

Fall  
2021

National  
Independent  
Fire Alarm  
Distributors

# NIFADNews

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## Calendar of Events

### NIFAD

**Annual Meeting**  
June 4 - 6, 2022  
Boston, MA

### AFAA

**Annual Fire Expo**  
May 2 - 5, 2022  
Palm Coast, FL

### NFPA

**Conference**  
June 6 - 9, 2022  
Boston, MA

*Mark your  
calendar  
and plan  
to attend!*



## From the President's Desk

By Jarrett Ryan, NIFAD President

Fellow NIFAD Members,

It's hard to imagine that we are in the final stretches of 2021! It's been quite an interesting year for our businesses. Navigating the supply chain issues, rapid price inflation, tight labor markets and customer health requirements have challenged us all. We don't know what 2022 has in store for us but let's hope it's a little less challenging than 2021!

I want to thank all the members that took the time to travel to Nashville for our annual meeting that took place on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It was great to get everyone together in person and to be able to share stories and solutions to the items that are challenging our individual businesses. I believe this was our best attended event outside of our trips to Vegas, so I hope we can continue the momentum and have even more members involved next June in Boston. We look forward to sharing more details about the 2022 meeting as we move closer to the date.

I also want to thank Christa Poss and the Notifier Team for supporting our members dinner at the Annual Conference. It was a tremendous gesture and one that was

volunteered without solicitation. I also want to thank Billy Marshall of ServiceTrade for presenting at our event. It was well presented, and we all walked away learning a little something about prioritizing our customers!

In closing, I wanted to pass along some changes to our Board of Directors. Anna Gavin cycled off the board as Immediate Past President. We want to thank Anna for her many years of service and support to the NIFAD Board. You will be missed at our Board Meetings!

As with any departure we do have the pleasure of welcoming a new member to the board. Rich Sigethy of Fireline in Baltimore has joined the board for a two-year term. We look forward to Rich's thoughts, ideas and most importantly his humor to our Board. I know he will be a welcome addition.

I want to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and enjoyable Holiday season. Enjoy the time with your friends and loved ones and soak up the spirit of the holidays.

Sincerely,  
Jarret Ryan

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

## 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

## Industry Affairs (IA) Report

### Emergency Responder Notification:

- AT&T 3G Cellular Sunset Date: Numerous stakeholders are working with the Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC) to get AT&T to extend their 3G sunset date from February 2022 to December of 2022. If AT&T's planned 3G sunset is not extended, homeowners and businesses will be unable to notify emergency responders of a medical condition, fire, or carbon monoxide leak. The extension is needed because the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant delays for alarm service companies to replace 3G alarm signaling radios for more than 18 months as well as the global microchip shortage and supply chain issues that have further hinder alarm radio replacement efforts.

### Building Notification:

- Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES):
  - a. Florida Governor DeSantis signed bill H1209 into law that will extend the compliance date from 1/1/2022 to 1/1/2025 for buildings to comply with the minimum emergency responder radio strength requirements in 633.202(18) of the Florida Statute. Even though HB 1209 extends the compliance date by three years, it is a far better outcome than two other bills that were seeking to exempt all buildings that are 4 stories or less from meeting the minimum emergency responder radio strength requirements in 633.202(18) of the Florida Statute. [HERE](#) is a link to the bill. The ERCES provision begins on line 1009.
  - b. Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) No-Noise Task Force (NNTF): The goal of the NNTF is to eliminate interference to a jurisdiction's public safety macro system caused by improperly deployed in-building signal boosters. Improperly deployed ERCES utilizing signal boosters that cause interference with public safety RF/wireless systems is becoming a major problem across the United States and is jeopardizing the safety of emergency responders and the public, Members of the NNTF consist of stakeholders from code enforcement authorities, licensee, integration companies, first responders, and radio network.
  - c. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) ERCES Certification Program: UL formed a work group to develop a new certification program for companies to declare they have the technical expertise to design, install and maintain code compliant ERCES. This new program will raise the level of competency of companies installing, servicing, and maintaining ERCES systems. The new ERCES program will be modeled after the UL Fire Alarm System Certification Program. All UL certificate services programs are designed to give code authorities and stakeholders the assurance that the installation/service company is delivering code compliant services through regular audit, assessment, and oversight at no cost to jurisdictions. Many, not all, jurisdictions require fire alarm companies to be certificated by UL.
  - d. 2024 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC): The ICC members attending the in-person Public Comment Hearing (PCH) approved a public comment seeking to require ERCES to be installed in accordance with NFPA 1225. This is a positive action because NFPA 1225 raises the bar for manufacturers/installers by increasing the requirements relating to performance and reliability of ERCES. The next step in the process

## Codes & Standards Updates Continued

is the Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV). The OGCV is an opportunity for the ICC members who did not attend the in-person PCH to vote on public comments.

- In-Building Fire Alarm Emergency Voice/Alarm Communication (EVAC) System: The Education Committee approved a PI for the 2024 edition of the *Life Safety Code* that seeks to require an EVAC system to be used for occupant notification when an **existing** fire alarm control unit or system unit is replaced in K-12 schools. The proposed EVAC system is **only** required where the occupant load is greater than 100 people. The next stage in the process is the official ballot of the Committee action and then the public comment phase.

### Detection:

- Maine Governor Mills signed bill LD 346 into law that will require combustible gas detection to be installed in buildings that have propane, natural gas or any liquified petroleum gas appliances. Unfortunately, the new law does not include the NEMA recommended amendments for detection devices to be listed as complying with UL 1484, *Standard for Residential Gas Detectors*.
- Thermal Imaging Fire Detection: UL approved a project to create a new Video and Thermal Imaging Fire Detection bi-national standard (UL/ULC) that will enable growth in the Americas for this product category. The document scope has been defined and a Task Group is being formed to write the standard. The new standard is needed because there is currently no product standard for video fire detection, holding back adoption.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection:
  - a. 2024 Edition of NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*: Numerous Committees approved various public inputs (PI) seeking to require CO detection in existing educational occupancies (K-12 schools), new/existing day-care facilities, existing day-care homes, new/existing detention facilities, and existing apartment buildings. Another Committee approved a PI that seeks to prohibit duct mounted CO detectors from being installed in lieu of “open area” CO detectors. The next stage in the process is the official ballot of the Committee actions and then the public comment phase. NFPA 101 is adopted by several U.S. states and is adopted globally by many countries.
  - b. Underwriters Laboratories (UL): A work group have been established that is considering expanding the scope of UL 2034 (the product standard for CO alarms) which will allow this type of detection device to be installed in commercial occupancies. The outcome of the WG is important for life safety because currently UL 2034 **only** allows CO alarms to be installed in dwelling units. The problem with installing CO alarms in commercial occupancies people won’t hear the audible alarm signal if the CO alarm is installed in an unoccupied area of a building such as a boiler or furnace room in the basement of a building.
  - c. 2024 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC): The ICC members attending the in-person Public Comment Hearing (PCH) approved a public comment seeking to expand the requirements beyond new/existing hotels, apartment buildings, university dormitories, K-12 schools, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities to include **all** occupancies having a permanently installed fuel-burning appliance or an attached



## 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 website, NIFAD.com.

garage. The next step in the process is the Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV). The OGCV is an opportunity for the ICC members that did not attend the in-person PCH to vote on public comments.

### Research:

- Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF): The following projects seek to enhance life safety and may create more demand for HFS offerings are as follows:
  - a. Emergency Responder Communications Systems (ERCES): A project that seeks to determine the temperature at which critical voice messages being transmitted by the public safety ERCES backbone cables/connectors will be impacted from fire to the point where messages are no longer intelligible. The project is needed because the 2016 and 2019 edition of NFPA 1221 require riser/backbone cables to be installed within a fire-rated enclosure/protected area or use a 2-hour fire-rated cable. The fire-rating 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.
  - b. Intelligent Evacuation Lighting (IEL): The Foundation decided against funding a project to identify peer-reviewed behavioral studies to determine if IEL improves occupant evacuation and ascertain if there are any product listing or installation standards

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# NIFAD Annual Meeting

June 4 – 6, 2022

Hilton Boston Back Bay  
Boston, MA

NIFAD has sleeping rooms  
blocked June 4-7, 2022.

Our room rate is \$299 single or double

Located in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood,  
the hotel is a 5-minute walk from Prudential Center  
and three blocks from Fenway park – home of the Boston Red  
Sox. The Charles River, Boston Commons, and the start of  
The Freedom Trail are a mile away.

Our hotel features an indoor pool, fitness center,  
plus a souvenir and snack shop.

More information available in Spring 2022.

