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OCTOBER, 2009

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

NAFED'S DOT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SEMINARS

In January 1992 the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) passed a mandate that anyone involved with the transportation of hazardous materials needs to be trained, tested, and certified by their employer. This mandate was the result of a directive from the US Congress to reduce the number of accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials. The DOT determined that many of the accidents were caused because employees were not trained on hazardous materials requirements.

The DOT gave a two year period for all businesses to meet the training requirement. All small businesses had until October 1993 to train, test, and certify all of their hazardous materials employees. All large businesses had to have the requirement completed by October 1992. The DOT was serious and was issuing substantial fines to large companies that had not complied with the training. This was the same period of time that many DOT-registered hydrostatic re-tester facilities were inspected by the DOT and received fines for what many considered minor details.

NAFED's Board of Directors realized that this requirement could have a dramatic effect on the industry and could cost companies thousands of dollars in fines. Therefore, the board instructed NAFED staff to develop a training program designed to help the industry comply with the new federal mandate. That program was NAFED's DOT Hazardous Materials Train-the-Trainer Seminar.

In 2003, NAFED offered the training in over 40 cities to help the industry comply with the new regulations. This program was open to all fire equipment distributor companies with a price discount for NAFED members.

To help promote the seminars and to inform as many companies as possible about the new regulations, NAFED worked with various state associations. The state associations offered to help promote the seminar and state association members were eligible for the NAFED member rate. This helped companies save money, plus it helped promote both NAFED and state associations. NAFED and FEDOT have worked together to provide these seminars in Texas for the benefit of both associations' members.

These seminars have done more than just help fire equipment distributors to comply with the DOT's regulations; they have help save distributors thousands of dollars in fines and have increased safety awareness.

This year NAFED and FEDOT are offering the Train-the-Trainer seminar on Friday, October 23, in San Antonio, Texas, the day before the FEDOT conference. See the enclosed registration form for additional information.

SUNSET REVIEW SUMMARY

As required by state law, usually every 12 years all Texas state agencies are reviewed by the Sunset Commission. The membership of this commission, which itself is a state agency with a staff, is made up of legislators appointed by the Governor. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), a part of which is the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) underwent review by the sunset commission for two years prior to the 81st legislative session that began in January 2009. As you might have heard, a lot of legislation went without any action. The bill that carried the recommendations of the Sunset Commission, pertaining to

(Continued on page 6)

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Just a brief note to bring you up to date on the status of FEDOT. FEDOT currently has 40 regular members, 9 supplier members and 1 honorary member. FEDOT is still busy looking after your interest as a Fire Equipment Distributor. In an effort to keep you current on your DOT training, FEDOT is sponsoring the NAFED DOT train the trainer program. (see front page article).

Your input is very important to us. I would like to personally invite you to attend our meeting on October 24, 2009 to not only gain information and knowledge but to share your thoughts and ideas to promote and grow your association. I look forward seeing you in October.

Jim Shelton
M-Jacks Fire & Safety Equipment Company



Edward Michael Weaver Sr., 81, died Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008. Service: Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. Interment: Mount Olivet Cemetery. Visitation: 5 until 6:30 p.m. Monday at Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home where a vigil service will begin at 6:30 p.m. Memorials: Gifts in his memory may be made to Subiaco Abbey, 405 N. Subiaco Ave., Subiaco, Ark. 72865.

Managers solve today's problems.

Leaders solve tomorrow's problems.

THE FOLLOWING WAS COPIED DIRECTLY FROM THE MAY/JUNE 2008 BROOKS EQUIPMENT NEWSLETTER

Industrial Fire Protection

Q&A: New Certification Requirement in NFPA 10

By Mark Conroy

The following are questions about the new certification requirements in NFPA 10, Portable Fire Extinguishers.

The answers are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the technical committee or NFPA and may not be considered to be or relied upon as such.

Q: Is there a mandatory requirement in NFPA 10 for certification?

A: Yes. Paragraph 7.1.2.2 requires that those who maintain, service, and recharge portable extinguishers be certified and have the appropriate service manuals, the proper tools, recharge materials, and lubricants; and the appropriate replacement parts for the fire extinguisher.

Q: Is there a requirement in NFPA 10 that persons servicing extinguishers become certified by a certain date?"

A: Yes. Section 7.1.2.3 requires that service personnel be certified after August 2008.

Q: I work at a fire extinguisher servicing company servicing extinguishers. How does this apply to me?

A: You should check locally, starting with the state fire marshal's office, to see if this provision of NFPA 10 has been adopted locally. The requirement was written to direct the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) to require certification after August 17, but the AHJ ultimately determines any deadline for becoming certified.

Q: I work for a large company with thousands of extinguishers. Currently, in-house technicians maintain and recharge our extinguishers. How does this apply to my company?

A: You should also check with the state fire

marshal's office. Developing an in-house certification program for your employees might be advantageous. Some organizations developing certification programs might partner with large companies or share their information. An extension of the deadline might also be appropriate; the Tentative Interim Amendment is currently being processed to extend the deadline. You should develop your plan for compliance and submit it to the AHJ for consideration.

Q: Besides the requirement in NFPA 10, what are the benefits of becoming a certified fire extinguisher service technician if there is no local mandate that I become certified?

A: All technicians should become proficient in their roles as extinguisher service technicians. They should also seek credentials that demonstrate their knowledge in the discipline. Certification helps technicians gain recognition as professionals.

Certificate holders enjoy the following benefits:

Documentation in compliance with industry standard

Verification of technical knowledge

Professional recognition

Ability to use a professional credential for career growth

Professional stature among peers

Q: What is licensing, and how does it relate to certification?

A: Not many states require extinguisher service personnel to be licensed. For licensing, an AHJ develops rules that stipulate qualifications for a license. If a state requires that persons servicing fire extinguishers be licensed, there is a rule or a law that stipulates the requirements. Normally anyone who wants to be licensed would have to fill out an application, pay an application fee, and prove his or her

(Continued on page 3)

A NEW CUSTOMER IS BORN?

(Continued from page 2)

(The following was copied directly from the May/June 2008 Brooks Equipment Newsletter)

qualifications. The rules often permit "grandfathering" for someone who has been performing the service for a number of years. Otherwise, the applicant normally needs to show experience and education, or both in order to prove his or her qualifications. Sometimes the licensing references certification as a prerequisite.

Q: How do I choose a certification program that is right for me?

A: The certificate is only as good as the program being offered for qualification. Currently, several programs are being developed. Over time, these programs will evolve, and more programs will be developed so that service technicians will have choices. Be sure to select a program that is recognized or will be recognized in your state. Ultimately, the certification program you choose must be acceptable to the AHJ.

Mark Conroy is senior engineer for Technical Services at the Brooks Equipment Company.

NAFED Announcement

Larry Angle elected to the NAFED Board of Directors representing Region 5. Region 5 includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Dave Mettauer's 3 year term as NAFED's Region 5 Director concluded in May 2009. Feel free to direct any NAFED questions to Larry Angle at (210) 344-2361.

Make your plans now for the 2010 NAFED conferences. Starting NAFED's conferences will be Las Vegas March 4-5, followed by Atlantic City April 8-9 and concluding with St. Louis May 6-7. For more information and registration information visit NAFED at

www.nafed.org.

As the price of energy increases or when energy taxes are raised people will begin to react. These reactions include solid, well thought out maneuvers as well as some measures that can be classified as stupid and dangerous. This article will deal with one of the latest dangerous responses.

We have all heard of biodiesel. I believe it is a commercially produced blend of regular diesel fuel and soybean oil. It is much like ethanol which is produced from corn and blended with ordinary gasoline. We also grow soybeans from which we can extract some sort of vegetable oil that can be blended with diesel fuel.

Since biodiesel is a blend of vegetable oil and diesel fuel why not make it at home from used commercial cooking oils? Seems like a reasonable proposition until you begin to study the process and factor in the risk and dangers. Please read on.

"Biodiesel as a finished product is a Class 3 combustible, which is quite stable. The problem that the industry has is that to make biodiesel you create a catalyst by mixing methanol and usually sodium hydroxide (lye or drain cleaner). Methanol (which is flammable and poisonous) is added to caustic soda. Now you have an even more significant chemical called Sodium Methoxide which gets hot when the two are mixed and becomes a bone seeking chemical. Some of the big producers use Sodium Methalate instead of making Sodium Methoxide, which is safer but still quite hazardous. For the record there have been at least two fatal biodiesel fires in the US. "There have been countless injuries of garage type producers, states" Troy Buzalsky; Canby Fire District #62; Division Chief, Fire Marshal.

Several manufacturers now sell kits, equipment and plans to set-up a garage operation. It appears that these vendors have done little or no testing, and have no listings, labels or approvals on their equipment. It also appears that there is little if any information on the dangerous

aspects of producing biodiesel such as one incident that involved the use of an electric drill (spark producing device) to power the stir-stick for the latest brew. I assure you the fire probably was out once the fuel was consumed (unless the garage caught fire). Apparently methanol can be purchased at the local drag strip (in an appropriate marked safety can?) so getting the "fixins" is something that can accomplished and used cooking oil is available from many commercial kitchen.

As a fire protection expert please be advised that you likely have a new customer out there. He is likely not well informed, and potentially has built a rather sophisticated chemical plant in his garage without good preparation or planning. But we know one thing for sure he is out there and if the price of fuel continues to rise he will not be alone.

THE TOTAL COST OF FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES

John J. Hall, Jr.

Cost: \$25.00, 29 pages

Abstract: The total cost of fire in the United States is defined to be a combination of the losses caused by fire and money spent to prevent worse losses, by preventing fires, containing them, detecting them quickly, and suppressing them effectively. For 2005, that total cost is estimated at \$267-294 billion, or roughly 2-2.5 % of US gross domestic product. Property loss - reported and unreported, direct and indirect t- represents only \$12.7 billion of this total. The net cost of insurance coverage (\$15.9 billion), the cost of career fire departments (\$30.7 billion), building costs for fire protection (\$45.9 billion), other economic costs (\$39.9 billion), the monetary value of donated time from volunteer firefighters (\$80-107 billion), and the estimated monetary equivalent for the deaths and injuries due to fire (\$41.6 billion), are all larger components than property loss.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

FEDOT is looking for a replacement Newsletter Editor because the current editor has announced that he has decided to give up the publishing reins.

Pete Frayer and his wife Lana jointly edit and publish the Newsletter so we need a replacement for both jobs. This has been a paid position. It would be beneficial to have one person perform both job functions or to have a team like another couple do both jobs simultaneously.

Pete has written a lot of the content of the Newsletter over the years even though it is a member driven publication where anyone can contribute a story for publication or a story idea for the editor to take to a form suitable for publishing. It would be helpful to have a digital camera as photos are always a good addition to the publication. Pete and Lana use Microsoft Publisher as their software however any suitable format is acceptable. A local printer is used to

print and assemble each edition as well as transmit a copy electronically to the Webmaster. The only other job is peeling and affixing stamps and mailing labels followed by delivery to the local Post Office for mailing. There may come a day when the Newsletter is e-mailed and sending a copy through the mail is considered outdated, so that part of the job may change someday.

If you have an interest please take the initiative to communicate with any Board member to make your interest well known. Generally there have been 2-4 issues per calendar year.

This position is available now and must be filled in time to edit and publish the next FEDOT Newsletter, likely the Spring 2010 Issue.

FEDOT Board

PYRO-CHEM CONTROL HEADS

Pyro-Chem recently released Bulletin 2323 (July 23, 2008) dealing with an operational concern regarding the current Control Head.

Pyro-Chem Inc. (now part of Tyco International) has manufactured several styles of control heads throughout their years in the system business. The current control head (s) are called NMCH, MCH, NECH or ECH. I believe this control head has been manufactured since approximately 1997. Pyro-Chem changed the indicator design to the current configuration when it was determined that the metal flag indicator could impede the slide action of the internal actuation mechanism. It is very easy to determine by appearance if a control head is the current version. If it uses a white block of plastic as the visual indicator then it is the current version. Therefore Bulletin 2323 contains important information for anyone that is installing or servicing any of this control head design.

The current plastic indicator block can bind against the cover thus impeding the slide mechanism. If this occurs this bulletin tells how to make a corrective adjustment. The best way to know if you have a (binding) problem is to always check the operation (slides to actuate) of the mechanism with the cover in place.

Please source a copy of this service bulletin for specific information and corrective action. The purpose of this story is to use an additional channel to communicate important information to both Pyro-Chem and non-Pyro-Chem Distributors.

**NFPA 10
STANDARD FOR PORTABLE FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS**

2007 EDITION

REFERENCE: 7.1.2.3

TIA 07-1

(SC 08-7-17/TIA LOG #913)

Pursuant to Section 5 of the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects, the National Fire Protection Association has issued the following Tentative Interim Amendment to NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, 2007 edition.

The TIA was processed by the Technical Committee on Portable Fire Extinguishers, and was issued by the Standards Council on July 24, 2008, with an effective date of August 13, 2008.

A Tentative Interim Amendment is tentative because it has not been processed through the entire standards-making procedures. It is interim because it is effective only between editions of the standard. A TIA automatically becomes

a proposal of the proponent for the next edition of the standard; as such, it then is subject to all of the procedures of the standards-making process.

1. Revise requirement in 7.1.2.3 for the implementation of certification of service personnel as follows:

7.1.2.3 The certification of service personnel shall be required December 31, 2009.

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NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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. Direct comments to:

FEDOT NEWSLETTER

FAX: 817-795-2836

(Attn: Peter Frayer)

fireh2ouse@hotmail.com

WHEN (IF EVER) DO YOU PERFORM A SIX YEAR INTERNAL MAINTENANCE ON A KITCHEN WET CHEMICAL FIRE SYSTEM CYLINDER?

When do you perform a Six Year Internal Maintenance on a Kitchen Wet Chemical Fire System cylinder? The short answer is never. The long answer and the logic for my opinion follow.

I have researched as many sources as I could in search of a definitive written answer. Unfortunately I never found one because Manufacturer's Manuals and NFPA never put in writing what you are not supposed to do.

Manufacturers' Manuals and NFPA 17A do not tell you to do six year maintenance so it is not a requirement. That is the end of the subject. They do not tell you NOT to do it (and likely never will) nor do they tell you to do it. They say nothing -both ways.

So, if you are doing six year maintenance on wet chemical system cylinder, you are doing something that is not harmful to the cylinder but is certainly not a requirement. So if you do it; be absolutely certain that you do not state (especially in writing) the reason for this work "is because it is required" because it is not.

For clarity the following is the written reason that internal maintenance is required every six years on fire extinguishers. I sense that this may be the reason I see some service companies doing internal maintenance on wet chemical fire system cylinders. Here is what is stated in NFPA 10, 2007 Edition states in 7.3.1.2.1* Six-Year Maintenance. Every 6 years, stored-pressure fire extinguishers that require a 12-year hydrostatic test shall be emptied and subjected to the applicable maintenance procedure as detailed in the manufacturer's service manual.

The above is my personal opinion but I am pretty confident that I am correct; if you believe otherwise please forward your information to me in writing so that I can correct the record.

Pete Frayer; September 2009

THE 10 DEADLIEST PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AND NIGHTCLUB FIRES IN U.S.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Iroquois Theater Chicago, IL
December 30, 1903.
Deaths: 602 | Deaths: 168 |
| 2. Coconut Grove Nightclub, Boston, MA
November 28, 1942
Deaths: 492 | 7. Beverly Hills Supper Club, Southgate, KY
May 28, 1977
Deaths: 165 |
| 3. Conway's Theater, Brooklyn, NY
December 5, 1876
Deaths: 285 | 8. The Station Nightclub, W. Warwick, RI
February 20, 2003
Deaths: 100 |
| 4. Rhythm Club Dance Hall, Natchez, MS
April 23, 1940
Deaths: 207 | 9. Happy Land Social Club, Bronx, NY
March 25, 1900
Deaths: 87 |
| 5. Rhodes Opera House, Boyertown, PA
January 12, 1908
Deaths: 170 | 10. Richmond Theater, Richmond, VA
December 26, 1811
Deaths: 72 |
| 6. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Tent, Hartford, CT
July 6, 1944 | Source: NFPA files on major fire incidents
Updated: 2/08 |

A LAWYER WOULD LOVE THIS PICTURE

Please see the attached photograph. This picture was taken shortly after another company remodeled a fire system and brought it into UL-300 Standard Compliance This installer must be very lazy and he also must think he is bullet-proof. I have several problems with his work which I will outline below.

I cannot find anywhere in any Manual that states that the way this Pull Station Cable is attached is incorrect. But I am old school and I was taught that all work was to be performed using "quality workmanship techniques". It is my verdict that this is NOT an installer that uses those techniques. If he cut this corner what other corners might he also have cut.

Because of his laziness the number of failure points on this Pull Station installation has been doubled. If there was a weak point with one cable crimp there is now twice the weak points. A case can be made for "the fewer the number of weak points the lower the potential for failure".

If there is ever a fire incident and this fire system does not work properly this type of work will be discovered and identified by the post fire investigators. The lawyers will most assur-

edly use it as part of their claim to shift the blame to the installing distributor.

We all fight to maintain or establish a good reputation regarding the work we do, when I see something like this it makes me understand how our reputation can get tarnished.

Why would anyone ever want to give a plaintiff's lawyer this type on ammunition to use against them in a court case? If you are the offending distributor remember that one day you may carry the title of defendant.

The above are my personal editorial comments, and I feel very secure in making them.

Pete Frayer



(Sunset Review Summary)

(Continued from page 1)

TDI, was one of the bill's that was left pending at the end of the regular session. Without passing legislation to continue a state agency, the agency is dissolved by lack of statutory authority to perform its function. A very short special legislative session was called by the Governor, and a bill was adopted by the legislature, to basically "table" the current recommendations by the sunset committee. It extended TDI's authority for 2 years which may permit the re-consideration and addition of any further recommendations prior to the next legislative session.

As a result of the Sunset Commission review there would have been a couple of recommendations that would have impacted our industry.

- Eliminate the Fire Extinguisher Advisory Council from Statute
- Create a Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee, when needed, by fire extinguisher rule.
- Require TDI to adopt rules for using advisory committees, pursuant to the Government Code Chapter 2110, which governs all state agency advisory committees, ensuring the members on the committees meet a standard structure and operating criteria.

A Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee if needed or desired by the Commissioner or State Fire Marshal, would be established by rule to perform a specific task set out in the rule and would be dissolved upon completion or as designated in the rule but no later than four years. It will be structured and used to advise the Commissioner, the State Fire Marshal, or staff, but have no authority for direct rulemaking or policymaking.

The SFMO has advised, that during this interim period, they are currently progressing with the establishment of an extinguisher advisory council in combined compliance with the existing statute (Insurance Code 6001, formerly art.

5.43.1) and Gov't Code 2110. The first step would be to establish the advisory councils by rule. However TDI has many priorities and even the SFMO has other councils to establish. Therefore this may not be completed for several months.

Require the Commissioner to establish a penalty matrix for violations by SFMO licensees, and to delegate administration of the penalties to the SFMO.

This would give the SFMO clear authority to write enforcement letters and issue fines for certain minor violations as delegated by the Commissioner. The requirement would also provide for due process by authorizing a licensee to dispute the fine, and request a contested case hearing. Currently under TDI's agency process, the SFMO does not, specifically, have authority to issue fines for violations against licensees without going through the Department's broader enforcement process. The penalty matrix should permit uniformity in assessing penalties and hopefully speed up and increase the quantity of enforcement action.

As I indicated above, no action was taken on these recommendations. More than likely this will be the starting point for review of TDI by the Sunset Commission prior to the next legislative session. This is the time for us, as SFMO licensees to discuss these recommendations as well as to consider any other recommendations or even changes to the statutes to submit to the Sunset Commission for their consideration. The current version of the Fire Extinguisher statute and rules can be found on the SFMO web site and specifically at: <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/documents/fmextingstat.pdf>.

Written by: Larry Angle with information and input from Mark Redlitz

THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM JULY 7, 2008...

The following story appeared in the Fort Worth Star Telegram on July 7, 2008. This is the first chance we have had to include it in our FEDOT Newsletter. It may be an old story but it worth the read.

State fire marshal has no enforcement sway

Darren Barbee Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Nearly all businesses and individuals found violating Texas laws governing the sale of fireworks and fire-protection equipment got off last year without even a slap on the wrist. In all, the state fire marshal's office let 686 valid complaints slip through its fingers while pursuing just 77. The problem? The office doesn't have the authority to enforce its own penalties, according to a recent report by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

Instead, it must turn to the Texas Department of Insurance's enforcement division, which can issue fines. In practice, however, the enforcement division doesn't bother with cases that would result in fines of less than \$500. In fiscal 2007, only 10 percent of the fire marshal's enforcement cases met that criterion, so the office tried to gain voluntary compliance instead.

"Because licensees deal with critical fire-prevention and -suppression equipment, the lack of enforcement could affect Texans' safety," the commission said.

It recommends changing state law to allow the office to write its own fines. The Insurance Department issued a statement last week saying that it agreed with the commission's findings but that its management could create a penalty matrix for violations and delegate penalties to the fire marshal without a change in state law.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

Apply With FEDOT Board

NFPA REPORT IDENTIFIES COOKING AS LEADING CAUSE OF HOME FIRES

Cooking was involved in an estimated 146,400 home structure fires in the United States in 2005, according to a report released on March 18, 2008 by the National Fire Protection Association. Cooking fires accounted for 40 percent of the home structure fires in 2005, and these cooking fires resulted in 480 deaths, 4690 injuries and \$876 million in direct property damage.

According to the Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment Report, cooking equipment left unattended was a factor in ignition in 38 percent of home structure fires for 2002-2005. Unattended cooking was the leading contributing factor in home cooking fires, followed by combustibles too close to a heat source, and equipment being unintentionally turned on or not turned off.

Cooking was also the leading cause of home fire injuries, accounting for 36

percent of home structure fire injuries in 2005. These injuries were especially likely to occur during attempts to fight the fire. In home structure fires involving cooking equipment for 2002-2005, 59 percent of injuries occurred while fighting the fire, compared to 35 percent of injuries in all other types of home structure fires.

“Cooking results in more home fires and fire injuries in the United States each year than anything else and nearly all of these fires can be prevented with a little extra care”, said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of communications. “Simply paying attention when you are cooking will keep your dinner and everything else from getting burned”.

Home cooking fires peak between 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Extra cooking as on major holidays often means extra cooking fires. Typically more cooking fires occur on

Thanksgiving than any other day of the year.

NFPA offers the following safety tips:

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food.

If you are slow cooking such as baking or roasting remain in the house.

Be alert; do not cook if overly tired.

Do not consume alcohol or prescribed medication during cooking.

Keep other combustibles such as towels or pot holders away from the cooking process.

Keep stovetops and ovens clean.

Keep pets off countertops and not under-foot.

Where close fitting attire with short sleeves.

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM DOING A HIGH PROFILE JOB

Kimbrough Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc. has completed the installation of all of the public area kitchen fire suppression systems in the new Dallas Cowboy Stadium in Arlington. The Stadium is complete (even though a place that big keeps adding and changing) and has begun to host many events. Including the first Cowboy (pre-season) game.

We worked with a good general contractor that was well equipped to handle a big high profile job.

The fire system manufacturer was extremely helpful. Most manufactures like high profile work because it gives them something to brag about.

All of the plan review and acceptance testing was farmed out to a well qualified group of people so we did not work with the normal City Departments. All went smoothly once we established a good relationship with this new group.

The Hood fabricator performed as they said they would, hoods were on-site and hung on time and given to us so we could maintain our installation and test schedule.

The time line is interesting. Every part of this job was on someone’s critical path tracking. You know one of those flow charts that predict when every trade will be doing their assigned work. Some times their schedule was helpful while occasionally it hurt us as we still had to maintain our regular business flow with our regular customers.

Conclusion: We likely would prefer to have 75 small jobs rather than one big job with 75 systems. Working for a high profile customer is challenging and everyone involved grew a bit more and became a better employee for the experience. Would we do it again...sure we would...especially if the job is within a mile or so of our shop.

NAFED Announcement

As of December 31, 2008, NAFED no longer endorses the RISC insurance program. If any NAFED member is contacted by an agent representing RISC who states otherwise, please contact us at (312) 461-9600.



FEDOT OBJECTIVES

1. To cooperate with local fire chiefs and other interested governmental officials in order to secure the adoption of uniform standards and ordinances governing fire equipment and uniform interpretations thereof.
2. 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 equipment, and pledges to perform services with

a high standard of honesty, skill and integrity that will foster the profession of fire equipment distributors.

3. To further the joint interest of, and build good-will between, distributors, dealers and manufacturers of the fire equipment industry.
4. 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.
5. To cooperate with insurance companies, governmental officials, manufacturers of fire equipment, and others who may be of assistance in furthering the purposes of FEDOT.

6. To provide a forum for the exchange of business information. (Certain information will be restricted to members)

7. To sponsor research studies and in other ways assist members in the pursuit of increased awareness and utilization of our services.

8. 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.

Meeting: Cambria Suites 8505 Broadway San Antonio TX 78217

October 24, 2009



FIRE
EQUIPMENT
DISTRIBUTORS
OF TEXAS

P O Box 790844 San Antonio, Texas 78279-0844