

August  
2018

National  
Independent  
Fire Alarm  
Distributors

# NIFADNews

## this issue

Codes & Standards Update **P.2-4**

2019 Conference Information **P.3**

2018 Conference Photos **P.5-6**

## Calendar of Events

**AFAA National  
Codes Conference**  
May 14 - 17, 2019  
Lake Buena Vista, FL

**NIFAD  
Annual Meeting**  
June 15-17, 2019  
San Antonio, TX

**NFPA  
Convention**  
June 17-20, 2019  
San Antonio, TX

*Mark your  
calendar  
and plan  
to attend!*



## From the President's Desk

By Anna Gavin, NIFAD President

The annual NIFAD meeting never disappoints and this year was no exception. Our little group packs a lot of power. Our meetings are simple, but efficient, and always educational. The success of each meeting is driven by our members, our speakers and our sponsors. Thank you all for the contributions to our 2018 Conference. Our business roundtable was a lively discussion, our speakers were incredibly knowledgeable and the sponsor roundtable got great feedback. Our sponsors were very pleased with the informal and effective conversations that took place.

Because so much content comes from our membership, the post-meeting surveys play an important role in

planning our next meeting. This year there was a lot of conversation on employee recruitment and retention, so plan to see that topic flushed out at the next meeting. Other feedback included requests for “best practice highlights”, “analysis of the competitive landscape” and more time focused on discussion overall business strategies. The board will be taking time during the planning process to find ways to build these topics into the meeting. If anyone has suggestions on meeting content, please feel free to reach out to any of the board members or Bev Thomas at any time.

Thanks again for a great 2018 meeting. I look forward planning for 2019!

## NIFAD Board

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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.

# Codes & Standards Updates by Richard Roberts

## 1. Development of Future Codes and Installation Standards:

- 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC):
  - The Committee Action Hearing (CAH) is the first of a three-stage process for the development of the 2021 edition of the IFC. The major actions of interest to HFS are as follows:
    - Two Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) proposals submitted on behalf of Honeywell were approved by the ICC membership.
      - CO Detection required in existing K-12 Schools and the only permissible detection option is system-connected CO detectors. CO alarms are prohibited.
      - Smoke alarms required to produce the low frequency audible alarm signal in sleeping rooms of new hotels, dormitories and apartment buildings having a protected premises fire alarm. If the sleeping room smoke alarm is unable to produce a low frequency signal, a smoke detector with an integral low frequency sounder is required. The proposal decreases the price disparity between smoke alarms and smoke detectors which will benefit smoke detectors.
    - A proposal seeking to dilute the requirement for new K-12 schools to utilize an EVAC system for occupant notification was disapproved. The proponent will most likely submit a Public Comment to overturn the action.
    - All Emergency Responder Radio Enhancement System (ERRES) proposals were approved except for the following:
      - A dedicated raceway to be installed at time of construction to allow for future expandability and/ or the installation of a radio coverage system.
      - A definition for "Critical Areas"
  - The next step in the process is for the ICC membership to review and vote on Public Comments submitted to the actions taken during the CAH
- 2021 Edition of NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*:
  - The First Draft meeting is the first of a three-stage process for the development of the 2021 edition of NFPA 101/5000. The major actions of interest are as follows:
    - Emergency Responder Radio Enhancement Systems (ERRES):
    - Approved a Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) proposal to require ERRES in all (new and existing) buildings. To minimize redundant language, the approved language requires BDA systems to be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 1, *Fire Code*. This action is important because currently there are no requirements in these Codes for BDA systems to be installed. There are a handful of states that adopt/NFPA 101 and many countries outside the U.S. adopt/enforce NFPA 5000.
    - Low Frequency: Approved a NEMA proposal seeking to add a basic provision in Chapter 9 of the Code for the installation of a smoke

## Codes & Standards Updates Continued



detector with an integral low frequency sounder in sleeping rooms (of hotels, dormitories and apartment buildings) if a smoke alarm is unable to produce the low frequency signal. This basic provision in Chapter 9 only applies where specifically referenced by an occupancy chapter of the Code. NEMA has submitted proposal. There are a handful of states that adopt/NFPA 101 and many countries outside the U.S. adopt/enforce NFPA 5000.

- o Low Frequency: Approved a NEMA proposal seeking to add a basic provision in Chapter 9 of the Code for the installation of a smoke detector with an integral low frequency sounder in sleeping rooms (of hotels, dormitories and apartment buildings) if a smoke alarm is unable to produce the low frequency signal. This basic provision in Chapter 9 only applies where specifically referenced by an occupancy chapter of the Code. NEMA has submitted proposals to the Hotel/Apartment Building/Dormitory occupancy chapter. These proposals seek to require a smoke detector with an integral low frequency sounder in sleeping rooms if a smoke alarm is unable to produce the low frequency signal and they will be voted on during the August First Draft meeting.
- o Mass Notification: Rejected a proposal from the U.S. Veterans Association seeking to delete the requirement to conduct a mass notification risk analysis.
- The next steps in the process are:
  - o The official ballot of the TC actions taken during the in-person First Draft meeting
  - o The Public Comment phase
  - o The second draft meeting and official ballot of the TC actions taken during the in-person Second Draft meeting

### 2. State/Municipal Code Adoption:

- Oregon:
  - The Code Review Committee approved a NEMA proposal that will expand CO detection requirements in the state beyond hotels, dormitories, apartment buildings, hospitals, nursing home and K-12 schools to include commercial occupancies.
  - The next steps are for the proposal are:
    1. To be reviewed by the Structures Board on 8/1/18
    2. If approved by the Structurers Board, the Building Codes Administrator will then review and hopefully approve the NEMA proposal

**NIFAD**

**Annual Meeting**

**June 15-19, 2019**

**Hyatt Regency**

**River Walk**

**San Antonio**

NIFAD has sleeping rooms blocked June 15-17, 2019.

Our room rate is \$169 single or double

The Hyatt Regency River Walk San Antonio is 9 miles from the airport, no resort fees, complimentary guest room internet, located on the River Walk.

More information available in Spring 2019.

NIFAD

Thanks the  
Following  
Companies  
for Sponsoring  
Events at Our  
Annual Meeting

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## Codes & Standards Updates Continued

- Ohio:
    - Since 2015, the state has required the installation of CO detection in “new” hotels, apartment building, university dormitories, hospitals, nursing homes and K-12 schools (Group R I-1, I-2, I-4, and E occupancies)
    - Effective 1/1/19, CO detection (either alarms or detectors) will be required in the above referenced “existing” occupancies when certain conditions exist. The installation requirements are based on the 2015 IFC.
  - South Carolina:
    - The South Carolina Building Code Council is close to finalizing the adoption of the 2018 edition of the IFC and is proposing no modifications to the fire alarm and life safety requirements. This is good news because there are new requirements in the 2018 IFC relating to EVAC systems in high-rise occupancies, mass notification and carbon monoxide detection that will enhance public life safety.
    - The Council is expected to approve the adoption at their next meeting on August 22, 2018. The anticipated effective date of the new fire code is January 1, 2020
3. State/Municipal Legislation:
- Delaware:
    - Governor Carney signed SS-1 into law requiring CO detection in new and existing hotels. The effective date of the Act is 1/1/19.
    - Unfortunately, the engrossed version does not contain any of the modifications NEMA sought concerning reference to the applicable installation and product standards, which means the legislation lacks the necessary listing, power supply and location requirements.
  - Rhode Island:
    - On 7/2/18 7041 SUB A/2179 SUB A were signed into law by Governor Raimondi requiring CO detection in new and existing K-12 schools having a permanently install fuel-burning appliance.
    - When originally introduced, the bills were unclear if system-connected CO detectors were allowed. Working with NEMA’s state lobbyist, the bills were amended to clearly permit system-connected CO detectors to be installed.

Author

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# NIFAD Conference

June 9-11, 2018 Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas





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