

# The Blueline

*The Newsletter of the Healthcare Facilities Management Society of New Jersey*

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[www.hfmsnj.org](http://www.hfmsnj.org)

## *President's Message*

\*\*\*\* ANOTHER VICTORY FOR HFMSNJ ON THE  
ADVOCACY FRONT\*\*\*\*

Many thanks to HFMSNJ members Robert Roop,  
Criterium-Lockatong Engineers and Frank J. Del  
Gaudio, Risk Manager, County of Essex who followed  
this through to completion...

### Standard for the Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Contractors - Proposed Amendments

#### The role of in-house employees

A particular concern was voiced by the Fire Protection  
Equipment Advisory Committee to the Department of  
Community Affairs regarding the adoption of N.J.A.C.  
5:74 regarding routine maintenance, inspection, and  
testing of fire protection systems by building  
occupants/owners.

The Committee expressed concern regarding mandated  
inspections and testing required by insurance carriers  
and authorities having jurisdiction (JCAHO). Building  
occupants normally do these types of inspections, as they  
can be required as frequently as daily. The Committee  
did not feel it was the intent of the legislation to restrict  
this practice nor to deny building occupants the  
opportunity to secure their fire protection system in the  
event of emergency situations. Consequently, the  
Department of Community Affairs proposes to amend  
N.J.A.C. 5:74-2.2(a) to allow building occupants to  
perform routine daily, weekly and monthly inspections,  
maintenance, and testing and to do some emergency  
work as defined in amended N.J.A.C. 5:74-1.4.  
Additionally, the definition of "fire protection

contractor" would be amended to clearly indicate that  
in-house personnel would be contractors for the purposes  
of these rules if they performed other than routine  
maintenance, inspection or testing.

A company employing such personnel, however, would  
not be required to get a permit for their in-house work.  
N.J.A.C. 5:74-1.4 would also be amended to include a  
definition for "emergency work."

## *Committee Reports*

### **Codes and Standards**

**From Victor A. Arencibia R.A.**

### **CODES AND STANDARDS**

(For updates go to: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes>)

NEW JERSEY UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE  
(NJAC 5:23-3.14)

2000 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, I.C.C., N.J.  
EDITION,

2000 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, I.C.C.,  
N.J. EDITION, N.J.A.C., 5:23-3.21

BARRIER-FREE SUBCODE, CABO/ANSI A117.1-1998  
(NJAC 5:23-7.1)

2003 NATIONAL STANDARD PLUMBING CODE  
(NJAC 5:23-3.15)

2002 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NJAC 5:23-3.16)

1995 CABO MODEL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE  
-RESIDENTIAL (NJAC 5:23-3.18)

1999 ASHRAE 90.1-1999 -COMMERCIAL MODEL  
ENERGY CONSERV. CODE (NJAC 5:23-3.18)

2003 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, I.C.C.  
(NJAC 5:23-3.20)

2003 INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE, I.C.C.,  
(NJAC 5:23-3.22)

REHABILITATION SUBCODE, N.J.D.C.A. (NJAC, 5:23-6)

N.J.DEPT. OF HEALTH, LICENSING STANDARDS FOR HOSPITALS (NJAC 8:43G)

2001 GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF HOSP. AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.

LIFE SAFETY CODE, NFPA 101-2000

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, NFPA 99-1999

AIR CONDITIONING AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS, NFPA 90a 1999

### Vendor Relations

About 75 people attended and enjoyed Vendor Appreciation Day, held at Monmouth Park on August 12. Mary Padgett of Diversified Fixture and Margaret Nesby of Livingston Hardware made arrangements with the park and coordinated activities throughout the day. It was highlighted by a race in honor of the HSFMSNJ including pictures of the group in the Winners' Circle. It was a nice way to spend quality time with others in the group. Bob Neumann, Engineering Manager, of St. Peter's University Hospital took excellent pictures during the event that are posted on the website. They serve as a reminder of the fun, food, and fellowship we shared.

Use this link to view the pictures:

<http://www.hfmsnj.org/Pictures/VendorDay/>

## ASHE Notes ASHE EDUCATION

<b>HCCP</b> September 26-27	2005 Healthcare Construction Certificate Program. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <b>Registration is Closed</b>	Portland, OR
<b>IC</b> October 6- 7	Infection Control: Managing Risk During Construction Operation and Maintenance of Facilities. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> Hilton Atlanta	Atlanta, GA
<b>HCCP</b> October 31- November 1	2005 Healthcare Construction Certificate Program. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <b>Registration is Closed</b>	Tampa, FL
<b>HCCP</b> November 7-8	2005 Healthcare Construction Certificate Program. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> <b>Registration is Closed</b>	New Orleans, LA
<b>HCR</b> November 8	2005 Renewal Program for Healthcare Construction Certificate. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> Intercontinental New Orleans	New Orleans, LA
<b>IC</b> November 10-11	Infection Control: Managing Risk During Construction Operation and Maintenance of Facilities. <a href="#">[PDF]</a> Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas	Irving, TX
<b>HCCP</b> December 5-6	2005 Healthcare Construction Certificate Program. <a href="#">[PDF]</a>	Irving, TX

## *Good and Welfare*

**Contributed by Jim Corueil  
St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center**

### *Santorum-Weldon Fire Protection Bill*

Citing the fact that resident safety is integral to providing quality nursing home and assisted living care, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) today endorsed legislation introduced by U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Curt Weldon (R-PA), called the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2005, to help quicken and facilitate the installation of sprinkler systems by accelerating their rate of depreciation.

"Ensuring the safety of nursing home and assisted living residents is integral to providing quality care, and legislative efforts designed to help facilitate sprinkler installation in long term care facilities is a vital, necessary public policy initiative," stated Hal Daub, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL.

Daub noted, however, that the Santorum-Weldon bill covers only sprinkler installation in private facilities - not non-profit nursing homes. "The Santorum-Weldon bill is a solid platform upon which to boost national fire safety, yet we must also encourage governmental measures to protect residents in non-profit facilities."

The AHCA/NCAL President and CEO noted the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) recently released a report with recommendations to improve fire safety in healthcare facilities, including nursing homes. The study, entitled, the "Healthcare Fire Safety Roundtable Report," stated:

"Among fire's victims, one large group stands out as a special and growing concern: the occupants of nursing homes and homes for the elderly... With well over two million older and disabled Americans living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other unregulated housing, the need for adequate fire protection is a growing concern among those responsible for a population at higher risk for injury and death from fire and other hazards."

AHCA/NCAL continue to work with U.S. Rep. John Larson (D-CT) and others on Capitol Hill concerning legislation that would mandate that all existing nursing homes be equipped with automatic fire sprinklers and offer other forms of government assistance to help providers complete sprinkler installation work. The organizations, which have

been working with national fire safety organizations and others the past several years to develop fire sprinkler guidelines and installation protocols, maintain that because care for three out of every four nursing home patients is paid for by government, a public/private solution is critical in ensuring the safety of the frail and elderly now being cared for in our nation's nursing homes.

**From: Roger A. Shults, Energy Options, Inc  
Newsletter Coordinator**

**Send me your thoughts by September 30, 2005:**

### **What do you expect from the people with whom you do business ?**

During the HFMSNJ outing on August 12, I was told of an article that was published in a trade journal entitled "Rules of the Games: What end users want from manufacturers". The article lists "things" (i.e. attitudes, approaches, methods etc.) that the writer expects from the manufacturers he deals with and reasons why they are important to him.

The HFMSNJ is an excellent forum for those involved in the healthcare facility business to learn and to network. One way of classifying the participants is as buyers and sellers. Using the idea from the aforementioned article, it will be informative to know what each group expects of the other. Maybe we can educate each other about what is important to us.

With the idea of mutual education in mind, I will conduct an informal survey among the membership and publish the results in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter newsletter. I will keep all responses confidential so do not ask to see them. The results will be summarized so that there is no identification of individual responses or contributors.

I have two questions for each group. I would like to know why the item you list is important to you.

### **For those who classify themselves as "buyers":**

What I expect from "sellers"?

What I don't expect from "sellers"?

### **For those who classify themselves as "sellers":**

What I expect from "buyers"?

What I don't expect from "buyers"?

## *Odds and Ends-*

*By the members for the members*

**Contributed by: Oscar Gonzalez, Director of Plant Services, RWJUH Rahway**

Another Goody for the 50's Gang

My Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

My Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter AND I used to eat it raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in icepack coolers, but I can't remember getting e. coli.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system.

We all took gym, not PE... and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

Flunking gym was not an option... even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym.

Speaking of school, we all said prayers and sang the national anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention. We must have had horribly damaged psyches. What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of

myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations.

Oh yeah... and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played 'king of the hill' on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites, and when we got hurt, Mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of Mercurochrome (kids liked it better because it didn't sting like iodine did) and then we got our butt spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics, and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either because if we did, we got our butt spanked there and then we got butt spanked again when we got home.

I recall Donny Reynolds from next door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amuck.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that? We needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes? We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we ever survive?

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA, AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T- SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED. I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING

**Contributed by Jim Couriel  
St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Center**

### **In The Dark**

Two factory workers were talking. "I know how to get some time off from work." said the man.

"How do you think you will do that?" said the other one. He proceeded to show her...by climbing up to the rafters, and hanging upside down.

The boss walked in, saw the worker hanging from the ceiling, and asked him what on earth he was doing?

"I'm a light bulb" answered the guy.

"I think you need some time off," said the boss. So, the man jumped down and walked out of the factory. The second worker began walking out too. The boss asked her where did she think she was going?

"Home. I can't work in the dark."

### **Closing Thought**

This Newsletter results from input of the membership. Send your articles and contributions to Roger Shults : [rshults@energy-options.com](mailto:rshults@energy-options.com)