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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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SEPTEMBER 2014

President's Message...

While you are an enjoyable enough group of fellows to spend the first Monday evening of every month with that's not the reason I've been coming to SFPE Chapter meetings all these years. I attend our meetings for three main reasons; first is for the chance to learn something from our technical presentations. I must say that regardless of the topic I usually do learn something and this knowledge has helped my professional career and broadened my thinking. Second is for the chance to network with you, my colleagues. I believe that the relationships we have built through NJ-SFPE have helped us and helped our businesses work better together to the benefit of our mutual Clients, the industry, and perhaps even the world at large. Third I come to serve and keep our group alive. I see much value in the NJ-SFPE and I feel a sense of duty to maintain and improve it for the upcoming generation of Fire Protection Engineers. My involvement in the NJ-SFPE has been and continues to be worth my while.

Why do you belong? Do you feel the way I do? If not, what would it take for you to have the same opinion of our Chapter? My e-mail address is on the left hand side of this page. I'd be happy to hear your comments about what could make our Chapter more valuable to you. I'd be even happier to have you tell them to me in person at the social hour at one of our meetings.

President, NJ Chapter SFPE

Hot Work Safety

The US Chemical Safety Board has released a new Hot Work awareness safety video entitled "[Dangers of Hot Work](#)" which presents key lessons from the CSB's hot work safety bulletin, released on March 4, 2010, in Wausau, Wisconsin, near the Packaging Corporation of America (PCA) facility where three workers were killed in July 2008 during a hot work-related explosion. The video covers a number of incidents, lessons learned and precautions to be taken. While this video focuses on personal safety it does contain various Hot Work precautions typically contained from a property protection standpoint. At the very least it is a convincing video for the need for a comprehensive Hot Work program at any location.

If the above link doesn't work, you can copy and paste the following link into your internet browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWkcuR0adeI>



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Deepwater Horizon Incident—Detailed Loss Investigation Completed

The CSB has completed their extensive investigation and has come up with conclusions that differ from the previous investigations by other organizations. The article below goes into detail but far more can be obtained on the “Click here” links. For those that have 11 minutes the link below will take you to CSB’s video library . If the Deepwater Horizon video does not immediately load, just do a search for it. Well worth the 11minutes.

<http://www.csb.gov/videos/>

Houston, Texas, June 5, 2014— The blowout preventer (BOP) that was intended to shut off the flow of high-pressure oil and gas from the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico during the disaster on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig on April 20, 2010, failed to seal the well because drill pipe buckled for reasons the offshore drilling industry remains largely unaware of, according to a new two-volume draft investigation report released today by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB).

[CLICK HERE to access Overview](#)

[CLICK HERE to access Volume 1](#)

[CLICK HERE to access Volume 2](#)

The blowout caused explosions and a fire on the Deepwater Horizon rig, leading to the deaths of 11 personnel onboard and serious injuries to 17 others. Nearly 100 others escaped from the burning rig, which sank two days later, leaving the Macondo well spewing oil and gas into Gulf waters for a total of 87 days. By that time the resulting oil spill was the largest in offshore history. The failure of the BOP directly led to the oil spill and contributed to the severity of the incident on the rig.

The draft report will be considered for approval by the Board at a public meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. CDT at the Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar St., Houston, TX 77010. The meeting will include a detailed staff presentation, Board questions, and public comments, and will be webcast at:

<http://www.csb.gov/investigations/webcast/>.

The CSB report concluded that the pipe buckling likely occurred during the first minutes of the blowout, as crews desperately sought to regain control of oil and gas surging up from the Macondo well. Although other investigations had previously noted that the Macondo drill pipe was found in a bent or buckled state, this was assumed to have occurred days later, after the blowout was well underway.

After testing individual components of the blowout preventer (BOP) and analyzing all the data from post-accident examinations, the CSB draft report concluded that the BOP’s blind shear ram – an emergency hydraulic device with two sharp cutting blades, intended to seal an out-of-control well – likely did activate on the night of the accident, days earlier than other investigations found. However, the pipe buckling that likely occurred on the night of April 20 prevented the blind shear ram from functioning properly. Instead of cleanly cutting and sealing the well’s drill pipe, the shear ram actually punctured the buckled, off-center pipe, sending huge additional volumes of oil and gas surging toward the surface and initiating the 87-day-long oil and gas release into the Gulf that defied multiple efforts to bring it under control.

The identification of the new buckling mechanism for the drill pipe — called “effective compression” — was a central technical finding of the draft report. The report concludes that under certain conditions, the “effective compression” phenomenon could compromise the proper functioning of other blowout preventers still deployed around the world at offshore wells. The complete BOP failure scenario is detailed in a new 11-minute computer video animation the CSB developed and released along with the draft report.

The CSB draft report also revealed for the first time that there were two instances of miswiring and two backup battery failures affecting the electronic and hydraulic controls for the BOP’s blind shear ram. One miswiring, which led to a battery failure, disabled the BOP’s “blue pod” – a control system designed to activate the blind shear ram in an emergency. The BOP’s “yellow pod” – an identical, redundant system that could also activate the blind shear ram – had a different miswiring and a different battery failure.

In the case of the yellow pod, however, the two failures fortuitously cancelled each other out, and the pod was likely able to operate the blind shear ram on the night of April 20.

“Although both regulators and the industry itself have made significant progress since the 2010 calamity, more must be done to ensure the correct functioning of blowout preventers and other safety-critical elements that protect workers and the environment from major offshore accidents,” said Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso, the CSB chairperson. “The two-volume report we are releasing today makes clear why the current offshore safety framework needs to be further strengthened.”

“Our investigation has produced several important findings that were not identified in earlier examinations of the blowout preventer failure,” said CSB Investigator Cheryl MacKenzie, who led the investigative team. “The CSB team performed a comprehensive examination of the full set of BOP testing data, which were not available to other investigative organizations when their various reports were completed. From this analysis, we were able to draw new conclusions about how the drill pipe buckled and moved off-center within the BOP, preventing the well from being sealed in an emergency.”

The April 2010 blowout in the Gulf of Mexico occurred during operations to “temporarily abandon” the Macondo oil well, located in approximately 5,000-foot-deep waters some 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Mineral rights to the area were leased to oil major BP, which contracted with Transocean and other companies to drill the exploratory Macondo well under BP’s oversight, using Transocean’s football-field-size Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

The blowout followed a failure of the cementing job to temporarily seal the well, while a series of pressure tests were misinterpreted to indicate that the well was in fact properly sealed. The final set of failures on April 20 involved the Deepwater Horizon’s blowout preventer (BOP), a large and complex device on the sea floor that was connected to the rig nearly a mile above on the sea surface.

Effective compression, as described in the draft report, occurs when there is a large pressure difference between the inside and outside of a pipe. That condition likely occurred during emergency response actions by the Deepwater Horizon crew to the blowout occurring on the night of April 20, when operators closed BOP pipe rams at the wellhead, temporarily sealing the well. This unfortunately established a large pressure differential that buckled the steel drill pipe inside the BOP, bending it outside the effective reach of the BOP’s last-resort safety device, the blind shear ram.

“The CSB’s model differs from other buckling theories that have been presented over the years but for which insufficient supporting evidence has been produced,” according to CSB Investigator Dr. Mary Beth Mulcahy, who oversaw the technical analysis. “The CSB’s conclusions are based on real-time pressure data from the Deepwater Horizon and calculations about the behavior of the drill pipe under extreme conditions. The findings reveal that pipe buckling could occur even when a well is shut-in and apparently in a safe and stable condition. The pipe buckling – unlikely to be detected by the drilling crew – could render the BOP inoperable in an emergency. This hazard could impact even the best offshore companies, those who are maintaining their blowout preventers and other equipment to a high standard. However, there are straightforward methods to avoid pipe buckling if you recognize it as a hazard.” The CSB investigation found that while Deepwater Horizon personnel performed regular tests and inspections of those BOP components that were necessary for day-to-day drilling operations, neither Transocean nor BP had performed regular inspections or testing to identify latent failures of the BOP’s emergency systems. As a result, the safety-critical BOP systems responsible for shearing drill pipe in emergency situations – and safely sealing an out-of-control well – were compromised before the BOP was even deployed to the Macondo wellhead. The CSB report pointed to the multiple miswirings and battery failures within the BOP’s subsea control equipment as evidence of the need for more rigorous identification, testing, and management of critical safety devices. The report also noted that the BOP lacked the capacity to reliably cut and seal the 6-5/8 inch drill pipe that was used during most of the drilling at the Macondo well prior to April 20 – even if the pipe had been properly centered in the blind shear ram’s blades.

Despite the multiple maintenance problems found in the Deepwater Horizon BOP, which could have been detected prior to the accident, CSB investigators ultimately concluded the blind shear ram likely did close on the night of April 20, and the drill pipe could have been successfully sealed but for the buckling of the pipe.

“Although there have been regulatory improvements since the accident, the effective management of safety critical elements has yet to be established,” Investigator MacKenzie said. “This results in potential safety gaps in U.S. offshore operations and leaves open the possibility of another similar catastrophic accident.”

The draft report, subject to Board approval, makes a number of recommendations to the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), the federal organization established following the Macondo accident to oversee U.S. offshore safety. These recommendations call on BSEE to require drilling operators to effectively manage technical, operational, and organizational safety-critical elements in order to reduce major accident risk to an acceptably low level, known as “as low as reasonably practicable.”

“Although blowout preventers are just one of the important barriers for avoiding a major offshore accident, the specific findings from the investigation about this BOP’s unreliability illustrate how the current system of regulations and standards can be improved to make offshore operations safer,” Investigator MacKenzie said. “Ultimately the barriers against a blowout or other offshore disaster include not only equipment like the BOP, but also operational and organizational factors. And all of these need to be rigorously defined, actively monitored, and verified through an effective management system if safety is to be assured.” Companies should be required to identify these safety-critical elements in advance, define their performance requirements, and prove to the regulator and outside auditors that these elements will perform reliably when called upon, according to the draft report.

The report also proposes recommendations to the American Petroleum Institute (API), the U.S. trade association for both upstream and downstream petroleum industry. The first recommendation is to revise API Standard 53, *Blowout Prevention Equipment Systems for Drilling Wells*, calling for critical testing of the redundant control systems within BOP’s, and another for new guidance for the effective management of safety-critical elements in general.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “Drilling continues to extend to new depths, and operations in increasingly challenging environments, such as the Arctic, are being planned. The CSB report and its key findings and recommendations are intended to put the United States in a leading role for improving well-control procedures and practices. To maintain a leadership position, the U.S. should adopt rigorous management methods that go beyond current industry best practices.”

Two forthcoming volumes of the CSB’s Macondo investigation report are planned to address additional regulatory matters as well as organizational and human factors safety issues raised by the accident.

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.

For more information, contact Communications Manager Hillary Cohen, cell 202-446-8094 or Sandy Gilmour, Public Affairs, cell 202-251-5496.

NJ Society of Fire Protection Engineers Fire Prevention Week Grants

Our Chapter is offering grants to local fire prevention bureaus to increase education of fire prevention for older adults. The percentage of older adults either killed or injured seriously in fires is very high. The attached SFPE study goes into greater detail. The letter below has been sent to various State wide bureaus.

County Fire Prevention & Protection Association Presidents:

The New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) is offering a limited number of grants to local fire prevention bureaus in New Jersey to support fire prevention education directed toward older adults in their community.

A recent survey (see attached); conducted by SFPE shows older adults are more vulnerable to the risks of fire at home or in assisted living facilities. In support of efforts to reduce this risk through education, SFPENJ is offering monetary grants to local fire prevention bureaus up to \$250.00.

Please fill out completely the enclosed grant application for consideration by September 5th at Noon. Grants will issue in September 2014. Send applications to paul@cityfire.com or mail to SFPE NJ c/o City Fire Equipment Company P.O. Box 360 East Hanover, NJ 07936.

SFPENJ reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Issuance is subject SFPENJ's availability of funds.



Fire Prevention Week Grants

Sponsor: Society of Fire Protection Engineers: New Jersey Chapter

Theme: Fire Prevention for Older Adults

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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SFPE Survey Shows People Recognize Risk of Fire to Older Adults

BETHESDA, MD – February 17, 2014 – Older adults are more vulnerable to a number of risks including fire, either at home or in assisted living facilities such as nursing homes. In a recent survey conducted by the Society for Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), most people correctly identified adults age 65 and older as the most at-risk group.

Forty-two percent of those surveyed named older adults as the most at risk of fire danger. At the same time, more people (63 percent) believe natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tomados and floods are more likely to cause harm to their families when compared to fire.

"I'm not surprised that Americans recognize the increased risk of fire to older adults. People with limited physical and cognitive abilities, especially older adults, are at a higher risk of death from fire than other groups," says SFPE President Carl Baldassarra. "At the same time, it's dismaying that most people don't recognize that fire is a greater risk to people than natural disasters."

While fire is a noteworthy risk for people of all ages, older adults are more likely to die in a fire as compared to the rest of the population.

Moreover, nursing homes have long been recognized as a fire safety challenge. For example, on January 23, 2014, a devastating fire in a Quebec nursing home left 32 people dead or missing.

There are numerous ways that fire protection engineers play an essential role in designing safe facilities that house the aging population. For example, fire protection engineers analyze how buildings are used, how fires start, how fires grow, and how fire and smoke affects people, buildings and property. Additionally, they use the latest technologies to:

- Design systems that control fires, alert people to danger and provide means for escape;
- Evaluate buildings to pinpoint the risks of fires and the protective measures to either prevent them or assure protect people exposed to them;
- Conduct fire safety research on consumer products and construction materials;
- Investigate fires to discover how fire spreads, why protective measures failed, and how those measures could have been designed more effectively.

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering Internationally



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

As part of National Engineers Week, February 16-22, 2014, SFPE is publishing a list of ways that fire protection engineers enhance the safety of public and private buildings and what people should look for in their loved ones living facilities at www.sfpe.org.

The Society seeks to increase the public's awareness of how science and technology is used to protect people from fire.

"Whether they live in a small house or a large assisted living facility, it's critically important to take the time to evaluate your loved ones' fire risks and ensure the best technology is available to protect them from fire," said SFPE Engineering Program Manager Chris Jelenewicz. "Their life may depend on it."

The survey commissioned by the Society for Fire Protection Engineers and conducted in February 2014 by Ipsos, polled more than one thousand American adults.

What is a Fire Protection Engineer?

According to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, a fire protection engineer applies science and engineering principles to protect people, homes, workplaces, the economy and the environment from the devastating effects of fires. Fire protection engineers analyze how buildings are used, how fires start and grow, and how fires affect people and property. They use the latest technologies to design systems to control fires, alert people to danger, and provide means for escape. Fire protection engineers also work closely with other professionals, including engineers of other disciplines, architects, state and local building officials, and local fire departments to build fire safe communities. Fire protection engineers are in high demand. The number of available jobs far exceeds the supply.

About the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (www.sfpe.org)

Organized in 1950, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) is a global organization that represents engineers engaged in fire protection. Through its membership of over 5,000 professionals and 65 international chapters, SFPE advances the science and practice of fire protection engineering while maintaining a high ethical standard. SFPE and its members serve to make the world a safer place by reducing the burden of unwanted fire through the application of science and technology.

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Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering Internationally

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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

TIP Sheet – Fire and the Elderly

Each year in the United States more than 3,000 people die, tens of thousands are injured and billions of dollars are lost as a result of fire. In addition to the direct costs from fire, there are indirect costs such as the cost of business interruption. (The One Meridian Plaza fire in Philadelphia that occurred in 1991 resulted in the building never being re-opened. In 1988, the fire in the Interstate Bank Building in LA resulted in the building being out of service for six months.) Other fire costs include damage to the environment, fire insurance costs, and the cost of public fire protection (fire departments).

The fire death rate is higher for older adults than any other segment of the population. Normal physiological changes as well as medical conditions are more common with increasing age. As such, the older population is more likely to have difficulties with hearing, vision, smell, mobility, memory, and decision-making.

Fire protection engineers use science and technology to protect our aging population from fire. Fire protection engineers enhance the safety of facilities that house the elder by designing:

Active Fire Protection Systems. Fire protection engineers design active fire protection systems such as fire detection systems, sprinkler systems, notification systems and means of egress systems. These systems detect fires, control fires, alert people to danger, and provide means for escape.

Passive Fire Protection Systems. Fire protection engineers design passive fire protection such as fire barriers, smoke barriers, and fire doors that block the spread of smoke and fire in a building. In an assisted living facility, passive systems also provide an area of refuge for people who are not mobile.

Testing and Maintenance Programs for Fire Protection Equipment. Once fire protection systems are designed and installed in a building, the facility must have an inspection, maintenance and testing program for these systems. Records for all testing, maintenance and inspection activities should be available at all times.

Emergency Planning. Every assisted living facility should have a documented emergency plan that addresses the many types of emergencies that can occur including fire. This plan should include an evacuation plan and a plan for exit drills. Exit drills are necessary so that occupants and staff will know how to make an efficient and orderly escape. Moreover, the plan should be coordinated with the local fire department. All staff should receive periodic training and understand their responsibilities in implementing the emergency plan.

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering Internationally



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Additionally, the following are fire safety tips for protecting the elderly from fire in your home:

Use Smoking Materials Safely: Don't smoke in bed, while drowsy from medications or alcohol, or when you're just plain sleepy. Use large, deep ashtrays for smoking debris, and put your cigarette or cigar all the way out. Don't walk away from a lit cigarette.

Pay Attention to Your Cooking: Turn pot handles inward, and keep cooking surfaces clean and clutter-free. Don't wear loose clothing while cooking and never leave cooking unattended. Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house.

Heat Your Home Safely: Keep combustible materials at least three feet from heaters. When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over. Make sure you have a fireplace screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.

Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms: Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, test batteries every month and change them at least once a year.

Home Fire Escape Plan: Develop and practice a fire escape plan regularly, at least twice a year. Keep exits clear of debris.

From the United States Fire Administration -- A Fire Safety Campaign for People 50-Plus (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-288-press.pdf>).

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering Internationally

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Metal Dust Explosion in China - Aug. 2, 2014

A metal dust explosion was probably to blame for the blast that tore through a plant in eastern China on Saturday, killing dozens, officials say.

State media said the death toll from Saturday's explosion had risen to 75.

More than 180 other people were hurt in the blast at the car parts factory in Kunshan in Jiangsu province.

State media said at least 25 people died in hospital. The metallic dust stuck to workers' skin, causing extensive burns.

The blast is China's worst industrial accident since a fire at a poultry factory in June 2013 that killed 119 people.



The walking wounded waited for help outside the still burning factory

The plant, operated by Kunshan Zhongrong Metal Products Company, polishes wheel hubs for car makers including General Motors.

The company had been warned that high levels of dust in the air could cause an explosion, [the South China Morning Post reported](#), citing the local safety body.

Dust explosions occur when metallic particles contained in an enclosed space are ignited by a spark.

"Very serious dereliction of duty" was behind the accident, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a senior official in charge of the country's work safety, without expanding.

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: September 8, 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: PHA Dusts

Speaker: John Cholin, P.E., J.M. Cholin Consultants

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

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OR PAY AT THE DOOR

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Meeting Dates/Programs 2014-2015

Sept. 8	PHA Dusts—John Cholin, P.E. - J.M. Cholin Consultants
Oct. 6	Field Trip
Nov. 3	Fire Extinguishers
Dec. 8	High Rollers' or 'Great Adventure
Jan. 12	NFPA 286 vs ASTM E84
Feb. 2	National Fire Protection Research Foundation -Update' Kathlene Almand, Executive Director
March 2	Foam Systems
April 9	Seminar
May 4	Solar Panel Fire Hazard
June 8	SFPE Update - Julie Gordon - SFPE Educational Program Manager



John M. Cholin P.E., FSFPE, M.E.E.

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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.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.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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