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National Fire Sprinkler Association Announces 4 New Team Members

Linthicum Heights, MD – The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) advised its Board of Director members this week of 4 new hires in upcoming weeks. The positions of Director of Operations, Director of Field Operations, ITM Specialist, and Field Service Coordinator have been filled with start dates of March 5, March 15 and April 1 respectively among them.

“Building our team has been a priority within our Transition Management Plan and the re-location of our headquarters to Maryland,” explained Shane Ray, NFSA President. “Our NFSA team is focused on member service and supporting our vision, mission, and values. Each of these individuals will be great additions to Team NFSA.”

Director of Operations is Chief Dennis Wood, a Maryland native who joins NFSA from a career within the Prince Georges County Fire Department. Wood will begin work on April 2, 2018 at the headquarters location in Linthicum Heights.

Wood most recently served as the Deputy Fire Chief of the Emergency Services Command, retiring after 23 years of service. He has experiences in guiding operations, community risk reduction, capital improvement project management, budgeting, performance measurement, hiring and promotion processes, career development, hazardous materials, training and fire prevention and code enforcement.

His combination of experiences and education has led to being published in trade magazines and he has lectured extensively on many facets of emergency services at local, regional, state and national conferences.

Director of Field Operations is Chief Gary West, a Tennessee native who leaves his most recent post as Deputy Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Insurance for the State of Tennessee, serving as Tennessee State Fire Marshal. West will also begin work on April 2, 2018, with his home office in Tennessee being his primary station. However, West will travel nationwide as the leader of the NFSA Field Operations team --- which now includes 22 team members in 17 different states.

West brings many years of local, municipal, and state government experience to the role of Director of Field Operations which will prove valuable as a teammate to the NFSA personnel in Field Operations. These experiences span from local county and city issues, to state and national

issues, which NFSA faces on a daily basis. His experience with education focused on community risk reduction will be a perfect fit for the team, and his strong customer service skills combined with a strong work ethic will be an added bonus as he serves NFSA members across the nation.

ITM Specialist is Vince Powers, who brings 20 years of experience with fire sprinkler contractors focused on inspection, testing and maintenance. This position is within the Department of Codes and Public Fire Protection. Powers most recent work was with Castle Sprinkler and Alarm in Maryland.

Field Service Coordinator is Terin Hopkins, who brings over 35-years experience as a local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), most recently with Howard County Maryland Department of Fire & Rescue Services – Office of the Fire Marshal. Prior to that, Hopkins was with Prince George’s County Maryland Fire/EMS Department.

“As newly elected Chair of the NFSA Board, it’s exciting to see the momentum that this association is creating within the fire sprinkler industry,” added Kent Mezaros, NFSA Board Chair. “The energy and the focus of the respective departments within NFSA are making a difference to members, and also helping us create not only a stronger industry, but a safer world.”

About the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA): NFSA was founded in 1905 and wants to create a more fire safe world, and works to heighten the awareness of the importance of fire sprinkler systems from homes to high-rise and all occupancies in between. The Association is an inclusive organization made up of dedicated and committed members of a progressive life-saving industry. This industry manufactures, designs, supplies, installs, inspects, and services the world’s most effective system in saving lives and property from uncontrolled structural fires.

For more information about fire sprinklers, how they work and access to additional resources and information, visit www.nfsa.org for the latest material, statistics and a dedicated team of fire safety advocates ready to serve all stakeholders in order to fulfill the vision of a safer world.

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