



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS



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TO: All Fire & Life Safety Section Members
FR: Chief Adolf Zubia, Section Chair
RE: Report from the Chair

Two New Board Members Appointed

Per the Fire & Life Safety Section By-laws, the board has the authority to appoint two ex-officio members. These are board members "who offer expertise which would be helpful to assist the board with their work. Ex-officio members have a voice but no vote on matters before the Board of Directors and shall be appointed for a one (1) year term by a majority vote of the Board after elections at the annual business meeting." Based on that direction, the board appointed former board member Division Chief Brian Maltby, of the Brampton Fire & Emergency Services, Ontario, Canada for his expertise in the fire prevention arena as well as for the unique perspective he brings from our neighbor to the north. Last week, Mr. Woody Stratton, Fire Management Specialist with the U.S. Fire Administration at the U.S. Fire Academy accepted our appointment for the second position. Mr. Stratton brings an extensive fire service background to the board and will be instrumental in helping our section develop a closer working relationship with the US Fire Administration.

ICC Raising the Profile Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the new *ICC Raising the Profile Award*. The award will be presented during the 2008 Building Safety Week activities. Deadline for nominations is January 4, 2008. The *Raising the Profile Award* will be given to an individual or organization whose acts or contributions have raised the public awareness of the work accomplished by code enforcement personnel to improve public safety in the built environment.

<http://www.iccsafe.org/safety/BSW/index.html>

Residential Sprinkler Videos

WBTV from Charlotte NC produced two stories on the evening news last week to demonstrate the facts about residential fire sprinklers. These are excellent stories which could be used for public education in your own communities. Please access our website to view these videos. www.iafc.org/flss

Timeline on Products of Combustion

Another useful educational tool on our website is a graphic on "Time vs. Products of Combustion." This is another item for your arsenal of educational programs on the value of residential sprinkler systems and home fire safety. www.iafc.org/flss

New Reduced-Price Membership Category Available

In August 2007, the IAFC Board approved a new category of IAFC membership called "IAFC Affiliate Member." The IAFC Affiliate membership is open to firefighters, company officers and ANY others interested in the fire and emergency service who are not chief officers (2 crossed bugles or higher). The Affiliate membership has a base price of **\$75.00**, with optional add-ons for sections and divisions. So company officers or others in your department who have not become IAFC members can now join as an IAFC Affiliate member and join our section for a total price of \$95.00.

Please encourage your eligible colleagues to join the section as an IAFC Affiliate Member; as such, they will enjoy greater benefits than were offered by the FLSS Section Affiliate membership, as that membership category did not offer any IAFC member benefits. For further details or to receive an IAFC Affiliate application, go to www.iafc.org/join or contact our staff liaison, Joelle Fishkin, at jfishkin@iafc.org.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Director Alan Perdue attended a meeting of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services on October 11 to discuss smoke alarm performance and the smoke characterization study. Representatives from USFA, NFPA, and ICC all presented similar information to ours, which is that at this time and based on current technical information, dual alarm sensors are recommended for home fire safety.

ICC Joint Fire Services Review Committee

All members of the Fire and Life Safety Section Board of Directors will be attending the ICC Joint Fire Services Review Committee meeting in Ft. Worth, TX Jan. 16-18, 2008.

Underwriter Labs Reviewing Lightweight Construction Materials

UL is currently scheduling activities in support of the first phase of a grant to investigate the structural stability of engineered lumber. They are inviting participants to view large-scale fire tests, utilizing nine different fire scenarios (different forms of lightweight construction trusses etc). Participants have been invited from the Fire & Life Safety Section, the Safety, Health and Survival Section and the Professional Development Committee. Our representative to the fire tests is board Member Chief Shane Ray. This report will be posted to our webpage, when available.

NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation

Fire Chief John Schuldts (Carpentersville IL) will be representing the section at a 2-day workshop sponsored by NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation in late January 2008 to discuss the fire hazards associated with upholstered furniture. Chief Schuldts's report will be posted to the section webpage.

Request from Central Station Alarm Association

We are looking for two section volunteers who are interested in alarm issues, specifically:

- o Carbon monoxide detector installation and testing standard
- o Requiring universal fire alarm and smoke detector maintenance and testing
- o Strategies to reduce false dispatches

We will appoint two board members and two section members to work with CSAA on these issues. All business will be conducted by teleconference with one face-to-face meeting at FRI in Denver in August 2008. Any section member who has an interest and a background in fire alarms should contact our staff liaison at jfishkin@iafc.org.

Manufacture Date on Fire Alarms

It was brought to our attention by the Washington State Fire Chiefs Association that some smoke alarms for purchase at local home building supply stores can be out-of-date by several years by the time of purchase. Since the manufacture date is not on the outside packaging, the consumer will not be aware of the fact that they are installing an "old" detector which might not deliver peak performance for the full ten years, as advertised. Fire Departments might consider posting an announcement to consumers regarding this issue.