



Fire & Life Safety Council

September 2008

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A Word from the Chair

October is Fire Safety Month. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor the firefighters in our communities.

This can be done a number of different ways:

1. Each chapter can place an emphasis on Fire Safety for their meeting in October. Have a fire safety workshop before the meeting, get the Fire Chief in your community be the speaker for October, or honor a firefighter or two who did some heroic act during the past year.
2. As a Security Manager, take the Fire Chief, Fire Marshall and Section Chief to lunch.
3. Every company should use October to conduct an Emergency Evacuation Exercise and discuss fire safety with employs so they know that you have an emergency plan and they know what to do.
4. Many companies have a daycare facility as a part of their campus. Have the Fire Marshall bring the fire truck to the facility so the kids can see it up close. Also, have one of the firefighters dress up in full bunker gear and let the kid see what it looks like. In case there is a fire, a firefighter's entrance into a smoky

bedroom wearing their face-mask can be scary to a child who has never seen the gear. A frightened child might hide instead of being rescued by the fireman when surprised by such an apparition.

I know that we have Law Enforcement Appreciation Night and that Fire Fighters are included, but rarely do they get the attention that law enforcement and military get. Do something special for a fire fighter in October. Fire Fighters are modern heroes.

Visit Us at the Booth

The Fire & Life Safety Council is sponsoring a booth at the Annual Seminar & Exhibits in Atlanta. One of our members, Forrest Peter Franklin, CPP, was appointed Private Sector Logistics Director for a city-wide disaster exercise in San Francisco last month. The key scenario simulates two terrorist nuclear attacks in the Bay area. The event involved Federal, State and local agencies. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was to attend the exercise but cancelled last minute because of knee surgery. Along with his coordination duties, Franklin was responsible for documenting the event.

We will be showing a program involving PowerPoint and video of the event created by Peter Franklin at our booth. Stop by and see this impressive documentary.

In addition, the Council wrote a recent article in EuroDynamics inquiring about fire safety issues outside the United States. We invite seminar attendees to stop by the booth and discuss current fire safety issues in their countries, especially how they promote fire safety, nationally.

We will also have plenty of handouts on current issues.

Come see us at the Fire & Life Safety Booth at the entryway of the Exhibit Hall.

See you in Atlanta!

High Rise Safety – What are you willing to risk?

By Scott R. Gane, CPP
Vice Chairman – Fire & Life Safety Council

Because our Chairman (E. Floyd Phelps, CPP) won't toot his own horn, I thought I would do it for him this quarter. Floyd will be presenting at this year's ASIS annual Seminar & Exhibits a presentation entitled "High Rise Evacuation – Can we get out alive."

The presentation talks about the necessary planning and preparation in getting people out of a high rise building safely during a fire. Significant High-Rise fires and High-Rise fire deaths have riddled history the last 20 years (and before) starting with the 1988 high-rise fire in the tallest high-rise building in Los Angeles, CA that killed one man and destroyed four entire floors of the building. This fire is of "great technical significance because of the rapid interior and exterior spread, the significant internal smoke spread, and the role played in the fire's growth and development by combustibles in the modern office and their arrangement" said Thomas J. Klem, Director of NFPA's Fire Investigations division. This investigation led to the development of NIST standards and now accepted national codes for engineering equations for measuring fire hazard and the impact fire hazard safeguards.

Significant strides have been made in the protection of high-rise buildings, however, exemption from codes and lack of planning; preparation and training have been cited as contributing factors to the un-necessary death of many individuals. The events of September 11, 2001 and the more recent (2003) deaths of six people in a downtown high-rise fire in Chicago have renewed the plea for sprinkler systems in those buildings that may have been exempted from local fire code requirements. The fact remains, even with code changes – which may be difficult (and costly) to implement – enforcement of these new codes will be more difficult. So, what is the safety & security professional to do?

As this years' ASIS International Annual Seminar & Exhibits theme asks: "What are you willing to risk?", come and see Floyd and learn how to develop and execute the plan that will get you out of a High-Rise alive.

Safety Management at the Caribbean Court of Justice – Part 2

By Sandra Sandiford-Carr Msc. PSP

This is a continuation of the article which was published in the June Issue of the Fire & Life Safety Newsletter.

Management Support

At the Caribbean Court of Justice the Security and Facilities Departments are charged with the responsibility of establishing and advising on the occupational health and safety standards for the Court. In keeping with the Court's mission to "perform to the highest standards" we sought to implement an integrated safety management system that not only complied with the legal requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), but also looked at safety management from a strategic perspective. As such, a holistic approach to safety management was developed where the safety management system was tied into the strategic management plan for the Court.

Phase 1 - Training

Firstly, the training needs for the system were identified including general and specialized training. At the Court the security officers also function as safety officers so their training included specialized safety programs such as fire warden training and, fire and emergency procedures. Additionally, relevant members of staff were training in personal protection, counterterrorist driving, defensive driving and automated external defibrillation (AED). A decision was also made to have all employees trained in first aid, cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), fire safety and evacuation procedures to ensure that in an emergency everyone would be able to respond and provide assistance. The local Red Cross Society provided the first aid and CPR training and the National Fire Service carried out the fire safety and evacuation procedure training and in the process, a cordial working relationship was established with these reputable and experienced organizations. The second part of the training program saw employees being trained by the local Bureau of Standards in Occupational Safety and Health. This training was done over a three day period and included:

- The rights and responsibilities of employees and employers under the OSHA
- How to manage safety and loss prevention effectively
- Applying standards to work situations
- The record keeping requirements of the OSHA
- Creating a culture of workplace safety
- The role of the safety committee in safety management
- Hazard Identification, risk assessment and risk management
- Personal protective equipment
- Workplace ergonomics and
- Accident investigation

Phase 2 Setting up of Safety and Health Committee – Employee Involvement

After employees were trained in Occupational Health and Safety, a request was sent to all Departments for volunteers to serve on the Court's Safety and Health Committee and one committee member and an alternate from each Department was selected. The Safety and Health

Committee investigates all safety and health concerns at the Court and recommends solutions to management. With this system, employees will be directly involved in the development of safety and health procedures for the Court. Members of the Safety and Health Committee will receive specialized training to assist them in carrying out their duties more effectively.

Phase 3 Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan

Next, in keeping with our holistic approach to safety manage and the requirement of the OSHA, a safety and emergency preparedness plan was developed for the Court. This plan outlines a standard evacuation procedure based on notification and, shelter in place procedures. The plan divides emergencies into natural and man-made and outlines a procedure for each including:

- Fires
- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Bomb Threats
- Hazardous Materials
- Electrical Power Outages
- Assaults/Acts of Violence

Emergency contact numbers and the Court's Emergency Team are listed in the Plan and it will be distributed electronically to all employees. The Plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and updated online.

Emergency drills will be conducted at least twice annually. The next step in this project will see the development of a video on relevant safety and emergency procedures to be shown to all users of the Court.

Phase 4 Employee Assistance Program

The fourth phase of the safety management system was based on the recognition that the most critical asset of the Court is its employees. To this end, management has sent out request for proposals to reputable providers of Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) to provide assessments, counseling, referral, critical incident and stress management services to ensure that the Court provides reasonable care for the safety and health of its employees. These services will be available to all employees and their immediate family members on a referral basis and will be strictly confidential.

Phase 5 Continuity of Operations Plan

The fifth phase of the safety management system is the development of a Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP) in the event that the Court has to relocate to an alternate site due to an emergency. This has begun and we are in the process of identifying the essential functions of the Court and the resources needed, including personnel, to carry them out.

At the Caribbean Court of Justice we understand that occupational health and safety issues can evolve into more serious matters. With a comprehensive safety management system we can identify trends and areas of concern and measures can then be implemented to address these areas before they become critical incidents or emergencies. However, there will be critical incidents and emergencies that we cannot prevent, in those instances the procedures that we have developed will help us to ensure the safety and health of our employees and all users of the Court.

Hotel/Motel Fire Awareness

E. Floyd Phelps, CPP

A major part of most security manager's responsibilities include travel and frequently involves over night stays. Individuals in the security industry have developed a habit of being aware of their surroundings when traveling but many times when they reach their hotel, they switch to "off-duty" mode and just relax in their room. Before you go to sleep in your hotel of choice, make sure they have provided for your safety.

Have a Plan

- When you make your hotel/motel reservations, ask if the hotel or motel has smoke detectors and fire sprinklers.
- When traveling, pack a flashlight.
- A fire evacuation plan should be posted in your room. **READ IT.** If one is not posted in your room, request one from the front desk.
- Always, locate at least two exits from your room.
- It is important to count the number of doors between your room and the exits. This will assist you in evacuation if the hall is filled with smoke.
- Find the devices that activate the fire alarms on your floor.

In Case of Fire

- If a fire is in your room, don't fight it, get out quickly. Close the door, sound the alarm and notify the front desk.
- Always use a stairwell, never an elevator.
- If the fire is not in your room, leave if it is safe to do so. Be sure to take your room key with you in case fire blocks your escape and you need to re-enter your room.
- To check the hallway for fire, touch the door with the back of your hand to test the temperature. If the door is cool, get low to the floor, brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Be ready to close it quickly if there are flames on the other side. Crawl low in the smoke to the nearest exit; the freshest air is near the floor.
- If your room door is hot, do not open it. Instead, seal the door with wet towels or sheets. Turn off the fans and air conditioners. Call the fire department to give your location. Signal from your window.

When traveling with your family, be sure they **ALL** know what to do.

A Brief History of Early Firefighting

By E. Floyd Phelps, CPP

Did you know that George Washington was a volunteer firefighter for the city of Alexandria, Virginia? As a member the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Company, he purchased and donated a new fire engine to the town in 1774. It was their first.

Freedom wasn't the only concern to our Founding Fathers. Ben Franklin established the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia in 1736, long before there was talk of Independence.

One of the first cities founded in the United States, Jamestown, was almost completely destroyed by fire in January, 1608.

Back in the early 1800s fire protection was in the form of volunteers who formed bucket brigades and they had to purchase their own buckets.

In Shreveport, Louisiana the voters approved a bond package in 1852 that allowed the city to purchase one horse-drawn fire engine and one hook and ladder wagon.

Paid firefighters were not seen in the United States until 1850. The first full-time paid professional fire department in the United States was formed in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 1, 1853. However, the first organized municipal fire brigade in the world was established in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1824.

There are records that indicate that organized fire fighting was used in Ancient Egypt but movement for professional firefighting and fire prevention techniques was probably started in London after the Great Fire of 1666. The firestorm that started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane destroyed

approximately two square miles of the city before it could be brought under control. That's when the insurance companies got involved in fire protection.



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