

## MY NICET EXAM EXPERIENCE

After 3 years of working in the fire sprinkler industry, I finally took my very first NICET exam in April of this year. What an eye-opener! Going into the exam, I would say I was just like every other 21 year-old I know. I was cocky. I was ignorant. Not understanding the importance of the task I was about to undertake. Sure, this is about my career. What does that matter? It's like the Vikings having to play the entire season just to choke in the play-offs. It was just a formality. I would pass with flying colors and be Level 1 certified. Like I said, I was ignorant. I thought there was no way I would take 6 hours to complete the test. Boy was I wrong! My attitude was wrong. My method of preparation was wrong. And, most of all, my answers were wrong.

Okay, so maybe I didn't do so bad on the test. But what I said about my attitude and preparation are exactly true. And here I sit, not certified! It was a crushing blow to an over-inflated ego.

There were more problems though than just my attitude. Remember what I said about my preparation? When I say that, I mean I did not take advantage of all the resources at my disposal. NICET's website, [www.nicet.org](http://www.nicet.org), tells you exactly what you need to prepare yourself for the test. And you know what? For the most part, everything you need to know is in the NFPA standards that most everyone in this industry uses on an almost daily basis. There are other various helpful books to bring as well. Ask someone from your office who has tested before what could help. Bring every NFPA standard you can get your hands on that applies to your exam. Again, the NICET website can tell you exactly which ones they are. But there are plenty of other resources, not the least of which is the experienced designer every young C.A.D. technician learns under. I have been exceptionally lucky in that area. Take advantage of their experiences. Preferably, do this before you go take the test.

If you aren't certified, please take these tests. Go to [www.nicet.org](http://www.nicet.org) and find the next or earliest time available for you to test. I'll be testing at Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Maybe I'll see you there. If you can, would you bring an extra calculator for me? The one I brought last time quit on me right as the test started. Don't expect to pass everything the first time through, but you could expect to do better than I did.