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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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FUSIBLE LINK

JANUARY 2014

President's Message...

Greetings! I hope this message finds you healthy and happy, relaxed and invigorated as we come to the close of the Holiday Season.

At our December meeting Rich Reitberger made some special arrangements for an old friend of his pay a us visit. The jolly old elf and one of his little helpers listened to our Christmas wishes and gave some presents. (We must have been very good this year.) Santa even stayed to hear John Stoppi's presentation on 'Special Inspections'. As he left I thought I heard him say "What a good idea, we should write that into the Code at the North Pole." Thanks to everyone who made the meeting so special.

You are probably aware that Dave Kurasz is a leading proponent for residential sprinkler protection in our state. Dave's holiday gift came a little bit early this year when Senate Bill S-2273 "fire suppression systems in new single and two family homes" passed committee vote. You might want to congratulate him the next time you see him. It's not law yet but has taken an important step closer. Keep up the good work Dave.

Come join us at our January 6th meeting to hear about 'Forensic Loss Investigation' from Stephen Hill, PE and Steve Venditti, PE of RJA.

Happy New Year.

Joe Janiga
President, NJ Chapter SFPE

Minutes of the SFPE NJ Chapter Meeting December 9, 2013

President Joe Janiga convened the meeting at 6:10 PM at the Hanover Manor, E. Hanover, NJ with a salute to the flag and the customary introductions. There were 22 attendees. This meeting is the annual Holiday event that included a buffet dinner.

Treasurer Glenn Buser presented the Treasurer's Report of November 2013. A motion was made and passed to accept the report as presented.

Treasurer Buser also updated the membership on the General Liability and Directors and Officers insurance initiative. The minutes from the September, 2013 meeting were

approved as read by the Chapter Secretary.

There was a surprise visit from Santa and one of his elves who passed out a gift to each meeting attendee. Thanks to both for adding to our enjoyment of the evening!

Paul McGrath updated the membership on an upcoming seminar being held by City Fire Equipment at Seton Hall and Princeton.

Chris Vitale and Bob Murray were tonight's door prize winners.

Ernesto Vega – Janica updated the membership on a potential initiative with SFPE National to provide some financial

assistance to Chapter members planning to take the PE exam. John Stoppi was tonight's speaker and gave a very informative presentation on "Special Inspections". Special Inspections are conducted to ensure construction work is completed in accordance with building codes and approved plans and specifications. John talked about the various types of special inspections required by the building codes and gave some detail on the inspections required from a fire protection standpoint.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

NJ CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Only about half of our Chapter members have paid their annual dues so far this year. We are about 100 days through the Chapter's year and would appreciate it if each member would check their records and send in their dues promptly if you have not already done so. It is only \$20 for the year.

Job Opening Opportunity

FM Global is recruiting a Plan Review Consultant for their Parsippany, NJ office. For more information or to arrange for an interview contact william.heil@fmglobal.com or call 973-541-6708.

Overview

At FM Global you have the power to influence outcomes and make a difference in the future for your clients' and the company. When you join our team as a **Plan Review Consultant I**, you have the ability to leverage your engineering background to help clients neutralize potential disaster - saving property, businesses and lives.

With the company's nearly two centuries of knowledge and experience behind you, you'll work hands on with some of the world's most influential organizations, helping them understand risk and protect their assets. And you will have the resources to build a rewarding career at FM Global.

Responsibilities

Plan Review Consultant I is an entry level position for office engineering activities related to plan review. The Plan Review Consultant will receive training for plan review work, which may include Field Engineer training material and trailing activities. All work is typically conducted under close supervision. The Plan Review Consultant will initially spend some time completing self study material and trailing other engineers in the field.

Office work will consist of routine plan review initially including small, non-complex project reviews, mainly related to fire protection system and basic construction drawings. Technical decision making will be of a basic nature following the companies clearly defined procedures and guidance.

The Plan Review Consultant will conduct review of basic plans based on FM Global's Operating Standards and Operating Requirements, identifying all deficiencies and reasonably foreseeable physical and human element exposures for facility hazards perils. He/she must understand the scope of the project under review, beyond the plans submitted if needed, in order to identify other review opportunities not initially presented by the client.

In addition the Plan Review Consultant will review previous correspondence (reports, letters, e-mails, etc.) and, as needed, communicate with the Designated Service Provider, assigned project engineer(s), clients, and contractors to better understand the project.

The reviews are completed in a manner which provides the best service to clients by minimizing re-work and project delays. This may include electronically reviewing information, consulting with contractors and clients to understand deficiencies and persuading changes, or obtaining missing/new/corrected information in order to be able to accept the submittal within the time of the review.

Contact the manager in cases where deviations may apply, or when client/contractor requests are made beyond the normal review process (visits, conference calls, expedited reviews, etc.).

Identify new projects, as well as the need for further project activity (e.g., kick off meeting, project visits, conference calls, etc.) and discuss with the manager to determine how to proceed.

Provide technical support for clients' requests made to the office as indicated by the manager.

Qualifications

Successful candidates have the following qualifications:

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Applied Science or equivalent
- Approximately 2 years experience in -

- Reading/Understanding technical, construction, and fire protection drawings and specifications.
- Using CAD software and computer-based calculation tools. Experience with building information modeling is a plus.

- Project and design experience desirable. Fire protection experience is a plus
- Strong verbal and written communications skills are a must
- Effective interpersonal skills
- Analytical with sound engineering skills, logical application, and attention to detail
- Self motivated, self-directed, and eager to learn
- Results driven
- Decisive problem solver
- Team player
- Efficient time management, planning, and organizational skills

U.S. safety board urges new rules for California refineries

(Reuters) — The U.S. Chemical Safety Board on Monday called on California officials to adopt new rules for crude oil refineries that would force owners to prove they can operate their plants at the lowest risk practicable, the federal investigative agency said.

An interagency working group representing California state agencies recommended similar action to California Gov. Jerry Brown in July.

The board said the recommended move to a "safety case" system like that in the United Kingdom and Australia grew out of the board's probe of the Aug. 6, 2012, fire at Chevron Corp's San Francisco Bay-area refinery in Richmond, Calif.

A Chevron spokeswoman, in a statement on Monday afternoon, did not address the CSB's recommendations for changes in the system for regulating California refineries.

"Chevron U.S.A. Inc. will continue to work with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County and other regulatory agencies and industry groups to implement appropriate measures that enhance safety at our Richmond facility," said Chevron's Melissa Ritchie.

The Aug. 6, 2012, fire sent a gigantic plume of thick black smoke and particles into the sky over the Bay area, leading 15,000 people to seek medical treatment in the days afterward.

"Refinery safety rules need to focus on driving down risk to the lowest practicable level, rather than completing required paperwork," said CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso on Monday. "Companies, workers, and communities will all benefit from a rigorous system like the safety case. I believe California could serve as a model for the nation by adopting this system."



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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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Members of the Community and Urban Affairs Committee
New Jersey Senate
Trenton, NJ 08625
Re: Senate Bill S-2273

December 12, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the members of the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers I ask for your support of the position of the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board on S-2273, "fire suppression systems in new single one and two family homes," which you will discuss on Dec. 12, 2013.

We understand the damaging and devastating effects structure fires have on N.J. residents and their property. We also understand that fire sprinklers protect the occupants and responders from death and injury when fires do occur. Therefore, we hope you will join us in support of S-2273.

The following benefits of residential fire sprinkler systems are among the reasons they should be mandated in newly constructed one- and two-families homes:

- Fire sprinklers save lives, protect people from harm and reduce property damage from fire.
- Field studies and Laboratory tests have validated that when considering sprinkler discharge and hose stream application far less water is used to fight fires in buildings/residences equipped with sprinklers.
- A recent study has also shown that fire sprinklers reduce the amount of noxious smoke produced in residential fires, protecting occupants, responders, neighbors and the environment.
- Fire sprinkler installation is relatively inexpensive, costing \$1.31 per-square-foot on average in the U.S.
- Advances in the technology have enabled architects, contractors and designers to install fire sprinklers into residential properties in ways that are aesthetically pleasing and concealing.
- With the rebounding housing market and an increase in new construction the time is now to protect New Jersey citizens and firefighters from the dangers of residential structure fires

By moving this bill for a vote, your committee can have a critical role in making the places in which our citizens live, work and play dramatically safer. Please join us in supporting this important life-saving bill.

Sincerely,

Joseph Janiga, President
New Jersey Chapter, Society of Fire Protection Engineers

N.J. Senate panel advances bill to require fire sprinklers in most new homes

TRENTON — A Senate panel today advanced legislation that would require fire sprinklers to be installed in most new homes in New Jersey, a measure backed by sprinkler companies and firefighting agencies across the state, but opposed by the largest builders association.

The bill (S2273), advanced 3-0 by the upper house's Community and Urban Affairs Committee, would require sprinklers in all new single and two-family homes built in New Jersey, but would exempt those connected to wells as well as manufactured homes.

A companion bill was passed 44-30 earlier this year by the state Assembly. The Senate version now goes to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for consideration.

"It took a major fire at Seton Hall for us to enact the first mandatory residence hall fire sprinkler law," said Sen. Donald Norcross (D-Camden), a sponsor. "We shouldn't legislate around tragedies when we can avoid them with commonsense safeguards."

Fire safety officials overwhelmingly support the legislation, saying the systems have been proven to save lives and limit property damage caused by blazes. But opponents fear adding thousands of dollars to new home construction could hurt the economy.

"It is a difficult choice because we're concerned about cost and concerned about affordable housing, and there is an expense related to it," said Sen. Jeff Van Drew (D-Cape May), the panel's chairman. "There's also the concern for safety."

The cost of sprinkler systems vary widely, depending on the size of the house and the water source. A 2008 report by the Fire Protection Research Foundation found that sprinklers can cost from 38 cents to \$3.66 per square foot, with an average of about \$1.61 per square foot.

New homes built in the Northeast in 2010 had an average 2,613 square feet, according to the U.S. Census, making the average price of a sprinkler system about \$4,200, which advocates point out is only a fraction of the total home price.

"I don't see how you can look at the cost here," said Sen. Brian Stack (D-Union), the mayor of Union City. "Somebody's life has to outweigh the cost. While I respect the economy, it's not a difficult decision for me at all."

A lobbyist for the New Jersey Builders Association, Jeff Kolakowski, said forcing more people to install smoke detectors would do far more to deter loss of life for a fraction of the cost. He noted the bill does not cover existing homes that pose the greatest threat.

"We're not making the argument sprinklers will not save lives," Kolakowski said. "They certainly will, but under limited circumstances."

Sen. Samuel Thompson (R-Middlesex), who abstained from the vote, acknowledged the value of sprinklers but said the decision to spend significant money to install them should be left to homeowners.

"What we're deciding here is whether we are going to dictate, 'No, you cannot make the decision, you must have it in your home,'" Thompson said. "I prefer to leave that prerogative to them considering the expense."

Lawmakers in New Jersey have advocated for the sprinkler requirements for at least a decade, but with no success. An identical bill last year stalled before a final vote. Similar requirements are already in place in California and Maryland.

A residential sprinkler mandate took effect in Pennsylvania in 2011, but was quickly repealed by the Legislature and Republican Gov. Tom Corbett.

In 2010, the Christie administration scuttled an effort to require residential sprinklers when it chose not to implement the provision included in the 2009 International Residential Code. The state feared the added cost would impede a housing recovery.

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: January 6, 2014

Place: Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Price: \$30.00

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

Topic: Forensic Loss Investigation

Speaker: Stephen Hill, PE and/or Steve Venditti, PE of RJA

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "SFPE NJ CHAPTER" TO:

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Meeting Dates/Programs 2013-2014

Jan. 6	Topic: Forensic Loss Investigation' by Stephen Hill, PE and/or Steve Venditti, PE of RJA
Feb. 3	Topic: NYC Resiliency' by Rich Leentjes, Operations Engineering Manager of FM Global
March 3	Aerosol Storage Suppression by Anthony Gee—Company to be provided later
April 17	Chapter Seminar
May 5	NOVEC Fire Suppression Agent Update—Larry Lussier, 3M
June 2	Research projects which are being presented to SUPDET involving droplet characterization, deluge nozzles and a floor based extinguishing system for Class B fires.— Andy Lynch of Amped I R&D
June	Joint NY/NJ Chapter Golf Outing – details and date to follow

JMCC 

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Paul McGrath

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Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

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Dave Gluckman, Chairman
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Jim Tolos

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Golf Outing

NY Chapter for 2014

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Dave Gluckman
Joe Janiga

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Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Jerry Naylis
Dave Kurasz

Finance

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Vanessa Gallagher
C. Patel

HELPFUL LINKS

ADAAG <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/index.htm>

AFAA National <http://www.affaa.org/>

AFAA <http://www.afaa.org/>

ANSI <http://web.ansi.org/>

ASHRAE <http://www.ashrae.org/>

Campus-Firewatch <http://www.campus-firewatch.com/>

Coffee Break Training <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/>

CPSC <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

CSAA <http://www.csaaul.org/>

Municipal Codes (E Codes) <http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html>

FDNY <http://nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

FM Global <http://www.fmglobal.com/>

FSDANY <http://www.fsdany.org/regs.htm>

FSI <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>

FSSA <http://www.fssa.net/>

Fire Tech Productions—Nicet Training (FTP) <http://www.firetech.com/>

Home Fire Spklr Coalition <http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/>

HVAC Bld. Control Fire Safety <http://www.iklimnet.com/hotelfires/hotelfiresmain.html>

AFAA-NJ <http://www.afaanj.org/>

International Code Council - <http://www.iccsafe.org/>

International Code Council Residential Sprinkler Exam - http://www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2009/0709_ResidentialSprinklerExam.pdf

The Joint Commission (JCAHO) - <http://www.jointcommission.org/www.JointCommission.org/>

Material safety data Sheets (MSDS-OSHA Site) - <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/index.html>

National of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED) - <http://www.nafed.org/index.cfm>

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