

11th Annual Texas Fire Marshals' Conference
"Don't Gamble with Fire Prevention"

Confirmed Speakers To Date:

Jeff Shapiro
Kevin Baum
Scott Stookey
Kelly Ransdell
Randy Safer
Lorraine Carli
Dan Powers
Ed Salazar
Virginia Garza
Lexi Maxwell
Sue Vanek
Thomas Petty
Meri-K Appy
Paul Zipper
Shane Ray
Vickie Pritchett
Deborah Sue Miller
Jesse Williams
Don Smith
Kurt Roper
Larry Sagen
Bonnie Woodruff

Jeffrey M. Shapiro, P.E, FSFPE, is President of International Code Consultants, based in Austin, Texas, and recognized as one of the nation's leading fire code experts. Mr. Shapiro holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Protection Engineering, and he is a Registered Professional Engineer. He is also a Fellow and past Chapter President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Mr. Shapiro previously served as Chief Executive of the International Fire Code Institute, Chief Engineer for the Uniform Fire Code, Manager of Fire Safety for U.S. Embassy Construction, and Fire Protection Engineer for the City of Fort Worth, Texas Fire Department. He is also the author of many published works, including a recently published book on the International Fire Code.

Mr. Shapiro's Presentation:

An Essential Update on Residential Fire Sprinklers

For more than 30 years, the fire service has known that residential fire sprinklers are the solution to America's fire problem. Yet, political and technical challenges, along with myths and misinformation, have slowed acceptance of sprinkler systems as a standard feature in new home construction. However, times are changing. This presentation will update participants with the latest information on model code requirements, state legislation and rebuttal of opposition arguments against sprinklers.

Kevin Baum is Founder and Principal of inCentergy, an Austin-based organizational and leadership development consulting group with clients around the world. Kevin is a 22-year veteran of public service, and is the former Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal with the Austin, Texas Fire Department. Kevin is a recognized leader in government, and his innovative ideas on both leadership and organizational performance have been published in journals in the United States,

the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and South Africa. Baum is convinced that we live in extraordinary times, and that extraordinary times require extraordinary leaders. Baum explores these ideas and more in his very popular book, *Lessons From The Line – Why Every Leader Should Be A Firefighter For A Day*. Kevin is an adjunct faculty member with the Texas State University Master of Public Administration Program, a guest faculty member for the U.S. Certified Public Manager's Program, a Senior Fellow with the Performance Institute, and a senior faculty member with the Governing Live workshop series.

Scott Stookey is a Senior Technical Staff member with the International Code Council. Scott previously was the Fire Protection Engineer for the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department's Special Hazard Unit and was an Engineering Associate with the Austin (TX) Fire Department Hazardous Materials Engineering section. He is a graduate of the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology program at Oklahoma State University and has over 20 years of experience in the areas of regulatory compliance and emergency response. Stookey was formerly the Chairman of the NFPA 30A technical committee for motor vehicle fueling and repair garages and was also a member of the NFPA 58 technical committee for liquefied petroleum gases. He has published over 14 articles on various subjects including ESFR sprinklers, warehouse fire protection, hazardous materials packaging, silane, compressed and liquefied natural gas and pressure relief systems. Scott has developed over 30 nationally recognized seminars on the various fire protection and hazardous material requirements in the International Fire Code© and NFPA standards.

Kelly Ransdell is the Deputy Director of the North Carolina Department of Insurance-Office of State Fire Marshal and Director of Safe Kids North Carolina. She joined the Injury Prevention Staff in June 2000. She serves on the NFPA 1035 committee that provides technical assistance for National Fire Prevention standards. She is the Public Education Advisor for the National Fire Protection Association Public Education Division and works in 11 states in the Southern region of the US. Kelly was born in Fuquay-Varina, NC, and is married to Mike, a deputy with the Harnett County Sheriff's Office. She has a 3 year old daughter, Claire Marie. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her family when she is not traveling for her jobs.

Randy Safer has 30 years experience in the fire service. Prior to being hired by NFPA in August of 2008, Randy spent the previous six years as the Director of Codes Enforcement with the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office where he was responsible for three field offices across the state handling the functions of fire and building code enforcement and plan review. Prior to this position, Randy was the fire chief in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and he started his fire service career with the Beaumont, Texas, Fire Department in 1977. He is married, has five children, and one granddaughter.

Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of communications, oversees all media and public affairs activities including NFPA's key publication, *NFPA Journal*, and the NFPA website. Ms. Carli works with staff throughout NFPA on a variety of media and advocacy issues in all areas of fire and life safety and is responsible for ensuring timely, consistent messages are disseminated throughout the media. Carli establishes media policy and practice for NFPA for both traditional and new media. Carli holds a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and a Master's of Education. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Emerson College and Suffolk University in Boston, teaching graduate public relations courses.

Dan Powers, LCSW, LSOTP, currently serves as Senior Director of Clinical and Administrative Services for Collin County Children's Advocacy Center in Plano, Texas. He supervises a staff of 15 therapists and clinical interns providing no cost services to victims of abuse and family violence as well as their non-offending family members. As Senior Director he is responsible for clinical

operations and program development as well as directing the Advocacy Center's clinical internship and training program. Dan has over 20 years of experience working within the field of child maltreatment and family violence. In addition, he provides expert court testimony and consultation related to child maltreatment, sex offenders and family violence. He is a member of the Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force and in 2008 Dan was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Council on Sex Offender Treatment. Dan has presents workshops locally as well as on a state and national level in the area of child abuse.

Ed Salazar, Assistant Texas State Fire Marshal, received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. He served for 14 years as Assistant Attorney General, and 13 years as legal counsel to the State Fire Marshal's Office, before moving to the SFMO on January 1, 2008.

Virginia Garza, TEXFIRS Program Administrator, is a native Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a BBA in Business Management. She began her work with the State Fire Marshal's Office in 1991. During her years with the SFMO she has worked with the Fire Safety Inspections, Fire/Arson Investigations and the Fire Prevention and Outreach divisions. In 1997, she became the state program manager for the Texas Fire Incident Reporting System, TEXFIRS. The TEXFIRS system allows for the review of statewide trends and the analysis of fire incident elements thru the collection of causal fire factors and associated life and property losses. TEXFIRS fire information is presented in the annual report Fires in Texas and is forwarded to the national NFIRS database. The USFA's report Fire in the United States is primarily based on NFIRS data.

TEXFIRS is the only complete incident data collection system in the state. She works with fire departments to address program coding issues, improve data collection efforts and provide training on system reporting. Virginia also works with the USFA's National Fire Data Center and the National Fire Information Council to address system issues and the uniformity and promotion of data collection and serves as the President and state representative to the National Fire Information Council. Virginia's work with local fire departments, program managers throughout the nation, and the US Fire Administration, has allowed her the opportunity to focus the promotion of fire prevention through communication and information dissemination.

Lexi Maxwell, Urban Wildland Interface Specialist for the Texas Forest Service, joined the Texas Forest Service as a Prescribed Fire Specialist. Maxwell develops and delivers information and educational programs, writes articles and gives presentations concerning Urban Wildland Interface, Wildfire Prevention and the Prescribed Burn topics. She also participates in wildfire responses, and assists with prescribed burns conducted by the Texas Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the City of Austin.

Maxwell earned a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Texas Tech in 1995, and is a member of the Texas Chapter of the Society of Range Management. Maxwell aided in the development of the Texas Prescribed Burn Board and has served as a board member. She helped form the Central Texas Prescribed Fire Council, and helped develop their curriculum for their certification program.

Sue Vanek is currently employed with Parkland's Regional Burn Center as Burn Program Coordinator. She has been a nurse for more than 10 years with experience in caring for critically injured burn and trauma patients. Sue's education includes an undergraduate degree in Biology, major in Nursing and a master's degree in Business Administration. In addition to caring for patients, she has co-authored several articles in medical journals and participated as a researcher

with an NIH funded national multi-centered trial looking at traumatic injuries and outcomes in patients. Some of her current priorities for the Burn Center are outreach/injury prevention and development of programs for survivors.

Fire Prevention Investigator **Thomas Petty** has been with the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office since 1993. He is currently assigned to the Prevention Division as the department's "Outreach Officer." Along with his regular duties, he is also an accelerant detection K-9 Handler. This entails working with his canine partner "Hunter," a chocolate-colored Labrador retriever. Since being teamed together in 2000, Tom and Hunter have investigated more than 460 fires and uncovered valuable evidence that helped lead to the arrest and conviction of more than 113 arsonists. The team has been featured on ABC News' "Good Morning America" and profiled in *Fire & Arson Investigator* magazine. To date, they have conducted more than 400 fire/life safety programs attended by over 45,000 people in Harris and surrounding counties.

Prior to joining the Fire Marshal's Office, Tom served with the Harris County Sheriff's Department and the Cypress Creek Volunteer Fire Department. He holds advanced certifications as a Fire Inspector and an Arson Investigator as well as an intermediate certification as a Fire Service Instructor with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP). He is certified as a Master Peace Officer with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) and credentialed as a Certified Fire Investigator with the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). Tom also holds a Bachelor of Journalism Degree from the University of Texas.

He is an adjunct instructor/subject matter expert in Fire & Arson Investigation and Forensic Evidence Collection courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and is a federal contract instructor assigned to the Arson Training Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).

Kurt Roeper is the Manager of Codes and Standards for Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies. He has been in the commercial openings industry for more than 20 years, serving in a variety of technical positions including Engineering, Product Development, Marketing and Codes & Standards. His involvement in building and life safety codes, testing and product certification spans his career with extensive work in the North American, European and Asian markets. Kurt is currently a member of multiple technical committees engaged in writing codes and standards for the commercial openings industry. These committees include

- NFPA 5000 Building Construction & Safety Code
- NFPA 101 Life Safety Code
- NFPA 80 – Standard for Fire Doors & Other Opening Protectives
- NFPA 105 – Standard for Smoke Door Assemblies
- Steel Door Institute Technical Committee
- International Code Council - Committee on Storm Shelters
- Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association – Codes & Government Affairs

A complete list of speakers and their biographies will follow.