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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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FUSIBLE LINK

FEBRUARY 2014

President's Message...

Polar Inversions, Bridge Gate; 2014 has sure gotten off with a bang.

It was so close. A-1570/S-2273, the New Home Fire Safety bill, which would have required sprinkler protection in many new one and two family homes in New Jersey made it successfully through both houses of our state legislature but died on the Governor's desk. Our Dave Kurasz and the group he's working with have brought this proposal so far along. Hopefully at one of our meetings soon we'll hear from Dave about the plans to continue because this life safety measure is too important to give up.

If you haven't paid your chapter dues in a while we're sorry but this will be the last copy of the Fusible Link we e-mail to you. A surprisingly large number of members have not paid their dues for this year and some have not paid for two or even three years. We get the hint, and there are no hard feelings but it is time to update our membership list.

Come join us on February 3 when Rich Leentjes, Operations Engineering Manager at FM Global talks to us about "NYC Resiliency". Rich served on Mayor Bloomberg's task force following Superstorm Sandy and will share insights with us about this prestigious group's findings.

Joe Janiga
President, NJ Chapter SFPE

Minutes of the SFPE NJ Chapter Meeting January 6, 2014

President Joe Janiga convened the meeting at 6:05 PM at the Hanover Manor, E. Hanover, NJ with a salute to the flag and the customary introductions. There were 16 attendees.

President Joe Janiga mentioned that the Treasurer's Report this evening was being held until a deposit discrepancy from the December, 2013 meeting is rectified.

The minutes from the September, 2013 meeting were approved as read by the Chapter Secretary.

President Joe Janiga mentioned that the NJ Senate Residential Sprinkler bill (S-2273) passed review in the NJ Senate Budget Committee.

President Joe Janiga updated the membership on the upcoming seminars being held by City Fire

Equipment at Seton Hall and Princeton.

Stephen Hill of RJA was tonight's speaker and gave a very informative presentation on "Forensic Loss Investigation". Stephen gave an overview of forensic loss investigation and how engineering and scientific principles are applied in the investigation of fire losses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Senate Bill S2273 Passes (Residential Sprinkler Requirements in New Construction)



Senate Bill S2273 (New Home Fire Safety Act) passed the entire body of the Senate on January 9th. The final vote was 25 -13. The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone for their efforts in support of this bill. The last hurdle is the most challenging one. Both bills need to be signed by the Governor within 7

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

High School Laboratory Fire in New York City

Just when you think you have seen it all. According to media reports, a flash fire occurred during a demonstration in the high school's laboratory resulting in injuries to two 10th grade students, one severely. Reportedly a high school chemistry teacher poured alcohol into either a flaming or extremely hot dish causing an instant large fire ball.

The CSB's has produced a safety video entitled "After the Rainbow," features accident survivor Calais Weber in her own words describing how at age 15 she was burned over 40 per cent of her body during a chemistry demonstration performed by her teacher at a prestigious boarding school she attended in Ohio. That accident occurred on January 23, 2006. The CSB's chemical investigation screening process regrettably sees on a regular basis reports of similar accidents still occurring today

A link to the video is below, if it does not take you directly to the video, simply do a search for " After the Rainbow" <http://www.csb.gov/videos/>



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NJ Chapter's letter to the Governor on Residential Sprinkler Systems

The NJ Chapter of the SFPE has been one of many organizations that are supporting the recently passed bill to require sprinkler systems in new residential homes. Our chapter as well as the following organizations have also contacted the Governor encouraging him to sign the bill into law:

- National Fire Protection Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- American Fire Sprinkler Association
- New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
- New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Coalition
- Township of Millburn
- Automatic Fire Alarm Association of New Jersey
- Sub-Contractors Association of New Jersey
- New Jersey State Fire Protection and Prevention Association

NJ Chapter's Letter to the Governor on Residential Sprinkler Systems



Society of Fire Protection Engineers New Jersey Chapter

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January 13, 2014

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor, State of NJ
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: A-1570 and S-2273 'new home fire safety'

Dear Governor Christie,

On behalf of the members of the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers I ask that you sign into law A-1570 and S-2273.

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 first responders from death and injury when fires do occur. We do not contest the value of smoke detection which has had good effect but believe that fire sprinklers will further improve safety considerably in conjunction with detection.

Others no doubt have mentioned to you about affordability, aesthetics, environmental benefits and other concerns both for and against mandating this protection. I would simply like to add that as you consider your decision you should be aware that the materials and construction of modern homes have changed over the past few decades along with their furnishings and contents. As a result residential fires grow more rapidly giving occupants less time to evacuate and reducing the time first responders have to effectively bring the fire under control. Likewise the ultimate intensity of fires has increased posing a heightened danger to occupants and responders. Fire sprinklers are proven to react quickly to fire, effectively aiding evacuation and impeding fire growth until responders arrive and can complete its extinguishment. Further, fire sprinklers have proven over decades of use to actually control fires with less water and less water damage than that caused by fire hose streams.

So please, sign these into law.

Regards,

Joseph Janiga, P.E., FSFPE, President
New Jersey Chapter, Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Here is another example of public fire protection and response in China. For those of us with facilities or planned facilities in China, additional considerations are often needed when it comes to firefighting response. What we take for granted in the USA is simply not available in many other parts of the world.

China Tourist Town Burned Despite Safety System

BEIJING January 13, 2014 (AP)



Authorities say a fire safety system costing more than \$1 million wasn't functioning and failed to prevent a blaze that razed an ancient tourist town in southwest China.

The Deqen prefecture fire brigade said on its microblog Monday that the system in Dukezong had been shut down to prevent pipes from bursting in the below-freezing temperatures. The service said the system was installed in 2011 at a cost of 8 million yuan (\$1.3 million).

In addition to the system's failure, the low temperatures lowered water pressure in hydrants when the fire broke out at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

The wooden houses burned quickly, while fire trucks were unable to penetrate narrow streets and alleys.

Tourism is virtually the only industry in the traditional Tibetan region.

Cause of deadly Omaha plant explosion unknown

Written by Associated Press

OMAHA — After a blast caused much of an Omaha manufacturing plant to collapse, some workers found themselves buried in debris and others scrambled for their lives.

Two of the 38 workers who were at the International Nutrition plant on Monday morning died and 10 were hospitalized with significant injuries, authorities said. A firefighter was also sent to the hospital with an injured hand.

An urban recovery team of firefighters resumed efforts Tuesday morning to recover the body of one of the workers killed. Officials have not released that victim's name. The body of Keith Everett, 53, was pulled from the debris Monday afternoon.

Jamar White said he had a narrow escape. He was outside the plant watching trucks unload when he heard a loud crack and looked up to see the back wall of the building collapsing.

"I ran at least 150 feet," White said. "I ran far enough to make sure nothing else would keep falling."

Key structural supports failed after the blast, and the second and third floors of the plant collapsed on top of the first floor. The blast knocked out the lights in the building and sent workers fleeing for safety.

Authorities don't know what caused the blast. Omaha Interim Fire Chief Bernie Kanger said at a news conference Monday night that he couldn't say for sure there was an explosion, though workers and other witnesses described hearing a blast.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will investigate the cause of the accident; Kanger said that could take weeks. He noted there were no hazardous chemicals at the International Nutrition plant, which makes nutritional products that are added to livestock and poultry feed.

Messages left Tuesday at local and regional OSHA offices seeking information on the investigation were not immediately returned. Online records show the federal agency fined International Nutrition more than \$13,000 after a 45-year-old worker was killed in 2002 when he fell into a moving mixer he was cleaning.



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MEETING NOTICE

Date: February 3, 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: NYC Resiliency

Speaker: Rich Leentjes, Operations Engineering Manager, FM Global

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

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OR PAY AT THE DOOR

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Meeting Dates/Programs 2013-2014

Feb. 3	Topic: NYC Resiliency' by Rich Leentjes, Operations Engineering Manager of FM Global
March 3	Aerosol Suppression by Anthony Gee—Fireaway
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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Ernesto Vega-Janica

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Jim Tolos

Historian

Jim Tolos

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Fusible Link—Brad Hart
Ana Crisostomo—Coordinator

Mailing/Automation/e-mail—Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

Webmaster—Mike Newman & Paul McGrath

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NY Chapter for 2014

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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.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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