

CFSA News

CANADIAN FIRE SAFETY ASSOCIATION

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*Fire Safety is Everybody's
Business*

President's Message



As the days darken and the year end approaches, the CFSA continues to develop programs in anticipation of an exciting new year.

The Technical Session committee is in the process of confirming an interesting array of breakfast presentations extending through next spring. These brief morning sessions are always an excellent way to start the day.

The Dinner Committee is organizing an exciting January meeting. Dr. James Young, Chief Coroner of Ontario and a leading expert in post-disaster forensic identification, is expected to speak on the subject of disaster management from his personal involvement with recovery efforts at New York's World Trade Centre. Register early as this will be a very interesting presentation.

The Board of Directors conducted a survey of members preferences for future presentations in the current evening dinner format or a new midday lunch format. Although the number of responses was limited, we wish to thank those who took the time to respond. The Board has decided that future presentations will continue in the evening dinner format.

I would like to remind members to share advertisements for upcoming

CFSA events with their colleagues and clients. For example, I make sure a copy is posted on my workplace general bulletin board. I also frequently e-mail or fax copies of CFSA advertisements to clients who I believe may have an interest in a particular presentation.

The Education Forum Committee continues to develop its program for our April 24, 2002 annual seminar. A general theme for the seminar is expected to be highrise building fire safety. It is currently intended that the event will be held at Seneca College. Mark your calendar now and look for more detailed information to be available in the new year.

The Board of Directors has nominated two representatives to the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal's committee on an Objective-Based Fire Code. David Johnson and Rick Florio are looking forward to this challenge.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Jon Winton, President



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CFSA Morning Technical Sessions Firestop Systems – September 19, 2001

On September 19, 2001, Mr. Emmanuel A. Sopeju, P.Eng. Assistant Director of the Fire Protection Division in Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada, addressed the Canadian Fire Safety Association on the topic of Firestop Systems. This summary was graciously provided by CFSA Board Member Janet O'Carroll. Janet is a Technical Consultant with Leber/Rubes Inc.'s Emergency Planning Group.

Firestop systems are an integral part of building construction. A firestop is defined as a combination of materials acting together to seal an opening or penetration in a fire rated assembly, to ensure that the integrity of the assembly is maintained. The key point to that definition is that the combination of materials, act together to achieve a fire rating, because any one of those materials would not suffice on its own.

The standard in Canada that governs the testing of firestop systems is ULC-S115-95, "Standard Method of Fire Tests of Firestop Systems". This standard was created in part from the requirements set out in the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC). There are four fire resistance ratings categories used in Canada, F, FH, FT and FTH; depending upon the protection level required by the NBCC.

ULC divides firestop systems into two main categories; **Service Firestop** Penetrations Systems (with or without penetrating items, such as pipe, cables etc., including

a special division for Combustible pipe) and **Joint Firestop** Systems (construction joints or gaps and spaces in floors or walls). A rating is determined, based on the above four categories, once testing is complete and the system has passed.

The presentation went on to describe the factors that may affect performance of an assembly or materials used such as installation problems, quality control of materials and environmental factors. In the future, the effects of aging on firestop systems, air quality control in terms of smoke and toxicity and energy conservation may need to be addressed.

We would like to thank Mr. Emmanuel Sopeju, P.Eng. for his informative presentation on Firestop Systems. For more information, ULC publishes a two-part catalogue the "List of Equipment and Materials – Firestop Systems and Components", which describes all ULC listed assemblies tested up to the date of printing.

NFPA'S "Introduction to Employee Fire & Life Safety" Guide

NFPA has published a new handbook designed to provide facility managers and health/safety officers with hands on fire & life safety information for the workplace. The guide entitled "Introduction to Employee Fire & Life Safety" was prepared by leading experts from related fields and offers a timely chapter on evacuation drills in the workplace. Each chapter starts with an incident report to set the stage for the information presented. The book is available from NFPA.

Clean Agent Alternatives

The October CFSA Dinner meeting topic "Clean Agent Alternatives" was presented by Mr. Bill Kahler, of Levitt Fire Protection Systems Limited. This summary was graciously provided by Simon Crosby, a Fire Protection Technologist at Randal Brown & Associates Ltd, a CFSA Corporate Member.

Federal & Provincial Regulations

The Canadian Government has set dates for the gradual decommissioning of all existing Halon Fire Protection Systems installed throughout the country. The timeline set by the Federal Regulations include;

- January 1, 2003 – A ban on all non-critical uses of Halon as fire-fighting equipment
- January 1, 2005 – Mandatory decommissioning and replacement of all Halon systems after one refill (Disposal at owners cost)
- 2010 – Complete phase out of Halon consumption in Canada

The Ontario Government has established its own regulations regarding the inspection and servicing of Halon Systems. These systems are required to be serviced in accordance with ULC/ORD-C1058.18-1993 or CAN/ULC-S532-90.

Choosing a New Clean-Agent System

When the decision is made to replace an existing Halon Fire Protection System, many factors must be reviewed. The process or material being protected is an important factor in determining a suitable replacement to Halon.

The main objectives of any clean-agent system is to:

- Provide fast, reliable, detection systems.
- Suppress the fire rapidly (in 10 seconds or less).
- Leave no residue or liquid to clean-up.
- Be electrically non-conductive.

When the replacement has been chosen it is important to make sure that the system is listed with appropriate certification and approval agencies such as ULC, UL & FM.

There are currently three major types of Clean Agent Alternatives These systems include:

- FM-200
- Inert Gases
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

FM-200

FM-200 is considered by some to be the "drop-in" replacement for Halon 1301. It is the most commonly used chemical agent, and provides clean, effective fire suppression for total flooding situations.

FM-200 has no ozone depletion potential and is safe for discharge in occupied areas. It actively attacks the fire, absorbs heat and breaks down the fire's molecular structure.

When considering replacement of an existing Halon system with FM-200, the following important factors must be considered:

- FM-200 requires an increased storage capacity when compared to Halon 1301
- May require piping changes
- Requires nozzle changes

Inert Gases

Inergen is a blend of three natural gases (Nitrogen, Argon and Carbon Dioxide). It has no ozone depletion or global warming potential. It also has no toxicity and is people-safe.

Inergen is a fast acting, total flooding agent that can inert a protected space in as little as 17 seconds. Inergen is considered the most environmentally acceptable user-friendly clean agent available.

Other clean-agents are being developed and tested. These systems will have their own inherent advantages and disadvantages. These systems include; Pure Nitrogen Systems, Argonite (Nitrogen Argon blend), and Pure Argon Systems.

Carbon Dioxide

CO₂ systems can be used in total-flooding or local applications. They are commonly installed to protect hazard such as:

- Flammable liquid storage
- Electrical Hazards, or
- Class "A" Fires

CO₂ extinguishes a fire by reducing the oxygen concentration to a point that cannot support combustion. The downfall of this extinguishing method is that this lowered oxygen concentration will not support human life. As such, advanced warning and time delay systems must be in place to notify occupants of the discharge.

Detection Systems

In addition to the choice of agent, the choice of detection system is also an important decision. There are four common types of detection systems that offer different advantages for different situations.

Conventional Systems

These systems are easily installed and have relatively low cost equipment. They are very suitable for use with small applications. The disadvantages of these systems are that a higher number of circuits are required and the exact point of fire alarm cannot be identified.

Addressable Systems

These systems allow for the identification of the point of alarm and are flexible and easy to expand. They also require less wiring than conventional systems. Increased equipment and installation costs and the requirement for sensitivity testing are disadvantages associated with these systems.

Addressable Analog Systems

These systems offer the same advantages, such as point of alarm identification, as the Addressable Systems. They also allow for adjustable sensitivity. Higher equipment costs and more trouble in configuration and troubleshooting are factors when considering these systems.

Air Sampling Systems

Air Sampling provides the fastest response to all types of fires. They detect the fire in the incipient stage. The three main type of Air Sampling Systems are Mass Scattering of Light, Laser Particle Counting, and Cloud Chamber Detection. Expensive equipment costs are the main disadvantage to this detection system.

Other Possibilities

Other types of systems can provide the protection of process and material.

Sprinkler systems are low-cost and reliable. They are heat actuated and require something of significance to burn before activation. Although water damage will occur during discharge, they can be a suitable alternative to other clean-agent systems.

With Halon systems being phased out of operation, there is a requirement for the replacement of existing systems. Many manufacturers offer replacement systems that greatly vary and can be used effectively in many situations.

Site specific requirements and conditions are required to be reviewed against the clean-agent options that exist to ensure the correct system is chosen and installed.

We would like to thank Mr. Bill Kahler for his informative presentation on Clean Agent Alternatives.

On a similar note, NFPA and the United Nations have developed a guideline for assisting developing nations to phase out halons. The guideline is entitled "Standards and Codes of Practice to Eliminate Dependency on Halons: Handbook of Good Practices in the Halon Sector" Copies are obtainable via NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation at 617-984-7283.

Fire Alarm Monitoring – December 5, 2001

Look forward to this Technical Session Brief in the Next CFSA Newsletter.

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CFSA news & events

CFSA Well Represented for Objective Based Code Committees

David Johnson, CFSA Vice-President and Director-at-Large Rick Florio have been nominated by CFSA President Jon Winton to represent the CFSA on the Fire Code Technical Committees on Parts 1,2,6,7,8, & 9. CFSA's participation was requested by the OFM.

The inaugural meeting chaired by both The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Buildings Standards Branch took place on November 21, 2001. This committee, and others for Parts 3, 4 & 5 of the OFC and various Building Code Parts, has been assigned the task of reviewing and committing on intent statements unique to Ontario Building & Fire Codes which do not occur in, or are substantially different from, the National Model Codes.

It is expected that the Technical Committees will meet over the next two years.

Other CFSA Board members representing other associations include Eric Chant of the Peterborough Fire Department (representing the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officer Association) and Doug Crawford of the Fire Marshal's Office.

CFSA Dinner Meetings

Building Regulatory Reform Advisory Group (BRRAG)

On November 21, Mr. David Brezer, P.Eng, CBCO, (Manager of Registration and Training in the Building and Development Branch in the MMAH), with assistance from Mr. Ali Arlani (Acting Director of the Building and Development Branch in the MMAH), made a presentation to the Canadian Fire Safety Association regarding the history and current status of the BRRAG report. This summary was graciously provided by CFSA Board Member Janet O'Carroll. Janet is a Technical Consultant with Leber/Rubes Inc.'s. Emergency Planning Group.

An advisory group was formed in the spring of 2000 to develop recommendations to be made to the government for building regulatory reform. After months of development, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) decided to proceed with legislation and introduced *Bill 124* on November 1, 2001.

Specifically, *Bill 124* is "An act to improve public safety and increase efficiency in building code enforcement". This proposed Bill is largely designed to improve public safety in new buildings while streamlining the approval process. As well, the Bill is intended to provide consistency and predictability for property owners, builders and designers faced with different permit approaches in neighbouring municipalities. The controversial Bill includes the provision of pre-defined timelines for municipal administration and enforcement.

The Bill will give municipalities the choice between performing plan review and inspection functions, providing joint enforcement with other municipalities, appointing a Registered Code Agency (RCA) to perform plan reviews and inspections on their behalf, or allowing builders to appoint a Registered Code Agency to perform plan review and inspections.

Registered Code Agencies, designers and municipal inspectors are required to have a minimum pre-set level of knowledge to undertake work and would be assessed based on the Classification of buildings or discipline (i.e. Part 4 of the *Ontario Building Code or Disciplines* such as mechanical or electrical). All test-



ing of individuals within a Registered Code Agency would be performed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), with the exception that licensed Professional Engineers and Architects could be registered through their respective provincial associations.

Currently *Bill 124* is in the legislative process of a second reading. If the Bill is passed, it would become effective after the two year Royal Assent waiting period, with the possibility of certain provisions being introduced sooner.

We would like to thank Mr. David Brezer, P.Eng, CBCO, and Mr. Ali Arlani for their insight and knowledge on the BRRAG report. Check future newsletter editions for updates on *Bill 124*.



Editor: David Johnson

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Advertising Rates
(per issue, GST extra)

Back cover	\$250
Full page	\$200
1/2 page	\$100
1/4 page	\$50
Business Cards	\$25

10% discount for CFSA Corporate Members.

All advertisements are required to be camera ready.

Closing dates for submissions are as follows:

- Issue #1 – May 20
- Issue #2 – Aug. 19
- Issue #3 – Nov. 19
- Issue #4 – Feb. 17

All general enquiries and advertising materials should be directed to the CFSA office at
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Your comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Please send them to the attention of:

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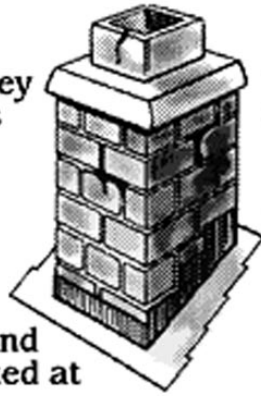
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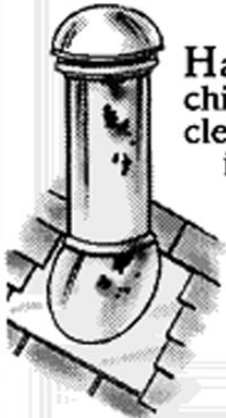
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cleaned and
inspected at
least once a year.



**schedule of
events**

Dinner Meetings

January 23, 2002

February 20, 2002

March 20, 2002

Annual Technical Forum

April 24, 2002

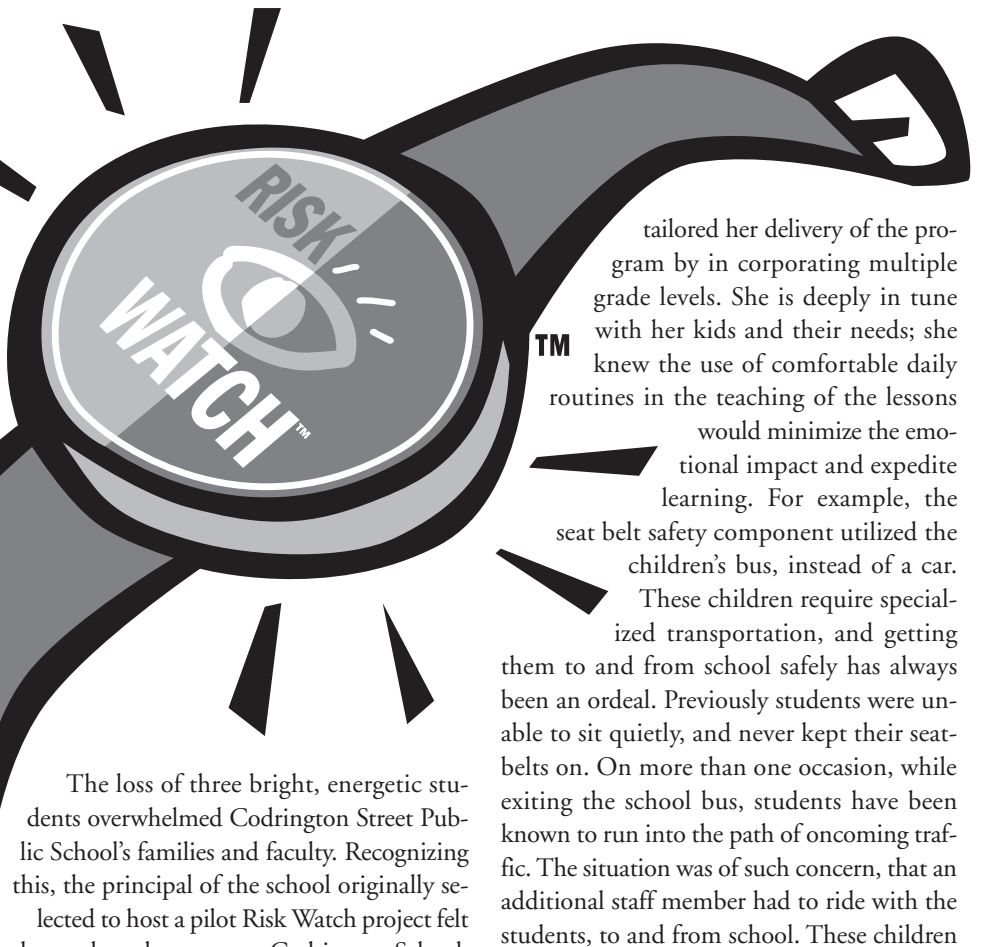


NFPA's Risk Watch Working in Barrie

The following article was supplied by Rich Morris of NFPA International and CFSA's Public Education Committee Chair.

The City of Barrie Fire and Emergency Services are proud to announce that one of their city's finest teachers made it to the top five finalists of NFPA's Teacher of the Year Award. Liz Styles is a teacher with many years as an educator who has put her knowledge, skill and experience to work for some very special students. She teaches a Developmental Skills Class. The students in her class are children with multiple needs, and problems, including physical, communication, intellectual and behavioral. Many have Autism and Seizure Disorders, all move fast; and they all walk, run and seek some form of interaction (both positive and negative) with their environment. Mrs. Styles has nine students in her class and has the help of six Teaching Assistants. For these students the activities of everyday life are a hazard. Accidents are the leading cause of death in children; the life expectancy of these children is nineteen, and most die from accidental injuries. You could almost believe that Risk Watch was designed for them.

Risk Watch came to Liz's school by a sad and tragic happening. Late spring last year, the local fire department responded to a EMS call. Three small school age children were found with vital signs absent in their home. The three children had been playing in a trunk, and suffocated.



The loss of three bright, energetic students overwhelmed Codrington Street Public School's families and faculty. Recognizing this, the principal of the school originally selected to host a pilot Risk Watch project felt the need maybe greater at Codrington School. He put the fire department in touch with Codrington's principal, who was desperately seeking a solution to the human response to "do something" and the need to prevent this from happening again.

The program was delivered to the entire school, but it rapidly found a very special niche in Liz Styles' class. She embraced Risk Watch, and spent the summer of 2000 preparing for the pilot by reviewing several levels of the curriculum. This was an essential exercise due to the varying intellectual levels within her class. Unlike other teachers who only utilized their own grade appropriate curriculum, Liz

tailored her delivery of the program by incorporating multiple grade levels. She is deeply in tune with her kids and their needs; she knew the use of comfortable daily routines in the teaching of the lessons would minimize the emotional impact and expedite learning. For example, the seat belt safety component utilized the children's bus, instead of a car.

These children require specialized transportation, and getting them to and from school safely has always been an ordeal. Previously students were unable to sit quietly, and never kept their seatbelts on. On more than one occasion, while exiting the school bus, students have been known to run into the path of oncoming traffic. The situation was of such concern, that an additional staff member had to ride with the students, to and from school. These children do not readily adapt to changes in their environment, such as new faces, so, instead of having local police as part of the seatbelt session, Liz had the school bus driver be part of the lesson. They began slowly, using a made believe bus in class, then working their way up to the real school bus.

This component was so successful, that Liz was able to accomplish the unthinkable... public transportation. They had learned their safety lesson so well, and had developed such good habits on their school bus, Liz was able to take them all for a ride on a city transit bus. To this day, these children ride their bus with-

continues on page 10

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out incident and no additional staff is required to travel with them. Liz cares enough to challenge these children. For many of her students, simple events are terrifying, and cause havoc in the class. Many teachers would avidly avoid any type of event that would disturb such a sensitive equilibrium. This type of havoc would tax most educators, and the lessons would never even be contemplated, let alone conducted with such success. Liz originally thought that the Risk Watch Program would be a one-hour per day segment, this plan rapidly changed. Risk Watch was taught all day, everyday, from September until December. Her ability to motivate these children is inspiring. One of the important ideas/tools that was essential to her success with the program was the Risk Watch and Risk Watch Station. Each student was given a Risk Watch, a very coveted item with the children. They were allowed to wear it, as long as they stayed safe. Unsafe behavior or actions meant that the child had to hand in his or her watch, and sit in the Risk Watch Station in class. Eventually, students began to realize their own unsafe activities, would take off the watch themselves and go and sit in the Risk Watch Station without being asked.

The measurements for success have been the children themselves. All students were pre-tested and post-tested, with good results. Due to the unique nature of the students, a communiqué was sent home daily; it provided information for the parents and allowed for their feedback. Parents have given numerous accounts of their children demonstrating life safety behaviors.

The Barrie Fire and Emergency Service has seen first hand Liz Style's skill as an educator and have seen the "fruits of her labor." Last fall the "Codrington Street Crew" responded to an alarm in an apartment. It turned out to be the apartment building of Patrick, one of Liz's students, a child who has never spoken in his life. The alarm had gone off on countless occasions during Patrick's lifetime, and he has never given any indication he ever heard it. This time, he did. Patrick simply stood up, took his mother's hand, walked her out the door, down the stairs, out the building and stood waiting on the front lawn. The first in crew included the fire fighters whom worked with Liz to teach the fire safety component. Patrick is particularly attached to one of the fire fighters, and was ecstatic to see Fire Fighter Wilson arrive on scene (he hugged him immediately).

This simple example is proof of the effectiveness of the Risk Watch Program and Liz Style's gift as an educator. The Barrie Fire & Emergency Services considers the program a success and are coalition building to bring this valuable program to the rest of City's children.

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Rockbestos-Surprenant Cable Corporation headquartered in Clinton, Massachusetts USA has recently qualified its *VITALink* CI fire alarm cable to the "Standard Method of Fire Test for Evaluation of Integrity of Electrical Cables" ULC-S139-00. This particular cable through evaluation and testing has received listings from both the Canadian Standards Authority and Underwriters Laboratory of Canada. Known by trade name *VITALink* CI, this cable is listed by CSA as Type FAS90 and FT4 while also receiving its 2-hour fire rating from ULC.

The *VITALink* CI cable is currently manufactured for the Canadian marketplace as a 2/C 16 AWG Twisted Shielded cable. The cables general appearance is very similar to that of a standard fire alarm cable with its soft shell red low smoke, zero halogen polyolefin jacket. Its distinguishing feature though is the cables ability to maintain circuit integrity and survivability under extreme fire conditions for a 2-hour time period. This cable is quickly becoming the choice of owners, designers and installers when survivability is on the line. For more information regarding the *VITALink* CI cable visit www.vitalinkcable.com or call (800) 444-3792 and ask to speak with a *VITALink* representative.

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Please use the Member's Forum to submit your thoughts and comments on CFSA Programs and events or to let us know what you would like to see as future dinner or technical session topics. Please use the form below to update the CFSA office of any change in address or member information. Don't forget to let us know your e-mail address and website URL (if applicable). We look forward to hearing from you. **Send your comments and suggestions to: 2175 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 310, Toronto, ON M2J 1W8 or fax to: (416) 491-1670 or by e-mail: www.cfsa@taylorenterprises.com Website: www.canadianfiresafety.com**

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Would you prefer to change to lunch meetings?

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