HPBA Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association

HOTNEWS

a monthly newsletter for HPBA members

HPBA Homepage

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Wood Stove Changeout

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## DOE Ban on Decorative Gas Fireplaces

As a result of failed negotiations with the Department of Energy (DOE), HPBA has begun an aggressive political campaign with Members of Congress to convince them that 1) the DOE rule was improperly adopted, without notice or opportunity to comment; 2) the DOE rule cannot be supported technically; 3) the amount of gas saved by a ban on decorative gas fireplaces is miniscule; and 4) the ban would likely eliminate an entire segment of the hearth industry with severe economic and employment consequences. We will be reaching out to HPBA members for support and action.

## CPSC Reviewing Gas Fireplace Glass Front Safeguards

On June 8, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) requested comments on whether it should require safeguards on the glass fronts of vented gas fireplaces. The notice was in response to an April 12 letter to the CPSC by Dr. Carol Pollack-Nelson, a former CPSC employee, seeking mandatory safeguards from the CPSC. The CPSC has opened the public comment period and is accepting comments through August 8.

HPBA is working closely with CSA on drafting new voluntary standards on glass fronts. A CSA glass front working group met in May to discuss new standards and will reconvene in early August. HPBA feels that the CSA process can reach more reasonable standards that can be implemented in a more timely fashion than under a federal regulation. (Statutorily, CPSC is required to defer to an acceptable industry-led voluntary standard instead of issuing new federal standards.)

Following a Board of Directors vote to enlist a law firm to assist with filing comments and to represent the industry, HPBA hired Chuck Samuels of Mintz Levin in Washington, DC. Samuels is one of Washington's most experienced product safety attorneys and came very highly recommended by associations that have dealt with CPSC issues in the past. He will be assisting us in drafting the comments due August 8.

## HPBA Addresses NSPS Definitions and Efficiency

The HPBA NSPS task force continues to work on key details on the NSPS revision, including a series of proposed definitions and a working on a paper on efficiency. EPA's continued interest in requiring an efficiency target could, it appears, cause up to one-third of the non-catalytic stoves, currently below 4.5 g/h, to be redesigned. Details of EPA's proposal will not be absolutely clear until it is formally issued in January 2012. HPBA supports a uniform measurement of efficiency and making that information available to consumers, but not used for certifying a product. For more information on NSPS, please contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

## HPBA Pacific and HPBA Host Meeting on NetZero Energy Homes

HPBA and its affiliate, HPBA Pacific, hosted the first meeting in Sacramento on NetZero or Zero Energy Homes (ZEH). Over 30 participants, both local members and national manufacturers, joined HPBA President Jack Goldman and Past HPBA Chairmen Jerry Scott and Kirk Newby in this seminar on energy-efficient homes. A huge challenge is that the ZEH concept may not include any hearth products, either gas or wood, unless the industry gets involved in helping to define the concept. The meeting program included Martha Brooks, P.E., a key staff person of the California Energy Commission (CEC), and Bob Raymer, P.E., technical director of the California Building Industry Association. While all new homes are slated to be "Netzero" by 2020, the attendees learned that the CEC has recently been given authority to substantially increase the energy efficiency of existing homes as well. At the conclusion of the meeting, a steering committee was formed and a password-protected web page will be created on the HPBA Pacific website. For more information, contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org.

## Department Activities

### *Communications*

**Glass Front Safety Brochure**. As you ready your showroom for the fall hearth buying season, make sure you have copies of HPBA's Fireplace and Stove Glass Safety brochure on hand for your customers. To view the brochure and its safety information, go to www.hpba.org/staysafe, and to order 100 free copies of the brochure, please contact Leslie Wheeler, wheeler@hpba.org.

### *Government Affairs*

**Canadian Consumer Product Safety Act**

On June 20, 2011, the Canadian Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) went into effect. The new law applies to products such as toys, household products and sporting goods. US manufacturers selling into Canada can find more information on Health Canada's website.

**Codes & Standards**

- **ICC 700 (National Association of Home Builders, Green Building Standard).** The main committee of the ICC 700 met June 13-17, and HPBA worked with the Air-Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), along with Task Group #3, on a rewrite of the requirement assigning points for hearth products in the standard (which would be an incentive to installing a hearth product). The rewrite will be available soon for public comment. For more information, contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.
- **NFPA 211.** The NFPA 211 revision cycle for fall 2012 starts with discussion of new proposals on July 20 in Boston. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tom Stroud at stroud@hpba.org or Denise Beach at dbeach@NFPA.org.
- Department of Energy (DOE) and Building America have scheduled training sessions this summer. Building America tends to influence the direction of the future of homes. These meetings are important in helping HPBA understand the direction DOE is taking on residential construction and how the hearth industry will fit into this picture. DOE will hold a training session on energy codes called, *Efficient Codes, Efficient Buildings: The path to an energy efficient future!* July 25-28 in Salt Lake City. Information is available at www.energycodes.gov/events/energycodes/. Building America will host B*uilding America Residential Energy Efficiency Technical Update Meeting* on August 9-11 in Denver. Information is on the Building America website. HPBA staff will attend; if you would like to attend either of these meetings, please contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

### *HPB Education Foundation*

- **National Fireplace Institute (NFI) Exams**. Summer is a great time to complete your NFI Certifications. If you didn't take the exam at Expo and missed your affiliate meeting, you can still get certified. PSI Exams Online offers the NFI exam at any of its 500+ LaserGrade locations, and it is easy to find an exam location close to you. Go to, http://www.lasergrade.com/psi-locate.shtml, select the National Fireplace

Institute as the Sponsor, and enter your zip code. LaserGrade exams give you the ability to schedule the exam at a time and location that is convenient, and, you will find out if you passed on the way out the door!

- **Free Online in July – NFPA 54 Review Course.** Every month, HPBEF offers a free online class and, in July, the NFPA 54 Review is offered. The National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) is a document that every gas installer should know and, in some parts of the country, NFPA 54 review classes are mandatory! On July 12 and 19, Jim Brewer, a long-time member of the hearth industry and serves on the committee that writes NFPA 54, will give the **NFPA 54 Review Class**. The best way to learn about the code is to talk to the people that write it. The class is presented in two 90-minute sessions on July 12 and 19 at 2:00pm eastern time. To register, go to http://www.hpbef.org/online and click on the Live Course Schedule.
- **New Online Classes on OSHA Compliance and Time Management**. Hope Stevenson, Dave Pomeroy Signature Training, has revised and expanded "Tools For OSHA Compliance." This course has been very popular and now has new content. The class will be conducted live on July 29 at 3:00pm eastern time. To register, go to http://www.hpbef.org/online and click on the Live Course Schedule. Hope has also added her **Time Management** class to the OnDemand Recording catalog. If you missed this class at HPBExpo, now you can take it online. OnDemand classes are available 24-hours a day. To register, go to http://www.hpbef.org/online and click on the Course Offering link and scroll down to "Time Management."
- **Expo Education Suggestions Needed.** Work has begun on the HPBExpo 2012 Education Program, and we want your suggestions. If you want to teach a class, have a favorite speaker or have a topic that you want to learn more about, please contact Rick Vlahos, vlahos@hpba.org. Now is the best time to influence the selection of classes for HPBExpo 2012 in Atlanta.

***HPBExpo Report***
**Innovations & Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor Living**
**Atlanta, Georgia · February 29 - March 3, 2012**
**www.hpbexpo.com**

**Reserve Your HPBExpo 2012 Booth Space Now.** The 2012 Exhibitor Portfolio, including floor plans, booth contracts, rules and regulations and payment information (50% is due with contract), can be found at www.hpbexpo.com under "Apply to Exhibit." If you have questions, please contact Anita Derouin at (703) 522-0086 ext. 117 or derouin@hpba.org. Remember, online registration and housing for the Atlanta trade show open September 1st, at www.hpbexpo.com.

**HPBExpo 2012 Website is Live!** Bookmark Expo's website, www.hpbexpo.com, for information on HPBExpo 2012, February 29 - March 3 in Atlanta. More show information and updates are coming soon, and registration and housing open on September 1st. If you would like to relive HPBExpo 2011, including the wild Friday Night Fever party, check out the Photo Gallery.

**What's New in 2012?** Exciting new features and events are in store for Atlanta! You won't want to miss the *NEW* Outdoor New Product Pavilion or the Outdoor Burn Tailgate Party on Thursday, March 1. In addition, there will be various cooking demos, an HPBExpo mobile application to customize your Expo experience and the return of the Friday night all-industry party!

**Increase Your Exposure at HPBExpo 2012.** Sponsorship opportunities, such as aisle signs, carpet logos, convention center window decals, water canisters and more, are available for exhibitors interested in expanding their exposure at the show. Please contact Betteanne Leahy at (800) 404-5461 for information on a wide range of sponsorship opportunities. A full brochure will be posted to www.hpbexpo.com in mid June.

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