



Fire & Life Safety Council

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Fire & Life Safety Council Members

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1. A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I thought I would pass on a couple of updates that caught my eye this quarter. The first being from the Joint Commission; (which accredits and certifies healthcare organizations across the United States) the Joint Commission revised EP2 (fire alarm and fire protection system requirements) which will now require hospitals to test their water-flow devices at least quarterly instead of every six months. The Joint Commission also created EP25 which now requires documentation of maintenance, testing and inspection activities for fire alarm and water-based fire protection systems. The two new EP's became effective July 1, 2011.



The second item comes from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). As part of a continuing educational effort by OSHA about the dangers of extreme heat, OSHA announced a free application for mobile devices that will enable workers and supervisors to monitor the heat index at their work sites in order to prevent heat-related illnesses.

The app, available in English and Spanish, combines heat index data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the user's location to determine necessary protective measures. Based on the risk level of the heat index, the app provides users with information about precautions they make take such as drinking fluids, taking rest breaks and adjusting work operations. Users also can review the signs and symptoms of heat stroke, heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses, and learn about first aid steps to take in an emergency. Information for supervisors is also available through the app on how to gradually build up the workload for new workers as well as how to train employees on heat illness signs and symptoms. Additionally, users can contact OSHA directly through the app.

The app is designed for devices using an Android platform, and versions for BlackBerry and iPhone users will be released shortly. To download it, visit <http://go.usa.gov/KFE>

The Fire and Life Safety Council has a very diverse and well-educated membership, and our members are standing ready and willing to answer your questions or to help our fellow ASIS International members with these (fire and life safety) non-traditional security duties they may have.

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2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Managing Your Personal Growth and the Talent Around You

William A. Minear, II CPP, FLSC Co-Vice Chair



A 2008 study conducted by the Institute for Corporate Productivity (i4cp) found only 36 percent of companies felt prepared to immediately fill leadership positions. “The impending retirement of the baby boom generation and the crisis in leadership during the economic recessions has further elevated the importance of leadership development to the board room and with shareholders” (*Seven steps for effective leadership development*, 2010, p. 3). Whether an organization measures it or not, their business performance is connected directly to the quality of their leadership and workforce.

To create meaning in the lives of workers, leaders must strive to establish abundant organizations, which talent researchers define as work settings that do not limit themselves to narrow agendas, but are instead willing to make themselves valuable parts of their workers’ lives, making use of employees’ creativity, hope, resilience, resourcefulness, and leadership. Another means of establishing a talent pool is the organization’s ability to participate in and benefit from a *talent community*. Today’s advances in technology have opened the door for organizations to interact *virtually* instead of *face-to-face*. This provides many new opportunities for organizations to actively share their talent management resources and services, including talent profiles.

The days of “silo-structured” organizations are quickly falling behind. The ability to effectively collaborate beyond internal and external boundaries is creating unique opportunities for the developing generation of new safety and security leaders. Practitioners who choose to develop a multi-skilled, diverse education and experience background are rapidly expanding their talent options.

ASIS International has many volunteer councils that provide a host of information, training, and subject matter expertise. The Fire & Life Safety Council is a diverse group comprised of several experienced security practitioners available to support the needs of the membership. A visit to the ASIS Council website may just be the spark **you** need to create your next innovative Best Practice.

Strengthening Homes in the Face of Adversity

CLINTON, Miss.— Mississippians who are repairing or rebuilding after recent severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding are facing many choices – and opportunities – regarding how they put the pieces of their homes and lives back together.

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are hoping that some of those choices will include proven techniques that can help reduce or prevent future storm damage.

To minimize damage often caused by high winds, emergency management officials suggest the following:

- **Anchor critical building components** in three areas:
 - **Attach roof rafters to the walls with a metal connector** - most easily added when new roof sheathing and shingles are installed – to help the structure resist wind uplift.
 - **Tie one floor to another with a continuous strap** (nailed on the outside of the wall) or with a floor-tie anchor, nailed to the inside of the wall.
 - **Secure the structure to the foundation with connectors** nailed to the studs and bolted into the concrete – also to help the structure resist wind uplift.
- **Fortify gable roofs** by bracing the end wall of the gable to resist high winds.
- **Take outside measures** to minimize flying debris:
 - Replace landscaping gravel and rock with shredded bark.
 - Keep trees and shrubs trimmed.
 - Cut weak branches and trees that could fall on your house or those around you.
- **Reinforce glass** windows and doors by:
 - Installing impact-resistant laminated glass window or door systems.
 - Applying high-strength window security films to standard window and patio door glass.
- **Fortify garage doors** by:
 - Installing permanent wood or metal stiffeners to an existing door.
 - Replacing door with one that is designed to resist high winds.
- **Build a safe room** inside your home to provide shelter from a storm by:
 - Reinforcing an existing room (bathroom, closet or utility room) to withstand uplift, overturning or penetration from flying debris; or building a small, attached addition to your home with proper anchors and reinforcement to resist high winds or tornadoes.

3. LEGISLATION/LEGAL ACTION

An important note for firefighters and those with an investment in the fire service taken from www.fema.gov



Bookmark the FEMA Fire Grants Page

Posted By: FEMA Public Affairs

Beginning today, the web site where first responders apply for all Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants Programs will change its current web site address from www.firegrantsupport.com to the FEMA web site at www.fema.gov/firegrants.

We have been working to transition all the information from the old fire grant site to the new site.

All applications for FEMA's fire grant programs including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER), Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) and information on the Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grants (ARRA) will now be located at www.fema.gov/firegrants.

FEMA has been working to make all information more easily accessible and more user friendly for first responders and having two different web portals for information just didn't make sense.

All fire grants program documents, awards announcements, grants management workshops, success stories and program application reports and statistics will now be available at www.fema.gov/firegrants.

General Lighting Requirements if foot candles

Often times, there is a general discussion about lighting requirements for general construction projects. The standards established are promulgated by OSHA and established by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES).

Please remember that all light levels are taken horizontally at ground level.

Furthermore the IES has established an entire set of lighting standards for the security industry, including lighting levels in lobbies, elevators, parking garages and general walkways. More information about the IES and their publications can be obtained at www.IES.org

General construction areas, ramps, runways, corridors, offices, shops, and storage areas shall be lighted to not less than the minimum illumination intensities listed below, while any work is in progress:

MINIMUM ILLUMINATION INTENSITIES IN FOOT-CANDLES

| Foot Candles | Area of Operation |
|--------------|---|
| 5 | General construction area lighting. |
| 3 | General construction areas, concrete placement, excavation and waste areas, access ways, active storage areas, loading platforms, refueling, and field maintenance areas. |
| 5 | Indoors: warehouses, corridors, hallways, and exit ways. |
| 5 | Tunnels, shafts, and general underground work areas: (Exception: minimum of 10 foot-candles is required at tunnel and shaft heading during drilling, mucking, and scaling. Bureau of Mines approved cap lights shall be acceptable for use in the tunnel heading). |
| 10 | General construction plant and shops (e.g., batch plants, screening plants, mechanical and electrical equipment rooms, carpenter shops, rigging lofts and active store rooms, mess halls, and indoor toilets and workrooms.) |
| 30 | First aid stations, infirmaries, and offices. |

4. TECHNOLOGY

Residential Safe Rooms

Having a safe room in your home or small business can help provide "near-absolute protection" for you and your family or your employees from injury or death caused by the dangerous forces of extreme winds. Near-absolute protection means that, based on our current knowledge of tornadoes and hurricanes, there is a very high probability that the occupants of a safe room built according to this guidance will avoid injury or death. A safe room can also relieve some of the anxiety created by the threat of an incoming tornado or hurricane. Our knowledge of tornadoes and hurricanes and their effects is based on substantial meteorological records as well as extensive investigation of damage to buildings from extreme winds. All information contained in this publication is applicable to safe rooms for use in homes as well as in small businesses.

This publication will help you decide how best to provide near-absolute protection for yourself, your family, or employees and answers many questions concerning safe rooms. It includes the results of research that has been underway for more than 30 years, by Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering (WISE; formerly known as the Wind Engineering Research Center or WERC) and other wind engineering research facilities, on the effects of extreme winds on buildings. Go to www.fema.gov to download the entire FEMA 320 document.

FEMA 320 also provides safe room designs that will show you and your builder/contractor how to construct a safe room for your home or small business. Design options include safe rooms located in the basement, in the garage, or in an interior room of a new home or small business building. Other options also provide guidance on how to construct an exterior safe room, either buried underground or attached to the existing building, or how to modify an existing home or small business building to add a safe room inside. These safe rooms are designed to provide near-absolute protection for you, your family, or employees from the extreme winds expected during tornadoes and hurricanes and from flying debris that tornadoes and hurricanes usually generate. [Download the safe room construction plans and specifications](#) from the web site.

The safe room designs presented in this publication meet or exceed all tornado and hurricane design criteria of the ICC-500 for both the tornado and hurricane hazards.

Why is the term "safe room" being used instead of "shelter"?

The terms "safe room" and "shelter" have been used interchangeably in past publications. Typically the difference in usage was limited to differentiating between residential applications called "safe rooms" and larger projects called "community shelters." The release of the ICC-500 standard, as well as other national, state, and local protection initiatives, identified a need to distinguish shelters that meet the FEMA criteria for near-absolute protection and those that do not. Although both the FEMA and ICC criteria are designed to provide life-safety protection for safe rooms and shelters that meet these criteria, only the FEMA criteria provides near-absolute protection from extreme wind events. To help clarify the difference between safe rooms design to FEMA 320 and FEMA 361 guidance, the term "safe room" applies to all shelters, buildings, or spaces designed to the FEMA criteria (whether for individuals, residences, small businesses, schools, or communities). This allows for the buildings, shelters, or spaces designed to the ICC-500 standard to be called shelters. All safe room criteria in the FEMA publications meet or exceed the shelter requirements of the ICC-500.

A residential safe room is designed to protect families or small groups of people (up to 16) while a community safe room is defined as a shelter designed and constructed to protect a larger group of people from a natural hazard event. This publication will refer to all shelters constructed to meet the FEMA criteria (whether for individuals, residences, small businesses, schools, or communities) as safe rooms.

The ICC-500 provides the minimum design and construction requirements for extreme-wind storm shelters and is expected to be incorporated (by reference) into the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC). It is important that those involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of storm shelters be knowledgeable of both FEMA guidance and ICC standards that pertain to sheltering from extreme winds.

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5. EDUCATION

National Fire Protection Week (FPW)



The week of October 9th thru October 15th is National Fire Protection week. The NFPA has a wide array of interesting programs and educational materials that can be purchased and used to promote fire safety at home, in our schools and at work. Simple things such as hazards identification, the use of detection devices in the home and the use of fire extinguishers, and emergency escape plans are also important items that can be taught and reinforced during this time.

The NFPA has available, a complete kit called 2011 Fire Prevention Week in-a-box. The kit contains lots of kid's brochures, FPW magnets, FPW stickers, FPW newsletters and FPW plastic carrying bags.

Log on to www.firepreventionweek.org for more information on this very important subject.

NFPA News (codes newsletter)

NFPA News is a free newsletter providing detailed information on NFPA codes and standards activities. *NFPA News* typically includes special announcements, notification of proposal and comment closing dates, requests for comments on NFPA documents, publication of Formal Interpretations (FIs), Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs), Errata, and notice of the availability of Standards Council minutes.



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