



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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FUSIBLE LINK

www.njsfpe.com

November 2002

Message from the President

We had a very successful seminar and I want to thank Rich Reitberger and his committee for an excellent job.

At the October 7th meeting we voted to increase the dues to \$25.00 but if you provided an email address you would be given a \$10.00 discount. Dues notices have gone out via email and paper mail so please fill out and return to Dave Gluckman. Remember to fill in your email address to get the discount and to make sure we have the most current one for our mailings.

Joe Janiga has updated the NJSFPE web site and we also have a NJSFPE Yahoo users group. Please check both out when you get a moment.

Hope to see you all at the November 4th meeting as we will have Russ Fleming, EVP of NFSA taking on "Sprinkler Recalls, Replacement & Remedies. Please see the last page for the meeting notice.

NJ SFPE Meeting Minutes - Oct. 7, 2002

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sarge Slicer.
2. There were approximately 24 attendees, and everyone introduced themselves.
3. Ed Armm read the minutes from the September 9th meeting and a motion was made and carried to accept them.
4. Dave Gluckman read the Treasurer's Report and a motion was made and carried to accept it.
5. John Cholin read the Audit Report which was performed by him and Joe Janiga. A motion was made and carried to accept it.
6. Rich reported on the golf outing and left flyers on a table for those interested.
7. Jim Tolos reported that dues would be increasing this year. As this was the second announcement, a motion was made and carried to increase dues by \$10.00 to those members electing paper communications over electronic. Jim will amend the by-laws to reflect this.
8. John Cholin stressed the importance of preparation for successfully passing the PE Exam. To this end he reminded us that the tapes are available for a security deposit of \$100.00 refundable when the tapes are returned to his safekeeping. John further stressed that those considering sitting for the PE Exam next year need to start working toward that now.

9. Tonight's presentation by our own Ed Armm was on what NICET is, what is involved in becoming certified, how to maintain that certification and how the Certified Engineering Technician (CET) fits in the Engineering Community.

a. Ed reported that The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) was founded in 1961 by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). He explained the four (4) steps involved in becoming certified: Testing, Verification, Work History and Recommendations.

b. Also covered were options to NICET that are available, however, they are not third party certifications nor are they as comprehensive. Finally explained was the role a CET can play in an Engineering Office, be it design/layout or field evaluations and report writing.


10. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Photoluminescent Material used for Evacuation Enhancement

At the SFPE NJ Chapter Seminar on the WTC this past Sept 27, there was considerable discussion about the benefits of using photoluminescent materials. Rita Fahy, [rfahy@NFPA.org] who was one of the speakers, mentioned a paper that was published on this issue. Guylène Proulx's paper on photo luminescent material can be found in PDF format on the following website:

<http://www.nrc.ca/irc/fulltext/nrcc44216/nrcc44216.pdf>

If you have trouble opening the link and would like the pictures in color, you can contact Guylène for a printed copy. Her email address is: Guylene.Proulx@nrc.ca. All the papers she's published can be found on the NRCC website: www.nrc.ca



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LEAKING BULB SPRINKLERS INTERESTING NEWS FROM NFPA COMMITTEE MEETING

A few people have had accidental leakage problems with fast response bulb-type sprinklers. The cause was failure of the cap due to dezincification. Chemical erosion of the cap resulted in drip leaks. Also mentioned was that in both instances, examination of the heads following mass replacement resulted in numerous indications of the sprinkler fitter using channel-locks, pipe wrenches, etc., on the metal frame when putting the original heads in, and with the very narrow/delicate glass bulb on the fast response heads (3mm), the question of accidental damage from sloppy installation exists. These heads are being used in occupancies that are highly

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sensitive to water damage (museums, libraries) and have been resistant to having sprinklers in the first place for many years. Also glass bulb heads are being handled in a sloppy manner at the job site - i.e., bulk amount heaped into a bucket.

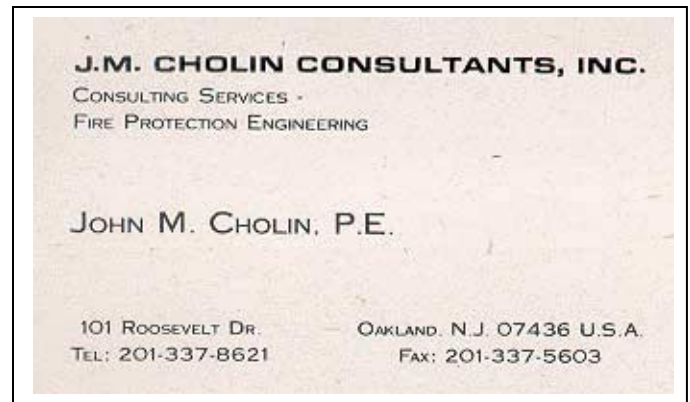
Also, comment made that the special spanner wrenches supplied by the sprinkler manufacturer are really loose fitting shoddy things. Some heads such as Vicraulics and Vikings have a hex shaped point for the wrench, and a special spark plug type socket wrench which fits over the entire head is then used.

Some of the attendees at this meeting in the interest of their own job security are thus not allowing any glass bulb type heads on their premises due to their inferior ruggedness in comparison to the fusible element. Russ Flemming was present and acknowledges workmanship problems as being universal in the industry.

Other suggestions for high susceptibility occupancies:

- Air test the completed system (40 psi) prior to the hydro test - too many open pipes in too many supposedly finished installations!
- Have a kickoff meeting with contractor foreman and installers to alert them to the sensitive occupancy and the need for getting the job done right - the first time.
- Use pre-action systems in place of wet systems.
- Stiff prequalification in contractor RFP

On another note - a new standard for European Council members and others in the Mid-East and Europe will be phased in over the next three years to replace current national standards (British, German, French, etc.) It is available at www.basa.org.uk, "Industry Resources" Known as en12845.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

More detailed information is contained in previous Fusible Link issues and on www.njsfpe.com

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Property Loss control Consultant wanted in New York.

- 5+ years experience
- Knowledge of Fire protection evaluation, complex sprinkler systems
- Multi-line Property & Casualty experience (strong Property)
- Engineering Degree a big plus

All interested parties please send your resumes to:
Macrogrp@gate.net

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Aerotek Engineering is currently seeking a Fire Protection and Sprinkler Designer. The opportunity is located in the Philadelphia Region. This individual needs at least 5 years experience and will be responsible for the design and layout of Fire Alarm systems, Fire Protection Design, and fire detection system layout. They will be using Autocad 2000. The projects range from Pharmaceutical plants to commercial buildings.

Anyone who may be interested should call:

Sarah Scarlata
800-813-2353 x4754
Aerotek Engineering
www.aerotek.com

=====
Allianz, an insurance company with premium income in excess of one billion dollars is currently actively and aggressively pursuing hiring an experienced (minimum 2 years) HPR (Highly Protected Risk) Property Loss Control Account Consultant for their Chicago Office. Salary is negotiable dependent upon experience level. Anyone interested can contact:

Kevin Morris
Engineering Manager
Allianz Risk Consultants

PO Box 747
Warrington, PA 18976-0747

Phone 215-491-4272
Email kmorris@aic-allianz.com

Factory Mutual or equivalent experience. Expertise in conducting PML's, NLE's and MFL's. Understanding of FM & NFPA codes. Strong technical writing skills. Self motivated person who can work efficiently from a home office. Computer literate (Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, etc.). Adequate interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with various clients.

Position includes a competitive salary paid semi-monthly and a full benefit package including health insurance, dental plan, life insurance, long term disability, 401K, company bonus plan, and holiday / personal day vacation package.

If interested, please contact John Durante at jdurante@risklogic.com or (201) 930-0700.

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=====
Carl Guinta Associates, Riverdale, New Jersey - Established in 1964 - Has a position open for a P.E. experienced in fire sprinkler design. Position includes supervising installations, writing proposals, reports, design, hydraulics and code work. Requires good communication skills and knowledge of sprinkler design.

Company offers highest pay in industry and position could lead to equity interest in firm. All benefits are included.

Send resume with salary history. All applications will be kept in strict confidence. Positions also open for sprinkler designers without P.E.

Write to Carl Guinta, 11 Mathews Avenue, Riverdale, New Jersey 07457 or E-mail cga-fpe@worldnet.att.net

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Risk Logic Incorporated (RLI) is looking for a Property Loss Control Consultant to conduct Highly Protected Risk ("HPR") type loss prevention inspections and write technical reports. Candidates will need to work from home and be expected to travel overnight 5 nights per month. Primary responsibilities will include conducting property loss prevention evaluations with detailed Construction / Occupancy / Protection / Exposure ("COPE") information as well as fire protection analyses, process hazard reviews and roofing system evaluations. The technical risk analysis will be conducted for large commercial and industrial manufacturing facilities and warehouses.

RLI is a property loss prevention and fire protection consulting engineering company that provides comprehensive unbundled services for insurance brokers, insurance carriers and direct with clients. Most of our services are performed nationwide. RLI has been in business for 5 years and has over 40 clients. Go to www.risklogic.com for more information.

Position Requirements: BS – Engineering Degree from an accredited college, PE license a plus. Minimum five (5) years

TECHNICAL ALERTS FROM AXA

The following Technical Alerts have been provided by AXA:

Diesel Engines for Fire Pumps

Recent field tests have demonstrated that all electronic diesel engines might present serious reliability problems when used to drive fire pumps. In some cases, the engine simply refuses to start automatically despite the signals sent by the controller. This is due to a lack of compatibility between the electronic equipment of these new generation engines and the fire pump controllers which are presently available on the market.

The best solution is to recommend diesel engines and fire pump controllers which have been specifically tested and approved for fire protection purposes by UL, FM or other recognized testing laboratories.

Storage of Flammable Liquids in Plastic Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC)

Recent large losses in France have confirmed that the use of plastic IBC containers for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids poses an extreme loss control hazard and should absolutely be avoided.

According to NFPA 30, class I flammable liquids should never be stored in plastic IBC even in sprinklered areas.

Class II and III combustible liquids are permitted to be stored in plastic IBC's that have been specifically tested and approved for that purpose. In order to be approved, IBC should not show any evidence of leakage or loss of structural integrity when subject to the fire test as defined in UL standard 2368. Up to now, only one IBC passed the UL test and is therefore considered as acceptable by NFPA 30. This is the *Ecobulk SX 275 UL* sold by Schutz Container Systems in the USA. It is also available in Europe and is suitable for use in zone 1 and 2 potentially explosive atmospheres (<http://www.schuetz.net>).

Toxic Mold – What are the Issues?

By now we have all heard about Toxic Mold. While not a fire protection issue directly, Toxic Mold and its adverse ramifications can directly affect a facility and its restoration after a fire loss if appropriate procedures are not followed.

The *Fusible Link* will cover this subject in articles within upcoming issues. The first is as follows:

IS THIS A REAL ISSUE?

In the United States, the mold problem seemed to jump into the spotlight about three years ago with the State of Texas leading the way. Texas has released some statistics that are quite startling:

1. One major insurer reported a drastic increase in the frequency of claims that involve mold issues:

1999 – 12 claims
2000 – 499 claims
2001 – 10,000 claims

2. In 2001, Texas reported a total of 50,000 new claims involving “mold.”
3. In 2002 four of the largest underwriters in Texas had received 39,000 new mold related claims.
4. A statistical review reveals an increase in the per file cost to handle a water damage claim as follows:

2001 – \$2,800
2002 – \$8,000

The Texas experience has spread to other US States with significant activity in California and Florida. In the United States there are reported to be 10,000 current lawsuits outstanding that involve “mold” issues.

WTC DISASTER SEMINAR – SEPT. 2002



Rich Reitberger with Jim Lord & Asha Elvi, Arup Fire



Rich, left, and Jonathan Barnett, Ph.D, FSFPE, WPI



Robert Duval, NFPA International



Robert Duval, left, and Rich



Clockwise: Rich Reitberger, Jim Lord, Arup, Robert Duval, NFPA Int'l, Jonathan Barnett, Ph.D, FSFPE, WPI, Sarge Slicer, SFPE NJ Chapter President, Asha Elvi, Arup., and Rita Fahey, Ph.D, NFPA Fire Analysis & Research Director



New Jersey Chapter

Society of Fire Protection Engineers

RENEWAL APPLICATION & 2002-2003 DUES NOTICE

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Home Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Preferred Address: _____ Business _____ Home

E Mail Address*: _____

***PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. THIS IS VITAL INFORMATION THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE POSTAGE EXPENSE AND DISTRIBUTION TIME. ALSO, IT WILL ENABLE US TO PROVIDE YOU WITH IMPORTANT AND TIMELY NOTICES SUCH AS MEETING CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. A \$10 DISCOUNT WILL APPLY TO THE ANNUAL DUES SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO RECEIVE THE FUSIBLE LINK AND MEETING NOTICES BY E-MAIL.**

1. Are you a current member of the International SFPE? ____Yes ____No Grade? _____
If not, would you like a membership application? ____Yes ____No
2. Are you interested in NJ Chapter Committee Participation? ____Yes ____No

PLEASE REMIT BY - November 30, 2002
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO - "NJ CHAPTER SFPE"
MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY WITH THIS APPLICATION TO:

David Gluckman	Dues - 2002-2003: \$25.00	Hard copies of Fusible Link and Meeting Notices via regular mail.
Willis of New Jersey, Inc.	\$15.00	E-mail copies of <i>Fusible Link</i> and Meeting Notices.
25B Vreeland Road, Suite 212		
P.O. Box 651	\$ 0.00	Retired members
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0651		

Thank you for your continued support!

2002-2003 MEETING DATES/PROGRAM

(Programs Subject to Change)

Watch web page concerning cancellation In case of possible inclement weather conditions

Nov. 4	Sprinkler Recalls, Replacements and Remedies – Russ Fleming, PE, National Fire Sprinkler Assoc.
Dec. 2	Fire Prevention and Protection of Transformers – Rich Reitberger, Affiliated FM
Jan. 6	Changes to NFPA 20 – Ken Isman, PE, NFSA
Feb. 3	Tour of Siemens/Pyro
Mar. 3	Legal Liability – Chris Wood, Arupt
April 7	Seminar
April	Officer Nominations due to Secretary Chapter Anniversary 4/4/77
May 5	Malden Mills Loss, John Cholin, PE
June 2	Gaseous Suppression Systems Update (NFPA 2001 – Phil DiNunno, PE Annual/Election

*Watch Web Page for Weather Announcement

POSITIONS TAKEN BY SPEAKERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE POSITION OF THE NJ S.F.P.E.

All meetings are held at the Hanover Manor, Eagle Rock Road, Hanover, NJ (approximately 1/2 miles west of Eisenhower Parkway). Get Acquainted Hour 5:00-6:00 p.m. Adjournment is usually before 8:30 p.m. The Executive Committee meets at 4:00 p.m.

Editors Note--If you would like to advertise your company and help offset the cost of this publication, as well as having your business card in front of over 150 Fire Protection Professionals please call John Cholin at (201) 337-8621 for further information. The cost is \$100 for 10 issues.

COMMITTEES 2002-2003

Standing Committees

Program:

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chairs, with input from all members
Consulting – Nick Chergotis & Chuck Gandy

NY Chapter Liaison:

Rich Reitberger (Pat Egan back-up liaison)

Arrangements:

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chair

Membership:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman

Nominating:

Chuck Gandy, Chairman
Glenn Deitz
Bob Murray

Scholarship Fund:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Robert Hall
Mike Machette

Auditing:

Joe Janiga

Archivist/Historian:

Jim Tolos

Communications:

Fusible Link: Brad Hart, Interim Editor

Dave Gluckman, Asst. Editor
Ana Crisostomo, Publishing

Mailing/Automation: Vicky Serafin

Special Committees

Bylaws: Jim Tolos, Chairman

Joe Janiga – Co-Chairman

Career Recruitment:

Al Dopart, Chairman
Tom Brereton
Joe Stavish
Glenn Deitz
Dave Gluckman

Golf Outing:

Richard Reitberger, Chairman

Awards: John Ed Ryan

Jim Tolos
Frank Savino

PE Examination:

John Cholin, Chairman
Joe Janiga
Mike Newman
Chuck Gandy

Joint Seminar/Chapter Seminar

Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Nick Chergotis
Pat Egan
Dave Gluckman

Legislative:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman

**Michael T. Newman, P.E.
Manager
Property Loss Prevention
Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933
Phone: (732) 524-3224
Fax: (732) 524-2196**

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Monday, November 4, 2002
Place: Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ

Price: In Advance - \$22 At Door - \$25

Dinner: Prime Rib or Fish

Social Hour: 5:00-6:00 (Cash bar for mixed drinks)
Dinner at 6 PM

Speaker: Russ Fleming, PE, EVP of NFSA

Topic: Sprinkler Recalls, Replacements and Remedies – Russ Fleming, PE

All officers, directors, and committee chairman are requested to attend a meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Hanover Manor.

Please note for this meeting:

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
"SFPE N.J. CHAPTER" TO:**

**Michael Newman
Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933**

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE _____

Prime Rib

Fish

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY **FRIDAY, November 1, 2002**. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.

Fusible Link Editors NJSFPE
C/o Rich Reitberger
Affiliated FM Ins. Co.
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Parsippany, NJ 07054