



FIRE MARSHALS

QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2024

NFPA Releases Single Stair Symposium Report

The National Fire Prevention Association held a landmark “Single Exit Stair Symposium” in September and recently released a summary report that outlines the issue, challenges, and knowledge gaps identified through this two and a half day program. Both proponents and opponents of proposed legislation and model code change proposals had vigorous discussions on what is known, what is misunderstood, and potential data gaps surrounding the debate.

Key outcomes of the Symposium:

1. Single points of egress from buildings means a single point of failure.
2. Are there construction types that may be more acceptable?
3. Fire operational impacts need further study to determine the impact on fire growth and fire attack.
4. Further study is needed to understand the impacts on occupant egress time in combination with fire attack.
5. What new hazards are being introduced (the human factor).
6. Several knowledge gaps were identified.

In response to these outcomes, NFPA’s Research Foundation will be undertaking a number of research projects in the coming year to address the identified knowledge gaps:

1. Code analysis of different types of construction.
2. Code analysis of and quantification of egress times.
3. Alternatives to six stories with a single exit.

Future activities in addition to the work the Research Foundation will be working on includes the possibility a future Symposium meeting to provide updates on their research and review of code development activities since the Symposium in September.

You can download the entire report by visiting the website www.nfpa.org/singleexit





President's Corner

In the past, the IFMA Board has shared many of the benefits of being a member. Such as joining the IFMA member section for free, the capabilities of engaging with our Fire Marshal Association Chapters and other members, the capabilities that NFPA LiNK® offers, and more.

In this message, I want to express the significance of the NFPA Blog Site. It is not just a collection of articles, it's a treasure trove of insights and updates that can help us all stay informed about the latest fire safety standards and emerging challenges. Here are a few recent posts that I found particularly interesting (titles link to Blog Posts):

- [**NFPA 1970: A Step Forward for Firefighter Safety**](#)
Published in October 2024, this article discusses the issuance of NFPA 1970, which consolidates previous documents to address essential concerns about PFAS and other chemicals in firefighter turnout gear. It's a significant step toward ensuring our first responders are better protected.
- [**Single Exit Stairs and Legislative Changes**](#)
In a December 5, 2024, post, the blog examines how new legislation might impact building safety, particularly regarding single exit stairs in taller apartment buildings. This is crucial information for anyone involved in building design or safety planning.
- [**Parking Garages and Electric Vehicles**](#)
One of my favorite reads was about the unique fire risks electric vehicles pose in parking garages. This article identifies potential hazards and offers practical recommendations for enhancing fire safety measures. Understanding these challenges is vital as EV use continues to rise.

Engaging with the NFPA Blog means accessing expert analysis on complex issues and practical guidance for everyday work. It's an opportunity to deepen our understanding of fire safety and improve our preparedness for various scenarios. The IFMA board would like to ask for your support in sharing this information and links to these blogs among your chapters, your fire service members, and stakeholders in building to enhance our ability to continue making fire and life safety a priority.

Lastly, the IFMA Board of Directors wishes to express our hope that you, your families, and our fellow fire service professionals have the safest and most joyous holiday season as we end 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Christensen".

Laurie Christensen, IFMA President
Harris County, TX Fire Marshal



Executive Secretary's Report

As every year draws to a close, we always look forward to the coming year to set our goals and objectives. Some of them are personal goals (read more, spend more time in the gym, finish a college class), and others are based on our professional goals, some established by the organization we work for and others we have the flexibility to find our own goals and objectives that help the organization meet accomplish our collective mission.

The first thing I've always done in planning for the next year is to look at those events that are not in my control – what dates are carved in stone that I will have to work around in order to accomplish what I need to do this year. Large events like the NFPA Conference and Expo (June 16 – 19), The NASFM 35th Annual Fire Prevention & Safety Symposium (August 10 – 14), are just two of the hallmark events on the calendar.

And speaking of the Fire Prevention & Safety Symposium – an event the International Fire Marshals Association participates in and supports – has their call for presentations out until January 15. This is your opportunity as an individual or organization to highlight how you address this year's theme, "**All Hours, All Hazards: Disasters Never Sleep!**". Share your knowledge and experience with others by submitting a proposal. Email gary@Browning.red the following details:

- Presentation Title
- Presentation Description and Abstract
- Discussion Points, Learning Objectives, and Key Information
- Presenter bio(s)
- Contact details (email, phone, and address)
Length (preferred 20-30 minutes; max 1 hour)

Also, check out page 7 of this IFMA Quarterly where you will find other important dates and events, particularly IFMA Chapter Presidents Meetings and important dates for the NFPA Conference and Expo.

Lastly, is your Chapter's information up to date? As the year ends, some positions transition to newly elected officers. Make sure I have your information up to date in order to not miss the critical messages that are going to your chapters – particularly the Annual Report Template which will be going out soon after January 1st. Email any changes in your organization to IFMA@NFPA.org.

*Robby Dawson
NFPA SE Regional Director
IFMA Executive Secretary*

NFPA Regional Operations Expanded

NFPA Regional Directors represent all things NFPA as well as support our stakeholder groups in their mission of reducing risk and improving safety for the community. The “Regional Operations Team” is there to serve all stakeholder groups including the fire service, code officials, fire protection system designers, architects, contractors, engineers, facility managers, and many others within their respective states. They act as a resource to help bring solutions to the electrical and fire safety community and keep NFPA Senior Staff informed on the needs and challenges those same stakeholders face.

Over the past several months, the Regional Operations Team has expanded—nearly doubled—in order to better serve stakeholders and improve engagement with key organizations in each state. The transition to the new regions and directors will be taking place over the next few months, but the states they will be working in have been assigned. You can find their names and contact information below as well as they states they will be primarily working in to support you and other stakeholders.

The Regional Operations Team certainly lives up to the name “Team”, and you may see any one of these professionals in your state even if they aren’t officially assigned there. You can always see their up to date information and how to reach other important NFPA resources by visiting this [website](#).

NFPA Regional Operations and Critical Staff Members:

- ◆ Mindy Andrasevits mandrasevits@nfpa.org covering Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota
- ◆ Jeremy Criner jcriner@nfpa.org covering Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee
- ◆ Bob Duval bduval@nfpa.org covering Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
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Regional Electrical Socialists:

Tim McClintock tmcclintock@nfpa.org
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(One additional member TBA)



Fire Safety Education The Public Education Network

Educating the public on how to protect themselves from fire—prevention and reacting appropriately to fires—is included in the Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem in the cog, [“Informed Public”](#). To support the state and local efforts, NFPA utilizes a group of dedicated volunteers known as The Public Education Network as an avenue to share important and consistent messages and educational campaigns. This includes information on Fire Prevention Week messages and resources, emerging risks and threats like battery powered micromobility devices, cooking, and seasonal safety messages.

Each Network member is a key influencer in their state and is sought out to be the conduit through which NFPA messages can be shared as far across the community as possible. Many of these members are leaders in their state’s fire safety educator organizations or state fire marshals offices.

If you don’t know who your state’s Network person is, reach out to your NFPA Regional Director (see page 4) to get connected with them and begin receiving updates on all of the fire prevention information from NFPA.

Holiday Fire Safety Information



Cooking Safety Tip Sheet



Christmas Tree Safety Tip Sheet



Winter Holiday Safety Tip Sheet



Looking for reproducible public facing educational materials? Check out the Safety Tip Sheets offered for free at the [NFPA Education and Research Page](#).

Codes and Standards Committee at Work

The IFMA Codes and Standards Committee is continuing to seek representatives for the NFPA Technical Committees listed below. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees to represent and communication with the IFMA Board, forward an email to IFMA@nfpa.org and let us know what committee interests you, and we will guide you through the application process.

This is not a guarantee that you will be selected to serve on a Technical Committee. The decision on membership to any NFPA Technical Committee rests with the NFPA Standards Council and will depend upon the current make-up and membership of that committee.

NFPA 3: Standard for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

NFPA 4: Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing

NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

- * Committee on Operations
- * Committee on Storage and Warehousing

NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code

NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code

- * Committee on Testing and Maintenance
- * Committee on Public Emergency Reporting
- * Committee on Protected Premises

There is no financial support available through IFMA, however those who qualify can apply for funding through the Enforcer Funding Program.

Learn more about qualifications, expectations, and requirements for Technical Committee membership at www.nfpa.com/Codes-and-Standards

Important Dates and Meetings

January 14, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting—Virtual

February 12-13, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting and CFSI Dinner, Washington, DC

March 18, 2025: Chapter Presidents Meeting—Virtual

April 15, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting—Virtual

May 20, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting—Virtual

June 14, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting—Las Vegas, NV

June 15, 2025: IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting (tentative), Las Vegas, NV.

June 16—19, 2025: NFPA Conference and Expo—Las Vegas, NV

Board of Director Meetings are open for IFMA Members to attend unless a closed session is declared. Contact the Executive Secretary via email at IFMA@nfpa.org for information on how to attend.

Chapter Presidents Meetings are exclusively for the President of an IFMA Chapter or their designee.

IFMA Executive Board

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IFMA Chapters

- Fire Marshals Association of Alabama, Chapter 8
Arizona Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 5
Arkansas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 26
California Fire Prevention Officers, Southern Div. Chapter 27
California Fire Prevention Officers, Northern Div. Chapter 28
Fire Marshals Association of Colorado, Chapter 20
Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley, Chapter 6
Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association, Chapter 3
Georgia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 35
Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 15
Iowa Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 24
Fire Marshals Association of Kansas, Chapter 32
Kentucky Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 31
Maryland State Chapter of IFMA, Chapter 36
Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, Chapter 1
Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota, Chapter 11
Fire Prevention Association of Nevada, Chapter 22
New England Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 2
New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, Chapter 21
New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, Chapter 4
North Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 12
Ohio Fire Officials Association, Chapter 25
Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma, Chapter 7
Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 19
South Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 14
South Dakota Fire and Life Safety Committee, Chapter 33
Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, Chapter 16
Texas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 9
Fire Marshals Association of Utah, Chapter 17
Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 29
Washington Chapter, Chapter 18
West Virginia Chapter, Chapter 13
Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 23
Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 34

Fire Marshals Quarterly

The mission of the International Fire Marshals Association is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions.

IFMA was incorporated in 1906.
In 1927, IFMA became a membership section of NFPA.

Published quarterly as a service to the membership of the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA).

The articles published in the Quarterly are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of IFMA or NFPA.

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