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Residential Fire Safety Institute

Operation Life Safety

"Working Together for a Lifesaving Solution"

OLS NEWSFLASH

January 2011

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FEATURE STORIES:

Hopkins, MN Fire Department Receives Life Safety Achievement Award



Minnesota State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl presents the 2009 Life Safety Achievement Award to Hopkins Mayor Eugene Maxwell and Fire Chief Dale Specken. The award is provided by the Residential Fire Safety Institute, a project of the National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Education and Research Foundation in partnership with

Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company, recognizing fire departments for outstanding accomplishments in residential fire protection practices.

The application period for the next Life Safety Achievement Awards, for calendar year 2010, will be opened this month. Watch for the announcement in the OLS Newsflash and on the RFSI website at www.firesafehome.org.

[Fire Safety Education: Who's In?](#)

There have been many studies over the years that indicate that the United States is lagging behind most other countries in terms of fire deaths, injuries, and property losses. How can a country that has the resources that we have be lagging behind in so many ways? We have come a long way in recent decades. Our annual civilian fire

deaths rates were approximately 12,000 in the early 1970s but have been creeping down into the mid 3,000s as of recently.

[USFA Releases 2009 Fire Estimate Summary Series](#)

FEMA's United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued the 2009 Fire Estimate Summary Series which presents basic information on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System. As part of this series, seventeen summaries have been issued presenting basic information on the leading causes of residential building and nonresidential building fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar losses for 2009 and highlighting overall trends in these leading causes for the 5-year period of 2005 to 2009.

[January Roundtable: Public Education](#)

Although some of you may not agree, the best way to rescue a civilian from a fire is to prevent the fire in the first place. As Francis Brannigan said, "No firefighter was ever killed in a fire that was prevented!" The second best way to rescue a victim from a fire is to teach the civilian how to rescue him- or herself. Public education is a very interesting aspect of firefighting.

Residential Sprinklers In The News...

[Antifreeze Solutions in Home Fire Sprinkler Systems-Phase II Final Report Issued](#)

NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, has included guidance on the use of antifreeze solutions in fire sprinkler systems since the 1940 edition. Recent fire incidents, analysis of available literature, and preliminary testing have identified concerns with the use of certain antifreeze solutions.

Maryland-

[In a reversal, sprinklers won't be mandatory in Worcester county](#)

Worcester County has opted out of a Maryland state law that would have required all new one- and two-family dwellings in unincorporated areas to contain residential sprinkler systems. "The majority of my constituents are in favor of the county opting out, and the main reason is economics," said Commissioner Merrill Lockfaw, Jr.

Massachusetts-

[Proposed "Stretch Residential Sprinkler Code" 780 CMR 115.BB](#)

The Home Builders Association of Massachusetts is committed to the principle of a uniform State Building Code that ensures public safety, facilitates innovation in construction techniques, products and materials, promotes cost effectiveness and furthers energy efficiency in all buildings and structures in the commonwealth. It

is with this principle in mind that we set forth below our concerns about proposed Code Change No. 2010_12_12, the so-called "Stretch Residential Sprinkler Code."

Missouri-

State Representative Proposes "Permanent Option" For Sprinkler Installation

[Representative John Diehl](#) (along with many co-sponsors) has pre-filed [House Bill 46](#), which would "Repeal a conflicting statute regarding the installation of fire sprinkler systems and removes the December 31, 2011, expiration date for Section 67.281, RSMo." If this law passes, residential fire sprinklers will be a permanent "option" to the homebuyer offered by the homebuilders. We have seen that the current "mandatory option" has been a complete failure because the homebuilders have not properly educated the potential homebuyers on the value of Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Smoke Alarms In The News...

Carbon Monoxide Detection

Wisconsin-

[Wisconsin to Require Carbon Monoxide Detectors in All Homes](#)

Wisconsin requires all multi-tenant rentals to have carbon monoxide detectors. Starting Feb. 1, the state will take it a step further. So, when the state required CO monitors for most rental properties last April, soon after, Wisconsin went back to add more, requiring all homes, including those privately owned, to put these monitors on basically every floor of the house.

Manitoba, Canada-

[Carbon monoxide detectors to be mandatory](#)

A requirement to install CO detectors in certain public buildings like schools, hospitals, day care centres, churches and the like has been in place for five years in Manitoba, and will remain so when the new code takes effect April 1.

The one new requirement involving CO detectors will be that they will now be mandated in all new homes and apartment blocks, or those that undergo major renovations requiring a building code inspection. Manitoba will be the first province in Canada with that requirement.

Smoke Alarms

[Trends in the Residential Marketplace](#)

The current widespread adoption of cellular communication technology to fire/security alarm systems will be a winner. It uses an existing technology and a service provider under the control of the alarm company. On the other hand, I can see the possibility for IP monitoring to fall into the hot-tub category; still sold, but to a smaller market. Right now, the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72) has it on life-support with arguments for code changes and newly proposed amendments, which would affect its future use. Time will tell if direct radio communications or wired IP "cloud" technology will dominate.

Maryland-

[Fire Fatality Sparks Community-Based Campaign](#)

"Today, we will take our community initiatives in a new and exciting direction," said Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor, "I am pleased to announce that we are instituting an aggressive and ongoing collaborative partnership with our community civic organizations, businesses, and religious institutions to help us to get the word out to all who live in our community. This 'Safety First' Initiative will build on our existing PRIDE program to either directly or indirectly touch every residential structure in Prince George's County in the next six months, to ensure there are sufficient working smoke detectors installed."

**For information on the Residential Fire Safety Institute please
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