



# **National Independent Fire Alarm Distributors Association**

Summer 2014

## **Calendar of Events**

### **ASIS**

#### **International**

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2014

Atlanta, GA

### **ISC West**

April 15-17, 2015

Las Vegas, NV

### **NFPA Convention**

June 22-25, 2015

Chicago, IL

### **NIFAD**

#### **Annual Meeting**

June 24-25, 2015

Chicago, IL

## **From the President's Desk**

It seems like I was just celebrating the last days of school with my daughters and preparing for a fantastic summer full of sun and fun then I blinked, and we are figuring out school bus schedules and when they will be making their first stop. It truly amazes me how quickly time flies! That's why it's so important to seize the moment and live life to its fullest.



If you have been waiting for the right time to grow your business, it is now. The economy has been steadily improving and forecasts for 2015 are encouraging. The gas and oil industries seem to be providing some stability for overall economic growth. Projections from internet sources indicate a steady growth within those industries over the next ten years. That makes them a very attractive prospect to target. Safety is a major concern on their plate and they typically have monies budgeted. It would be great to hear some success stories from our NIFAD members in any markets where you are seeing success. With all the tragedy and chaos that appears in the news every day, we need to hear the good news. Do whatever you can to make a positive impact on your business, your community, and your life. Infect the people around you with that positive energy.

I believe for those who attended June's Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, you will admit it was a great meeting. Kudos to Mike Nelson for putting a fantastic program together, and to Bev for working all her magic to orchestrate the event. We were extremely fortunate to have two well known and respected members of the fire protection community provide their insight on changes in the current NFPA codes. Mr. Wayne Moore, P.E., focused on specific changes that affected current design requirements and mass notification and emergency communication systems. Mr. Art Black provided a very informative presentation concerning the communication challenges our industries faces. We discussed some possible solutions on how to address communication and how new technology has affected the methods we use, as well as the plans of phone carriers to eliminate all POTS lines in the near future. Mr. Black even offered to write a white paper on NIFAD's behalf addressing the topic. We reviewed our new website forum from which we can exchange questions and request help from the other members using the internet as the communication vehicle. If you haven't signed up for the exclusive "member's only" forum section, do so today. The Town Hall Meeting lived up to its reputation with useful,

business focused dialogue being exchanged with each other. We were able to enjoy some fresh suggestions and opinions from some new members in attendance: Jarret Ryan from ABCO Fire Protection, Cleveland, OH; Phil Lutes and Jesse Schwindler of Signature Systems of Florida, Casselberry, FL. All three willingly participated in the discussions and it truly added to the value and purpose of our Town Hall session. Thank you, gentlemen, for your input and helping us make a better meeting. We also heard from Rufus Webb of WSA systems in Daytona Beach, FL. Rufus has been a part of NIFAD from its inception and we truly appreciate the insight he has provided through the years. It was always straight forward and honest, and kept the proper relevance and perspective of the conversation at hand. Thank you, Rufus, for all you have done for the NIFAD organization.

I also wanted to extend a special and sincere thank you to Frank Tomberlin and Dave DeMeo, from the Honeywell Fire Systems Group, who have supported NIFAD time and time again. Frank had announced his retirement prior to the meeting and Dave announced it right before his financial presentation to the group. We enjoyed your stories and all you had to offer. You brought a special relationship benefit to those who were part of the Notifier distribution system, as well as all the NIFAD members. You will be missed. We wish you the best of luck with your retirement and hope you will stay active within the NIFAD family. It is efforts such as yours that allow our group to exist and grow to help better the fire protection community.

And for those of you who were unable to attend, mark your calendars now for next year's meeting as it is tentatively slated for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Chicago. In an effort to keep attendance high, we will be **following** the NFPA conference so not to interfere with Father's Day, which is Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as to help control cost, having it mid-week instead of over the weekend in the great city of Chicago. We will be setting the itinerary and developing the agenda over the next several months. Once we have it finalized, we will forward the arrangements to all with the specific dates and times.

As we are in the second half of 2014, now is the time to finish strong. Share your current success stories and drive your team's motivation to create new ones. Use the NIFAD group to your benefit. Don't waste time to reinvent the wheel! Use the experience and suggestions from those who work within your industry every day. As quickly as time flies by, you can't afford to wait.

## NFPA Dates



Mark your calendar and plan to attend these NFPA Conferences.

2015	2016	2017
June 22-25	June 13-16	June 4-7
Chicago	Las Vegas	Boston
McCormick Place Convention Center	Mandalay Bay Convention Center	Boston Convention Center & Exhibition Center

## NIFAD Website

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

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

# 2014 NIFAD Annual Meeting June 7-9 • Las Vegas



## New Member Highlight

### Signature Systems of Florida



Since 1988, Signature Systems of Florida has been a premier designer and installer of state-of-the-art life safety solutions for fire, security, sound and communications systems as well as service, monitoring and maintenance agreements. They use the latest in technology to protect their customer's safety and security concerns. Signature Systems provides a full range of product and operational expertise to ensure mission-critical performance, service calls, system monitoring, testing and inspections for commercial buildings of all types.

Signature Systems, is a Florida owned company with a large service and project-based portfolio that includes 20 years of quality, award winning projects.



They are proud of their many repeat customers who continue to do business with them year after year. The key to their success is a highly trained staff of experts and a commitment to customer service. They also work closely with their strategic vendor partners to ensure their staff is trained on the latest products and applications.

The quality and commitment of their employees has made Signature Systems of Florida a leader. They hire and maintain the best technicians available and stress the importance of their commitment to customer satisfaction.

Signature Systems employees technicians are NICET certified experienced inspectors, trained to inspect devices in accordance with NFPA 25, NFPA 72, and NFPA 10 standards. They offer weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual inspection schedules to meet specific regulatory and insurance requirements.

Life safety services include: testing, inspections, maintenance and monitoring of fire alarm systems and burglar alarms, fire sprinkler and extinguisher inspections, custom installation and design services for CCTV and IP cameras, access control systems and sound and communications.

The company's core values are reflected in how they approach customer service, in their pursuit to do the right thing in all circumstances, and in the continual commitment to teaching and learning.

## **UPDATE** from Vic Humm

There are some items that need to have a good eye watching for outcome. The first is the posting of the balloted draft for the 2016 edition of the National Fire Alarm Code to be put up on the floor next June in Chicago for adoption. The Second is the 72 Correlating committee, which I am a principal member, will be meeting in Indianapolis on October 28-29<sup>th</sup> to correlate the actions taken by each respect technical committee of the 72 group. The public posting of the second draft will be on January 16, 2015.

Any public person can read the posting for the NFPA website, committee members have more detailed access. NITMAN's (Notice of Intent To Make A Motion) can be submitted by anyone on a public comment. If a public input {formerly public proposal} was generated by no public comment submitted, then only the public input submitter can submit a NITMAN's after submission are then reviewed by an NFPA assigned staff group, who reports to the Standards Council, which then posts those NITMAN's can be addressed on the floor of the NFPA Annual Meeting. These are called {CAMS} certified amended motions.

If a CAM is passed at the Annual Meeting, then the second draft is will be revised or amended as described in the voted action on the floor. If the resulting action on the floor does not meet the intent of the CAM submitter, then an appeal can be generated within 20 calendar days to the Standards Council for a hearing.

### **Consumer Public Safety Commission Testing Project**

The CPSC is in the middle of completing a project to determine if there is any effect on the application of smoke detector aerosol on the carbon monoxide sensors in dual alarms, both for residential and commercial types. The first phase of testing various models of alarms and detectors is nearly complete as of last week. Then next phase is to do the abuse testing as outlined in UL Standard 217, which includes UL 217, 268, and 268a (duct detectors). Each brand of listed smoke detector testing aerosol is being tested against each of the respective models.

Jim Roberts retired fire marshal of NC and I talked with Arthur Lee of CPSC and he submitted a project for this testing, which was approved. Jim Roberts and I have be working on this since last October and now the project is under way towards completion.

### **Xenon Strobe's vs LED UL 1971 and NFPA 72 Chapter 18 Task Groups**

Controversy has been generated by the submitter of public inputs in regards to the effect of indirect viewing of by building occupants. Indirect viewing means reflected light here, where the light source is not in the field of vision. Currently there are two manufacturers that have listed LED Strobes and they are Mircom's Fire Link Product (formerly Signal Link of Canada) and Cooper.

Currently UL and ULC do not test for Indirect Viewing as the issue has never been raised directly, and there are no parameters available. The concern raised by Tyco was that in human factor testing in a typical 20 ft. by 20 ft. room, human subjects did not respond as quickly to LED Strobe flashes being reflected off a wall directly in front of them. This writer is the Chair of the UL Task Group and this group has not yet established what human factor parameters are important and need to be examined to provide information on which to base a standard, though that is under discussion. Once this is done then hopefully by next spring, if funding is available there will be a proposal from Oklahoma State University to do the experiments with human subjects (as an independent laboratory).

Chapter 18's Technical Committee Task Group is proposing to put a requirement to reduce the pulse width of the flash, which could eliminate the LED as a competing technology. Previously submitted Public Inputs and Comments submitted by the submitter were turned down by Chapter 18 of NFPA 72. The Second Draft Revision Ballots of NFPA 72 for the 2016 edition will be posted for the 72 Correlating Committee in mid-September.

If this passes then, the 72 Correlating Committee will have an issue on the table to resolve. As it stands now, UL 1971 Standard Technical Panel 464, which includes UL 1638 for direct viewing visual appliances and UL 1971 for ADA, have Task Groups that have had six 2 hour teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings.

At a recent meeting at UL in Northbrook and electronic connection with ULC in Toronto. UL's Project person indicated that UL 1638 {Direct Viewing Visual Appliances} and UL 1971 {Hearing impaired or ADA Visual Appliances}, will have new standards generated with the suffix "a". If the successful proposal ballot is confirmed, and the effective dated published, all manufactured visual products will have to comply with the new UL 1638a and UL 1971a. The then existing standards would remain to maintain existing listing on products in the field. However, the respective manufacturers would not be able to replace faulty units in the field listed under the UL 1638 & UL 1971 original standards.

Once the human factors parameters are established and partial testing done, the writer will submit an update that may have to be issued between normal newsletter dates to keep everyone up to date.

There is also harmonization meetings between Canada and the US that is trying to generate a bi-national standard. Canada does not have an equivalent to the US ADA in this respect. However Canada does clearly recognize the needs to assist persons with impairments. So they are following this too.

## **NFPA 72 2016 edition Class "N"**

NFPA 72 in the proposed 2016 edition is recognizing Ethernet technology in terms of communicating pathway transmission. The NFPA 72 Technical Committee on Protected Premise has under ownership chapters 12, 21, & 23. Chapter 24 on Emergency Communications (formerly Mass Notification) does have limited application requirements, but normally refers back to Chapters 12, 21, & 23 for communicating pathway description.

One of the main concerns with the Ethernet usage is when the premise IT has the system down for maintenance or there is an emergency outage. Dallas Fort Worth Airport has a policy in place that requires the IT Department to review planned outages a minimum of one week in advance to seek approval with Security and Fire Protection. They also have a procedure in place should an unexpected emergency outage occur.

In regards to NIFAD members, I would have the designer of record, the GC, and a responsible member of the owner or tenant management sign the "As-Builts" in a special block that clearly says that the owner or tenant occupant will notify the AHJ of outages on a scheduled or emergency basis.

BISCI, the telecommunication organization like NFPA, has RCDD certification that is good for a three year period and then re-certification is required. The organization has a new standard that has been approved by ANSI like NFPA and UL Standards.

There are excellent sections for the installation of fiber Optic cabling and Ether Net cabling.

## **Low Frequency Smoke Alarms**

As of this writing, there are no Smoke Alarm Manufacturer's that have projects at UL for listed listing to Low Frequency. Three manufactures have Low Frequency units listed for Commercial Audibles and UL 268 Sounder Bases. To establish low frequency compliance, products like the Lifetone can be used as a listed accessory both for Residential Application and Commercial applications such as a Lodging Occupancy. A competitor of Lifetone, Safeawake, is listed by ETL to UL 217, UL 217 referencing UL 464 requires product label marking with it produces the correct Low Frequencies Harmonics. NFPA Standard's Council has rendered controlling jurisdiction of Smoke Alarms not only in one & two family dwellings, but in their use in the lodging industry, too. This includes the testing and maintenance by Chapter 29 of NFPA 72.

## UL Standard Technical Panel 864 Fire Alarm Panels

Underwriters Laboratories Standard Technical Panels are being presented a webinar on the new format of voting and certification for changing or revising a standard. The first webinar is Aug 28<sup>th</sup> and UL 864 appears to be the first STP on deck.

As standards evolve, they will be consolidated such as UL 864 and UL 3572 coming together such as UL 464, which also includes UL 1638 (new proposed **UL: 1638a**, UL 1971, and **UL 1971a**).

## Smoke Alarm and Smoke Detector Recall from Consumer Public Safety Commission

Recall date: August 13, 2014    Recall Number: 14-255

ESL, Interlogix Hard-Wired Smoke Alarms Recalled Due to Failure to Alert Consumers of a Fire

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Consumers should stop using this product unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

### Recall Summary

Name of Product: ESL and Interlogic brand 400/500 series smoke detectors

Hazard: Radio frequency interference can cause the smoke detectors to fail to alert consumers of a fire.

Remedy: Replace

Consumer Contact: Edwards at (800) 655-4497 select option 5, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at [www.edwardsfiresafety.com](http://www.edwardsfiresafety.com) and click on Contact Us. Interlogix toll-free at (855) 286-8889 select option 2, from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or online at [www.interlogix.com](http://www.interlogix.com) and click on Customer Service for more information.

### Recall Details

Units: About 141,000 in U.S. and 13,000 in Canada

Description: This recall involves thirty-three models of the 400 and 500 series Edwards (ESL)-branded and Interlogix smoke detectors hard-wired into a security system. Edwards and Interlogix smoke detectors are identical. The 2-wire or 4-wire detectors are round, white and measure 6 inches across by 2 inches high. The smoke detectors were made for professional installation and used primarily in commercial buildings, schools, hotels/motels, apartments, dormitories and homes as part of the fire alarm system. Recalled units have date codes 13084 through 14059 with the first two digits representing the year, for example: 13 for 2013 and 14 for 2014; and the last three digits representing the day of the year, for example: 084 is the 84th day of 2013, which is March 25, 2013. The initials ESL, the date code and one of the following model numbers are printed on a label on the back of the detector's cover and on the product's packaging.

400 series: 429AT, 429C, 429CAD, 429CRT, 429CST, 429CT, 429CTAD, 449AT, 449C, 449CRT, 449CSRH, 449CSRT, 449CST, 449CSTE, 449CT and 449CTE.

500 Series: 511C, 518C, 521B, 521BXT, 521B-10PKDMP, 521B-10PKG, 521BXT-10PKG, 521BXT-DMP-10PKG, 528B, 528CRXT, 541C, 541C-10PKG, 541CXT, 541CXT-10PK and 548C.

Incidents/Injuries: None.

Remedy: Customers should immediately contact their security or fire system provider to determine if any of their units are included in the recall. If so, they will receive free replacement and free installation of new smoke

detectors. Consumers should not take the alarms out of service until the replacement alarm has been installed. Only professional installers should remove and replace these units.

Sold at: Alarm system, security equipment and electrical equipment contractors, dealers and installers for use in fire alarm systems for commercial buildings, hotels/motels, apartments, dormitories and homes from March 2013 to February 2014. The cost of the individual detectors varies between \$30 and \$50. The cost of the integrated alarm or security systems varies greatly.

Importers: UTC Fire & Security Americas Corporation Inc, of Arden Hills, Minn. owns the Interlogix assets. Edwards assets were acquired by Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C. in January 2014. Both importers are units of United Technologies Corp., of Hartford, Conn.

Manufacturer: Fyrnetics Limited of Hong Kong, China.

Manufactured in: China

## **NIFAD Annual Meeting Sponsors**

*NIFAD says thank you to the following companies for sponsoring events at our annual meeting June 8-10, 2013 in Chicago, IL*

### **HONEYWELL FIRE SYSTEMS**

*- Sunday Reception and Dinner*

### **SAFETY TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

*- Sunday Morning Breakfast*

### **POTTER ELECTRIC**

*- Sunday Morning Break*

### **SYSTEM SENSOR**

*- Sunday Afternoon Break*

### **GENTEX CORPORATION**

*- Monday Morning Break*