



December Meeting Notice

Special points of interest:

- Future Cities is gearing up for the January Competition. See the information on page 2
- NFPA Research has some information on cloud ceilings and sprinklers. Check out the story on page 4
- Engineer's club Multi-society meeting reservation deadline is Dec.2nd. See page 3 for details.

Date: Tuesday December 10, 2013

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 Jim Davidson will be speaking at this meeting. Jim will be discussing hydraulic shock on sprinkler systems. He will explain

hydraulic shock of sprinkler systems and the technical data required to be imputed into the U of Ky. KY - Surge model program. Two examples of the programs will be provided. The basic surge calculations will be discussed.

Cost: \$25.00 for dinner & program

Reservations: By 12 noon, Friday, December 6, 2013

Reserve with: Jeff LaSalle by E-mail: jlasalle@lasalleeng.com or Fax: (215) 658-1772 ♦

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AFAA Offering Free Seminar

Circuits and Pathways - Planning, Designing and Installing for Failure or for Success? Presented By: Robert P. Schifiliti, P.E., FSFPE; sponsored by SimplexGrinnell

Don't wait for a lawsuit to teach you how to best plan, design and install fire alarm pathways to meet safety goals. One of the first lessons learned when someone starts out in the fire alarm industry is the difference between Initiating Device Circuits (IDC), Notification Appliance Circuits (NAC) and Signaling Line Circuits (SLC). But most designers, installers, inspectors and even fire investigators do not understand the various failure modes and effects that might impact these circuits and the overall fire safety mission. This webinar focuses on wired circuits, or as NFPA now states, wired pathways. After a quick review of the different pathway types and classes, we'll look at some of the different failure modes and effects and show how proper planning, design and installation can minimize the likelihood of failure. We'll also look at some new requirements added the NFPA 72 to minimize some of these failure modes and a few requirements that have existed in the Code for quite awhile, but that are not well understood, and often not complied with by designers and installers. Fire investigators are finding more and more failures caused by poor planning in the selection and installation of pathways - particularly signaling line circuits. Attend this webinar to learn what you need to know to do your job right! It's free on December 18, 2013 from 1:00 pm—2:30 pm EST. Check it out at Afaa.org.

President's Spark by Mike Venneri PE

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 \$30.00 collected annually in the Fall of the Year. For an Application of Membership contact: **Jeff LaSalle**

Email: jasalle@lasalleeng.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. ✦

Last month's meeting was very well attended. I am assuming that it took a few weeks for the members to realize I am attending every meeting? Seriously, the attendance was super and we also had several new members inducted into our Local Chapter again at this meeting. Jeff is doing a knock down job with membership. The presentation by Professor Milke was great and as expected. Of all the information that was imparted to us that evening, I took exceptional attention to his statement, **"We are SFPE, what happens in our Society depends on our involvement"**. (This is paraphrased) We are not just attending a meeting to see all those familiar faces, we are molding the future of the Fire Protection Industry in our area and possibly beyond. What we do and how we do it, is setting the stage for the future of the Society, especially our Chapter. That being the case, let's continue to make every meeting more interactive and I encourage each of the members to be involved and get involved whenever and wherever they think it is appropriate. Thank you to all for the continued attendance and participation in the meetings and the success of the Society.

Mike Venneri

Future Cities Competition

The mission of the [National Engineers Week Future City Competition](#) is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for middle school students that combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a "hands-on" application to present their vision of a city of the future.

The Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition is a 501.c.3 educational outreach program of [National Engineers Week](#). It is one 40 or more regional programs conducted throughout the country with the goal to introduce middle school students to the engineering profession. The Future City Program continues to be on the National Association of Secondary School Principals' National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities.

The Philadelphia Regional Competition draws schools from Philadelphia and surrounding counties stretching until we bump into the Atlantic Ocean or the borders of neighboring regional competitions in New York, Baltimore, and Harrisburg. Students from middle schools in the region form teams consisting of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who work with a teacher and an engineer mentor from September to January.

There are over 40 schools registered. Our organization sponsors an award and usually provides judges for the day of the event. The date is January 25, 2014. If you would like to volunteer, go to the [Future Cities Philadelphia website](#) and click on the volunteer link. Or contact John Kampmeyer at jkamppe@verizon.net.

Attic Sprinkler Seminar by Tyco Philadelphia

Tyco's specific application sprinklers for concealed combustible spaces are well known in the industry. They are holding a seminar at the Montgomery County Fire Academy on December 18, 2013 review application and the correct method of designing these sprinklers. The class runs from 9 AM to 2 PM with Continuing Development Points available. For information contact Matthew Thomas at matthew.thomas@tycofp.com or click [here](#).



News from the Engineers' Club

MULTI-SOCIETY MEETING – December 9

Join the Engineers' Club and our partner societies at the annual Multi-Society Dinner Meeting on December 9 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Philadelphia. This is a good opportunity to kick off the holiday season by networking with engineers and other professionals that you might not normally see at your society meetings.

US Open at Merion



A discussion of the myriad issues related to holding a major golf tournament at an older, smaller course surrounded by a residential area and limited roadway access. Presenters include:

Jamie Simmons, Manager of Technical and News Operations NBC 10: broadcast challenges

Larry Howard, Officer and **John Viola**, Deputy Chief, Haverford Township Police Department: Township logistics, event management, and coordination with USGA, Merion Golf Club, and other local and state officials

We expect this presentation to satisfy the requirements for one PDH for PA and NJ professional engineers. PDH certificates will be available at the close of the presentation.

WHEN

Monday, December 9, 2013

5:30 Networking

6:30 Dinner

7:30 Program

WHERE:

DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia

Broad and Locust St, Philadelphia, PA

COST

\$65 / \$35 - Regular / Government & Student on or before December 2

\$75 / \$45 - Regular / Government & Student after December 2

[Download a flyer here](#)

RSVP

Online: <http://engrclub.org/to/Multi-Society>

Email: reservations@engrclub.org

Call: 215-985-5703

Mail to: Engineers' Club of Philadelphia; 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16; Philadelphia, PA 19102

Make checks payable to Engineers' Club of Philadelphia

Reservations after December 2 will be on a space-available basis.

Payment will be expected for all reservations regardless of attendance.

DELAWARE VALLEY ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS

The three DVEW events to celebrate Engineers Week are:

[Awards Luncheon](#), Friday, February 14, 2014, DoubleTree by Hilton, Philadelphia

[Young Engineers Social](#), Tuesday, February 18, 2014, Manayunk Brewery, Philadelphia

[Celebration of Engineering Reception](#), Thursday, February 20, 2014, Villanova University Conference Center, Radnor, PA

Check the links above for more information on each event. Details will be posted as they are available.

The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.

[Benjamin Franklin](#)

Sprinkler Protection for Cloud Ceilings

The fire research Foundation has issued a report “Sprinkler Protection for Cloud Ceilings”.

Cloud ceilings are ceiling panels that sit beneath the structural ceiling of a room or space and are seen increasingly in commercial and industrial buildings. “Cloud” panels range in area from discrete ceiling panels with large spaces in between, to close-to-full-room-area contiguous coverage with small gaps at the perimeter wall location. [NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems](#), does not have definitive guidance on automatic sprinkler installation requirements for these ceilings and in some conditions requires sprinklers at both the structural ceiling and cloud ceiling panel elevations. Recent NFPA 13 change proposals were rejected based on a lack of validation of modeling results.

The Fire Protection Research Foundation initiated this project to obtain an understanding of how cloud ceiling panels impact sprinkler actuation thresholds with an overall goal to provide the technical basis for sprinkler installation requirements. The focus of this project was developing guidance for sprinkler installation requirements for large, contiguous clouds by determining the maximum gap size between the wall and cloud edge at which ceiling sprinklers are not effective.

For more information checkout the [NFPA website](#). There is a video by Jason Floyd of Hughes Engineering, who is one of the co-authors of the report. The report is also available for free download from the NFPA website on the same page.

Message from the Membership Chair

At the November meeting, we welcomed the following new members into the Chapter:

Chris Jelenewicz, PE, of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (National) Joe Matje, with Bruce E. Brooks & Associates, Arthur Simpson, with Aurora Engineers, Jacob Stevens, with NAVFAC. Congratulations and welcome to these four new members.

Over the past three months, we have welcomed thirteen new members to the SFPE-PDVC. I want to thank all of you who have encouraged someone to join our local Society. This is an excellent way to spread the word about fire protection engineering and fire safety, in general, to the broader building community. It's also a great start to maintaining the vibrancy of our Chapter.

Membership provides many benefits, including the ability to participate fully in all activities, including voting on new members and Chapter officers and directors. Membership also brings a responsibility to represent the Society of Fire Protection Engineers in a positive way to our communities and professional colleagues. If you have any membership or committee-related questions or comments, please feel free to email me at jlasalle@LaSalleEng.com.

Have a fire safe holiday season.

Jeff LaSalle

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every six** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 ASCET SJ chapter Mtg	5	6	7
8	9	10 SFPE Business	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 ASCET Berks chapter	18 ASCET Delaware chapter mtg	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Inside Story Headline

- Dec 4: NJ ASCET Meeting @ the Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- Dec. 10: SFPE meeting @ Jacobs Engineering. Don't forget to make your reservation by Friday Nov. 6th.
- Dec. 17: Berks County ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Valentino's in Kutztown 6PM
- Dec. 18: Delaware ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 31: New Year's eve. Be safe!

Need information to give to people about fire alarms in their homes? Try <http://www.buckscountyfiresafehomes.com/>. There is a lot of good information to pass out .

PHILA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE

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Phone: 215-345-8066 X 22
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E-mail: jays@tilleyfire.com



We're on the web!

www.sfpephiladelphia.org

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 Con-

shohocken. 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 19482-2074

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.