

**USA** Automatic Sprinkler Corporation invites National Fire Protection Association's Russ Sanders to contribute an article on NFPA 1: Uniform Fire Code™ 2006 Edition.

Work on NFPA 1 began in 1971 as a guide for development of a local fire prevention code. The Fire Marshals Association of North America, in the late 1980s, began development of a code that was more self-contained, but drawing significantly from other NFPA codes and standards. A major rewrite resulted in the 1992 edition of the *Fire Prevention Code*. The 1997 edition was written and refined as part of the requirements of NFPA 1. The NFPA 1: 2000 edition was a complete rework with additional references to NFPA codes and standards. A new section on performance-based design was added. NFPA 1: Uniform Fire Code™ 2003 Edition was another rework. There was emphasis on the partnership between NFPA and Western Fire Chiefs. The Uniform Fire Code™ is a trademark of the Western Fire Chiefs Association. NFPA 1: Uniform Fire Code™ 2006 Edition was restructured to be more compatible with the regulatory adoption procedures, including administration and code enforcement, occupancies, processes, equipment, and hazardous materials provisions.

NFPA's Russ Sanders is leading the way to get Indiana to adopt NFPA 1: Uniform Fire Code™. Here is his article:

### **NFPA's Uniform Fire Code: For a Safer Indiana**

The people of Indiana deserve the highest level of fire safety protection available. That is why there is growing support for the statewide adoption of NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*® and its safety provisions. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), from its early years to present day, has focused on the use of automatic fire sprinkler systems and other key safety innovations. We know that sprinklers save lives.

In fact, the very first NFPA document addressed the installation of sprinkler systems. It is now known as NFPA 13. Since that time, the volunteers who drive NFPA's code and standard development system have worked with NFPA staff to increase the use of sprinklers throughout the world.

NFPA 1 has long required the retrofitting of sprinklers in high rise structures. NFPA 1, our building code and the widely used life safety code, now requires the use of sprinklers in all new one and two family dwellings. NFPA codes are the only model safety codes to directly require sprinkler use in such homes.

Our codes also require the use of fire sprinklers systems in all nursing homes, and in all existing nightclubs and like facilities with capacities of more than 100. NFPA has also been on the steering committee of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. This is a group dedicated to informing the public about the tremendous life saving impact of home fire sprinkler systems.

Our commitment to fire sprinklers runs very deep throughout our organization. NFPA 1 reflects that commitment as well as to other key safety provisions that will make a tremendous difference in life

safety for Indiana. The first edition of NFPA's fire code was developed years ago because many members of NFPA asked for a document that fully covered all aspects of fire protection and prevention, while utilizing the other NFPA codes and standards. NFPA even incorporates information gathered about protection problems that occur during fires so that we can revise and enhance new editions of every code and standard we produce.

NFPA's fire code covers more scope than other available model fire codes. NFPA 1 provides greater information and resources for jurisdictions to enforce fire safety provisions. NFPA 1 offers a much more detailed means of addressing the important issue of safely getting people out of a building during an emergency. In fact, the exiting (means of egress) provisions referenced in NFPA 1 are the most comprehensive, widely used such provisions in the world. NFPA 1 directly references NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*.

For many years, NFPA has lead the battle for fire sprinklers and other key elements of fire safety. We will not rest in that effort. Our members want to see the greatest possible level of fire safety through adoption of our codes and standards. We hope to be able to bring that expertise and those tools to provide greater protection to the people of Indiana.

In closing, adopting NFPA 1 not only provides Indiana residents with the highest level of life safety, it does so without placing a financial burden on the taxpayer. If the State of Indiana adopts NFPA 1 we will provide free training for government enforcement personnel (AHJs), and every AHJ who attends our free training will receive a complimentary codebook. In addition to saving Indiana taxpayers money, this ensures that those charged with enforcing the code are properly trained by top experts in the industry. No other organization is willing to match this generous offer.

Please join me in supporting the adoption of the 2006 edition of NFPA 1 as the Indiana State Fire Code!

You may contact Russ at:

Russ Sanders, Central Regional Manager  
Executive Secretary, Metro Chiefs Section  
National Fire Protection Association  
3257 Beals Branch Road  
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

Phone: 502-894-0411  
Fax: 502-894-0519  
rsanders@nfpa.org  
www.nfpa.org