



ALBERTVILLE	ELK RIVER	PLYMOUTH
ANDOVER	FRIDLEY	RAMSEY
ANOKA/CHAMPLIN	GOLDEN VALLEY	ROBBINSDALE
BIG LAKE	HAMEL	ROGERS
BROOKLYN CENTER	HANOVER	ROSEVILLE
BROOKLYN PARK	HAM LAKE	ST. ANTHONY
CENTENNIAL	MAPLE GROVE	ST. MICHAEL
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	MEDICINE LAKE	SBM
COON RAPIDS	MINNEAPOLIS	WEST METRO
DAYTON	OAK GROVE	
EAST BETHEL	OSSEO	

WEBSITE [HTTP:WWW.NSRMAA.ORG](http://www.nsrmaa.org)

**North Suburban Fire Marshals Association  
Roseville Fire Department  
August 31, 2004**

**Meeting Minutes**

**A. Call to Order**

President Ralph Messer called the regular meeting to order at 9:10am. Sixteen inspectors, marshals, chiefs, and educators, representing 11 different fire agencies attended.

**B. Welcome by Host Department**

Fire inspector Doug Johnson welcomed everyone to the City of Roseville.

**C. Educational Session**

Jon Nisja from the State Fire Marshals Office gave a great presentation on the importance of providing and maintaining adequate exiting from buildings. Proper exiting must be the highest priority to ensure the safety of all occupants. Exits belong to the occupants. Inadequate or impaired exits are a violation of the occupants rights. People must be able to get out of the building to a safe place in the event of an emergency. Always consider the worst-case scenario when calculating the occupant load. For example, in a drinking and dining establishment with a dance floor always assume the seats and the dance floor are occupied at the same time. Treat outdoor seating the same way you treat indoor seating. The I codes offer significant exit width reductions for sprinklered buildings, but emergencies other than fire, such as severe weather or panic, may occur. Consider that too many exit signs in a building may actually confuse the occupants. The maximum pressure for operating panic hardware is 15 pounds and this is often overlooked during field inspections. Exits with delayed egress hardware should not only be released during an alarm, but also if the fire alarm system is in trouble. Be sure to measure travel distance. Stairs can quickly add up to long distances. Exiting can also be reduced for smoke protected seating. Be sure the timed egress analysis includes delays for fire ignition, fire detection, and alarm sequence. The calculated time should then be doubled to provide a 100% safety margin. This will accommodate for delays due to problems such as obstructed exits. Always keep in mind, if it looks like an exit it must be maintained as an exit. Thank you Jon for a great presentation!

#### **D. Acceptance of Last Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Kip LaMotte and seconded by Bill Calder to approve the last meeting minutes as mailed. The motion carried and President Messer accepted the minutes dated May 25, 2004.

#### **E. Fire Safety House Report**

Thank you to Centennial, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake, SBM, and others, that helped staff the safety house at the Anoka County Fair. Also, thank you to Dave Bruder for making the necessary repairs afterwards. Next year we hope to expand the exhibit and, hopefully, get a better location.

#### **F. State Fire Marshals Office Report**

Jon Nisja discussed the on-going budget problems at the SFM Office. Activities are reduced to those mandated by law. Nathan Kreye will not be replaced. Motion made by Bill Calder and seconded by Katherine Gove to draft a form letter in support of the SFM Office that can be used by member departments to notify their legislators. The motion carried.

Despite the budget woes, plans continue for next years SFM Office 100 year anniversary celebration.

#### **G. Code Committee Report**

No report.

#### **H. New Inspectors or Marshals**

None.

#### **I. Old Business**

None.

#### **J. New Business**

President Messer informed the group about the Kidde fire extinguisher recall and the smoke damper recall. Information can be found on the State Fire Marshal website at <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/firerecalls.html>.

John Piper and President Messer are dealing with a business by the name of Masterguard. The company sells home fire detection and alarm systems and targets seniors. They notify seniors that presentations will be made at a nearby restaurant, such as Old Country Buffet. Scare tactics are used and the average cost of a system is \$3,000 - \$5,000. Other names associated with them are Figgy International, Safety Solution, and Interstate Engineering, John Crelly from Fridley has a list of presentation locations and dates. Contact him at 763-706-3654 or [CrellyJ@ci.fridley.mn.us](mailto:CrellyJ@ci.fridley.mn.us) if you would like more information. The company likes to recruit new firefighters to help give their sales pitch. Please let John know if this company contacts you or you hear they are active in your city.

September 11<sup>th</sup> is Patriots Day at Spring Lake Park High School. A gathering will be held with keynote speakers, and representatives of the police, fire and EMS services, to commemorate 9/11. A military fly by may top the event.

It's fire safety poster contest time again. The poster contest rules and applications will be emailed out.

### **K. Good of the Association**

Mick Niess informed the group about upcoming training opportunities: Terrorism Symposium in November, Public Education Conference in February of 2005, and Alan Brunacini will be here in late April or early May of 2005.

### **L. Adjournment**

No further business appearing, a motion was made by Bob Fiske and seconded by Katherine Gove to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and President Messer declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brad Matti*

Brad Matti

NSFMA Secretary

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### **NEXT MEETING**

St. Anthony Fire  
3505 Silver Lake Road  
9:00am on Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup>

### **PROGRAM**

Open discussions about code questions and problems inspectors are experiencing in the field.