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# Society of Fire Protection Engineers

## New Jersey Chapter

# FUSIBLE LINK

APRIL 2009

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## President's Message...



Unfortunately, due to an early March snowstorm, I had to cancel our March 2 meeting. However, the next time we meet it will be on Friday, April 24 for our Spring Technical Seminar 2009 titled "Fire Protection Technology and Going Green." Recently, you should have received a registration form (also included in this edition of the Fusible Link) so I urge you to sign up today!

As you know, each month I try to find some useful fire safety information that may be of interest to everyone. This month's topic is on the use of candles. During 2005, an estimated 15,600 home structure fires started by candles were reported to local fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$539 million. Homes include dwellings, duplexes, manufactured housing and apartments.

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

### Candle with care

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

### If you do burn candles, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

I look forward to seeing everyone on April 24 at the Holiday Inn, Newark Liberty Airport.

David Gluckman  
NJSFPE Chapter President

# Career Opportunities...

## Fire Protection Engineer

Seeking a Fire Protection Engineer to join a full service engineering firm. The company operates 30 offices nationwide but this position will be located in Albany, NY.

### Responsibilities

This person will be responsible for the design of Fire Protection Systems for commercial and industrial facilities; to include hydraulic calculations, water demand analysis, system lay-out, dry pipe, wet-pipe, dry chemical and foam systems.

### Qualifications

- BSFPE or BSME
- 3+ years experience in fire protection design
- FPE license required
- Working knowledge of NFPA Standards and State Fire Code
- Experience in the design and layout of fire sprinkler systems
- Experience performing and reviewing hydraulic calculations
- Experience in designing special hazard systems is a plus
- AutoCAD and Elite Software "Fire" experience is a plus

Salary will be commensurate with experience and training. All qualified candidates will receive a prompt response.

Email resume and salary requirements to: [Mitch@DavisSearch.net](mailto:Mitch@DavisSearch.net)

Mitch Davis  
Search Consultant  
P. O. Box 3782  
Albany, NY 12203

## NJSFPE's Spring Technical Seminar—April 24, 2009

Don't forget to attend this year's Technical Seminar to be held at the Newark Liberty Holiday Inn on April 24. With the future emphasis on energy efficiency, reduced pollutant output and lower adverse impact on the environment, Fire Protection Science is not immune to these changes.

Our seminar will be focused on construction and protection systems that take the **"Drive to be Green"** initiatives into account and what new exposures need attention.

If possible, pre-register (information attached). For those of you that can't pre-register, you can register and pay at the door. The cost is only \$80.

Depending on questions from the group we expect the seminar to end at 4:00 p.m. There will also be a manufacturers' equipment trade show.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## New CSB Safety Video, "Half an Hour to Tragedy," Highlights Training Needs for Propane Emergencies

For more information, go to: [CSB Safety Video - Half an Hour to Tragedy](#)

Washington, DC, October 9, 2008 - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a new 23-minute [safety video](#), "Half an Hour to Tragedy," based on the deadly propane gas explosion at the Little General convenience store in Ghent, West Virginia, in January 2007.

The CSB's final written report on the tragedy, which killed two emergency responders and two propane technicians, was approved at a public meeting in Beckley, West Virginia, on September 25.

The title of the video refers to the nearly thirty minutes that elapsed between the beginning of the propane release and the moment of the explosion. During that period, no evacuation occurred, and volunteer firefighters and others entered the flammable propane cloud.

The new video can be viewed on the CSB's video site, [safetyvideos.gov](#), as well as the agency's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/uscsb](#). Free DVD copies will become available within the next several weeks and can be pre-ordered by clicking on "Request DVD" on the Board's website, CSB.gov.

The video includes a seven-minute, 3-D computer animation showing how a defective valve on a 500-gallon propane storage tank shot propane directly into the store building through attic vents, during what was supposed to have been a routine change of propane service provider.

"This video shows how a number of factors - a tank placed too close to the building, a lack of necessary training for propane technicians, and a lack of awareness among technicians and responders to order an immediate evacuation - combined to take the lives of four people," said John Bresland, CSB chairman and CEO. "Across the United States, firefighters are responding to propane emergencies almost every day. Training and preparedness are the keys to preventing tragic accidents like the one in West Virginia last year," Mr. Bresland said.

West Virginia State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr., is featured in the video, along with CSB investigators Robert Hall, P.E., and Jeffrey Wanko, P.E., C.S.P.

"Our hope is that fire departments and propane companies throughout the nation will view this video and study the Board's findings and recommendations," said Mr. Wanko. "The information in this video can save lives in case of a propane emergency."

The Board recommended mandatory training for propane technicians using improved training materials, regular hazardous materials training and drills for responders, and new propane release guidance for 911 emergency operators.

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 companies, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Please visit our website, [www.csb.gov](#).

For more information, please contact CSB Public Affairs Director Dr. Daniel Horowitz at (202) 261-7613 or (202) 441-6074 cell.



## Warning: Hot Coffee! - Automatic Sprinklers Possible Product Incompatibility

No. HC-2009-1 March 4, 2009

**Learning Objective:** *The student shall be able to identify one information source to verify product compatibility.*

In many automatic sprinkler installations it is common for the fitter to use both steel and nonmetallic pipe. The steel's durability and the superior friction loss characteristics of plastic together make them a desirable combination in some fire protection applications.

However, concerns have occurred recently regarding the use of some antimicrobial coatings found on some steel pipe. The coatings are provided to resist microbiologically influenced corrosion (See Coffee Break Training 2008-20 for information on MIC). Research suggests that some of these coatings may contain compounds that can affect nonmetallic sprinkler pipe, resulting in environmental stress cracks.



*Photo courtesy of Freedom Fire Protection, LLC, Longmont, Colorado.*

This treated ferrous pipe recently was approved to be compatible with chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) sprinkler pipe.

Some chemicals found in construction products and site preparation techniques may be detrimental to the most commonly used nonmetallic product: chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC). In addition to antimicrobial coated steel pipe, products such as thread sealants, fire stop materials, cutting and packing oils, antifreeze solutions, and other construction products that may come into contact with CPVC should be investigated for compatibility prior to use.

One pipe manufacturing company has created an online tool to verify if the products are compatible. You can use the System Compatible Web site to review compatibility information (<http://www.systemcompatible.com>).

CPVC products are made with base resins having different molecular weights, varying chlorine content, and different compound additives. Simply because a product is not on the site does not mean it is incompatible, it just may not have been tested. The site also lists some products that are known to be incompatible. If a product is not listed on the site, always check with the manufacturer to determine compatibility.

In addition, the use of aftermarket antimicrobial coatings must not be used to apply to untreated steel pipe that is used in conjunction with CPVC, unless that coating also has been proven to be compatible with CPVC.





Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
New Jersey Chapter  
Proudly Announces

## SPRING TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2009

Friday April 24, 2009

Holiday Inn

Newark Liberty Airport, Newark, NJ

### “Fire Protection Technology and Going Green”

8:00 a.m.—Registration and Continental breakfast

8:30 a.m.—Seminar begins

#### Building Consulting

Mr. Rob Orfino, Green building construction consultant will present on the construction aspects of Green Buildings.

#### NFSA – Green and Automatic Sprinklers

Mr. Dom Kasmauskas, National Fire Sprinkler Association., NY Region will present "Fire Sprinklers Are Green!" covering the Green effects with respect to automatic sprinkler protection.

#### FMRC – “the not so obvious hazards of going Green”

Mr. David Fuller, Senior Staff Engineering Specialist, FM Global will present the not so obvious hazards of going Green (“It ain’t easy being Green”) from an overall property standpoint. Dave is also a member of a recently created SFPE “Green” fire protection task group

Lunch – Tiffany Room – Hot Buffet (this Buffet alone is worth the trip to Newark)

Afternoon

#### Fire Protection System Manufacturers

The afternoon is devoted to presentations from equipment and system manufacturer representatives who will brief on the Green aspects related to performance, operation and the results of suppression methods. Presenters will also have equipment displays which is part of the “in-seminar” trade show. Presenters include: Victaulic, Blazemaster, Reliable, PAC Pump, Tyco, 3M, Novec, Fire Flex, W.R. Grace and more.

4:00 p.m.—Estimated seminar finish

Course CEUs will be awarded for those who attend (0.6 CEU/6.0 contact hours).  
Coffee and Danish will be served in the morning. Buffet lunch is served at Noon.



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# NJSFPE SPRING SEMINAR

## APRIL 24, 2009

### REGISTRATION FORM

**Stimulus Package Price for the seminar is just \$80  
(Make checks payable to "NJ Chapter SFPE")**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

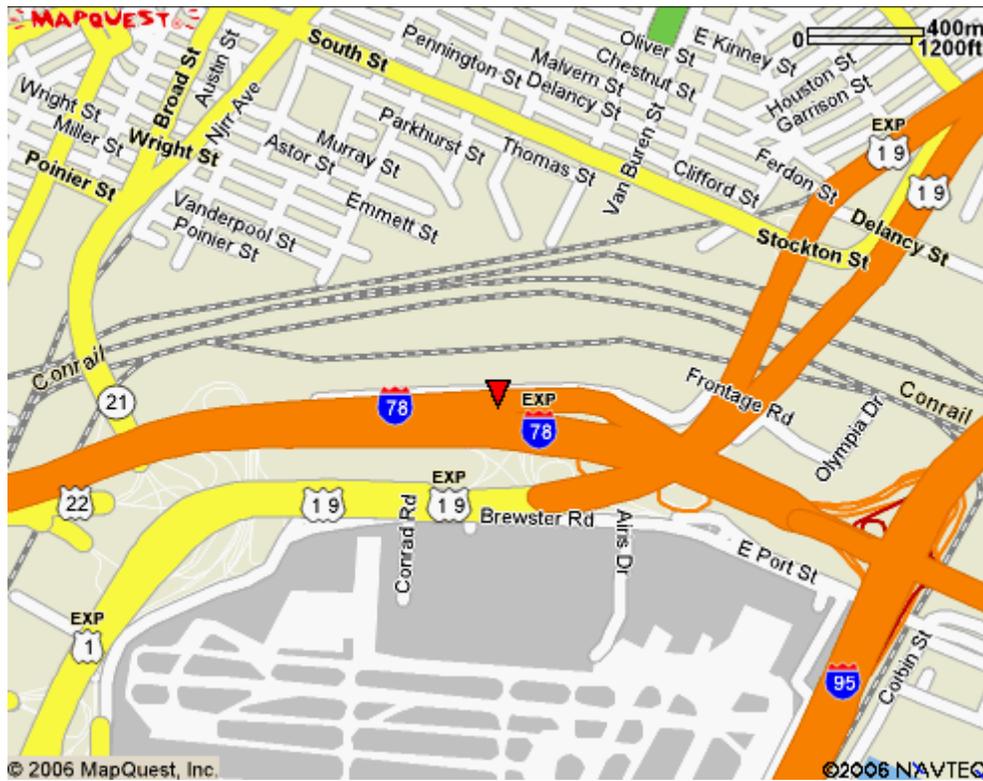
Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: NJSFPE Spring Seminar 2009  
c/o Vicki Serafin  
P. O. Box 8268  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Questions or to reserve your seat in advance, please call Vicki Serafin at 973-541-6771  
Directions to the Holiday Inn, Newark Liberty Airport are attached.



## DIRECTIONS



### From North

Take Route 1 or 9 South and watch for Airport sign. Take Frontage Road at immediate right.  
From New Jersey Turnpike take Exit 14. After the toll plaza make the 2nd right - see sign marked Frontage Road.

### From West

From I-78 East, take Exit 58-B Frontage Road Exit. Stay on Frontage Road, and the hotel will be on the right.

### From South

From Route 1 or 9 North, exit Frontage Road and follow ramp to hotel.

**Holiday Inn**  
**Newark Liberty Airport**  
**160 Frontage Road**  
**Newark, NJ 07114**  
**973-466-9291**

# Meeting Dates/Programs 2008-2009

DATE	TOPIC
April 24	Seminar – Fire Protection Technology and Going Green
May 4	Installation Issues with CPVC Piping
June 1	High Volume, Low Speed Ceiling Fans vs. AS Activation

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**Robert E. Murray, P.E.**  
President

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National Account Manager

 **tyco**

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## 2008-2009 CHAPTER COMMITTEES

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#### Program

Ed Armm, Chairman  
Consulting - Peter Rullo

#### Arrangements

Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

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John Cholin, Chairman

#### Nominating

Glenn Dietz, Chairman  
Chuck Gandy  
Glenn Buser

#### Scholarship Fund

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Mike Machette  
Alternates: Rich Reitberger, Jim Tolos

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Joe Janiga, Chairman  
John Warnet

#### Archivist

Rich Reitberger, Chairman  
Nicole Smith

#### Historian

Jim Tolos

#### Communications

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

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Joe Janiga - Co-Chairman

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Dave Gluckman

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