



# NASFM News

March 2009

## In This Issue

### Upcoming Events

[NASFM Host Meeting](#)

[NASFM Supports LNG Resolution](#)

[Model Codes Proposal](#)

### Train-the-Trainer

[2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week](#)

[NASFM Annual Conference and 20th Anniversary](#)

## Quick Links

[NASFM](#)

[Pipeline Emergencies](#)

[IAFC](#)

[NIST](#)

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Upcoming Events...

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



## Comments Sought on NIST Guidelines for Structural Fire Resistance



A new draft report released for public comment by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) provides a comprehensive set of "best practice" guidelines for designing building structures to resist major fires. The document, NISTIR 7563, Best Practice Guidelines for

Structural Fire Resistance of Concrete and Steel Buildings, is part of the NIST response to the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster of Sept. 11, 2001, and was developed in conjunction with the agency's technical building and fire safety investigation of WTC buildings 1 and 2 (the WTC towers) and 7.

The draft guidelines report is the result of a collaborative effort initiated by NIST that involved experts in the design and construction industry and academia. It features information on current best practices in structural fire resistance engineering in the United States and overseas, and current best knowledge in fire risk assessment, and characterization of the design fire, material properties at high temperatures, and thermal and structural response calculation methods. The document integrates state-of-the-art information in one source, enabling users to apply a performance-based approach to fire resistance design as well as the evaluation of concrete and steel structures.

NIST welcomes public comments on the draft report, downloadable at <http://wtc.nist.gov>, received by noon Eastern Daylight Time on April 15, 2009. Comments may be submitted by one of the following three methods:

- electronic mail to [cauffman@nist.gov](mailto:cauffman@nist.gov);
- fax to (301) 869-6275; or
- regular mail to NISTIR 7563 Comments, Attn: Stephen Cauffman, NIST, 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 8611, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8611.

For more information, contact [wtc@nist.gov](mailto:wtc@nist.gov).

**March 30, 2009**

Train-the-Trainer,  
Jefferson City,  
MO

**April 1, 2009**

NASFM Board  
Meeting

**April 7, 2009**

Train-the-Trainer  
Ames, IA

**June 19-21,  
2009**

NASFM Annual  
Conference,  
Redmond, WA

## NASFM Hosts Meeting on Pallet Fire Safety Requirements in March

In 2008, the NASFM Model Codes Committee began work on a code enforcement training and support program to help state and local code enforcement agencies improve the quality and effectiveness of their service. The trend toward greater use of plastics in pallets was among the first topics selected.

A resource document, a draft Code Application Bulletin (CAB) entitled "Pallet Fire Loading Impact on Sprinkler Design," was developed by NASFM Code Consultant Robert J. Davidson and reviewed by the NASFM Model Codes Committee. NASFM has responded to preliminary comments on the CAB, and a new public comment period on the CAB is open until March 10, 2009. On Thursday, March 12, 2009, from 10 am - 3 pm, NASFM will host a meeting at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) headquarters in Northbrook, Illinois. At that time, NASFM will finalize the CAB and lead a discussion on dissemination of the CAB as well as on more effective and efficient approaches to the challenges of enforcing pallet fire safety requirements. UL will conduct side-by-side pallet fire tests to illustrate some points. All interested parties may attend. The agenda also will include discussion of a framework of a research program to gather additional data on the fire performance of the full range of pallets in commercial use, and discussion of a path forward that simultaneously advances public safety with a minimum of commercial disruption.

More information can be found on the NASFM website at <http://www.firemarshals.org/programs/code-enforcement-training-and-support/>.

## NASFM Supports LNG Resolution with Caveats

In 2008, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) passed a resolution asking the US Department of Transportation (US DOT) to study the benefits of switching from proscriptive to risk-based regulations for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities. This would apply to both coastal LNG import terminals and the hundreds of LNG peak-shaving facilities around the country. (LNG peak-shaving facilities are used for storing surplus natural gas that is to be used to meet requirements of peak consumption later during winter or summer). Both US DOT and NARUC asked that NASFM review and comment on the resolution.

NASFM's Board directed the NASFM Hazardous Materials Safety Advisory Committee to review the resolution and provide guidance. After deliberation, the Committee advised NASFM to support the resolution, with important additional caveats. NASFM's Board reviewed the overall package and has voted to approve a resolution that supports NARUC's objectives but makes clear the importance of fire engineering principles and the role local and state officials can play. The NASFM resolution can be seen by clicking the following

link: <http://www.firemarshals.org/data/File/news/NASFMLNGresolutionFeb209FINAL.pdf>

## Model Code Proposal Update

NASFM's Model Codes Committee, with the aid of the association's appointed Code Action Committee (CAC) and Joint Fire Service Review (JFSR) representatives, have been working tirelessly on NASFM code priorities as the April deadline for the International Code Council's (ICC) submittals approaches. With CAC representatives attending regional and JFSR meetings and participating in teleconferences to update the Committee, four

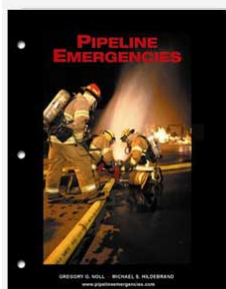
of the six topics proposed by NASFM have gained enough support to potentially evolve into code proposals. Those topics are:

1. Miscellaneous & combustible storage provisions (modified in regional meetings)
2. Windowless stories
3. Emergency alarms (modified in regional meetings)
4. Exit discharge on plan submittal

Copies of these discussed changes can be obtained from Allison Crowley by email at [allison@firemarshals.org](mailto:allison@firemarshals.org).

The next step for the Model Codes Committee is to draft proposed code changes that will be submitted by NASFM and subject to Board review and approval in advance. Those changes are expected to be circulated in March.

## Train-the-Trainer



In Overland Park, Kansas on February 4, 2009, NASFM, in cooperation with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office and the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, held a training session on the Pipeline Emergencies Training Materials. This training session was a one-day seminar to teach trainers how to instruct emergency responders on how to effectively respond to pipeline emergencies.

This training session, was attended by 100 participants, a capacity crowd. All seminar participants received a textbook as well as a companion instructor CD-ROM containing interactive PowerPoint programs, scenarios, exercises and printable tests. A DVD movie was also provided. Of the 100 attendees, over 70% were emergency responders, with the remainder being from industry.

If your state is interested in hosting a Train-the-Trainer session, please contact Courtney Clyatt at [ccliyatt@firemarshals.org](mailto:ccliyatt@firemarshals.org). The program is free for all emergency responders and each instructor attending the course receives a complimentary copy of the complete training program.

## 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week



The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters have announced the 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (also known as Safety Week) to be held the week of June 14-20, 2009.

*The message this year is: Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility*

*Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility* encourages chiefs and fire/EMS personnel to focus on what they personally can do to manage risk and enhance their health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

Preliminary information is now available on the Safety Week website at [www.iafc.org/safetyweek](http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek).

## 2009 NASFM Annual Conference and 20th Anniversary Celebration



Please continue to register for the 2009 Annual Conference through the following convenient link to the NASFM website: <http://www.firemarshals.org/events/>.

In honor of NASFM's 20th Anniversary celebration, we will be featuring a historical retrospective at The President's Annual Reception and Banquet. We would appreciate receiving your great ideas for the most significant accomplishment or milestone in NASFM's unprecedented 20-year history. Please submit your candidate ideas to Karen Suhr at [kfernico@aol.com](mailto:kfernico@aol.com).