

# CFMA Conference Program

*Thursday, April 11, 2024*

7:30 am Registration

8:00 am Association Annual Meeting  
& Legislation Update and other comments

9:00 am (3 Hours) John Foley - Safer Buildings Coalition

**Course\_Description:**

The Safer Buildings Coalition's Public Safety Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES) class is designed to provide attendees with an understanding of the technologies, design considerations, and application of model fire codes and standards (National Fire Protection Association Standards 1, 70, 72, 1221, 1225) and ICC i-codes (IFC) related to Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems. This 3-hour version of the class delves into describing the problem, the benefits, RF and Technology Basics, FCC requirements, extensive discussion about relevant Fire Codes, standards and listings, and future technologies. This class will include a special discussion of newly enacted codes and standards in the State of Connecticut. The session will be interactive, featuring instructor-led presentation combined with interactive discussion with the attendees.

**Bio:**

**John Foley Managing Director, Safer Buildings Coalition (SBC)**

In his role, John not only provides day to day Coalition management, but also develops and deploys SBC's mission-driven thought leadership, public policy, and lobbying efforts. John has extensive experience in analyzing and developing positions for telecommunications regulatory and legislative issues involving federal and state agencies and legislative bodies. John is co-author of The Complete ERCES Handbook – with NICET In-Building Public Safety Communications (IB-PSC) Study Guide, the definitive resource for learning and reference material pertaining to Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES). John currently serves on the following industry committees: TIA TSB-88 sub-group for TR-8.18 Wireless Systems Compatibility – Interference and Coverage; TIA Smart Buildings Working Group and Public Safety Subgroup; the CTIA Smart Cities Steering Committee; Informa's International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE) Advisory Board; Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS) Advisory Board; and the NATE DAS and Small Cell Working Group. John is also a certified ERCES instructor for the Florida State Fire College. John has held key business development, operations, engineering, and executive roles at telecom service companies such as Level 3 Communications, MFS, and MCI. John was a co-founder of Nextlink (later named XO Communications) where he served as VP of Operations and Engineering and VP of International Network Development. John led dark fiber provider City Signal Communications in the position of President and CEO. John also served for five years in the role of Capture Director and engineering team lead for a leading DAS Integrator.

12:00 pm Lunch [12-1]

# CFMA Conference Program

1:00 pm(2 Hours) Joe Versteeg, Versteeg Associates

**Course Description:**

Passive fire protection systems or fire-resistance-rated construction work by using walls, floors, and protected openings to contain fire, heat, and smoke, with the goal of limiting the fire to a single compartment within the building. This lecture will provide an overview of fire-resistance-rated construction provisions contained in the 2022 Connecticut Fire Safety Codes, including different types of assemblies and their applications.

**Bio:**

Mr. Versteeg is the principal of Versteeg Associates LLC, a Torrington-based firm providing consulting services in the proper application of building, fire, life safety, and accessibility codes and standards. He is a Certified Fire Marshal and Licensed Building Official and formerly the Chief of Technical Services for the Connecticut State Fire Marshal's Office. In addition to being a current member and former chairperson of numerous technical committees on building construction and fire safety for the National Fire Protection Association and International Code Council, for over twenty years he was one of a handful of approved NFPA instructors teaching various code-related seminars, nationally and internationally.

3:00 pm (2 Hours) Glenn Corbett

**Course description:**

Define Warehouses, Fire Prevention Considerations, Firefighting Considerations, NFPA Warehouse Structure Fires Report, Automatic sprinkler system and water supply, Inspections of warehouses, storage arrangements, Fire Protection features.

**Bio:**

Mr. Corbett has extensive experience in different facets of fire protection including the fields of firefighting and fire prevention. In-depth knowledge of the development and trends within the American fire protection and emergency management professions. Fire Code Advisory Council, State of New Jersey (current) Special Independent Advisory Commission to Review and Evaluate the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections, Federal Advisory Committee of the National Construction Safety Team, National Institute of Standards and Technology, FEMA "America Burning: Re-commissioned" Panel.

5:00 pm End of Day One

# CFMA Conference Program

*Friday, April 12, 2024*

7:30 am     Registration

8:00 am (4 Hours) Brad Cronin – Strategic Code Solutions

**Course description:**

This four (4) hour seminar is intended for fire inspectors, plans reviewers, and those that enforce the fire code. The seminar discusses automatic sprinkler system in remote areas and calculations. Discussion includes explanation of pressure loss from friction and elevation. Formulas for calculating sprinkler flow and pressure will also be discussed. Areas where plans reviewers and inspectors can perform quick verifications of submitted plans and calculations will be covered. Analysis of a set of plans and remote area location is also included.

**Bio:**

Brad Cronin, CFPS has 27 years of fire service experience, most recently in a municipal fire department, and formerly rural volunteer department settings. He is currently VP of Fire Protection for Strategic Code Solutions and serves as an instructor for several fire protection associations. He has also been an instructor and author for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He teaches fire service representatives across the country for the National Fire Academy in the Technical Fire Prevention curriculum. He has experience performing fire code inspection and plans review as a licensed Fire Marshal for the State of Rhode Island. He serves on and chairs several NFPA Technical Committees and UL Standards Technical Panels. Brad is the current Chair of NFPA 25 and NFPA 303, NFPA 101, Residential Occupancies and past Chair of NFPA 150. He is a Technical Committee member on NFPA 13R & 13D, NFPA 20 and NFPA 909 & 914. Brad is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist has B.S. Degrees from both Saint Michael's College and University of Cincinnati in Business Administration and Fire Safety and Engineering Technology and a master's in public administration from Anna Maria College.

12:00 pm             Lunch [12-1]

# CFMA Conference Program

1:00 pm(3 Hours) Bob Duval NFPA

## Course Description

This program will review; past fire incidents in buildings under construction, common causes of these fires, and programs to reduce the risks using NFPA 241 and NFPA 51B. Each year there are several large loss fires in buildings under construction or renovation. Many of the losses associated with these incidents could be reduced or avoided by following basic fire safety guidelines outlined in NFPA 241 - Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations and NFPA 51B - Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work. After a tragic fire attributed to improper hot work, where two fire fighters were killed, the City of Boston implemented regulations requiring contractors to receive certification in hot work safety and to follow guidelines within NFPA 241. This program will review the steps taken by the Boston Fire Department to put these regulations in place.

## Bio

Robert has been the Fire Investigator for the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), which is based in Quincy, Massachusetts, since 1997. Robert is responsible for conducting investigations of technically significant incidents in order to gather, “Lessons Learned” from each incident to apply those lessons to improving NFPA codes and standards. The investigation of these incidents includes documenting the emergency services response, the structure(s) involved as well as the events leading up to and following the incident. Robert was named the New England Regional Manager for NFPA in 2003. His region has expanded to include NY and NJ and is now referred to as the Northeast Region. As Regional Director, Robert is responsible for outreach within the northeast states regarding code adoptions, and training. He also serves as a point of contact for stakeholders in the NFPA process; including the fire service, engineering and safety professionals. Robert has conducted investigations into several significant incidents including; fire fighter fatalities in Albert City Iowa, Lake Worth Texas, Marks, Mississippi, New York City, Phoenix, Arizona, Keokuk, Iowa, Coos Bay, Oregon and Houston, TX, a cruise ship fire in Miami Florida, a grain elevator explosion in Kansas, a bulk retail warehouse in Phoenix, AZ, a large “green” office building in WI, as well as the total loss of a sprinklered warehouse in KY, among others. Robert was a member of the FEMA Building Performance and Assessment Team (BPAT) that studied the World Trade Center disaster in 2001. Robert was also involved in the 2003 investigations of the tragic Rhode Island nightclub fire that killed 100 and the Hartford, CT nursing home fire that claimed 16 lives. Robert reviewed the fire service response to the Merrimack Valley, MA gas over pressurization incident of September 2018, a BESS explosion that seriously injured four fire fighters in Surprise, AZ in April 2019, as well as a fatal high-rise fire in Minneapolis, MN in November 2019 for NFPA Journal magazine. Robert also investigated the electrical fire at the Brockton Hospital in Massachusetts that resulted in the completed evacuation of the hospital in February 2023. Robert has presented on these incidents and many related NFPA codes, standards and public safety initiatives, around the world since 1997.

Robert has served as the Chief of the Atwood Hose Fire Company in his hometown of Wauregan, CT, where he has been a member since 1981, since 2012. He has worked as an emergency services dispatcher in a regional fire department dispatch center in northeastern Connecticut since 1986. He also serves on the instructional staff of the Eastern CT Fire Training School. Robert is a Past President of the CT Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the CT Fire Service Hall of Fame, Class of 2021. Robert serves as a Communications Specialist for CT-TF1 – Connecticut State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. Robert holds a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

4:00pm

End of Conference