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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TOM KRAMER
Riverside Integrated Systems



BFAAM has been hard at work on your behalf to protect our industry, help it grow, and assist you with keeping your employees trained and up to date on regulatory changes.

- In 2019, BFAAM again hosted code update courses for the fire alarm specialty technician licensing requirements of the Michigan Skilled Trades Act. We had nearly four hundred attendees at five different courses from Livonia to Grand Rapids.
- The BFAAM Apprenticeship Program, that we started less than ten years ago, has been a huge success. In its infancy we predicted that we would train roughly 200 apprentices. To date, we have enrolled over 600 apprentices and have almost thirty enrolled already in 2020.
- Our Government relations efforts have also been active. We have continued to advocate on your behalf at the Capitol while hosting several events at our headquarters with Michigan's biggest political leaders.
- As in previous years, our team has also worked to prevent overzealous local officials from imposing burdensome regulations on your business and operating outside of the code. We recently submitted two suggested changes to the Michigan Building Code through the Bureau of Construction which you can read about more in this newsletter.
- The BFAAM communications team has increased their efforts to assist our membership with pertinent information that is relevant to your company. We have also moved our newsletter, *BFAAM News*, to an electronic publication in 2020 to be more efficient with our resources.

The first half of 2020 has certainly presented all of us with some unforeseen challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to adjust to how we service our customers. The goal of our 2020 Annual Conference will be to help our membership adjust to the "new normal".

I'm looking forward to making 2020 a great year for BFAAM and its members. I wish you and your company much prosperity in 2020 and beyond! 🍀

CODE UPDATE NOT INCLUDED IN CODE BOOKS

Manual Pull Stations to be Located Near Exit Doors in Schools



DANIEL G. DECKER, CFPS, CPP, SET
Safety Systems, Inc

Just a heads up to make everyone aware of a code change that isn't in the code books! In our code update courses, one of the exercises is to review the layout of a school building with a vestibule at the end of a corridor. In the exercise, the manual pull station is located at the end of the corridor at the entrance to the vestibule, and

then there is an outside door exiting the vestibule. The purpose of the exercise is to point out that the Michigan Building Code requires pull stations to be located within 5' of the entrance to the exit. While the scenario described appears to meet the code requirement, in reality the code considers the exit to be the actual door leav-

ing the building, and State Building Code officials have been enforcing locating the pull stations at the exit door from the vestibule.

Pretty much everyone has heard of school shootings where the shooter came in an outside door, pulled the fire alarm pull



station, and then started picking off students as they exited the building. Obviously, a system designed to protect lives shouldn't be a tool used to take lives, and the Construction Code officials have developed a solution to avoid this situation. The Bureau of Fire Services never required pull stations at the outside door of a vestibule, historically they have accepted them at the entrance to a vestibule, but the BCC building officials were less lenient.

Recently, Public Act 230 of 1972, the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, was modified to resolve this situation. Section 125.1504h was recently modified to read: "Sec. 4h. A school building that has a vestibule is not required to have a manual fire alarm box installed within the vestibule if a manual fire alarm box is located within 5 feet of the interior door of the vestibule." Since the Construction Code Act is the legislation that authorizes the Michigan Building Code, making the change to this act effectively trumps the requirements of the adopted building code.

So as a heads up, even though there have been no changes to the relevant codes, pull stations in school vestibules now belong back at the interior entrance to the vestibule. (b)

BFAAM MAKES PROPOSED CODE CHANGE REQUESTS TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

BFAAM membership continues to deal with issues in various jurisdictions that are making requirements above and beyond the construction code in Michigan. Because of this, we have decided to make two requests to the State of Michigan as it relates to "Dedicated Function Alarm Systems" in the code.

Some jurisdictions are requiring occupancies that install sprinkler supervisory service, to also install occupant notification systems, effectively extending the requirements of 907.2 to occupancies not required by 907.2 in the code. This requirement results in additional expenditure for plan review, labor, materials and inspections to add audible and visual notification appliances to occupancies that are not required by 907.2 to provide a fire alarm system.

BFAAM believes that providing a sprinkler system lowers the risks associated with a fire and should not be the basis for requiring occupant notification that otherwise would not be required.

The requested language from BFAAM is as follows:

NEW SECTION

"Dedicated Function Fire Alarm Systems. A dedicated function fire alarm system that does not provide occupant notification shall be permitted to meet the requirements of this section, provided the occupancy is not required by Section 907.2 to have a fire alarm system."

NEW DEFINITION

DEDICATED FUNCTION FIRE ALARM SYSTEM: *A fire alarm system that is intended to operate specifically identified emergency control functions, including remote monitoring of automatic sprinkler systems and smoke and heat detector monitoring for elevator control."*

BFAAM will now await a decision from the Bureau of Construction Codes.

"The State of Michigan has indicated that state law allows the bureau to skip a cycle in adopting the 2018 code and they have yet to determine if they do so," said Dan Decker, BFAAM Government Relations Chairman. "We're hopeful that they decide to stay the course, include our suggestions, and adopt to code so that we can put this ongoing issue to rest," added Decker. (b)

BFAAM LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Q&A WITH SEN. DAN LAUWERS

In November 2018, residents of Michigan' 25th Senate District elected Sen. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway Township, to the state Senate, representing Huron, St. Clair, and Sanilac counties as well as Armada Township, Memphis, New Baltimore, Richmond and Richmond Township in Macomb County.

Lauwers serves as chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee and vice chairman of the Insurance and Banking Committee. Lauwers is also a member of the committees on Agriculture; Economic and Small Business Development; Government Operations; Regulatory Reform; and Transportation and Infrastructure.

Before joining the Senate, Lauwers served six years in the Michigan House of Representatives, representing the 81st District.

Prior to his time in the Legislature, Lauwers founded Eastern Michigan Grain in 1993 and led the company through 2013. He previously worked for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the National Milk Producers Federation. He also served as a legislative assistant in Washington D.C. to former Congressman Bill Schuette.

Dan is the former chairman of the Brockway Township Recreational Council, St. Clair Soil Conservation Service, St. Clair County MSU Extension Education Advisory Board and the St. Clair County March of Dimes. He also is a member of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, American Society for Agronomy, American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Grain and Feed Association and the Grain and Elevator Processor Society.

Lauwers earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics with an emphasis on marketing from Michigan State University.

Dan and his wife, Kellie, are the proud parents of three children: Jon, Lauren and Nick. Lauwers is an active member of Sacred

Heart Catholic Church in Yale council and a member of the church stewardship committee, and he serves as an usher.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY?

Industrialized hemp. It's a new market and new crop. Most people don't realize produces feed, fiber and pharmaceuticals. It's a new crop and a new market for Michigan farmers.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Helping people and solving problems.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR DISTRICT?

The west beach area of the Thumb. Most people don't realize it exists. It's unbelievable.

WHO'S YOUR MODERN DAY HERO?

My dad. He's the person I have always looked up to the most and inspires me the most. I've always been hopeful that my actions live up to his expectations. 🙏

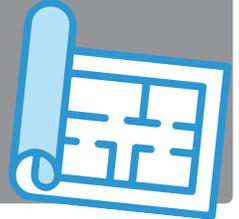


What the BFAAM PAC Has Done For You



Protected the **Security Alarm License** from elimination attempts by the state legislature

Had legislation signed into law to allow **Fire Alarm Specialty Technicians** to design fire alarm shop drawings, instead of requiring the drawings get stamped by an Architect or PE when applying for a permit to install a fire alarm system



Assisted in the passage of the **Skilled Trades Act** to assist the industry with workforce issues

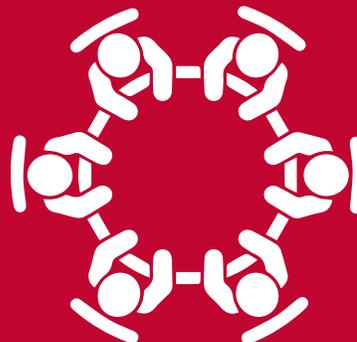
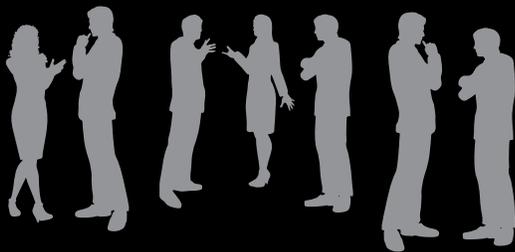
ACT 407



Protected your **company** from overzealous bureaucrats and local officials



Hosts receptions at its headquarters annually with the **Speaker of the House**, **Senate Majority Leader** and nearly all members of the Michigan Legislature



Providing you a **seat at the table** with those involved in state government

If you're not at the table, you're on it!

For the sake of our industry and your business, please contribute today! Visit bfaam.org for more information.

Make the call:

- To protect your loved ones
- To protect your business
- To protect your financial future and more

You have a lot to protect, and that's a good thing! I can help you find ways to have the peace of mind knowing you have things covered no matter what life throws at you. That's the great benefit life insurance can provide, the ability to provide a foundation for your financial future.

Contact me and I'll work with you to find solutions to help meet your protection needs.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BFAAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

We intend to have our annual conference in 2020, should we be able to follow state and federal guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please save Friday, October 23rd on your calendar for the event to be held at the BFAAM headquarters in Lansing. We will continue to update you on the agenda and safety protocols. 📅

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m.
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, October 23, 2020
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, December 2 at 9:30 a.m.
BFAAM Headquarters, Lansing, MI

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE JOB BANK AT BFAAM.ORG

BFAAM Members! You can share your job postings with the BFAAM community. This is a great way to find qualified candidates for your open positions. If you have a job or posting you would like to submit, please send it to BFAAM@kdafirm.com.

View the site at
bfaam.org/job-bank.

