

Summer
2021

National
Independent
Fire Alarm
Distributors

NIFADNews

this issue

Business Forecasts **P. 2**

NIFAD Board **P. 2**

Codes & Standards Update **P. 3-6**

Calendar of Events

**2021 NIFAD
Annual Meeting**
September. 30. -
October 1, 2021
Nashville, TN

*Details to follow
In the near future*

*Mark your
calendar
and plan
to attend!*



From the President's Desk

By Jarrett Ryan, NIFAD President

Fellow NIFAD Members,

It is amazing how different the world is from one (1) year ago today. Many of us were working diligently in our businesses, trying to keep employees working and safe, and navigating the never-ending hurdles the pandemic had placed in front of us. Now our businesses are back to pre-pandemic levels (hopefully) and we are navigating new challenges in finding employees and getting to all of our customers. Things move fast and it is a challenge for us to always keep pace or one step ahead.

As we continue to move past the pandemic and resume some of our favorite activities, I am happy to announce that the NIFAD Board of Directors is diligently planning to get our association back together again in person this year! There will be more details to share soon but be on the lookout for an announcement for an Annual Conference that will take place in Nashville, TN in late Q3/early Q4. This will be an

opportunity to network once again with fellow members, to share stories, and hopefully find engaging conversation that will help you navigate your business in this post-pandemic world, while having fun in the country music capital! We are excited for the opportunity to bring everyone together outside of our traditional NFPA meeting format and hope you can all join us in Nashville. Stay tuned!

In closing, I wanted to also let the membership know that there will be two (2) Board of Director spots opening for 2022. If you are interested in participating, please let Bev know and we can provide more details on the commitment to serve on our Board. NIFAD is a great volunteer, industry group and it takes volunteers like you to help keep the association moving forward into the future.

Enjoy a happy and safe summer!

Sincerely,
Jarret Ryan

Forecasts From The Kiplinger Letter

NIFAD Board

President
Jarret Ryan
Protegis Fire & Safety
jryan@protegis.com

Vice President
Mark Murrell
American Fire
markm@americanfire.com

Past President
Anna Gavin
Fireline Corporation
agavin@fireline.com

Treasurer
Steve DeFacci
Northwest Fire Suppression
steve@nwfire.com

DIRECTORS

Doug Richard
Midwest Alarm
Doug.Richard@mw-as.com

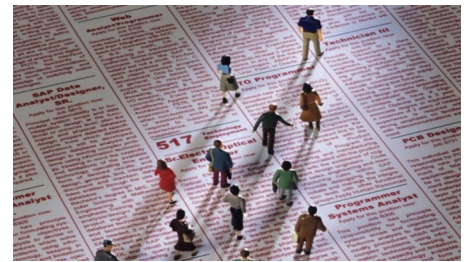
Jim Arizini
Keystone Fire Protection Co.
Jim.arizini@keystonefire.com

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback throughout the year, please feel free to reach out to any of these members.

Additionally, if you have any member referrals, please forward them to any board member for follow up.

LABOR

Public schools may soon join the list of employers struggling to find workers. Nationwide, there are 900,000 fewer people employed by public schools either open or planning to return to in-person classes by this fall, schools may find themselves short-staffed,



It's more than just a shortage of teachers looming. It's all the support staff. Most teachers kept their jobs while school went online during the pandemic. Other workers...custodians, building maintenance personnel, etc...were more prone to getting laid off or finding work in other sectors when COVID-19 closed schools.

That means even more competition for scarce labor for other employers if schools go on a hiring scramble to staff up...not what hiring managers need.

PAID LEAVE

The debate over paid parental leave on Capitol Hill is heating up. Congress is considering a 12-week, federally run paid-leave program as part of President Biden's American Families Plan. In the meantime, several lawmakers have proposed stand-alone bills to address the issue.

Support among Democrats for a paid-leave program continues to grow.

Expect them to hold firm on including it in the American Families Plan, even as Republicans oppose mandates and tax increases to pay for the proposal. Note that such legislation is expected to pass along party lines...if it passes at all.

Businesses are also slowly warming to the idea, at least in theory, as a substitute for the current patchwork of state and local paid-leave laws, a headache for many companies. At least nine states (plus Washington, D. C.) have family and medical leave programs covering most private-sector workers.

BUSINESS PROBLEMS


Problems businesses are now facing fall into these three major themes. Shipping woes...delays and rising costs. Not enough workers to hire. And shortages of needed materials and parts.

These complaints crop up again and again. Lumber, steel and other building materials, are hard or impossible to get, and very costly. Workers scarce, especially good workers. Wages rising fast, and still too few job applicants. All sorts of freight shipping issues: Not enough trucks or drivers. Ocean shipping rates soaring and service unreliable.



Codes & Standards Updates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Development of future codes & standards that will enhance public life safety are as follows:
 - a. 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code (IFC): Numerous proposals were approved during the Committee Action Hearing (CAH) relating to mass notification, low frequency, lithium off-gas detection, ERCES, carbon monoxide (CO) detection and notification appliances
 - b. 2024 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000, Building Construction and Safety Code: The Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) and the Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) submitted ten public inputs (PI's) relating to carbon monoxide (CO) detection, smoke detection, area of rescue assistance and ERCES
 - c. The NFPA 72 Committee approved two tentative interim amendments (TIA) seeking to change the placement requirements of smoke alarms/smoke detectors installed near fixed cooking appliances for the 2019 and the proposed 2022 edition of NFPA 72
 - d. 2023 Edition of NFPA 715: Several public comments were submitted on behalf of the Committee related to the latest combustible gas detection research
 2. State and federal legislation that will have an impact on public life safety and the demand for HFS offerings are as follows:
 - a. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam signed HB 1823 into law which requires CO detection in each public school and each child daycare facility built before 2015
 - b. Florida bill H1209 (that amends section 633.202(18) of the Florida Fire Prevention Code) was signed by the Governor. The ERCES provision begins on line 1009.
 - c. The 2021 Michigan legislative session ended without the ERCES bill being approved by either House or the Senate
 - d. NEMA sent letters of support along with recommended modifications to bills introduced in the New York, Maine, New Jersey, and Massachusetts legislatures seeking to require the installation of combustible gas detection devices in residential occupancies having appliances fueled by propane or natural gas
 3. Several new Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) projects that will enhance public life safety and may create more demand for HFS offerings are as follows:
 - a. The SBC submitted a project request to determine the temperature at which critical voice messages being transmitted by the public safety emergency responder communications enhancement system (ERCES) backbone cables/connectors will be impacted from fire to the point where messages are no longer intelligible
 - b. NEMA submitted a project request relating to Intelligent Evacuation (IE) that seeks to identify peer reviewed behavioral studies that will determine if IE improves occupant evacuation and ascertain if there are any product listing or installation standards
- 

Codes & Standards Updates Continued

c. A project that will review currently available peer-reviewed studies on the various alternative alarm/detection technologies, such as bed shakers and portable vibrating devices, to determine if they improve the waking of people who are deaf and the hearing-impaired community

DETAIL REPORT

1. Development of Future Codes & Standards:

a. 2024 IFC: Below is a summary of key actions during the CAH.

- Mass Notification: Require a risk analysis to be performed prior to construction of a new K-12 school building requiring a fire alarm system having an occupant load of 500 or more
- Low Frequency: Require a 520Hz low frequency signal in sleeping rooms of I-1 occupancies (assisted living facilities, convalescent facilities, alcohol/drug centers....)
- Lithium Batter Off Gas Detection:
 - o Require an owner of an existing lithium battery energy storage system (ESS) without a battery management system to perform a hazard mitigation analysis (HMA) and if the HMA determines thermal runaway protection is needed, then a listed method for detecting and mitigating thermal runaway will be required
 - o Require a fire alarm system activated by an air sampling-type smoke detection or a radiant energy-sensing detection system to be installed in a room or space within a Group B, F, M and S occupancies where R&D, testing, manufacturing/storage of lithium batteries
- In-Building Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement System (ERCES):
 - o Approved 15 proposals that will enhance the performance/reliability of in-building ERCES
 - o Disapproved a proposal seeking to exclude non high-rise buildings and non-underground buildings from installing an ERCES
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection: Prohibit duct mounted CO detectors from being installed in lieu of “open area” CO detectors are required by the Code. This is important because there are several manufacturers/competitors selling duct CO detectors even though there is no performance listing for duct mounted CO detectors
- Notification Appliances: Replace the current requirement for a 120VAC bell (that is mounted on the exterior of the building) to be activated by the sprinkler system with a requirement that the notification appliance must be an audible/visible device connected to the fire alarm system

b. 2024 Edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code: Below is a summary of public inputs. The next step is the Committee first draft meeting then the public comment phase.

Codes & Standards Updates Continued

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection: Prohibit duct mounted CO detectors from being installed in lieu of “open area” CO detectors are required by the Code. This is important because there are several manufacturers/competitors selling duct CO detectors even though there is no performance listing for duct mounted CO detectors
- Smoke Detection: Reduce unwanted alarms by changing the placement requirements for smoke alarms and smoke detectors being installed near stationary or fixed cooking appliances
- Area of Rescue Assistance: Require two-way communication systems used for area of rescue assistance to be listed as complying with UL 2525 and installed in accordance with NFPA 72.
- Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES): Seeks to make the minimum in-building emergency responder communications signal strength requirement in NFPA 1225 mandatory and to align the design, installation, testing, inspection, and maintenance requirements in NFPA 101 with the proposed changes to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code.

c. NFPA 72 (TIA): The approved TIA’s are 1567 and 1568. A TIA is the official process for amending a published NFPA code or standard. The TIA’s modified the requirements in the 2019 and soon to be released 2022 edition to align with the new effective date of the UL smoke detection listing standards to allow manufacturers time to meet the new listing requirements and provide product to the marketplace.

d. 2023 Edition of NFPA 715: The Fuel Gas Warning Equipment installation standard is in the public comment phase and the TG was formed to develop PCs based on the recently released Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) report Combustible Gas Dispersion in Residential Occupancies and Detector Location Analysis

2. State and Federal Legislation:

a. Virginia: Even though the effective date of the bill is 7/1/2021, the date may have to be delayed because rules need to be promulgated to implement the requirements of the new statute.

b. Florida: The bill extends the compliance date for buildings to meet the state’s current requirement for minimum radio coverage in all new and existing buildings from 1/1/2022 to 1/1/2025. Even though HB 1209 extends the compliance date by three years, it is a far better outcome than the other bills that were seeking to exempt all buildings 4 stories or less from meeting Florida’s current emergency responder radio strength requirements.

c. Michigan Bill HB 5992: The bill was seeking to require emergency responder communications enhancement systems in K-12 schools undergoing an alteration. The bill sponsor and the Michigan Fire Chiefs Association intend to re-introduce the bill during the next legislative session.

d. Combustible Gas Detection Bills: Modifications to the all four bills are needed because they do not require detectors to be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions or to be listed in accordance with the UL 1484 product standard

Check the website for current news and information on events for our organization.

Newsletters, conference brochures, industry links and conference registration forms can also be found on the website, NIFAD.com.



Meet Gia Margareta Schwindler, born June 11th. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and is 19 " long. Jesse says she is happy, healthy and hungry!

Congratulations to Jesse Schwindler, Signature Systems of Florida.



Codes & Standards Updates Continued

3. Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF):

a. Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES):

– The project is needed because the 2016 and 2019 edition of NFPA 1221, the ERCES installation standard, require riser/backbone cables to be installed within a fire-rated enclosure/protected area and have survivability of Level 1, 2 or 3. Levels 2 and 3 require a 2-hour fire-rated cable or fire-rated enclosure/protected area. This requirement adds considerable cost to the installation of an ERCES and is unsubstantiated as there is no technical data to justify installing ERCES cables/connectors in a 2-hour fire-rated enclosure/protected area.

– The project will require a large-scale test to determine the operational capabilities of the RF cables/connectors utilized in the riser/backbone during fire conditions. Currently the FPRF is seeking funding for the project.

b. Intelligent Evacuation (IE): The project request is under review FPRF. This information collected by the project is necessary for adding requirements to model codes for the installation of IE systems.

c. Waking Effectiveness: This research project is necessary because these vibrating devices are not standardized, and their effectiveness is not fully understood.

Author

Richard Roberts

Industry Affairs Manager

Honeywell | Security and Fire

3825 Ohio Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174

1-630-338-7025

Richard.roberts@systemsensor.com