

## MINUTES



## Minutes of September 10 , 2005 Meeting

FEDOT Fall Meeting

Cabela's

15570 Interstate 35

Buda, TX 78610

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 PM after all of the invited speakers had presented their programs. John Brannen Vice-President presided over the meeting.

Introductions were made first thing in the morning for all in attendance and invited guests.

All of the Speakers were excellent:

**Mr. Paul Maldonado** was our morning Keynote speaker. Mr. Maldonado became our State Fire Marshal last December (2004). He started his career as a Cadet fire fighter with the Austin Fire Department. Prior to be named as Fire Marshal he held the Position of Assistant Fire Chief, Austin Fire Department where he supervised a staff of 45 which included Inspectors, Investigators, and Public Information Officers. He was also responsible for Education in his 256 square mile city of approximately 500,000 citizens. He drew many parallels between his present job and his AFD experiences. He now has a staff of eighty. Only forty are located in Austin and the rest are scattered around the State. It is apparent that he relies heavily on all of his managers including Mark Redlitz for Licensing and Enforcement.

He discussed a recent initiative where the State has used NFPA 101 (adopted by Rule) to conduct inspections of bars and clubs in the unincorporated parts of the State. This has resulted in finding and fixing numerous code violations. This program has been conducted as a priority because of the Rhode Island fire (The Station) that claimed nearly 100 lives. The SFMO will be starting a campaign to enlighten club patrons on the need to know how to evacuate during a fire incident.

He reached out a hand of cooperation between his office and FEDOT member companies by reminding us that "we are all in this together". The Mission Statement clearly spells out that all that he does and what we do is for the benefit of the citizens

of Texas. He opened a doorway for dialog. We have been asked to partner with SFMO for prevention and outreach.

**Mark Redlitz** spoke regarding several Rule changes that we will likely see in the near future. He stated that in the next 60 days or less that these changes would be published in the Texas Register and that would start the process of comment and hearings. As always he will notify FEDOT (as a courtesy) as soon as these changes are printed in the Texas Register. We were reminded to be watchful and ready to respond with our input during the comment period.

We were told that out-source testing will likely begin in January 2006. We were advised that a Yellow Tag will be proposed for use on pre UL-300 non-compliant fire systems. As written we will have a period of time were we Yellow Tag pre UL-300 systems and then a few years later we will begin to affix Red Tags to those same systems. Please note: no dates are being published here at this time because all of this is still pending the process of publishing, public comments and open hearings prior to adoption.

Other proposed changes will create a new R-License for installation of a residential kitchen fire suppression system. Also if this passes it will allow the State to adopt some of the later editions of NFPA Standards.

We were also informed that Governor Perry has signed a proclamation that relaxes the Licensing requirements for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. A copy of the appropriate form was made available.

**J.R. Nerat** spoke on several of the proposed changes to NFPA 10. He sits on this committee and had a copy of the draft documents that the committee is working on. There are 156 proposed changes before this committee. These revisions will need to be ready for vote in May/June 2006 at the next NFPA annual meeting. If these changes are passed they will be published as the 2006 Edition of NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Extinguishers. NFPA, as a publishing company, is making many style changes to all of their Standards. J.R. indicated that this is being done so that all standards look alike and that certain items (such as annual maintenance) are always

found in the same chapter in every standard. Definitions will always be in the same chapter, style will be the same etc. etc. This will impact all of the standards so when the new NFPA 10, 2006 Edition hits the street you will need to buy a copy.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding understanding classification of hazard. The current NFPA 10 would classify a commercial kitchen (see 1.4.3) as an Extra (High) Hazard. This would require placement (see Table 5.2.1) of either a 4A rated extinguisher or two 2½ gallon water-type extinguishers.

### Business Meeting

Vice President John Brannen convened the business meeting at approximately 2:00 PM. A late lunch break was taken to allow all speakers to make their presentations in the morning session.

John Brannen presided over the meeting because David Mettauer was not in attendance. We had to book J.R. Nerat as our speaker for September 9 & 10, 2005 based on his availability (which then created a scheduling conflict for our President).

Minutes of the spring meeting in Fort Worth on April 2, 2005 were passed out. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Larry Angle and seconded by Steve Smith. A unanimous vote to accept followed.

An accurate treasurer's report was not available. There were several questions including a possible double payment for a Treasurer's Bond (Insurance) that the Association must purchase. The Board will need to do some research and then review the treasurer's records for accuracy.

It was announced that Denise Ferris Black has resigned her position as Secretary for the Association. She has left Firehawk in Amarillo to take another job in another type of business (not fire related). This leaves a vacancy for Secretary as well as on the Board. According to the By-laws (this section was read aloud) it is the responsibility of the Board to appoint a replacement and that person will fulfill the term of that office. The Secretary position will be up for election in the spring of 2007.

A discussion was held regarding joining the Texas Construction Association. It was

generally felt that we should have some sort of a presentation from this group at a regular meeting so that the members can hear first hand what benefits we can derive from membership. There was also a concern that dues would increase approximately \$100.00 per member-company per year and that it would be appropriate to review membership in TCA from that standpoint. It was suggested that the Board may want to pursue these suggestions and bring this to the membership at our annual meeting. There was also discussion that the Board may want to position the membership in advance of the annual meeting so those with strong opinions (for or against) can be prepared for this discussion and vote.

A discussion on dates for the next meeting was held. It was stated that the best attended meeting throughout the year is the spring meeting. It was also stated that the best attended meeting is in the Dallas Fort Worth area. So the spring meeting will be in the Metroplex area. Non-conflicting dates will need to be discussed by the Board as well as location. Two suggested locations are the Fire Academy at Tarrant County College in North Fort Worth or Cabela's near Alliance Airport (in North Fort Worth).

It was announced that FEDOT Newsletter has been sent to all of the other Statewide Associations. Two recent issues (Summer and Fall 2005) were mailed to Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, California, Louisiana and Oregon. The purpose is to exchange ideas, thoughts and information that may be of mutual concern or interest to other Associations. There have been no responses at this time.

It was brought to everyone's attention that there are some requirements in the International Mechanical Code to put the exhaust fan and make-up air fan on a single stop/start switch. It was also pointed out that the International Fuel Gas Code states that it is a requirement to interlock the cooking equipment power with the ventilation control so that cooking cannot occur without the ventilation system being in operation. The International Fuel Gas Code also states that there are to be no dampers in the ventilation system. Cities have the latitude to adopt any or all of the ICC codes or to amend as part of adoption any codes, so this is not a universal requirement at this time.

Apparently Brooks will not longer accept old batteries. There was a discussion on proper battery disposal. Apparently if you purchase batteries for alarm panels and

emergency exit lights from Interstate Battery they will take up your old batteries.

A suggestion was made that a more defined agenda would improve the flow of a regular business meeting. It was opined that individuals could come better prepared to discuss a topic or may even decide to attend because a certain topic was on the agenda and was going to be discussed.

It was reported that the Friday Training Program was well attended and very successful. Approximately 30 individuals were in attendance.

It was announced that House Bill No. 3073 failed. House Bill 3073 failed to get out of committee in a timely manner. Even though more than 100 letters (of opposition) were submitted to various committee members speaking against this proposed bill it still cleared committee. It was stated that we apparently do not have a voice or a voice that is getting heard.

A brief discussion was held on why Texas does not have a State Fire Code. It was apparent from the speech by Paul Maldonado that the SFMO would like to have one. It was also apparent that he was not optimistic that a Fire Code would be coming soon. He expressed that this was due to budgetary concerns as well as political concerns. There has been historically strong opposition to a State Fire Code from the professional engineering community.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made at approximately 3:45 PM by Larry Angle and seconded by Clint Burleson. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Door Prizes**



Jim Hund with Amerex Corporation generously donated two \$50.00 Outback Steakhouse Gift Certificates. They were won by Pete Frayer, Kimbrough Fire in Arlington and Artis Lothman, McCormack Fire Extinguishers in Conroe.

Jim Hund with Amerex Corporation also donated four Amerex Chrome Extinguishers. They were won by Kevin Schultz, A-1 Fire & Safety in Waco, Arlene Burleson, Bacon Equipment in Dallas, John Haase, Safequip in Austin and Clint Burleson, Bacon Equipment in Dallas.

Alan Owens with Badger Fire Protection generously donated two \$50.00 Cabela's Gift Certificates. They were won by Steve Smith, Anchor Safety in Longview and Mark Hoozer, A-1 Fire & Safety in Waco.

Sarah Chappell with Heiser Logistics in Carrollton generously donated three \$100.00 Heiser Gift Certificates. They were won by John Brannen, Pol-Lee Fire Extinguisher in Fort Worth, Larry Angle, M-Jacks Fire & Safety Equipment in San Antonio and Jim Haase, Safequip in Austin.

FEDOT would like to extend a very sincere thank you to all of the fine companies that supplied us with these nice door prizes. Not only do our associate members donate generously they also contribute their personal time and energy to attend meetings and talk-up FEDOT.

Respectfully submitted by Peter E. Frayer

**TREASURER'S REPORT**



Beginning Balance	\$3,629.26
Deposits:	
October 2005	\$950.00
November 2005	\$600.00
December 2005	\$6,090.00
January 2006	\$4,000.00
Checking Account Balance	\$15,269.26
Allocations:	
Misc. Meeting Expenses	\$1,229.85
Postage	\$44.78
Printing	\$168.24
Speaker Expenses	\$1,500.00
TCA Dues	\$3,000.00
Website Hosting Fees	\$388.00
Office Supplies	\$16.95
Total Expenses	\$6,347.91
Available Checking Funds	\$8,921.35
Beginning Savings Balance	\$4,651.51
Interest	\$4.07
Total Savings Balance	\$4,655.58
Total Assets	\$13,576.93



**NEXT MEETING**

**When:** Saturday March 4, 2006

**Where:** Cabela's 12901 Cabela Drive  
Ft. Worth, TX 76177

**Cost:** \$10.00 for room - lunch on your own

**Agenda:**

- 8:00-9:00 Pastries and Welcome Time
- 9:00-10:15 Ansul - Upgrade to UL-300
- 10:30-12:00 Kidde - Upgrade to UL-300
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:30 Texas Construction Association
- 1:30-1:45 NAFED Update and NFPA 10 Update
- 1:45-2:00 New SFMO Rules - Yellow Tag, etc.
- 2:00-3:00 Business Meeting
- 2:00-2:30 Election of New Officers
  - President-
  - Treasurer-
- 2:30-3:00 New Business
- 3:00 Adjourn

## A TELEPHONE CALL THAT REQUIRES FURTHER THOUGHTS

Today I received a call from another licensed fire extinguisher firm. The CR Holder (owner) wanted to know how to recharge a Kidde IND Model 21 Fire System cylinder. That in itself was a bit strange so I asked if he had a Type A License. He did not; he was just going to recharge this end user's cylinder. All he had was a B-License.

I explained to him that there was much more involved in a Fire Suppression System recharge than refilling a cylinder. What about blowing out the piping, installing nozzle blow off caps, and resetting accessories (spraying air solenoid valve, fan or heater restart, cleaning or replacing filters, vacuuming up residue chemical) etc.

What about researching the origin of the fire? How was the first fire started and what has been done to avoid a repeat occurrence?

But the big concern for me was whose tag will be hanging on this system after the cylinder is recharged? His response was chilling. He was treating this as shop work so the recharged cylinder was going out of his shop to an end-user without a tag. If you recharge an end user's cylinder and he has the ability to get back in operation, what type of liability are you placing on the other licensed fire extinguisher company that has their tag still hanging on the system? We sometimes lose sight of what our service tag says. Here is what I think a service tag says.

***I certify that this Fire Suppression System is correctly installed and ready to operate automatically and manually (as designed) in the event of a fire. I am liable for doing my work in accordance with all applicable codes and standards and I stand by my work.***

Please do not mess things up for another company. A company that hangs their service tag is only willing to accept liability for their own work, not anyone else's work. I am certain this caller would not want anyone else doing work on an extinguisher that he serviced without changing the tag. This would put him in a position of liability for someone else's work

Do a complete job. Service only the equipment for which you have manuals and repair parts. Service the entire system, including the accessory devices. Then and only then hang your fresh service tag indicating that you certify your work and the fire system. And be certain you have the proper State License.

### **NAFED Announces 2006 Conferences**

**March 9-10, 2006, Flamingo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV**

**April 6-7, 2006, Bally's Park Place, Atlantic City, NJ**

**May 5-6, 2006, Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO**

**For more information contact NAFED Headquarters, 312-263-8100**

## NEW USE FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

I was recently telephoned by a Detective with the Fort Worth Police Department. His question to me was; how long will it take ABC Chemical to settle after it is discharged into a closed space? Sort of an unusual question so I quizzed him a bit more in order to find out the complete question.

Seems he was investigating a burglary at a Mobile Home Dealership. This property had a contract with a private mobile security company. I guess this is where a traveling security guard drives through a property at various times while they are closed. This guard noticed that the normal office view was obscured by the presence of "smoke". The smoke ended up being the cloud left by the discharge of ABC chemical. He was trying to determine the exact time the crime was committed by using the air-borne presence of dry chemical to ascertain when the crime had happened. The mobile guard apparently recorded his arrival time on the property.

First let me tell you my response. I told him there were too many variables such as the volume of the space, the quantity of agent discharged, air movements (heater, A/C or desk fans etc.), where the agent was discharged (ceiling or floor) and where the window (viewing point in this case) was in relationship to the dry chemical stream. I did not even get into the micron weight of dry chemical. That was all I could think of at the moment. I am certain there are many more variables but I was unable to come up with them quickly. My non-criminal mind needs more time to think about such things.

However through this conversation I did discover why a criminal would discharge an extinguisher at a crime scene. I was told by the Fort Worth Detective; that apparently a dusting of dry chemical makes it impossible to lift a fingerprint. And apparently the criminals know this so the discharge of an extinguisher at a crime scene has become a common occurrence.

Again my non-criminal mind had never even pondered such information.

**The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year.**

**John Foster Dulles**

## State Fire Marshal's Office New Fire Extinguisher Rule Changes – April 2006

The Commissioner of Insurance, through the State Fire Marshal, has amended the Fire Extinguisher Rules, based on recommendations from the Fire Extinguisher Advisory Council. AT THIS TIME IT IS EXPECTED that the new rules will take effect April 1, 2006. When they become effective, an official announcement from the SFMO will be mailed to each registered firm. At that time, a complete copy of the statute and rules can be downloaded from the SFMO fire extinguisher web site at: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmliexting.html> then click on "Rules". The following is a synopsis of some of the substantive changes.

- §34.506(19) **Definitions.** The definition of "Direct Supervision" was modified to permit the direct supervision of the installation of an engineered fixed system (not pre-engineered) to be performed off site by the supervising and responsible licensee.
- §34.507 **Adopted Standards.** The latest edition of certain standards was adopted. NFPA 10-2002 (with one exception); NFPA 17-2002 (with one exception); NFPA 17A-2002 (with one exception); NFPA 96-2001(with one exception).
- §34.511 **Fire Extinguisher Licenses.** A new specialized Type R license was established including the fees (§34.515) and test qualifications (§34.516) to exclusively install residential range top fire extinguisher systems. Type PL, A and K licensees can also install these system.
- §34.514(a)(4) **Applications.** The requirement for a firm, applying for a registration or renewal, to provide statements detailing the experience and education supporting the firm's qualifications, were deleted.
- §34.517(e) **Installation and Service.** An employee of a registered firm, installing an engineered (not pre-engineered) system under the direct supervision of a licensee, is not required to hold a license.
- §34.517(f) **Installation and Service.** After January 1, **2008**, when servicing a fixed fire extinguishing system for a commercial cooking area that does not comply with UL 300, a RED tag shall be attached.
- §34.517(k) **Installation and Service.** All pre-engineered dry chemical fixed systems, installed after January 1, 2006, must comply with UL 1254.
- §34.520(b) **Service Tags.** After any service, either a service tag, a yellow tag, (as described in new section §34.524) or a red tag shall be attached as applicable.
- §34.524 **Yellow Tags.** (*NEW TAG*) This section describes the color, content, placement, duration, use, and procedures concerning a yellow tag. When servicing a fixed fire extinguishing system for a commercial cooking area that does not comply with UL 300, a YELLOW tag shall be attached. In addition, within five business days, a written notice shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed, or hand delivered to the owner and the local AHJ indicating that the system does not comply with UL Standard 300, that the system may not extinguish a typical fire, that a red tag will be attached after January 1, 2008, and that the owner should consider replacing or upgrading the system before that time.

The adopted NFPA standards have many changes. You are responsible to obtain a copy and install, service and maintain all portable and fixed fire extinguishing systems according to these standards. You may obtain these from NFPA at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

[FireMarshal@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:FireMarshal@tdi.state.tx.us) (e-mail) <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/fmli.html> (Web site)

# NEWS from CPSC

## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 7, 2006  
Release #06-084

**CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772**  
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

### CPSC, SFC America Announce Recall to Repair Fire Extinguishers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recalls in voluntary cooperation with the firms listed below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Dry Chemical Fire Extinguishers

**Units:** About 50,900

**Manufacturer:** Strike First Corp., of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

**Importer:** Strike First Corporation of America (SFC America), of Front Royal, Va.

**Hazard:** The fire extinguishers can fail to discharge properly when the trigger is activated, which puts consumers at risk of fire-related injuries.

**Incidents/Injuries:** SFC America has received three reports of the fire extinguishers failing to discharge properly when activated. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The recall includes Strike First 2.5 lb and 5 lb dry chemical fire extinguishers with model numbers WBSF-ABC110AP, WBSF-ABC210AP, and WBSF-ABC340AP. The model number is located under the manufacturer's address on the far right hand side of the instruction label. The recalled fire extinguishers have the following serial numbers:

Model Number	Serial Number Range
WBSF-ABC110AP	TC101566 through TC108819
WBSF-ABC210AP	TC114969 through TC135000 VV822001 through VV832000 WH161001 through WH167622
WBSF-ABC340AP	TC135894 through TC142345

The serial number is located on the extinguisher's label, below the "UL" mark. The fire extinguishers are red, and designed for commercial, industrial, multi-residential and vehicle applications.

**Sold at:** Fire extinguisher dealers nationwide from December 2002 through April 2004 for between \$13 and \$21.

**Manufactured in:** Canada

**Remedy:** Consumers with fire extinguishers included in the recall should immediately contact SFC America for information on how to arrange to have their extinguishers repaired.

**Consumer Contact:** Call SFC America at (800) 255-5515 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the SFC America Web site at [www.strikefirstusa.com](http://www.strikefirstusa.com)