



National Independent Fire Alarm Distributors Association

August 2017

Calendar of Events

ISC East

November 15-16, 2017

Javits Center, NY

AFAA National Codes Conference

May 21 - 24, 2018

Philadelphia, PA

NIFAD

Annual Meeting

June 9-11, 2018

Las Vegas, NV

NFPA

Convention

June 11-14, 2018

Las Vegas, NV



Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

From the President's Desk

There is no school, training class or seminar that I learn from more than I do from my peer groups. A peer group and an industry group, NIFAD continues to be one of the best resources for my business. And our members would agree. The Town Hall is consistently rated the highlight of the conference. And how could it not? Learning from each other, hearing successes and failures, getting insight into business opportunities – this is what gives our member's companies a competitive edge.



This year's NIFAD meeting in Boston was no exception. We learned from one another, engaged in debate, and walked away with advice for our businesses. I can site multiple times when I have made business decisions that are a direct result of information I received from NIFAD. Thank you all who contributed to the meeting this year. I hope your time spent at the meeting was as effective as mine. And for those who were unable to make it this year, we know you were there in spirit and we look forward to seeing you in Vegas in 2018.

I have to admit; my ego loves that I get to claim the title of NIFAD's first female president (who doesn't love being a first?). I look forward to taking on this role and cannot wait to see what we will accomplish. The past six years on this board gave me considerable time to learn from our past presidents; Mike Guetzke, Chuck Muchoney, and most recently Mike Nelson. I am honored to be included in a group with these men and will do my best to bring value to NIFAD as they have. Our focus this year will be on membership growth and benefits. The more we can connect as members, the more we will find opportunities to help our own businesses. If anyone has suggestions, please reach out to myself or Bev Thomas and we will look into them.

Thank you again for your continued support of NIFAD and best of luck moving forward with a successful 2017!

NIFAD President
Anna Gavin

R2's Code Corner

by Richard Roberts, Industry Affairs Manager

NIFAD Newsletter

Codes and Standards Update

1. 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code (IFC):
 - The Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) has established two Work Groups to determine if changes are needed for the fire alarm and CO detection sections of the next edition of the IFC. The deadline for submitting change proposals is 1/8/18.
 - IFC Alignment with NFPA 72: The IFC mandates when and what type of a fire alarm system is to be installed in a particular occupancy classification. Whereas NFPA 72 specifies how the system is to be installed. It has been several revision cycles since the fire alarm requirements in the IFC has been compared with NFPA 72. WG has been formed to remove any discrepancies.
 - CO Detection:
 - At present the IFC only requires CO detection in new hotels, apartment buildings, dormitories, assisted living facilities, hospitals and K-12 schools. In recent years New York and New Jersey passed legislation requiring CO detection in all new and existing commercial occupancies. In the absence of a model code for the installation of CO detection in all commercial occupancies each state developed their own regulations with varying installation requirements. In an effort to provide uniformity across the country a proposal is being considered that will provide guidelines for jurisdictions seeking to mandate CO detection in commercial occupancies not currently covered in the IFC.
 - At present the Code only requires CO detection in dwelling units, sleeping units or classrooms containing a fuel-burning appliance (FBA) of existing buildings. After the death of a 13-year old boy from a faulty FBA pool heater located remotely from the hotel sleeping rooms a proposal is being considered that will expand the CO detection requirements to locations where the FBA is located outside of dwelling units, sleeping units or classrooms.
2. State Legislation:
 - Michigan:
 - HB 4660 was introduced seeking to require CO detection in existing hotels after a faulty hotel pool heater killed a 13-year old boy and injured more than a dozen people. The bill seeks to expand the current law beyond requiring CO detection in hotels constructed after 12/1/09 to include all existing hotels. A Senate companion bill is being drafted.
 - HB 4758 amends the current Construction of School Buildings Act to require CO detection devices in all new and existing schools by 10/1/17. An amendment to the current version of the bill seeks to include the compulsory listing, power supply and location requirements.
 - Florida
 - The Governor signed HB 1021 into law requiring the Florida Building Commission to continue updating the state's Building Code on a three-year cycle.
 - Keeping Florida on a three-year revision cycle is important because the Florida Building Commission will legally mandated to adopt the 2018 edition of the International Building Code (IBC) in three years which contains new requirements for CO detection, mass notification and emergency voice alarm communication (EVAC) systems.

- Most states currently update their building and residential codes every three years to incorporate advances in safety and operational efficiency. However in recent years several states have introduced legislation to lengthen the state code revision cycle from three-years to six-years. Several reasons behind the shift to a longer cycle are:
 - States are facing severe budget deficits and extending the code revision cycle from a three-year to six-year period will save them money.
 - Home Builders Associations claim changes to the building codes are raising the cost of new homes and contributing to the decline in residential construction.

3. Federal Energy Efficiency Legislation:

- 2011 Energy Policy and Conservation Act:
 - The United States Senate passed bill S.190 (fix-it bill) that seeks to extend the exemption beyond 7/1/17 for external power supplies (EPS) used in life safety systems from the Federal no-load mode energy efficiency requirement.
 - The next step for S.190 is for the House of Representatives to pass the Senate bill in September when they are back in town and then send it to the President.
 - In an effort to provide the industry with interim relief, until the fix-it bill is signed into law, I am working with Honeywell/NEMA/SIA Government Relations to get a letter from the Department of Energy (DoE) saying they will not enforce the (EPS) used in security/life safety systems.
 - The provision in the 2011 Act exempting life safety (security and Fire) external power supplies from having to meet the no-load mode requirement expired on 7/1/17 after U.S. Senate failed to pass a bill in 2016.

4. Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF):

- Smoke Detector Spacing for High Ceiling Spaces:
 - A FPRF research project concluded there is insufficient data available to add spacing reduction requirements to NFPA 72 when installing smoke detectors in high ceiling applications
 - The genesis of the research project is there are no prescriptive requirements in NFPA 72 for installing smoke detector on ceilings between 10 and 30 feet. However, there is a table that allows for reduction of spacing for heat detection. There has been confusion in design and code enforcement on what to do when smoke detectors are installed on higher ceilings.
 - The research conducted a literature review of all currently available test data and develop a research plan to fill the knowledge gaps. Depending on the data collected the findings of the research may be used for changes to NFPA 72 and the model fire codes (International Fire Code and NFPA 101).

5. Development of Future Codes and Installation Standards:

- 2019 Edition of NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*:
 - The 2016 Code is undergoing revision and the Committee actions during the Second Draft meetings are the second of three a stage process for the development of the 2019 edition of the Code. The major actions of interest to NIFAD members are as follows. The next step in the process is the official balloting of the Committee actions which will take place in September.
 - Smoke Detection: The below changes relating to the cooking resistant listing were approved.
 - 2019 Edition: Changed the effective date for smoke alarms/detectors to be listed for resistance to normal cooking activities from 1/1/19 to 1/1/22. The reason for extending the date is due to the delay in getting the new UL testing facilities operational and to allow manufacturers time to utilize the UL facility to finalize product development and performance metrics. Even if the new UL fire test room was operational as of

today (which it is not) the industry would have less than three years to get their product designed/listed and it has been a long standing industry position that manufacturers need a minimum of three years to develop product.

- 2016 Edition: Approved a draft Tentative Interim Amendments (TIA) to change the effective date for the cooking listing from 1/1/19 to 1/1/22. The next step is to seek an author and two endorsements (people/organizations) to support to TIA.
- Household Control Units Communicating to Supervising Stations: One section of Public Comment #121 would have allowed smoke or CO detectors to transmit signals directly to a supervising station without going through a control unit listed as complying with UL 985. The Chapter 29 Committee rejected that portion of the PC thereby retaining the requirement that all off premises communication must go through a household control unit.
- Household CO Detection Systems: The Chapter 29 Committee recommended amending a First Revision change (FR 1510) that increased the secondary supply of household carbon monoxide control units (listed as complying with UL 985) from 4 minutes of alarm operation to 12 hours of alarm. The Committee created two Second Revisions.
 1. Recommended approval of HSF Public Comment #508 which establishes a future effective date of 1/1/22 for the secondary power source of the household carbon monoxide system to be capable of operating the system for at least 12 hours of alarm. This change allows engineering sufficient time to redesign HSF household control units.
 2. Recommended approval of PC 51 which exempts the secondary power source of a household carbon monoxide system from operating the system for 12 hours of alarm if battery powered carbon monoxide detectors and battery powered carbon monoxide audible notification appliances incorporating a low-power radio (wireless detectors and horns) transmitter/transceivers are capable of providing at least 24 hours in the normal condition, followed by 12 hours of alarm.
- Low Frequency: Public Comment #489 was rejected. The PC was seeking to require a consistent use of the 520 Hz low frequency audible fire alarm signal. As currently written NFPA 72 stipulates both the 520 Hz and 3 KHz signal when smoke alarms are installed in the sleeping rooms of hotels, dormitories and apartment building bedrooms when smoke alarms are installed in the sleeping room. This conflict within NFPA 72 presents a life safety issue because the wakening effectiveness of the 520 Hz low frequency is superior to 3 KHz audible alarm signal awakening high risk segments of the population.
- Visual Notification Appliances (Strobes): Based on research conducted by UL the Chapter 18 Committee recommended amending a First Revision that prohibited the pulse duration from exceeding 20-milliseconds to allow a pulse duration up to 100-milliseconds where the alerting capability of the strobe has been demonstrated to be equal to or greater than strobes with a 20-millisecond pulse duration

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NIFAD

Annual Meeting

June 2-4, 2017

Boston, MA



NIFAD annual meeting attendees



NIFAD outgoing president, Mike Nelson, receives a plaque from Anna Gavin, incoming president, recognizing his two years of service. Thanks, Mike, for doing a great job.



Left to right standing: Jarret Ryan Murrell and Anna Gavin
Front: Jarrett Ryan and Steve DeFacci



Sponsor roundtable presentations



NIFAD Annual Meeting Sponsors

*NIFAD says thank you to the following companies
for sponsoring events
at our annual meeting
June 2-4, 2017 in Boston, MA*

HONEYWELL FIRE SYSTEMS

- Saturday Dinner

SAFETY TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

- Saturday Breakfast



MIRCOM

- Saturday Reception

Siemens

- Friday Opening Reception

POTTER SIGNAL

- Sunday Morning Break

SPACE AGE ELECTRONICS

- Saturday Afternoon Break

GENTEX

- Saturday Morning Break

AlarMax

- Door Prizes

**2018
NIFAD Annual Meeting
June 9-11, 2018
Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas**



2018 NIFAD conference.

NIFAD has sleeping rooms blocked June 9-13, 2018.

Our room rate is \$115 single or double for Saturday, June 9th,
and \$55 each night for Sunday June 10th through Wednesday, June 13th.

A daily Resort Fee of \$30 per room, per day plus Clark County room tax will also be charged.

The Luxor offers In-room wireless internet service, Nuture fitness center admission for guests 18 and over, Wi-Fi access in public areas, full service business center, full service concierge and car rental, a pool, eight restaurants and four shows are on the property: Blue Man Goup, Criss Angel Mindfreak Live, Carrot Top Fantasy.

More information will be available in the future.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!