

Flashpoint

Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter
Society of Fire Protection Engineers

March Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday March 12, 2013

Place: Jacobs Engineering Group

Special points of interest:

- Check out the picture on page 4 and let us know if you can identify the people.
- See what's wrong with this picture on page 5

Three Tower Bridge Suite 3000

Conshohocken, PA See Page 6 for directions

5:30 PM: Fellowship Time

6:30 PM: Dinner

Dinner Program: **Residential Fire Tenability;** Using test data and research available from UL, university research and empirical situational aspects of the nations fire services, we'll put into perspective the wide variations in residential fire tenability due to construction, furnishings, and life saving technologies available to individuals and pets. Jerry "Dutch" Forstater, PE graduated with Distinction from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He has been involved in fire protection so long, he's replaced the government's oldest 240 volt AC fire alarm and worked with 200 volt DC smoke detectors-- while the first course offered in smoke detection was canceled due to lack of interest-- in 1973. He is been designing fire alarm systems since 1977 for high-rises, colleges, correctional facilities, and the US government. He has been engineering inerting/sprinkler/misting systems since 1982 for satellite test facilities, correctional facilities, computer centers, cruise ships, and high rise structures. He is a licensed Fire Protection, Electrical and Communications Engineer in many states, and a Partner in Professional Systems Engineering, LLC, a successful technology engineering services consulting firm for 27 years.

Cost: \$25.00 for dinner & program

Reservations: By 12 noon, Friday, March 8, 2013

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

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Nominations Due for May Elections

Nominations for the 2013-2014 year are due. Elections are held at the annual meeting held on May 14, 2013. The chairman of the nominating committee is Phil Scanyo.

Additional Nominations can be made in accordance with Article VIII, Section VIII-5 of the By-laws and must be received by the Secretary by April 8, 2013. Nominations should be sent to Jay Stough, Secretary at 209 Mechanic St. Doylestown, PA 18901 or faxed to him at 215-345-9357 or emailed to Jay.Stough@jacobs.com

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.

President's Spark by Jim Davidson, PE

Well, this year we did not schedule our February meeting on Valentine's Day and we had a great turn out for our speaker Brandon Telford of Tyco Fire & Building Products who did a great presentation on Alternate Storage Protection. For the first time, that I can remember we almost ran out of food for the dinner. We should all remember to make our reservations with Bob Moser (Bob.moser@jacobs.com) or Shawn Sullivan (Shawn.Sullivan@jacobs.com) of Jacobs Engineering.

At the Philadelphia Engineer's Club Engineer's Week Reception, Frank Spitz and I were able to view the Philadelphia Region Future Cities winning project which was on display at the reception, the display became the center of attention when 6 ABC Philadelphia began to film an interview with the students of the Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School of Willow Grove, PA. They also took the Third Place award at the Washington DC Regional Competition. A photo of the winning school students, teacher, the project display and John Kampmeyer of our chapter (Future Cities Regional Coordinator) is provided in this issue.

While Frank Spitz and I were talking about the history of the chapter Frank handed me a photo of our chapter's 13 June 1979 field trip to Philadelphia Fire Department Engine Co. 8 which also included a tour of one of the City's fire boats on the Delaware River. The photo is also included in this issue. The photo shows some of the original chapter members and some of us in our younger years. Try to identify the members because Frank and I could not remember all of them.

April will be our "Networking" dinner event with other allied professional societies the Clarion Hotel Airport, Philadelphia, PA when information on the event is available it will be sent to you all via e-mail.

"I don't really hate you; it's just that if you were on fire, I'd roast marshmallows". Unknown

Respectfully Submitted

Jim

IAFC needs Your Support

In honor of the 10th anniversary of The Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island and the recent loss of over 200 lives at the Kiss nightclub fire in Brazil, the IAFC is strongly encouraging Congress to reintroduce and pass the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act.

IAFC is asking you for a few minutes to send a letter to Congress and sharing a press statement with your local newspaper. These small actions could save billions of dollars, support safe and effective response operations and, most importantly, prevent thousands of deaths.

Following the Kiss nightclub fire, the IAFC and 14 other national and international fire and emergency service organizations issued a joint statement in support of the legislation which would help property owners make their buildings safer. We then echoed this support in day-long activities in Washington, DC on February 20, the anniversary of The Station fire, urging federal lawmakers to act on fire sprinkler legislation.

Continued on bottom of page 3

Networking Coalition Cancelled

Unfortunately, the annual Networking Coalition Event is cancelled this year. Instead, we are putting together a dinner meeting at the Clarion Hotel in Essington (the old Ramada Inn). The date of the dinner is Tuesday April 23, 2013. We are working on a keynote speaker, but do not have final details yet. We are asking that each association involved in the event reserve at least one table of 8 or 10 people.

Check your email for details on the dinner in the next few weeks.

Automatic Sprinkler: Reducers and Bushings

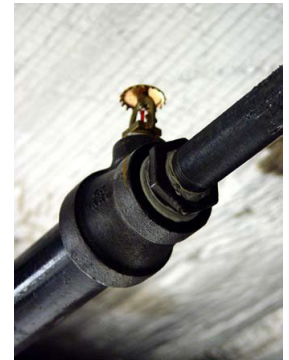
The hexagonal pipe element in today's illustration is a threaded reducer bushing. It is inserted in the end of the branch line to reduce the pipe size from the larger tapered fitting to the smaller diameter pipe at the right hand side of the picture.

Generally, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, prohibits the use of these bushings and allows only one-piece tapered reducers where pipe size transitions occur. The threaded bushing increases the friction loss and turbulence in the pipe which affects water distribution onto a fire. One-piece tapered reducers for branch lines typically range from 3/4- to 6-inch (20 to 150 mm Diameter Nominal (DN)) in diameter at the large end to 1/2- to 4-inch (15 to 100 mm DN) at the smaller end. They are preferred over bushings because of their flow characteristics.

There are, however, several conditions where hexagonal or face bushings (face bushings have no outside edge to which a wrench can be attached) are permitted.

- Hexagonal and face reducer bushings may be used to reduce the size of pipe openings when standard fittings of the required size are not available.
- The prohibition against hexagonal and face reducer bushings does not apply when sprinkler fittings are made of post-chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC).
- In new installations, where sprinklers are expected to be installed below a ceiling, minimum 1-inch (25 mm) outlets with hexagonal bushings are permitted to accommodate sprinklers attached directly to the branch line fittings for future system modifications. The hexagonal bushings should be removed when the ceiling is installed and the final locations for armovers or drops have been established.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 13, Chapters 6 and 8.



This reducing bushing may not be used as part of a permanent sprinkler pipe installation. *Photo courtesy of Keith Heckler, Rockville Fire Department, Maryland.*

IAFC needs Your Support (continued from page 2)

Local Leaders Needed to Speak Up

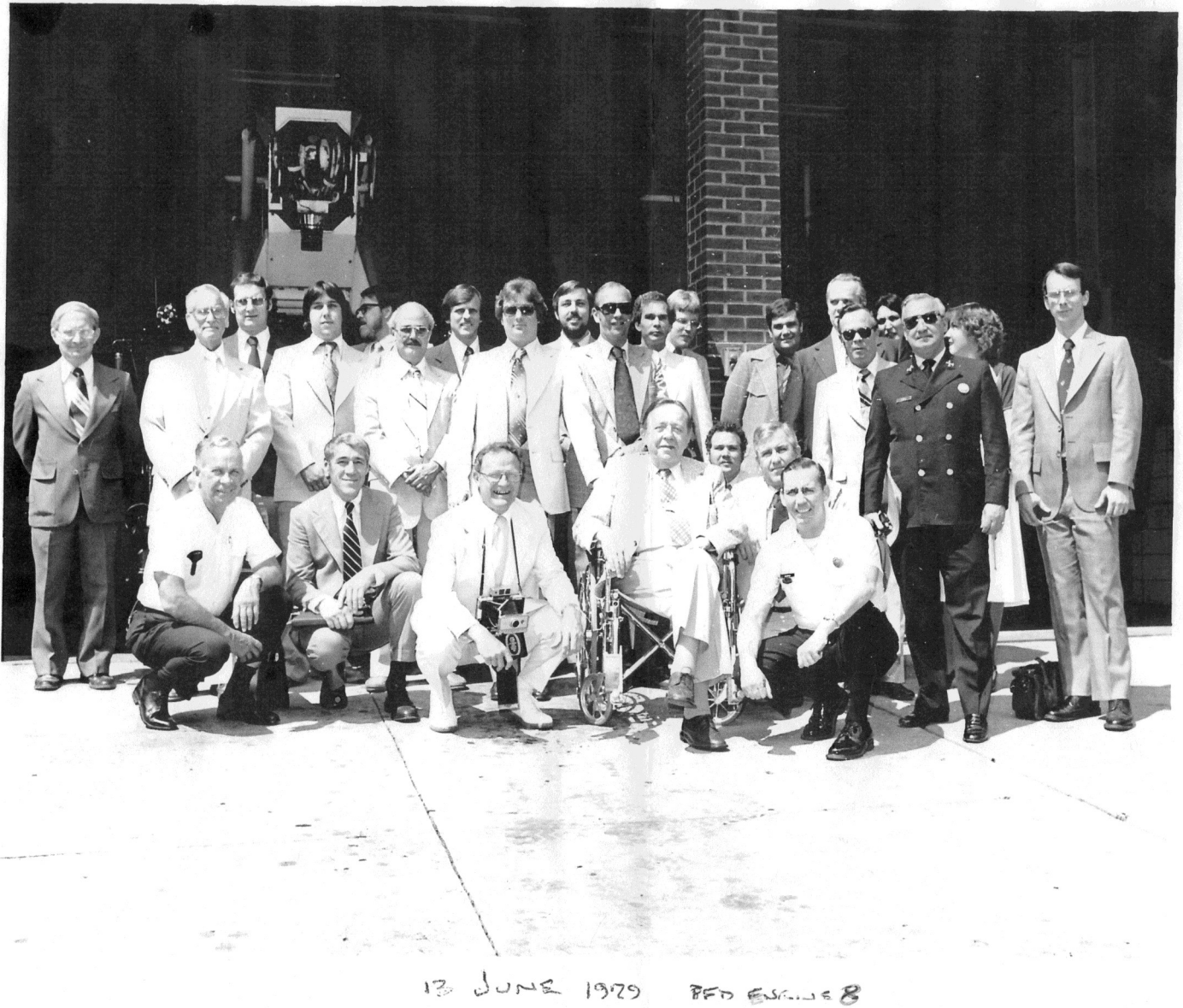
The IAFC is looking for fire chiefs who are willing to stand up and demonstrate the very real impact of national legislation in local communities.

Please write to your members of Congress to highlight the need for this important legislation and the importance of fire sprinklers in your community. The IAFC has drafted a [sample introductory letter to you can customize](#) and send to your members of Congress. Please also include with your letter, [a copy of the national press statement](#) (pdf).

You may also want to share the press statement and your support of the issue with local media outlets.

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."

Albert Einstein



Can you name anyone in this picture?

This picture from the June 1979 SFPE meeting. IF you can help name anyone, please let me know.

Future City Update

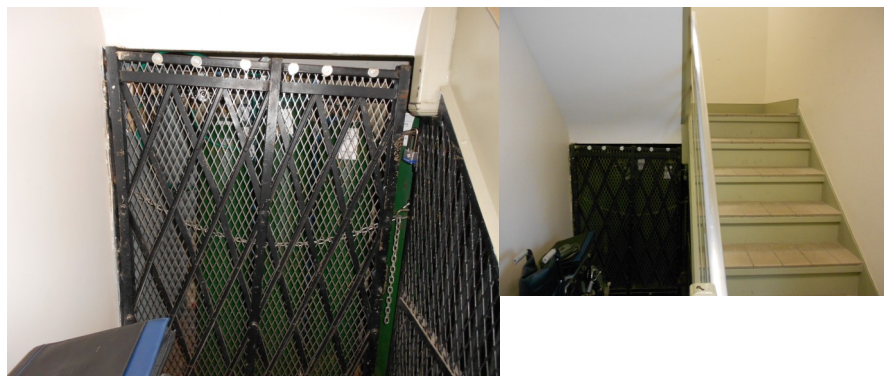
Queen of Angels School in Willow Grove took third place for their Future City, Naibhora. The team is comprised of Nathaniel J Klein 14, Kelli Ann Ryan 14, and Harry Scanlon 14, teacher Jane Ring and mentor Tom Gennaro of Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia. Queen of Angels receives a \$2,000 scholarship for that school's technology program, sponsored by IEEE-USA.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 ASCET SJ chapter Mtg	7	8	9
10	11	12 SFPE Mtg.6 PM	13 ASCET Delaware chapter mtg	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 ASCET Berks Chap- ter Mtg	21	22	23
24	25 Passover begins	26 ASCET Phila chap- ter mtg	27	28	29	30
31 Happy Easter!						

Monthly Events

- March 6: New Jersey ASCET Chapter at the Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- March 12: SFPE @ Jacobs Engineering
- March 13: Delaware ASCET Chapter @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- March 20: Berks ASCET Mtg. Kutztown, PA
- March 26: Phila. ASCET Chapter @ Michael's restaurant Bensalem, PA



What's Wrong with this picture?

Last month's picture had heat tracing on the piping that probably was not in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Send us any pictures you might have.

PHILA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE

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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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Conshohocken, PA 19482-20