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Fire Sprinkler Industry Meets With National Association of Home Builders

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010 in Washington, D.C. the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) met with Jerry Howard, Chief Executive Officer of The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and his key staff. This meeting, which was strongly recommended by NFSA President John Viniello to NFSA's Residential Committee in November, included Steve Muncy, President of AFSA, Shane Ray, NFSA's Director of Public Fire Protection, and Jim Dalton, NFSA Consultant. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of mutual cooperation, such as training and education and code and technical interface between the home builders and the fire sprinkler industry. No attempt was made by the fire sprinkler industry representatives to change the thinking of NAHB regarding mandatory sprinklers. On this point, both organizations would "agree to disagree". Although it was clearly understood that the final decision for any cooperative efforts would rest with the NAHB Board Representatives, both NFSA and AFSA were encouraged by the exchange.

John Viniello commented, "I was delighted that AFSA accepted our invitation to attend this meeting. We both were encouraged by the frank and open discussions that took place. I believe we made significant progress."

NFSA's former Director of Public Fire Protection (*ret.*) Jim Dalton commented, "While we may have philosophical disagreements regarding the installation of sprinklers, productive dialogue is needed in a variety of areas that would be helpful to both industries."

Look for additional updates on NFSA's website.