

Press Release (for Consumer Readership)

National Fireplace Institute®

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For Release – February ‘05

For Safe Fireplace Installation and Service, Homeowners Turn to NFI Certified Specialists

Atlanta, GA – The National Fireplace Institute® (NFI) has been certifying hearth professionals for three years. NFI recognizes that planning and installing fireplaces, hearth stoves, and their venting systems are processes requiring precise technical knowledge and skill to ensure end user safety. NFI, conceived and overseen by the HEARTH Education Foundation, was developed to award, through mastering NFI exams, expert credentials for professionals planning for and installing residential hearth appliances and venting systems.

“Hiring a NFI certified hearth specialist to install my gas fireplace was the wisest decision I’ve made as a homeowner,” said California resident Tony Cioffi. “They brought special insight to the project, considering elements I would not think of addressing, such as sizing and placement most optimum for operation and warmth. It’s comforting to know that your fireplace is configured for peak performance and installed with your family’s safety in mind.”

“The main objective of certifying specialists in the hearth industry is to increase public safety,” comments Sue Kalish, executive director of NFI. “So much is involved in planning and installing hearth products - from proper floor protection to venting system compatibility and height - and as with most disciplines in which precision equals safety and performance, the end-user deserves the choices of certified specialists.”

To qualify professionals as certified specialists, the NFI conducts nationwide education and testing of hearth system planners and technicians. Only those who pass a rigorous examination, covering important topics like safety codes, appliance sizing and placement, venting

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requirements, and installation guidelines, receive NFI Specialist Certification. Consumers can select from three types of certified specialists, depending upon their needs. Gas Specialists are experts in gas fireplaces, stoves and venting systems, while Woodburning Specialists focus on factory-built fireplaces, woodstoves, and chimneys. Pellet Specialists are proficient in pellet stoves, fireplace inserts, and venting.

“NFI Certification is an excellent indication of professional commitment and training,” adds Kalish. “Working with an NFI Certified Specialist can help ensure that your fireplace or hearth appliance and venting system are planned and installed with proper attention to safety and performance.”

Manufacturers of hearth products are rapidly joining the effort to emphasize and ensure the precision and safety of fireplace and hearth products installation. Over a dozen of reputable companies have become official NFI Advocates, adhering to guidelines established to promote product service and installation from certified specialists in the hearth industry. “With more and more manufacturers supporting NFI, an across-the-board standardization of superior and safe hearth practices is inevitable,” said Kalish.

The NFI program, developed three years ago under the auspices of the HEARTH Education Foundation, is a respected program developed and conducted in accordance with national testing standards for technical occupations. For over twenty years, the HEARTH Education Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization, has served the public interest by promoting safety, understanding and responsibility in all facets of the residential fireside.

Since many manufacturers recognize the high standards set forth by the NFI and encourage their products be installed and serviced by an NFI Certified Professional, consumers are wise to find the specialist closest to them by visiting www.nficertified.org or calling (703) 524-8030.

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