

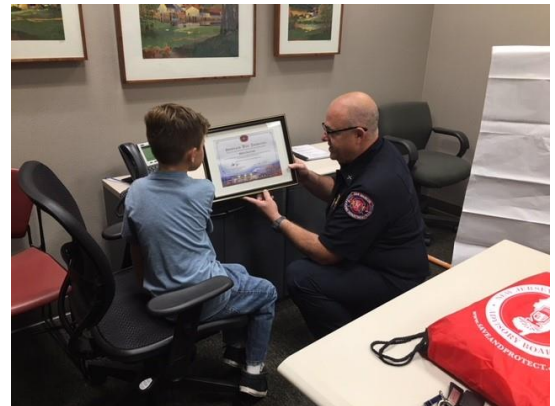


Bruce Lecair, Southwest Regional Manager,  
 Associate Director of Field Operations  
 25417 Hyacinth Street  
 Temescal Valley, CA. 92883  
 Phone: 951-805-8992  
 Email: Lecair@nfsa.org

**Southwest Region:**  
 California, Hawaii',  
 Arizona, Nevada, New  
 Mexico

## Sprinkler Boy Honored by San Marcos Fire Department!!!

At a local Fire Prevention day this past October, Fire Marshal Jason Nailon was approached by members of his fire department when a young boy politely refused to accept the traditional gifts that fire departments hand out to the younger attendees. The boy refused to accept a badge and the plastic fire helmet with a San Marcos FD sticker on it. Chief Nailon was told that the he would only accept one thing, a fire sprinkler! Chief Nailon had to meet this kid who he found out was a nine-year-old local elementary student whose name was Ben Olivas.



According to his dad, Ben became fascinated with fire sprinklers when he and his family moved into a home in San Marcos that was constructed with fire sprinklers. Ben soon went online and researched everything anyone who is still in elementary school could ever want to know about fire sprinklers. The Chief could not resist the temptation to quiz Ben and soon found out that he knows more about fire sprinkler protection than most firefighters. Uprights, pendants, sidewalls, which links are which and what color for each temperature, parts of a riser, he could not be stumped.

Chief Nailon and his staff were so impressed that they gave Ben the nickname, "Sprinkler Boy" and decided to dedicate an afternoon to honor him in the most appropriate way possible, make him an Honorary San Marcos Fire



Department Fire Inspector and take him out and test his mettle in the field. So, on November 1<sup>st</sup> after a short ceremony and gifts from NFSA, Symons Fire Protection and a special plaque, helmet and San Marcos Fire Inspector badge, Ben was taken on a fire sprinkler course consisting of three job sites and a water flow test where he was challenged to identify parts of sprinkler systems, "violations" set up for him to find and a residential sprinkler final to oversee as well as a water flow test at the end of the afternoon. Ben flew through each activity and Regional Manager Lecair and the other contractors who attended and played along were amazed and impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm. He even knew the answer to the Hail Mary Question Lecair asked him. "Who is responsible for maintaining their fire sprinklers?" The answer from Ben, "The property owners of course!!"

The day was a great success and Ben will never forget the great job that Fire Inspectors, Ken Kim, Randy Hill and Astrid Starcher, Fire Marshal Jason Nailon and Symons Fire Protection did of challenging him and teaching him about a few fire sprinkler things that he could not find online. I know I'll never forget the day or the Sprinkler Boy Ben Olivas! But a warning to all of you future participants in the Top Tech Competition, Sprinkler Boy is coming after you!!!

**Honolulu Overrides Veto to Overturn High Rise Retrofit!**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> NFSA received notice from Fire Chief Manuel Neves that Honolulu Fire Department successfully defended a previous bill passed by the City Council to extend the timeline for retrofitting older residential high rises. Unfortunately, the Mayor vetoed the bill. At the following public hearing, the Council members over rode the veto through a vote. Based on the vote of the Council, the Mayor's over-ride did not pass and the retrofit bill will remain in effect. Congratulations to Chief Neves and the Honolulu Fire Department!



**NFSA Announces Election Results**

NFSA announced the results of the recent elections in December!

New board members are:

Ken Brinkley, Area 3, Music City Fire Sprinkler  
James Lewis, Area 7, American Fire Sprinkler  
Harry Nothhaft, Area 9, L. Nothhaft & Son  
Peter Hulin, Area 11, Superior Automatic Sprinkler

New SAM Council members are:

Bob Bussiere, Wheatland Tube  
Sean Heskett, Potter Electric Signal Company  
Chuck Kitts, System Sensor  
Bob Knose, Ferguson Fire and Fabrication

Congratulations to all!

## California State Fire Marshal Announces Retirement

California State Fire Marshal Dennis Mathisen announced his retirement from the Office of the State Fire Marshal in December, which became effective on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Prior to his appointment as State Fire Marshal, Chief Mathisen began his career in the early 1980's and became the Fire Marshal for the City of Roseville while serving on the board of directors and becoming President of the Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association.



Under his leadership, he oversaw a significant bolstering of the overall health of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Significant progress has been made in recruitment efforts filling key positions at all levels aimed at improving overall customer service. Key initiatives have been undertaken to address issues such as fireworks enforcement and disposal funding, increasing stakeholder input through reactivating many of the advisory committees including the Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory Committee, improving the State Fire Training program, rebuilding our Pipeline Safety program, additional staffing for our Fire and Life Safety program, relocating the headquarters and several other important enhancements within the OSFM.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with California State Fire Marshal Mathisen and being a part of his 33-year career in the fire service.

## Top Tech Online Exam is Live

The Top Tech 2019 Competition in May is just around the corner and the Online Exam is **Now Live!** If you are registered please complete the online qualifying exam and layout by 12 noon EST, Monday, 1/14/19. For those still interested in participating, please [register](#) and keep in mind the exam will close at 12 noon EST, Monday, 1/14/19.



Good Luck to all who participant and we look forward to seeing you in Nashville, TN.

## Registrations are Open!!!



Nashville, Tennessee is the destination for the 2019 NFSA Annual Seminar and North American Expo on May 15-18! Our host is the Omni Hotel Nashville located in the heart of downtown. Experience Broadway like never before!

To register and for more information go to:  
<https://members.nfso.org/events>.

### Chapter News

The Arizona State Chapter will be meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Phoenix Fire Department Headquarters from for a lunch meeting where members can discuss regional fire sprinkler issues and topics affecting the Valley of the Sun and the State of Arizona. This will be the first meeting of the year for the Arizona Chapter. The other meetings for 2019 are scheduled for:



- 3-12-19
- 5-14-19
- 7-9-19
- 9-10-19
- 11-12-19

The San Francisco Bay Area and the Los Angeles Area Chapters have concluded their 2018 schedule with meetings in Downey, CA. on January 23<sup>rd</sup> (meeting location to be announced) and at Saki's Spin A Yarn Restaurant in Fremont on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The change in scheduling is to accommodate a visit California visit from NFSA President Shane Ray, Vice President of Labor Relations Fred Barall and Director of Field Operations, Gary West.

### NFSA Training in the Southwest!!

We have wrapped up our last set of 2018 classes which were the Fire Sprinkler Installation and Rough-in and Final of Fire Sprinkler Systems sponsored by the Southern California Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board on December 4-5 at the Downey Fire Department and now it's on to 2019!



We have already lined up 2019 classes in January in February in Tucson, AZ. and Santa Clara, CA. with another seminar being planned in Woodland, CA. in April or May! It also looks like we will be offering a 3-day seminar in Maui in April as well. This will be a contract class sponsored by Maui County Fire Department and hosted by Assistant Fire Chief Val Martin. Plans are also being finalized for a 2-week Layout Technician Class in the Sacramento area in June. This is going to be another big year of training in the Southwest Region.

For more information on NFSA classes and seminars, go to: [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org) or contact Regional Manager Bruce Lecair at: [lecair@nfsa.org](mailto:lecair@nfsa.org) or (951) 805-8992.

#### 2019 Schedule

NFPA 16 Update, Tucson, AZ.	Dates: 2/11
Standpipe Systems for Fire Protection, Tucson, AZ.	Dates: 2/12
Sprinkler Protection of Storage Occupancies, Santa Clara, CA.	Dates: 2/26-27
Pumps for Fire Protection, Santa Clara, CA.	Dates: 2/28

## Fire Sprinkler Saves in the Southwest

The month of December saw three successful fire sprinkler saves in the Southwest!!!

December 3, Redding, CA. Fire at solid waste facility extinguished with help from fire sprinkler system. No injuries were reported. Redding firefighters went to the city's solid waste facility Saturday morning to extinguish a fire that was traced to some sort of hazardous material someone had recently dumped.

View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/2018/12/redding-ca-fire-at-solid-waste-facility-extinguished-with-help-from-sprinkler-system-no-injuries-reported/>.

December 13, Berkeley, CA - Dryer fire in UC Berkeley residence hall prompted fire sprinkler system to activate. UC Berkeley students evacuated the Foothill residence hall Sunday after a clothes dryer caught fire in Building 1, according to Berkeley Fire Department spokesperson Keith May. BFD responded to the fire about noon. According to May, smoke from the fire filled the laundry room and triggered smoke detectors, activating a fire sprinkler. View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/2018/12/berkeley-ca-dryer-fire-in-uc-berkeley-residence-hall-prompted-sprinkler-system-to-activate/>.

December 20, Henderson, NV. Firefighters successfully resuscitate cat after fire sprinkler system controls overnight apartment fire. An unattended candle sparked an apartment fire Saturday morning in Henderson, sending one person to the hospital and requiring crews to resuscitate a cat, according to a fire official. Crews had to respond to a report of a water flow alarm at Elysian at the District, near Green Valley Ranch. View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/henderson-nv-firefighters-successfully-resuscitate-cat-after-sprinkler-system-controls-overnight-apartment-fire/>.

## Upcoming Meeting Schedule in the Southwest

**SoCal Fire Prevention Officers Association**, Wednesday, January 9, 2018 from 10:00 - 3:00 at the ICC Regional Office at 3060 Saturn Way in Brea, CA. The afternoon program will be: Fire Safety, Energy Storage Systems and the most recent changes in the California Building, Residential and Fire Codes.

**Arizona NFSA Chapter Meeting**, Tuesday, January 13, 2019, at the Phoenix Fire Department Headquarters at 150 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix, AZ. Lunch will be provided.

**California Fire Sprinkler Coalition Meeting**, "New date for Meetings!! From this point moving forward we will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 10:00 am to noon. You will be able to attend the meeting by accessing teleconference at 1-855-747-8824, access number: 446676#.

**NFSA Los Angeles Area Chapter Meeting**, Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> Dinner Meeting from 5:30 pm to conclusion. This date may be changed to January 23<sup>rd</sup> to accommodate a visit from NFSA President Shane Ray, Labor Relations V.P. Fred Barall and Director of Field Operations, Gary West will be in attendance.

**NFSA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Meeting**, the next meeting date is being scheduled for January 24, 2019 at Saki's Spin A Yarn Restaurant in Fremont, CA. from 5-8. NFSA President Shane Ray, Labor Relations V.P. Fred Barall and Director of Field Operations, Gary West will be in attendance.

**Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association**, Friday, January 25, 2019, 9:30 -3:00 at the Sac Metro Headquarters in Mather, CA. The afternoon program will be updates and a question and answer session from ICC, OSFM, DSA, OSHPD, CALBO and Cal Chiefs.

**San Diego Fire Protection Association**, Tuesday, February 12, 2019, Sizzler's Restaurant, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Fire Marshal Jason Bloom from Alpine Fire Department will be discussing the AES Fitter Certification Program and the upcoming NFPA 25 Work Group.



“The new title *Fire Sprinkler Retrofit, Making Your Community Fire Safe* reflects a change in approach for the publication itself. To obtain a copy go to: [NFSA Retrofit Guide 2017](#)

### **Not getting the most from your membership???**

Are you and your staff accessing time-saving Expert of the Day when you have an issue that is taking a lot of time to resolve?

Do you and your staff know how to search the extensive NFSA Technical archives?

Are the NFSA Technical Updates reaching the right people? Are you involved in the many social media platforms to learn the latest industry information, and share what you and your company have to say?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please give me a call to schedule a time to stop by your office. I want to make sure you are getting a great return on your investment with NFSA!

Your Regional manager is Bruce Lecair, (951) 805-8992 or at: [lecair@nfsa.org](mailto:lecair@nfsa.org).

