



Fire Department Hot Topics for Hotels: Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan Updates

July 28, 2011

8:00am to 10:30am

Steelcase Showroom

4 Columbus Circle, 7th floor

The Program

Recent New York City Fire Code requirements have modified the requirements for hotel occupancies to be used when submitting to the Fire Department for amendment to the existing fire safety plan. Keeping current on this and other NYC Fire Code requirements is essential.

The program will explain how hotels can continue to remain updated on changes to fire code requirements. In addition, the program will highlight the benefits of developing and maintaining good communications with the FDNY in order to avoid costly mistakes and violations that could have been avoided by being better educated on code requirements.

Understanding New York Fire Codes and complying with its standards are essential to running a hotel smoothly and ensuring the health and safety of its employees, guests, and visitors. Because the New York Fire Code is constantly being revised, keeping abreast of current requirements is a challenge for every category of buildings, especially hotels. The Hotel Engineers' Association of New York has assembled a panel of industry leaders to brief hotels on the latest laws and regulations, focusing on hotel fire safety and evacuation plans.

This important seminar features Chief Jensen and Captain Evangelista from the New York City Fire Department who will provide you with background you will need to maintain compliance and avoid liability and violations for failure to comply with laws and regulations.

In addition to the Fire Department, the program will feature: Joseph Razza, Associate, Z.S. Engineering, P.C., an engineer whose practice concentrates on fire safety issues; Scott Geraghty, General Manager, Ritz Carlton; and John Osborn, Partner, John E. Osborn PC.

Our Distinguished Panel:



John E. Osborn, Esq.

John E. Osborn, PC

John E. (“Jack”) Osborn is the Managing Partner of John E. Osborn P.C., a 12 lawyer firm concentrating in complex construction, environmental, real estate law and litigation, which he founded in 1992. The firm’s clients include hotels, college and universities, school districts, charter schools, healthcare institutions, as well as commercial and residential developers. He has significant experience as a strategist and problem solver in negotiating contracts and advising companies on business, government relations and commercial matters. Mr. Osborn has tried multi-million dollar construction cases and has represented owners on multi-hundred million dollar projects which are among the largest and “highest profile” in the metropolitan area.



Joseph Razza, P.E., FSFPE

Z. S. Engineering

Joseph Razza, P.E., FSFPE is an Associate of Z.S. Engineering, P.C., a New York State licensed engineering firm specializing in fire protection and security consulting. Mr. Razza has gained an extensive knowledge of building and fire codes and has provided reviews, designs, specifications, inspections and testing of various fire protection systems. Mr. Razza holds a Bachelors of Engineering degree and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in New York State. He is an instructor at New York University (NYU) School of Continuing and professional Studies and has conducted numerous fire protection seminars for the Building Owners and Managers Association of New York (BOMA/NY), Fire Safety Directors Association (FSDA), Lorman Education, New York City Department of Buildings, New York City Fire Department, New York Society of Architects and Society of Protection Engineers (SFPE). He is a Past President of the Fire Safety Directors Association. In 2003, he received the Fire Safety Directors Award in recognition of his ideals of life safety and appreciation for his significant contribution to the cause of high-rise building fire protection.



Scott Geraghty

Ritz Carlton

Scott Geraghty is Area Vice President and General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Hotels of New York and Boston, overseeing the Battery Park, Central Park, Westchester and Boston Common properties. His background spans over thirty years and crosses a range of disciplines within the hospitality industry. Geraghty received a Bachelors Degree in International Relations from Lehigh University and a Degree in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of America. He has spent his time teaching others as a chef instructor at the Culinary School of Washington, and is currently a Guest Lecturer at the New York University Tisch Center for Hospitality Industry Studies.



Chief Thomas Jensen

Fire Department of New York

For the past 38 years, Chief Thomas Jensen has served for the FDNY and the last five were as Chief of Fire Prevention. His previous positions include Deputy Chief in Division 3, Battalion Chief in Battalion 8, Captain of Engine 8, Lieutenant in Engine 45, and Firefighter in Ladder 30. Chief Jensen earned a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from Cooper Union. Presently, he is the co-chair of the Fire Protection Systems committee for the Building Code 2011 Code Revision and a member of the Managing Committee for the 2011 Fire Code revision.

Captain Joseph Evangelista

Fire Department of New York

A veteran of the FDNY for 22 years, Captain Evangelista has gathered experience and made contributions in numerous units. Over the last five years, Joe has led the Bureau of Fire Prevention’s Emergency Planning and Preparedness Group. In this capacity, he oversees all the Emergency Action Plans, Fire Safety Plans and Fire Protection Plans accepted by the Department. He is currently a member of the Technical Committee for the 2011 Code Revision Project & also sat on the committee to establish the new Hotel Fire Safety Director on-site test.

