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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

FUSIBLE LINK

MARCH 2011

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President's Message...

It is almost spring; time to get out in the fresh air again and enjoy a night of SFPE. Our next meeting is March 7th so don't miss it. Bring a co-worker or client. The food, company and interaction is great. Come on down !! Our Spring Seminar is Friday April 15th. We are putting the final touches on the program, so mark your calendars. It will be at our normal venue, the Ramada Plaza Hotel Newark Intl Airport. We are having a Trade Show too, so check out new products and systems. We have also built a new web site. Stay tuned for its unveiling in a few weeks. We think you will like it and it should be more interactive. See you all on the 7th.

Rich Reitberger
Chapter President

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

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 the February 7, 2011 NJSFPE Meeting

President Reitberger called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. There were 25 people in attendance. We saluted the flag and made introductions.

The membership accepted the minutes of the January meeting. The Treasurer's report was deferred until the March meeting.

Three new applications for chapter membership were accepted. Congratulations and welcome to Lisa Oliver and Laura Ickes of SSI and to Jignesh Maun of ISO.

Tom Khuta mentioned an upcoming meeting for the NY chapter; Feb 22; speaker will be Bob Benedetti discussing Flammable Liquid storage and NFPA 30. Those interested are welcome to attend.

Rich mentioned our upcoming Annual Technical Seminar to be held on April 15th at the Ramada in Newark. Look for an announcement soon.

Following dinner our own John Cholin gave us a "Dust Update".

Enforcement continues under OSHA's National Emphasis Program on Dust Hazards. Most citations so far are for housekeeping, electrical equipment, dust collectors

situated inside buildings and training. OSHA was charged with writing its own combustible dust standard and this is in process. Don't be surprised if this somehow resembles NFPA standards. It is anticipated that compliance with NFPA standards will be deemed to comply with the OSHA standard.

The OSHA act 'General Duty Clause' expects that the latest standard is enforced with no grandfathering to the edition in force at the time of original construction or occupancy. Thus future federal enforcement may follow a different version of the standards than state or local enforcement do.

NFPA has seven standards covering various aspects or types of combustible dusts. NFPA 654 is the central document. To the inexpert this allows many 'perceived' inconsistencies between the documents, and perhaps some real ones. NFPA has organized a technical correlating committee to standardize the format of the documents, resolve conflicts and provide hazard assessment guidelines. Changes to 654 are scheduled for publication in 2012.

Some further factoids; A typical dust deflagration is over in about 350 milliseconds, less than half a second.

In his investigations of some catastrophic explosions John has calculated that only about 50 lbs of dust was actually involved.

Accumulated fugitive dust greatly intensifies damage (and injury).

The smallest and thus most explosible particles always settle at/near the top of a building. Look up!

There are various criteria for limits of accumulated dust layers beyond which need housekeeping, (from if you can write your name in it to the thickness of a nickel)

Housekeeping is critical but it is far more cost effective and safe in the long term to find and eliminate the cause of dust release than to constantly clean up the dust.

It is permissible to use a Class 2 Division 2 electrical rated vacuum cleaners for dust cleaning.

The NEC requires Cl 2 Div 2 electrical equipment if you can write your name in the dust but Cl 2 Div 1 equipment if the layer is 1/8 inch.

After a Q&A period the meeting was adjourned at about 8:45. Thanks John, for an enlightening discussion.



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Tyco Recalls Simplex Alarm Panels

February 8, 2011

CPSC Alert #11-721

Simplex Fire Alarm Control Panels Recalled by Tyco Safety Products Westminister Due to Failure to Alert Monitoring Centers The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by the firm in cooperation with the CPSC. Building managers should stop relying on the product models listed below to alert an alarm monitoring center in the event of a fire. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Simplex Fire Alarm Control Panel

Units: About 540

Manufacturer: Tyco Safety Products Westminister of Westminister, Mass.

Hazard: The recalled fire alarm control panels can fail to send a signal to alert monitoring centers in the event of a fire.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received 2 reports of alarms failing to alert monitoring centers. No injuries have been reported.

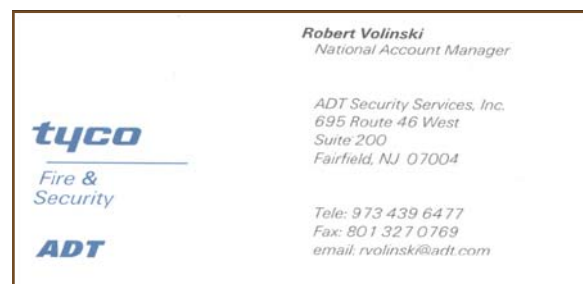
Description: The recalled fire alarm panel is the Simplex 4100U-NXP panel configured for third party monitoring and running software revision 14.01. The words "Simplex," "4100U" and "Fire Control" appear on the fire alarm's front panel. The software revision number can be identified by pressing the "Menu" key on the panel keypad, selecting "Show Software Revision Level" and pressing "Enter."

Sold by: Distributed by SimplexGrinnell from May 2010 to September 2010 for between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

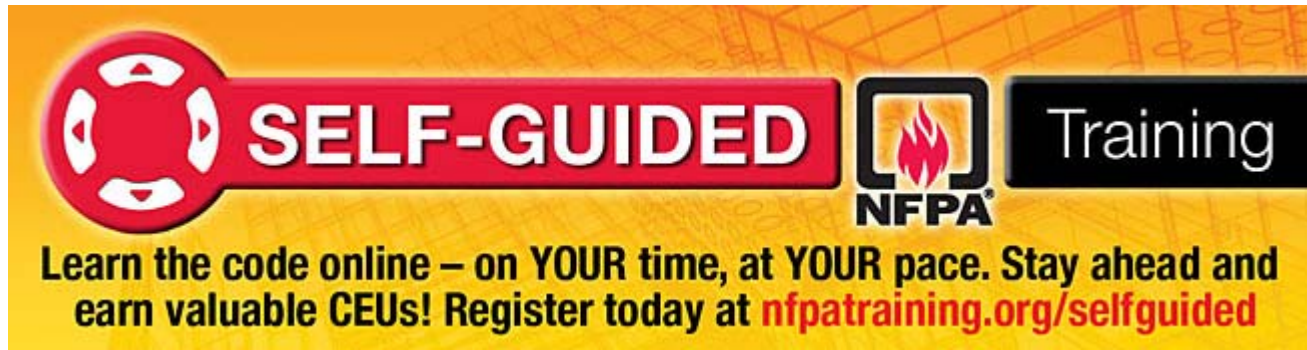
Manufactured in: U.S.


Remedy: Building managers should contact SimplexGrinnell for a free software upgrade. SimplexGrinnell is contacting its customers directly.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact SimplexGrinnell toll-free at (866) 565-6322 or at the firm's website at www.simplexgrinnell.com



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Upcoming topics include:

- [Fundamentals of NFPA 80: Standard for Fire Doors & Other Opening Protectives: 02/15/2011](#): (Kristin Collette, Fire Protection Engineer, NFPA)
- [NEW NFPA 10: Selecting, Installing, and Servicing Portable Fire Extinguishers: 02/22/2011](#) (Mark Conroy - Senior Engineer of Technical Services for Brooks Equipment Company)
- [Combustible Dust Hazard Assessment: 02/24/2011](#) (Guy Colonna, Division Manager, Industrial and Chemical Engineering, NFPA)

[NEW NFPA 25: Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems Changes: 02/28/2011](#) (Matt Klaus, Senior Engineer, Sprinklers, NFPA)

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**U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD***An independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public, and the environment.*

CSB Releases Case Study on Fatal 2008 Accident at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant in Houston; Cites Need for Emergency Drills, Following Pressure Vessel Codes

Washington DC, January 27, 2011 - A U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) [case study](#) released today on the 2008 heat exchanger rupture and ammonia release at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Houston, Texas, identifies gaps in facility emergency response training and calls for increased adherence to existing industry codes.

The accident occurred on June 11, 2008, when an over-pressure in a heat exchanger led to a violent rupture of the exchanger, hurling debris that struck and killed a Goodyear employee walking through the area. The heat exchanger contained pressurized anhydrous ammonia, a colorless, toxic chemical, used as a coolant in the production of synthetic rubber; five workers were exposed to ammonia released by the rupture.

On the day prior to the accident, maintenance work required closing several valves on the heat exchanger. CSB investigators found that workers closed a valve that isolated the exchanger from a relief valve, to replace a burst rupture disk located below the relief valve.

The next day, at about 7:30 a.m. an operator closed another valve — this one blocking a second, automatic pressure control valve — to begin cleaning the process line with steam. Unaware that the isolation valve was also closed — thus leaving no means of relieving excess pressure in the exchanger, pressure continued to increase until the heat exchanger exploded violently.

Managers ordered the plant evacuated. However, CSB investigators found that on the day of the accident the employee tracking system was not operating properly, making it difficult to quickly account for all employees.

The CSB found that a malfunction in the computerized electronic employee badge tracking system delayed supervisors in immediately retrieving the list of personnel in their area, requiring handwritten lists to be generated. At about 1:20 p.m. an operations supervisor assessing the damage to the incident area discovered a fatally injured employee buried in rubble in a dimly lit area. The CSB case study notes that because the fatally injured employee had been a member of the emergency response team, her absence from the evacuation muster point was not considered unusual.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "The absence of this worker had not been noted due to the lack of training and drills on worker headcounts. Plant personnel were not provided with the proper training to effectively manage this emergency. Company procedures called for routine evacuation and shelter-in-place drills four times a year, but such drills were not held for several years prior to the incident. Management's adherence to company procedures should have allowed for effective communication between all members of the workforce and a more robust emergency response structure."

The report further notes that maintenance work activity was not properly communicated between maintenance and operations personnel, resulting in a subsequent shift not being notified of the isolation of the pressure relief line.

The CSB's final report outlines several lessons learned including the need to adhere to existing American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

CSB Investigations Supervisor Robert Hall said, "We found the accident likely would not have happened had operators followed the ASME code. It's crucial that workers continuously monitor an isolated pressure relief system throughout the course of a repair and reopen blocked valves immediately after the work is completed."

The CSB's report notes that the ASME code states that "Overpressure protections shall be continually provided... whenever there is a possibility that the vessel can be over-pressurized by a pressure source."

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious 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. CSB's final report including can be viewed at www.csb.gov.

For more information, contact Public Affairs Specialist Hillary Cohen, 202-261-3601, or Sandy Gilmour, 202-261-7614, cell 202-251-5496.



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MEETING NOTICE

Date: March 7, 2011

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

Price: \$30.00

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

Topic: Offsite Notification - Where does the technology and codes stand? Speaker—
Robert Boyer, Edwards/UTC

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:

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HELPFUL LINKS

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

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

AFAA <http://www.affaa.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.affaanj.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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