

# FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



**INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2023**

## ***IFMA Chapters and Membership Meetings Announced***

In the past few weeks, Chapter Presidents should have received an invitation to the annual Chapter Presidents Meeting held in conjunction with the NFPA Conference and Expo in Las Vegas, NV. Each of the 35 Chapters from across the US and Canada are invited to send their president to the Chapter Presidents Meeting to discuss ongoing challenges and opportunities faced by the fire marshal profession. Last year, this meeting resulted in the Strategic Plan adopted by the board in 2022 which was shared in this newsletter last December.

This year the Chapter Presidents meeting will be held on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00. More details on the location and agenda will be sent out at a later date. If you are the President of an IFMA Chapter and have not seen the invitation from the IFMA Secretary, please email him directly at [IFMA@nfpa.org](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org) for that information.

At 3:00 pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> the IFMA Board of Directors will call the annual meeting of the International Fire Marshals Association to order for all IFMA members who can attend. At this meeting, we will vote on the 2023-2024 slate of officers and discuss ongoing educational opportunities coming from IFMA.

In addition to the Chapter Presidents meeting and the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board also has their regular meeting scheduled for Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Any IFMA Members or Chapter Presidents are welcome to attend that meeting as well.

For information on the NFPA Conference and Expo to be held June 19-21 and the NFPA Technical Meeting held June 22<sup>nd</sup>, click on the C&E logo below to see all for the details about educational sessions and other events.



## **CONFERENCE & EXPO**

**THE PREMIER EVENT IN  
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**



NFPA President Jim Pauley meeting with IFMA Chapters at the 2022 Meeting



## **Vice President's Corner**

I look forward to seeing all the IFMA chapter presidents at the NFPA Conference and Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 19-21, 2023. This is a great opportunity to network, develop necessary solutions, and continue to expand our knowledge and education to better serve both the organizations we work for and the state IFMA chapters we lead.

As a reminder, the IFMA Chapter Presidents meeting will occur on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at 8:00am. The NFPA Conference and Expo begins the following day on June 19<sup>th</sup> and will run through the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Technical Meeting will follow the conference and expo on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. I highly recommend staying through the Technical Meeting as it provides an opportunity to witness and better understand the full NFPA code adoption process, including code changes and, in some cases, the rejection of proposed code changes. If your schedule allows, please consider staying through the Technical Meeting.

The 2023 NFPA Conference and Expo will provide you with an opportunity to attend over 110 live education sessions, workshops, General Session, and ExpoAdvantage sessions all at one location in the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. Registration is now open for various conference packages. To sign up, please visit the NFPA's website at <https://www.nfpa.org/conference/>. Please share with your members there is a "Spotlight on Public Education" with eight education sessions on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to enhance one's knowledge of fire inspections, code enforcement, and Community Risk Reduction concepts, including daily community outreach.

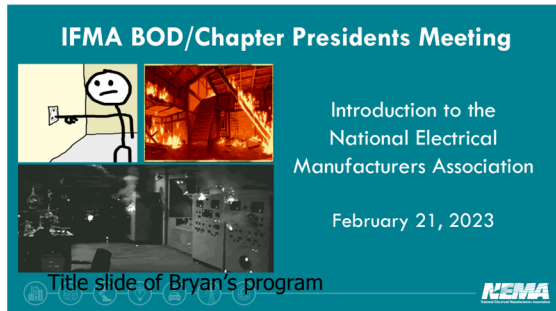
Speaking of Codes—

Also know that your IFMA board members, Kip LaMotte from Minnesota, Nick Dawe from Georgia, and Ken Bush from Maryland are there to work with you and your chapter to propose the development of new codes and/or seek the adoption of changes to the current NFPA codes. I encourage you to take the time while in Las Vegas to talk with them as they are looking to collaborate with the IFMA chapter presidents and IFMA members to enhance codes and standards moving forward. Not only is this coordinated unified effort important to code development, but overall to help IFMA support and participate in the NFPA Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem.

On behalf of the IFMA Executive Board, safe travels to Las Vegas in June. We look forward to building relationships that will ultimately make IFMA stronger, supporting you as a chapter president, and seeing growth in your state IFMA chapter.

*Kevin Sehlmeyer  
IFMA Second Vice President  
Michigan State Fire Marshal*

## **February's Chapter Presidents Meeting**



Nearly 30 chapter members plus members of the Board joined in for an IFMA virtual meeting and presentation on February 21<sup>st</sup>. In attendance was Bryan Holland, Managing Director of the Technical Field Representatives for NEMA or the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. Bryan was not only able to give a brief overview of the history of NEMA

and what they do, but a history of electricity as well. He also reviewed a number of key electrical safety provisions of the National Electric Code (NFPA 70) related to fire and electrical safety.

Bryan also shared a number of resources available to state and local fire marshals through NEMA including their Technical Field Representatives who are broken up by regions in the US. If you are interested in contacting your regional representative, you can find them all on this webpage [www.nema.org/standards/technical/fieldreps](http://www.nema.org/standards/technical/fieldreps).



**Bryan P. Holland, MCP, CStd.**

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**[nema.org](http://nema.org)**



Bryan Holland's contact information



## **Executive Secretary's Report**

A new year brings some new and exciting things to the International Fire Marshals Association. President Tyree convened a group of IFMA Past Presidents to explore how their wisdom and history can be used to elevate the association both for value to our chapters and educational opportunities. More information on these initiatives will be reviewed at the Chapter Presidents Meeting June 18th in Las Vegas.

By now, Chapter Presidents should have received an email from me with the details on registering for the NFPA Conference and Expo in June as well as details on attending the Chapter Presidents meeting, the IFMA Association Meeting, and the NFPA Conference held June 19—21, 2023 at the Mandalay Bay Conference Center in Las Vegas, NV. If you are the president of your state chapter and have not received that notice, let me know via email [IFMA@nfpa.org](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org) as soon as possible.

Also, anytime a chapter makes a change in their leadership—Presidents and staff—they should notify me as well so that they won't miss any updates or communications from the Board of Directors.

Chapter Presidents should receive a template for their Annual Chapters Report that will be shared at the meetings in June. The information used there will also be used for other purposes to include chapter recognition and IFMA Quarterly features in the future.

The nominations Committee report for elections will be posted on the IFMA page of NFPA XChange in April in accordance with the IFMA By-Laws. Make sure you are a member of that group and sign up for notices.

*Robby Dawson  
NFPA SE Regional Director  
IFMA Executive Secretary*

### **NASFM and IFMA to Collaborate**



President Tyree along with Secretary Dawson met with Butch Browning, the new National Association of State Fire Marshals Executive Director, to discuss opportunities for improved partnerships between the two organizations. While IFMA has State Fire Marshals represented on the Board and in our membership, this opportunity will allow improved communications and teamwork on issues that impact local as well as state fire code officials.

The IFMA Board meeting scheduled for April is planned to be a joint meeting with the NASFM Board to bring discussions on topics and programs that may be of interest to both organizations.

Early ideas include collaboration on code change proposals and educational sessions which could be shared across the groups.



## **Chapter Highlights—Fire Prevention Association of Nevada**

### *Highlights of the Chapter 22 Annual Report:*

The Association continues to meet its stated purpose and mission by providing training classes to the membership and strengthening the networking and dialogue between various agencies and the fire & life safety industry. These activities will help improve our efforts in ensuring a fire safe Nevada.

Our membership numbers fell slightly from 2021, mainly due to retirements. Two objectives moving forward are to look into returning to in person meetings and to strengthen our fundraising efforts. One of the things that made the Association great was the ability for our members, both jurisdictional and industry, to interact and network in person. By going exclusively to a virtual format, mainly due to the current pandemic, we lost some of those benefits. The Association remains committed to providing several major fire and life safety programs, proudly uphold chapter affiliations with the International Fire Marshals Association and the International Code Council.

Current programs include member training/CEU opportunities through monthly trainings, public education, fireworks testing and hosting off-campus NFA training classes. The association has taken on a leadership role in the adoption process for the 2021 International Fire Code in Southern Nevada. We will assume the leadership role with the adoption of the 2024 IFC later in 2023. We continue to support interagency participation on enforcement, education and safety programs.

### **Fireworks Safety Program:**

FPAN members manage the Southern Nevada Fireworks committee, which meet with the local fireworks wholesalers and test "Safe & Sane" fireworks for performance compliance. All fireworks products must be approved by the FPAN committee before they are allowed to be sold over the Fourth of July holiday in Clark County. These members also develop inspection guidelines for fireworks booth sales. All of the testing is completed by April of each calendar year.

### **Youth Firesetter Intervention:**

We continue to see growth with our YFSI program. In 2022 we add administrative staff, thru a grant from AmeriCorps to help with intake and record keeping. In 2023, we hope to increase participation from more local jurisdictional partners.

### **Legislation:**

The Association is still looking for a bill sponsor to update NRS language for smoke alarm coverage in multi-family occupancies and create new language for single-family residences. We have re-engaged our community stakeholders in order to present a bill that will universally supported. We have a meeting scheduled with our local American Red Cross in support of their "Sound the Alarm" campaign.

### **Big Issues We Are Dealing With:**

- Membership participation. It continues to be difficult to get members involved in the various programs and committees. Most local departments are short staffed so it our goal to provide a positive benefit for folks who choose to participate.
- Illegal fireworks. In the last several years, we have seen a large increase in the use of illegal fireworks. Jurisdictions are having a difficult time curtailing this problem due to the huge numbers and a lack of previous enforcement. Public education and enforcement programs will increase this year. While FPAN is not specifically involved, some of our member agencies are participating in an enforcement campaign titled "You light it, we write it!" FPAN will support this measure in the years to come.

## Fire and Life Safety Education Updates from NFPA

### Spotlight on Public Education Offered again at NFPA C&E

NFPA will once again offer a focused program on Fire and Life Safety Education at the Conference and Expo in June. The two day program, know as Spotlight on Public Education (S.O.P.E.) will include eight specialized educational tracks focusing on the specific skills and knowledge needed to reach diverse groups of people in multiple settings.

This special program is offered at a reduced rate (\$125) and does have limited availability so register early. Click on the flyer to the left or visit [www.nfpa.org/conference](http://www.nfpa.org/conference) for more information and details on the specific educational sessions offered.



## Remembering When is now Steps to Safety

The NFPA **Steps to Safety™ Prevent Fire and Falls at Home** program pairs fire and EMS professionals with community partners to educate older adults about home fire and fall safety through group presentations, home visits, and the creation of a local resource network. Formerly titled *Remembering When™ A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults*, the updated *Steps to Safety™ (STS)* program includes an online professional training curriculum and new digitized and print assets to support learning and behavior change for older adults. The approach is one that promotes independence, collaboration, engagement, and empowerment. Rooted in fire and behavioral science and sound educational principles, *STS* provides the framework and tools for fire and EMS professionals and their health and social service partners to impact their community to reduce incidence and injury from home fire and falls.

For more information on a Steps to Safety program in your area, contact you NFPA Regional Director or visit [www.nfpa.org/stepstosafety](http://www.nfpa.org/stepstosafety).



## **This Month in Fire Service History**

Karl K. Thompson

On 3/4/1908 the Collinwood School (near Cleveland, Ohio) fire (also known as the Lake View School Fire) occurred on Ash Wednesday and killed 172 students, two teachers, and a rescuer. The fire started in the four-story schoolhouse built of ordinary construction when a steam pipe overheated a floor joist. The open stairway allowed the fire to rapidly extend, oiled wooden floors contributed to the fire spread. Panic led to the crush of a large number of students in stairwell vestibules. Doors to the building were equipped with common door-knob latches, not panic hardware.



A misconception is that the doors opened inward, this is not true. "Some crucial circumstances of the tragedy were almost instantly knowable. The masonry exterior of the building acted as a chimney, sucking flames upward as the wooden interior burned; the school had only two exits, and fire quickly blocked one of them... Collinwood's horse-drawn fire equipment and volunteer fire department were woefully ill-equipped to fight the roaring blaze. It took less than one hour for the three-floor school to burn to the point of collapsing into the basement, killing all those inside."



Karl Thompson is the retired Fire Marshal from Pasco County, Florida and a Fellow with the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. He publishes a daily blog on fire service history that can be seen at [www.firefighterclosecalls.com/category/firefighter-history/](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/category/firefighter-history/)

## **NFPA Documents Currently Open for Public Inputs**

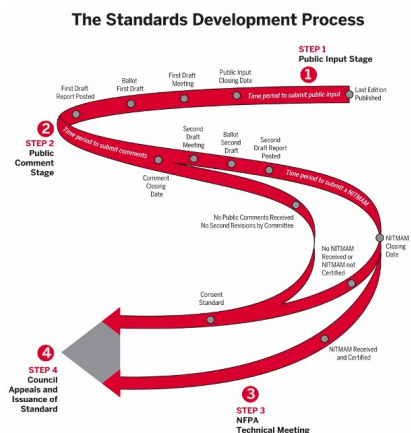
*The Public Input phase is the first step in updating codes and standards to the next edition. Anyone can submit an input to any document.*

- ◆ NFPA 2 Hydrogen Technologies Code
- ◆ NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers
- ◆ NFPA 25 Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- ◆ NFPA 70<sup>®</sup> National Electric Code<sup>®</sup>
- ◆ NFPA 160 Standard for the Use of Flame Effects Before an Audience
- ◆ NFPA 704 Standard System for Identification of Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response
- ◆ NFPA 1123 Code for Fireworks Display
- ◆ NFPA 1124 Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, and Storage of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles
- ◆ NFPA 1300 Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development
- ◆ NFPA 1700 Guide for Structural Firefighting

For a complete list of all documents at all stages of development go to this [list of Codes and Standards](#)

For information on how to submit an input, go to [How the Process Works](#) or visit the specific document information page by going to [www.nfpa.org/###](http://www.nfpa.org/###) where the ### is the number of the specific document.

For help with the process, contact your NFPA Regional Director by visiting the [Regional Offices Webpage](#)





## **Important Dates and Meetings**

**March 21:** IFMA Executive Board Meeting (Virtual)

**April 18:** IFMA/NASFM Joint Board Meeting (Virtual)

**May 22-23:** IFMA Executive Board Meeting/CFSI Dinner (Washington, DC)

**June 17:** IFMA Executive Board Meeting – In Person, Las Vegas, NV

**June 18:** IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting – In Person, Las Vegas, NV

**June 18:** IFMA Membership Meeting and Elections

**June 19 – 23:** NFPA Conference, Expo and Technical Meetings , Las Vegas, NV

*Get more information and register for NFPA C&E [HERE](#)*

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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## *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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## IFMA Chapters

**Fire Marshals Association of Alabama**  
Chapter 8

**Alberta Fire Safety Officials Association**  
Chapter 10

**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

**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

**Pennsylvania Association of Fire Code Officials**  
Chapter 29

**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