

Foundation is Active Participant in Growing Barrier Management Symposium Program **By Stephen R. Hildebrand, FDHI**

In January 2013, the Door Security & Safety Foundation (DSSF) was invited to discuss the development and delivery of a series of Barrier Management Symposiums (BMS) targeted for delivery to members of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), the personal membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

ASHE has more than 11,000 members, divided into 10 regions across the country, who design, build, and operate hospitals, with a focus on improving the physical environment of a healthcare facility from planning stages throughout the entire life cycle of the building.

The BMS concept was originated by ASHE, along with The Joint Commission (TJC), an independent not-for-profit organization accrediting more than 20,000 healthcare organizations in the U.S.; Underwriters Laboratories (UL); and the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA). Since the intent was to address healthcare facility design, installation, inspection and maintenance issues with both horizontal and vertical fire and smoke barriers, representative associations from the floor (concrete) wall (gypsum), fire door (DHI), fire glazing, fire dampers, and fire stop materials were invited to participate as presenters at these symposiums.

The goal was to conduct the day-and-a-half-long symposium at three or four ASHE regional conferences each year, covering all 10 regions over a three-year period. To date, six Barrier Management Symposiums have been successfully delivered to more than 650 professionals, with Paul Baillargeon, AHC, FDAI, Vice President, Technical Consulting, DSSF, delivering a 60-minute presentation, with 15 minute Q&A, at the

sessions. To view an archive of these sessions, go to www.fcia.org/BMSPresentations.htm.

At the recent ASHE national convention, it was announced by TJC that 'non-compliance for barriers has dropped significantly and that education works!' (see adjacent article) Accordingly, in addition to the remaining four ASHE regions to conduct a BMS over the next year, a one-day BMS is being developed for delivery to the more than 50 local ASHE chapters, of which several have already now been scheduled. The DSSF will present at these one-day events as part of its current focus on the healthcare market, in addition to ongoing full day awareness and education sessions at healthcare facilities requesting presentations as a result of interest from a BMS session.

Strategies are under development to expand the Foundation's awareness and educational activities in the healthcare maintenance market by engaging its corps of current FDAI credential holders to begin delivering these presentations in their local market. Armed with a PowerPoint presentation, reference materials, and having undergone orientation training on the presentation, these 350-plus and growing number of FDAI credentialed individuals can spread the word to a vast number of healthcare maintenance directors and mechanics, who are faced with the ever increasing enforcement of the NFPA 80 and 101 requirements for annual inspections.

Stay tuned for details on this new program and visit www.doorsecuritysafety.org for other updates, information, and resources. ■

STEPHEN R. HILDEBRAND, FDHI, is Executive Vice President of the Door and Hardware Institute and a former DHI President. He can be reached at shildebrand@dhi.org.

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