's to buy in and provide the room on the third day at no cost. We will begin looking at using Summerset County as it's centrally located in the state.

NICET News;

NICET recently learned that one of its examinations might have compromised by a published "study guide". Please note that all of the Institute's test questions are registered with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office as copyrighted materials owned by the National Society of Professional use Engineers. Unauthorized NSPE/NICET copyright protected material by any entity, individual, company or group other than NSPE or NICET is strictly prohibited under U.S. Federal Law, and will be subject to legal prosecution.

While NICET paper & pencil tests will continue to be offered in an "open book" format, effective immediately, NICET will restrict the reference materials allowed into any testing session to only those listed within the "Referenced Standards" &/or "Selected General References" pages in the back of each program detail manual. Until further notice, NICET testing candidates will not be allowed to use any interpretive materials (i.e., training guides, study manuals, review manuals, personal notes, etc.) - bound or unbound -- during their examination.

If you are in doubt about the acceptability of any reference - contact NICET before testing begins. Any banned reference should be left outside the testing room altogether or it will be held at the Proctor's table during the examination. If a referenced document is banned from the testing session, you will be given the opportunity to challenge the affected work element(s) prior to the examination process. The Challenge must list the title of the banned reference, the author, edition and copyright date, & then provide a detailed explanation of its relevance to the test. If a challenged reference is found to be acceptable, NICET will contact you to schedule testing of the affected element(s) -- at additional fee It is highly recommended, however, that you complete as much of your scheduled examination as possible without the banned reference to avoid rescheduling delays and difficulties. You may also elect to reschedule your entire exam prior to testing, but a rescheduling fee may be required if, you do not submit a Challenge at your scheduled time of testing, & if your Challenge is not accepted.

This revised NICET testing policy may be altered further in the near future as more information is uncovered about the alleged test question compromise &/or additional references are added to the list of "Acceptable References."

If you have any questions or concerns about this change in the meantime, please feel free to contact NICET at 1-888-476-4238 or test@nicet.org. We truly appreciate your assistance and cooperation with this sensitive matter. Michael A. Clark, CAE Chief Operating Executive

Hot Topics in the News & on the Web

This is a link to an investigative report that aired on November 6th on the channel 5 news. As always the news has sensationalized things and found a way to add severely burned children, that said, they do make a point for combination ion/photo electric smoke detectors & quite possibly a better point for residential fire sprinklers.

http://www.myfoxny.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=485687 3&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=1.1.1

Again another sensationalized TV news report, this one from the Midwest. There are a number of articles and videos. One interesting point, I have circulated this to many FPEs' and no one ever heard of the Professor. None the less, the point should be taken.

http://www.wthr.com/Global/story .asp?s=6552929

Good reminder for everyone.....

This next one is a powerful message; it's a dramatic video (30-seconds, very short) about how to deal with a common kitchen fire when oil flashes in a frying pan.

Never use water, being heavier than oil; it sinks to the bottom instantly becoming superheated to steam. The explosive force of the steam blows the burning oil up and out. On an open field, it became a thirty foot high fireball. Inside the confines of a kitchen, the fire ball hits the ceiling and fills the entire room.

http://www.ranaldofamily.com/SW F/KitchenOilFire.wmv

Hot Topics Continued;

A new report prepared by NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation reviews the technical literature about carbon monoxide deaths, whether related to fires or not, to fill a knowledge gap about how CO is generated and moves inside buildings. The report will help system designers and others decide where to place CO detectors in structures.

NFPA posted the 37-page report, "Development of a Technical Basis for Carbon Monoxide Detector Siting Research Project," at;

www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Re search/Carbon_MonoxideDetectorSp acing.pdf

If you click on the video clip below it will bring you to Conan O'Brian's show being taped. It is very disappointing to see the media's ignorance with fire safety.

http://video.aol.com/videodetail/conan-fire-alarmvideodartcom/4229964951

With the holiday season drawing near, when you're making out your Holiday card list this year, please include a card to the following:

A Recovering American soldier c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

New Members Corner

With their permission this is where we will introduce new members. Remember AFAA's main goal is to be the number one training organization in fire protection and life safety! We compete for most projects and the more educated the competitors are the more level the playing field.

To use a well worn metaphor, training raises the level of all ships!

AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership	Renewal _	New Member	•	Date
Company/Orga	nization Name	.		
Address				
City			State	Zip
Telephone # (_)	Fax # (
Email Address				
Primary (voting) Applicant Na	me		
Others within y	our firm/org tha	at may attend dir	nner meetii	ngs (additional fee per meeting if
more then one	representative	from a company	y attends) a	and, or wish to be added to the
mailing list; Not	e: you may bri	ng a prospective	member a	as your guest at no charge.
Name		Er	mail	
Name		Er	mail	
Name		Er	mail	
All above applica	ants must agree	to subscribe to th	e principles	and purposes of the AFAANJ
Please provide	a brief descrip	tion of your busi	ness or or	ganization and the position you hold:
				use another page if necessary.
Please indicate	type of memb	ership you are a	nnlying for	
Government Me	ember	———	Dues \$	625.00 per year)
Government M			,	00.00 per year)
Manufacturing			•	50.00 per year) (if national member)
Distribution Me			`	850.00 per year)
Corporate Mem Installer/Dealer			`	350.00 per year) 350.00 per year)
Auxiliary Memb			`	350.00 per year)
			, - 3.55 φ	p , ,

Note: Dues are for the calendar year from January 1 through December 31. If paying for less than a full year, dues will be prorated to the nearest month. Dues are due within 30 days of receipt of this notice. To be considered current all dues from previous members must be current (for renewals).

Please include application and a check made payable to:

AFAA of New Jersey
P.O. Box 4286
Clifton, NJ 07012

^{*} denotes one meal at each of our four meetings is included with the dues.