



Flashpoint

Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

December Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday Dec 11, 2012

Place: Jacobs Engineering Group
Three Tower Bridge Suite 3000
Conshohocken, PA

See Page 6 for directions

5:30 PM: Fellowship Time

6:30 PM: Dinner

Dinner Program:

Our own Ken Magsam will be speaking on "Fire Standpipes for Bridges." Ken is a senior engineer with Burns Engineering with 26 years of experience with engineering design, systems evaluation and construction phase services for mechanical, plumbing, fire protection systems for transportation, institutional, commercial, and industrial facilities. This experience includes new building construction as well as renovation of existing buildings with concentration

in transportation facilities. Ken provides technical leadership on projects and is responsible for developing system concepts; performing calculations, system layout and specifications; and overseeing a staff of engineers and designers.

Cost: \$25.00 for dinner & program

Reservations: By 12 noon, Friday,
December 7th, 2012

Reserve with:

Shawn Sullivan of Jacobs Engineering by E-mail:

Shawn.Sullivan@jacobs.com

Or

Bob Moser of Jacobs Engineering by email:

bob.moser@jacobs.com

or Fax: (610) 238-11

Delaware Valley SFPE Website online again!

After a year and a half with no presence on the web, we are back again! The new address for the chapter is www.sfpephiladelphia.org. Our partner in this endeavor is Cloud Media Lab. The goal of the committee is to have timely information about the Chapter and our activities. The scholarship information will be posted shortly and there is consideration on a number of other things for the website. If there is anything you would like to see on the website, contact [Shawn Sullivan](mailto:Shawn.Sullivan@jacobs.com) or [Bob Moser](mailto:Bob.Moser@jacobs.com). We are open to all suggestions.

Volume 18, Issue 4

December 2012

Special points of interest:

- Mark your calendar for Future Cities on Saturday, January 26, 2013. For more information contact John Kampmeyer at jkamppe@verizon.net
- Don't forget to find out what might be changing in the codes checkout the [NFPA code Newsletter](#).
- Enjoy the Holidays, but please be safe!
- Unfortunately there is a problem when I make a link to an email address, it puts mailto: mailto: before the address. Delete that portion and the email address is good. I am looking into how to fix this. Thanks for your patience.

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President's Spark by Jim Davidson PE

I hope that this Spark finds everyone happily stuffed from their Thanksgiving dinner and have spent the holiday with the ones important to them. Hope everyone's wallet and bank account survives the "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" shopping frenzy.

With the holidays fast approaching and the increased usage of seasonal decorations, it is important to focus on fire safety and prevention. We need to look at the decorations that we use, are the lights being used UL Listed, are the extension cords rated for conditions in which that are use, are we taking care of the Christmas tree, is it watered, are we using a fire retardant additive in the water, are we taking the tree down before it dries out. And most important if we are using candles are we using them in a safe environment. Because **the majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence**, candle fires and their associated casualties are preventable.

FLASHPOINT

"The purpose of FLASHPOINT is to provide a forum for the transfer of information between members of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and to give the Chapter visibility." Newsletter/Publicity Committee:

Jay Stough

Information for publication can be submitted to: **Jay Stough**

Email: jays@tilleyfire.com

This Newsletter is published 9 or 10 times/year (September through June) and received as part of membership of the Chapter. Membership Dues are \$20.00 collected annually in the Fall of the Year. For an Application of Membership contact: **Bob Moser** Email: Bob.moser@jacobs.com

Visit our web site at: www.sfpephiladelphia.org

Articles written are the views of the Author and not necessarily those of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of SFPE. ❖

I would like to thank Mr. Bryan Berkley of Viking Corporation for his presentation on ***Pre-Action Systems activated by Air Sampling Detection***, the presentation was excellent.

December's meeting is at Jacob's Engineering.

Please keep our service men and women who are far from home in your thoughts and deeds during this holiday season.

Because of the super storm Sandy please pray for those who have been lost and those who have lost their homes, dreams and businesses as the Christmas Holiday season approaches.

May you and yours enjoy the memories of past holidays and may you make new memories to be enjoyed in years to come.

I would like to wish everyone and their families a safe **Happy & Merry Holiday Season!!!**.

Have a Fire Safe Holiday Season!

"Christmas is not in tinsel and lights and outward show. The secret lies in an inner glow. It's lighting a fire inside the heart. Good will and joy a vital part. It's higher thought and a greater plan. It's glorious dream in the soul of man."

-- Wilfred A. Peterson (The Art of Living)

Respectfully submitted,

Jim

Changes to NFPA 13 2013

NFPA 13 – *Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, continues to evolve with the 2013. During development of the 2013 edition, the responsible committees addressed 606 proposals and 380 comments. As usual, the majority of the changes clarify issues, but there have been some very significant changes. This article will focus primary on changes that can affect the design of sprinkler systems. Check out the article at the [SFPE website](#).

Nov 28, 1942 Night Club Fire in Boston

It was the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and the night of the highly anticipated football game between rivals Boston College and Holy Cross. Nearly a year after Pearl Harbor, men and women were looking for ways to forget about the war for a few hours. Crowds pushed night clubs and theaters beyond their limits. The Cocoanut Grove night club was no exception. Already a very popular venue, a new bar, the New Broadway Lounge, had recently opened within the night club. The night club was very crowded, with some estimates as high as a thousand people.

The fire was first noticed around 10:15 p.m. in the Melody Lounge, which was located in the basement. According to witnesses, it immediately spread throughout the Melody Lounge between the false cloth ceiling and the plywood ceiling above it, then ascended the stairway.

For more information about this deadly fire, the deadliest nightclub fire in history, killing 492, checkout the website at <http://www.cocoanutgrovefire.org/home>

*"Spread love everywhere you go.
Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier."
Mother Teresa*

Delaware Valley Engineer's Week Events & Engineer Club News

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week events are:

- [Proclamation Luncheon](#): Friday, February 15, 2013 at the DoubleTree Hotel Philadelphia.
- [Young Engineers Social](#): Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at Fado Irish Pub
- [Celebration of Engineering Reception](#): Thursday, February 21, 2013 at Widener University

Check out www.dvewc.org for updates on these events.

On November 13, 2012, Charles A. Clerecuzio, PE, CPIP was elected by YOU, the engineering and technical societies of the Delaware Valley, as the 2013 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. Chuck is the President of Solutions4CO2 (U.S.), Inc. and was nominated by International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers (ISPE), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and International Society of Automation (ISA). Chuck will be honored at the DVEW events in February.

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Standpipe System Reliability

Imagine what a firefighter who needs to use this standpipe hose station outlet to control a fire would think about the local agency's inspection and code enforcement program. While it's impossible to determine from the photograph how long it's been since this Class I standpipe system was serviced, it is evident from the condition of the valve stem—and lack of a hand wheel—that this equipment is impaired and could not be used in an emergency.

The model fire codes require periodic inspection, testing, and maintenance to enhance the reliability and utility of fire protection systems. (See Coffee Break Training 2012-17 for a definition of these terms.) Without regular care, these systems can become inoperable, putting lives and property at risk. The codes refer users to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, for service schedules.

Class I standpipe systems—intended for fire department use—must be **inspected** at least once a year. (See Coffee Break Training 2006-41 for an explanation of standpipe system classes.) This is the property owner's responsibility and is often contracted to a company or individual that specializes in fire protection systems and equipment. At a minimum, the inspector is required to inspect—and replace or repair—missing caps, valve handles, and gaskets. As part of its annual maintenance, the hose station valve should be exercised and lubricated or repaired if it does not operate smoothly. Any obstructions must be removed.

Every 5 years, the standpipe system must be subjected to performance **tests** that include a flow test to verify that the water supply still provides the design pressure at the required flow. Manual standpipe systems and semiautomatic dry standpipe systems (Coffee Break Training 2006-42) must be subjected to hydrostatic tests of not less than 200 pounds per square inch (psi) (13.8 bar) pressure for 2 hours or at 50 psi (3.4 bar) in excess of the maximum pressure, where maximum operating pressure is in excess of 150 psi (10.3 bar).

For additional information, refer to NFPA 25, Chapters 6 and 13.

From the FEMA website at the Coffee Break area www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/



This Class I hose station outlet needs attention to make it usable for the fire service. Photo courtesy of Byron Blake.

December 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 ASCET SJ chapter Mtg	6	7	8
9 Happy Hanuk- kah	10	11 SFPE Busi- ness Mtg	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 ASCET Berks chapter	19 ASCET Dela- ware chapter	20	21	22
23	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 5: South Jersey ASCET Chapter Mtg. Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- Dec. 11 SFPE meeting @ Jacobs Engineering. Don't forget to make your reservation by Friday Dec. 7th
- Dec. 18: Berks County ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Valentino's in Kutztown 6PM
- Dec 19: Delaware ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- Dec. 25: Have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Mark your calendar for January 26, 2013 for the Future Cities Competition. If you want to help out with judging or in any other way go to the [Future Cities Website](#).

Phila-Delaware Valley SFPE

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We're on the web

www.sfpephiladelphia.org

Mission Statement

The Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter purpose is to advance the art and science of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, for the reduction of life and property losses from fire, to maintain high ethical standards on engineering among its members and to foster fire protection education.

Recognition of fire protection engineering as a discrete engineering discipline is a prime goal. Engineering disciplines exist because there is a special body of knowledge based on the fundamentals of mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering science and economics.

The chapter strives to facilitate sharing of sound engineering experiences and knowledge between its members and the fire protection community in general with an active program of education and scholarship activities.

Directions to Jacobs Engineering

From **Central Philadelphia:**

Follow the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) west to Exit 29 (Conshohocken). Stay in the center lane. At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. **At the next traffic light, turn right onto Elm Street. Go two blocks and turn right onto Ash Street. Three Tower Bridge is 1/8 mile on your right at the end of the street.**

From **Philadelphia International Airport and points south:**

North on I-95 to Exit 7. Follow I-476 North (toward Plymouth Meeting) to Exit 16. Follow signs for Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane. At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. Continue from bold text above.

From **Allentown and points north:**

Take the Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike south to Exit 25A (Mid-County Interchange). Follow signs to I-476 South. Continue to Exit 16 (Valley Forge). On the off-ramp, follow signs to Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane.

At the traffic light, go straight and cross the Fayette Street Bridge. Continue from bold text above.

From **New York and Northern New Jersey:**

Take the New Jersey Turnpike south to exit 6 (PA Turnpike). Take PA Turnpike west to exit 25A (Mid-County Interchange). Follow signs to I-476 South. Continue to Exit 16 (Valley Forge). On the off-ramp, follow signs to Route 23 Conshohocken. At the traffic light at the end of the off-ramp, turn right. Continue down road merging into the center lane. Continue from bold text above.

From **points west:**

On the PA Turnpike, Take exit 24 (King of Prussia). Follow signs for I-76 east (toward Philadelphia). Take exit 28B (Plymouth Meeting). Follow signs for Route 23 Conshohocken. Continue from bold text above.

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

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