



Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 10th, 2009

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Location:

Love and War in Texas

2505 E. Grapevine Mills Circle

Grapevine, TX 76051

972.724.5557

www.loveandwarintexas.com

Presentation:

'Means of Egress Training'

by Al Godwin, CBO

Ft. Worth Building Official

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2009 Chapter Officers:

- President: Jerry Bonner,
Flower Mound Fire Dept.
- Vice President: Scott Burke,
Farmers Branch Fire Dept.
- 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.

FPANT

This Month's Meeting:

'MEANS OF EGRESS TRAINING'

By

Al Godwin, Fort Worth Building Official

June 10th, 2009

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Presentation: 2006 International Building Code Means of Egress Requirements. What they are and how to apply them.

Speaker: Al Godwin is the Building Official of Fort Worth, TX, and has been since 1990. He is a Certified Building Official by ICC. He has served on different code committees for ICBO and then ICC, including the Fire Code, since 1998.

Please bring a copy of the 2006 IBC if you have one.

CEU's for 5 contact hours will be provided via email, as needed.

RSVP's are NOT required to attend this event.

Cost: You just pay the cost of your lunch – Otherwise, it's **FREE** – Thanks to Al Godwin for his willingness to donate his time for regional training in the fire prevention community!

Last Month's Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order by President Bonner at approximately 12:05 pm, May 13th, 2009, at Love and War in Texas in Grapevine, TX.

Last month's meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Approximate \$5,195.71.

Code Committee: ICC Annual Conference in Baltimore – registration now open online.

Mr. Morgan mentioned the possibility of FPANT sponsoring members to attend the hearings, as done in the past, but possibly fully funding.

Legislative Committee: HB 1511 Anti-Home Fire Sprinkler Bill expected vote soon – encourage all to oppose.

Training: BPI next week at UTA – not too late to sign up if interested.

Internet: www.fpant.org

Membership: N/A.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Community Building Code Administration Grant (CBCAG) – encourage membership to support at ICC's website – as per previous email.

There was also discussion on CodePal as to who is using it – Mr. Frisinger mentioned possibility of regional use of software.

It was also mentioned that FM Global has grants available for fire prevention activities, such as CodePal, etc.

Presentation: Mr. Doug Frazier with Enviroguard provided an excellent presentation on spill containment for lead acid battery installations, the code requirements, and the options available.

President Bonner adjourned the official meeting at approximately 12:57 pm.

Training Events:

- Continuous: Public Agency Training Council – www.patc.com
- June 8-11, 2009: NFPA World Safety Conference and Expo in Chicago, IL - www.nfpa.org
- June 24, 2009: CTFIA Fire Death Investigation Training Course in Pflugarville, TX - <http://www.ctfia.com/CTFIA%20Fire%20Death%20Investigation.pdf>
- August 25-29, 2009: Fire-Rescue International (FRI) in Dallas, TX - www.iafc.org
- September 15-18, 2009: Fire Prevention Conference in San Antonio, TX - www.bexar.org/bcfmo
- October 19-23, 2009: Texas Fire Marshals Association conference in Austin, TX - www.txfma.org

From FPANT Legislative Committee (www.capitol.state.tx.us):

- **SB 1410** – As you should know by now, SB 1410 has passed the Senate with Otto’s amendment banning any requirements for home fire sprinkler systems –sent to the Governor as of June 1, 2009.

PLEASE CALL (512) 463-2000 and request that SB 1410 be vetoed by the Governor. That is the only option to stop Otto's amendment at this point.

Additionally, **please FAX the Governor at (512) 463-1849 in writing your request to veto SB 1410**, specifically because of Otto's amendment with the same reasons we've been talking about up to this point. It doesn't have to be pretty. Just fax in a request for the Governor to veto SB 1410, and include your name, address, phone number.

Lastly, you may **email the Governor at <http://governor.state.tx.us/contact> with your request for him to veto SB 1410.**

- **HB 90** – Bans the sale and distribution of toy-like lighters – Left pending in the State Affairs Committee of Senate. (FPANT strongly supports this bill, along with SFFMA and TXFMA).
- **HB 599** – Texas Independence Day fireworks bill – never made it to House floor for vote, and House is now on Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar.
- **HB 1913** – Fire hydrant bill regarding painting hydrants black - never made it to House floor for vote, and House is now on Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar. (SFFMA and TFCA are both in favor of this bill.)
- **HB 2046** – Would allow for any Texas County to adopt a Fire Code, rather than just counties over 250,000 population - never made it to House floor for vote, and House is now on Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar. (FPANT strongly supports this bill.)
- **HB 3866** – Requires Fire Inspections to be conducted only by inspectors certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection – passed and has been sent to the Governor as of June 1, 2009. Note that this would require such certification for any fire inspections occurring on or after September 1, 2011.

To say there were numerous bills this year would be an understatement. The TXFMA and the SFFMA do a great job notifying their members as to the bills affecting their organizations. I forward many of their notices on to the FPANT membership, but not all, as there are just too many, and I don't want to overwhelm the org with emails. The point is that the above list is certainly not all inclusive of bills that may affect our members.

From ICC (www.iccsafe.org):

ICC® is pleased to introduce **Free 2009 I-Codes Overview Webinars**, a snapshot preview of the new I-Codes, bringing the reality of the classroom to your desktop. **Log in and learn – for free.**

These Free 2009 I-Codes Overview Webinars provide a general look at the code and cover a select number of the significant changes that have taken place between the 2006 and 2009 versions, providing viewers with a good technical preview of the new code. Each webinar is approximately 40 to 50 minutes in length and available online 24/7.

<http://www.iccsafe.org/ps/overview-webinars.html>

ICC Annual Conference open for registration – following is tentative schedule of code hearings:

**WEEK OF OCTOBER 24-
OCTOBER 31**

IBC – Structural

IECC

IEBC

IFC

IPMC

IRC – B & E

IWUIC

**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 –
NOVEMBER 11**

Admin (Chapter 1 of I-Codes)

IBC – Means of Egress

IBC – Fire Safety

IBC – General

IFGC

IMC

IPC

IRC – M & P

NEWS RELEASES

Local, national fire experts show need for home fire sprinklers Demonstration in Plymouth follows recent deaths of four area residents in house fires

PLYMOUTH, MA, May 26, 2009 – After house fires killed four area residents in just the past three months, the Plymouth, Mass. Fire Department and national fire safety experts vividly showed the life-saving difference home fire sprinkler systems can make. Plymouth fire officials joined the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, [Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#), and the [National Fire Protection Association](#) in a live demonstration of fire sprinklers this afternoon. The demonstration provided a graphic display of how quickly home fire sprinklers work to subdue heat, flames and smoke in a very dangerous situation. Nearly 3,000 Americans die each year in house fires. It is estimated you could have as little as three minutes to escape a home fire should one occur.

“Sprinklers save lives,” said G. Edward Bradley, Plymouth Fire Chief. “Frankly, we are seeing too many people die in residential fires in this area. Home fire sprinkler systems are the best protection you and your family can have to escape a fire in your home. This demonstration shows that quite clearly.”

The demonstration included a side-by-side room display where sprinklers had been installed in only one of the rooms. The other room was not sprinklered. Both rooms were set on fire. Home fire sprinklers are designed to activate when a certain degree of heat increase is reached, so as the temperature in the display went up, the sprinklers went off. As seen in the demonstration, the fire in the sprinklered room was controlled quickly by overhead sprinklers. In contrast, the fire in the room without sprinklers burned out of control until the Plymouth Fire Department put out the fire. The fire and smoke damage in the sprinklered room was significantly less than in the room without sprinklers. The demonstration was narrated by Ron Hazelton, a national home repair expert and spokesperson for the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition.

Recounting a successful sprinkler save elsewhere in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said, “Sprinklers are like having a firefighter in every room ready to put out the fire.” With home fire sprinklers, not only can the lives of residents be saved, but the lives of the fire fighters who bravely step in to take control of the situation can be saved as well.”

“We have long known the benefits of sprinklers in other types of buildings. It is time one and two family homes have that same level of protection,” said Jim Shannon, president of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). “Statistics show that approximately 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in homes; however, when home fire sprinklers are present, the chances of dying in a house fire decrease by about 80 percent. That is why NFPA is so committed to home fire sprinkler requirements in all new one- and two-family construction. It’s simply about saving lives.”

Currently, all model building codes call for sprinklers in new construction of one- and two-family homes. Roughly 90 percent of the time, fires are contained by the activation of just one sprinkler. In homes where sprinklers are not present, the fire can burn for minutes, raging out of control, filling the home with toxic smoke and resulting in far greater losses. A recent report from NFPA shows that sprinklers can reduce the average property loss by 71 percent per fire.

About the Fire Sprinkler Initiative: Bringing Safety Home

[The Fire Sprinkler Initiative](#), a project of the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationwide effort to encourage the use of home fire sprinklers and the adoption of fire sprinkler requirements for new construction.

About the National Fire Protection Association

[NFPA](#) has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international, nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education.

About the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

[HFSC](#) is the leading resource for independent, noncommercial information about residential fire sprinklers. HFSC was formed in 1996 in response to the tremendous need to inform the public about the life-saving value of home fire sprinkler protection.

About the State Department of Fires Services (DFS)

The State Fire Marshal heads the [Department of Fire Services](#), the sole agency within state government responsible for overall coordination of fire service policy and operations. Specially trained State Police are assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to conduct fire and explosion investigations. The mission of the Department of Fire Services is to provide the people of Massachusetts the ability to create safer communities through coordinated training, education, prevention, investigation, emergency response and leadership.

Side-by-side burn

Top photo: The room without the sprinkler burns completely in just a minute-and-a-half.

Center photo: The fire in the sprinkler-protected room is put out quickly.

Bottom photo: The side-by-side comparison of the two rooms.



USFA Prevention Group Holds National Conference

USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) was honored to once again play host to nearly 140 fire prevention professionals for the 5th National PARADE (Prevention Advocacy Resources and Data Exchange) Conference, May 14-16. Presentations, workshops, and displays addressed a wide range of fire prevention topics including residential sprinklers, global concepts for residential fire safety, marketing strategies, novelty toy-like lighters, and lessons learned.

During this year's PARADE Conference, Glenn A. Gaines, Acting Assistant USFA Fire Administrator, told the fire marshals that he was "100% committed to mitigation and prevention." Acting Assistant Administrator Gaines also shared with the group his support of the International Residential Code (IRC) requirement for fire sprinklers and that he planned to work hard to ensure that homes have working smoke alarms with long-life batteries installed.

As a result, the 2009 PARADE participants crafted and unanimously passed two resolutions: one in support of banning the sale of novelty toy-like lighters and the second one supporting the IRC for fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses. To review these two resolutions, please visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/parade/

PARADE was established in 2003 to better assist America's state and major metropolitan fire marshals, and other representatives, in implementing effective fire prevention programs, conducting networking activities, and exchanging materials.

For more information on all U. S. Fire Administration programs and activities, visit the USFA Web site at: www.usfa.dhs.gov

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 at 10:00 a.m. at the Double Tree Hotel, 4099 Valley View Ln., Farmers Branch. Call Jerry Bonner at (972) 874-3134 or email at jbonner@flower-mound.com 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 Eric Vinson at (817) 743-4471 or evinson@kellerfd.com 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 David Kerr.
- 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 on the 1st Thursday of each month 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/fmlnewsfaq.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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