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**OUR GOAL IS TO COMPLETE ALL PLAN REVIEWS WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS**

# SPRING 2016 QUARTERLY REVIEW

 BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

 FIRE SAFETY PLAN REVIEW

 CONSULTING SERVICES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*An FSCI update from Keith Frangiamore, FSCI President*

As many of you may already know, Fire Safety Consultants founder Jimbo Schifiliti officially retired this past October marking the end of an era and career that spanned over four decades. Despite his retirement, Jimbo intends to stay connected to the fire protection community.

In his 45 plus year career in fire protection, Jimbo has made many great friends and has impacted the lives of many through his dedication to fire safety. Jimbo has been an active participant in several international code and standard committees since his career began in 1970, and has provided fire protection systems instruction for thousands of fire and building professionals. Jimbo is also an active member of IFSTA committees that provide training materials for the fire service.

We recently asked Jimbo about FSCI's early years and what memories stand out from his career. He shared the following thoughts:

*"In January 1983, I started Fire Safety Consultants, Inc., now FSCI, as a fire protection design and plan review/inspection firm out of my home in Schaumburg, IL. I started doing design work for Jewel Foods, Homart Development, Sears, NWS Architects, and WMA Engineers.*

*"In 1987, I had about sixteen plan review municipalities in the Chicago area. Some of them I recall (still our clients today) were Rolling Meadows, Niles, Hoffman Estates, Vernon Hills, Cary, Lincolnshire, and Buffalo Grove.*

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# LEARN FROM THE PAST, MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

By George Michehl, Fire Protection Consultant

There are no shortages of fire tragedies in America where multiple fatalities have occurred:

- Iroquois Theater, Chicago, December 3, 1903
- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, New York, March 25, 1911
- Cocoanut Grove Nightclub, Boston, November 28, 1942
- Our Lady of the Angels School, Chicago, December 1, 1958
- Station Night Club, West Warwick, RI, February 20, 2003

Immediately following these and other tragic fires, changes to building, fire and life safety codes rose from the ashes. Post fire investigations revealed dangerous conditions affecting life safety. Code changes that addressed these conditions were developed. These changes have had a major impact in the reduction of fire fatalities here in America, and across the world.

Once billed as “Fire-Proof”, the Iroquois Theater fire resulted in 602 fatalities. Lack of fire sprinklers, insufficient fire exits, and a faulty design of the proscenium curtain resulted in major code changes affecting theater occupancies. Panic bars on exit doors that swing in the direction of egress became the standard. Separation requirements were developed between the stage and the crowd.



The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire brought about changes in occupant loads and how stairwell and exit widths are calculated. The Cocoanut Grove Nightclub fire raised awareness of the dangers associated with flammable interior finishes and the use of revolving doors as main entrance/exits in places of assemblies. Overcrowding of the nightclub at the time of the fire resulted in a heightened awareness of the importance of not exceeding the occupant load limitations in places of assembly.



The Our Lady of the Angels School fire sparked changes in stairwell designs in schools including non-combustible stairwell construction protected by self-closing fire doors, or automatic closing fire doors released upon activation of the fire alarm system. Additionally, open transoms above classroom doors designed to improve ventilation are no longer allowed. Most recently, the Station Night Club fire brought about changes in requirements related to automatic fire sprinklers and the use of pyrotechnics in places of assembly.



These examples remind us that those involved in the code development process must continue to respond to tragedies with responsible code changes. Equally important to a reactive response to tragedies is the pro-active approach to code development. Emerging topics of discussion such as lithium battery energy storage systems, NFPA 13R-protected buildings with combustible exteriors, and cross laminated timber construction will require extensive study to ensure that the public remains safe from future fire disasters.

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

*Who is Gina Giannone?*

Gina Giannone has been with Fire Safety Consultants for close to 3 years. Gina works as an administrative assistant in the Illinois corporate office. Prior to coming to FSCI, Gina worked for Zurich Financial Services, Foresite Realty Partners and Arthur J. Gallagher. Previously she has held positions of Global Business Management Coordinator, Office Manager/HR Representative and Manager of Account Services.

Gina supports many divisions within the company. Chances are very good that if a client or contractor has received a plan review report from the Illinois office it has been reviewed and finalized by Gina. In addition to this work Gina is actively involved with FSCI's Training and Marketing teams. Gina prepares all Power Point programs for presentation, and works directly with existing and potential clients in scheduling and coordinating details ahead of any seminar presentation dates. As a member of FSCI's Marketing Team, Gina prepares all materials and logistics for vendor shows and exhibits that the company participates in, and providing input on improving marketing strategies.

Gina holds a Bachelor's Degree in Global Business from the University of Phoenix.

Gina and her husband Charlie (a retired firefighter of more than 25 years) have one son, Bryan, currently a high school senior, who will be heading off to University of Arizona in the fall to study Bio-Medical Engineering. Gina, a big Cubs and Blackhawks fan, enjoys travelling with Charlie, watching Bryan's lacrosse games, and cooking like Rachel Ray.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

*Who is Brent Gooden?*

Brent Gooden has been with Fire Safety Consultants for more than 9 years. Brent works as a fire protection consultant in the Illinois corporate office and is the liaison to the Michigan regional office. He formerly served as the manager of the Michigan office before moving back to Illinois with his family. Prior to coming to FSCI Brent worked as a manager at AON.

While Brent was in Michigan he was extremely active in the many industry groups (fire, building, and mechanical) whose members FSCI works with on a daily basis. Back in the Illinois office Brent continues to conduct fire protection plan reviews for the company's Montana clients as well as our clients from across the country. Brent also performs field inspections for many of our clients in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Brent serves on the company's Marketing and Training teams. He develops and teaches fire protection seminars nationally for FSCI.

Brent holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, NICET certification in water-based layout and fire alarms, and is ICC certified as a fire plans examiner.

In his spare time Brent enjoys sports, running, camping and spending time with his family.



## SEMINAR INFORMATION

Stay up to date on the latest Fire, Building and Life Safety code changes and equipment by attending one of our seminars. FSCI is teaching seminars throughout the United States, led by our experienced staff of Matt Davis, Keith Frangiamore, Brent Gooden, George Michehl & Warren Olsen.

Whether you are a Contractor, Architect, Technician, Engineer or an Authority Having Jurisdiction, each seminar is full of practical insights and first-hand experiences to help you comply with applicable codes and standards. FSCI can also provide custom seminars at your location. Be sure to check out our schedule of upcoming seminars on our website. Contact us to learn more by emailing [info@firesafetyfsci.com](mailto:info@firesafetyfsci.com) or by calling our office at (847) 697-1300.

[Click Here to See the Current Seminar Schedule](#)



## LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

### ***NFPA 25, 2014 Edition***

Water-based sprinkler systems are required to be inspected, tested, and maintained annually. But, did you know that there are specific requirements based on the type of sprinklers installed on the system? The property owner or designated representative shall be responsible for properly maintaining a water-based fire protection system. NFPA 25 requires that sprinklers be replaced, or a representative sample be sent out and tested, at the 50 year mark and then every 10 years after that. NFPA 25 also includes specific requirements for Dry Type (pendent, sidewall, or upright) sprinklers. The testing or replace requirement for this type of sprinkler is at the 10 year mark. A summary of sprinkler system inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements can be found in Table 5.1.1.2.

***Rosie Simarano – Fire Protection Consultant***

### ***NFPA 13, 2016 Edition***

One of the most commonly missed, and misunderstood sections, of NFPA 13 relates to obstructions of the sprinkler discharge pattern. There are multiple sections in Chapter 8 that relate to different types of sprinklers. Obstructions are difficult to identify during the plan review process because we are looking at a top down, two dimensional representation of a real, three dimensional space. Finding obstructions to sprinkler spray patterns during a field inspection are very common. One of the most overlooked obstruction is the mechanical hood in commercial kitchens. The Type I hoods that the cooking process takes place under are required to be protected with an alternate suppression system (a wet chemical

system) and this is perfectly acceptable. What about the Type II hoods? The hoods over enclosed pizza ovens, warmers, and dish washing equipment are often overlooked. Type II hoods do not require an alternate suppression system, and almost always meet the “over four feet” obstruction to the sprinklers spray pattern (NFPA 13 – 8.5.5.3.1). Sprinklers are required to be provided within or under Type II hoods when the ceiling sprinklers cannot provide protection below them.

***Matt Davis – Senior Fire Protection Consultant***

### ***NFPA 13D, 2013 Edition***

NFPA 13D section 7.1.1 states: “A single control valve arranged to shut off both the domestic system and the sprinkler system shall be installed on NFPA 13D systems unless a separate shutoff valve for the sprinkler system is installed in accordance with 7.1.2.”

This arrangement is meant to ensure that the sprinkler system will not be inadvertently turned off. Having the water to the entire residence turned off for a sprinkler system repair will require the home owner to complete whatever repairs are necessary to turn the sprinkler system water back on. If there is not a separate shut off valve for the sprinkler system, the sprinkler system will always be operable when the water in the residence is available for domestic use. Where a separate sprinkler system shut off valve is installed, the residence must comply with the monitoring requirements according to Section 7.1.2.

***Paul Sullivan, Fire Protection Consultant***



**WE'RE LISTENING!**

Tell us what you are interested in learning about!

Email us at: [info@firesafetyfsci.com](mailto:info@firesafetyfsci.com)