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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

FUSIBLE LINK

JUNE 2012

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President's Message...

I just returned from the Automatic Fire Alarm Association's Code Conference in Phoenix where I had the honor of spending three and a half days with some of the brightest stars in fire detection and notification field. I noticed a conspicuous absence of Fire Protection Engineers.

Of the speakers four are Fellows of the Society, all four were P.E.'s. They outnumbered the P.E.'s in the room. Our speakers were Kathleen H. Almand, P.E., FSFPE, executive director of the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Protection Research Foundation who you will remember as past executive director of the SFPE. Wayne D. Moore, P.E., CFPS, SET, FSFPE, William Koffel P.E., FSFPE and Robert Schifiliti, P.E., FSFPE. Their presentations were relevant to fire alarm technicians as well as practicing engineers.

In over 40 years in the life safety field it has been my belief that it is not a job, it is a calling. This point was made by Wayne Moore, that for all of us, FPE's, EE's, Fire and /or Life Safety Directors, Plant Engineers, Consultants, Specifiers, AHJ's and Fire Detection and Suppression Technicians we do not have jobs, we have a mission. This mission is to promote safety from fire to the population of the world. Our offices may be local or national but our mission is international.

As a Society our purpose is to advance the science and practice of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, to maintain a high ethical standard among its members and to foster fire protection engineering education. We offer technical education to our members and to the public at large, our educational courses are available to all yet it appears, in my opinion, to be taken advantage of by a small percentage of our members and the industry at large. Years ago when I was a Senior Training Specialist for Pyrotronics I got a complaint from an end-user that the cost of training was too high. My response was then as it is now *'If you think the cost of training is too high wait until you have to pay the bill due to a lack of training.'*

Rich Reitberger, Vicki Serafin and I worked very hard on the joint NJSFPE/AFAANJ Symposium, I brought in over 20 vendors to offset the cost to attendees and we barely had 70 people attend. This was disappointing to me as President and more so to our vendors. If the NJSFPE is to continue to provide thought-provoking technical speakers at our meetings and code updates at our symposiums we need your support. I have another year as your President and I hope to see greater turn-outs at our meetings and next year's symposium. Coming up is our Annual Meeting, this year we are lucky to have the TYCO trailer with over 25 risers showing everything from simple wet systems to double interlocked systems, all appurtenances are in place and technical staff will be on hand to answer all of your questions. Remember the only stupid question is the one you have but will not be there to ask.

Ed Armm
Chapter President

<http://www.njsfpe.org/>

www.twitter.com/newjerseysfpe

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/New-Jersey-Chapter-of-the-Society-of-Fire-Protection-Engineers-SFPE/230335010430?ref=search&sid=1603495530.128212107..1>

MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2012 NJ-SFPE MEETING

President Ed Armm convened the meeting at 6:02 PM with a salute to the flag and customary introductions. There were 21 attendees.

Treasurer's report dated May 7, 2012 was read and accepted.

The Secretary's report for the March 5, 2012 meeting was discussed and accepted by the members.

Our annual symposium was held on April 20, 2012 at the Ramada Plaza in Newark. We received about \$9,000 and approximately 70 people attended. We would like to have additional members attend at the time of next year's symposium.

A motion was made and carried to accept eight new members into the chapter:

- Marty Van Riper, Sr.
- Marty Van Riper, Jr.
- Jason Lupa
- David Winder
- Lawrence Lussier

- Lisa Oliver
- Bill Heil
- Bob Ryan

Our technical presentation was titled, "Emergency Communication Systems Overview". Our speaker was Todd Shearer of Simplex Grinnell. His program included the following subjects:

Emergency Communication Systems (ECS) can consist of voice systems, information displays and text message services.

ECS are defined in Section 24.2.3 of the 2010 edition of NFPA 72.

The design of ECS/mass notification systems is contained in United Facilities Criteria (UFC) 4-021-01.

ECS benefits of a fire alarm system were discussed.

The optimal solution is one voice notification system in lieu of two different systems.

A typical ECS and network system was reviewed.

Mass notification systems should be limited to a 1-3 second tone followed by a message that is no longer than 12 seconds.

Mass notification systems can take precedence over fire alarm systems during an emergency.

Emergency visual messaging displays are also available on some systems.

The Jeanne Clery Act was discussed. The [Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act \(20 USC § 1092\(f\)\)](#) is the landmark federal law, originally known as the Campus Security Act, that requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses

Rich Reitberger read the slate of officers for 2012-1013.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Growing company has an immediate opening for a Sr. Project Engineer. The position will require the right candidate to be responsible for the design and engineering of fire alarm systems for commercial projects. Preparation of riser diagrams, point to point drawings and engineered submittals will be the primary responsibility for this position.

Desired Skills & Experience:

Minimum 5 years experience in preparation of fire alarm drawings in the NYC & LI territory.

- Minimum Nicet Level II Fire Alarm Certification
- Proficient in AutoCAD, Microsoft Word & Excel
- EST Fire Alarm System Engineering preferred
- Base pay \$85-\$100k with relocation assistance

Contact if interested:

Nathan Lebish
Regional Recruiter
SS&C, Inc.
Phone: (805) 557-0077 ext. 137
Fax: (805) 557-0801
E-mail: nathan@sscnow.com
Website: <http://www.sscnow.com>

FIRE PROTECTION PE TEST

So far seven people have signed up for the P.E. review course that will be held at the Affiliated FM conference room in Parsippany, NJ Specific details of the course and cost have been posted in previous editions of the Fusible Link. If anyone from the Chapter still has an interest, please contact Rich Reitberger as soon as possible at:

Richard.reitberger@affiliatedfm.com

Classes start in July

ENERGY-SAVING BULB DANGERS



By now, we have all seen them. We probably all have some in our homes. We most certainly have come into contact with them in the homes to which we respond. I am talking about energy-saving light bulbs. They have many different names; compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), compact fluorescent light, and compact fluorescent tube, all describe a fluorescent lamp designed to replace an incandescent lamp. Compared to their incandescent brothers producing the same amount of visible light, CFLs consume less power (from 1/5 to 1/3) and have a longer service life (8 to 15 times).

But the news in our quest to be better stewards of our planet is not all good. These CFLs have a small electronic ballast in their base. There is a fire hazard associated with these ballasts, but that is a conversation for another day. Let's talk about another danger posed by these "green"

lamps: mercury exposure and poisoning.

Like all fluorescent lamps, CFLs contain mercury. This fact not only complicates their disposal under normal conditions, the problem is exacerbated when the lamp is broken and the mercury is allowed "out of its box." The symptoms of mercury poisoning typically include sensory impairment (vision, hearing, and speech), a lack of coordination, skin discoloration, tingling, itching, burning or pain, and desquamation (shedding of skin).

Mercury in lamps is typically present as either elemental mercury liquid, vapor, or both, since the liquid readily evaporates at room temperature. When broken indoors, lamps may emit sufficient mercury vapor to present health concerns. Breakage of multiple lamps presents a greater concern. Injection of mercury into the body through broken glass that is contaminated is of particular concern.

Here is the scenario:

You are dispatched to The Smith residence for a laceration to the foot. Routine run huh? Nope. What you were not told is that Mr. Smith uses CFL lamps in his home. One of those lamps burned-out, and Mr. Smith did not wait for the lamp to cool down before he stood on a chair and removed it. Because the lamp was hot to the touch, Mr. Smith dropped it. As the lamp hit the floor, it exploded. As Mr. Smith descended from the chair he stepped, barefooted, into the broken glass and exposed mercury. Here is what Mr. Smith's foot looked like during his 2-week stay in ICU:



At one stage it was feared that his foot would need to be amputated. Currently his foot is connected to a vacuum pump to remove continuously dead tissue.



The following are the recommended actions to take in the event of a broken CFL.

- Evacuate the room, taking care not to step on the broken glass littering the floor
- Ventilate the room for a **MINIMUM** of 15 minutes (EPA recommendation)
- ***DO NOT*** clean the debris of the broken lamp with a vacuum cleaner as this will spread toxic mercury droplets throughout the house either immediately or upon the future use of the vacuum
- Don protective gloves (I'll be the one in SCBA too!); use a broom or brush to sweep the debris into a dustpan; empty the contents of the dustpan into a plastic bag; seal the plastic bag
- ***DO NOT*** dispose of the plastic bag into an ordinary refuse receptacle
- The debris is lawfully a Hazardous Material and must be disposed of accordingly

Depending on the severity of the spill, a more thorough clean-up regimen may need to be employed. Private companies exist that specialize in this type of operation.

Mercury is a toxin, and should be treated with the utmost of care and respect. A CFL may look benign, and make you feel good about "going green," but once the poison is "out of its box" and able to cause an exposure, it's a brand new deal. Stay Safe folks!

South Carolina Debate Over Fire Sprinklers Heats Up

The S.C. Building Code Council met Wednesday in Columbia to decide whether to adopt the International Residential Code, which mandates fire sprinklers in new homes built after July 2011.

A debate over whether all new homes built in South Carolina should include fire sprinklers is heating up, with home builders who oppose the idea facing off against firefighters who support it.

The S.C. Building Code Council met Wednesday in Columbia to decide whether to adopt the International Residential Code, which mandates fire sprinklers in new homes built after July 2011.

Whatever the council decides, lobbying efforts will continue because the state's elected officials must ultimately sign off on the code.

Just a day before the meeting, the National Fire Protection Association launched a campaign featuring burn victims, relatives of fallen firefighters and others affected by fires, who spoke in favor of sprinklers.

The "Faces of Fire" campaign will be featured in commercials and billboards statewide in an effort to drum up support for the new code.

"We absolutely have to pass this code to protect people and firefighters," said public information officer Dan Byrne of the Burton Fire District. "Personally, every fire that I've responded to here in Beaufort County in a home that had a sprinkler system, the fire was out before we got there."

The Home Builders Association of South Carolina doesn't disagree that sprinklers make people safer, but it is fighting the requirement on the grounds that it is should be up to homeowners.

The association argues that installing sprinklers will significantly increase the cost of building housing in South Carolina, putting homeownership out of reach of working-class residents. The requirement also wouldn't make older housing any more safe, the association maintains.

Allen Patterson, president of the Home Builders Association of the Lowcountry, said a better route would be to provide incentives for installing sprinklers in homes by allowing homeowners to get a break on their insurance if they add the systems. "Home builders are all for safety and saving lives, but it just can't be a mandated cost on the back of housing," Patterson said. Sprinkler systems also have to be inspected every few years and they "leak more often than a house catches on fire," Patterson said.

Firefighters says those arguments are just a smoke screen.

Education officer Sandy Stroud of the Bluffton Township Fire District pointed to the National Fire Association's statistics that the risk of dying in a home fire decreases by 80 percent with sprinklers. They also significantly reduce property damage, he said.

"We've already seen the effects of commercial sprinkler systems," he said. "The fire is held in control and the sprinklers put out the fire before it can spread."

Home builders and firefighters also disagree on cost, with the home builders association estimates installing sprinklers at \$3 to \$4 per square foot and fire associations estimating it at \$2 per foot or less.

The debate is expected to continue, and not only in South Carolina. Thirty-seven other states have rejected the sprinkler requirement, with California and Maryland the only two to pass it.

"It's going to be a long battle," Patterson said.

Brenneco Risk Calculator Puts a Price Tag on Skipping Sprinkler System Inspections

Online tool helps businesses estimate the financial risks of fire protection system noncompliance. How much will a fire cost if you aren't getting regular inspections? Find out with the Brenneco Risk Calculator.

Flora, Indiana (PRWEB) May 24, 2012

It can be easy for businesses to ignore their sprinkler systems, until the unexpected happens. Brenneco Fire Protection has launched the [Brenneco Risk Calculator](http://brennecofp.com/risk-calculator/) to help business owners, CFOs and procurement professionals better understand the financial risks of failing to perform regular fire protection system inspections. The online tool is available at <http://brennecofp.com/risk-calculator/>.

"It is extremely easy to use," says Jeff Clute, a Stockholder/ Commercial Insurance Producer with MBAH Insurance, Lafayette, Ind. "I think that it will definitely open some people's eyes at how little of a cost the maintenance of their system is compared to that of what a loss could cost them." Clute tested the Risk Calculator before its public launch.

"The math is simple and the conclusion is clear. If you aren't carrying out regular sprinkler system inspections and you have a fire, chances are good that you are going to pay out of pocket," Brenneco owner Eric Flora says. "The actual cost of an annual inspection of your fire protection system is well below typical costs of a minor fire, related downtime and possible fines associated with noncompliance."

The Risk Calculator asks five questions about the business, including the facility's average monthly expenses, square footage and number of employees. With one click, the answers provide an estimate for an annual inspection and more. Flora answered the questions for Brenneco and here's what he found.

1. Brenneco's estimated annual cost to inspect its system(s) is \$336.
2. If it weren't carrying out regular inspections of its system(s), Brenneco's estimated cost for downtime related to a common unexpected repair would be \$1,587.
3. If Brenneco weren't carrying out regular inspections of its system(s), its estimated loss for a minor fire in its place of business would be \$2,125.
4. If it weren't carrying out regular inspections of its system(s), Brenneco's estimated cost for 1 day of fines, system repair costs and downtime related to problems found by a fire marshal or other fire inspector would be \$3,246.
5. If Brenneco weren't carrying out regular inspections of its system(s), it would be putting 20 people at risk of injury or death.

Brenneco Fire Protection, based in Carroll County, serves all of Central Indiana with the best defenses in fire protection. Its expert team provides installation, service and inspection services for customers who believe that keeping their businesses and homes safe is a top priority. Brenneco services any size industrial, institutional, commercial or residential building and specializes in those "difficult" and often labor-intensive projects that other contractors shy away from. Visit Brenneco online at <http://www.brennecofp.com> or call 1-866-967-0017. Watch a Brenneco [inspection in action](#) on our YouTube channel.



Location:
 West Point Golf Course
 Building 1230
 West Point, NY 10996
 845-938-2435

Monday June 18, 2012

Directions:

Palisades Parkway North to the Bear Mountain Bridge Traffic Circle. Go three quarters of the way around the circle and take 9W toward West Point. Go 5.5 miles and take the Rte. 218 / Rte. 293 / Rte. 6 exit. (Note: You will go under a golf cart bridge just before the exit.) You can see the golf course on the right off of 9W. Exit right off the ramp into the parking lot.

**2012-2013 New Jersey SFPE Nomination 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 of Officers and Directors. The election will be conducted at the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Monday June 4th at the Hanover Manor.

President	Ed Armm
First VP	Joe Janiga
Second VP	David Gluckman
Secretary	Mike Newman
Asst. Secretary	Brad Hart
Treasurer	Glenn Buser
Asst. Treasurer	Nathan Gorey
Board of Directors (2-year term)	Chandra Patel (second year of first term)
	Robert Murray (second year of first term)*
	Paul McGrath (second year of first term)

Chapter member Dave Kurasz is also running for the second year of his second term as Board of Directors member-at-large.

Rich Reitberger 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 known 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, Dave Gluckman (973-829-2920) 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 7th, 2012.

Note: * Robert Murray is replacing Nathan Gorey as Director.



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New York Metropolitan & New Jersey Chapters

**Annual Golf Outing
Monday June 18, 2012
West Point Golf Course
West Point, NY**

For the Benefit of the Joint Scholarship Fund

Outing Highlights Include:

Limited Openings to the First 144 Player Reservations – No Exceptions
7:30AM Continental Breakfast & Registration – 8:45AM Shotgun Start
Greens Fees & Cart Included – Four Player Scramble Format
BBQ Buffet following Play – Performance & Door Prizes

**\$135.00 per Player / \$ 50.00 to Attend Luncheon Only
(\$150.00 Player Fee if Payment received after June 1st)**

Make checks Payable to "SFPE NY Metropolitan Chapter"

COMPLETE, DETACH & SUBMIT PORTION BELOW

	NAME	COMPANY	PHONE OR EMAIL
CART 1			
CART 1			
CART 2			
CART 2			

AMOUNT ENCLOSED - \$ _____ GROUP CONTACT: _____

CONTACT PHONE: _____

Mail to: SFPE NY Chapter
ATTN: Victoria Valentine
c/o National Fire Sprinkler Association
40 Jon Barrett Road
Patterson, NY 12563



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New York Metropolitan & New Jersey Chapters

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIPS

Monday June 18, 2012

TO BE A PART OF A WORTHWHILE PROGRAM OF PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING FIRE PROTECTION STUDENTS

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PLEASE ACCEPT THE GIFTS LISTED BELOW FOR USE AS PRIZES ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT. I WILL BRING THE PRIZES WITH ME TO THE OUTING.

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A SPECIAL SPONSORSHIP OF THE DRIVING RANGE, REFRESHMENTS, HOLE-IN-ONE CHALLENGE, ETC., PLEASE CONTACT JOE RAZZA VIA EMAIL: razza@zsengineering.com

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Return this portion with your payment to:

Mail to: SFPE NY Chapter
ATTN: Victoria Valentine
c/o National Fire Sprinkler Association
40 Jon Barrett Road
Patterson, NY 12563

Vicki Serafin
Affiliated FM
400 Interpace Parkway, Bldg C
3rd Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054-1196
Phone: (973) 541-6771
Fax: (973) 541-6909

MEETING NOTICE

Date: June 4, 2012

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: Annual Meeting/FireXChange Tyco trailer/Preaction Testing

Speaker:

Please note for this meeting:

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

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

Vicki Serafin
Affiliated FM
400 Interpace Parkway, Bldg C - 3rd Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054-1196
vicki.serafin@affiliatedfm.com

OR PAY AT THE DOOR

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Meeting Dates/Programs 2011-2012

June 4	Annual Meeting/FireXChange Tyco trailer/Preaction Testing
June 18	Golf Outing—West Point Big fund raiser for the joint NY & NJ Scholarship.
August 10	NJ SFPE Summer Planning Meeting—8:30 am at Affiliated FM, Parsippany, NJ



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Richard Ravaioi
Arrangements
Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

Membership
John Cholin, Chairman

Nominating
Dave Gluckman, Chairman
Glenn Dietz
Chuck Gandy

Scholarship Fund
Chuck Gandy, Chairman
Ed Armm
Mike Machette
Alternates: Rich Reitberger, Jim Tolos

Auditing
Joe Janiga, Chairman
John Warnet

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Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Nicole Smith

Historian
Jim Tolos

Communications
Fusible Link—Brad Hart
Ana Crisostomo—Coordinator
Mailing/Automation/e-mail—Vicki Serafin, Chairperson
Webmaster—Todd Vazquez

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Joe Janiga - Co-Chairman

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Golf Outing
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Joe Janiga

Awards
Rich Reitberger, Chairman

PE Examination
John Cholin, Chairman
Joe Janiga
Mike Newman
Chuck Gandy

Chapter Seminar/Field Trip
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Dave Kurasz

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Rich Reitberger - Chairman
John Cholin
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HELPFUL LINKS

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AFAA National <http://www.affaa.org/>
AFAA <http://www.afaa.org/>
AFSA <http://www.firesprinkler.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.csaul.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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Do you want your business to be known by over 125 professionals in the local Fire Protection industry? Advertise in the Fusible Link. \$100 per chapter fiscal year. Contact Vicki Serafin for more info: Vicki.serafin@affiliatedfm.com