



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Monthly Newsletter-January 2019



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From the State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



The OSFM has proposed amendments to our administrative rules that update the adopted state fire prevention and life safety code from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101, *Life Safety Code* (2000 edition) to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101, *Life Safety Code* (2015 edition), with additional modifications.

While many of the requirements for existing occupancies under the newer provisions of NFPA 101 remain the same as those contained in the 2000 edition, using an outdated NFPA 101 may negatively impact the design and construction of new buildings. The updated edition of NFPA 101 benefits from new methods, technologies, and lessons learned from real-life incidents resulting in refined and improved life safety-related requirements, which sometimes have the added benefit of being less expensive than current requirements. The updated NFPA 101 also considers evolving social concerns associated with delivery of both acute care and long-term health care, security, and accessibility. OSFM personnel are active participants in the NFPA codes and standards development process, particularly with respect to fire and life safety as addressed in NFPA 101. The staff has submitted proposals that were successfully included in newer editions of the NFPA 101, generating a positive outcome for many new and existing occupancies, as well as Illinois' residents and visitors.

Our proposed rules changes were published in the Illinois Register on Friday, Jan. 4, 2019. Links to the text of our proposed rules, as well as fact sheets that relate to the proposed rules changes that we encourage everyone to review can be found on our website at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Proposed-Rule-Changes.aspx>

To get a better sense of the impact that these proposed changes may have on your community, we specifically direct you to the following OSFM fact sheets: *What is the Life Safety Code? And Why is the OSFM updating the Life Safety Code?* and *Where Does the Life Safety Code Apply?*

Authority and Applicability

The Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25) gives the OSFM the authority to adopt a statewide fire prevention and life safety code. This statute was enacted by the State legislature in 1909, and since that time the OSFM has either prescribed fire prevention and safety requirements under the old "Gray Book" or those identified in NFPA 101. NFPA 101 was first adopted by the OSFM in 1988. The currently adopted 2000 edition was adopted on January 1, 2002. Local units of government are responsible for enforcing the rules adopted by OSFM, except in those localities that have adopted rules or standards that are "equal to or higher" than the rules adopted by the OSFM.

*A note about statewide applicability – the OSFM does not believe that the Fire Investigation Act requires local units of government to follow OSFM's code if they have asserted their home rule exemption status (via ordinance). For further clarification, see the OSFM fact sheet *Where Does the Life Safety Code Apply?*

Comments

If you have a specific comment or question on the rulemaking that you wish to make, you may send that to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Attn: Cathy Stashak

100 W. Randolph St., Suite 4-600

Chicago, IL 60601

Or by facsimile, Attn: Cathy Stashak, to 312.814.3459.

Please review the information at the website prior to sending in questions or comments, as the available fact sheets should answer the most frequently posed questions.

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Employee Spotlight Tom Andryk



Tom Andryk, Legal Division Technical Advisor III is a Wisconsin native who obtained his Bachelor of Science from the UW-Stevens Point and his law degree from the University of Iowa. After working in private practice in civil litigation for many years, in 2000 he started with the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). Later he went on to work for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Tom says the technical writing skills he learned at LRB have helped him tremendously in his rulemaking work here at OSFM. Also, at the IEPA he learned the importance of studying the technical input of agency field staff, permit writers and managers to assist in developing sound and consistent enforcement approaches and provide better support for those actions.

Tom came to the OSFM in 2007. He says he was hoping to expand his expertise in environmental and public safety law, and felt he was a good fit for the position. He has enjoyed his job, knowing that the work we do here at OSFM is making such a difference in the lives of the citizens of Illinois and the society we live in. He says "all the staff here are just tremendous, you simply could not ask for a better group of people to work with. I can't say enough about the work that all of us do here each day, and the powerful impact each of us are making in all the programs we serve in. It's really a positive environment to be a part of." SFM Matt Perez says, "Tom is an indispensable part of our legal division and his vast knowledge and experience is utilized in helping our regulatory divisions pass administrative rules and enforce regulations that keep the residents of Illinois safe from danger. "

When asked about the most significant thing he has accomplished while working at the OSFM, Tom says "I would have to start by saying that I didn't do anything by myself. Instead it was the whole team, and their commitment in providing the resources and bringing their spirit of excellence in public safety to the table, that made these things possible. And there have been many such things here at OSFM." One thing Tom notes is the underground storage tank system (UST) enforcement initiative that occurred when OSFM was able to hire attorneys and paralegals to help OSFM in the UST enforcement process. Tom continues to assist with OSFM's regulatory, enforcement, and rulemaking efforts for the UST and boiler divisions. He also assists with various other rulemaking efforts and takes on other legal projects as assigned. Tom would advise anyone applying to OSFM that this is a great place to work-one that is making a huge, positive impact for the citizens of Illinois. He would advise any attorneys looking for a position at OSFM to carefully study the relevant statutes, and get a detailed working knowledge of OSFM policy positions, inspections practices, and workings of the OSFM divisions.

Tom enjoys spending time with his family and dog, working out, walking, gardening, and being active in his church. Tom has one son, Shane, who is a senior in high school and will be having his eagle scout recognition ceremony next month. Last year he enjoyed seeing his son place in the 800-meter run in the Illinois State meet. He and his wife have been married 15 years and live in Springfield.

OSFM News

Happy OSFM Anniversary

Mitzi Woodson-Personnel Standards & Education Division Manager-30 years
Ronny Wickenhauser-Chief Fiscal Officer – 10 years
Katherine Nunes-Legislative Liaison- 5 years

Welcome to the OSFM

Jeanne Maki-Division of Fire Prevention-Fire Prevention Inspector
Roger Branson-Special Projects

Congratulations to the Newest ISO Class 1 Fire Stations

Batavia Fire Department
Minooka Fire Department
North Aurora Fire Protection District
Urbana Fire Department



Congratulations Terry
Foster on your
retirement from the
OSFM!!

OSFM News

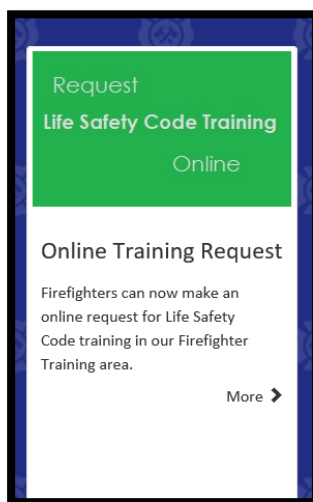
The Office of the State Fire Marshal is again seeking nominations for the annual **State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award**. The purpose of this award is to recognize extraordinary efforts in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety performed by fire departments, firefighters, and staff from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Nominations for this award shall be made using a nomination form provided by the Office and be turned in no later than March 1, 2019. Anyone may submit a nomination which can be found at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/NominatlonForm.pdf>.

A committee consisting of staff from the Office will review nominations and select a recipient from each nomination category: OSFM Personnel, Administration, OSFM Personnel-Operations, Fire Department/Fire Protection District/Township Fire Department.

The Office will present recipients their award at the **26th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony being held on May 14, 2019.**

New OSFM Life Safety Code Online Training



The OSFM is dedicated to helping the local fire departments in their efforts to provide fire prevention efforts in their areas. Many of our rural fire departments, although tasked with enforcing the NFPA 101 - Life Safety Code 2000 edition by the Fire Investigation Act, have had no formal training on the code. In an effort to assist them with this responsibility, Cathy Stashak and our Technical Services division developed a free online class and made it available to all Illinois firefighters. Any firefighter that wishes to take part in the training will have access to this interactive training which is the only one of its kind in the nation.

So far, over 80 firefighters from across the state have registered and are taking part in the training. We are receiving great feedback and will continue to promote the program to every firefighter in Illinois. For example, Taylorville Fire Department Captain Matthew Adermann said "The online training that is being offered would be an asset to anyone willing to take advantage of it.

Thank you again for putting it on." Chief Eric Fulk of the Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire Protection District wrote: "I have been actively trying to complete this training and so far, I have found it very beneficial, so thank you. It is a great program and very helpful. I am very glad you have provided this for Illinois firefighters." Steve Gallagher from Paris Fire Department says, "Very educational, lot of reference material for sure. Easy to learn this way at your own pace. Power is a blessing to me and to be able to stream it to a bigger screen is great. Thank you so much for this."

We are encouraging all Illinois firefighters to go to our website and request to take part in the training: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/FirefighterTraining/Pages/LifeSafetyCodeTrainingRequest.aspx>

Safety Tips from the *National Weather Service*

Prepare for Cold Weather

The way to avoid frostbite and [hypothermia](#) is to plan for extreme cold before it arrives. Don't get caught unprepared.

Check the Forecast at [weather.gov](#) or your favorite weather app, station, etc.: Make checking the forecast part of your regular routine so you'll know when to expect cold weather.

Adjust Your Schedule: If possible, adjust your schedule to avoid being outside during the coldest part of the day, typically the early morning. Try to find a warm spot for your children while waiting for the school bus outside.

Protect Your Pets, Livestock and other Property: If you have pets or farm animals, make sure they have plenty of food and water, and are not overly exposed to extreme cold. Take precautions to ensure your water pipes do not freeze. Know the temperature thresholds of your plants and crops.

Fill up the tank: Make sure your car or vehicle has at least a half a tank of gas during extreme cold situations so that you can stay warm if you become stranded.

[Dress for the outdoors even if you don't think you'll be out much.](#)

Update Your Winter Car Survival Kit: Make sure your car survival kit has the following:

Jumper cables: flares or reflective triangle are great extras

Flashlights: Replace the batteries before the winter season starts and pack some extras

First Aid Kit: Also check your purse or bag for essential medications

Baby, special needs gear: If you have a baby or family member with special needs, pack diapers and any special formula or food

Food: Stock non-perishable food such as canned food and a can opener, dry cereal and protein-rich foods like nuts and energy bars

Water: Have at least 1 gallon of water per person a day for at least 3 days

Basic toolkit: Pliers, wrench, screwdriver

Pet supplies: Food and water

Radio: Battery or hand cranked

Regular Cat litter or sand: For better tire traction

Shovel: To dig out snow

Ice scraper: Even if you usually park in a garage, have one in the car.

Clothes: Make sure you dress for the weather in warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes for the cold

Warmers: Pack extra for body, hands, feet

Blankets: If you get stranded in traffic on a lonely road, you'll be glad to have it.

Charged Cell Phone: Keep a spare charger in your car as well



See more cold weather safety tips at: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter>

Making a Difference

A personal letter to State Fire Marshal Matt Perez regarding his help at an accident scene:

“I wanted to offer very sincere thanks and give you an update on the car accident I had last October 17th, just north of Washburn, IL. I am a Caterpillar employee and live in a southern suburb of Milwaukee, WI. I was in Peoria for meetings and was driving home when the accident happened. I think I was about 4-5 miles from getting onto I-39 North.

I do not think I lost consciousness, but I was certainly dazed and I knew I was hurt. The first thing I remember seeing after the hit was all the scrapes and scratches on my hands and arms. Then I knew my right foot and ankle hurt quite a bit as well as my chest. As my head started to clear, I started to get nervous. I had never been in an accident before. I could hear others that had stopped, and I believe you were the next one to talk to me. Words cannot begin to describe the thanks for your calmness and presence that you offered. Like I said, I was getting very nervous and you did a tremendous job keeping me calm and not moving. I am thankful that I have had an opportunity to connect with you and thank you. I will never forget your help.

When my wife showed me pictures of the car, I realized that things could have been much worse. I know I am very lucky to have only the injuries I did. I mentioned the "good Samaritan" that stopped to help me many times while I was in the hospital and telling my friends and co-workers about the accident. I am so happy I could connect with you and offer my thanks. One of my co-workers is a volunteer firefighter and saw your Facebook post on the accident. He realized that this was my accident and passed on the post to me. Talk about 6 degrees of separation... Thanks again Matt for being there for me!! John”

Kid's Corner

Word Search

Fire Safety

A	N	E	R	I	S	C	W	C	A	N	D	L	E	G
C	E	R	W	Z	M	A	Z	V	R	M	R	A	L	A
K	E	I	F	K	O	L	F	H	E	A	T	E	R	M
U	Q	C	O	Z	K	V	W	V	Y	P	W	V	P	E
E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	Y	D	A	U	L	A	E
Y	A	Z	K	D	D	P	I	G	K	D	E	K	M	T
A	T	B	W	R	E	C	O	A	I	P	X	G	A	I
V	C	W	A	W	T	O	L	A	Y	E	T	E	C	N
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S	U	K	F	D	R	A	R	S	O	N	I	Q	U	C
P	W	V	Y	G	G	Q	E	T	Q	O	S	B	D	E
R	S	A	F	E	T	Y	T	O	V	M	H	A	R	W
I	U	O	E	O	C	A	H	V	A	N	E	O	Y	B
N	A	E	K	U	E	Z	G	E	W	O	R	C	E	H
K	B	A	T	T	E	R	I	E	S	B	W	W	J	O
L	W	Y	E	I	E	O	F	R	L	R	Z	A	U	C
E	H	X	H	K	C	E	E	L	V	A	D	U	L	P
R	I	A	S	H	E	S	R	A	F	C	W	G	B	V
T	A	J	W	W	L	Q	I	J	Y	E	J	W	Q	F
F	C	L	S	T	O	P	F	Z	D	I	H	O	S	E

FIREFIGHTER

DRILL

HOSE

Directions: Find the words

HEATER

EMERGENCY

SAFETY

listed at the left. Talk about

EXIT

ARSON

how each word relates to

SMOKE DETECTOR

ALARM

fire safety.

CRAWL

STOVE

MEETING PLACE

MATCHES

TEST

CARBON MONOXIDE

SIREN

ASHES

STOP

BATTERIES

DOOR

SPRINKLER

CANDLE

EXTINGUISHER

