



CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY CODE TALK

Campus Fire Safety e-NewZone

Boston in Spring Time-What Better Time to Attend the NFPA Conference and Expo

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Almost like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, planning for the upcoming NFPA Conference and Expo literally started within weeks at the end of last year's conference. A call for proposals to present educational sessions last July, a review and evaluation of the proposals last Fall and very recently, publishing the preliminary agenda for this year's conference has been an ongoing process. This year, the venue will be Boston, the dates will be June 4-7, and the educational and networking opportunities will be almost limitless. In addition, the NFPA membership will be making the final decisions about what will and will not be contained in newer editions of some of NFPA's key codes and standards at the Annual Technical Meeting held on the last day of the conference.

Over 450 proposals for educational sessions were received, but unfortunately the schedule only allows approximately 150 sessions to be held. A methodical process of reviewing, evaluating and then discussing each and every proposal received takes approximately four months. The bottom line is, so many good sessions are proposed and it is no easy task to eliminate any session. This is a rundown on just a few of the sessions that have direct application to the college and university environment.

Effective Messaging on Classroom Door Locking (S01). As security needs in the K-12 as well as secondary education markets are more closely scrutinized, the need to allow expanded provisions for door locking options becomes apparent and the need to enforce the proper code related provisions requires a new level of awareness.



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New HVAC Refrigerants and the Fire Challenges They Present (S05). As ozone depleting chemical agents continue to be phased out, including refrigerants, the replacement agents while environmentally friendly may introduce a new fire hazard due to their flammability. This session will cover these new hazards along with some mitigation concepts that are currently in the codes.

Hot Work Permit Programs – Mitigating Losses (S07). Whether it's during new construction, renovation of existing buildings or simple repair work, the potential hazard created by welding, cutting and even application of new roofing materials introduces a hazard that must be closely evaluated. The session will cover those and other related topics.

Don't Let Earth and Wind Create Fire – Planning for Natural Catastrophes (S31). Fire following earthquake is one design hazard that is top of mind on the West Coast. A similar challenging scenario is attempting to respond to emergency during a flood. There are some ways to plan and mitigate against these challenging scenarios.

Energy Storage Systems: Preparing to Deal with the Hazards (M02). ESS components are showing up in more locations and in a variety of shapes, sizes and capabilities. A campus environment is an ideal spot to integrate ESS into the overall power supply equation. Although a new NFPA standard is being developed on this technology, a series of intermediate mitigation and prevention measures do exist at present. The session will highlight some of those practices.

NFPA 80, Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives: A Review of Inspection Roles and Responsibilities and How to Develop a Maintenance Program for Your Facility (M10) A series of changes made to NFPA 80 and NFPA 101 in recent years have placed an emphasis on ensuring that certain egress and fire doors are going to operate as intended. Coupled with additional allowances for door locking that are permitted in the code, it's even more important to make sure the doors perform as anticipated.

College Campus Safety: A Case Study in Balancing Fire Code Application and Security Needs (M21). This session will be presented by the fire safety administrators from Emory University who will talk about application of NFPA 25, NFPA 72 and NFPA 101 to the campus environment.



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Emergency Evacuation Planning: 10 Questions You Need to Ask to Ensure Success (M33). Planning for a widespread evacuation such as might be necessary for a flood, wildfire or other high-impact catastrophe requires an advanced plan that has to consider additional resources. Considering and verifying availability of those external resources might mean the difference between a successful outcome and a failed outcome.

Energy Storage Systems: Emerging Technology and Safety-Related Issues (M45) ESS components are showing up in more locations and in a variety of shapes, sizes and capabilities. A campus environment is an ideal spot to integrate ESS into the overall power supply equation. Although a new NFPA standard is being developed on this technology, a series of intermediate mitigation and prevention measures do exist at present. The session will highlight some of those practices.

Fire Door Assembly Inspection Per NFPA 80 -- "Hands On" Training (M49) This session will actually use doors and props to illustrate the requirements of NFPA 80. See how door latching hardware should release based upon fire alarm system operation, coordination between pairs of doors and how to measure allowable clearances.

Emergency Planning on Campus: Communicating to the Masses (M53). This discussion involving presenters from APPA, Central Washington University and Quinnipiac University will talk about the need to have robust communications dispersed throughout the college campus to warn of imminent or ongoing emergency events.

Hydrogen and Fuel Cells -- Emerging Technology and Safety-Related Issues (M83). As fuel cell technology continues to proliferate, safety related parameters for the technology must be in place whether it be in a vehicle, in a building or at standalone sites.

The Intersection of the IoT with Building Safety Codes (T06) College campuses in particular have been wired in one way or another for many decades. Data from building related systems – HVAC, fire, lighting, electrical – is now being used to identify pending failures and even in some cases self-correct the problem.



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Understanding Risk Analysis and Emergency Planning and How They Affect the Design of Emergency Communications Systems (T24) The process for determining if, and then what type of mass notification system (MNS) may be necessary for an occupancy or an entire geographic region can be found by following the requirements in Chapter 24 of NFPA 72. The Cleary Act is oftentimes cited as the driving factor to provide MNS on the college campus environment.

From Campus Fire Survivors to Fire Safety Educators: After the Fire (T37). Both of these presenters survived the Seton Hall fire in 2000 and have now become advocates for fire safety. They oftentimes share their story with high school seniors and college students and implore them to know what the fire risks are and what prevention strategies they should be aware of.

Although the conference is a little less than four months out, I encourage you to check out the entire, [conference page](#), look closely in your travel budget and make an effort to join us in Boston. Each day of the conference is packed full of events literally from sun up to sun down, you are eligible for obtaining CEU's, and it is a unique professional development opportunity where you can learn, share and benefit from the array of conference attendees. Hope to see you in June.



The Center for Campus Fire Safety



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