NFPA/University of Maryland
2022 Ecosystem Symposium
Program

September 28-29, 2022   The Hotel in College Park, MD
Welcome to the first UMD-NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem Symposium. In development for quite some time now, the symposium features thought provoking presentations from six terrific keynote speakers. You will then have a chance to engage with others in two breakout sessions of your choice. The breakout sessions are designed to have you bring your different professional backgrounds and interact on topical issues involving the use of the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. The fundamental purpose of this meeting is to get all of us out of our usual silos to understand how to appreciate the multi-disciplinary aspect of the ecosystem to better apply and address fire safety challenges in buildings and communities.

Your presence is important, and your ideas appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at the symposium.

Jim Milke
Professor and Chair
Department of Fire Protection Engineering
University of Maryland

NFPA is excited to join with the University of Maryland Department of Fire Protection Engineering to help tackle the fire and life safety challenges of our times. We are thrilled that the Department of Fire Protection Engineering, a highly acclaimed source of knowledge in the field and an excellent partner in advancing safety, has gathered such a great group to examine real life examples within the framework of the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. This event embodies the theory behind the ecosystem, which is that we all play a role in safety. In order to reduce loss, we have to recognize that our success comes when all the pieces of the ecosystem are functioning together.

Your work during this symposium will be widely shared and provide great insights about ways each discipline can not only strengthen its cog, but more fully utilize the interdependencies of the others to better protect people and property from the myriad of hazards we see today.

Jim Pauley
President and CEO
National Fire Protection Association
### Day 1

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:30 am - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am - 9:30 am</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker, Jim Pauley, “Connecting the Dots of Fire and Life Safety – A Framework to Achieve Greater Success in Reducing Fire Loss”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker, John Barylick, Esq., “Lessons from the Station Nightclub Fire – America’s Deadliest Rock Concert”</td>
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<td>10:15 am - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker, Margaret McNamee, Ph.D. “Sustainable Fire Safety – An Oxymoron or Simply Common Sense?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 pm - 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Introduction to the Workshop Sessions (Part 1) on “Case Studies”</td>
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| 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm | Workshop Sessions, Part 1 “Case Studies” Attendees will analyze and discuss case studies that illustrate weaknesses in the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. Examples include:  
  - Ghost Ship Warehouse fire, Oakland, CA (2016)  
  - The Camp Wildfire, Butte County, CA (2018) |
| 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm | Break                                                                |
| 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm | Workshop Sessions, Part 1                                           |
| 4:00 pm - 4:20 pm | Break                                                                |
| 4:20 pm - 5:00 pm | Workshop Reports, Part 1                                             |
| 5:00 pm - 5:15 pm | Day 1 Wrap-up & Review Plans for Day 2                              |
| 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm | Reception                                                            |

### Day 2

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<tr>
<td>8:45 am - 9:30 am</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker, Benjamin Ditch, M.Sc., “Property Loss Prevention: Building Resilience in the NFPA Ecosystem”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Introduction to the Workshop Sessions (Part 2) on “Contemporary Issues”</td>
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| 9:45 am - 10:30 am | Workshop Sessions, Part 2 “Contemporary Issues” Attendees will explore the principles of the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem and discuss how it applies to today’s fire protection challenges:  
  - The residential fire problem (including low income communities)  
  - Fire hazards and risk mitigation strategies of alternative energy solutions  
  - Fire safety design with new and alternative building materials (e.g., high-rise timber buildings) |
| 10:30 am - 11:00 am | Break                                                                |
| 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Workshop Sessions, Part 2                                           |
| 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm | Lunch                                                                |
| 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Workshop Reports, Part 2                                             |
| 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Break                                                                |
| 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Summary of workshops                                                 |
| 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm | Keynote Speaker, Chief Chris M. Connealy, M.Sc., EFO, CFO, “The Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer Plant Explosion in the City of West Texas – An Illustration of the Need for the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem” |
| 3:45 pm - 4:00 pm | Closing                                                              |

Interested attendees of this program can receive 1.2 CEU’s.
Dr. Jim Milke, P.E. has served on the faculty of the University of Maryland’s Department of Fire Protection Engineering for over 40 years and has been chair of the department for the last 11 years. Prior to joining the university, Jim served as a fire protection engineer for Fairfax County, Virginia and as a research fire prevention engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

A global thought leader in the field of fire protection and life safety, Dr. Milke is a Fellow and past president of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and is a member and past chair of the NFPA Committee on Smoke Management Systems. Throughout his career, Professor Milke has received awards for teaching, communications and service from the University of Maryland, NFPA, SFPE, the Automatic Fire Alarm Association, and the Siemens Building Technology Division.

Having earned a B.S. degree in Physics from Ursinus College (PA), Jim went on to earn a B.S. degree in fire protection engineering, a M.S. degree in mechanical engineering, and a Ph.D. degree in aerospace engineering, all from the University of Maryland.

Lorraine Carli is vice president of outreach and advocacy for the National Fire Protection Association, where she oversees media, public affairs and advocacy activities; the organization’s magazine NFPA Journal; NFPA’s Wildfire, Public Education and US/Canada Regional Operations Divisions; Community Risk Reduction and Stakeholder Engagement.

Carli is president of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and past president and current member of the Board of Directors for The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors. In addition, she is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation and president of the Electric Safety Foundation International (ESFI) board of directors.

Carli holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Northeastern University and a master’s degree in education from the University of Massachusetts. She has been an adjunct professor at Suffolk University in Boston, teaching graduate public relations courses.

Bob Andrews founded Protection Development, Incorporated, (PDI) in 1985 and currently serves as its President and CEO. Mr. Andrews is a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer (fire protection branch specialty), a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers (UK), and a Professional Member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (USA).

He has been practicing fire protection engineering for over forty years and has specialized in the fire-safe design of very complicated and unusual projects. He is a life member of the National Fire Protection Association (43 years) and a life member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (40 years).

Highly unusual amongst fire protection engineers, Chief Andrews was an active member of the fire service for 40 years, having joined his local volunteer fire company in suburban Philadelphia when he was sixteen years old. His fire service experience includes serving with the East Whiteland Volunteer Fire Association (PA), the College Park Volunteer Fire Department (MD), the Phoenix Fire Department (AZ), Marathon Oil Company (OH), Celanese Chemical Company (TX), the Refinery Terminal Fire Company (TX) and Industrial Emergency Services (TX). He was one of the first Industrial Fire Chiefs in the United States having received his fire-safety presentations in the United States, Jamaica, France, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Poland, and Germany.

In recognition of his life-long professional achievements, significant contributions and distinguished service to the nation’s fire & emergency services and fire protection disciplines, on October 12, 2021, Chief Andrews was inducted into the National Fire Heritage Center’s Hall of Legends Legacies & Leaders. Chief Andrews is a member of the Class of 2022 and is Inductee #0098.

A committed life-long learner, Bob earned a B.Sc. degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland in 1980, a M.Sc. degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University (AZ) in 2002, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2022. He is a 2002 graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer program and a 2008 graduate of Michigan State University’s Railway Management Program.
**Symposium Speakers**

**Day 1 – Main Session**
**Connecting the Dots of Fire and Life Safety – A Framework to Achieve Greater Success in Reducing Fire Loss**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Jim Pauley
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Fire Protection Association
publicaffairs@nfpa.org

Jim Pauley is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a global self-funded non-profit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association, which is headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA, began its work to solve the fire problem in a young, industrialized nation in 1896 and is recognized around the globe today as a leader in advocating for safety.

NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 325 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. NFPA recognized its 125th Anniversary in 2021 and continues its steadfast commitment to advancing fire and life safety for the next century and beyond.

Mr. Pauley is leading an historic digital transformation at NFPA that is revolutionizing the way codes and standards information is delivered and used throughout the world. In addition, he is directing the development, to tackle both persistent and emerging threats.

Day 1 – Main Session
**Lessons From the Station Nightclub Fire – America’s Deadliest Rock Concert**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
John Barylick, Esq, Adjunct Professor
Roger Williams University
School of Law and of Counsel
Foley / Cerilli, P.C.
Providence, Rhode Island
killershowbook@gmail.com

John Barylick is a lawyer practicing since 1977. He was one of the lead plaintiffs’ attorneys in civil litigation resulting from the tragic 2003 Station nightclub Fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island in which 100 persons were killed and hundreds injured. His work was instrumental in amassing 176 million dollars in settlements for the victims of the fire.

John is the author of KILLER SHOW: The Station Nightclub Fire, America’s Deadliest Rock Concert, published by University Press of New England. He has been an adjunct professor at Boston University School of Law, a guest lecturer at Harvard University School of Law, and an invited presenter to the U.S. National Fire Academy. State fire academies, risk management conferences, arson investigation conferences and event safety conferences throughout the United States and Canada.

John’s keynote presentation to this NFPA conference will discuss the multiple causes of the Station Nightclub Fire and highlight how adherence to fire code and NFPA standards would have averted the tragedy.

**Day 1 – Main Session**
**Fire Safety in the U.S. Since 1980 – Through the Lens of the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Birgitte Messerschmidt, M.Sc.
Director, Research
National Fire Protection Association
BCollins@NFPA.org

Birgitte Messerschmidt is Director, Research, National Fire Protection Association. She is responsible for NFPA’s research strategy, research on fire problems and other safety issues, data collection efforts to maintain NFPA’s fire incident and fire service databases, and the NFPA research library.

In the early part of her career, Birgitte focused on fire testing and how the performance of different products can impact fire development. She was involved in the development and implementation of the harmonized EU fire testing and classification system for construction products. Other areas of work include fire performance of facades, fire toxicity, fire fighter health and safety, fire resilience of the built environment, fires in the Wildland Urban Interface and fire data collection and analysis. She has been active in international standardization and has advocated for fire safety policies around the world.

Making our built environment safer and more resilient to fire through better understanding of the impact of construction products and methods, as well as testing procedures and policy, has been a career-long passion. She has published and presented numerous papers on fire safety issues.

Birgitte earned an M.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark and has spent her entire career working on fire safety issues.

**Day 1 – Main Session**
**Sustainable Fire Safety – an Oxymoron or Simply Common Sense?**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Margaret McNamme, Ph.D.
Fire Safety Engineering, School of Engineering Lund University, Sweden
margaret.mcnamme@brand.lth.se

Margaret McNamme is Professor in Fire Safety Engineering in the Department of Building and Environmental Technology at Lund University in Sweden. She has her technical expertise in understanding and characterizing the environmental impact of fires and has worked in the field of fire and combustion research for more than 30 years. The focus of her research in recent years has been on fire safety & sustainability, and research concerning the Fire and Rescue Services of the future.

She has more than 110 international publications (including five book chapters) and is co-editor of the very first Handbook on the Environmental Impact of Fires, in addition to over 40 Technical Reports in the field.

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges of our age. Numerous activities have been launched since the 1980’s to highlight human impact on the environment, e.g., the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983 (also called the Brundtland Commission) which yielded the report Our Common Future and the accepted definition of a sustainable society, i.e., a society where the needs of present generations are met without endangering the potential for future generations to meet their needs. In the 1990’s this ground-breaking work led to Agenda 21 and later Agenda 2030, which expressed sustainability in three dimensions: environmental, societal and economic sustainability. All three dimensions are needed for a product, service or system to be truly sustainable.

The built environmental creates a significant carbon footprint, e.g., in terms of energy needs, embodied carbon and waste production. In recognition of the need to reduce the carbon footprint of the built...
environment, initiatives were started around the world to improve building sustainability, e.g., by improving the energy efficiency of buildings and increasing the use of “green” materials and attributes in buildings. These efforts are laudable and should continue, but some significant incidents have resulted from a simplistic reliance on fire safety regulations, coupled to a failure to recognize the impact that design choices driven by sustainability objectives might have on fire safety.

In this presentation, Professor McNamee will argue for the need to consider sustainability from a holistic perspective and the need to create a Sustainable and Fire Resilient Built Environment (SAFR-BE) to ensure that both sustainability and fire safety objectives are applied together, as part of building design. The concept of sustainable fire safety as explored by McNamee will illustrate that these objectives do not need to be conflicting, and that sustainable fire safety makes sense. At its heart of this understanding of fire safety and sustainability, lies the need to consider a system holistically, to recognize that sustainability is not the whole jigsaw puzzle but just a part of the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. When considering fire safety and sustainability together, we recognize the value of considering an investment in safety in relation to the development of codes and standards, code compliance an informed public and much more.

Day 1 – Breakout Sessions – Case Studies
The Camp Wildfire

**FACILITATOR**
Yana Valachovic, M.S., RPF
County Director – Forest Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension – Humboldt and Del Norte Counties
yvala@ucanr.edu

Yana Valachovic is a California registered professional forester and forest scientist whose skills and interests cover a broad set of natural resource fields. She has worked as an extension agent at the University of California since 2000. Over the last decade, much of her work has pivoted from forestry to wildfire mitigation, given California’s challenges. She has published papers on fire behavior in coastal California forests and the intersection of fire performance in home and landscape design. In her role, she is active in California policy development and has been a technical resource for bioenergy, forest management, home hardening, and improvements to defensible space legislation. Yana works at many scales and is a leader in developing and delivering local and state strategies to improve wildfire resilience.

Yana will bring this panel her policy perspectives and research on the 2018 Camp Fire, where she and colleagues investigated housing arrangement and vegetation-related factors associated with home survival provided. They also explored whether California’s 2008 adoption of exterior building codes for homes built in the wildland-urban-interface (WUI) improved survival. Homes built before 1997 fared poorly, with only 11.5% surviving, compared with 38.5% for homes built in 1997 and after. The difference in survival percentage for homes built immediately before and after adopting Chapter 7A in the California Building Code (37% and 43%, respectively) was not statistically significant. Distance to nearest destroyed structure, number of structures destroyed within 100 m, and overstory canopy cover within 100 m of the home were the strongest predictors of survival. Most fire damage to surviving homes resulted from radiant heat from nearby burning structures or flame impingement from the ignition of near-home combustible materials, the latter highlighting the value of eliminating combustible items in the area closest to the home (0-1.5 m). Survival of newer homes increased significantly when they were >18 m away from a destroyed structure and with lower canopy cover within 100 m. The findings, corroborated by photographs taken of damaged but not destroyed homes, indicate that structural fuels (burning homes, sheds etc.) and wildland fuels influenced the likelihood of home survival, pointing to changes that could substantially improve outcomes. [10.1186/s42408-021-00117-0]

Yana Valachovic earned a M.S. Degree from Oregon State University in 1998.

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**FACILITATOR**
Birgitte Messerschmidt, M.Sc.
Director, Research
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Birgitte earned an M.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark and has spent her entire career working on fire safety issues.

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**FACILITATOR**
Mike Crowley, P.E., FSFPE
Principal Advisor, Fire Protection Engineering
Coffman Engineers, Inc.
mike.crowley@coffman.com

Great fire protection and life safety design integrated into the design of a building is Mike’s approach to a safe built environment. Mike is a principal advisor with over 40 years of fire protection consulting experience in unique structures around the world ranging from NFL Football stadiums to high-rise atrium office buildings. He is a subject matter expert in healthcare fire protection and life safety. Other industry-related activities include NFPA Codes and Standards development.

Mike is an instructor for NFPA’s Life Safety Code Course (NFPA 101), NFPA 99, and ASHE on NFPA 99, and a frequent speaker on topics including code compliance in healthcare and fire protection engineering in the built environment.

Mike lives in Houston and is establishing Coffman’s fire protection practice in the area and throughout Texas.
Benjamin has an B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester MA, USA.

Day 2 – Breakout Sessions – Contemporary Issues

Alternative Energy Sources

FACILITATOR

Noah L. Ryder, Ph.D., MBA, P.E., NAFI
Managing Partner
Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC
nyrder@fireriskalliance.com

For over 20 years Dr. Noah Ryder has focused on understanding fire and explosion’s interaction with both built and natural environments. He presently serves as a Principal Engineer and Managing Partner at Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC, and leads the Risk, Modeling, Applied Research, and Forensics group. He is a licensed professional fire protection engineer and focuses on how safety can be improved through the use of quantitative risk assessments, hazard evaluations, computer modeling, applied research, and performance-based design. Dr. Ryder is the Technical Committee Chair for the SFPE Foundation, actively serves on multiple NFPA technical committees, and frequently publishes and presents his work.

Dr. Ryder is knowledgeable in the application of empirical and numerical models and laboratory testing and has led numerous large consulting projects and applied research programs. Dr. Ryder’s extensive experience has included Faculty Lead for the development of the UMD Hyperloop project, development of patented fire detection systems, and work on the largest battery energy storage facility in the world.

In 2004 he earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the R.H. Smith Business School at the University of Maryland at College Park. Noah earned a B.Sc. in Fire Protection Engineering in 1999, and a M.Sc. in Fire Protection Engineering in 2000, both from the University of Maryland.

In 2004 he earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the R.H. Smith Business School at the University of Maryland at College Park. Noah earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in 2006.

Day 2 – Breakout Session – Contemporary Issues

The Residential Fire Problem

FACILITATOR

Assistant Chief
Chief of Fire Prevention
Fire Department of New York
joseph.jardin@fdny.nyc.gov

During his more than 35 years with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Joe has served as a firefighter and fire officer in engine, ladder, rescue and squad companies. As a chief officer, Joe spent several years in the department’s Rescue Operations Battalion, served as the agency’s Chief of Safety, and is currently FDNY’s Chief of Fire Prevention. Before joining the FDNY, Joe was employed by Bechtel Power Corporation and the National Fire Protection Association as a Fire Protection Engineer. Chief Jardin has served as a member and Chair of numerous NFPA technical committees and also spent seven years as a member of NFPA’s Standards Council. He is currently chairs the NFPA 1700 – Guide for Structural Firefighting committee.

On the morning of Sunday January 9, 2022, FDNY responded to the report of a fire at 331 East 181 Street. Arriving units discovered a fire on the second floor of a “duplex-down” apartment (apartment occupying floor area on the second and third floors with access on floor three) in a 19-story fireproof building. 17 fatalities resulted, in large part because of the combined impact of an open door and the fire department’s inability to enter the building. As a result, Joe began a comprehensive review of the response and investigation of the fire to determine any improvements or lessons learned. He then presented the results of the review and the improvements implemented to the department's personnel and to the media.

This breakout session will explore the current day residential fire problem, with a focus on low-income communities, and discuss the current trend to introduce legislative action (or non-action) to promote the increased inventory of affordable housing. In this session, attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the fire department’s response and investigation of the fire, along with recommendations for future improvements.
Carl Baldassarra is a Principal and Manager of the Fire Protection practice at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a Fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers as well as a Past President and former member of its Board of Directors. He has given numerous presentations on contemporary fire protection topics and is the author of many technical publications. His experience includes fire and life safety analysis, fire protection system design, building and fire code investigations. Notable projects include the Willis Tower, Chicago; United Airlines Terminal, Chicago; Dallas Code Study; and the Intro mass timber building.

Carl Baldassarra has served on many NFPA and ICC technical committees, including: the ICC Code Technology Committee; the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings; NFPA 1, Fire Code; NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems; and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.

Chris Connealy has served in public safety for 44 years. He began his fire service career in 1978 with the Houston (TX) Fire Department, where he rose through the ranks to Fire Chief. Upon his retirement from HFD, Chief Connealy went on to serve as Chief of the Cedar Park (TX) Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal of Texas, and now serves as the Director of Emergency Services for Williamson County, Texas.

On April 17, 2013, while Chief Connealy was Texas State Fire Marshal, the City of West, Texas experienced a catastrophic explosion of an ammonium nitrate fertilizer plant. The explosion killed ten first responders and civilians, and caused damage in a 37 square block area, destroying numerous homes, and causing extensive damage to an apartment complex, an intermediate school, nearby railroad facilities and community infrastructure. The local fire department’s equipment was totally destroyed. A crater 93 feet wide was created at the seat of the blast.

In response to the disaster, the Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) played a critical role in the post-incident investigation, including investigating the Line of Duty Deaths of fire department first responders. In the aftermath of the disaster, the SFMO was tasked by the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee of the Texas House of Representatives to identify storage facilities in Texas with a large amount of ammonium nitrate and ultimately create a Texas outreach program to educate all counties in Texas with similar facilities.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the State of Texas in the aftermath of the West, Texas explosion, Fire Marshal Connealy was named a 2014 Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine. He also received the 2014 National Association of State Fire Marshals’ President’s Award for his efforts to improve fire investigations, his efforts to prevent another West, Texas incident, and for developing a comprehensive survey document for other Fire Marshal’s offices to use when conducting comparative analysis.

In this presentation, Chris Connealy will review the lessons-learned from the City of West, Texas disaster and relate them to the aims and benefits of the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem.
Our thanks to the sponsors of this symposium

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