

# FLASHPOINT

## Special points of interest:

- \* SFPE Webinar Series
- \* Seminar & Tradeshow—  
postponed to Oct 2021
- \* Nomination of Officers

## NEW YEAR! NEW PROGRAMMING! NEW PLACE!

**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021

**Place:** \*\*\* Virtually via Microsoft Teams \*\*\*

**5:00 PM:** Program Begins

**Program:** Ethics, presented by Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., P.E., Senior Director, Ethics and Professional Practice for the National Society of Professional Engineers.

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the program and CEUs.

**Reservations:** Please RSVP online prior to the meeting.

## **RSVP ONLINE AT:**

<https://forms.gle/n5baev8Pk5mUbYs59>

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**\*\*New!!\*\* SFPE Philadelphia Delaware-Valley Pay your Dues Online!** Thanks to Lokesh Nigam, we are now set up for easy online payment of dues and monthly meetings. Check it out at our website, [www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org), and in the lower right-hand corner of the page there is a heading "Payment Options". Pick from the drop-down menu whether you are paying for annual dues, a virtual meeting, or an in-person meeting, click "Buy Now" and you will be directed to PayPal for processing.

## **Officers for 2020-2021**

The officers elected at the May 2020 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 2020-2022:** Joe Chew, Lokesh Nigam

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

### 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.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org)**

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

### Monthly Presentations

Last month we hosted Peter Sunderland, PhD, and current professor at University of Maryland. Peter provided an informative presentation regarding Flammable Refrigerants, some of which are highly toxic. When Peter mentioned that it is possible that calcium deposits ("bones") can form in your blood from these refrigerants, the word toxic took on a new meaning. The National Fire Protection Association has two interesting reports that I would highly recommend for anyone interested in learning more. They are titled; "Flammable refrigerants: Fire Fighter Training Material Development Workshop" and "Evaluation of the Fire Hazard of ASHRAE Class A3 Refrigerants in Commercial Refrigeration Applications", and can be found here: <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Resources/Fire-Protection-Research-Foundation/Current-projects/Refrigerants>

### SFPE

Nationals has released its annual chapter evaluation form for the Award for Chapter Excellence (ACE) for 2020. The Philadelphia Delaware Valley Board members are currently reviewing and updating the application, which is a 375 line Excel document, requiring information on our chapter such as membership, outreach, and technical presentations. Last year we were awarded the Gold ACE award, and will be striving to achieve the same award if we are able to show nationals how strong our chapter is, event in times of change and adversity. How can you help? Please let us know if you have been involved in any of the following in 2020:

- Were you a featured speaker for other SFPE Chapters or allied fire protection organizations?
- Did you interact with students or other organizations to help promote fire protection engineering as a career?
- Did you contact local media to promote fire protection engineering?
- Is your company a SFPE Corporate 100 Partner, or would they be open to becoming one?
- Did you attend the SFPE Annual Meeting & Expo or SFPE Europe?
- Are you involved locally with engineering licensing or registration?

If you can answer "Yes" to any of the above questions, please email Tim and I with your involvement, so we can use it towards credit for the ACE award. Our emails are [soliver@oliverfps.com](mailto:soliver@oliverfps.com) and [timothy.murray3@navy.mil](mailto:timothy.murray3@navy.mil)

### Fire Protection In the News

As I write this, it is the 30 year anniversary of the One Meridian fire in Philadelphia. This fire, which occurred February 23, 1991, took the lives of three firefighters and injured 24 others. Our own Frank Ellis wrote an article about the fire and the following retrofit laws regarding the need for fire sprinklers in existing high rise buildings. Please read it here: <https://www.firehouse.com/community-risk/article/21210871/one-meridian-plaza-30-years-later>

**We've had a few requests for a presentation that focuses on ethics**, and for those interested, you won't want to miss this month's presentation. We will be welcoming Rebecca Bowman to our group. She is the Senior Director, Ethics and Professional Practice for the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Bowman is a registered professional engineer, in addition to being a certified attorney, arbitrator, mediator, and Christian conciliator. Maintaining integrity in our industry is so important for all of us. We'll get to hear more from Rebecca on this hot topic in March!

-Steve

## **Congratulations!**

**Congratulations are extended to Dick Oliver of Oliver Fire Protection & Security. He is being inducted into the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) 2021 Hall of Fame!** The NFSA introduced the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame in 1989 as a way of remembering those who have contributed substantially to the fire sprinkler industry or to the efforts of the Association on behalf of the industry.

**Congratulations are also extended to Ray Fremont, Sr., of General Air Products. He is receiving this year's Golden Sprinkler Award from NFSA!** The Golden Sprinkler Award is NFSA's highest honor, and is presented each year to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to promoting the fire sprinkler concept and advancing the fire sprinkler industry.

## **SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter 2021-2022 Nomination of Officers**

**Nominations for the SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter 2021-2022 officers will be announced next month. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact: Jeff LaSalle at [jeff.lasalle@tlc-eng.com](mailto:jeff.lasalle@tlc-eng.com). Elections are held at the annual meeting on May 11, 2021. The Chairman of the nominating committee is Jeff LaSalle. 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 11, 2021. Nominations should be sent to Tim Murray, Secretary, at [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com).**

# SFPE WEBINAR SERIES

Sign up online at: <https://www.sfpe.org/events-education/sfpewebinarseries>

## Using Nitrogen to Manage Corrosion in Dry Pipe and Preaction Fire Sprinkling Systems

### PERSPECTIVE SERIES

Mar 2, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Presented by: Josh McDonald, Technical Trainer, Johnson Controls, Inc-Tyco

## 2021 Awards and Honors Overview Webinar

### MEMBER MONDAY SERIES

Mar 4, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Presented by: Ray Bizal, Tom Christman, Shay Massey & Craig Vesely  
Moderated by: Julie Gordon SFPE is looking for nominations for its 2021 Awards. Unsure how to nominate? Join the SFPE Awards Subcommittee for this webinar on reviewing the awards available for nomination, the process on how to nominate, and the review process. SFPE Chapters as you know it's that time of year to complete the chapter evaluation form that is a requirement of the chapter agreement and used in the selection process of the Award for Chapter Excellence (ACE). We will highlight the benefits of completing this form and show how easy it is to complete. Please note that no CEU/PDH credit will be given for this webinar.

## Energy Code Impact on Commissioning and Integrated Testing

### MEMBER MONDAY SERIES

Jun 21, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Presented by: April Musser, PE



## ***Seminar & Trade Show Update***



To protect the health and safety of everyone, the Seminar & Tradeshow Committee and Board have decided to postpone the 2021 Spring Seminar & Trade Show scheduled for April 15, 2021 in King of Prussia, PA. We have made this decision by following the trends in Corona virus cases, vaccine schedule and our concern for the health and safety of all those who would attend the event.

**The event has been rescheduled for October 14, 2021 at the Sheraton in King of Prussia, PA.**

Thank you for your understanding and support. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are prioritizing the health of everyone who would be attending.

We look forward to seeing everyone in October.

***October 14, 2021  
8 am—4:30 pm  
Sheraton – Valley Forge  
480 North Gulph Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406***





# JOB ANNOUNCEMENT:



## ROLES:

- Fire Protection Engineer
- Fire Protection Consultant
- Fire Suppression Designer
- Fire Alarm Designer

## CONTACT:

Drew Gerard  
Regional Practice Leader  
dgerard@telgian.com  
480.282.5392

## APPLY ONLINE:

[www.telgian.com/careers](http://www.telgian.com/careers)

## We're Growing! in the Mid-Atlantic Region

### CANDIDATE:

- “Go-getter”
- Enjoy daily collaboration with fire experts
- Great talent in fire protection

### THE CHALLENGE:

- Foster local relationships
- Grow & develop professional skills
- Contribute to success of unique projects

### ABOUT US:

- Full-service FPE firm
- Privately-held & nationally-based
- Diverse & family-focused

### WHERE:

- Wilmington, Delaware
- Positive & productive atmosphere
- Comfortable office areas

## The Engineer and The Engineering Technician Designing Fire Protection Systems

In case you missed the announcement from SFPE, there is a new Position Statement, 2020-1, which is an update of the 2008 document on the roles of engineers and engineering technicians in the design of fire protection systems. This update was a major undertaking by the SFPE Committee on Professional Qualifications – Public Policy Subcommittee, as well as by members of the endorsing organizations. While to some, the roles of engineers and engineering technicians in the design process may seem obvious, the practices may vary across jurisdictions and around the world. This fact, and the repeated attempts in various state legislatures to subvert engineering licensure mandate that we continue to advocate for fire protection as a distinct engineering discipline. Understanding and respecting the roles of all fire safety professionals is essential to the success of these efforts.

The full announcement is here:

*The SFPE Board issued an update to the position statement on the roles of engineers and engineering technicians when both are working on the fire protection of a project. The revised version can be found at <https://www.sfpe.org/advocacy-qualifications/public-policy>. It replaces the July 2008 position statement. The exciting piece for this document is the number of endorsing organizations that have signed onto this statement for fire protection including ABET, AFAA, AFSA, ASCET, FSSA, NCEES, NFSA, NICET, and NSPE.*

*Conceptually, the position remains that both engineers and engineering technicians can work together harmoniously on fire protection projects, with each having a distinct role when both the engineer and engineering technician are part of the job. The position also remains that all parties need to be qualified for the role they are serving in the project. The position statement explains the roles of those in the field of fire protection who contribute to public safety, including licensed Professional Engineers and Certified Engineering Technicians.*

# 2020/2021 SFPE PDVC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

To enhance our distribution list and make sure that we are using the most up-to-date information to reach out to all of our membership, we ask that you please submit a new membership form with every membership renewal. Membership forms can be submitted digitally to [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com) or mailed in with your annual dues. Annual dues are now \$35 and can be paid by mailing a check or by visiting our website at [www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org) and following the instructions on the front page of this Flashpoint.

UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:				
Date	Meeting Type	Event	Location	Time
3/9/2021	Monthly Meeting	Ethics	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
4/13/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
5/11/2021	Annual Business Meeting	Annual Business Meeting	TBD	TBD
POSTPONED to OCT 14, 2021	Seminar and Tradeshow	Seminar and Tradeshow	POSTPONED to OCT 14, 2021	POSTPONED



Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE

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E-mail: [jays@tilleyfire.com](mailto:jays@tilleyfire.com)

We're on the web:  
[www.sfp Philadelphia.org](http://www.sfp Philadelphia.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.**

## Flashpoint Job Announcements

The SFPE Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter Board of Directors has decided that fire protection engineering related job announcements will be welcomed in the Flashpoint newsletters. Job Announcements will be \$50 per month for a 1/3 page advertisement. Submittal of artwork / text to be included in the advertisement is required. If you are interested, please reach out to the DVSFPE Secretary, Tim Murray, at [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com).