



NFCA 2020 Action Highlights

Thanks to the NFCA Membership joining and renewing, your NFCA has been active representing the Fireproofing Industry at key industry places such as the International Code Council (ICC), NFPA Fire Protection Features Committee, ASTM Standards Development Process, and with Specifier, Code Official and Fire Marshal/Fire Inspector Groups.

Advocacy and Codes & Standards Development

NFCA expanded the NFCA database to reach more Building Code Officials, Fire Marshals, Specifiers with design firms and Independent Specifiers, Architects and Engineers. This means NFCA's Webinar Series will continue to grow and influence the right groups and people.

NFCA presented virtually providing education on fire-resistance including:

- NFCA's Virtual Educational Conference, attracting Specifiers, Code Officials/Fire Marshals, in addition to key contractor audiences.
- NFCA's Webinars, with over 1800 attendees this year.

At the **International Building Code**, NFCA's participation in ICC's Fire Code Action Committee, Building Code Action Committee, and NFPA Fire Protection Features Committee, has kept the fireproofing industry in the conversation during the development processes. NFCA's Code Committee has met several times to develop code proposals for submission to ICC in January 2021.

The **International Fire Code** now has language that points to SFRM and IFRM Fireproofing, where it did not before. NFCA helped write the new section in the IBC Code Commentary on visually inspecting all types of fireproofing existing buildings – including SFRM and IFRM, Boards and Wraps, and procedures for patching.

In **NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code**, NFCA was able to add a section in Chapter 8 that points users to the fireproofing manufacturers installation instructions and the listings. Watch for more in 2021's submission for the 2024 NFPA 101/5000.

At the **National Building Code of Canada** (NBCC) development process, our proposal for Fireproofing Inspection similar to the International Building Code, was referred to the NRC Executive Committee – and is still being debated even though the development process is over. This continues to be a quest of NFCA's Canada Committee to improve the quality of fireproofing installations in Canada.

At ASTM, the **ASTM Fireproofing Inspection Standards** continue to work their way through the process.

NFCA Fireproofing Specific Education

NFCA's new Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge was launched providing a new resource for education and training in addition to NFCA's successful Contractor Accreditation Education Program. Since introduction in May, this living handbook has a new chapter to be published Q1 2021.

NFCA's 2020 VIRTUAL Fireproofing Educational Conference – a big success – had over 220 attendees. Plan now to join NFCA at the 2021 Conference – details to be announced in mid-2021.

The **NFCA Free Webinar Series** continues to grow with both the number of webinars and attendees. Over 1,800 people attended NFCA webinars in 2020, both members and nonmembers. NFCA's webinars provide an opportunity to educate contractors, inspection agencies, building code officials, fire marshals, specifiers, and others who need to know the details of the fireproofing industry – listings from lab directories and more.

Look for the annual **NFCA Fire-Resistance in Buildings Seminar** again in late 2021, early 2022. The goal of this program – held each year in different cities, is to educate about fireproofing and fire-resistance in new and existing buildings.

NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program & UL Qualified SFRM Contractor Program

Sixty-six NFCA Contractors have completed the **NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program** process. There is also a rejuvenation of **UL's Qualified SFRM Contractor Program, newly improved and launched in springtime.** This program requires a person to be a NFCA DRI – an NFCA Accredited Contractor – as a prerequisite to be UL Qualified. Lock in savings with a special NFCA Discount at UL before year's end.

We have been researching and are close to launching a virtual NFCA Education for the SFRM & IFRM Fireproofing Exams. Watch for the next Education for NFCA's SFRM & IFRM Fireproofing Exams in 2021. **Inspection agencies** may also attend the educational training and use the **SFRM & IFRM Exams** to prove fireproofing competence required for approval as a 'Special Inspector' by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Call to Serve – NFCA Committees

NFCA's Board of Directors **invite you to serve on a NFCA Committee.** Current committees include:

- Accreditation Committee
- Canada Committee
- Program Committee
- Safety Committee
- Technical Code & Standards Committees

Think about how you want to get involved by reviewing the www.NFCA-online.org Committee Page. Then, email info@NFCA-online.org with your committee interest.

NFCA Membership Growth

As a result of NFCA's Advocacy, Code & Standards Development, Education, Seminars and Conferences, plus much more, NFCA Membership continues to increase. NFCA Membership in 2020 is over triple what it was in 2014. NFCA Membership now totals 164!

Many thanks for your support through membership, attendance at virtual and in person events and volunteering at committees. Without your support, NFCA cannot do what it does, on behalf of NFCA Fireproofing Industry Members, and fire and life safety in buildings.

Bill McHugh, NFCA Executive Director

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