March 11, 2020

NFCA has received a few questions about the upcoming NFCA Events in Austin, TX, due to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

NFCA Leadership and Staff are watching the COVID-19 situation closely with keen eye for the health and welfare of NFCA attendees, staff and speakers.

At this time, absent federal or local travel restrictions, NFCA’s Education and Fireproofing Exams, plus the NFCA Fireproofing Educational Conference, ‘Fireproofing Week in Austin’, will take place as planned.

NFCA has been in contact with the Sheraton Austin at the Capital who assures us that they have procedures in place to handle us.

Should the situation change dramatically, NFCA will notify ‘Fireproofing Week in Austin’ attendees.

Information received from the City of Austin:

Travelers to Austin can be assured the city continues to be open for business. The Austin hospitality community is ready to welcome and serve convention attendees, visitors and guests. There are no travel restrictions or advisories in the domestic U.S., which includes the State of Texas and Austin. However, the city is focused on mitigation strategies to protect the community and our visitors as it relates to events being held in the next few months. The city has released guidelines for planners and organizers of events to more proactively increase preventative measures and require mitigation plans for events in the region. This only applies to mass gatherings of 2,500 people or more. **Events with less than 2,500 people should proceed as normal.** For additional information, please visit [http://www.austintexas.gov/COVID19](http://www.austintexas.gov/COVID19).

NFCA understands that the SWSC20 Event in Austin, with thousands of attendees, has been cancelled, due to the influx of a huge group of persons from unknown places worldwide. [https://www.sxsw.com/2020-event-update/](https://www.sxsw.com/2020-event-update/) . This was a proactive move by Austin to prevent spread of the disease. FYI, Austin, TX has no reported cases of the COVID-19 virus, reported (JHU).

NFCA also recommends that attendees refer to important world and national disease resources for precautions when travelling and being in groups, links below.

- Texas Dept. of Public Health - [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/)