



Fire & Life Safety Council October 2009

Fire & Life Safety Council Members

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Franklin R. Timmons, CPP –
Newsletter Editor

A word from the Chair

Here we are at the end of September, coming into the final stretch of the year. Our council members having enjoyed success at the Annual Seminar & Exhibits in Anaheim, CA are getting ready for one of the most important months of the year – **FIRE SAFETY MONTH**. Our council members will be speaking and promoting Fire & Life Safety at everything from schools to businesses to community groups throughout the United States and beyond during the month of October.

To help us out we would ask each of you to take a moment at your various council meetings and/or chapter meetings and stress the importance of Fire Safety both inside and outside of the home.

In just released figures for 2008, public fire departments across the country responded to over 1,451,500 fires and approximately 515,000 of those were structure fires and 403,000 were residential fires. Of those 403,000 residential fires 2,780 people died in those fires. For some perspective that means that a residential fire occurs every 78 seconds across the country and someone dies every 158 minutes.

So, my final plea is to make sure you check the batteries in your smoke detectors. If you don't have any – get some. Then tell your friends, relatives and anybody that will listen to do the same.

SMOKE DETECTORS DO SAVE LIVES.



Council Members - Making a Difference

Kenneth Gentile - Senior Consultant, Rolf Jensen & Associates was a presenter at ASIS 2009 held in Anaheim, CA. His presentation titled Mass / Emergency Notification Systems for a Corporate Campus or High-Rise discussed design criteria for applying various mass and emergency notification system (M&ENS) technologies in high-rise and campus facilities. Appropriate uses for audible, visual, text, wireless, and other types of equipment were shown. Strategies to interface the M&ENS with building management systems and life safety systems that are common to campus and high-rise buildings were described and diagrammed. Current developments in code requirements for M&ENS equipment installations were reviewed and future trends in the technologies were considered.



Forrest Franklin, CPP, DABFE – President, Focus Group Consultants presenter at ASIS 2009 held in Anaheim, CA. His presentation titled Full and Multi-Building Evacuations as a Terror Response Component (co-authored by Ms. Dawn Gregory, CPP) focused on the Security professional with concept into practice methodology to coordinate full evacuation of a high-rise and/or multiple buildings simultaneously. This was an “after action report” chronicling lessons learned during a simulation duck, cover, and hold, followed by a full evacuation. This was the largest drill of its kind conducted to date in a U.S. metropolitan setting.

Twenty months in planning, a two-day, multi-agency response exercise simulating separate, almost simultaneous terrorist attacks at major high-rise buildings several blocks apart was staged.

The events depicted chemical releases in the main lobby and the 17th floor of a 52 story office building, killing or injuring scores of tenants. Half an hour later a second assault occurred at the offices of a United States Senator, with a biological release and an active shooter amok in the building.

Police, fire, heavy rescue, hazmat and medical teams were deployed from local, state and federal agencies. Bomb squads, SWAT, Army Civil Support Teams and mutual aid hazmat units from neighboring counties responded in a mass containment and recovery effort designed to stress them to their limits and examine the effectiveness of public & private sector WMD management collaboration.

FBI, JTTF, DHS and EPA had significant input. Local hospitals and regional forensic laboratories also played substantial roles.

The days' activities cost a quarter million dollars and involved 550 public agency professionals and 220 volunteers, mostly local students, participating as victims & evacuees. They were moulaged as DOAs and gunshot or CBRNE victims.

The event is part of a Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) mass casualty series that began with a Hazmat simulation in 2007, a catastrophe drill at a major transportation hub in 2009, and a disaster scenario TBD at a high-rise complex in 2010.

If anyone would like additional, specific information, contact Forrest (Peter) Franklin at thefocusgrp@aol.com.

E. Floyd Phelps, CPP (Retired) – penned the cover page article for October's issue of Security Management magazine. The article entitled “Exercising is Good for Everyone” deals with the necessity of practicing high rise evacuations and uses real life exercises he was a part of with the Dallas Fire Department. See page 52 of October's Security Management Magazine for more.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Heinrich Eisenberg, CPP

NFPA's Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities was developed with input from the disability community. It provides information on the five general categories of disabilities (mobility, visual, hearing, speech, and cognitive) and the four elements of evacuation information that occupants need (notification, way finding, use of the way, and assistance).

The Guide includes a checklist that building services managers and people with disabilities can use to design a personalized evacuation plan. The annexes give government resources and text based on the relevant code requirements and ADA criteria. Below is a link to this guide or go to <http://www.nfpa.org>



Acrobat Document

NFPA Emergency Evacuation Planning
Guide for People with Disabilities

FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY SAFETY TIPS

William A. (Bill) Minear II, CPP

The arrival of fall brings us many things: Football, crisp chilled air, falling leaves, and the beginning of the holiday season march (just to name a few). The cool weather reminds us that the warmth of a roaring fireplace is just around the corner...or is it?

Before you toss a log or two into the firebox and light the kindling, you might be interested in knowing that:

- Typically, a fireplace will remove more heat from your house than it puts in;
- Burning trash in your chimney can cause damage to your flue, and is a safety hazard;
- There is no chemical currently on the market that that will clean your chimney.

It is recommended that your chimney be inspected and cleaned by a professional "sweep" prior to the first burn of the season. The inspection will show if there is a buildup of creosote, which remains as one of the primary culprits of chimney fires. Use caution when selecting the type of wood you burn in your fireplace. Soft wood, like pine and artificial logs, burn fast and produce the highest level of creosote. Hard woods, like cedar and oak, are the best to burn. They still produce creosote, but in smaller amounts. As little as ¼ inch of creosote buildup in the roof of the firebox and around the damper can ignite and burn, setting off a free-burning fire that will make one wonder if a rocket is taking off inside the house!

Some good, common sense safety tips to remember and practice when using a fireplace are:

- Be sure the chimney is clean and in good condition.
- Be sure the damper is open before starting the fire.
- Use a screen or glass door to cover the front of the fireplace. This will reduce the risk of sparks from popping out into the room.
- Seasoned wood burns better than green wood.
- Ashes should be removed from the firebox by being placed into a metal container. Be sure to allow the ashes to cool before putting them into the trash.
- Never use fire starters such as charcoal lighter, kerosene or gasoline to start a fire.
- Don't "overstuff" the firebox. Too big a fire allows the flame to reach the roof of the firebox, enhancing the risk of igniting creosote and causing a chimney fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended, or leave small children alone in the room with a burning fire.

These are just a few good tips for making your seasonal burning a safe and enjoyable time. If you are interested and want to learn more about fireplaces and chimneys, visit the website of the Chimney Safety Institute of America at <http://www.csia.org/>.

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

Franklin R. Timmons, CPP

We often times take for granted fire safety in the home as it relates to cooking and activities in the kitchen area. We have provided a link to a fact sheet offered by the NFPA on fires involving cooking and cooking appliances in the home.

Please take a few minutes and review the safety information and the statistics provided.

Below is a link to the NFPA's fact sheet on home fires involving cooking equipment.



Acrobat Document



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