



FIRE PROTECTION NEWS

City of Madison Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division

Vol. 1 - Iss. 1

Welcome to our Newsletter

By Jonathan Lund, Intern

In this Issue:

Welcome

Meet Fire
Protection
Engineer
Bill Sullivan

Upcoming
Training
Sessions

A Note from
the Engineer

Plan Submittal
Mistakes to
Avoid

It is with great pleasure that we welcome fire protection contractors, general contractors, building owners, and other customers of the Madison Fire Department to our inaugural issue of *Fire Protection News*. It is the intent of this newsletter to provide another method of communication between the City of Madison Fire Department, design professionals, and area contractors. Future issues will cover topics to help you better understand code interpretations, community education messages, discussions on plan review and inspections and other information we hope you'll find useful. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues. Please contact Bill Sullivan (wsullivan@cityofmadison.com) with any new ideas or questions. We hope you find this brief newsletter to be a useful resource.

If you wish to receive future issues of *Fire Protection News* electronically, please email Ann Blackdeer (ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com). Be sure to include your name, company, and email address. Also, if you wish to receive multiple print copies at your office please contact Ann Blackdeer.

Meet Bill Sullivan

The City of Madison Fire Department recently welcomed Bill Sullivan to assume the role of Fire Protection Engineer in the Fire Prevention Division. Bill has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology from Eastern Kentucky University.



Bill has worked in Madison since 1997, first for a local sprinkler contractor and later with the Department of Commerce as a fire protection/building plan reviewer. Most recently, Bill was a Fire Protection Specialist for a local mechanical engineering firm. In that capacity, he worked with owners and architects to establish design guidelines for their fire suppression systems to meet building and fire codes, as well as the needs of the owners' operations.

Bill will be the primary contact for sprinkler plan review, special hazard systems, high-rise fire alarm plan review, and general questions relating to code applications.

Upcoming Training Sessions for Fire Protection Contractors

By Jonathan Lund, Intern

The Madison Fire Department will be hosting three training sessions at the end of July to discuss the plan review submittal process. The first session will focus on automatic sprinklers, the second on fire alarm systems, and the last will deal with special hazard systems. These training sessions are the end result of a summer internship that I began in May. The purpose of this internship is to assist contractors in better understanding the plan review process and how to expedite the approval process. These presentations will emphasize how to avoid "holds" being placed on plans and topics specific to the type of system being addressed.

The training sessions will be July 31 and August 1 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Email is the preferred method for

registration; please contact Ann Blackdeer (ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com) or Jonathan Lund (jlund2@cityofmadison.com). The deadline for registration is July 20, 2007. If email doesn't work for you, please call Ann at (608) 261-9690. We hope to see you there!

See the enclosed flier for more information. If your office provides or organizes in-house training sessions or meetings for expeditors, designers or field installers, the MFD can visit your office to discuss current issues, answer questions or network with your staff. This opportunity is available throughout the year, but the best time for this is between mid-July and mid-August of this year. Please contact Ann Blackdeer or Jonathan Lund.

A Note From the Engineer

By Bill Sullivan, Fire Protection Engineer

CHANGE IN CODE APPLICATION

In order to remain consistent with Safety & Buildings as well as NFPA, the City of Madison Fire Department has changed its definition of "storage and handling of combustible materials" as it relates to NFPA 13 8.15.7.5. MFD will no longer consider patio furniture, planters, grills, etc. (which are ready for use) as storage or handling of combustible materials. Therefore, sprinklers will no longer be required beneath balconies, roofs, or porches under these conditions. This application is independent of other sections of NFPA 13 8.15.7 or IFC 903.3.1.2.



Plan Submittal Mistakes to Avoid

By Jonathan Lund, Intern

One of the most common causes of an administrative hold on a fire protection system plan submittal is related to fees. Often, plans are submitted with the incorrect fee or no fee. This simple error increases the time it takes to get plans approved. Luckily, this is also a problem that can be easily avoided. The plan review fee schedule is clearly outlined on the back of the permit application. There are exceptions. Here are some of the most common:

1. Fees are doubled if work on the system has started without first obtaining a permit.

2. Re-submittal fees are \$125 for any plan that has been previously denied (within 8 months of the first submission).
3. Multiple Identical Buildings are only eligible for the fee reduction if all plans are submitted simultaneously.

The rest of the exceptions are outlined on the back of the permit application. If you have questions, please contact Ann Blackdeer, MFD Administrative Clerk, (608) 261-9690.
