

Spring
2022

National
Independent
Fire Alarm
Distributors

NIFADNews

this issue

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Calendar of Events

2022 NIFAD

Annual Meeting

June 4 - 6, 2022
Boston, MA

2023 NIFAD

Annual Meeting

June 17 - 19, 2023
Las Vegas, NV

2022 NFPA

Conference & Expo

June 19 - 22, 2023
Las Vegas, NV

*Mark your
calendar
and plan
to attend!*



From the President's Desk

By Jarrett Ryan, NIFAD President

Fellow NIFAD Members,

As the calendar turns to April and the north starts to thaw out, the industry stands in the midst of unprecedented challenges, from rapid material price increases, to supply chain issues and labor shortages, our businesses are experiencing conditions that have defied conventional wisdom. This is where being part of an industry trade association provides maximum value as it becomes a platform for the exchange of thoughts and ideas from fellow members experiencing the same challenges.

We are excited to return to our normal Annual Conference schedule which will run June 4th through the 6th at the Hilton Back Bay in Boston. The timing couldn't be better based on the challenges we are facing. The Board is working to put together another fine program, but to really maximize the benefits of this association, we need you, the members, to

come out strong to the forum this year. The Town Hall is always listed as one of the favorite events of the NIFAD calendar and it truly becomes a benefit when we have strong participation of the membership.

I encourage you to bring another associate who can benefit from the exchanging of ideas to better our businesses and industry as whole.

This is my final letter to our members as President of this fine association. I want to thank you, our members, for entrusting me to run this association for the last three years. I also want to thank the Board of Directors for their work and efforts to continue the advancement of this association even under the effects of pandemic conditions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Conference in Boston this June!

Sincerely,
Jarret Ryan

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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.

Fireline Corporation Celebrates 75th Anniversary Milestone Three Generations Setting the Standard in Fire Protection since 1947

Baltimore, MD (May 2022) Fireline Corporation, a multi-generational, women-owned Maryland-based corporation specializing in fire protection, recently celebrated 75 years in business with a ribbon cutting and open house celebration at the newly renovated office campus on Hollins Ferry Rd. in Baltimore, MD. With friends and family in attendance, Anna Gavin, President of Fireline Corporation, received citations from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski.



“A milestone like this really affords us the opportunity to look back and admire all we have achieved in 75 years. The evolution from my grandfather’s fire extinguisher shop in 1947 to our newly renovated office campus in Baltimore is a great example of how far we have come”, said Anna Gavin, President of Fireline since 2010. “A lot has changed in 75 years, but there have been two common threads throughout. Our focus on quality services to our customers and our focus on quality care for our employees. Many of our employees have dedicated their careers to Fireline and have helped build the Fireline we have today”.

About Fireline Corporation Founded in 1947 by John S. Waters and headquartered in central Maryland, the Fireline Corporation is one of the nation’s premier fire equipment distributors. Fireline offers fire protection services and solutions including design, installation, inspection, and maintenance. Public and private clients including commercial business, government, military, municipal, healthcare, schools and universities, and industrial facilities. Fireline serves Maryland, Washington DC, and Northern Virginia. As multi-generational, woman-owned family business, Fireline Corporation has been dedi-

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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.

Codes & Standards Updates

Emergency Responder Notification:

- AT&T 3G Cellular Sunset Date: It is unlikely the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will force AT&T to delay their 3G shutdown, which started on 2/22/2022. The FCC brokered a deal that will allow AT&T IoT devices to continue to roam using T-Mobile's network. The T-Mobile roaming solution is only available to a certain subset of devices that are in areas where T-Mobile has coverage and have AT&T SIM cards. The roaming solution is not automatic, and alarm companies must proactively arrange for it by contacting their relevant provider of AT&T connectivity to determine which, if any, of their customers' 3G radios can roam onto the T-Mobile network. It's important to note that this is a short-term fix as T-Mobile will shut down its 3G service on 7/1/2022.

Lastly, AT&T is implementing its 3G shutdown in stages. Based on their current plan, certain areas of the country may still have AT&T 3G connectivity for several weeks.

Detection:

- Underwriters' Laboratories (UL):
 - a. On 12/17/2021 UL announced they were extending the compliance date for smoke detectors and smoke alarms to comply with the new polyurethane (PU) and cooking resistance tests to 6/30/2024. The new dates apply to the 7th Edition of UL 268, the 4th edition of ULC-S529, the 8th edition of UL 217 and the 4th edition of ULC-S531. The announced is embedded below.



UL-LLC
217-531-268-529 IFR

- b. UL is seeking ANSI approval of the title and scope for a new bi-national UL/ULC 2684 standard for video and thermal imaging fire detection devices. UL will be forming a standards technical panel (STP). Scott Lang is a member of the working group developing the new standard. The new UL 2684 will replace UL 268B.
- Data Centers and Telecommunication Facilities: Several proposals were submitted for the next edition of NFPA 75 (standard for buildings with information technology equipment such as data centers) and NFPA 76 (standard telecommunications facilities) which will enhance requirements for both high sensitivity (aspirated) smoke detection and ESS off-gas detection. The first draft meeting is scheduled for Spring 2022.
 - Combustible Gas Detection:
 - a. ConEdison submitted a proposal written by Scott and Richard for the 2024 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC) that seeks to require combustible gas detection devices be installed in detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhomes not more than three stories that have propane, natural gas or

Codes & Standards Updates Continued

any liquified petroleum gas appliances. The ICC Residential Committee will vote on the proposal during the Committee Action Hearing which is scheduled for the first week in April.

- b. State Legislation: Bills have been introduced in Tennessee and Illinois that are seeking to require combustible gas detection in certain occupancies having propane, natural gas or any liquified petroleum gas appliances. As currently written, the bills only require “alarms” to be installed. Therefore, the bills need to be modified to permit system-connected wired/wireless combustible gas detectors that Honeywell offers. Scott and Richard are working with Honeywell and NEMA Government Relations to amend the bills.

Building Notification:

- Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES):
 - a. Florida Legislation: Two bills were filed (SB-1190 and HB-785) that seek to exempt apartment buildings that are 75 feet or less in height from complying with the minimum emergency responder radio strength requirements in 633.202(18) of the Florida Statute. The House and Senate approved an amendment that added the following new provisions to the bills.
 - Exempt apartment buildings with wood frame construction. The Florida Building Code limits the height of apartment building of wood frame construction to four stories if the building is sprinklered and three stories if the building is not sprinklered.
 - Exempts apartment buildings having less than 150 dwelling units from complying with the minimum emergency responder radio strength requirements in 633.202(18) of the Florida Statute.
 - Added the word “high-rise” in several sections in 633.202(18) of the Florida Statute that will resolve ambiguity as it relates to the applicability to new/existing buildings, and it should help our efforts in opposing the Jacksonville City ordinance that exempts **new** buildings 75 feet or less from complying with the Florida Statute.

The bill is now headed to the Governor. The status of the bill is not ideal; however, it is an improvement over what was originally filed. The amendment has limited the impact from exempting **all** apartment buildings 75’ or less to exempting four-story apartment buildings with wood frame construction that have less than 150 dwelling units.

- b. Michigan Legislation: HB-5561 was filed in November and it seeks to require an ERCES to be installed in all new and existing K-12 schools. The bill failed to move since it was introduced. As currently written, the bill has a legal flaw in that it requires ERCES to be installed where they are not needed. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) only permits in-building signal boosters to be installed where there are dead spots inside buildings.



Codes & Standards Updates Continued

- **Low Frequency:** The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) submitted a proposal for the next edition of the ICC A117.1 Accessibility standard that seeks to require smoke detection in dwelling units of apartment buildings to produce the 520 Hz low frequency audible alarm signal. A117.1 is a referenced standard in the International Building Code (IBC) that provides the criteria for accessible communication features for people with disabilities such as fire alarm and smoke detector detection.
- **Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC) No Noise Task Force (NNTF):** The work of the NNTF is moving from the discovery phase to the action phase. Several working groups will begin development of a document having 11 best practice topics to eliminate interference to the public safety communications macro system from improperly deployed signal booster inside buildings.

Research:

- **Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF):** The following projects seek to enhance life safety:
 - a. **2022 FPRF Research Priorities:** The Fire Detection and Alarm Research Council identified the following topics as top priorities for 2022:
 - **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** Diffusion through walls and detection of CO transmission via HVAC systems
 - **ERCES Pathway Survivability Phase II:** This project will be performed after the Phase I literature review is completed.
 - **Smoke Detectors in High Ceiling Spaces:** Develop prescriptive requirements on the right installation spacing for smoke detectors on high ceilings. The research is needed because NFPA 72 does not address spacing consideration for smoke detection based on ceiling heights.
 - **Waking Effectiveness:** A holistic review of the technologies and effectiveness to determine the waking effectiveness for populations but most important for people with disabilities
 - b. **Carbon Monoxide Incidents Project:** The project goal is two-fold:
 1. Review and present the CO incident data landscape to clarify the source of information, such as how is the data compiled and what it represents
 2. Identify, summarize, and analyze case studies of non-fire carbon monoxide incidents specific to commercial-type occupancies



Codes & Standards Updates Continued

The research will be conducted by undergraduate students at the University of Maryland. The project will kick off in January and is expected to take six months. The project is needed because there are multiple sources which provide CO incident data including the CPSC, CDC, USFA, NFPA and the ICC. Each organization contains its own methodology for collecting information and providing statistics.

Author

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Bits and Pieces From The Kiplinger Letter

Global Trade Global trade started the year healthy, but faces headwinds. World trade rose by 0.3% in February, putting it at 10% above its prepandemic level. However, that was before China's large COVID-19 lockdowns and just as Russia invaded Ukraine.

Expect exports from Asia to slow down in the coming months. In March, Chinese exports dropped 6.7%, the largest fall since the virus outbreak started in China in late 2019. Exports of electronics and furniture fell particularly sharply in March, indicating that global demand for these goods is weakening. This downturn in demand will start to hurt exports from emerging-market countries in Asia in coming months.

The outlook for global trade will darken as the year unfolds. More lockdowns in China and the effects of the war in Ukraine are sure to further snarl supply chains.

Shipping Look for trucking spot rates to stabilize and move higher in coming months. After declining recently (aside from fuel surcharges). Softer freight demand has eased rates, but probably does not indicate a broad slowdown in the economy. Lockdowns in parts of China will keep demand relatively muted in coming weeks. But whenever they end, expect a surge of inbound freight...and higher trucking rates...to hit West Coast ports and cause additional congestion as carriers get overloaded. Right now, Shanghai's ports are open, but very little cargo is able to reach them for loading on U.S.-bound ships...a kink in the hose that should get straightened soon.

Finance Visa and Mastercard are set to raise credit-card swipe fees for merchants. Visa and Mastercard set interchange fees, which are pocketed by card issuers. Merchants often pass the cost along to consumers by raising prices. The average credit card processing fee ranges from 1.5% to 3.5% of each transaction. Interchange fees have more than doubled since 2009, as both online shopping and rewards cards...which have higher merchant fees...have become popular.