

Flashpoint



Phila-Delaware Valley SFPE



Special points of interest:

- * There is an ASIS meeting and conference in Philadelphia this month. For more information, check the link in the calendar events section.

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April Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday April 12 2016

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

5:30 PM: Fellowship Time

6:00 PM: Dinner

Dinner Program:

Our speaker will be Jerry Krouse, who is in the Engineered Systems Sales Group at SSI. Jerry is a member of our Chapter, and he has over 23 years of experience in the fire protection industry.

Nominations for 2016-2017 Year

The Nominating Committee has put forward the following slate of officers:

President: Robert Moser PE

1st Vice President: Jeff LaSalle PE

2nd Vice President: Lou Annas

Secretary:

Asst. Secretary: Dave Kriebel, PE

Treasurer: John Spitz

Directors 2015-2017: Kate Lawler & Gerry Forstater PE

Jerry will be speaking with us about Video Image Flame and Smoke Detection, which is one of the most intriguing recent developments in fire detection solutions.

Cost: \$25.00 for dinner & program

Reservations: By 12 noon, Friday, April 8, 2016

Reserve with:

Lou Annas by E-mail:

lannas@bearindustries.com

or Fax: (302) 368-9217

Directors 2016-2017: Steve Oliver PE & Ben Young

Elections are held at the annual meeting on May 10, 2016. The chairman of the nominating committee is Phil Scanyo. Additional Nominations can be made in accordance with Article VIII, Section VIII-5 of the Bylaws and must be received by the Secretary by April 12, 2016. 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 jays@tilleyfire.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 \$30.00 collected annually in the Fall of the Year. For an Application of Membership contact: **Jeff LaSalle**

Email:

jlalle@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. ❖

President's Spark by Bob Moser, PE

Last month we had a great presentation on the Meridian fire that was mediated by Jeff LaSalle. The fire occurred 25 years ago on Feb. 23, 1991. The fire started on the 22nd floor of One Meridian Plaza, a high-rise office building on 15th Street across from City Hall. During the hard fought fire; Capt. David Holcombe, 52, and Firefighters Phyllis McAllister, 43, and James Chappell, 29, sent out a call over the radio. They were lost, somewhere on the upper floors and never made it out safely. Our hearts go out to our three heroic fire fighter comrades. The sting of the loss of life resonates to this day. There are many lessons to be learned which were discussed in detail by the members of our group. Thanks to all who participated in our discussion. As always, the food was extraordinary, but this time it was a bit late. We are taking measures to assure that the food will be on time for our next meeting. See you all at next week's meeting.

Bob Moser

Nominate a Peer for the 2016 SFPE Awards and Grade of Fellow

2016 Award Nominations

Do you know of a fire protection or safety engineer or student who is doing exceptional work and deserves to be recognized? Now is your chance to nominate them for the 2016 SFPE Awards. [Visit the SFPE website](#) to view the award categories and nominate a peer for one of the awards of the Society or the Foundation. We will be accepting nominations until 11:59 pm eastern time on April 29, 2016. Award winners will be announced at the annual [North American Conference & Expo](#), September 25-30th at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver, CO.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to highlight exemplary professionals who are helping SFPE engineer a fire safe world - [nominate someone for an SFPE Award](#) today!

2016 Fellow Nominations

Fellow (FSFPE) grade is the highest grade of membership in SFPE. To be eligible to become a fellow, individuals must have been a professional member for at least ten years. Election as a Fellow shall be in recognition of service to the Society and significant accomplishments and stature in fire protection engineering or fire safety engineering. Elevation to the grade of Fellow requires nomination by at least five Fellows or Professional Members. For a complete list of eligible Professional Members and nominations forms sign into the SFPE website then click "Sign In" on the top right of the page, then click "Member Resources" second menu row at the top right of the page. Once in the Member Resource click the third bullet down "Fellow Membership."

The Fellow Class of 2016 will be presented at the annual [North American Conference & Expo](#), September 25-30th at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver, CO.

All completed Fellow packets should be sent to Julie Gordon at jgordon@sfpe.org by close of business on **Friday, April 29, 2016**.

Inside Story Headline Victory in Maryland: Safety advocates help defeat bill that would have weakened home sprinkler requirement

A legislative bill that riled fire sprinkler advocates for its ability to eliminate a crucial piece of life safety for Maryland residents has been defeated.

Pre-filed in 2015 and sponsored by Maryland Delegate Christopher Adams, the bill [would have given local counties the ability to opt out of the state's sprinkler requirement](#). Adams told local media outlets that the state's law has the ability to negatively impact new home construction, a myth extensively countered by [NFPA research](#).

Maryland media have focused on home fire sprinklers since the state updated its building code last year, with [many outlets favoring the position of fire sprinkler opponents](#). "Most of the papers were on Delegate Adams' side," Richard Smith, vice chair of the legislative committee for the Maryland State Firemen's Association, tells NFPA. The firemen's association has its own residential sprinkler committee, which worked to fight the bill. "He got more publicity than we did."

Foreshadowing an uphill battle, Smith and fire service members began meeting with legislators the summer before the bill was filed. "We knew it was coming," he says. "We knew which committee it was going to and which subcommittee it would wind up in. We started visiting [committee members] and asking them for support. We brought documents with us. A lot of the information that was being passed out [from sprinkler opponents] was, as usual, incorrect."

Smith says he shared with legislators information on Maryland building permits dated as far back as five years. Certain areas, such as [Prince George's County](#), has had sprinkler ordinances dating back to the early '90s that have had a direct impact in saving lives and reducing fire-related injuries. In other areas, says Smith, building booms were occurring. "In one county [strictly against a sprinkler requirement], we spoke to a number of contractors who said they were holding permits because they didn't have the time to build all of the homes," he adds.

Maryland's fire service also conducted close to 10 live burn/fire sprinkler demonstrations since October. "We had several of the burns filmed and sent to legislators," says Smith. "When they see something like that happen, it opens their eyes. I gave it to the chair of the legislative committee, and they showed it at a committee meeting." The demonstrations attracted positive media coverage, as did a [series of commentaries](#) penned by local firefighters.

Local advocates also linked up with Sher Grogg, who lost her brother, sister-in-law, and three nieces and nephews in a catastrophic home fire last year in Maryland. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation produced [a video of her advocacy work](#). She also shared her story with local legislators.

When it came time for a public hearing on the sprinkler bill this year, the fire service and safety groups responded in full force. Representatives from NFPA and fire sprinkler installers were present to oppose the bill. "Our whole campaign was about life safety," says Smith. "We kept emphasizing that the [building] standards in Maryland are the minimum standards [found in all model building codes]."

All of these tactics worked; the bill recently died after committee members voted not to move it forward.

Though the bill has died, steps to promote home fire sprinklers have not dwindled. "I'm going to visit each one of the legislators and thank them, and then we will start again by supplying them with good information, just in case [another bill] comes up next year," says Smith. Another live burn demo is also planned this week.

For sprinkler advocates fighting similar legislation, Smith offers this advice: "[Fighting anti-sprinkler legislation] takes a lot of time and dedication. I've been here since June working on this, along with other people from the association. Make friends with your legislators. Gain their trust. Supply them with honest-to-goodness facts. Emphasize that this is a life-safety issue for the homeowner and fire service. In Maryland, there's 25,000 volunteer firefighters that don't get paid to go out and protect property."

Volunteers for Philadelphia Science Carnival

When: Saturday April 30th, 2016

The Engineers' Club will be sponsoring a booth at the Philadelphia Science Carnival. The Carnival is a highly visible outdoor event that provides opportunity for exchange between children, teens, families and local scientists/engineers! This all-day affair will take place Saturday April 30th, 2016. Our goal is to provide family-oriented science entertainment with a hands-on activity or an interactive demonstration to get kids excited about engineering! This is a great outreach opportunity to interact with kids and teens of all ages.

We are looking for participants to volunteer and join us as a society or as individuals at our booth. If participating as a society, we can incorporate signage that includes the name of your society. Volunteers can either be there all day or take a specific time slot when they are available. If you don't wish to participate as a society, please make this information available to your members who may want to assist for part of the day or have suggestions or activities they would like to contribute. The Carnival and the Science Festival's purpose is to offer something for everyone in hopes of sparking interest and involvement in the sciences so we are hoping to get a broad range of volunteers.

For questions, please contact: Emily Hoffman - eahoffman@mccormicktaylor.com

**"Start by doing
what's necessary;
then do what's
possible; and
suddenly you are
doing the
impossible."**

Francis of Assisi

SFPE PE Exam Prep Course

The online PE exam prep course is an excellent preparation tool to prepare you for the 2016 Fire Protection Engineering PE Exam. The online PE exam prep course has been revised to meet the current NCEES exam specifications. You will be able to access 14 live, 1.5 hour sessions from anywhere. Each session is taught by a subject matter expert, using web conferencing technology, which will allow you the opportunity to ask questions as they arise throughout each session. This effective educational online prep course will help you organize and navigate through the reference materials and allow for maximum retention. Don't delay and [register today!](#)


Who Should Attend

Anyone preparing for the PE Exam, or anyone needing a refresher including existing engineers, fire marshals, and loss control specialists: participants will come away with the understanding of the principles of fire protection engineering, and even if you are not taking the exam this year, but want to assess your readiness for a future exam, this online PE exam prep course will provide you with a fundamental understanding of the principles of fire protection engineering.

Find complete details on the PE Exam Prep Course online at the [SFPE website](#).

For questions please contact Melissa Franco at mfranco@sfpe.org or (301) 915-9724.

April 2016

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	14	15	16
17	18	19 ASCET Berks chap- ter	20 ASCET DeLaware, ASIS Phila	21	22 Passover begins at Sundown	23
24	25	26 ASCET Phila chap- ter	27	28	29	30

Calendar Events

- April 6: NJ ASCET Meeting @ the Collins House in Collingswood, NJ
- April 12: SFPE meeting @ Jacobs Engineering 6PM
- April 19: Berks County ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Valentino's in Kutztown 6PM
- April 20: Delaware ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Charcoal Pit on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington
- April 20: ASIS International Phila Chapter @ Sheraton Valley Forge Seminar 7 AM to 1:15 PM
For more information go to <http://phillyasis.com/>
- April 22: Passover begins at sundown.
- April 26: Phila. ASCET Chapter Meeting @ Pub 2900 at 2900 Street Road Bensalem, PA



Phila-Delaware Valley SFPE

209 Mechanic St.
Doylestown, PA 18901
Phone: 215-345-8066 X 22
Fax: 215-345-9357
E-mail: jays@tilleyfire.com



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.

Transportation and Urban Development Technical Group

When: Wednesday, April 6

Subject: PATCO Car Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Upgrade Programs

Speakers John Rink, General Manager, Port Authority Transit Corp. (PATCO) Michael Venuto, Chief Engineer, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)

Location: Urban Engineers, 530 Walnut Street, 7th Floor, Center City

Time: 12:00 Noon Lunch, Presentation Follows

Cost: \$20

RSVP by Friday, April 1

The Lindenwold "High-Speed" rapid transit line is operated by the Port Authority Transit Corporation, a subsidiary of the Delaware River Port Authority. This line, completed in 1969, connects Center City with Camden and various suburban communities in the South Jersey suburbs. It featured numerous technological advancements when new and 75 mph operation over its 14.5 mile line, using a fleet of 120 cars, 75 of which date to the opening of the line. The cars are now undergoing a major rehabilitation for an anticipated 40 years of additional service. Major infrastructure modernization and renewal projects are also underway to address the 45-plus years of the line's operation and wear-and-tear on facilities, particularly those from Camden west where an 80-year-old subway and the 90-year-old Ben Franklin Bridge provide the line's delivery into Center City. Messrs. Rink and Venuto will address the renewal program and investment and how the work has been accomplished while the line's 15,000 daily riders are accommodated.

Advance registration is required. Please contact Danielle Eisenstock, Training Assistant, (dheisenstock@urbanengineers.com) or 215-922-8081 x1570 to register for this meeting. Payment will be accepted at the meeting.

Attendees are eligible for one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for attending this presentation.