



FIRE BUCKET



December 2014

A publication of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

SFPECOC.Webs.com

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday January 14, 2015

Location: The Fawcett Center - 2400
Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio
43210

Speaker: Daniel Bak, Senior Forensic Fire
Engineer.

Topic: Overcoming Cultural Differences in
the Practice of Fire Protection Engineering

Globalism is not systematic in every aspect of fire and life safety practice. Even though the intent of fire and life safety is universal, its application is not. One area that has for a long time trailed but was linked to the fire and life safety systems is the application of the famous "American Disability Act" (ADA). Slowly but surely, ADA requirements found themselves in the American Building Codes. Even more slowly, these requirements also ended up in various degrees in regulations throughout the world. This presentation will demonstrate how one aspect of ADA was successfully accepted and implemented in a culturally different environment.

Registration: 11:15 – 11:30 am

Lunch: 11:30 am (Fawcett Center Buffet)

Program: 12:15 pm

Cost: \$20.00 (Members)
\$25.00 (Non-members)

The One-Pay option is back for this year. You can pay a single/one time fee and receive **ALL** the regular scheduled chapter meetings (5) and your local membership dues all for **ONLY \$98.00**. This is a savings of \$22 for the year. You must pay the full \$98.00 with the membership application or renewal to take advantage of this program.

Note: We are planning a meeting to replace the September meeting with a meeting on February 11, 2015. Details to follow:

Reservations Deadline: Friday January 9, 2014 – 4 P.M.

Contact: Ryan Oyster
royster@simplexgrinnell.com
614-374-5727

Please remember bring the attached parking pass or pick up a free parking pass for your vehicle at the front desk.



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Reservation cancellations will be billed.

Future Meetings

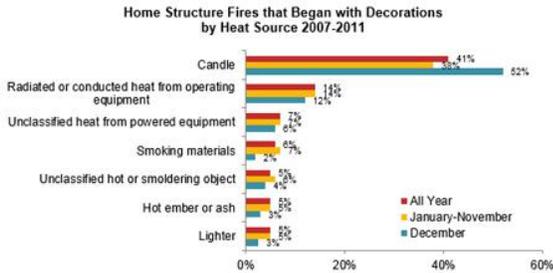
The dates of our upcoming meetings are as follows:
February 11, 2015
March 11, 2015
May 13, 2015
June 26, 2015 – Phil Gentile Golf Outing

NFPA's "Home Structure Fires That Began with Decorations"

Author: John R. Hall, Jr.
Published by NFPA

During the five-year-period of 2007-2011, NFPA estimates that decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 920 reported home structure fires per year. These fires caused an estimated average of six civilian deaths, 47 civilian injuries and \$12.9 million in direct property damage per year. These estimates are based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) annual fire department experience survey.

One-fifth of the home structure decoration fires occurred in December. Nearly half (47%) of home structure decoration fires occurred because the decoration was too close to a heat source. Forty-one percent of these incidents were started by candles. One-fifth (21%) started in the living room, family room, or den.



Home Fire Sprinklers

[From Nationwide Children's Hospital Web Site](#)



A house fire is reported every 60 seconds in the United States, resulting in almost 3,000 deaths and 14,000 injuries each year. Though many homeowners have smoke alarms, they are often not working, without batteries, or disabled. Additionally, though smoke alarms are important for detecting fire and alerting people of danger, they are unable to contain a fire or extinguish it. For this reason, more American homeowners are installing fire sprinkler systems in their homes. The United States Fire Administration reports that the installation of home fire sprinkler systems could save thousands of lives, prevent a large portion of injuries, and greatly decrease the amount of property loss due to house fires.

Home Fire Sprinkler Facts

- The likelihood of dying in a fire decreases by 33-66% when fire sprinklers are installed in a home.
- Families with a fire sprinkler system AND working smoke alarms decrease their risk of death by fire by 83% when compared to families with neither.
- Home fire sprinkler heads act independently. Therefore, only the sprinklers located near the fire will activate.
- Most house fires are extinguished with 1 or 2 sprinklers and a limited amount of water.
- It has been documented over the last 50 years that the chance of a sprinkler

- going off by mistake is very remote.
- Home sprinkler systems are smaller in size than those seen in businesses. They are also available in multiple styles to fit in with any decor.

Home Fire Sprinkler Tips

- Families, especially those with children, elderly adults and individuals with disabilities, would benefit from the increased protection of home fire sprinklers.
- Smoke alarms are still important! Fire sprinklers are activated by heat, not smoke. Smoke alarms are still needed to detect fire and smoke in the shortest amount of time.
- The best time to install a home fire sprinkler system is when you are building a new home. However, you can also remodel an older home to incorporate a sprinkler system.
- Different insurance companies offer a range of discounts for home sprinklers. It may be beneficial to shop around for the best deal.
- Only use a specially trained contractor who will follow National Fire Protection Association codes and standards to install your system.

Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment

NFPA - Newport Partners

This report updates the report, Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment (Fire Protection Research Foundation 2008). The primary purpose of this study is to review current home fire sprinkler system costs against the 2008 benchmark study to gain a better understanding of how increasingly widespread adoption of sprinkler ordinances impacts system cost. Using a larger sample size, the current study attempts to gain a better understanding of the impact of sprinkler ordinances on home fire sprinkler system cost and other factors that affect system cost. The current study examines 51 homes in 17 communities; the 2008 study examined 30 homes in 10 communities. In the 2013 update, the average

cost per sprinklered square foot was \$1.35. In the 2008 report, the average cost per sprinklered square foot was \$1.61.

Residential sprinkler system costs, 2008-2013

[Click Here for Complete Report](#)

	2008 Cost		2013 Cost	
	\$/Sprinklered ft ² ¹	Total Cost ²	\$/Sprinklered ft ²	Total Cost
Mean	\$1.61	\$6,316	\$1.35	\$6,026
Median	\$1.42	\$5,843	\$1.22	\$5,000
Minimum	\$0.38	\$2,386	\$0.81	\$1,695
Maximum	\$3.66	\$16,061	\$2.47	\$21,000

Columbus to Hike, Create a Variety of Fees

[From Columbus Dispatch 12/12/14](#)

Facing a tighter budget, Columbus leaders plan to charge businesses more for inspection and permit fees next year to generate an additional \$1.2 million.

The Columbus City Council plans to vote on increasing nearly 125 permit and inspection fees and on imposing nearly 30 new fees at its final meeting of the year on Monday. The increases are mostly related to fire-safety and weights-and-measure permits.



Columbus Firefighter and inspector Mike Kentner, top, checks out the sprinkler system at Sunoco Logistics on Fisher Road

The businesses affected by the increases include restaurants, bowling alleys, builders and chemical suppliers.

“Mayor (Michael B.) Coleman had asked all departments to review their list of fees and see if there were updates we could make,” said Amanda

Ford, an assistant director in the city's Department of Public Safety. "Some of the fees had not been updated since 2004, and others in 2007."

Ford said all the inspections and permits ensure that consumers and the public are protected. She said the increases will mostly cover personnel costs and changes to ensure public safety.

Some of the proposed increases and new fees:

- A new \$125 inspection fee will insure bar-code scanning devices at stores work correctly. City officials said inspectors conducted 326 such reviews at 255 businesses at no cost in 2013. Most of those inspections were in response to complaints.
- Licenses for professional fundraising groups will increase to \$150 from \$100. Groups seeking a charitable-solicitation license will pay \$40, up from \$25.
- A home day-care permit and inspection will increase to \$125 from \$95, and commercial day cares will pay \$150.
- The city will charge a new \$125 inspection and permit fee for tents and canopies erected by businesses. This does not include permanent canopies used by restaurants unless the addition puts the restaurant over its allowable occupancy.
- Several hazardous-material inspections will increase to \$125 from \$100, including for lane-refinishing chemicals that bowling alleys use, dry-cleaning operations, industrial furnaces and repairs to parking garages.
- New fees, all under \$60, will be implemented for inspecting air hoses at gas stations, pet-wash machines, private-parking meters and electric-vehicle charging stations.

Business owners said yesterday that the increases have not been communicated well enough. A public hearing on Wednesday evening at City Hall drew little outside attention.

Randy Sokol, a member of the Central Ohio

Restaurant Association and chairman of the group's political-action committee, said the city needs to understand the impact of the fee increases given Columbus' stable financial status.

"I didn't realize that the city was in that kind of trouble that they had to create new revenue at the expense of businesses," he said. "I think sometimes government looks at \$25 as not being a lot, but when you see all areas increasing, those all add up, and that impedes growth and expansion."

Coleman's edict to find more revenue comes after he proposed a nearly flat operating budget for the city of \$813 million for 2015. The city's approved budget for this year was about \$807 million.

City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian sent Coleman a memo last summer warning that the city was in danger of running a deficit. Coleman responded by telling cabinet directors to restrict hiring and review fines and fees. Dorrian blamed the dwindling budget surplus on state cuts totaling more than \$30 million. Coleman also has added more than \$10 million in new programs the past few years.

Those programs had not been created or discussed when he and other city officials asked voters to raise the city's income tax to 2.5 percent, from 2 percent, in 2009.

That increase has poured millions into the city's budget. This year, the city is expected to take in \$102 million more in income tax than in 2010. Dorrian is predicting another 3 percent gain in income-tax revenue next year.

In addition to the inspection and licensing fees, the council will consider a \$5 increase in parking-violation fines that is expected to generate an additional \$850,000 a year.

"I'm a little surprised that we didn't know more about it, but overall I don't think it's anything for us to jump up and down over too much," said Scott Heimlich, owner of the Barcelona Restaurant and president of the restaurant association.

"I don't think the increases are astronomical, and each year we are going to see all of our costs increase ... and then we have to pass those costs on to consumers."

New NFPA Report Underscores Increase in Home Fire Deaths

From NFPA Web site

Here's further proof that today's home fires are a cause for concern: when compared with the number of civilian home fire deaths in 2012, there was a **16 percent** increase in the number of deaths for 2013.

NFPA's new report, "[Fire Loss in the United States During 2013](#)," notes that nearly 2,800 people died from home fires in 2013. The new report also states that:

- home fires accounted for **85 percent of all civilian fire deaths** that year
- close to **370,000 reported fires** occurred in the home, a 1.2 percent increase over last year
- more than **12,000 civilian fire injuries** were the result of home fires
- home fires were responsible for nearly **\$7 billion in direct property damage**

Let these numbers serve as another resource to convince [legislators and code-making officials](#) that sprinklers have the power to dramatically reduce these occurrences and losses. [Utilize the Fire Sprinkler Initiative's updated fact sheets to get this point across.](#)

Also, listen to Christina Holcroft, NFPA's division director of Fire Analysis and Research, underscore these and other findings from the "Fire Loss in the United States During 2013" report, which can be downloaded for free by visiting the [Fire Sprinkler Initiative site](#):



Columbus Schools Downtown Headquarters Lack Fire Alarm, Sprinklers

[From Columbus Dispatch 9/22/14](#)

Standing-room-only crowds at times pack its basement meeting room, and file cabinets housing paper records stretch from wall to wall across its upper floors.

But the Downtown headquarters building of Columbus City Schools doesn't have a basic fire alarm that would sound in an emergency or notify the fire department of a blaze in the middle of the night, a district internal audit noted recently. It also has no fire-suppressing sprinkler system.

The reason? They weren't required by city building code or the state fire code at the time of the building's construction.

"It's not required to have an alarming system in it, due to the date it was constructed and under the type of the occupancy it is, which is a business-code occupancy," said Battalion Chief Tracy Smith, spokeswoman for the Columbus Fire Division. "It is Ohio Revised Code compliant."

The building has a 150-person assembly permit for school-board meetings, Smith said. A fire alarm is required for public assemblies of 300 people or more, she said.

"From the fire department aspect, we would love to have every single building in the city of Columbus with an alarm system and sprinkler system," but the law doesn't require it, Smith said.

The three-story, 28,200-square-foot building was constructed in 1960, and its meeting room is often filled to capacity, with the crowd spilling into the hallways.

A district internal audit into the practices of the personnel department reported last month that

paper records covering thousands of district employees could be destroyed in a fire because of the lack of an alarm and sprinkler system. The records aren't backed up off-site, the audit said.

The personnel department, housed on the first floor of the building, responded to the audit this school year by storing all documents for newly hired employees electronically, allowing them to be backed up off-site. It is looking into scanning older documents into electronic files so they, too, can be backed up off-site.



Because the audit was only about the personnel department, it never noted that other district departments are in the building and have important records that could be destroyed, including the legal department, the superintendent's office, the budget office and the treasurer's office.

The treasurer's office on the third floor has rows of metal file cabinets holding payroll and purchasing records for the \$1.3 billion-a-year operation. Much is backed up electronically, but some isn't, officials said.

If the same building were built today, it's likely that it would have both a fire alarm and a sprinkler system, based on its design and that it is used for public assemblies, said Michael Bowen, deputy director of the Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services.

"Essentially, the building is subject to the applicable codes at the time of its construction," Bowen said, and fire-safety codes

have become more stringent since the 1960s.

District spokesman Jeff Warner said employees are examining the situation as a result of the audit.

Two school board members attending an unrelated committee meeting in the building last week, Mary Jo Hudson and Michael Cole, said they were unaware that the building wasn't protected by a fire-alarm system and said that could put assets and operations at risk. Even if it's not required, maybe the district should consider installing an alarm, Cole said.

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For more information, [click here](#).



CAMPUSfiresafety.com

SFPE Job Board

<http://jobs.sfpe.org/>

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SOCIETY OF FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERS

For more information, visit

<http://www.sfpe.org/GetInvolved/Membership/Join.aspx>.

Web Links

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www.sfpecoc.webs.com

Society of Fire Protection Engineers

(National) www.sfpe.org

American Fire Sprinkler Association

www.firesprinkler.org

ICC Website

www.iccsafe.org

National Fire Sprinkler Association

www.nfsa.org

N.I.C.E.T.

www.nicet.org

Ohio State Fire Marshal

www.com.state.oh.us/sfm

OSU Fire Safety Website

www.firesafety.osu.edu

Underwriters Laboratories

www.UL.com

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Society of Fire Protection Engineers Central Ohio Chapter

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PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION TO: John C. Falk, Sr.
Central Ohio Chapter SFPE
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Westerville, OHIO 43081
Jcf_sr@yahoo.com

Applications can be submitted at the next meeting. Please make check payable to *Central Ohio Chapter, SFPE* or you now have the option to pay by credit card at the meeting. We use the Square service and it will email you a receipt. Please complete a new application every year, so we can keep our database current. Dues run from September 1st to August 31st of each calendar year.

September 2014 – August 2015