



Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association

*Dedicated to the prevention of fire through
Fire Inspection and Public Education*

Wisconsin Chapter Report
International Fire Marshal Association
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Battle has been won

Currently the projected date for the adoption of the Wisconsin Fire Prevention Code will be March. It has been a long battle in order to progress our state forward and bring in NFPA 1 UFC. This code will strengthen our fire prevention crusade. During all of the code hearings there was no resistance to the fire prevention code. This code being a model code from NFPA definitely gives our Fire Prevention personnel the tools to protect our citizens.

The big uproar was with the building code and the multi-family sprinkler threshold reduction. The builders lobbied extremely hard, throwing around a lot of political weight and money. We did achieve the new lower threshold but on a delayed time frame. As of March 1, 2008 all new multi-family buildings that are 9 units and above must have a fire sprinkler system installed. As of January 1, 2011 all new multi-family buildings that are 3 units and above will require a fire sprinkler system. The one compromise was that in rural areas without municipal water, 3 & 4 unit buildings would be allowed to use the NFPA 13D water supply standards. Yes there is a delay but our goals will be met. As I sit here and reflect on how that happened, I wonder what is going to happen when the ICC puts in the requirement to sprinkler single family homes? What kind of uproar and fight is that going to cause. I don't need to tell you but statistically that is where our fire deaths are occurring. Why then are we not protecting our population? There is always a resistance to change; it does not matter if it is at home or within your community. You need to take time to look at what this change will really do. How the positive benefit will impact so many people. The misnomer of the financial impact needs to be overcome. As organization through out this country we need to come together in order to fight another battle. Unfortunately we rally together to fight battles, and not celebrate victory's. Victory's like Phoenix going a year without a fire fatality. Those kinds of statistics don't seem to be news worthy. What the Phoenix Fire Department is doing in their programs is working, they are saving lives. This is the kind of victory we should be coming together for instead of fighting for sprinklers that save lives. As Ozzie has said "**FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE FIREFIGHTERS LIVES TOO**"

In November we concluded our annual combined conference with a resounding success. This conference has been our best to date. Our conference committee had worked many long hard hours to make this such a success. The training and education for our members was fantastic. We had the honor of having Ozzie as one of our key note speakers. Everyone commented on how energized they were from his presentation. They were empowered to go forth with his message and passion. The conference had an extensive educational track for Life Safety Educators, Juvenile Fire Setters Educators, and code compliant officials. It was a well balanced venue. I take this time to invite each one of you to experience our upcoming conference in November in Eau Claire Wisconsin. I also would like to open up a dialog with other IFMA chapters for information exchange in regards to presenter that you feel benefits your members. When we better our educational opportunities, we better our member which in turn benefits our communities.

Forethought and planning is this year's theme for our association. We constantly need to look into the future; we need to change things today in order to protect our citizens tomorrow. We need to educate them in order how to prevent fires; we need to educate them in the proper Life Safety behaviors to prevent the rise of fire death statistics.

2008 will be another fantastic year for us. We are growing stronger with the support of other IFMA chapters help. As stated before I appreciate all the interaction and help we have received.

Respectfully submitted,

Tod Doebler
Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association