

FIRE SPRINKLER TIMES

Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board • Spring 2005 Edition



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Summit is a Great Opportunity to Share NFPA 13D Experience

More than 70 people, representing 32 Chicago-area fire departments and municipalities, attended the NFPA 13D Summit January 13th to discuss the benefits, challenges and other issues related to NFPA 13D ordinances.

Hosted by Chief Dean Maggos and the LaGrange Park Fire Department in cooperation with NIFSAB, the Summit was a great opportunity for members of the fire service, building officials, elected officials and others to share their experiences. They were able to ask questions and learn about the available resources related to residential fire sprinkler systems and NFPA 13D.

Tom Lia, NIFSAB's Executive Director, stated that those officials who attended ranged from fire departments that have experience with an NFPA 13D ordinance to those officials working on or considering the passage of the ordinance in their municipalities and districts.

"This is our fourth summit and all have been great learning opportunities for everyone involved," Lia said. "It's always interesting to hear advice and



More than 70 people representing 32 Chicago-area fire departments and municipalities attended the summit to discuss the benefits, challenges and other issues related to NFPA 13D ordinances.

stories from those with experience and the questions from those just learning about 13D."

"Everyone gets so much out of these meetings," said Dean Maggos, Chief, LaGrange Park Fire Department. "It was terrific to see the number of people who attended. Not many towns here in our

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Clarendon Hills Fire Chief Named Recipient of Wayne Leucht Memorial Award

The Northern Illinois Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and the Illinois Fire Prevention Association (IFPA) announced that Brian Leahy, Fire Chief, Clarendon Hills Fire Department, is the recipient of the NFSA's Wayne Leucht Memorial Award.

In memory of fallen firefighter Wayne Leucht, Fire Marshal from the Northbrook Fire Department, the award was created to recognize members of the local fire service who personify the spirit and dedication of the fire service. The recipients are also recognized for their efforts to increase the use and knowledge of the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinklers in their communities.

Don Smith, Chairman of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the NFSA, said the organization chose Leahy because of his dedication and hard work, "Brian worked many hours to make sure his village board was informed and educated about the benefits of residential fire sprinklers. That is why they approved the NFPA 13D ordinance," Smith said. "Then one year later, he stood up to those who tried to repeal the ordinance, answering all of their questions and maintaining the support of his village board. Brian is clearly respected by those who work with him."

Leahy began his fire service career in 1971 in the Clarendon Hills cadet program where he grew up.

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Chief Brian Leahy, Clarendon Hills Fire Department, is the recipient of the 2005 Wayne Leucht Award.



NIFSAB Updates

by Tom Lia, NIFSAB Executive Director

Contact Tom at: 866-2NIFSAB (866-264-3722)
or e-mail: sprinktoml@aol.com

Chief Brian Leahy of Clarendon Hills: A True Visionary and Leader

Which member of the fire service stands out when it comes to proactive fire protection? Who is a trendsetter? Who is progressive and ahead of his or her time?

These are questions members of the Fire Sprinkler Association ponder when choosing the recipient of the Wayne Leucht Award.

When NIFSAB first started working with Clarendon Hills to pass a residential fire sprinkler ordinance, only four municipalities had the ordinance. They were Long Grove, Barrington, Hoffman Estates (with a partial system the first year, then a full NFPA 13D the second) and Wheeling.

NIFSAB first provided information and support at the request of the Clarendon Hills fire chief and mayor. The sprinkler demo trailer was utilized, a side-by-side demonstration was conducted, education-

ads were run in the local press and a first "home" demonstration house was provided with a no-cost installation for an informational and educational walk through.

We quickly learned that Fire Chief Brian Leahy was a true believer in the life-saving benefits of fire sprinklers and he was able to articulate his belief to Village President Robert Ryan.

Chief Leahy was one of the first Chicago area chiefs to respond to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *America Burning Report* and its number two recommendation that fire sprinklers should be a community's number one defense.

In 2000, Chief Leahy took hours and hours of his personal time to meet with trustees Ann Hammon, Tom Karaba, Bill Kolleck (now deceased), Paul Flood, David Roach, and Terry Pocius. He answered their questions, addressed

their concerns and did what he could to educate the board members about the fire department, operations, personnel, and how they interact with fire, flashover, and response times.

Clarendon Hills is an upscale landlocked community in the middle of a tear-down and conversion process. Chief Leahy's vision was to apply the recommendations in the *America Burning Report* to the teardown process. Chief Leahy believed that one by one, little by little, as a small house was torn down and replaced by a very large home, that it be protected by fire sprinklers. He recognized that the closeness to lot lines and height of the new homes would have contributed greatly to radiated and conventional fire spread to neighboring homes. He knew the chance of fire spreading to a neighboring home would be eliminated if a residential, quick-response sprinkler controlled the fire.

Since the ordinance was passed in 2000, more than 200 Clarendon Hills homes have been built with fire sprinkler systems. The vision of Chief Leahy was once challenged but he held his own and answered all "33" concerns brought up by opponents. Today that list, known as "Clarendon Hills List of 33," is the benchmark for other communities.

Chief Leahy truly personifies the spirit of fire prevention as espoused by Wayne Leucht. While this is an industry award, we are proud of Chief Leahy for his efforts and we're always proud to be associated with Wayne Leucht's legacy. ■

NFSA Midwest Notes

By Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager (IL, WI)

Contact Dan at 262-245-5255 or e-mail: danNFSA@aol.com • www.NFSAwi.org

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Legislation and NFPA's 100th Anniversary

Fire Sprinkler Incentive Legislation Re-introduced

March 3, 2005, Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), authors of landmark fire protection legislation intended to drastically reduce the depreciation time for fire sprinklers, re-introduced the bills in the 109th Congress. The authors, accompanied by co-sponsors Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV) and Congressman James Langevin (D-RI), conducted a press conference that afternoon on the Capital grounds. The press event included a dramatic live fire demonstration of fire sprinkler effectiveness.

Watch for assignment of numbers to

the bills and information regarding how to support these important pieces of fire protection legislation.

NFPA Will Celebrate 100th Anniversary in New York City

Mark your calendar for April 30 to May 3, 2005. The NFSA's Annual Seminars & Exhibits will be held at the Grand Hyatt in the heart of midtown Manhattan. Observing the 100th Anniversary theme as well as the FIRST automatic fire sprinkler exhibition ever held in New York City, NFSA Board of Directors and the Annual Seminar Planning Committee have put together an outstanding program. A major presentation will cover the NFSA's "First Hundred Years" along with a variety of educational workshops, the ever-popular contractors forum, and extended exhibition hours.

To register and for more information visit: www.NFSA.org. ■

Need fire sprinkler training or resource material?

Go to www.nfsa.org



NATIONAL
FIRE
SPRINKLER
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Wayne Leucht Award will be Presented to Chief Leahy at the NFSA/IFPA Annual Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational on June 6, 2005 at Glen Flora Country Club. All are welcome to the golf fundraiser and/or to the dinner.

Contact Fred Kroll (847) 573-1122.

Previous NFSA/Wayne Leucht Award Recipients

- Dave Danley, Barrington Fire Department
- Dan Tholotowsky, Pleasantview Fire Protection District
- Bob Nielsen, Westmont Fire Department
- Alan Berkowsky, Evanston Fire Department
- Keith MacIsaac, Wheeling Fire Department

Fire Sprinklers at Work: SUCCESSFUL ACTIVATIONS

OCTOBER 2004

Walgreens, Hometown

At 10:30 p.m. the fire department responded to a fire in the Halloween section of the Walgreens drugstore, causing customers and staff to quickly evacuate. According to Captain Tim Neal, the fire sprinkler system kept the fire in check and contained to the Halloween aisle. No one was injured.

*Tim Neal, Captain,
Hometown Fire Department*

NOVEMBER 2004

Public Storage, Aurora

The sprinkler system contained a mattress fire in a storage unit. The fire started after a tenant used a lighter to find a flashlight that was dropped. The flame from the lighter spread to the mattress. Damage was estimated at \$3000.

*Brad Westrom, Battalion Chief,
Aurora Fire Department*

Northern Michigan's Commitment to Safety Paid Off

Last November, a fire sprinkler system kept a small fire from spreading in Van Antwerp Hall at Northern Michigan University. A halogen lamp left too close to bedding material caused the fire. No one was hurt and the damage was limited to the room of origin. Students other than those living in the room of origin were able to move back into their rooms in 3½ hours.

The fire sprinkler system was installed two years prior to the fire. Deputy Fire Marshal George Michehl, Buffalo Grove Fire Dept. said his son attended the University when an aggressive building and dorm sprinkler retrofit program had begun. "I'm pleased to see that the commitment to the safety of students paid off," Michehl said.

SAVE-A-DAY

Visit www.firesprinklerassoc.org and download a copy of the "Save-A-Day" successful activation form, or a complete copy of "saves" collected over the last four years.

DECEMBER 2004

Used Car Dealer, Villa Park

Three fire sprinklers controlled a fire caused by gasoline vapor ignition in the garage area of a used car dealer. Damage was estimated at \$500. The business was back in operation the next morning.

*Mark W. Duski, Deputy Fire Chief,
Villa Park Fire Department*

Apartment, Des Plaines

Firefighters responded to a 7:40 p.m. alarm in the basement of the Elmdale Apartments to find two separate fires, each extinguished by a single sprinkler.

*Mike Thiry,
Fire Prevention Bureau Commander,
Des Plaines Fire Department*

Bumper Factory, Urbana

A fire sprinkler system prevented a fire from spreading in a factory. The fire was caused by sparks in a polishing machine. The fire destroyed a motor in the machine. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

*Mike Dilley, Division Chief,
Urbana Fire Department*

JANUARY 2005

ManorCare Health Care, Westmont

A sprinkler prevented a dryer fire from spreading in a nursing home. After firefighters arrived, one hose was used to extinguish the controlled fire.

"We were very lucky," said Westmont Fire Capt. Doug Daniels. "A sprinkler went off and held the fire in check until we arrived." Damage was limited to the dryer.

*Doug Daniels, Captain,
Westmont Fire Department*

Machine Shop, Batavia

A single sprinkler controlled a machine fire in a multi-tenant building. The machine was left on and malfunctioned causing ignition. The fire department extinguished the fire and assisted in water removal. Damage was confined to the machine and minor smoke and water damage in the room of origin.

*William Darin, Fire Chief,
Batavia Fire Department*

JANUARY 2005 (continued)

Tingstol, Elk Grove Village

A single sprinkler contained a fire, preventing extensive damage to a processing machine, until the fire department arrived. One sprinkler saved the machine from extensive damage.

*Al Vrshek, Assistant Fire Chief,
Elk Grove Village Fire Department*

Mass Distribution, Elk Grove Village

A single sprinkler controlled a fire preventing extensive fire damage in a distribution center filled with packaged cardboard goods.

*Al Vrshek, Assistant Fire Chief,
Elk Grove Village Fire Department*

Distribution Warehouse, Tinley Park

One sprinkler controlled and extinguished a trash can fire in the washroom of a door distributor warehouse.

Daniel Riordan, Tinley Park Fire Department

FEBRUARY 2005

Townhome, Lombard

The Lombard Fire Department responded to an activated fire alarm in a multi-family town home development. Upon arrival, crews discovered that a small fire had occurred in the kitchen of one of the homes which spread to the wooden cabinets over the range. One residential sprinkler activated and extinguished the fire. Estimated damage was approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000.

*Reported by: Battalion Chief Mike Torrence -
Lombard Fire Department*

Brighton Gardens Nursing Home, Darien

Firefighters responded to a dryer fire in a laundry room. One sprinkler activated and held the fire in check. Smoke was limited to the room of origin. The nursing home stayed open with little repair required.

*Battalion Chief Gergits,
Tri-State Fire Protection District*

Questions on basic building code?



Go to www.iccsafe.org/training

Free "Built for Life" Builder Education Kit Now Available

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition introduced the new "Built for Life" builder education kit at the 2005 International Builders' Show in Orlando in January.



The kit includes a 16-minute DVD with details about the design and installation of a residential fire sprinkler system installed in a single-family home according to NFPA 13D. In the video, HFSC spokesperson Ron Hazelton

(Home Improvement Editor, *Good Morning America*) walks through a home under construction after the fire sprinkler system is installed, but before the drywall is up. Ron points out all the key features of the system starting in the basement with the riser. He then moves to the first and second floors talking about the pipe, installation and various sprinklers. Part of the video is also taped in a finished home so builders can see the system when it's complete. The DVD is inserted in a folder/ brochure with information that supports the video.

The kit also includes the "Protect What You Value Most" consumer education brochure. It includes general information about home fire sprinklers and dispels the myths associated with sprinklers.

The "Built for Life" program was funded through a FEMA Fire Act grant. It's available free to homebuilders, members of the fire service and sprinkler contractors.

To order a free kit, go online and visit www.HomeFireSprinkler.org. Click on the "Building Professionals" or "Fire Safety Professionals" page, then click "Built for Life" to order the kit. ■

Questions on residential fire sprinklers?

Go to www.firesprinkler.org



Village of Hodgkins Board Passes Multi-Family Retrofit Ordinance

Recognizing that residents, including many families with children, living in multi-family apartment buildings were at high risk of dying or being injured in a fire, the Village of Hodgkins board decided to take action by passing pro-active fire protection ordinances.

To help the Village through the research and ordinance process, Village President Noel Cummings and the trustees asked Building Department Director Bob Evans to work with them. They knew

Evans was the right person for the project because he was a Hodgkins resident who grew up in the community and had 38-years experience working with various fire departments including Pleasantview, Hinsdale, Western Springs and Darien Woodridge. Evans agreed that there was a risk and knew that an ordinance requiring the installation of fire sprinklers would significantly reduce the risk.

According to Evans, the greatest risk was in the multi-family apartment buildings that were built in the early 1960's. Many families lived in the buildings and they were not protected with fire sprinkler systems. There were a few fires in the buildings. Last September, a family had to jump from the second floor. The mother landed on an air conditioner unit and was severely injured.

"It's a miracle that there has not been a major loss of life so far," Evans said. "Fires in those buildings can spread quickly. Our village leaders were concerned about the residents."



Village of Hodgkins officials who played a key role in passing the fire protection ordinance were presented a plaque, (left to right) Trustee Larry Rice; Bob Evans; Trustees Don Cuttill, Todd Fonfara, Paul Struve, Vicky Moxley, Tom Christopher, Ernest Millsap; Chief Hugh Rhodes; Chief Dan Hermes and Tom Lia.

The ordinance requires automatic fire sprinkler system to be installed in all existing multi-family residential buildings containing more than four units. It also requires fire sprinklers in all new construction multi-family buildings with more than four units. The ordinance was passed November 8, 2004. Working plans for retrofitting the buildings are due March 31, 2005. Installation must be completed by November 30, 2005.

The Illinois Fire Inspectors Association and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board recognized Mayor Cummings, along with trustees Paul Struve, Donald Cuttill, Thomas Christopher, Larry Rice, Vicky Moxley and Ernest Millsap, as well as Building Department Director Evans during their board meeting on February 14th.

"Our mayor and trustees need to receive the credit and glory for this," Evans said. "I'm proud to work with such a progressive group who recognized the risk and decided to take a proactive approach to protect the citizens of Hodgkins. I believe their actions will prevent the loss of life." ■



State Farm First Insurance Company To Support Home Fire Sprinkler Effort

The nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) has announced that State Farm Insurance is the first representative of the insurance industry to join HFSC's Steering Committee.

"From the Coalition's earliest days our strategic planning process identified the

home insurance industry as an important partner for HFSC's work," explained Coalition Chair Gary Keith. "By stepping forward in strong and visible support of improving residential fire safety, State Farm has made a pioneering move that will help HFSC achieve our public safety mission."

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Support the Updates for NFPA 101 "Life Safety Code" and 5000 "Building Safety and Construction Code"

By Todd Fonfara, President, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association (IFIA)

Residential Sprinklers

The Technical Committee on Residential Occupancies for both 101 – *Life Safety Code*, and 5000 – *Building Safety and Construction Code*, has voted to change the requirements for One- and Two-Family Occupancies requiring the installation of sprinklers in new structures.

Organizations who will speak against this proposal will argue that there is not a cost/benefit for the change, that it will increase homeowners insurance, increase costs due to changes in water meters and backflow devices and cause the price of new housing to increase and prevent people with limited finances from purchasing new homes.

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is providing cost/benefit information. Additional information includes firefighter injury and death rates in these occupancies as evidence during the NFPA 5000 discussions. NFPA 5000 has specific language for firefighter safety within the administrative section, and the scope of 5000 Technical Committees includes the consideration of Life Safety, Property Conservation, Mission Continuity, and Firefighter Safety.

Relocation vs. Evacuation In Schools

There is a push to permit student relocation in lieu of evacuation when the fire alarm is activated, as a result of tragedies such as the shooting at Columbine High School. The Technical Committee for Educational and Day Care Occupancies rejected these proposals reminding the submitter that relocation through approved horizontal exits is already permitted in the code. Otherwise the total life safety

package for Educational Occupancies is based on the rapid evacuation of these buildings when the fire alarm is activated. Columbine type incidents are unique and do not represent the normal daily risks students are exposed to.

The Technical Report Session will open the floor to all interested parties for comment at 2 pm Wednesday June 8, 2005 at the NFPA World Safety Conference & Exposition at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas. Visit www.nfpa.org to obtain more information about the conference and registration for the Technical Report Session.

You do not have to be an NFPA member to comment on the floor. You have to have been a member of NFPA for 180 days prior to June 8, 2005 to be able to vote at this session.

After the membership floor vote, the proposal is sent to the balanced Standards Council for final action. Either way the vote goes, support is needed at the Standards Council meeting which will be July 25-29 in Boston.

If this code change is approved, it will appear in the 2006 editions of 101 and 5000. NFPA 101 is currently adopted in 36 states (including Illinois) and used in all 50 states. NFPA 5000 is still rather new, but has been adopted by the state of California and has local adoptions in Illinois, Maine, and Texas.

If anyone intends on attending the Standards Council meeting, you must send a letter to Casey Grant (Secretary) at NFPA headquarters at least one month prior to the meeting so he can organize the agenda based on the amount of testimony.

For more information contact IFIA at (847) 756-4750 or NIFSAB. ■

Mount Prospect Moves to Top of NIFSAB Safety List

The City of Mount Prospect now has the honor of being the number one municipality at the top of the fire safety list. Based on up-to-date building and fire codes, along with minimum square footage requirements for fire sprinkler protection, Mount Prospect moved above long-time leader Wheeling. There are 154 municipalities and fire districts in the Chicago area on the list.

In December of 2004, Mayor Gerald L. "Skip" Farley and council members Timothy J. Corcoran, Paul W. Hoefert, Richard M. Lohrstorfer, Michael W. Skowron, Irvana K. Wilks, and Michael A. Zadel proved that the safety of their residents and firefighters was of the utmost importance by passing an ordinance requiring multi-family buildings be retrofitted and new manufactured homes be protected with fire sprinklers. Chief Mike Figolah and Fire Marshal Paul Valentine recommended the ordinance.

Before the ordinance was passed, Mt. Prospect was already near the top of the list because of its zero minimum square foot fire sprinkler requirement and its NFPA 13D ordinance requiring fire sprinklers in all new single-family homes.

This friendly upset in the standings only benefits the residents of both communities and increases the level of safety for responding police and firefighters.

While we congratulate Mount Prospect, we hope their reign at the top is not as long as Wheeling. Hopefully other communities will also strive for the top and realize how important it is to upgrade their codes and continue to make progressive improvements. ■

One Thousand Hoffman Estates Homes Protected with Fire Sprinklers

Five years after Hoffman Estates passed an ordinance requiring automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new homes, more than 1,000 single-family homes and the families who live in them are protected.

First, Hoffman Estates passed an ordinance in 2000 requiring sprinklers only in "heat" producing areas such as furnace rooms, dryer, fireplace and stove areas. One year later, the Village realized the ordinance resulted in two-thirds of the fire sprinkler systems in place

without protection where most people died in home fires, bedrooms and family rooms. The other disadvantage with the original ordinance was that residents couldn't benefit from fire insurance reductions of 5-20%. So the ordinance was revised one year later to protect the entire home according to NFPA 13D.

Special thanks to Mayor William McLeod, Trustees Susan Kenley-Rupnow, Edwin Frank, Lloyd Boester, Rodney Rusakiewicz, Cary Collins and Fire Chief John Mayer.

According to NIFSAB's Tom Lia, credit goes to former Fire Marshal Hank Clemmenson, Pat Fortunato, former Chief James Eaves, Deputy Chief Robert Gorvett, former Mayor Michael O'Meally (deceased), Mayor McLeod and the trustees who voted in favor of the revised ordinance that protects the lives of the people who live in Hoffman Estates.

Thank you also to the Fire Prevention Bureau staff of Scott Neil, Mario Tristan and Kurt Edelman who helped educate homeowners about fire sprinklers! ■

NFPA 13D Summit

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area have adopted the ordinance, so I thought it would be good to host the meeting to help bring everyone in this area together.”

Maggos led the discussion by describing his ordinance and program. He talked about the importance of keeping his mayor and elected officials educated and informed.

Lia gave a summary of the current status of Chicago area municipalities and fire districts that had NFPA 13D ordinances. At the time, 21 towns had 13D and 37 had zero minimum square foot ordinances. Since then, Hickory Hills passed a 13D ordinance (see related story, back page.)

Lia talked about the importance of sharing information from national resources like the U.S. Fire Administration (FEMA) *America Burning* and *America Burning Re-Commissioned* reports, the USFA's *National Residential Fire Sprinkler Initiative and Solutions 2000*.

“All of these reports have firm data that support the 13D ordinance,” Lia said. “The data is very clear. Residential fire sprinklers save lives and property and protect firefighters. Everyone in the room knows that homes are where the fire problem exists in our country and here in Chicago. Eighty percent of fire deaths occur in the homes.”

Lia said the summit is an excellent forum to discuss concerns or issues specifically related to the Northern Illinois area. “We had an excellent discussion about the importance of strict adherence to the standard vs. flexibility. At all costs, the group agreed that pipes should not be installed in areas that are not heated.”

The group also discussed what Lia said is the “Barrington insulation method”: the pipes are boxed in with plywood and R38 insulation is used. The group also discussed the insulation techniques described in NFPA 13D.

Jim Schifiliti of Fire Safety Consultants gave a presentation on “Keeping with the Standard,” how NFPA 13D was developed, and an explanation of the compromises in 13D such as the two sprinkler flow and why small closets and bathrooms do not have to have sprinklers.

“This summit is a great opportunity to explain what NFPA 13D is and what it is not,” said Schifiliti. “There was a lot of positive energy in the room and plenty of questions from those who are working toward the ordinance in their towns.”

The group also shared their thoughts about extra optional ordinance requirements such as horns and strobes, extra sprinklers in non-required rooms, prohibiting the use of plastic pipe (CPVC) that would add to the cost.

Bill Winzentsen, Alliance Fire Protection, developed a sample plan from a job in Mat-teson. His plans included hydraulic calculations and product catalog cuts.

Lia followed with a review of the changes in the State of Illinois Plumbing Code in reference to Backflow Prevention.

The program ended with a preview of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition’s new builder education video entitled, “Built for Life.”

The fire service attendees said they would continue scheduling 13D summits since they are an outstanding resource for all. “I’m always amazed at how much I learned at the end of the day,” Maggos said. ■

State Farm

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Key to increasing the availability of sprinklered homes are powerful financial incentives, such as discounts on homeowner’s insurance policies. State Farm offers its customers with sprinklered homes in the U.S. and Canada a 5-10% discount on their insurance premium.

“This is a valuable partnership to help save lives and protect property,” said Vice President Stephanie Colegrove, State Farm’s Property & Casualty Operations. It just fits with our ‘Good Neighbor’ beliefs. It is appropriate for State Farm, the largest home insurer in the United States, to take a leadership role in homeowners safety and property protection.” The Bloomington, IL company insures one of five homes in the U.S. ■

Happy 25th Anniversary

Kelly P. Reynolds and Associates

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For more information,
call 1-800-950-CODE

BURNING ISSUES

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

Contractor Licensing Act in Effect

It’s up to you to enforce the new Contractor Licensing Act. Before reviewing a plan, ask contractors for a copy of their license issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The license number should be clearly visible in the legend on the front of the plan.

For a copy of a sample plan review check list following NFPA 13, send an email to: sprinktoml@aol.com. ■



BURNING ISSUES is a feature of the Fire Sprinkler Times that highlights a special legislative issue. Contact Tom Lia to submit your special issues.

Questions on codes and standards?

Go to www.nfpa.org or Fire Prevention Week



RETRO s e c t i o n

Waukegan Shelter Provides Food, Clothing and A Fire Safe Place to Live

After the Holy Family Catholic Church moved to a new location, Community Social Services of Waukegan received an occupational permit to transform the former church and rectory into a food and clothing pantry and housing for homeless people in transition. The 80-year-old complex also includes a school building, which has served as a soup kitchen and permanent housing for people in need. The soup kitchen has been in service for more than 20 years.

According to Steve Lenzi, Waukegan Fire Marshal, under the "change in use" code, the building was required to be retrofit with an automatic fire sprinkler system. The organization already had plans to renovate the 14,000 sq. ft. school, 5,000 sq. ft. church and 4,500 sq. ft. rectory. Fire sprinkler contractor U.S. Fire Protection agreed to donate the system design, engineering and material. Sprinkler Fitters Local 281 agreed to donate some of the labor.

According to Dave Eglsaer, Operations Manager, U.S. Fire Protection, the installation of the system proved somewhat challenging because of the design and age of the building.

"The building has plaster ceilings and old masonry walls," Eglsaer said. "The project was a challenge because we were on a fast track to get the system installed because opera-

tions needed to open as soon as possible. We were able to stay on schedule."

According to Dennis Mudd, Community Social Services Administrator, it was important to keep the job moving as quickly and smoothly as possible because of the services the organization provided and the scope of the project. The food and clothing pantry assists 25,000 people per year and the soup kitchen serves between 150 and 200 meals per night. The soup kitchen remained open during the renovations. The other services were not available for about five months.

"Thanks to the generosity of U.S. Fire Protection, we were able to keep the project moving forward and have the fire sprinkler system installed," Mudd said. "They were extremely generous and very easy to work with. We were doing a tremendous amount of other renovations at the same time as the fire sprinkler installation."

"We are happy to see an older building that provides housing for the homeless be protected with a fire sprinkler system," Lenzi said. "So many people will now be protected from fire. Of course we are always happy when older buildings are retrofit with sprinklers because it's also safer for our firefighters." ■



Waukegan Fire Marshal Steve Lenzi and Community Social Services Administrator Dennis Mudd check out the fire sprinkler riser.

RETRO-SECTION is a feature of the *Fire Sprinkler Times* that highlights a special retrofit project. Contact Tom Lia to submit a special project.

Wayne Leucht Award

continued from page 1

Two years later he became a paid firefighter. From there, he moved up the ranks until he became chief in 1985.

Leahy said he learned about the importance of fire sprinkler protection throughout his career, but he became heavily involved in fire prevention as a department inspector in 1982.

"There were many situations in which fire sprinklers would have prevented damage and loss," Leahy said. I experienced two fire deaths. One was a fire in a single family home, and the other was in a multi-family home. Both deaths would have been prevented if fire sprinklers were installed in the buildings."

Leahy said fire sprinkler protection in new construction is important because of the types of homes being built in Clarendon Hills. Approximately 65 homes per year are demolished and replaced with new homes.

"The new homes are 4,000 to 5,000 square feet, and two to three stories," Leahy said. "They are built to zoning limits. The sprinklers protect the occupants, their neighbors, and our firefighters. Today, roughly 300 homes in Clarendon Hills are protected by fire sprinklers.

"I'm honored to receive this award," Leahy said. "I grew up in Clarendon Hills. I'm proud to play a role in making it one of the safest communities when it comes to fire safety. I'm proud to receive this award because of that work."

Leahy is the sixth recipient of the Leucht Memorial Award, following Chief Maclsaac of Wheeling Fire Department, Chief Danley of Barrington Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief Dan Tholotowsky of Pleasantview Fire Protection District, Division Chief Alan Berkowsky of Evanston Fire Department and Robert Nielsen, Director, Fire Prevention Bureau, Westmont Fire Department.

Leahy will receive the award, along with a \$2,500 donation to the charity of his choice, at The 10th Annual Illinois Burn Camp Golf Invitational, the Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan on June 6th. ■

Questions on college dorms
or Greek housing fire safety?

Go to www.campus-firewatch.com

CAMPUS
Firewatch



Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

www.firesprinklerassoc.org

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For more information about fire sprinklers, contact Tom Lia, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, 866-2NIFSAB (866-264-3722)

You can also contact Tom via e-mail: sprinktoml@aol.com



Hickory Hills Is 22nd Chicago-Area Town to Pass Single-Family Fire Sprinkler Ordinance

In an effort to increase fire safety and protect its citizens, the Hickory Hills City Council unanimously approved an ordinance requiring the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new construction homes.

The ordinance requires all new, single-family homes to have home fire sprinklers installed according to NFPA 13D. The ordinance also requires fire sprinklers in commercial buildings with major additions.

"We passed this ordinance for the public's health, safety and welfare," said Mayor Michael Howley.

Howley said he first learned about residential fire sprinklers when he met with Chief William Doherty, Roberts Park Fire Protection District, and Chief Richard McKeon, North Palos Fire Protection District. The two fire districts protect Hickory Hills.

"Both had residential fire sprinklers at the top of their lists," Howley said. "So I felt we should take it to the next step. But we wanted to make sure it wouldn't stall any new develop-

ment. So we asked our building commissioner to check it out."

According to Howley, they found no adverse effects from residential fire sprinkler ordinances. Instead, they heard positive responses from other mayors, elected officials and village managers.

"Everyone did their research," Howley said. "We have a great city council that works as a team. Safety is very important to all of us. We looked at all sides of this issue. We feel we made a very good decision that will improve the life safety of our residents and our firefighters."

"Hickory Hills Mayor Howley and the City Council members have made a quantum leap in fire protection for the future of new buildings and residents of Hickory Hills," said Tom Lia, NIFSAB Executive Director. Hickory Hills improved their ranking in fire protection codes amongst the political entities encompassed in a ten county region in the Chicago area from No. 121 to No. 5. "To make such an improvement in a town's fire protection code is quite an accomplishment," said Lia.

NIFSAB provided national reports, Power-Point programs, cost comparisons, insurance research, and other audio/visual support materials used to educate the elected officials.

Besides Mayor Howley, the aldermen involved in the passage of this ordinance were Louis E. DeRose, Tom McAvoy, Michael S. McHugh, John G. Moirano, Kathleen J. Riley, Joseph M. Stachnik II, John Szeszycki, Scott Zimmerman, and Building Commissioner Gordon Betcher, along with Roberts Park Fire Protection District's Fire Inspector Joseph Duffy.

Other municipalities that require residential fire sprinklers include: Barrington, Berkeley, Clarendon Hills, Countryside Fire Protection District, Glen Ellyn, Hoffman Estates, Huntley Fire Protection District, Indian Creek, La Grange Park, Lake Barrington, Long Grove, Matteson, Mount Prospect, North Maine Fire Protection District, Park Ridge, Round Lake Beach, Skokie, Streamwood, West Dundee, Long Grove Fire Protection District and Wheeling. Several other communities are also progressing toward this goal.

For a copy of the presentation materials and ordinance used at Hickory Hills, contact NIFSAB at (708) 403-4468 or send an email to: sprinktoml@aol.com. ■