

KFSCA Quarterly Meeting - February 13, 2023

“Leveraging Web-Based Technology in Supporting Fire and Life Safety System Performance”

Presented by: Jill C Cotton, President of InspectionReportsOnline.net (IROL)

Inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) prescribed in NFPA 25 and 72 assist in improving system reliability and performance which have direct benefits toward the fire and life safety environment. Descriptive research has been utilized to examine the processes associated with the ITM documentation and reporting of fire alarm and suppression systems and the delivery of critical data needed for fire departments/prevention bureaus to address impediments to their current process.

This program addresses the workload and staffing of today's modern fire prevention bureau which directly affects the number and quality of programs and enforcement activities that can be supported. A thorough understanding of the processes and supporting analytics underscores the importance of addressing system deficiencies in a timely manner and allows the bureau to investigate the benefits of integrating technology into their current solution to meet desired goals and objectives.

Research based on the examination of this multi-jurisdictional data has shown that leveraging web-based technology has positive impacts on system readiness through the effective management and processing of all reports generated by service providers. Enhanced comprehension of the problems within one's jurisdiction allows the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) the ability to tailor their compliance strategies and communicate directly with all stakeholders to further increase efficiency. This collaborative partnership assists in reducing the administrative overhead and has tangible benefits to the AHJ in today's tight fiscal environment.

Implementation strategies are discussed to underscore the importance of developing a comprehensive plan that engages the various entities to support the goals of sustainability and best practices in prevention, community risk reduction and life safety.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify and discuss the history of prevention.
2. Introduce and define Community Risk Reduction (CRR)
3. Identify the common threads between prevention and CRR
4. Identify and discuss the reliance on Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) of fire and life safety systems.
5. Discuss challenges in achieving ITM success for all entities (AHJ, service contractors, and business owners/occupants).
6. Introduce Web-Based Technology
7. Examine how web-based/third party technology works
8. Analyze the components (similarities and differences) in platforms
9. Demonstrate the benefits and successes of web-based technology such as efficiency, reduction in costs, community data and analytics, and increased compliance with nationally recognized codes and standards.

Jill Cotton is the President of InspectionReportsOnline.net (IROL), one of the leading Prevention and Community Risk Reduction (CRR) solutions in the fire industry. Holding a Bachelor's in Communications from Marquette Univer and a Master's in Education, Jill has been involved in the fire and life safety industry for over twenty years and has extensive experience presenting, educating, and implementing web-based technology solutions in communities across the country.

Over the past twelve years, Jill has spoken at numerous conferences and organizations such as NFPA, Michigan Fire Chiefs, Illinois Fire Inspectors, Texas State Fire Marshals, Building Professional Institute Conference, Campus Fire Safety Conference, New York Building Officials, and many more. She has also contributed written articles to many fire and life safety trade publications such as NAFED, FPC, Security and Integration, and Inspector 911.

Known for her advocacy in CRR and participation in the service industry, Jill has received recognitions as an Emerging Leader by Vision 20/20 and was nominated as Board President of the Aurora Regional Fire Museum where she has served for seven years.

Jill resides in Illinois with her two children and husband. She continues to coach competitive cheer, enjoys anything outdoor related, and is often involved in, or volunteering for, community events.