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News Release

New Fire Design Standard Approved for Green Roofs A Milestone – VF-1 To Help Eliminate Minor Risk of Fire On Green Roofs

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) and SPRI, Inc., the trade association representing the manufacturers of commercial roofing systems and component suppliers, are pleased to announce that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has accepted their VF-1, *Fire Design Standard for Vegetative Roofs* as an American National Standard. This document was created to provide a design and installation reference for roofing professionals to help eliminate the risk of fire on vegetative / green roofs.

"This was a true industry effort including manufacturers, green roofing professionals, testing organizations, contractors, design professionals and consultants," said Mike Ennis, Technical Director for SPRI.

"This new standard is the result of close collaboration between Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and the Single Ply Roofing Industry and it should help to open the doors to better design practices in the industry and allay overblown concerns about fire," said Steven Peck, President of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities.

"The VF-1 Fire Design Guide establishes clear criteria for minimizing the risk of fire on green roofs through prudent design and mandatory maintenance regiment. This milestone in the North American green roof movement facilitates future growth by securing a place in mainstream construction under the International Building Code. This is a great day for the green roof industry and the environment." said Kelly Luckett, Chair of GRHC's Technical Committee and President, Green Roof Blocks.

For more details, the ANSI/SPRI VF-1 *Fire Design Standard for Vegetative Roofs* may be downloaded free of charge from GRHC (<http://greenroofs.org/resources/EFDSVR.pdf>) or SPRI (<http://www.spri.org/publications/policy.htm>) A code change proposal has been submitted to the International Building Code to include this standard in the 2012 edition of the International Building Code. SPRI and GRHC are working together to complete a design standard related to wind uplift and a standard test for root repellency. For more information please contact:

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SPRI, Inc.

SPRI is the recognized technical and statistical authority on the Single Ply Roofing Industry. SPRI provides the best forum for its members to collectively focus their industry expertise and efforts on critical industry issues. By acting as a trade organization, as opposed to each member working individually, the group can effectively improve product quality, installation techniques, workforce training and other issues common to the industry. www.spri.org

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) is a rapidly growing not-for-profit industry association of green roof experts in North America. Our mission is to increase the awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of green roofs and green walls, and other forms of living architecture through education, advocacy, professionalism and celebrations of excellence. www.greenroofs.org