



F E D O T N E W S L E T T E R

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please be advised that one of the most important pieces of business that we must address at every FEDOT Annual Meeting is the election of new officers for the Association. This year we will need to do the following:

Vote for a new President and Treasure. Both two year terms will be expiring.

The new Board will be appointing a new Secretary. Denise Black Ferris has left Firehawk in Amarillo, Texas and taken employment in another industry. She has resigned as Secretary. This position will be due for election in 2007.

The new Board will be appointing a new Vice President. John Brannen has left Pol-Lee Fire in Fort Worth, Texas and taken employment in another industry. He has resigned as Vice President. This position will be due for election in 2007.

As you can see we have a series of unusual events that will create a whole new slate of officers. David Mettauer, our out going President, plans to run for election as Treasurer. This will maintain continuity as a new team of Officer's takes over the important management of the Association.

NEW RULES

Please be advised that the Rules that the SFMO office uses to implement your companies' Certificate of Registration and you personal License have been revised. A copy of these revised Rules can be obtained on line. The changes are easily identified because they are marked with a vertical line in the margin. The following is a brief summary of these changes. Please note there are effective date for some of these changes.

The list of adopted NFPA Standards has been revised to identify the more current edition as the actual adopted Standard. There are a few cases where the newer Standard was not adopted in total. In those cases certain select words or paragraphs are different. Please review all of this information thoroughly for yourself.

A new category of License has been added. There will now be a Type-R License for installing pre-engineered residential range-top fire systems.

OFF-SITE TESTING

By the time you receive this Newsletter we will be several weeks into a new State Fire Marshal's Office Program (Start date was February 1, 2006) which will move all testing from Austin (administered by SFMO) to a private company. The advantage in this new program will be that there will be over 20 testing locations throughout the State. The State has contracted with Thompson Prometric Test Centers to conduct all of the required tests. Hopefully there will be a location near you. Thompson currently administers several other State Licensing Examinations so a smooth process is already in place.

Additionally under the new program, tests will be graded right away so any applicant will know immediately what results have been obtained. This new program uses a pay as you go format; the fee schedule is based on paying for only the tests that are actually taken. Even though the cost per test has increased there should be significant savings of time, travel expense etc. when using this new program.

Proof of pre-engineered system training from a manufacturer has been eliminated.

The definition of supervision of an apprentice has been changed.

New Rules have been put forth for a Yellow Tag program and a modified Red Tag program (with specific dates for implementation) to address the servicing and replacement of per UL-300 Standard Fire Suppression Systems.

Some of the above highlighted changes created the need to have other small typing changes made to other parts of the Rules. These could be classified as house-keeping changes.

You are strongly encouraged to obtain a copy of the revised Rules and to read and understand the changes first hand. The above article is intended to only alert you to some of the changes it is not intended to replace your own inquiry and research.

There is a link from the SFMO's website directly to the Thompson site or you can go directly to www.experioronline.com for locations and other valuable information. The State officially discontinued all testing at the end of January 2006.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I just returned from a week in the Chihuahuan Desert at Big Bend National Park – if you have never visited this huge park you need to go! The park has over 800,000 acres to explore, including massive canyons, vast desert areas and the entire Chisos mountain range. The elevations range from 2000' at the river to almost 8000' in the mountains. Where else can you go in Texas where you can spend three days in one area and not see another person or at night even see a light in any direction?

My head is still in the mountains but I am getting really excited about our meeting on March 4 at Cabela's in Fort Worth. As you know, we have been talking about UL-300 kitchen systems almost forever – but now we have some ammunition from the SFMO

in the form of yellow and red tags for pre UL-300 systems. We are going to have two very exciting programs from Kidde and Ansul on finally upgrading those old wet chemical and dry chemical systems to meet UL-300. Please bring your questions for the Ansul and Kidde representatives!

This will be my last meeting as President and I want to thank everyone that helped me through this very steep learning curve. I want to especially thank Larry Angle, Denise Farris, Artis Lothman and John Brannen – your very supportive Board of Directors! I also want to thank Pete and Lana Frayer for their untiring efforts with the Newsletter and last but not least, I want to thank my wife Sandy and LaDonna Slay from my office for their efforts.

Our Rules and Class B license training classes are still going strong; I have taught the last several classes in one long day at our office in Palestine. The cost is still just \$125/person and this price includes a current NFPA 10 and a very thorough workbook for each class. Please call me at 903-723-4278 to schedule a class. We will update the classes with the new rules as soon as they are published by the SFMO.

Thanks again for allowing me the privilege of serving as your President.

David Mettauer - Palestine, Texas.

NAFED INSERT EXPLANATION

Recently a small insert was sent out by NAFED. It was printed on a piece of blue paper. It referred to "losing a battle" regarding service work. To alleviate any confusion the following was obtained from the Amerex Corporation.

On Sunday, Oct. 3, 2005, an International Code Council (ICC) meeting was held in Detroit, MI. The ICC incorporates the International Fire Code (IFC) which has been adopted by 37 States. A proposal had been introduced earlier in the Code Review Cycle to extend annual maintenance intervals from one year to three years for extinguishers equipped with electronically monitored gauges and obstruction sensors that are connected to a fire alarm panel.

This proposal had been defeated at the Committee level but was being re-introduced for consideration at the Oct. 3, 2005 meeting. NAFED, CALSAFE, Amerex, Ansul, Buckeye, Badger and Brooks Equipment Co. all sent representatives to the meeting to speak against extending maintenance intervals for any extinguisher past the current annual requirement.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of NAFED, CALSAFE and the represented manufacturers, the proposal passed and will become part of the International Fire Code when the next edition is published.

Prior to the ICC meeting, Amerex had introduced the MIJA Engauge product as part of the Amerex product line. This was

done with the understanding that (per NFPA 10) devices that electronically monitor fire extinguishers would only take the place of physically conducting the required 30 day inspection and never take the place of having annual maintenance being performed by a qualified fire equipment distributor.

After the decision of the ICC, Amerex Corporation independently decided to drop the MIJA Engauge devices, and extinguishers equipped with those devices from their product line.

To obtain more information on this subject, please contact NAFED, your local State Distributor Organization or Amerex Corporation.

THANK YOU MR. PAUL MALDONADO

If you missed our September meeting you missed a great keynote speaker. Mr. Maldonado became our State Fire Marshal last December (2004). We were able to have him to speak before our Association when we met in Buda, Texas. As most of you know he came up through the ranks with the Austin Fire Department where he started his career as a fire fighter. There was little doubt that his roots allowed him to connect with us. It is noteworthy that he relies heavily on his staff which includes Mark Redlitz. It looks like we have a winning team in place and that given the ages of these people we can count on stability long into the future. Thank you for speaking before our group.

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

There have been several occasions recently where FEDOT wanted to communicate with it's member companies. The subject matter was not critical or time sensitive so no formal need to communicate was established and no action program was put in place. All communication was unofficial and low keyed.

But it does remind us that nearly everyone nowadays has an e-mail address. We do have many of your e-mail addresses on file and do periodically use that method to

communicate. If we do not have your e-mail address you need to be certain we get it. Please check the new Member Directory. Whatever information is printed in the directory is the extent of the information the Association has on file for you. If it is incorrect or lacking please make certain you get it updated.

Please note your Company is not limited to a single e-mail address. Mass e-mails can be sent to any size list, so add as many addresses as you believe necessary.

CLASS K FIRE EXTINGUISHER MANUFACTURED WITH EXTENDED "WAND" ASSEMBLIES – SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Fire extinguishers specifically designed for use on commercial cooking hazards involving animal or vegetable fats or oils began to appear in the marketplace shortly after the effective date of UL-300 in late November, 1994. Since no specific classification of fire had been assigned to commercial cooking hazards, the original extinguishers designed for this use employed an alkaline based wet chemical solution in a stainless steel shell. These extinguishers carried a UL rating of 2A:1B:C, in lieu of the yet to be developed Class K standard, and incorporated an extended "wand" device and fine spray nozzle that was intended to make it easy for the operator to apply the agent to an elevated surface with an overhead application that duplicates the performance of a wet chemical system.

As manufacturers began testing this new concept and comparisons in performance with dry chemical extinguishers were made, it became obvious that wet chemical extinguishers of 6 liter capacities would offer superior performance on fires involving deep fat fryers over dry chemical extinguishers as large as 20 lb. capacity. A TIA (Tentative Interim Addendum) was issued to the 1994 Edition of NFPA 10 – Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers – that allowed the use of a wet chemical extinguisher instead of either a sodium bicarbonate or potassium bicarbonate based 40B:C rated dry chemical extinguisher for protection of commercial cooking hazards. Most, if not all of the early wet chemical extinguishers incorporated an extended "wand" device at this time. The 1998 Edition of NFPA 10 established a new Class of fire, Class K, defined as fires involving animal or vegetable fats or oils. UL 711 also adopted a fire test standard for extinguishers to achieve a Class K listing.

While information on this new technology moved through the global fire protection community, other standards began to adopt new fire classifications and test criteria. Europe, as an example, which uses a slightly different Fire Classification system used Class F to designate fires involving commercial cooking operations. Part of the design requirements, under European standards there is a requirement for any Class F listed fire extinguisher to have an extended wand, or lance (European term) incorporated into the design. The wand or lance is required to have a minimum length of .4 meters

(15.75 inches).

In between the publication of the 1998 Edition of NFPA 10 and the review cycle for the 2002 Edition of NFPA 10, concerns were levied by one fire extinguisher manufacturer that the extended wand, which was being used by the majority of the U.S. Class K extinguisher manufacturers and was required by European standards, might be improperly used. There was a concern that an operator could walk up to an involved deep fat fryer, and submerge the wand below the liquid surface prior to initiating discharge. Such an action (referred in some publications and presentations as subsurface injection) would cause the water content of the wet chemical solution to convert to steam, expanding its volume at a ratio of 1750:1 instantly, resulting in an explosion of the burning grease. One manufacturer voluntarily initiated a program that replaced their existing extended wands with a hose and nozzle assembly while they continued to make a Class F extinguisher for the European market that incorporated a wand per EN3 requirements.

While "subsurface injection" as described in the Annex of NFPA 10 is possible, as any human action is possible, the radiant heat emitting from a fully involved deep fat fryer fire would make such an occurrence highly unlikely. Furthermore, no such incident has ever been reported in the western hemisphere confirming that there is no data to support such concerns. One occurrence was reported in Europe, but involved a chain driven rotisserie, not a deep fat fryer, and Europe still requires an extended wand or lance for Class F extinguishers.

An aggressive marketing campaign involving computer altered photos of fires and a highly staged video resulted in mass confusion and even panic in the fire protection industry over the claimed "life threatening" attributes of Class K extinguishers that used an extended wand for application. Because of this and in an effort to bring the industry under a more united goal of offering better fire protection for commercial cooking operations, the 2002 Edition of NFPA 10 addressed the problem. NFPA 10 – 2002 Edition states in "4.3.2* Class K Fire Extinguishers for Cooking Oil Fires that Fire Extinguishers provided for the protection of cooking appliances that use combustible cooking media (vegetable or animal oils and fats) shall be listed and labeled for Class K fires. Class K fire

extinguishers manufactured after January 1, 2002, shall not be equipped with "extended wand-type" discharge devices". Further explanation and information regarding the perceived problem is available in the Annex material of NFPA 10, however, it should be noted that as with all NFPA standards, the Annex material is for informational purposes only and is not to be considered part of the standard as enforceable language. All U.S. manufacturers of Class K extinguishers complied with the requirements of NFPA 10 – 2002 Edition by changing their design to eliminate any "extended wands" after January 1, 2002.

As one can see by the wording in NFPA 10, there is no requirement for changing or removing Class K extinguishers with extended wands that were manufactured prior to January 1, 2002.

Reaction to make the public safer when designs are proven to be faulty is a necessary and ethical thing to do. Such reactions should be based upon documented instances and recorded data instead of conjecture and "possibilities". The truth of the matter is, there is no requirement in any national standard or code that requires the removal, replacement or retrofit of Class K extinguishers that incorporate an extended wand in their design as listed by UL/ULC – furthermore, in the more than 10 years that the early model Class K extinguishers that did incorporate an extended wand have been in service, there has yet to be a reported, documented incident of an operator being harmed because of "subsurface injection" of the wet chemical during a fire situation.

Articles and information contained herein are accurate to the best of our knowledge. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the responsibility of the individual authors.

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BUSINESSMAN GETS 30 DAYS IN EXTINGUISHER-FRAUD CASE

BY TOM CAMPBELL

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Friday, December 23, 2005

In a courtroom filled with his friends and family, Robert Andrew Leahy, 56, heard himself praised yesterday as the kind of guy who never would bilk or endanger clients by falsifying tests of fire extinguishers.

But that's what he pleaded guilty to last month.

Judge Daniel T. Balfour of Henrico County Circuit Court imposed sentences leaving Leahy only 30 days to serve in jail, and that on weekends.

Leahy, owner and president of Fire Protection Equipment Co., was accused of billing clients thousands of dollars for fire-extinguisher tests that were never performed.

Friends who testified as character witnesses said they could not believe Leahy knew his employees were falsifying the tests.

Stuart P. Myers, vice chairman of the county school board and Leahy's longtime friend, was one.

"I don't think this guy is a cheat," Myers said. "I don't think this guy is a liar. I don't think this is the kind of guy who goes out and sets up his customers. I don't believe it."

But Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Peter B. Baruch said the prosecution evidence could show that Leahy encouraged his employees to cut corners by not doing the testing customers paid for. Witnesses would have testified at trial that Leahy was aware of what was going on and encouraged it, he said.

"It's not as though he's selling hamburger, judge," Baruch said. "This is a business that traded in security and safety."

Baruch suggested a jail term in the range of 9 to 12 months would be appropriate.

Leahy told the judge, "I'm taking responsibility. It's my business, I'm responsible, and I'll step up." But he said also that "I wasn't as attentive to things going on there as I should have been."

Balfour told people in the courtroom he had to balance the Leahy case with the next person who comes for sentencing for

robbing a 7-Eleven.

Leahy pleaded to five counts – three of defrauding the government and two of obtaining money by false pretenses. The judge imposed sentences of three years, all suspended, on the first three; five years all suspended on the fourth; and five years with all but 30 days suspended on the fifth.

Leahy will serve 30 days on weekends and work out a plan with the commonwealth's attorney's office to make restitution of about \$85,000.

POLLUTANTS CLAUSE

I may be out of my element as I try to tell the following story. I received a telephone call from a fellow FEDOT member. He had a very simple problem and needed help.

Apparently one of his technicians had inadvertently caused the discharge of a dry chemical fire system during routine semi-annual service. The fire system was installed to protect a paint mixing room. Because the dry chemical contains silica and there is a strong possibility that silicone was used as an o-ring lubricant; the paint had to be destroyed (because it was now contaminated by silicone). This paint was valued at over \$30,000.00.

His insurance company was not going to stand good for this unwanted discharge because there was a "pollutant's clause" in their policy. As he described this clause to me I could not help but think that his insurance carrier was looking for anything to avoid paying a claim. Apparently this insurance company had a clause in their policy that allowed them to disallow a claim because this service company was knowingly using a pollutant thus creating a pollution exposure.

I have done a little unofficial research and have determined that this clause is not universal in all insurance policies. As a matter of fact I know of another FEDOT member company that had a very similar discharge and their insurance carrier stood good for a claim on approximately \$35,000.00 for paint that had to be replaced because it was exposed to silicone. So it is either a matter of one carrier not having a pollutant clause and one that does OR it is a matter of an insurance finding a way to deny a claim. I am unsure what the answer is but it would seem to be a question worth asking at your next policy renewal time.

GLADE RECALL

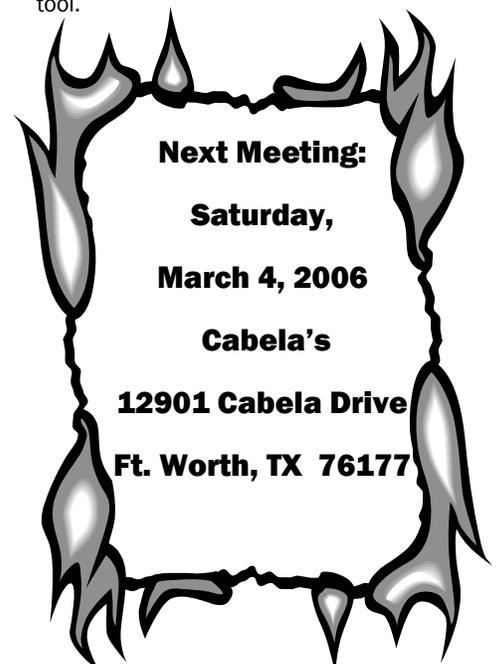
I know I am not unique in that I receive hundreds of e-mails. I read some, I delete some, and I pass some along to friends and associates. But almost with out fail I always ask myself if what I just received is real.

Alert: everything on the internet is not real.

Recently I was sent an e-mail about Glade air fresheners being the cause of starting a residential fire. That pegged my curiosity meter. First is it true, or is it another urban legend? Did it happen once or is this rampant? Or is there someone out there that does not like someone at Glade or something about SJ Johnson the company that manufactures these devices. Certainly it isn't because they do not like the way they smell. Then I remembered a website that I bookmarked a long time ago. So I went to www.cpsc.gov to do a quick search. This is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission site for such research. Turns out it isn't an urban legend. SC Johnson announced a recall on Glade Extra Outlet Scented Oil Air Fresheners on April 19, 2002.

So despite my mistrust of the accuracy of what I see on the internet this time the internet proved to me that there was a factual place to confirm what I had been e-mailed by a friend.

I find it interesting that this recall program is nearly four years old yet it is traveling around the internet like it is brand new information. The net can be a wonderful tool.



LAWYER WANTED, REALLY

I recently received a call from a fellow FEDOT member. He told me the following story.

Apparently several years ago his company had installed several new fire systems. Some mistakes were made; the SFMO investigated and subsequently levied some fines and required that appropriate repairs be made. The fine(s) were paid, and all repairs were made as required; and it was thought the case was closed. Recently the SFMO office was asked (based on a complaint by a cross-town competitor) to re-open the case. The SFMO agreed and the process was restarted all over again. This in itself is not a good news story but to complicate the matter the attorney from the original case had since passed away. All of the records from the earlier case were in the deceased attorney's possession and were subject to whatever processes are required to settle this attorney's estate.

The caller felt that the time it would take to go through the attorney's estate settlement would be very lengthy, so he had resolved in his own mind that his defense would have to be made without the benefit of the history of these repairs. He was actually hopeful that maybe the SFMO records showed they had accepted the repairs that were made as a part of the original case settlement (and that they would be willing to share them with him at this time).

He actually called me because he was ready to move on but needed to find a new attorney to represent him on this re-opened case. He had no idea where to look and neither did I. I realized that as a FEDOT member I had no way of helping him with something as simple as a referral for a good attorney (with this type of expertise).

Here is the lesson; if there is a value derived from membership such as helping one another there is no mechanism to access the info. All I could do was suggest that he call as many FEDOT members as possible to see if he could get a referral for new attorney.

I was also able to give him some other water flow and pressure information that I believe may be valuable as he prepares to defend himself from these charges. At that point all I could do was wish him well and I could at least take some solace in the fact that I was able to offer some help.

CLASS K FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, CLASS C UL RATING, SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Fire extinguishers specifically designed for use on commercial cooking hazards involving animal or vegetable fats or oils began to appear in the marketplace shortly after the effective date of UL 300 in late November, 1994. Since no specific classification of fire had been assigned to commercial cooking hazards, the original extinguishers designed for this use employed an alkaline based wet chemical solution in a stainless steel shell. These extinguishers carried a UL rating of 2A:1B:C, in lieu of the yet to be developed Class K standard. Because it took several years to develop an appropriate UL Test Standard many of the early extinguishers differ from the extinguishers that are manufactured today. This seems to have started several urban legends.

One misconception with the Class K extinguisher revolves around the required placard that accompanies every Class K extinguisher. The placard instructs the extinguisher operator to activate the fixed suppression system covering the hood, duct and appliances prior to using the Class K portable extinguisher.

Many people are under the impression that the purpose of the placard is to prevent electrical shock back to the extinguisher operator. This is simply not true.

By activating the extinguishing system, all sources of heat to the appliances will be shut off, making a successful extinguishment more likely. Without the interruption of the heat source, a "runaway" fryer will continue to increase the temperature of the cooking media to the point that extinguishment, either with a system or a Class K hand portable may be impossible.

Regarding dangers of electrical shock, every manufacturer of Class K extinguishers voluntarily subject their units to the UL 711 Class C test as it existed at the time to assure additional safety in the use of the unit. Individual manufacturers may put the Class C listing on their UL labels or may elect to leave it off as a matter of individual decision. Furthermore, the Corporate Director of Fire Protection for a major restaurant chain challenged an NFPA committee regarding required electrical shut off that did not affect cooking appliances. In his proposal he asked for data proving that there is a shock hazard from the discharge of wet chemical systems (which have been in existence since 1967). No one on the

committee was aware of any such incident occurring in the past three decades or more. The lack of reported data regarding electrical shock hazards from the discharge of wet chemical systems would seem to point to the fact that the main concern is shutting off the source of heat to the appliance, not the possibility of electrical shock.

Again, the UL test that all extinguishers must pass is the same for every manufacturer. It is a pass/fail test so every K-Class extinguisher on the market that bears a UL Listing has passed this test. Each individual manufacturer makes a business decision to either designate a Class C Rating

BUXTON BUSINESS OWNER ADMITS TO FALSIFYING FIRE EXTINGUISHER TESTS

Portland Maine (AP), Article published on July 31, 2005

The owner of a fire equipment company in Buxton remains free on bail while he awaits sentencing on federal charges of falsifying hundreds of fire extinguisher tests.

Dale Nason, 49, pleaded guilty on U.S. District Court to violations of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Law and faces up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.00 on each count.

Nason, who owns Statewide Fire Protection, admitted lying to customers about having conducted required tests on high-pressure carbon dioxide fire extinguishers between May 2001 and July 2004.

The prosecution said Nason, who lacked the equipment needed to conduct the tests, put his clients at risk and violated their trust.

Nason's attorney, Neale Duffett, said his client, who continues to operate Statewide Fire Protection, is trying to make sure all of his customers have safe equipment by referring them to other inspectors at no cost.

"He's accepted responsibility and is trying to make everything whole," Doffett said.

The federal investigation was launched following a tip to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Assistant U. S. Attorney Toby Dilworth said.

WHAT IS THE “RATE OF RISE” FOR A RATE OF RISE THERMAL DETECTOR?

It is winter in Texas. How can I tell? Well it is the time of year that we get calls to recharge dry chemical fire systems that are installed in paint spray booths. All of the stories are very similar. “It was very cold over night so I used a torpedo heater to warm up the booth so I could do my first paint job.”

Part of the problem is that the owner of the booth did not opt to purchase the better booth with the built in heater. Instead a low end booth was purchased and all was fine until that first cold morning. The best way to heat a booth is with a booth heater. The second part of the problem is that a torpedo style heater puts out a tremendous amount of heat and directs that heat in a very directed blast. I always thought it was a little like standing in the blast of a jet engine. It sure smells like a jet engine blast. The customer is usually not aware of the amount of soot that these heaters introduce into a normally very clean paint booth. I don’t know how long it takes the soot to settle on a car but I am certain that is where some of the soot ends up. But that is another story for another time.

If the paint booth fire detection system uses electric thermal detectors, most Fire System manufacturers supply the type of detectors that are rate of rise devices as well as fixed temperature. These detectors operate either when the rate of temperature increase is within the design parameters or the fixed temperature is attained.

I can hear the paint booth customer’s call all over again. They all seem to say the same thing. “There is no way that the booth got hot enough (probably 225°F) to trip the fire system”. The caller is probably correct but likely they have not considered that most of these detectors will “alarm” when exposed to a heat rise (typically around 15 °F of temperature increase in one minute or less). That is how the rate of rise feature is supposed to work. If the temperature builds up at a slower rate then the detector will likely alarm only when it reaches its fixed temperature setting.

Not all electric detectors are the rate of rise type. Some electric thermal detectors have a rate compensation feature or are just fixed temperature. Generally speaking on a speed of operation scale a rate of rise type detector is the fastest and fixed temperature detectors are the slowest to alarm.

It is a good practice to know what detector to use for a given “hazard”. It is also a good practice to note this information in the file and to be ready to properly communicate this information to your customer. Knowledge is powerful and can be used not only to protect your customers’ property but maintain good customer relations.

WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS – Police are searching for a person whose meth-making ingredients contributed to an explosion while four firefighters worked a blaze at a mobile home over the weekend.

Authorities are investigating the incidents that occurred in the first block of Willow Hill in Rockwood Mobile Home Park Saturday night. The Wood River Police Department turned the investigation over to the Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team after a fire extinguisher filled with anhydrous ammonia exploded inside a trailer as four firefighters were working to douse a fire around 6:30 p.m. Lt. Mark Bramlett with the Illinois State Police said authorities are searching for a male suspect; however, he could not release his identity until charges are filed with the Madison County State’s Attorney’s Office. State Police were called to investigate because of the fire’s cause and origin.

When firefighters arrived at the single-wide mobile home there was moderate to heavy smoke showing from the eaves at the front of the trailer, Fire Capt. Brendan McKee said. There were no visible flames, but thick smoke and heat conditions pointed to a fire at the rear of the structure.

McKee said an attack crew of four firefighters was sent inside and made its way through the structure as another crew forced a door off the back of the trailer in preparation for ventilation of pressure. Seconds after the first set of firefighters entered the trailer; an explosion rocked the mobile home and shot a huge fireball 60 to 80 feet into the air.

He said the blast went through the roof and floor of the trailer and sent shards of glass from windows outward. “We didn’t know what happened,” McKee said. He immediately deployed a Rapid Intervention Team to rescue the firefighters inside, but before they could go in the four firefighters

came tumbling out the door. He said the men were 5 feet from the room when the explosion occurred but no one was injured or killed. “It could have been worse,” he said. An incident report obtained by The Telegraph states that the explosion “was not consistent with characteristics of natural gas or propane.” The report said remnants of a fire extinguisher were found on the ground between two neighboring mobile homes. The extinguisher revealed characteristics consistent with a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion. The report said that another fire extinguisher was found under the trailer directly where the blast occurred. The report said no fire-extinguishing residue was found in or around the site, indicating that the extinguisher may have contained something other than standard dry-powder fire-fighting ingredients. A second fire extinguisher was found in close proximity. Fire Chief Steve Alexander removed the extinguisher and in doing so noticed a loose screw on the neck of the tank and carefully removed the extinguisher’s head. In so doing, he caught the pungent odor of anhydrous ammonia from inside. McKee said police were notified immediately.

ANSUL TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

With the recent changes to the Rules governing pre UL-300 systems and the introduction of a new Yellow Tag program, it is important that we have the correct information from the manufacturers regarding the affected systems.

With this in mind FEDOT has invited Mr. Britt Johnson with Ansul Inc., to be one of our guest speakers at the March 4, 2006 Annual Meeting.

Britt currently is a Dallas based Ansul District Sales Manager. However, long before that job he was employed by his Mother, Sandra Johnson at Smith Fire. So Britt goes way back in the fire equipment business. His experience is broad and his historic perspective is genuine.

Ansul R-100 fire systems date back to the late 1960’s. Yes they were called R-100. The new improved (circa 1967) dry chemical system were called R-101 and R-102 was designated for wet systems (circa 1981). This is the type of historic reference you will need as we begin to replace pre UL-300 Systems.

MY (STRONG) OPINION OF YELLOW TAGS

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have official notification that the proposed changes to the Rules will have been approved and published. There are several changes; however this story is intended to address only UL-300 changes. As you know we will be adding a Yellow Tag for the first time. This is significant for several reasons. First we will have support from the SFMO so we can upgrade old pre-UL 300 Kitchen Fire Suppression Systems. And second we now have the first opportunity to think about the future of this business with a yellow tag program. For right now the yellow tag is specifically designed to identify pre-UL 300 systems (and nothing else). But it does not have to end there. Now that the State has shown that they are comfortable with having a yellow tag we can start to propose (through the proper advisory board and public meetings) changes that we would like to see in the future for inclusion with the yellow tag rules.

However let's get back to the issue at hand. On March 1, 2006 we will be required to affix a Yellow Tag on all pre-UL 300 fire systems. We will further be required to notify the property owner and the local AHJ in writing within five days. After January 1, 2008 (twenty two months later) we will be required to affix a Red Tag on all pre-UL 300 systems and alert the property owner and local AHJ within 24 hours. ***Please read the exact Rules carefully as I have abbreviated some of the details for brevity for this story.***

The first thing that comes to my mind is how do we communicate this to our customers and the local AHJ's? The way the new Rules are written could lead to a misunderstanding by some local authorities. The Rules may make them appear to be the "bad guy". After all what you have in essence just told your customer is that his system is functional and that we are OK with taking his money and certifying his system but that the local authority may not be in agreement. Note, in some local municipalities they already have a set precedence on what they do with yellow tagged fire alarm and sprinkler systems (alarm and sprinkler people have had yellow tags for years). When the local AHJ is notified that you just hung a yellow tag he will be forced to do something. The local AHJ may not like the role that he thinks you just put him in. And also be very careful in what you put in writing to your customer. The SFMO takes misrepresentation of what is being said very seriously. And if you put

inaccurate statements in writing you may get caught. I for one think it is prudent to alert the local authorities in advance regarding this new yellow tag program so they do not get caught of guard. I also think it is very wise to review how you communicate this yellow tag information to your customer and clearly state what options you and the customer clearly have before you.

And do not lose site of what we will be doing on January 1, 2008 when we begin to red tag these same pre-UL 300 systems. If the local AHJ does nothing now with a yellow tagged system it will still be around after January 1, 2008. Hopefully most of these systems will get changed out prior to that date but this program does not guarantee that. The local authorities' certainly need to know that if they do nothing with a yellow tagged systems, that come January 1, 2008, they are likely going to have an unhappy restaurant owners that now may have as little as 24 hours to purchase a new fire system.

Here is another thought. Do you feel comfortable hanging a yellow tag that clearly states that the fire system may fail to extinguish a typical fire? I guess I can get there for the first service visit but I am not certain that I could hang another yellow tag six months later. I would not want to be in front of a pool of lawyers being deposed and having to defend my actions if I hung a second (as in semi-annual service) yellow tag on a fire system. I frankly do not know how I could defend that action. If the yellow tag says the system may fail to extinguish a fire six months ago it surely says the same thing now but probably it is saying it louder.

Some insurance carriers have taken a firm position that says they do not think it is wise for any service company that they insure to continue to offer semi-annual services for any obsolete systems. The verbiage that is on the yellow tag certainly can be construed as all pre-UL 300 systems being considered obsolete. If your carrier has a similar attitude they may not even want you hanging a yellow tag. These are questions that I believe are worthy of a response (from your carrier) or a directive from a company policy statement.

The yellow tag is here. It is way over due. It addresses a critical situation. It gives every servicing company support from the SFMO but it is not a panacea. This is not the end but merely the beginning.

I have carefully crafted all of my documents that I plan to use. At the same time do not forget the objective which is to get inferior fire systems upgraded. At the end of the day we needed the State to be involved because we have thus far demonstrated that we are somewhat powerless to convince customers that UL-300 is the best way to protect property and save lives. Remember UL-300 took effect on November 21, 1994 and we may be looking at final implementation after January 1, 2008. That is over thirteen years and that to me is unacceptable in the business of protecting property and lives.

Pete Frayer

DAVID VAN ZANDT TO SPEAK AT MARCH 4, 2006 MEETING

WHAT TO DO WITH PRE UL-300 SYSTEMS

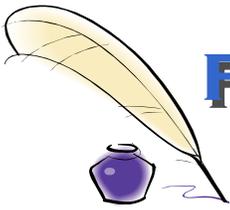
As you are probably aware the State Fire Marshal's Office has just released the revised Rules. One of the more significant changes is a new Yellow Tag program and a revised Red Tag program that are both intended to address phase-out of pre-UL-300 Fire Suppression Systems.

With this in mind FEDOT has invited Mr. David Van Zandt with Kidde-Fenwal Inc., to be one of our guest speakers at the March 4, 2006 Annual Meeting.

Dave is the Manager of Pre-Engineered Systems and is based in Ashland, Massachusetts. His responsibilities include all Kidde pre-engineered kitchen, industrial, gas station and vehicle systems with some responsibility for Badger system products that are manufactured in Ashland.

His career started in 1977 in the Service Department at CO-Two Sales and Service in New Jersey. His father owned the business so David has been exposed to both the distributor and manufacturers side of the business since he was a young man. He has been with Kidde since 1996

David is well informed and has plenty of historic background which I am certain will help him be an excellent speaker on this topic. Who better to discuss upgrading old systems than someone who was there when those old systems were new systems.



FEDOT OBJECTIVES

1. To cooperate with local fire chiefs and other interested governmental officials in order to secure the adoption of uniform standard
2. s and ordinances governing fire equipment and uniform interpretations thereof.
3. To recommend to the fire equipment industry such trade policies and practices as will stabilize the industry and protect the public interest, to eliminate any practices which cause injury to the industry and to the public, to gather and disseminate information and ideas which will improve Texans protection against losses from fire, and to increase the professionalism of the Texas fire equipment industry. Each member of FEDOT acknowledges the ongoing responsibility implied in the sale and maintenance of fire protection equip-
- ment, and pledges to perform services with a high standard of honesty, skill and integrity that will foster the profession of fire equipment distributors.
4. To further the joint interest of, and build good-will between, distributors, dealers and manufacturers of the fire equipment industry.
5. To gather information, statistics, and data that pertains to the fire equipment industry, and to share such information with members, governmental agencies, and interested persons.
6. To cooperate with insurance companies, governmental officials, manufacturers of fire equipment, and others who may be of assistance in furthering the purposes of FEDOT.
7. To provide a forum for the exchange of business information. (Certain information will be restricted to members)
8. To sponsor research studies and in other ways assist members in the pursuit of increased awareness and utilization of our services.
9. To promote fellowship and cooperation among fire equipment distributors in Texas.

The objectives are also embodied within the FEDOT Code of Ethics. If you have any questions about the objectives and purposes of FEDOT, please contact us.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2006 Cabela's 12901 Cabela Drive

Ft. Worth Texas 76117



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OF TEXAS

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