

*Knowledge gives better extinguishing systems. At least that is what Michael Billström claims. And on the basis of that motto it was the natural thing for him to become pioneer when the education Certificate Programme Fire sprinklers Technicians, CPFST, started up in USA 2004. In the autumn 2006 he as the first European ever, holds the certificate.*

USA is small precursor when it comes to sprinklers' and the market grows all the time. Traditional has sprinkler installers been trained through going side by side with an experienced colleague but that time is not in this all more time pressed era. On the other hand it has so far lacked good educations for installers. That fact was noticed by Michael Billström, joint owner in Sprinklerhuset, when he at the start of 2000 - on occurred reason - began search the range of course.

-“We sprinkled IBM in Solna and got signals they wanted us to build after American rules. It is a requirement that becomes clearer in line with the fact that more and more American companies settle down in Sweden and has their own insurance companies. Since we wanted to try to live up to the wishes we looked over the possibilities to become certified ourselves”, he describes.

Something that we had noticed at the same time as the need of education was The National Fire Sprinklers Association. NFSA is serving as a guideline when it comes to referral and interpretation statement of National Fire Protection association standards, NFPA, established rules. These are the fundament for the fire protection rules in principle all countries.

Education was taken forward when NFSA at last took forward a solid education 2004, and Michael was one of the 28 first participants that were assumed. The education is taking place in two and a half year and comprises six blocks with web-based studies and twelve meetings, live chat, workshops, practical and theoretical project work and mentor pc IDS. The autumn 2006 Michael was rewarded a diploma and the certificate along with one Chinese and fifteen Americans.

- “Today I have a good understanding for the legislation. It is knowledge that is difficult to read, you must learn them practical”, he adds together.

The education is it only in its kind and both admission and certification are done gradually in order to fit the participants' needs. According to different reports in media the education has got a very good status.

-“It is extremely popular and continues to grow. Employers see it that an excellent way to train their engineers and to provide them with practical experience, Michael Billström confirms.

According to Ken Isman at NFSA more than 250 participants started the education and approximately 80 have been certified. 160 is presently undertaking it and Michael are the only European that so far has been certified.

### Education gives dividend

Michael Billström stresses that the education gives an invaluable contact networks and says that all inspection men and fire engineers should may to go the education in order to” complement his already high knowledge” - not at all unconscious about that few employers are motivated to invest so a lot of in individual employees.

-“But what is 200 000 SEK in training cost against an agreement on 8,5 millions SEK and prestige?” he wonders rhetorical and lifts forward Sprinklerhusets business with Ringhals Nuclear plant, as a concrete example on what his education has paid of.

-“To send employees on such an education is a way to profile the company and confirm that you stand for documented experience, he emphasizes.

Michael alone begins to become used to being something of a pioneer. He was one of the first out in Sweden to become SBSC-certified for water- and gas sprinklers and when the new European water sprinkler rules came at the start of 2005 he was first with certifying itself pursue these.

-“It can be bothersome to endure as a guinea-pig but it is a price I gladly pay in order to lie in frontline”, he says - half as a joke half seriously.

To always lie in frontline is something Sprinklerhuset strives after in order to retain your credibility. -“If you want to do something in this sector you must specialize, and that is where we have succeeded. We have among other thing specialized in stainless installations and special systems, such as gas- and foam sprinklers”, Michael Billström says. Quality and competence is our credo and the facts that the customer keeps coming back time after other we see as the best grade. -“For ourselves that is the one quality stamp”, he rounds off.