

Flashpoint

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MARCH 2015

PHILA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE



March Meeting Information

Special points of interest:

- *Just a reminder that our Annual meeting of the membership and elections will be held on May 12, 2015. Location to be determined.*
- *Scholarships will be awarded at that meeting also.*

Date: Tuesday March 10, 2015

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

5:30 PM: Fellowship Time

6:00 PM: Dinner

Dinner Program:

The program this month is presented by Victaulic and will be discussing Revit.

Cost: \$25.00 for dinner & program

Reservations: By 12 noon, Friday, March 6, 2015

Reserve with:

Jeff LaSalle by E-mail:
jlasalle@lasalleeng.com

or Fax: (215) 658-1772

Nominations are being accepted

Nominations for the 2015-2016 year are due. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Phil Sconyo: phiscon@verizon.net. Elections are held at the annual meeting held on May 12, 2015. The chairman of the nominating committee is Phil Sconyo.

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 14, 2015. 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](#)

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System Sensor offers Webinar about Duct Detectors

Join System Sensor for this NATE and NTS CEU-accredited webinar to learn about the basics of duct smoke detection. Topics include basic code and testing requirements, the different types of duct smoke detectors and how they operate, installation and placement, and what should be considered before purchasing. It will also answer frequently asked questions about duct smoke detectors and wiring. Webinar length is 1 hour.

If you require NATE credit, please remember to have your NATE ID # available when you register.

The course is being offered twice, Tuesday March 10th and Thursday March 12th. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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: jlalalle@lasalleeng.com

Visit our web site at: www.sfpephiladelphia.org

President's Spark by Mike Venneri

Hopefully when you are reading this, the weather is starting to cooperate more as we move to spring. Jeff and I attended the Engineer of the Year award at the Doubletree Hotel. It was definitely a well attended affair. I believe we should get more involved with the ECP and let them help us gain more recognition in the engineering field. We have been fighting that battle forever to get on equal ground with the other disciplines. We may even present an award to someone in our field for next year's Engineer of the Week ceremonies. Anyway, our attendance is still very strong at the meetings and the subject matter is spurring lots of discussion with some take away. Happy Spring?

Mike Venneri

Today in fire history: a fire in a 38-story-high-rise building kills three fire fighters

On Saturday, February 23, 1991, an early evening fire occurred at a 38-story high-rise building in downtown Philadelphia resulting in the death of three fire fighters, fire extension to nine floors, and severe structural damage to the building. During the 18 1/2-hr effort to control the blaze, fire fighting activities were hampered by the loss of electrical power (including emergency power) and inadequate fire attack hose stream pressure to suppress the fire. As a result, the fire was able to spread from the floor of origin, the 22nd floor, to the 29th floor. The vertical fire spread was completely stopped at the 30th floor by an automatic sprinkler system supplied by fire department pumpers through the Siamese connection. This significant high-rise fire is being documented by the NFPA with the cooperation of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

[See full NFPA Fire Investigation report](#) [See NFPA's resource page on high-rise buildings](#) for more information. Those interested in more information about [firefighter fatalities in the U.S.](#) can [download NFPA's free fact sheet and full report](#).

Comments sought on proposed Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) to NFPA 13 and NFPA 111

The following proposed Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) for [NFPA 13](#), *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, and [NFPA 111](#), *Standard on Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, are being published for public review and comment:

NFPA 13, [Proposed TIA No. 1165](#), referencing 17.2.3.5.6, A.17.2.3.5, and A.17.3.3.5, of the proposed 2016 edition

NFPA 111, [Proposed TIA No. 1175](#), referencing Table 4.2.2., of the proposed 2016 edition

Anyone may [submit a comment](#) on these proposed TIAs by the April 17, 2015 closing date. Along with your comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council by the closing date.

Pay-Per-View Seminar : Commissioning and Integrated Testing of Fire Protection Systems, NFPA 3 & 4

Join us for a live, pay-per-view seminar on March 11th and March 18th from 12pm - 2pm EST (both days) hosted by Jacqueline Wilmot, Fire Protection Engineer at NFPA and Paul Dunphy, Electrical Inspector and Compliance Coordinator at Harvard University. This 4-hour event split over 2 days is designed for the busy building owners, facility managers and other building related staff who don't have the time or budget to travel for training.

Viewers of this event will have the fantastic opportunity to learn from the vantage points of both an engineer who helped develop the NFPA 3 and NFPA 4 standards and an experienced Compliance Manager/Inspector who has taken the extra step of integrating NFPA 3 and 4 into his facility plan.

This is a live seminar with a presentation of the code and how to apply it by a senior NFPA instructor. If you just want CEUs to satisfy a requirement, you can get training from a variety of sources. If you want expert training that will help you in the field and possibly advance your career then this pay-per-view event is for you. **Seminar Objectives:**

Explain the concepts of Commissioning and Integrated System Testing in accordance with NFPA 3 and 4.

Describe roles and responsibilities of the Commissioning and Integrated System Testing Team members.

Outline different phases in the Commissioning process.

Identify the scope and challenges associated with existing fire protection and life safety system commissioning.

Pricing for the Webcast:

Members: \$67

Non-Members: \$75

In addition to [direct access](#) to the experts who develop, know and teach the code, this webcast will cover the following:

*Live Q&A through our presentation platform

*Participation in interactive activities for first hand practical knowledge.

Worried about watching the webcast from your home or office? The vast majority of computers will run the webcast with a simple click of the mouse.

Register now for this event and reserve your seat at this one-of-a-kind NFPA event. [Click here.](#)

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence"

Vince Lombardi

Chubb Loss Control University Courses Listed

The Chubb Loss Control University has listed their schedule for 2015. The Chubb Loss Control Training Center is a complete fire protection facility recognized throughout the industry for its comprehensive approach to the principles of loss prevention. Interactive seminars held at the Center give participants an excellent opportunity to gain experience using the latest apparatus and techniques. Practical exercises give application to loss prevention theories, helping clients implement effective programs within their own facility.

For more information go to www.chubb.com/lcu. The list of courses, dates and all information you need to register are available there.



A look at one of the Chubb Loss Control University valve setups.



Check out the wax coating on this QR sprinkler

"A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, and a little less than his share of the credit."

Arnold H. Glasow

New FAQ for NFPA 704 available for download

NICET, the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, in cooperation with the AFAA, Automatic Fire Alarm Association, is pleased to announce that development is under way for its newest technician certification program— Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems.

This project has been many years in the making, and after an initial scope and scale discussion with key AFAA members and other industry leaders, NICET conducted a feasibility study in October of 2014. After reviewing the results of the study and carefully considering constituent comments, the NICET Board of Governors agreed to fast-track development and make this new program NICET's top priority for 2015. The aggressive schedule proposes a launch date in May, 2015.

The certification will recognize qualified technicians who perform periodic inspection and testing of existing fire alarm systems. *"It is imperative that highly-skilled engineering technicians perform these inspections to ensure systems continue to operate as designed to protect the safety of the public."* says NICET Chief Operating Executive Michael Clark. *"We also see this program enhancing the level of recognition for individuals that hold certification in our current Fire Alarm Systems program. And we will work with the industry and jurisdictions in an effort to ensure certified designers and installers who also perform periodic inspections will continue to be able to do so with their current credential."*

Thousands of practitioners and industry leaders have participated in the initial study, job task analysis and question writing already. NICET is still accepting applications from qualified technicians who perform periodic inspection and testing of fire alarm systems to complete the question writing/review process and help set the passing scores. NICET has a critical need for individuals with less than two years in this specialty area. Please visit <http://www.nicet.org/fasit/> for the initial screening.

AFAA is providing support for the development and acceptance of this program, and has been the leading organization within the fire protection industry in calling for certification for individuals who perform periodic inspection and testing of fire alarm systems. Thomas P. Hammerberg, AFAA Technical Director, sees it this way: *"AFAA has been involved with NICET Fire Alarm Systems certification since it began in the late 1980's. While it is a great certification, we felt we needed to broaden the base from a "one-size fits all" certification. The logical beginning is for Inspection and Testing Personnel. This will raise the bar for individuals and companies who perform I&T work, and will help reduce unwanted alarms."*

Inspection & Testing of Fire Alarm Systems will initially be a two level program. The first level is for individuals who perform periodic inspections and tests of basic fire alarm systems (basic fire alarm systems do NOT include the following: suppression interfaces, networked control units, smoke control interfaces, aspirating systems, multi-zone voice evacuation systems, high-rise applications, and job planning) and prepare related records and reports. The second level is for individuals who plan, perform, and coordinate periodic inspections and tests of complex fire alarm systems (complex systems may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: suppression interfaces, networked control units, smoke control interfaces, aspirating systems, multi-zone voice evacuation systems, Mass Notification Systems and/or high-rise applications) and prepare related records and reports. Like other NICET programs the certification requirements will include passing an exam or exams, properly documenting work experience, and verification of "performance measures" by a supervisor.

Two Fire Protection Products Recalled

The System Sensor i4 series combination carbon monoxide/smoke detectors have been recalled. The detectors can fail to detect carbon monoxide gas in the home, posing a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. The remedy is to replace them. For more information, [Click here](#).

The Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc. has announced a voluntary recall to replace certain disposable fire extinguishers with black zytel nylon valves. This replacement program was initiated because certain disposable fire extinguishers may not fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released. The cause is an out-of-specification valve component. This recall involves Kidde ABC and BC-rated fire extinguishers manufactured between July 23, 2013 and Oct. 15, 2014 and sold between August 2013 and November 2014. For more information, [click here](#).

March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 ASCET SJ chapter Mtg	5	6	7
8	9	10 SFPE Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 ASCET Berks chap- ter	18 ASCET Delaware chapter	19	20 Welcome Spring!	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 ASCET Phila chap- ter				

Monthly Events

- March 4: NJ ASCET Meeting @ the Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- March 10: SFPE meeting @ Jacobs Engineering. Don't forget to make your reservation by Friday March 6th
- March 17: Berks County ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Valentino's in Kutztown 6PM
- March 18: Delaware ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- March 31: Phila. ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Michael's Dinner in Bensalem



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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.

We're on the web

www.sfpephiladelphia.org

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