



FLASHPOINT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2018

**PHILADELPHIA-
DELAWARE VALLEY
SFPE**

DECEMBER MEETING INFO!

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2018

COST: \$30.00 FOR DINNER AND PROGRAM

TIME:

FELLOWSHIP: 5:30PM

PLEASE RSVP BY 12 NOON ON DECEMBER 7, 2018.

DINNER: 6:00PM

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LOCATION:

GREAT AMERICAN PUB
123 FAYETTE ST.
CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428

PLEASE RSVP AT THE LINK BELOW

<https://goo.gl/forms/VgNB2lsEHctYaSt73>

PRESENTATION:

“Active and Passive Fire Protection in Fire Investigation”. The presenters will be Joseph Kotora and William Schleck. The presentation will show the use of active and passive building systems in the fire investigation. The use of scientific method in reference to fire investigation will also be discussed.



Special points of interest:

* HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

SPECIAL JANUARY MEETING!

THE JANUARY MEETING FOR THE PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER OF SFPE WILL BE A SPECIAL ONE! THE MEETING WILL BE A BRING A FRIEND MEETING. ANYONE THAT IS GOING TO ATTEND THE MEETING IS WELCOME TO BRING A FRIEND/COWORKER FOR THE SAME COST OF \$30.00 FOR BOTH YOU AND YOUR GUEST! THE MEETING LOCATION WILL ALSO BE DIFFERENT FOR JANUARY, SO BE SURE TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE JANUARY EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER!

PRESIDENT'S SPARK

President's Message

December 2018 Flashpoint

On Friday, November 30, 2018, former President George H.W. Bush died at the age of 94. Why is this notable in an SFPE Newsletter? For this reason: In 1990 President Bush (41) signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the President's words at the signing ceremony he cited the four major goals of the Act:

"Legally, it will provide our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and then basic civil rights. It will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must be able to enjoy. And then, specifically, first the ADA ensures that employers covered by the act cannot discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. Second, the ADA ensures access to public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, and offices. And third, the ADA ensures expanded access to transportation services. And fourth, the ADA ensures equivalent telephone services for people with speech or hearing impediments".

The ADA and its accompanying Guidelines (ADAAG) (found at www.access-board.gov) affect those of us in the fire protection community by establishing requirements for alarms, by requiring areas of rescue assistance and communications systems for these areas, and by influencing construction requirements for building elements, including means of egress. As civil rights legislation, the ADA has influenced codes and standards including the IBC, the Life Safety Code, and the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72). If your work involves building fire safety, it's likely that you have been impacted by the ADA.

So, whatever your political persuasion, President Bush (41) deserves appreciation for his leadership and commitment to improving the lives of millions of Americans by expanding fundamental rights of access, regardless of one's disabilities.

Yours in fire safety,
Jeff LaSalle



Hello from Future City Philadelphia!

The program is going strong with 52 schools registered. It is now getting down to the wire. The first submissions, the Virtual City and the Essay, are due within the next couple of weeks. We are looking for volunteers to judge these two submissions. This is something you can do on your own time. The information will be emailed to you couple of days after the submission due date. Judging is to be completed by mid January.

Virtual City Judges: Evaluate a slideshow presentation about each team's Virtual City (created with SimCity). The instructions for accessing and judging the presentations will be included in the email.

City Essay Judges: Evaluate a 1,500 word essay describing each team's city and response to the "Age-Friendly City" engineering challenge. The instructions for accessing and judging the essays will be included in the email.

For more information about judging, please click on the following link, <http://www.futurecityphilly.org/fcvolops.html>

Mentors:

There are still some schools that need a mentor. Even with only a little more than a month to go, it is always helpful to have a mentor to make that final push. The following schools can use a mentor.

Agora Cyber Charter School - Phoenixville, PA
Centennial School District - Southampton, PA
Fleetwood Area Middle School - Fleetwood, PA
Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary School - Spring House, PA
Howard Gardner MI Charter School - Scranton, PA
Little Town Christian Robotics Academy - Chester, PA
Mill Creek Elementary - Warrington, PA
Mount Aviat Academy - Childs, MD
New Hope Solebury Middle School - New Hope, PA
St. Albert the Great School - Huntington Valley, PA
St. Elizabeth Parish School - Uwchlan, PA
St. Katherine of Siena School - Philadelphia, PA
St. Peter's School - Philadelphia, PA

If you are interested in working with any of the schools listed above, please let me or Mike McAtee (Mentor Coordinator) mjmcaatee@urbanengineers.com know as soon as possible. We will get you in touch with the team's teacher.

Additional Volunteers:

We need more preliminary judges, special awards evaluators and general volunteers for the day of the competition, which is Saturday, January 19th at Archbishop Carroll High School in Wayne, PA. Preliminary judges and special awards evaluators are needed for the morning session of the competition. General volunteers are needed throughout the day to help organize the schools, get the schools to the judging rooms, collect scorecards, etc.

Please visit our website at www.futurecityphilly.org and "Click here to sign up as a Volunteer" on the top left of the page. There you can register to be a mentor, judge, or general volunteer.

Any questions please contact me via e-mail or phone. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to your friends, co-workers, and technical society members.

Karen R. McManuels, PE

Philadelphia Regional Volunteer Coordinator

HOSPITAL FIRE MARSHAL ASSOCIATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
DECMEBER 5, 2018 AT CANNSTATTERS 9130 ACADEMY RD. PHILADELPHIA, PA

6:30 PM	Confirm Registration Distribution of Ballots	John McCann & Bob Johnston Bernie Mack & Mike Venneri
	Attitude Adjustment Hour	
7:30 PM	Call to Order Welcome Self Introductions	John Skarbek Sergeant at Arms Bob Shewbrooks President All in Attendance
7:45 PM	Dinner Served	
8:30 PM	Pledge of Allegiance	All in Attendance
	Guest Speaker	Allie Gorman, RN (Channel 6 News) Invited - Not Confirmed as yet
	Presentation	Bob Shewbrooks & Linda Brown (Treasurer) present John McCann a check for \$500 in support of the Burn Foundation
	Committee Reports	Larry Harvey, Vice President will invite each Committee chairperson to give brief report on their committee and encourage members to join a select committee. At the completion of committee reports, Larry will then open the floor to member suggestions etc.
	Election Results	Jim Connell & Jim Kerrigan
	Closing Remarks	Bob Shewbrooks Tim Hawks, Secretary will encourage everyone to attend the January 16 meeting at Thomas Jefferson University
9:15	Music Entertainment	Cecil Middleton on Keyboard for listening and dancing
10:30 PM	Close	

SPRINKLERS AND FAST WORK BY WEST GROVE FIRE COMPANY KEEP LUTHER HOUSE FIRE AT BAY

BY BILL WOHL

An automatic fire alarm alert awoke residents to smoke filled hallways in the Luther House apartments in Jennersville, Penn Township early Saturday morning. That system alerted the County 911 Center who dispatched units from the West Grove Fire Company for an automatic alarm. Reports from residents of smoke upgraded the alarm to a building fire which added units from Oxford, Kennett, Avondale, and Cochranville on the assist.

The Luther House complex features three and four-story buildings with individual apartments.

Deputy and Chief 22 arrived on the scene quickly, establishing command and beginning their scene survey. Making their way to the third floor, they discovered heavier smoke conditions and a working fire in a single apartment, with residents evacuating.

Engine 22-1 arrived as the first-due engine, laying in from the hydrant at the entrance to the complex. Crews then pulled a 300' pre-connected attack line, which was extended to 400' with a Cleveland load. Crews took the line to the third floor and attacked the fire. This longer, pre-connected attack line is installed on each WGFC engine for this type of scenario, when entering a building and working up several floors requires longer-than-normal hose line length.

This fire was a "textbook" example of the importance of fire sprinkler systems. A working fire was held at bay, and limited to the room of origin by the automatic sprinklers, and then WGFC crews extinguished the fire. This is why the WGFC and fire departments across the country are so insistent on working sprinklers -- in this case, they held the fire's spread, and potentially saved many lives.

While Engine 22's crew were working, Ladder 22 arrived and raised its ladder to the roof. Additional engines from 22 and neighboring companies also arrived to assist with primary and secondary search, smoke ventilation, lighting, checking for extension, and helping residents down stairs and out of the building.

In a situation like this, with a high concentration of residents (many elderly), a significant EMS operation was established, coordinated by EMS Chief Gary Vinnecome. That team was responsible for coordinating resident evaluations and triage, and establishing a rehab operation. It was supported by numerous EMS crews from West Grove, Oxford, and Avondale ambulances, as well both Medic 94 units, examined and monitored residents for smoke inhalation and stress. That operation was further supported by County Dept. of Emergency Services Asst. Director Crowding and local emergency management coordinator Chuck Freese, who worked with Luther House staff on resident placement and well-being.

Ladder trucks from Kennett and Oxford also laddered the building and crews checked for fire extension near the fire origination and on the roof. Crews from those ladder trucks and Rescue 22 performed primary searches of the entire third floor, locating some residents still in apartments and helping them to safety. Other crews performed searches of the entire building, helped with overhaul and handled ventilation.

Fortunately, there were no injuries. The Red Cross and Luther House are assisting 21 residents who have been displaced by this fire until smoke and water damage can allow that wing of the building to be reopened.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



More than half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 45** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 START OF HANUKKAH	3	4	5 NJ ASCET MEETING	6	7	8
9	10 END OF HANUKKAH	11 PHILADELPHIA-DELV AL SFPE MEETING	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 BERKS COUNTY ASCET MEETING	19 DELAWARE ASCET MEETING	20	21	22
23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 START OF KWANZAA	27	28	29
30	31	1 END OF KWANZAA				

DECEMBER 2: START OF HANUKKAH

DECEMBER 5: NEW JERSEY ASCET MEETING

DECEMBER 10: END OF HANUKKAH

DECEMBER 11: PHILADELPHIA DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE MEETING @ THE GREAT AMERICAN PUB!

DECEMBER 18: BERKS COUNTY ASCET MEETING

DECEMBER 19: DELAWARE ASCET MEETING

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26: START OF KWANZAA

JANUARY 1: END OF KWANZAA



**Society of Fire
Protection
Engineers**

We're on the web at
[Www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org)

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter purpose is to advance the science and practice of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, to maintain a high ethical standard among its members and to foster fire protection engineering 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.