



WINTER 2015 QUARTERLY REVIEW

 BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

 FIRE SAFETY PLAN REVIEW

 CONSULTING SERVICES

IN THIS ISSUE

1 FSCI 2014 YEAR AT A GLANCE

2 REDUCING NUISANCE SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS

3 EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

3 SEMINAR INFORMATION

4 JOB OPENINGS - FSCI

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



FSCI 2014 YEAR AT A GLANCE

We are pleased to announce that over twenty new municipalities and fire districts joined FSCI during 2014. New client's locations range from the Central Plains through the Upper Midwest. We also expanded our team. Please join me in welcoming Augusto "Totie" Leonardo, John Rutkowski, and Tod Doebler. Our team goal is to provide a technical review within 10 business days. However, keep in mind that more sophisticated plans require in-depth review and collaboration with the contractors and the municipality, possibly resulting in a longer review time.

Photo Courtesy of System Sensor



REDUCING NUISANCE SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS

By: Warren Olsen

Fire Safety Consultants' experienced team of fire alarm code instructors perform training all over the country for engineers, contractors, architects, authorities having jurisdiction, and other interested groups. Although widely available, many professionals are unfamiliar with modern fire alarm technology that will reduce nuisance fire alarm activation. Related requirements currently found in NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code* are often overlooked in both the design of fire alarm systems and during the commissioning process.

Multi-criteria smoke detection, available from most fire alarm manufacturers, provides the detection benefits of a UL268-listed photoelectric smoke detector while dramatically reducing the chances of nuisance alarms emulating from the detector during non-fire conditions. As the name implies, multi-criteria smoke detection evaluates the environment for more than just smoke. This new generation detection system will only activate when the detector senses smoke PLUS any of the following conditions:

- an increase in detectable carbon monoxide
- a noticeable increase in room temperature
- a flame signature during the free-burning fire stage

Particulate (perceived smoke) entering into the detector's chamber without a corresponding increase in CO or heat, or without a flame being detected, would result in no observable action (alarm) by the detector. Where the detector does see changes in one or more of the other

detectable conditions, activation of the detector may occur when predetermined thresholds are reached.

FSCI has specified, or approved, multi-criteria detection in buildings where cooking operations may occur:

- apartments and condominiums
- guest rooms in hotels/motels
- dormitories, etc.

Recently, an auditorium facility (where theatrical smoke and other similar conditions have routinely resulted in nuisance alarms) opted to upgrade their standard spot-type smoke detectors to multi-criteria detectors, totally eliminating nuisance alarms. The operator of the facility reported that the up-charge of \$50.00 per smoke detector was quite reasonable.

As good as it is for some, this is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Not all fire alarm control units (such as older, FACU equipment) can support this technology – nor is it true that all facilities would benefit from the additional cost associated with this technology. If your facility is experiencing nuisance fire alarm activations, FSCI is capable of providing consultation. Contact us to learn more by emailing info@firesafetyfsci.com or by calling (847) 697-1300.

Warren E. Olsen, CFPS, CBCO has nearly 40 years in fire protection and is the Vice President of Building and Life Safety at FSCI. He teaches fire alarm classes for FSCI and for the NFPA. He is the current chairperson of NFPA 72, Chapter 26, Supervising Station Alarm Systems.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Who is Matt Davis?

Name: Matt Davis

Position at FSCI: Senior Fire Protection Consultant

Where I was in 1983 when FSCI was founded: In the 5th grade living with my parents and playing Atari in my basement.

Matt began his career at FSCI in 1997 with a foundation in electrical engineering. Throughout the years, Matt has progressed from completing initial reviews into the most senior and experienced fire protection plan reviewer in the firm. Matt reviews all types of systems presented to FSCI for review and often conducts acceptance testing and commissioning of those systems in the field. Matt is NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) Level III certified in Water-Based Fire Protection Systems and Fire Alarm Systems. Additionally, he is NICET Level II certified in the areas of Special Systems and Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

Matt is particularly skilled at answering client questions related to code issues and finding solutions to problems identified in the field.

When not at work, Matt enjoys working with wood and with stained glass. He is currently building custom cabinetry for his home's kitchen while enjoying time with his wife and three children.



SEMINAR INFORMATION

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

Some of the most popular seminars are Basic Fire Alarm Plan Review, Alternative Suppression Systems, ESFR Sprinkler Systems, International Fire Code and NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. Check out our schedule of upcoming seminars on [our web site](#).

Whether you are a contractor, architect, technician, engineer or an authority having jurisdiction, each seminar is full of practical insight and first-hand experiences to help your project comply with applicable codes and standards. FSCI can also provide custom seminars at your location. Contact us to learn more or arrange for a custom seminar by emailing info@firesafetyfsci.com or by calling (847) 697-1300.



JOB OPENINGS

FSCI has an opportunity for a full-time [Fire Protection Plans Examiner/Inspector](#) to join our Pleasant Ridge, MI regional office team. FSCI specializes in building and fire protection consulting for municipal building departments and fire departments throughout the country. FSCI is one of the largest 3rd party plan review companies in the United States. We perform building and fire protection plan reviews for more than 180 municipalities and fire departments as well as many private companies throughout the nation.

If you are interested in this position please visit our website for a detailed description. Submit a cover letter and resume by email only to Trisha Kulesza by emailing info@firesafetyfsci.com or by calling (248) 545-3330.



WE'RE LISTENING!

Tell us what you are interested in learning about.

Email us at:

info@firesafetyfsci.com