



FPANT

This Month's Meeting:

“FLAME RETARDANT APPLICATIONS FOR STAGE AND ROOM CURTAINS”

By

Larry Pruitt of SMPL Products

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 9th

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location:

Love and War in Texas

2505 E. Grapevine Mills Circle

Grapevine, TX 76051

972.724.5557

www.loveandwarintexas.com

Presentation:

“Flame Retardant Applications for Stage and Room Curtains” by Larry Pruitt of SMPL Products

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2009 Chapter Officers:

President: Jerry Bonner,
Flower Mound Fire Dept.
Vice President: Vacant.
Treasurer: Todd Haines,
DFW Airport Fire Dept.

2009 Chapter Directors:

Andrew Barr, McKinney Fire Dept.
Terry Broome, Lewisville Fire Dept.
Bob Morgan, Fort Worth Fire Dept.

Mr. Pruitt will discuss the requirements of the IFC and NFPA 701 as they relate to stage and room curtains. His company provides flame retardant applications to comply with manufacturer and Fire Code requirements.

Also, it pays to read the newsletter – this is FREE lunch month for FPANT Members. Hope you can make it!

Last Month's Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order at approximately Noon, November 11th, 2009, at 'Love and War in Texas' in Grapevine, TX, by Secretary/Treasurer Todd Haines. The previous month's meeting minutes were accepted.

Treasurer Report: \$2,001.34 - Approved.

Code Committee: N/A.

Legislative Committee: N/A.

Training: FPANT hosting a kitchen hood extinguishing system training session this morning and a paint booth extinguishing system training session this afternoon provided by Associate Member Kimbrough Fire Extinguisher Co. Much thanks to Kimbrough.

Todd Haines discussed the Basics of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment class being offered at CEF.

Internet: www.fpant.org

Membership: Officer/Director elections were held during at the meeting. Motion to forgo secret ballot for officer elections approved.

Officer nominations were:

- Bryan Beckner – President;
- Steven Epstein – VP
- Todd Haines – Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors nominations were:

- Andrew Barr
- Terry Broome
- Bob Morgan

All nominations were approved by the Membership. Congratulations to the 2010 FPANT Officers and Directors.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Issue of UV Kitchen Hood systems causing burns to installers and AHJ's was brought up from the morning training session as an area of concern.

Presentation: David Kerr gave a brief presentation on the Code Hearings in Baltimore and possible impacts.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 pm.



Training Events:

- Continuous: Public Agency Training Council - www.patc.com
- Emergency Preparedness Training Schedule via NCTCOG - www.nctcog.org/ep/training
- ICC Final Action Hearing - Dallas, TX - May 14-23, 2010 - Dallas, TX - www.iccsafe.org
- International Hazardous Materials Response Team Conference - May 19-23, 2010 - Baltimore, MD - www.iafc.org
- NFPA Conference and Expo - June 7-10, 2010 - Las Vegas, NV - www.nfpa.org
- Fire-Rescue International (FRI) - August 24-28, 2010 - Chicago, IL - www.iafc.org

If you have other training opportunities that you would like to have posted in this newsletter, please email them to bob.morgan@fortworthgov.org. Thank you.

Requests from Members:

- Charles Anderson requested posting of <http://inspectpa.com/phpbb/index.php>, which is the Building Code Message Board - Forum for communication with inspectors, architects, engineers, contractors and plan reviewers.
- From Bob Morgan: If you were unable to attend the Texas Fire Marshal's Conference in Austin in October, visit www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fm2009confer.html to see photos and download information from the presentations, including Power Points etc.

Focus on Fire Safety: Holiday Fire Safety

Dry Tree vs. High Moisture Tree Fire

Download Video

 [Comparison of dry tree and properly maintained \(high moisture\) tree fires](#)

With the onset of the holiday season, it is important to focus on fire safety and prevention. The celebration of the season brings with it increased usage of electric lights, decorations, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree, all of which can be potential fire hazards. Additionally, cooking fires increase during the holidays as families and friends gather to celebrate. By following general fire safety precautions, potential holiday fires, deaths, and injuries remain preventable.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Cooking

The following safe cooking tips can help to make your holiday dinner safe and enjoyable:

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.



A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

A Factsheet on Holiday Fire Prevention

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 Americans, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage.

According to the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

PREVENTING CHRISTMAS TREE FIRES

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

SELECTING A TREE FOR THE HOLIDAY

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

CARING FOR YOUR TREE

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DISPOSING OF YOUR TREE

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HOLIDAY LIGHTS

MAINTAIN YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

DO NOT OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

DO NOT LEAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON UNATTENDED

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

USE ONLY NONFLAMMABLE DECORATIONS

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

NEVER PUT WRAPPING PAPER IN A FIREPLACE

It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

CANDLE CARE

AVOID USING LIT CANDLES

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

NEVER PUT LIT CANDLES ON A TREE

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.



For more information contact:

The U. S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
or
Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov



Homeland Security

UL and NFPA urge consumers to think savings and safety for holiday cheer this year

Bargain hunting should not come at the expense of unsafe products; home fires and deaths peak in December and January

NORTHBROOK, Ill., November 17, 2009 – Surveys from the National Retail Federation and Information Resources, Inc. suggest that uber-competitive bargain-hunting will dominate as this year's trend among families who have spent the year making only purchases of necessity. But if cost is the only concern for these spending-savvy "frugalistas," it could mean they may compromise safety.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are working together this season to remind consumers to think about savings *and* safety to enjoy true peace of mind. With the NFPA reporting that December and January are the peak months for the overall number of home fires, deaths and injuries, safety is an issue than can often be overlooked with detrimental consequences.

For families, money savings can come in the form of reusing old decorations or shopping at thrift stores and deep discounters. It is also a time of year when families are celebrating and cooking more at home. But if not done carefully, seemingly cheerful activities could quickly put a damper on holiday spirits. Old products like light strings can become worn after years of use. If not carefully evaluated, items like these can pose a risk of fire or electric shock.

"Decorating the tree, lighting the menorah and other holiday traditions are what every family wants to remember," said John Drengenberg, director of Consumer Safety at UL. "Unfortunately, all can be a fire hazard or cause an electric shock or injury, so families should take a few minutes to think about the most precious gift of all when celebrating with loved-ones: safety."



SAFE & THRIFTY GIFTS

- **Shop at retailers you know and trust.** Some products found at deep-discount stores may pose potential safety hazards, especially if they do not bear a recognized safety certification mark, such as the UL Mark (the letters "UL" inside a circle).
- **Just look for UL.** Products that bear the UL Mark mean representative samples have been tested to UL's rigorous safety standards and found to be free of foreseeable safety hazards.
- **Examine packaging.** Parents should thoroughly examine new products, especially if they have young children at home. Pay particular attention to products in boxes or packages that do not offer a brand name and manufacturer's information.

SAFE HOME

- **A fresh tree is key.** "If the needles are not fresh, there is a greater risk of fire," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications, NFPA. "While Christmas tree fires are rare, a person dies in one of every 18 reported, so it's clear they can be deadly." Ask your tree lot attendant to make a fresh cut to the base of the tree and place it in water as soon as you get home. Position the tree in a tree stand that holds at least one gallon of water and check moisture level daily. Dispose of your tree after approximately four weeks.
- **Light it right.** Carefully inspect each electrical decoration – new or old -- before plugging it in. Look for cracked sockets or frayed, exposed wires that could become a shock or fire hazard. Replace damaged items with new, UL-LISTED decorations.
- **Holiday lights - indoor or outdoor?** Indoor-use only light strings are marked with UL's green holographic label. Indoor or outdoor-use light strings are marked with UL's red holographic label.

SAFE FAMILY

- **Exercise candle care.** If you have children and pets, place candles out of reach and away from heavy traffic areas in your home. Never leave a room with candles lit.
- **Stand by your pan.** Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking, frying or broiling.
- **Practice makes the holiday perfect.** Use the holiday season as an opportunity to practice a fire escape plan with your children. Every family member should know at least two ways to get out of each room in the home.
- **Gift donations.** If you plan to give to those in need, think safety. Consider donating toys your children no longer play with – but are in good condition for second-hand use. Before donating toys with electrical components, make sure they do not have frayed or bare wires/cords as they can potentially cause fire or shock hazards.

"There are many opportunities for stress and seasonal mishaps. Checking your home and holiday gifts for the UL Mark will help keep your family safe to provide peace of mind," says Drengenberg.

For more information on holiday decorating and gift-giving safety tips, go to www.ul.com/consumers.



Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Dallas / Fort Worth Chapter
Next Meeting

December 7, 2009
11:30 am Registration
12:00 am Meeting & Lunch

Meeting location:

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
4099 Valley View Lane
Farmers Branch, TX 75244
(Exit Midway Rd. from LBJ Freeway, IH 635 North)

Cost of lunch:

\$15-Chapter Members
\$20-Non-Chapter Members
Annual Chapter Dues \$50.00

Please RSVP to [Ray Battalora](#) later than Friday, December 4, 2009

Minutes from past meetings can be downloaded at: <http://www.sfpe-dfw.com/minutes.htm>

Speaker/Program

Speaker

Mr. Don Moser

Senior Fire Consultant
Rimkus Consulting Group
Irving, Texas

Topic:

Cause and Origin of Fires and Fire Investigations

Please feel free to pass this along to anyone you think may have an interest in this presentation.

Meetings and Associations

- Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers meet first working Monday of the month, Sept through May at the Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Ln., Farmers Branch, TX at 11:30 a.m. For reservations email at sfpe-dfw@comcast.net.
- The Metroplex Fire Safety Educators Assoc. meets during odd numbered months the 3rd Thursday. See website at www.mfsea.net for time and location, or call Christopher Balanciere, Public Education Specialist, Garland Fire Department, at 972-205-2271 or email GFDpubed@ci.garland.tx.us for more information.
- The Tarrant County Fire Investigators Association meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office, 2750 Premier Drive, Fort Worth, TX. Contact Sabino Vasquez, Fire Investigator, Fort Worth Fire Dept., 2222 Wenneca Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76102, at (817) 392-6856 or sabino.vasquez@fortworthgov.org for further information.
- The North Texas Fire Investigators Assoc. meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at the Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Ln., Farmers Branch, TX at 11:30 a.m. Contact Wesley Caskey, Captain, Fire Prevention, Richardson Fire Department, 136 N. Greenville Avenue, Richardson, Texas 75081, (972) 744-5750 or email wesley.caskey@cor.gov for more information.
- The North Texas Fire and Police Chaplains Association will meet on December 6 at 11:00 a.m., at the Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Ln., Farmers Branch, TX. Contact Mark Chambers, at 972-744-5755 or Mark.Chambers@cor.gov for more information.
- Each month Tarrant Co. hosts a Juvenile Fire Setters meeting periodically at the Tarrant Co. Fire Marshal's Office, 2750 Premier Dr., Ft. Worth, TX. At 9:00 a.m. This meeting includes the Fire Services, Police, School Districts, Juvenile Justice Department, Tarrant Co. DA, Mental Health Department and Counselors. For more information contact Mike Rehfeld at (817) 838-4600 or mrehfeld@tarrantcounty.com.

Internet Links of Interest

- FPANT <http://www.fpant.org>
- ICC <http://www.iccsafe.org>
- NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org>
- TCFP, Texas Commission on Fire Protection <http://www.tcfp.state.tx.us/>
- Texas State Fire Marshal's Office <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmlinefaq.html>
- IAAI, International Association of Arson Investigators <http://www.firearson.com/>
- interFIRE Online <http://www.interfire.org/>
- BOAT, Building Officials Association of Texas <http://www.boatx.org/>
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers <http://www.sfpe.org/>
- NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/>
- National Fire Academy <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtm>

Submitted by:

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