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## I NEED CPD POINTS!



BY DANIEL DECKER, CFPS, CPP, SET  
SAFETY SYSTEMS

Do you have a NICET certification renewal coming up, and need Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points? For quite a few years, BFAAM has been able to fill that need with a Fire Alarm Code Update Course every three years that provided 18 CPD points you could pick up in one weekend. Our last course was held in 2019, and should cover those with NICET certifications expiring through this year. However, this is the year we would normally hold Code Update courses, and due to inaction on the part of the State of Michigan, we can't offer them until next year at the earliest.

Code Update courses are required in the 12 months following the State's adoption of a new edition of the National Electrical Code, which is issued every three years. The current 2017 edition referenced by the State is overdue to be updated to the 2020 edition, and the update process takes approximately 12 months. I recently checked with the State Electrical Division on the status of the update process, and they indicated they are trying to complete the Energy Code, and that the Electrical Code was next in line, hopefully starting the process in early July 2022. That would indicate that the process would not be completed until mid-2023, and at that point we could then offer Code Update courses. We plan to start the course update preparation soon, so that we can hit the ground running in the fall of 2023 with Code Update courses, assuming the Code makes it through the regulatory process. However, that will introduce a roughly nine-month gap in providing the 18 CPD points our course normally provides.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 issue that led to the delays in updating the electrical code also created a number of on-line opportunities for technical training that offer CPD points that can be used for NICET certification renewals. Remember, you need 90 CPD points over a three-year period, and 72 of those can be earned by full time employment in the industry. The remaining 18 points can be earned from a variety of sources. College credit courses are worth 15 points per semester hour; training courses with pre-assigned CEU's are worth 1 point for each 0.1 CEU; membership in a professional society, such as BFAAM or NFPA, are worth up to 1 point annually per society; passing one NICET exam (but not meeting the full exam requirement) is worth 15 points; meeting a higher-level exam requirement is worth 45 points, and upgrading your NICET certification to a higher level is worth 90 points.

In addition to on line training offerings from various fire alarm manufacturers, the Automatic Fire Alarm Association ([www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)) offers a regular series of fire alarm related on line training opportunities. As an added bonus, AFAA membership itself is worth a point a year, and you can pick up valuable training with associated CEU points as well.

BFAAM will continue to monitor the progress of the State adoption of the 2020 NEC, and will provide advance notification when our Code Update program will be available. Until then – stay safe! 🚒

## BFAAM FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST CITY OF ANN ARBOR

Last month, BFAAM formally filed a complaint against the City of Ann Arbor for not following the Michigan Occupational Code (PA 299 of 1980) allowing direct plans to be prepared by a registered design professional. Specifically, subsection 10 which states: (e) Any activity for which the person is licensed under article 7 of the skilled trades regulation act, MCL 339.5701 to 339.5739

Despite directing the city to the state law, they stated that fire alarm drawings need to be signed and sealed, or have NICET certification on them, Level 3 or higher.

BFAAM has submitted their complaint to the Bureau of Construction Codes and is awaiting an official response.

We see local municipalities not following Michigan law periodically and we encourage you to contact BFAAM so we can address these issues as an association. We also encourage to attend the BFAAM Annual Conference on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Lansing to learn more about this process and what BFAAM can do to help you. 📞



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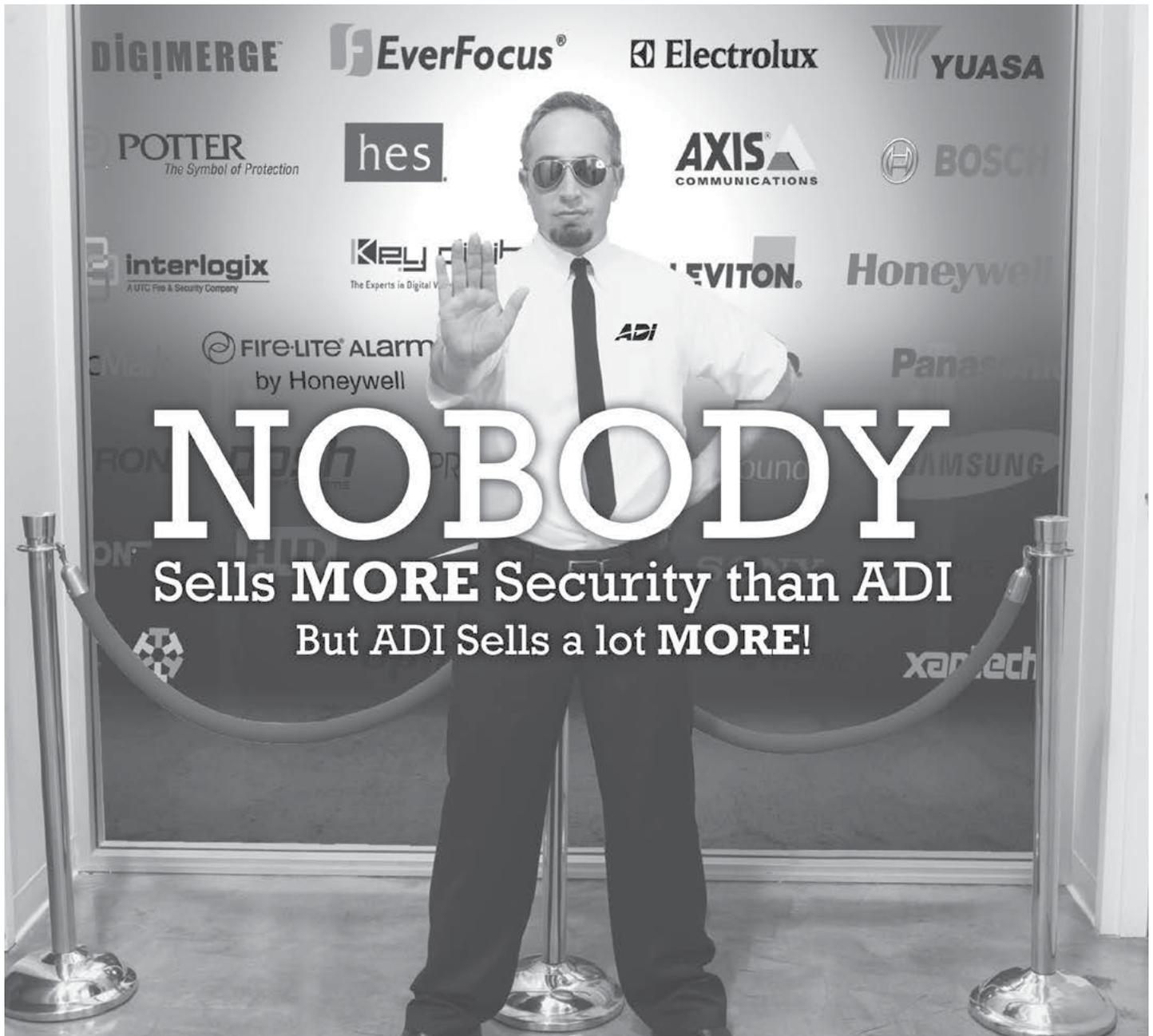


# CHALLENGES WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

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## BFAAM LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

# Q&A WITH SEN. ED McBROOM



State Sen. Ed McBroom serves the Upper Peninsula's 38th Senate District and is Caucus Dean. McBroom chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Oversight committees. He previously served a full three terms in the state House of Representatives from 2011-2016.

McBroom is a fourth generation dairy farmer, and operates his family's 100-year-old farm, which in addition to raising Holsteins, also grows corn, wheat, and hay. He is active in the community, serving on the U.P. State Fair Authority, as dairy superintendent of the Dickinson County Fair, and Director of the Norway City Band. He also directs music at the First Baptist Church of Norway.

McBroom holds bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Social Studies Secondary Education from Northern Michigan University.

He and his wife Sarah have five children and eight nieces and nephews. They reside in Waucedah.

### WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY?

My top legislative priorities tend to revolve around bureaucratic reform and government transparency. Many of the bills I sponsor are associated with these topics to adopt meaningful reforms and ensure government is open and accountable.

### WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The best part of serving as a state legislator is hearing from constituents and helping address issues that they bring forward.

### WHAT'S THE BIGGEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR DISTRICT?

The U.P. has many well-known attractions like Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Tahquamenon Falls or the Porcupine Mountains, but some of the biggest hidden gems are the lesser-known attractions like Copper Peak, Kitch-iti-kipi Big Spring and the smaller waterfalls.

### WHO'S YOUR MODERN DAY HERO?

I look up to all of the American truck drivers that drive back and forth across our nation delivering products that we all rely on each and every day. 🚛

## THE BFAAM PAC NEEDS YOU!

BFAAM is constantly fighting for our industry, for our livelihoods, and for you! BFAAM cannot do this without your support. Your membership into the BFAAM PAC is more important now than ever. Become a PAC member today! Visit [www.bfaam.org/pac](http://www.bfaam.org/pac) to donate online! Large or small, we appreciate any effort you make to help our alarm industry.

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# SECURING ORGANIZATIONS WITH HYBRID & REMOTE WORKERS

BY KAYLEIGH BOOMGAARD  
MARKETING ASSISTANT AT EPS SECURITY

In March of 2020, the workplace model we once knew changed drastically. More than two years later, companies continue to offer hybrid and remote workplace opportunities. According to the Pew Research Center, 59% of United States workers who can perform their jobs remotely, now work from home full-time<sup>1</sup> (2022). Another 18% of U.S. workers report working from home “some of the time,” otherwise referred to as a hybrid model.

Remote workers, and the companies which employ them, reap the benefits of workplace flexibility, including: saving time and money on commutes, preserving energy in traditional office spaces, accessing a wider talent pool, and more. Varying employee sched-

ules, however, create unique security dilemmas for business owners and the companies providing their commercial protection.

Whether a business is staffed full-time and in-person, only hosts employees on particular weekdays, or is merely more than a storage facility, site security is essential. As providers in an evolving industry, we must familiarize ourselves with the complexities of securing hybrid and remote workspaces. After all, modern problems require modern (security) solutions.

## SECURITY OBSTACLES, EXPLAINED

In preparing to offer security solutions to businesses with remote and hybrid workers, we must first familiarize ourselves with the associated obstacles. Industry experts understand just how vital safety systems are in protecting the people, places, and things



affiliated with a business. Our customers, however, may not see these benefits as clearly.

With employees who come and go on varying schedules, business owners may doubt that security systems are fit to protect their space. Combating this concern, among others, allows security providers to bridge the gap between consultant and client.

Common consumer questions may include:

1. Why is a security system necessary?
2. How can we secure a building while providing flexible employee access?
3. How does a security system function when no one is on-site?
4. Won't a security system complicate building operations?

At an internal level, business leadership and security consultants alike should consider their approach to flexible user access, alarm system monitoring, individualized ID, after-hours operations, programmed door locking, system reporting, and more. Exploring your company's specific approach to these topics will better position you to secure diverse workplace models.

### **SECURITY PRIORITIES FOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH AT-HOME EMPLOYEES**

In proposing solutions for a workplace with hybrid or remote employees, we must also understand the unique security interests of these organizations. Let's take a look:

- Securing their brick & mortar, and other on-site assets
- Maintaining oversight of employee activity & schedules
- Providing flexible building access for employees

Recognizing the security priorities of these clients may not look identical to businesses' with fully in-person operations, is key. If an office space were fully staffed, for example, it would be fairly obvious if Joe or Jane never showed, if Ben snagged the candy bar from Sarah's desk, if the break room refrigerator began leaking, or

## **INDUSTRY EXPERTS UNDERSTAND JUST HOW VITAL SAFETY SYSTEMS ARE IN PROTECTING THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS AFFILIATED WITH A BUSINESS. OUR CUSTOMERS, HOWEVER, MAY NOT SEE THESE BENEFITS AS CLEARLY.**

if a vandal broke a back window. When half of the office works from home, however, this is not the case. Here's where security professionals come in.

Security solutions for businesses which do not operate fully in-person, may be more proactive and oversight-oriented than systems at other commercial locations. Alarm systems fit to secure businesses with hybrid and remote workers likely require remote compatibility, system reporting, and individualized employee access. Additionally, flexible employee schedules require security solutions that offer equally flexible employee access, all while maintaining building safety.

Rising to meet the intersectional security goals of these organizations may not be a simple task...but they don't call us "industry experts," for nothing.

### **AN EVOLVING INDUSTRY**

Five years back, we could have never predicted the coming change in workplace structure. Similarly, as security providers, we cannot anticipate the ever-changing security needs of our consumers. But as alarm system technology and business security needs continue to evolve, it's important that our approach to safety partnerships continues to advance all the same. (🔒)

1 Parker, Kim, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, and Rachel Minkin. "Covid-19 Pandemic Continues to Reshape Work in America." Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project. Pew Research Center, February 16, 2022. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2022/02/16/covid-19-pandemic-continues-to-reshape-work-in-america/>.



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Are you interested in becoming a BFAAM board member? If so, please contact **Jason Wadaga**.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2022  
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, October 21, 2022  
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

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