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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

FUSIBLE LINK

MAY 2009

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President's Message...



outdoor fires in 2005.

Our next regular monthly meeting is on Monday, May 4 and our technical presentation will be installations with CPVC piping.

Now that spring is in full swing and Memorial Day just around the corner, here is some information you need to know about staying fire-safe while grilling:

- In 2005, gas and charcoal grills caused 3,400 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$137 million.
- Gas grills have a higher fire risk than charcoal grills; leaks and breaks are the leading cause, accounting for two-fifths (41%) of the gas grill structure and outdoor fires.
- Gas-fueled grills caused an estimated 2,800 home structure fires and 4,400 home

Safety tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Charcoal grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane grills

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
-

I look forward to seeing everyone at on May 4 at 5 PM at the Hanover Manor.

David Gluckman
NJSFPE Chapter President

Career Opportunities...

Fire Protection Engineer (Manhattan)

We have an open full-time position for a senior Fire Protection Engineer In Manhattan. We are looking for someone with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and 15-20 years of design and supervisory experience in plumbing and fire safety systems. PE registration in the state of New York required and LEED certification is preferred. In addition, we are also looking for some designers-experienced in fire protection piping. Interested candidates please contact:

John McDonald
Technical Recruiter
Allied Resources
jmcdonald@alliedresourcesstaffing.com
www.alliedresourcesstaffing.com
610 423-4604

Fire Protection Engineering Dept. Head (Newark)

Arora Engineers, Inc. is looking for a Fire Protection Engineering Department Head in the Newark, NJ office. 10+ Years of Experience is needed and a PE License is strongly recommended. Experience in Public Works and Aviation/ Transportation Industry projects is also desired. The position entails Management of Fire Protection Engineering staff, tasks include but not limited to:

- Project Management of FP Related Projects
- Technical Mentoring and Review of Dept. product
- Advanced Fire Protection Design
- Quality Control and Assurance

- Time/Workload Management of Staff
- Development of Other FP disciplines, Code Consulting, Modeling
- Assigned Business Development

Candidate shall be experienced in the design of Fire Protection Systems: Water Based Suppression, Fire Alarm and Detection, Mass Notification, Smoke Management, and Special Hazards Suppression. The candidate shall also be familiar with Code Consulting and Fire Modeling.

Arora is seeking candidates that are enthusiastic, positive, and hard working. Interested candidates may contact Rajeev K. Arora at 973-645-1880 ext. 1001 or email rarora@aroraengineers.com.

2009-2010 New Jersey SFPE Nominations for Officers and Directors

In Compliance with the Nomination Section of the Constitution and By-Laws of the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for Offices and Directors. The election will be conducted at the next Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Monday June 1, 2009, at the Hanover Manor.

President	Rich Reitberger
First VP	John Cholin
Second VP	Ed Armm
Secretary	Joe Janiga
Asst. Secretary	Brad Hart
Treasurer	Bob Murray
Asst. Treasurer	Rich Ravaioli
Board of Directors (2-year term)	Dave Kurasz

Chapter Members, Glenn Buser (first year of second Term), John Warnet (first year of second Term) and Jerry Naylis (first year of second term) are also running for their second term as Board of Directors member-at large.

Dave Gluckman will be Immediate Past President, a voting member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors welcomes volunteers to serve in leadership capacities within the organization including Committee activities and the Board itself. No other members made their interests and willingness to serve know to the Nominating Committee prior to this report. Any member with a desire to run as a candidate for Chapter Officer or Director is encouraged to do so. They must contact the Chapter Secretary, Rich Reitberger (973-541-6776) at least four weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. In accordance with the New Jersey Chapter By-Laws, candidates must submit the signatures of five voting members of the New Jersey Chapter SFPE along with their letter of intention to run for any of the above positions. According to the calendar, the deadline is Monday May 4, 2009.

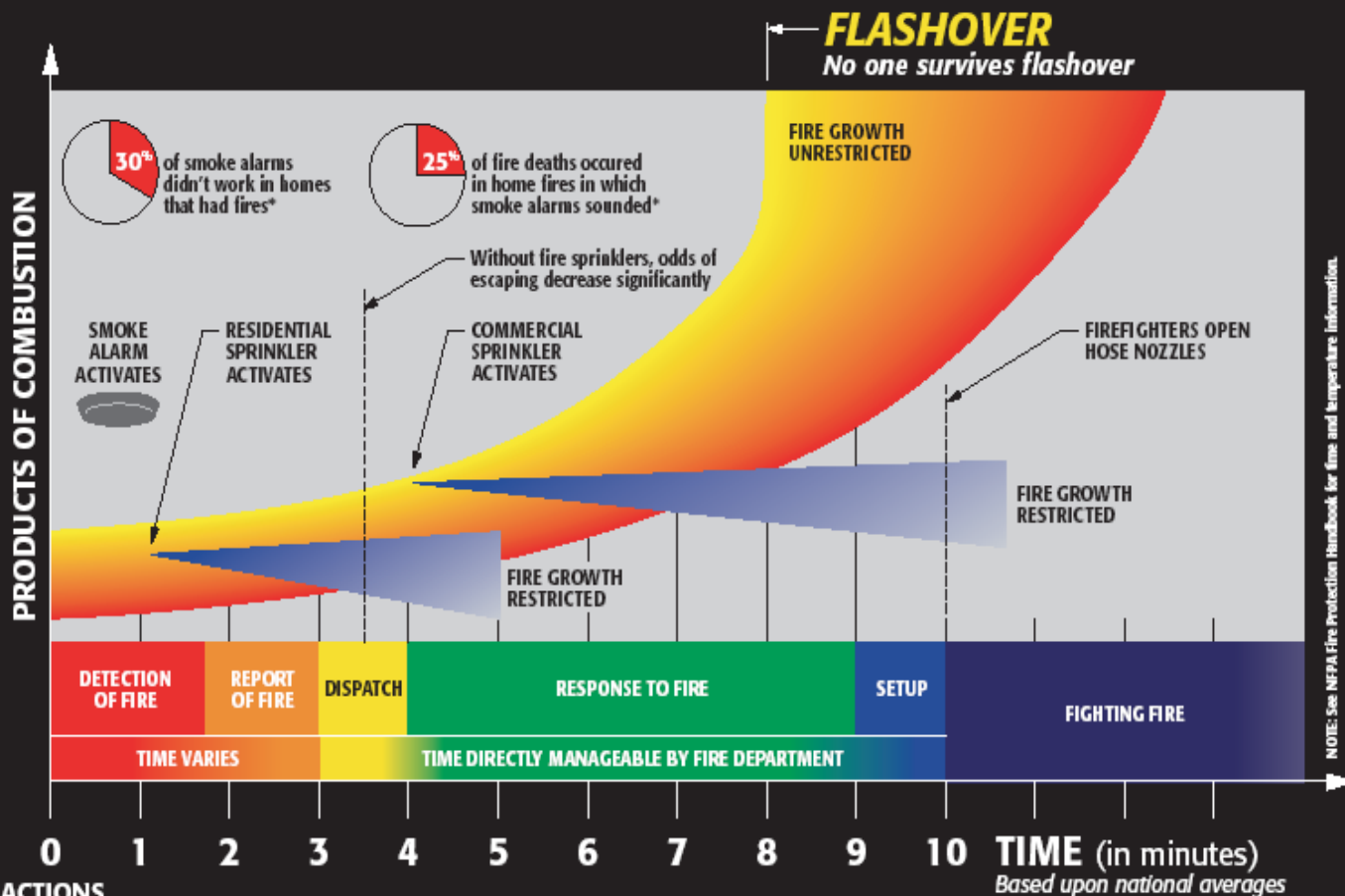
Residential Sprinkler Myths and Facts

The Arguments Against Sprinklers

Myth	Fact
<p>"Water damage from a sprinkler system will be more extensive than fire damage."</p>	<p>Water damage from a sprinkler system will be much less severe than the damage caused by water from firefighting hose lines or smoke and fire damage if the fire goes unabated. Quick response sprinklers release 8 to 24 gallons of water per minute compared to 50 to 125 gallons per minute released by a firehose.</p> <p>Sprinklers are highly reliable devices that are activated by heat. They will only go off if there is a fire which increases the heat beyond the sprinkler trigger point (typically 135 to 165°F (57.2 to 73.9°C)). Preaction systems employ additional safety features.</p>
<p>"When a fire occurs, every sprinkler head goes off."</p>	<p>Research has demonstrated that only 1 in 16 million heads ever activates by accident.</p>
<p>"Sprinklers steal water from the fire department hoselines."</p>	<p>Sprinkler systems can be connected to an alarm monitoring company or an external alarm that will notify neighbors or passersby of a water flow. This will facilitate the prompt notification of the fire department and will minimize that amount of water damage.</p> <p>Sprinkler heads are individually activated by fire. Residential fires are usually controlled with one sprinkler head, and 90 percent of all fires are controlled with six or fewer heads. A study conducted in Australia and New Zealand covering 82 years of automatic sprinkler use found that 82 percent of the fires that occurred were controlled by two or fewer sprinklers.</p>
<p>"A smoke alarm provides enough protection."</p>	<p>A properly designed sprinkler system (for commercial structures) includes water supplies for the system and fire department hose streams.</p>
<p>"Sprinklers are designed to protect property, but are not effective for life safety."</p>	<p>Smoke alarms save lives by providing a warning system but can do nothing to extinguish a growing fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own, such as the elderly or small children. Too often, battery-operated smoke alarms fail to function because the batteries are dead or have been removed. As the percent of homes in America that were "protected" with smoke alarms increased from zero to more than 70 percent, the number of fire deaths in homes did not significantly decrease.</p>
<p>"The added cost of sprinklers will make housing unaffordable to first-time buyers."</p>	<p>Sprinklers provide a high level of life safety. Statistics demonstrate that there has never been any multiple loss of life in a fully sprinklered building. Property losses are 85 percent less in residences with fire sprinklers compared to those without sprinklers. The combination of automatic sprinklers and early warning systems in all buildings and residences could reduce overall injuries, loss of life, and property damage by at least 50 percent.</p> <p>A sprinkler system costs one to two percent of the total construction costs. The cost of a sprinkler system is comparable to what many people pay for carpet upgrades, a paving stone driveway, or a whirlpool bath.</p>
<p>"It is unfair to target new construction because new buildings are safer than older buildings."</p>	<p>In many U.S. communities where sprinkler systems are available, consumers are requesting this feature and houses with sprinkler systems are selling faster than those without. There are more fires in older buildings because older buildings comprise a larger portion of the country's structural inventory.</p> <p>There are more deaths and injuries in older dwellings because demographically identifiable groups who are more susceptible to fire, such as the elderly and people of low socioeconomic status, tend to live in older homes.</p>
<p>"It is unfair to target new construction because new buildings are safer than older buildings."</p>	<p>Modern construction techniques such as webbed truss construction, vented soffits, and human-made composite materials, make newer houses far more susceptible to serious damage from fire.</p>
<p>"It is unfair to target new construction because new buildings are safer than older buildings."</p>	<p>New structures built today will be older structures tomorrow; it makes sense to start now and use the technology that is available in order to build safer communities</p> <p>Fire is the leading threat to seriously damage or destroy structures; earthquakes, flooding, and other natural disasters lag far behind.</p>

Myth	Fact
"Sprinklers are ugly, I don't want them in my space."	<p>Residential and commercial sprinkler heads come in a variety of unobtrusive styles and models and in designer colors. Some can be mounted flush with the ceiling line, and concealed behind protective covers. In commercial applications, dry pipe and preaction sprinklers provide an alternative to water-filled pipes.</p> <p>Specially molded insulation is available to ensure that piping in unheated attics is properly insulated and protected from freezing.</p>
"Sprinkler systems are not practical in cold climates, the pipes will freeze and cause water damage."	<p>A variety of sidewall sprinkler heads are available. Sidewall sprinkler piping is placed in the interior walls to prevent exposure to cold attics, and eliminating the concern for freezing.</p> <p>Residential sprinkler systems use plastic and metallic piping similar to that used for domestic water systems. If the heat in a house drops to a level where the sprinkler system will freeze, it is likely that the domestic system will also freeze. There is no unique danger of freezing with sprinkler systems that does not already exist with domestic water systems.</p>
"Smoke alarms will put the fire out!"	<p>Fire sprinklers and smoke alarm systems are designed to activate according to different conditions. Sprinkler heads are individually heat activated, usually at 165°F.</p> <p>Smoke alarms, when activated, give only an audible warning sound; they do not cause fire sprinklers to flow water. In commercial applications where flooding volumes are needed to control hazardous areas, preaction and deluge systems may use smoke detection for early notification and operation.</p> <p>This is a dangerous and misleading statement that is many times made on the basis that smoke alarms will alert the occupants who will then get a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.</p>
"Fire sprinkler systems are not reliable."	<p>Untrained persons should only use fire extinguishers to fight small incipient fires. The number-one priority when you hear a smoke alarm or a fire alarm is to get everyone out of the building. Laboratory testing and a 50-year installation/activation history clearly show that fire sprinkler systems exceed a 95 percent "fail-safe" status.</p> <p>Like any piece of mechanical equipment, sprinkler systems must be inspected, tested, and maintained to ensure a high degree of reliability. No one would buy a car and then never bother to change the oil, tires, or get a tune-up.</p>
"Property will have to pay an expensive yearly testing fee."	<p>Testing fees will be directly related to the market demand. Consider these facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkler head failure rate is one in \$16 million. • Domestic plumbing ruptures and leaks are over a 1000 to 1 ratio compared to sprinkler system ruptures and leaks. • If an insurance company wants to place a surcharge on your policy because you have a sprinkler system, there are other insurance companies that value the reliability and effectiveness of fire sprinkler systems and will reduce your policy premiums if you have fire sprinkler protection, especially in rural or "unprotected areas" in our country. • Some insurance companies are the leading advocates for fire sprinkler systems to protect the risks they must underwrite.
"Insurance costs will go up due to fire sprinkler system ruptures and leaks."	<p>Not when local government practices fiscal diligence.</p> <p>While the overall property value increases in sprinklered buildings, the fire protection costs may go down, especially in communities that can maximize all the benefits afforded by using fire sprinkler protection. Reduction in water service sizes, hydrant spacing, fire service costs, and damage repair can be reduced.</p>
"Fire sprinkler systems cause taxes to go up."	<p>Some progressive local governments offer tax incentives to encourage homeowners to install fire sprinkler systems in their dwellings. A 200-year history clearly shows that safety equipment and safety systems are rarely installed when left to good intentions.</p>
"People will install fire sprinkler systems on a non-mandatory basis."	<p>Getting fire sprinklers installed in a community so that all of the "trade-up" advantages can be maximized usually requires mandated legislation or local ordinances.</p> <p>A spotty, hit-and-miss application of fire sprinkler system installation is not the most cost-effective way of achieving all of the benefits afforded from fire sprinklers.</p> <p>From a life safety, property conservation point of view, there will be no significant change in these horrendous statistics until fire sprinklers are required by law to protect those who cannot adequately protect themselves.</p>

TIME vs. PRODUCTS of COMBUSTION



NOTE: See NFPA Fire Protection Handbook for time and temperature information.

ACTIONS BEFORE FIRE

- 1) TEST SMOKE ALARMS
- 2) CONDUCT FIRE ESCAPE DRILLS

*U.S. Experience With Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Alarms. NFPA, September 2001.



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Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Building Construction: Separating

No. FP-2009-16 April 21, 2009

Learning Objective: *The student shall be able to identify the thermal protection requirements for sprayed-foam insulation.*

This eerie looking material is a sprayed-foam insulation product that is popular in single-family dwellings for its ease of installation and insulating properties. A similar product can be poured into building cavities to slow air infiltration.

A polyurethane derivative, this particular product is made from two components that are mixed on the job before application. In the liquid spray form, the material expands about 100 times its original volume as it dries into these shapes.

Once it has dried, the material can be destroyed by flames, but it will not sustain combustion. The material should not be installed within 2 inches (50 mm) of a heat-emitting device where the temperature can exceed 180 °F (82 °C). It cannot be used in electrical outlet or junction boxes. When tested in accordance with ASTM E-84, *Test Methods for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials* (the Steiner Tunnel test), the product has a flame spread index less than 20, smoke development index less than 400, and a fuel contribution of 0.



This polyisocyanurate foam insulation must have an approved thermal barrier between it and the living space.

If the material is used in spaces where there is normal and routine human activity, it must be protected by a 15-minute **thermal** barrier consisting of 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard or equivalent protection that meets the local building code for thermal barriers and will limit the average temperature of the unexposed side to no more than 250 °F (121 °C) after 15 minutes of exposure.

If the material is applied in an attic or crawl space where the only access is for utility service, it must be protected by an **ignition** barrier consisting of 1- 1/2-inch-thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation; 1/4-inch (6.4 mm) wood structural panel, particleboard, or hardboard; 3/8-inch (9.5 mm) gypsum wallboard; corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.016 inch (0.4 mm) or other approved material that is installed so the foam plastic is not exposed.

For additional information, refer to NFPA® 5000, *Building Construction and Safety Code*®, the *International Residential Code*®, and the *International Building Code*® chapters on "foam plastics."




Eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov

For archived downloads, go to:
www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/

Meeting Dates/Programs 2008-2009

DATE	TOPIC
May 4	Installation Issues with CPVC Piping
June 1	High Volume, Low Speed Ceiling Fans vs. AS Activation



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