



FIRE PROTECTION NEWS

City of Madison Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division
Volume 3 – Issue 2

Meet Bill Petri



On January 17, 1947 it was a dark and gloomy day. Then I was born and the sky opened up and the sun shown brightly and all was well with the world.

My career with the City of Madison began with the Water Utility upon my return from the war in 1968. My background in code enforcement began with the Building Inspection Department. I started as a housing inspector in 1978 and worked my way into new construction inspections, finishing my career with BI as the HVAC inspector. My tenure with the Madison Fire Department began in 1992.

I am certified as a Tank Inspector, UDC Construction and HVAC Inspector, and as a Commercial Building Inspector. I am currently the Fire Inspector for the UW campus and surrounding area. I am the liaison for Fire Station #4, and of course the contact for anybody with questions regarding the UW Campus.

I am also currently the oldest active member of the Madison Fire Department. I am not sure what the significance of that is other than it makes me old.

I live in Fire Station #9's territory with my wife, Donna, and we spend our spare time chasing our grandkids around, trying to keep them on the straight and narrow. I like a good game of golf or actually any game of golf to relax.

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Records, Drowning in Records

By Bill Sullivan, Fire Protection Engineer

On page two of this newsletter, you will find an article regarding the new elevator program for MFD. In order to make room for new staff, we conducted an extensive document purge, converted many documents to an electronic format, and removed storage shelves. During this process we noticed many test reports from contractors for annual, quarterly, monthly, and even weekly tests and inspections. Why?

Let's review the requirements for records of inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems. NFPA 25 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems requires that the owner maintain records of inspections, testing, and maintenance of their systems. These records shall be made available to the authority having jurisdiction

upon request. NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code does not specify who should maintain the records for fire alarm systems.

MFD is working towards a web-based interface for contractors to indicate when and what inspections and testing were completed and to list any deficiencies. Until then, MFD will accept electronic copies of annual reports. A more efficient means for everyone may be to place a copy at the fire alarm control panel or sprinkler/standpipe riser.

One deficiency noticed in many reports was that they did not identify the inspections or tests that were done or, more importantly, critical inspections and tests that were not completed.

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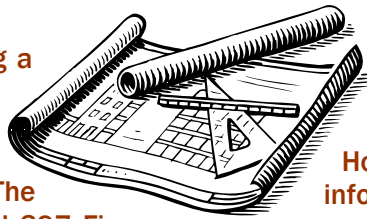
A Note From the Engineer

By Bill Sullivan

2008 In Review

Spring has arrived, and may it bring a steady flow of work. While the 2009 construction season is ramping up, let's review the work we accomplished in 2008. The Madison Fire Department processed 397 Fire Suppression Work Permits, 332 Fire Alarm Work Permits, 53 Kitchen Hood Suppression Permits, and 38 other work permits.

The Fire Suppression Work Permits included 13 clean agent systems and 142 sprinkler system modifications of less than 21 sprinklers. The Other work permit category covered plan review for access controlled



egress, delayed egress, fire command centers, and smoke control panels. Of these plans, 11 plans, or 1% of all submittals, were denied. Our staff issued 184 Hold Letters requesting additional information.

2008 was a very productive year for the Madison Fire Department. The number of Hold Letters issued indicates that more attention to the details and double checking the plans and submittals is needed to improve everyone's efficiency, and yet, the minimal number of Denied plans show us that there is a strong supply of competent designers and contractors that do a wonderful job.

Madison Fire Department Implements New Elevator Inspection Program

The Madison Common Council recently approved the development and implementation of a local conveyance inspection program by the Madison Fire Department. Conveyances include elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters and other lift devices regulated by the State Elevator Code. A request by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce initiated the local program development through an Appointed Agent Agreement. The local program will be implemented on April 20, 2009.

The Madison program will mirror the existing state mandated inspections, permits and associated fees. Fire Department personnel with State Elevator Inspector and QEI credentials will perform the plan review and inspection services. Three inspectors and an administrative clerk have been hired by the Fire Department to administer this program, which is funded through revenues associated with annual inspections and construction inspections.

An orientation for contractors will be held on April 30, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., to meet our staff and to learn about the plan submittal and inspection programs of the city. More information will be available in the coming weeks. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Ed Ruckriegel at 266-4457 or eruckriegel@cityofmadison.com.



If you wish to receive future issues of *Fire Protection News* electronically (or require any other changes to the mailing list), please contact Ann Blackdeer at ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com or (608) 261-9690. Please include your name, company, and e-mail address.