

# FLASHPOINT

## Special points of interest:

- \* Pay your 2019-2020 dues!
- \* Spring Seminar & Tradeshow Information
- \* 2019/2020 Events Calendar

## UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION:

**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2019

**Place:** General Air Products

115 Summit Dr, Exton, PA 19341

**3:30 PM:** Fellowship Time \*\* NOTE THE TIME \*\*

**4:00 PM:** Program \*\* NOTE THE TIME \*\*

**Program:** Air Supply Decisions — How to determine which air supply is the best fit for your application — Air, Dry Air and Nitrogen

**Dinner will be provided**

**Cost:** \$15.00 (cash or checks payable to Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE)

**Reservations:** By 12:00 Noon Thursday, October 3, 2019

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## **RSVP ONLINE AT:**

<https://forms.gle/inCmuoR4GvpFem169>

## **Officers for 2019-2020**

The new officers elected at the May business meeting are as follows:

**President:** Steve Oliver

**1st Vice President:** Jack Fairchild

**2nd Vice President:** Ryan Schartel

**Secretary:** Tim Murray

**Asst. Secretary:** Phil Kerschner

**Treasurer:** John Spitz

**Directors 2019-2021:** Frank Ellis, Josh Popek

**Directors 2018-2020:** Jay Stough, Ben Young

## President's Spark by Steve Oliver, PE, MBA

### Engineering.....Today

#### 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:

**Tim Murray**

Information for publication can be submitted to:

**[dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.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.

**Visit our web site at:**

**[www.sfp Philadelphia.org](http://www.sfp Philadelphia.org)**

Articles written are the views of the Author and not necessarily those of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of SFPE. ❖

At the September SFPE meeting, Jack Fairchild (Jensen-Hughes), led a presentation based around the design of the life safety systems at Penn FIRST, the \$1.5 billion new hospital building that is currently being constructed in Philadelphia. Being able to see the iterations of architect renditions to the final versions as it relates to our fire protection engineering was as expected.....the renditions were modified from what an engineer would say was unreasonable to something a bit more constructible and code compliant. Of note was the large atrium that spanned all floors that was eliminated.

During the discussion, topics such as Seismic bracing, CMS requirements, and other types of fire protection systems were all discussed. There was mention of new code requirements from the IBC, stating that wet sprinklers must be provided in all areas of the building, for the building to be fully sprinklered. And that there were no exceptions for clean agent or water mist systems.

A minute or so after mention of this, John Waters (NFSA) spoke up, having found the exact code using his Microsoft Surface tablet. In the 2015 and 2018 IBC, Section 904.2.1 reads: "Restriction on using automatic sprinkler system exceptions or reductions: Automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall not be considered alternatives for the purposes of exceptions or reductions allowed for automatic sprinkler systems or by other requirements of this code."

This is engineering today. Access to exact code books at your fingertips, electronically, wherever you are. Being a good engineer does not mean that you have all code books memorized. But it does mean that you know where to look for the right answer, and can apply it in a practical sense. You may be thinking if that is what a good engineer is, how can I become a great engineer? A great engineer can take a complicated challenge, understand it, and describe it in a way that makes sense to others.

Victoria Valentine from SFPE national was in the Oliver FPS office September 4<sup>th</sup> to talk to our young engineering class currently going through training at Oliver University. Outside of the benefits of SFPE, she also discussed upcoming changes in the PE examination for Fire Protection. I remember walking into the exam with two milk crates filled with code books, all tabbed to assist with finding subject matter. These days are limited. The new test, in 2020, will be entirely electronic, with all relevant resources being accessible via the testing computer. Information at your fingertips. Our job as engineers to navigate to the right resources is the same, but the tools are different. This is engineering....today.

-Steve

## 2019 SFPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO; PHOENIX, ARIZONA



The 2019 SFPE Annual Conference & Expo are taking place in Phoenix, Arizona this year. A few members from our chapter will be in attendance. If you are going, please let Steve Oliver know. The Gold — 2019 Award for Chapter Excellence award will be presented to the Chapter at this event!

### **GOLD — 2019 Award for Chapter Excellence**

The Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE Chapter was notified on July 15, 2019 by SFPE National that we were selected as a recipient of the Gold — 2019 Award for Chapter Excellence! In addition to our chapter, several other chapters are also receiving this award. They are: Central Savannah River Area Chapter, Chesapeake Chapter, Chicago Chapter, Greater Atlanta Chapter, New England Chapter, New Jersey Chapter, New York Metro Chapter, Northern California Nevada River Chapter, Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter, Portugal Chapter, Rocky Mountain Chapter, Southern California Chapter, St. Laurent Chapter, and Tennessee Valley Chapter.

The award will be presented at the 2019 SFPE Annual Conference & Expo.

# ***Save The Date!***

## ***Spring Seminar & Trade Show***

### ***April 16, 2020***



***New Location:***  
***Sheraton—Valley Forge***  
480 North Gulph Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

***The Spring Seminar and Trade Show Committee is excited to announce that the 2020 event is moving! Our new location will provide us with larger rooms for the seminars and trade show area. Please mark the date above on your calendar so you can join us for another year of informative speakers and displays by over 30 vendors.***

***Like in past years, there will be a total of 11 presentations provided throughout the day. Attendees will have the opportunity to choose which topics they are interested in and attend up to 6 sessions during the seminar.***

***PDH credits will be offered.***

***We welcome the vendors from past years to join us again in 2020 along with any new vendors who would like to exhibit their products in the Trade Show Hall.***

***For more information on exhibiting please contact Dave Winder at:  
[dwinder@suppressionsystems.com](mailto:dwinder@suppressionsystems.com)***

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

**Reliable®**

## ATTIC SPRINKLERS

*Industry-Leading  
Coverage Areas*



**By invitation only.**

Reliable Automatic Sprinkler is hosting an Attic Sprinkler Seminar.

**Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Montgomery County Fire Academy**

**8:30 AM Registration**

**9:00 AM - Noon Attic Seminar**

**Noon - 1:00 PM Lunch**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Optional bonus section:  
Special Sprinklers for protection of decks, hallways, and corridors.**

*Combustible attics present significant challenges when estimating, designing, and installing fire sprinkler systems. This seminar will offer an in-depth look at the different options available for protecting attic spaces using standard spray automatic fire sprinklers and the benefits of choosing Specific Application Attic Sprinklers.*

**Contact hour/hours available for NICET certifications**

This event has limited seats, to be assigned on a first come, first served basis.  
Please use the QR code below to RSVP and reserve your seat:

**Reliable®**



# Community Events

## 4th Annual Mulford Classic Golf Outing

Now is the time to register your sponsorship, foursome or golfers for this event because play begins on October 14, 2019! This event will take place at the handy and challenging Bala Golf Course in the nearby Winnfield section of Philadelphia. This golf outing is the primary source of donations for the scholarships that the Philadelphia Engineering Foundation awards during Engineers Week. Last year, the golf outing contributed over \$9,000, and this year they have a goal to break the \$10,000 mark, but can't do so without your support!

More information can be found at the following link:

[https://www.engrclub.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=4002&club\\_id=386597&item\\_id=1048683](https://www.engrclub.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=386597&item_id=1048683)

## Future City Philadelphia Competition

To introduce more students to the program, to help educators get started (particularly those new to the program), and to provide general information about engineering to the students, the second annual Engineering Fair will be hosted on Saturday, October 26 at SAP America in Newtown Square, from 8:45 am - noon; exhibitor check-in begins at 7:30 am.

The program is looking for local firms and technical societies to provide hands-on activities, games, demonstrations, etc. for middle-school (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) students that helps to explain an engineering principle, provides information about your discipline of engineering or what your company does, or in some other way promotes engineering, at an age-appropriate level.

There is no charge to be an exhibitor. A table will be provided for each exhibitor. There will be a limited number of electrical outlets, which will be assigned on a first come-first served basis.

Please go to the Future City Philadelphia website for more information, including pictures of last year's Engineering Fair: <https://futurecityphilly.org/engfair.htm>

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 ASCET South Jersey Chapter Meet- ing	3	4	5
6 Fire Prevention Week	7 Fire Prevention Week	8 <b>SFPE MEETING AT GENERAL AIR PRODUCTS</b>	9 Fire Prevention Week	10 Fire Prevention Week	11 Fire Prevention Week	12 Fire Prevention Week
13	14	15 ASCET Berks Chapter Meeting	16 ASCET Delaware Chap- ter Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 ASCET Philadelphia Chapter Meet- ing	30	31 		

UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:				
Date	Meeting Type	Event	Location	Time
10/8/2019	Monthly Meeting / Site Visit	Air and Nitrogen for Fire Sprinkler Systems (Note: Limited to 40 people)	General Air Training Facility; Exton, PA	3:30 PM
11/12/2019	Monthly Meeting	TBD	Jacobs Engineering; Conshohocken, PA	5:30 PM
12/10/2019	Monthly Meeting	Fire Rated Duct-work presented by Conquest	Jacobs Engineering; Conshohocken, PA	5:30 PM
1/18/2019	Community Outreach	Future Cities Competition	Radnor, PA	TBD
1/21/2019	Joint Meeting	Joint AFSA/NFSA Meeting	Maggiano's King of Prussia	TBD
2/11/2019	Monthly Meeting	Explosion Venting presented by Explovent	Jacobs Engineering; Conshohocken, PA	5:30 PM



## Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE

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

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

## 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.

## Vice President's Spark by Jack Fairchild, PE, CFPS, CET

Thank you to everyone that came out for the Penn First tour and thank you to Basilo Frederick from Oliver for being our tour guide. If you missed it, you missed an up-close look at a huge sprinkler system, a massive fire pump room, cool tank farm, and a project of gigantic proportion. We should have named the tour "Scale" because everything was big! Greg Shields won the dedication award for standing below twenty-one feet of vertically hanging 8" schedule 80 that was supported only by Victaulic couplings.

The next meeting will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at General Air's facility where we will learn: "Air Supply Decisions – How to determine which air supply is the best fit for your application – Air, Dry Air and Nitrogen". Hope to see you there.

-Jack