



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS

Government Relations

June 20, 2002

Dr. Paul Croce
Vice President and Manager,
Research Division
Factory Mutual Research Corporation
1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike
Norwood, MA 02062

Dear Dr. Croce:

The purpose of this letter is to formally request your participation in a serious, independent inquiry into the adequacy of the fire protection provisions of the nation's building codes. Recently, I was asked to head this initiative by James Burns, State Fire Administrator for the State of New York, and chairman of the Catastrophic Fire Prevention Task Force of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). NASFM represents the most senior fire officials in each of the 50 states and District of Columbia.

NASFM is intent upon ensuring that the US building codes address reasonably foreseeable and potentially catastrophic fire hazards and require the highest levels of building performance in the interest of public safety and property protection. Our job will be to recommend how the building codes must be strengthened.

We will draw on the lessons of September 11, but also on what we know about the contents of today's buildings, automatic fire sprinkler performance, compliance and enforcement patterns, and the strengths and weaknesses of the relevant fire codes and standards. Our group will concentrate first on the most obvious areas in need of revision, and then proceed more systematically through the codes.

So that you might more thoroughly understand our work, I have enclosed two documents.

- Our charter that explains the assignment. It should answer most questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions about what we are doing.

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- An agenda for our first meeting. It will be conducted on Thursday, July 11, 2002 at 10:00am and will require approximately two hours. I am hoping that you can join us in person or by conference phone for our first meeting. The meeting will be at the LaGuardia Marriott (agenda and details will be provided separately).

We have taken great care to invite individuals known for their expertise and integrity. All of us are busy people, concerned about how much time this will require. I will assure you that we will be efficient, but it is critical that this work be done thoughtfully. In the aftermath of September 11, too many assessments have been political or commercial. We intend to be an objective and credible voice for safer buildings, and hope you will be part of it.

Please RSVP to Carole Milazzo at NASFM Government Relations, by July 2, 2002. You can contact her via phone at 202-737-1226 or by email at cmilazzo@firemarshals.org.

Sincerely,

Walter Smittle III
NASFM Special Representative

Attachment

This invitation was also extended to:

Mr. Stephen Weinryb
Clarett Group
135 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10020

Joseph M. Perry
President California Fire Chiefs Association
15 Mission Oliver Court
Oroville, CA 95966

Howard Hopper
Manager, Corp Regulatory Svcs.
Underwriters Laboratories
1655 Scott Boulevard
Santa Clara, CA 95050-4169

Marty Durbin
Director, Federal Relations
American Chemistry Council/American Plastics Council
1300 Wilson Boulevard, 15th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209

J. Thomas Chapin, PhD
General Manager, Fire Protection Division
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333 Pfingsten Road
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