

AFAANJ Spec-I-Fire

Volume 2, Issue 3

August 2008

Our Next Meeting Is Thursday September 18 as a reminder we've relocated to the Hanover Manor in East Hanover, NJ

Our May meeting was held here as well as the seminar, everyone was very happy with service, quality of food and quality of the accommodations. The Hanover Manor is on Eagle Rock Avenue, off Route 280 between exits one and two; please go to our website www.afaanj.org for a link to a map.

The Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936
(973) 992-7425 • (973) 887-2682

Please RSVP: to Dennis DeCarlo at 973 - 429 - 4846 or by email d.decarlometrofire@verizon.net

Presentation for 09/18/08

We have three speakers for tonight and their focus will be of great concern to owners and managers!

Our presentation will deal with **your** exposures and liabilities as well as costs to run a business.

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A word or two from the President;

Edward Armm, SET
Sr. Consultant RJA

The National AFAA 2008 Codes Conference and Annual Meeting was fantastic! The location, agenda and camaraderie all added to make for another great success. (I have to say that the Alamo is smaller than Walt Disney would have had us believe).

I encourage everyone to come to next year's Codes Conference and Annual meeting April 14-17, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, GA. It's on the East Coast so there is no reason to miss this event!

Members in good standing of AFAANJ or AFAA may log on to the members page at www.afa.org and download pdf copies of all of this year's presentations. I highly recommend everyone taking advantage of this member benefit and downloading and reading these presentations. This year's speakers were Bob Schifiliti, P.E. FSFPE, Shane Clary PhD, Rodger Reiswig, Derek Lisk, Wayne Moore, P.E., FSFPE, SET, CFPS and I.

Our May meeting was well attended and all those who commented to me about our new location were very happy. I look forward to a long relationship with the Hanover Manor.

I have to ask each of you to help support AFAANJ by attending meetings as well as sending your sales and technical staff to our seminars.

July 30 Free Seminar for the Fire Service

Our presentation for AHJ's, Fire Marshalls and Subcode Officials held at Seton Hall was attended by over 225 members of the Fire Service. However, once we opened the presentation to our general membership there was a very small response. I am amazed that more members did not take the opportunity to sit in a seminar as equals with people that we often face as adversaries. It is time to work as a team and the AFAANJ is tasked with the education and support of that team. We are all tasked with life safety.

Art Black's presentation was very well received by all in attendance and the AFAANJ wishes to thank him as well as Seton Hall University, the South Orange Fire Department, and Mr. Paul McGrath of City Fire for their help in producing this event.

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AFAA Our first topic will cover general liability and errors and omissions insurance. Our speaker is Mr. Ralph Costa of the John T. Costa Agency. Established in 1952 by John T. Costa they have become a major market for the Fire Alarm and Security Industry specializing in General Liability and Errors & Omissions coverage. With many carriers to obtain insurance from along with many years of experience, Ralph has obtained broad coverage's at competitive rates for his clients. Today the John T. Costa Agency has the privilege of providing insurance coverage for several hundred alarm companies.

AFAA Our second speaker for this evening is Mr. Michael Paolini of the *On Site Software Company*. He will be providing a presentation that includes liability "war stories" from some of the hundreds of life safety companies Michael has dealt with in 22 years of experience in life safety software.

AFAA Our third speaker is Mr. Steve Johnson of *Mobile Management Resources, LLC*. He will provide a presentation entitled "*How to Save Money on Fuel using GPS*". Steve will provide a live demonstration of a leading GPS-based technology to help better plan routes for service departments, monitor idling and speeding, eliminate off-route trips all of which will result in a reduction of fuel usage. He also claims increased productivity, lower insurance premiums and maintenance costs as well as enhanced customer service.

Each of our speakers will take approximately 25 – 30 minutes with some additional Q&A; they will also be available at the end of the meeting for additional questions.

We should close our meeting around 8:30 PM.

The May Meeting.

The AFAANJ thanks Peter Schmidt of Firestop Solutions for his interesting and educational presentation of the proper firestopping of through penetrations in floors and walls.

We learned that as fire alarm contractors we are responsible for proper UL Listed firestopping solutions, as article 760 of the NEC refers us to article 300.21

"300.21 Spread of Fire or Products of Combustion.

Electrical installations in hollow spaces, vertical shafts, and ventilation or air-handling ducts shall be made so that the possible spread of be substantially increased. Openings around electrical penetrations through fire

re-resistant-rated walls, partitions, floors, or ceilings shall be firestopped using approved methods to maintain the fire resistance rating."

Firestop Solutions was the country's first FM 4991 Contractor, first Hilti Accredited, and soon will be one of the first UL Approved Firestop Contractors.

Our full day seminar for September 18 is the AFAA Fire Alarm System Testing and Inspection CEU course.

AFAA classes are all certified and approved for CPD and CEU points by both the Department of Community Affairs and The Department of Consumer Affairs in NJ. This means that if you need points for NICET, your license or your permit our classes will cover your needs. (Many of our evening presentations carry AIA CEU credit as well)

This basic application course describes the requirements for fire alarm systems tests and inspections, and how to correctly perform these tests and visual inspections to meet the requirements of the 2002 editions of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®, and NFPA 70, National Electrical Code®. This fire alarm seminar is beneficial for installers performing acceptance or reacceptance tests of new fire alarm systems; service technicians performing periodic testing and inspections of existing fire alarm systems; building and fire inspectors involved in witnessing acceptance and reacceptance testing; and personnel representing the owner responsible for the testing and inspections of fire alarm systems in their facilities.

This seminar is beneficial for installers, service technicians; sales personnel, system designers, engineers, building & fire subcode officials involved in acceptance testing and/or plans review, or is useful as a refresher for anyone involved with fire alarms.

This is a full day class; it begins at 7:30 with a continental breakfast. All attendees are to be seated and ready to begin at 8:00 AM.

See the last page of this newsletter for a registration form

Currently attendance is low and this CEU seminar is in danger of being cancelled!

See our website www.afaanj.org for details. If you are a member in good standing you can register through National with a Credit Card.

Other 2008 seminars from AFAANJ:

November 20 - *Understanding the Fire Alarm Requirements of the 2006 IBC*

President's message continued from page 1

The cost of this seminar was quite high; however the results justify any cost. AFAANJ was able to provide this training at no charge to all those attending with the help of the following supporting companies and organizations:

- AFAA AsBuilt Engineered Systems
- AFAA CooperNotification (*Wheelock)
- AFAA GE Security (*EST-Edwards)
- AFAA Harrington Signal
- AFAA MirCom
- AFAA The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
- AFAA The New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers
- AFAA Notifier
- AFAA Potter
- AFAA Siemens (*Cerberus Pyrotechnics)
- AFAA SimplexGrinnell (*Simplex)
- AFAA System Sensor
- AFAA Xtralis VESDA

* Formally Known As

All of the above sponsors were invited to set up tables in the lobbies outside the lecture room. They had their banners and literature, however, no equipment was presented or sales solicited. They were simply there to show their wares to those that approve the plans, systems and test, inspection and maintenance of their products; I am happy to add this was well received by all those in attendance.

Art Black has a newsletter that can be accessed at <http://www.carmelfire.com/FireLines05.html> he is a friend of the industry and a man of the fire service. Art gave us a deal as he was going to be in NJ for the AFAA National Board of Directors (of which he belongs) meeting in Newark the following day.

Representing AFAANJ at the board meeting were Bob Boyer and John Ventrella, both board members, and myself as an advisor and past chair of the National Education Committee.

In closing I just want to remind you that even with no U in AFAANJ we cannot exist without you. I don't know how to go about this without becoming corny, cliché, or trite, however, we need your support!

AFAANJ is your voice; we represent the industry politically and in the trenches on code committees. While AFAANJ works for our members we cannot do it without their support. Again, this means taking part in our organization, come to meetings, attend seminars, and invite your competition to join. Never forget that a rising tide raises all vessels.

My very best regards,



ON THE WEB:

<http://www.inspector911.com/> is an excellent website chock full o' fire protection resources, including the code weenie!

<http://www.etnews.org/> in another excellent site, it is Mike Baker's site; Mike is the Training Director for AFAA. He has news, facts, data and quite an interesting collection of historic NFPA documentation. It is also Mike's home page...

<http://www.ggazette.com/news/2008/0716/features/008.html> "New Fire Code Replaces Rules from 1913" *Western Queens Gazette* - Queens, NY

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=60111§ionId=46> Smoke Detector Sparks New Jersey Fire *Firehouse.com*

<http://www.peterborough.net/business/articles/newflame100.asp> The UK works to **end spurious alarms**. They have it figured out as a lack of maintenance, imagine that!

<http://www.physorg.com/news138546437.html> NIST WTC 7 Investigation Finds Building Fires Caused Collapse *PhysOrg.com* - Evergreen, VA,

<http://www.broadcaster.com/clip/29070> For a video of the fire alarm activation during the taping of Conan O'brian's show.

http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/multimedia/2008/08/gallery_bell_labs For the demise of Bell Labs, home to the Transistor, Laser, 6 Nobels!

NICET UPDATES:

The AFAA Intermediate Fire Alarm seminar course-book has been approved by NICET as a study guide that you may bring in as reference for NICET exams.

Time Allotted for Test Taking Separated by Subfield

Previously NICET applicants were allowed to select up to 34 work elements from any subfield for a single examination. Due possibly to increased demand for NICET certification as a condition of employment, applicants in recent years have been more tempted to add work elements outside their chosen field purely for additional testing time. The contents and time allotments for NICET test questions are predetermined to be fair and reasonable by a panel of industry experts – and are then “beta tested” to verify that determination. Applicants are expected to be able to answer the questions in the time allotted. Therefore, the assigned time allotments must be upheld to provide a fair and valid test result.

Please note, NICET will allow candidates to continue selecting up to 34 work elements for any given day of testing. However, NICET will now separate work elements from different specialty areas, up to three, into separate and distinct examinations. Candidates will receive the appropriate number of confirmation notices based on the work element and specialty areas being tested. Each confirmation notice will indicate the total number of minutes allowed for each test. In addition, individual examination packets will be distributed, at the testing center, for each specialty area being tested. Only after the first examination is complete will the second examination packet be released. This process will continue until the last examination is completed.

Ordinary Maintenance And Emergency Work, Special Provisions Of The NJ Uniform Construction Code.

By John Drucker, Fire Protection Subcode Official

By now we should all be familiar with the filing and permit process of the NJ Uniform Construction Code (NJUCC). However there are provisions where a permit is not necessary or not required prior to commencing the work.

We will examine two of these special provisions, what they are, when and how they apply and the process to use them.

N.J.A.C 5:23-2.7

(a) "Ordinary Maintenance to structures may be made without filing a permit application with or giving notice to the construction official".

(b) "Such maintenance shall not include any of the following:"

4. "Any work affecting structural or fire safety."

Fire Safety? That's a very broad term. Let's take a closer look.

N.J.A.C 5:23-2.7

(c)4. "Ordinary Fire Protection Maintenance shall include;"

i. "The replacement of any sprinkler or smoke detector or heat detector with a like device."

That helps with system ITM when an inoperative smoke or heat detector needs to be replaced. So long as it's a like device, i.e. photo smoke to photo smoke, 135°F Rate of Rise Heat Detector to 135°F Rate of Rise Heat Detector, etc, no permit is required. However it should be noted that a change in detection type, i.e. smoke to heat requires a permit.

ii. "The repair or replacement of any component of a fire alarm or smoke and heat detection equipment (other than the replacement of a fire alarm control panel)."

Again that helps with system ITM when a fuse, power supply or module requires replacement; however replacement of the entire fire alarm panel requires a permit.

The list of permit exemptions is very limited. While the NJUCC regulations for ordinary maintenance do not require the notification of the construction official, the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) however does require that the fire official be notified whenever fire protection systems are interrupted for repairs, so don't forget to make that call!

N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14

(b)3. "Emergency work not involving lead abatement, except that a permit shall be applied for or notice given as soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours thereafter."

So just what is emergency work? Emergency work is regarded as that that involves existing conditions, systems or equipment. Generally we see the replacement of heating equipment in the dead of winter fall into this category. But it could also apply to a fire alarm panel that's been hit by lightning, water damaged, inoperative or vandalized. This would be deemed an emergency since preexisting building occupants could be in danger. In these cases the restoral of fire protection temporarily outweighs the permit process. The emergency work provisions are needed especially over weekends or extended weekends, i.e. the 72 hour filing window.

Emergency work does not apply to new installs, additions, modifications, demolition and/or system upgrades even if those are a result of a retrofit fire code notice, for example a windowless basement fire alarm system. The fire code intentionally allows a 30 day compliance window such that application, review, permitting and inspection can be completed within that time frame. The old saying about "lack of planning does not constitute an emergency on my part" applies here.

Emergency Work puts the sole responsibility on the contractor to assure that the work is code compliant including performing a reacceptance test since it could be up to a week or two before the system is inspected by the fire subcode official/inspector.

Once again don't forget that immediate notification of the fire official and renotification of the fire official once the work is complete is required pursuant to NJUFC F-504.1

John Drucker 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, and served as senior project manager for Siemens Fire Safety at the World Trade Center from 1993 to 2001.

John is also a full member of AFAANJ (editor)



Monday, December 1 you're all welcome to attend the NJ SFPE Meeting.

Robert J Davidson, a retired Fire Marshal who is currently operating his own code consulting business will be speaking about the 2006 IFC New Edition also know as Subchapter 3 of the NJ Uniform Fire Code (NJAC5:70).

Mr. Davidson serves as Chair of the NJ Fire Safety Commission, Codes Advisory Council, Subchapter 3 Subcommittee (Uniform Fire Code). This subcommittee is responsible for the upgrading of the fire code provisions.

We will be asking Mr. Davidson to speak at an upcoming AFAANJ meeting; however, this code will be in effect before that time so I recommend your attending this New Jersey SFPE meeting to keep up to date on the State Fire Prevention Code!

Attendance is only \$26 and should you be so inclined supporting membership is only \$20 for the year. Go to www.afaanj.org or www.njsfpe.org for information as to this and other meetings. Pre registration is highly recommended if you want a seat for this timely code update!

To see the proposed amendments update the State Fire Prevention Code, subchapter 3 of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.) go to the NJ DCA DFS web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/oal.pdf>.

Currently, as you know, the Department adopts the 1996 Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) Fire Prevention Code, with amendments, as the State Fire Prevention Code. The proposed amendments will serve to replace the 1996 BOCA Fire Prevention Code with the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC), with amendments.

The proposed changes to the 2006 IFC are made primarily to retain provisions of the current Fire Prevention Code and to eliminate conflicts with the Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23.

AFAANJ Board of Directors Contact Information;

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908-272-0066

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

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Bob Boyer, Member at Large
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Scott Nichols, Member at Large
973 - 616 - 8771

Roy Polizzi, Member at Large
201-934-9316

Jim Loftus, Member at Large
973 - 664 - 2502

George Mosley, Sr. and Robert Hall
Members Emeritus



WE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE NICET CERTIFICATION

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction. Albert Einstein

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving. Albert Einstein

Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them. Albert Einstein

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. Albert Einstein

News from the Contractors Advisory Board

By Rich Ravaioli VP AFAANJ

- DFS stated on July 17th that the adoption notice of the 2006 IFC New Jersey Edition will appear in the August 18th New Jersey Register with an effective date of January 1, 2009. Kean College is working on a training curriculum for the new code.
- Assembly bill A1027 was introduced and sponsored by Wisniewski & Chivukula. This is the one that would make the fire extinguisher requirement for change of occupancy optional. Each local municipality would then adopt an ordinance if they intended on enforcing it.



REGISTRATION FORM FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM TESTING & INSPECTIONS SEMINAR

Please type or print:

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name (please print) _____

Attendee (s) _____

Name e-mail address

Name e-mail address

Name e-mail address

AFAA, AFAANJ, PAAFAA NJ & NY SFPE & NJBFAA members and government employees 1-2 attendees from the same company - \$225 each
3+ attendees from the same company - \$175 each

Non-members - 1-2 attendees from the same company - \$325 each
3+ attendees from the same company - \$275 each

Don't delay! Registration is limited to 40.

REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO SEMINAR.

NICET information can be downloaded from their web site at www.nicet.org

Cancellation and refund policy:

A full refund of the seminar registration fee may be obtained provided AFAANJ receives **written** notification at least 7 days prior to the start of the seminar. All other cancellations will be subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. "No-shows" are ineligible for refunds. Special circumstances will be handled on a case by case basis. AFAANJ seminars are subject to cancellation due to low registrations. AFAANJ cannot be responsible for losses resulting from the cancellation of any seminar. Download additional forms at www.AFAANJ.org

WHEN: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Thursday - September 18, 2008

WHERE: The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue, East Hanover, New Jersey 07936

Register online at www.afa.org through their secure server and pay by credit card! (Members only)

Or, register by mail and pay by check! Please make all checks payable to AFAA NJ and mail to:

AFAA of New Jersey
Dennis DeCarlo
C/O Metro Fire & Communications
430 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

All AFAA courses are IACET certified and are accepted for educational credit by NICET and the State of New Jersey.