

December  
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National  
Independent  
Fire Alarm  
Distributors

# NIFADNews

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## 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

I hope everyone is having a successful wrap up to their year. The past few years have been quite busy and we don't foresee a slow down until sometime near the start of 2020. The current work volume has been a blessing and a curse for some NIFAD members, with hiring being a primary concern. As the economy slows down (gas prices are on the rise, as are interest rates) I am curious to see if the demand from customers for fast deadlines does as well.

I have talked with my staff a lot lately about what I like to call "Amazon Prime Syndrome". Everyone expects things in two days or less. It's been tough to meet these quick turn-arounds, especially when so many vendors are experiencing hold ups in shipping parts. Plastic shortages and

trouble getting electronics from various OEM's, are just some of the things we are hearing. It is hard enough to meet customer demands by staying staffed properly, it's a whole other challenge when you are waiting for parts. We are seeing this shipping challenge across several other lines of our business.

At some point we will need to revisit our stocking policies in our inventory. While we have no intention to be an Amazon warehouse, we may have to start to think like them if we are to keep up with our customers needs. Either way, it looks to be a busy holiday season. I hope that all our NIFAD members have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2019!

## NIFAD Board

President  
Anna Gavin  
Fireline Corporation  
agavin@fireline.com

Vice President  
Jarret Ryan  
ABCO Fire  
jryan@abcofire.com

Past President  
Mike Nelson  
Volunteer Technology  
mnelson@vtstn.com

Treasurer  
Mark Murrell  
American Fire  
markm@americanfire.com

### Directors

Steve DeFacci  
Northwest Fire  
steve@nwfire.com

Mike Callahan  
FESCO Fire  
mikec@fescofire.com

Jesse Schwindler  
Signature Systems of Florida  
jschwindler@signaturesystemsfl.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.

# Codes & Standards Updates by Richard Roberts

Development of Future Codes that will enhance public life safety are as follows:

- 2021 Edition of International Fire Code (IFC):
  - The following actions were taken by the ICC membership during the October Public Comment Hearing (PCH) in Richmond, VA:
    - Low Frequency: Sustained a Committee from the April Hearing that expands the demand for the low frequency signal by requiring smoke detectors (with an integral low frequency sounder base) installed in sleeping rooms of new hotels, dormitories and apartment buildings if the smoke alarm is unable to produce the low frequency signal.
    - Future Strobe Capability: Added language that clarifies all dwelling units within apartment buildings are not required to be pre-wired for visible notification appliances.
    - EVAC in K-12 Schools: Rejected a Public Comment seeking to replace the current requirement for fire alarm systems to use EVAC for occupant notification with a requirement for a public-address system.
    - Emergency Responder Radio Enhancement System (ERRES): Overturned the Committee action from the April Hearing and approved a public comment to:
      - a. Add a new definition for "Critical Areas" for emergency responder radio coverage and
      - b. Require areas designated as critical areas to have 99% radio coverage. Currently NFPA 1221 requires 99% coverage in critical areas. This change will help to eliminate confusion with AHJ's and FPE's by having consistent requirements between the Code and referenced Standards.
  - The next step in the process is the November on-line voting. The on-line voting provides ICC members that did not attend the Richmond Hearing to vote.
- 2021 edition of NFPA 1, *Fire Code*:
  - The NFPA 1 Technical Committee approved a proposal that will enhance and align the Emergency Responder Radio Enhancement System (ERRES) requirements for the next editions of NFPA 1 with NFPA 1221, NFPA 101 and the IFC
  - The proposal is necessary because the current editions of NFPA 1, NFPA 1221, NFPA 101 and the IFC have different ERRES requirements. The conflict between the various codes create confusion within the industry and code enforcement officials resulting in fewer ERRES systems being installed because the code requirements are not being enforced.

## Codes & Standards Updates Continued

- The proposal is based, in part, on proposed changes to the 2021 edition of the (IFC) that will carry over to the next edition (2022) of NFPA 1221.
- The next step in the process is the official ballot of the TC actions taken during the in-person First Draft meeting and then the Public Comment (PC) phase
- 2021 Edition of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC):
  - A Work Group (WG) was established and charged with recommending changes to the fire alarm, CO detection and life safety requirements. There may be an opportunity to add a requirement for CO detection in existing K-12 schools.
  - The Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) and UL agreed to send a proposal to the ICC Building Code Action Committee (BCAC) seeking to require existing buildings undergoing level 3 alterations (where the work area exceeds 50 percent of the building area) or change of occupancy to have approved radio coverage for emergency responders.
  - This proposal is necessary because many jurisdictions choose to adopt the IEBC instead of adopting the retroactive requirements in Chapter 11 of the International Fire Code (IFC). Currently there is retroactive requirement in Chapter 11 of the IFC for existing buildings to have approved radio coverage for emergency responders. However, there are no provisions in the IEBC for existing buildings undergoing alterations or change of occupancy to have approved radio coverage for emergency responders.

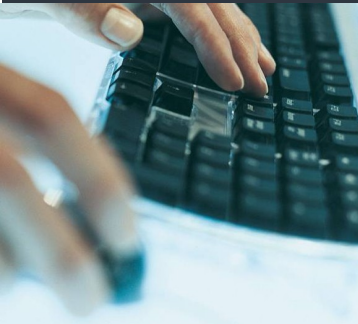
### Underwriters Laboratories (UL):

- UL 2524, *In-building 2-Way Emergency Radio Communication Enhancement Systems*:
  - UL 2524 is now an official ANSI accredited product performance standard
  - The ballot recirculation to validate the Standards Technical panel (STP) actions in addressing the 53 comments received during the ballot phase maintained consensus. That means the current Outline of Investigation (OOI) is now an official ANSI accredited product performance standard. Here are the next steps/timeline:
    - The estimated date for the 1st edition of the UL 2524 Standard to be published is 10/22/18



Please remember to send in your NIFAD dues when you receive them later this month. Members receive a listing on the NIFAD website as well as a quarterly newsletters, participation in webinars and an Annual Conference where you can participate in the town hall meeting, receive product updates and network with your peers.

We appreciate your membership and participation in NIFAD.



## NIFAD Website

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

# Codes & Standards Updates Continued

- UL will seek industry input (mainly Honeywell because we're the only company having a listing to the OOI) for an effective date of the new Standard
- UL will decide on the effective date within three weeks
- UL will publish the effective date by the end of the year

### Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF):

- Connected Building/IoT Work Group (WG):
  - The WG is charged with developing a list of fundamental rules for integrating fire alarm systems with other building systems such as HVAC, Security, Elevators, Energy Controls and Lighting held their initiate conference call to develop a project scope and research roadmap. This project is critical for the fire alarm portion of the connected building systems to maintain the required resiliency, supervision and reliability to maintain 100% uptime.
    - Project Scope: Review the impact and use of PoE and emerging technologies (e.g., IoT) with the national codes and standards as well as cybersecurity that affect residential and commercial fire/life safety systems. The challenges of PoE/IoT will be addressed using a research program designed to quickly and effectively evaluate the impact of these technologies to assist code committees in drafting appropriate language to allow its use in a safe and efficient manner.
    - Sub-WG's Formed: The following were formed
      - Fire Safety Fundamentals List
      - Cybersecurity

Author

**Richard Roberts**

Industry Affairs Manager

**Honeywell** | Security and Fire

3825 Ohio Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174

1-630-338-7025



# 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.



