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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

FUSIBLE LINK

NOVEMBER 2008

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President's Message...



Our October meeting was a field trip to the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation manufacturing plant in Stratford, CT. It was an excellent learning experience which included a Power Point presentation about the facility, dinner at the on-site firehouse, and a tour of the plant. My sincere thanks to Vicki Serafin for coordinating the response forms and gathering the required information from everyone so we could pass through security and enter the site. I also want to thank Rich Reitberger for arranging the bus transportation for us.

On October 2, 2008, The American Red Cross and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released results of a survey showing the majority (79%) of Americans are concerned about the rising cost of heating their homes, and many will use an alternative heating source to reduce their bills this winter. The survey identified additional behaviors related to appliance maintenance and cooking that could also present home fire hazards this winter.

According to NFPA reports, cooking and heating are the leading causes of home fires. The survey revealed that 48% of households will use an alternative heating sources including portable space heaters, stoves, ovens and fireplaces. A third (36%) of people with fireplaces reported they never cleaned or inspected their chimneys. The survey also found 23% of respondents did not consider it essential to make sure someone is home when food is cooking on the stove.

Young adults, ages 18-24, were more likely than other respondents to state they will use the oven to keep the kitchen warm this winter (17% versus 7% for all households). Young adults were also less likely to take precautionary steps such as removing the lint from the dryer filter after every load (one in three do not remove the lint after every load).

Respondents also revealed another unsafe behavior, which is disabling (37%) smoke alarms when they go off in a non-testing situation. More than half (53%) of the households surveyed have not taken any of three common actions in most home fire escape plans, which includes discussing with family members how to get out of the home, deciding on an outdoor meeting place and practicing the plan.

Finally, Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 AM, Sunday, November 2. As a reminder, this would be an excellent time to **change the batteries in your smoke detectors, your carbon monoxide detectors and exercise the circuit breakers in your home!**

See you all at the Hanover Manor on November 3.

David Gluckman
NJSFPE Chapter President

<http://www.sfpe.org/Chapters/NewJersey.aspx>

NJ SFPE Membership Meeting Minutes October 6, 2008



The October meeting was held in conjunction with our bus trip visit to the *Sikorsky* Helicopter plant in Connecticut. The bus trip was both informative and a great opportunity to see how sophisticated and complex helicopters are manufactured and assembled.

We also looked at in-place detection and suppression systems and some very specialized manufacturing processes and equipment. We were briefed by on-site

Sikorsky fire department personnel who are responsible for the protection and emergency response to an area which is equivalent to a small city due to the amount of people on site at any given time. The plant fire department also treated us to their excellent cuisine and food preparation skills as we were their guests at a sit down dinner. They also gave us an overview of the plant and their functions in a pre dinner briefing. During the pre dinner meeting we conducted some Chapter business. The October Treasurers report was read and accepted as were the meeting minutes from the September 2008 meeting as published in the Fusible Link. The Chapter would like to thank the account team at Willis for setting up the tour of the plant.

Chubb Fire Protection Seminars

If you are looking for hands-on fire protection training, then these are the classes for you. Classes are conducted in Chubb's Training Center which is located in Warren, NJ (30 minutes from NYC). Facility managers, sprinkler contractors, and compliance officers have found these sessions to be informative, practical and applicable to their jobs. All classes are now CEU approved in NJ, PA, NY and CT. You can get a detailed description and registration form of each class at <http://www.chubb.com/lcu>.

• Fire Detection + Alarm Systems	11/10/08	1 day
• Warehouse Fire Protection	11/11/08	2 day
• Sprinkler Plan Review	11/13/08	2 day

CSB Finds Static Spark Set Off Fire and Explosions at Barton Solvents Des Moines Facility, Investigation Finds Equipment Not Intended for Flammable Service or Properly Bonded and Grounded

For more information, go to: [Barton Solvents Investigation Information Page](#)

Washington, DC, September 18, 2008 - A fire and series of explosions at the Barton Solvents Des Moines, Iowa, chemical distribution facility on October 29, 2007, was caused by a static electrical spark resulting from inadequate electrical bonding and grounding during the filling of a portable steel tank, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) determined in a final report today.

One employee received minor injuries and one firefighter was treated for a heat-related illness in the accident, which occurred about 1 p.m. A large plume of smoke and rocketing barrels and debris triggered an evacuation of the businesses surrounding the facility. As the [CSB Case Study](#) notes, the main warehouse structure was destroyed and Barton's business was significantly interrupted. The accident occurred about three months after a July 17, 2007, explosion and fire destroyed a Barton Solvents facility in Wichita, Kansas. The CSB attributed that accident to static sparks and lack of bonding and grounding as well in a June 2008 final report.

CSB Chairman and CEO John Bresland said, "These accidents show the need for companies to address the hazards associated with static electricity and flammable liquid transfer. They should apply good practice guidelines - outlined in our Case Study - to determine if facilities are properly designed and safety operated."

The accident in Des Moines occurred in the packaging area of the facility as an operator was filling the 300-gallon steel tank, known as a tote, with ethyl acetate, a flammable solvent. The operator had secured the fill nozzle with a steel

weight and had just walked across the room when he heard a "popping" sound and turned to see the tote engulfed in flames. Employees tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire with a handheld fire extinguisher before evacuating. CSB Lead Investigator Randy McClure said, "The CSB investigation found the nozzle and hose were not intended for use in transferring flammable liquids. Furthermore, we found the steel parts of the plastic fill nozzle and hose assembly were not bonded and grounded. Static electricity likely accumulated on these parts and sparked to the stainless steel tote body, igniting the vapor that accumulated around the opening of the tote during filling."

The report notes that static electricity is generated as liquid flows through pipes, valves, and filters during transfer operations. Metal parts and equipment must be electrically wired to each other, known as bonding, and then electrically connected to the earth, known as grounding.

"In this case, all the conductive metal objects in the nozzle and hose, and the steel weight which was suspended from the handle by a wire, were all isolated from ground and were susceptible to static accumulation and discharge," Mr. McClure said. "This is a set-up for disaster."

The packaging area - where the fire started - had no automatic sprinkler system and was adjoined to the flammable storage warehouse. The investigation found the wall separating the two areas was not fire-rated. As a result, the warehouse was rapidly consumed, and although this area had an automatic sprinkler system, it was incapable of extinguishing the large blaze.

The Case Study lists several key lessons

for safe handling and storage of flammables. "We would hope every operator of similar liquid transfer facilities downloads and studies this report and the earlier Barton Solvents Wichita report to avoid a repetition of these accidents," Chairman Bresland said.

Facilities are urged to ensure that equipment used to transfer liquids is properly bonded and grounded; fire suppression systems should be installed in packaging areas; and packaging to be used for flammable liquids - such as the portable steel tanks - should be separated from bulk storage areas by fire-rated walls and doors.

The CSB investigation determined that if Barton had implemented a comprehensive static electricity and flammable liquid safety program, in compliance with current regulatory standards and good practice guidelines, the fire likely would have been prevented. These include OSHA's Flammable and Combustible Liquids standard and codes and recommended practices of the National Fire Protection Association.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov.

No. 2008-38 September 16, 2008

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Clearance from Noncontinuous Obstructions

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to explain the sprinkler spacing rules from noncontinuous obstructions.

Today's photograph illustrates a common challenge for fire sprinkler installers: positioning sprinklers away from potential obstructions to the water discharge pattern.

This truss web is defined by NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems* as a "noncontinuous obstruction": where "beams, trusses, or other members may impede heat flow or water distribution in a manner that materially affects the ability of sprinklers to control or suppress a fire."

In order to ensure that the sprinkler is located far enough from the structural element to minimize discharge interference, NFPA 13 establishes distance "rules" based on the sprinkler type and size of the obstruction. For standard spray and large-drop sprinklers, the "three times" rule applies; for extended coverage and residential sprinklers, use the "four times" rule.

For this standard spray upright (SSU) example, the sprinkler must be located at least three times the width or depth away from the obstruction, whichever

is greater. Given a "standard 2 × 4" with the actual dimensions of 1-1/2 (depth) by 3-1/2 (width) inches (38 × 90 mm), how far away should the sprinkler be located from the web? Since the value for the width is the greater of the two dimensions, it should be used in the formula.

$$3-1/2 \times 3 = 10-1/2 \text{ inches minimum clearance} \\ (90 \times 3 = 270 \text{ mm minimum clearance})$$

Remember this answer applies to *standard spray* and *large-drop* sprinklers only. Other sprinkler types must comply with other spacing rules. For standard spray sprinklers, the maximum distance the sprinkler must be from a noncontinuous obstruction is 24 inches (610 mm).

For additional information, refer to NFPA 13, Chapter 8.



This sprinkler should be located at least 10.5 inches (270 mm) from the truss web.

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: November 3 , 2008

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

Price: \$26.00

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

Speaker(s): Ed Armm, Rolf Jensen Associates

Topic: 10 Common Design Misunderstandings

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
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400 Interpace Parkway, Bldg C - 3rd Floor
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vicki.serafin@affiliatedfm.com

OR PAY AT THE DOOR

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRE ALARM REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE® SEMINAR



SPONSORED BY:

THE AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

November 20, 2008

At The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue

East Hanover, New Jersey 07936

Go to www.AFAANJ.org for directions and a map

This seminar is beneficial for designers of fire alarm systems, project managers or lead installers responsible for fire alarm systems, Sales people and authorities having jurisdiction responsible for fire alarm system plan review and/or acceptance testing. Discussions and practical exercises intended to improve the participant's knowledge of how to use the building/fire codes for determining fire alarm requirements. This seminar is primarily based on the IBC®, 2006 edition.

THIS SEMINAR IS BENEFICIAL FOR INSTALLERS, SERVICE TECHNICIANS, SALES PERSONNEL, SYSTEM DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS, BUILDING & FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ACCEPTANCE TESTING AND/OR PLANS REVIEW, OR IS USEFUL AS A REFRESHER FOR ANYONE INVOLVED WITH FIRE ALARMS SYSTEMS.

- Course Materials -

1. Student workbook (provided)
2. International Building Code®, 2006 edition – (Student to provide)
3. Calculator, pencils and note paper - (Student to provide)

- Course Outline -

- 🔊 Introduction
- 🔊 Review of format of International Building Code®, 2006 edition
- 🔊 General fire alarm requirements
- 🔊 Specific fire alarm requirements by occupancy type
- 🔊 Practical exercises and discussion of fire alarm system requirements

WHAT DOES IT COST?

• AFAANJ, NJBFAA members and all government employees -	1-2 attendees	\$225.00 each
	3+ attendees	\$175.00 each
• Non-members	1-2 attendees	\$325.00 each
	3+ attendees	\$275.00 each

All fees are based on registration received prior to November 1 after which all fees add \$25.00

Registration fee includes student workbooks, coffee and lunch on day of the seminar. All those that attend this seminar are invited to stay for the General AFAANJ meeting that begins at 6:00 PM for an additional \$25.00 and earn one more CPD

Ninety-eight to ninety-nine percent of previous attendees have indicated they "would recommend to others" and they "received fair value for the money spent and information received."

Instructor: Ed Armm, SET - Automatic Fire Alarm Association of New Jersey

SEMINAR INFORMATION

WHEN: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday - November 20, 2008

WHERE:

The Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, New Jersey 07936
For directions only (973) 992-7425

Register online at www.afa.org through our secure server and pay by credit card!



Or

Register by mail and pay by check!
Please make all checks payable to:

AFAANJ and mail to:

AFAA of New Jersey
Dennis DeCarlo
C/O Metro Fire & Communications
430 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

All AFAA courses are IACET certified and are accepted for educational credit by NICET and the State of New Jersey

Registration Form For the Understanding Fire Alarm Requirements of the International Building Code Seminar

Please type or print:

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name (please print) _____

Attendee (s)

Name _____	e-mail address _____
Name _____	e-mail address _____
Name _____	e-mail address _____

AFAA, AFAANJ, NJ & NY SFPE & NJBFAA members and government employees	1-2 attendees from the same company - \$225 each
	3+ attendees from the same company - \$175 each
Non-members -	1-2 attendees from the same company - \$325 each
	3+ attendees from the same company - \$275 each

Don't delay! Registration is limited to 40. **Any registrations received after November 1 will be charged an additional \$25 per person.**

REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO SEMINAR.
NICET information can be downloaded from their web site at www.nicet.org.

Cancellation and refund policy:

A full refund of the seminar registration fee may be obtained provided AFAANJ receives **written** notification at least 7 days prior to the start of the seminar. All other cancellations will be subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. "No-shows" are ineligible for refunds. Special circumstances will be handled on a case by case basis. AFAANJ seminars are subject to cancellation due to low registrations. AFAANJ cannot be responsible for losses resulting from the cancellation of any seminar.
Download additional forms at www.AFAANJ.org



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Glenn Buser

Scholarship Fund

Chuck Gandy, Chairman
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Historian

Jim Tolos

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Chuck Gandy

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