

Why Be a Member?

FIRE EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION



Founded in 1930, the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association (FEMA) is an international, non-profit trade association dedicated to manufacturing commercial fire protection equipment to be the first line of defense against early-stage fires.

WHO MAKES UP FEMA?

- The organization is led by industry experts with decades of fire protection experience. FEMA members represent the top global brands in fire protection.
- The Association is composed of three product categories:
 - Fire Hose, Cabinet & Valve
 - Portable Fire Extinguishers
 - Pre-Engineered Fire Suppression Systems
- Members work collectively in smaller product-specific teams to impact industry issues and outcomes.



CORE PREMISE

- Efforts are centered around the key premise that safety to life is best achieved through the implementation of “layered fire protection”—a concept in which a proactive safety plan does not rely on any single safeguard.

FEMA representatives Dwayne Garriss (Code Consultant), Robert Bell (President, Brooks Equipment), Derek Wester (Technical Manager, Amerex) and Ben Pitts (VP - Sales and Marketing, Amerex) attend the 34th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner hosted by Congressional Fire Services Institute.



MISSION

- Member companies unite to save lives and protect property through education and awareness, advancement of the fire equipment marketplace, and improvement in regulatory requirements.



KEY INITIATIVES

- Lead advocacy efforts to safeguard the public through lobbying activities and participation in code writing processes
- Provide top education opportunities, collateral, and resources
- Advance best industry standards and practices by promoting the principle that life safety is best served through “layered fire protection”

RECENT ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked to change state fire codes in more than 20 states to protect portable fire extinguishers in their fire codes and improved fire safety.
- Secured passage of legislation in Washington DC to improve fire safety for men and women in uniform by requiring US military bases across the world to match national model codes and to require portable fire extinguishers throughout buildings.



CURRENT ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- Working to push the General Services Administration, the federal agency charged with managing federal buildings and the largest landlord in the United States, to match national model codes and to require portable extinguishers throughout buildings. Currently, they are exempt from state fire codes and limit portable extinguishers to only hazardous areas such as boiler rooms.
- Working in Washington State to ensure trained professionals from fire extinguisher distributors can install, maintain and service pre-engineered extinguishing systems. The State Building Code Council is considering only allowing professionals trained on other fire protection systems to install and service these systems.

continued on back



LIST OF CURRENT MEMBER COMPANIES:

<https://femalifesafety.org/members/>



Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's "Firefighter 101" day

“ Navigating regulatory landscapes requires deep industry knowledge and strategic insights. FEMA plays a crucial role in advocating for policies that benefit fire protection equipment to serve as the first line of defense against fire in its early stages. The thought leadership of its members, who are industry experts and innovators, provides invaluable perspectives that shape our advocacy efforts. Together, we collaborate to influence legislative decisions and ensure our industry remains competitive and sustainable in an ever-evolving regulatory environment. ”

— JEFF TERREY
FEMA Public Affairs Counsel

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Collaboration with other key executives and companies in the fire equipment industry
- Participation in Association meetings and seminars
- Representation on key NFPA Standards, holding numerous seats on NFPA Committees, such as NFPA 1, 101, 5000, 14, 1961-1964, 96, 17, 17A, and many others
- Direct input into model building codes and fire codes through FEMA's full-time Code Consultant
- Representation on UL advisory committees, such as STP 407, 300, and 605
- Relationship building and partnership opportunities with other key associations, such as NASFM, NFPA, State Legislators, Government Officials, NAFED, state associations, and other influential organizations
- Opportunity to influence regional and state code requirements
- United stance on important industry issues
- Promotion of the layered fire protection concept and access to marketing materials, presentations, and research
- Use of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association platform for discussion of ideas, including NFPA 10 committee initiatives



“ Staying at the forefront of fire and building code regulations that have an impact on the business interests of FEMA members is paramount. Serving as FEMA's code consultant has connected me with a network of top professionals whose thought leadership continually shapes the direction of our industry. Through collaborative efforts and shared knowledge, we are able to tackle complex challenges more effectively, and advance best industry standards and practices using FEMA's core premise: that safety to life is best served through the implementation of layered fire protection, a concept in which a proactive safety plan does not rely on any single safeguard. ”

— DWAYNE GARRISS
FEMA Code Consultant



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

FEMA has created numerous educational and marketing materials on subjects related to fire and life safety that are made available to its membership. These educational documents include infographics, videos, quizzes, and other materials which are the most heavily viewed pages on the FEMA website.

One topic, layered fire protection, is what FEMA believes is the only solution to achieving adequate fire safety conditions in all structures. The multiple components – portable fire extinguishers, standpipe fire hose stations, and suppression systems – must work together within layered fire protection to provide the first line of defense against a fire in the early stages. This message has been featured in numerous magazines, newsletters, and websites in support of the campaign's efforts to save lives and protect property.