



# Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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## FUSIBLE LINK

[www.njsfpe.com](http://www.njsfpe.com)

January 2002

### NJ-SFPE Membership Meeting Minutes 12/3/01

1. The secretary read the minutes from the November 5, 2001 meeting which were accepted.
2. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.
3. Please send any articles to Brad Hart for possible inclusion into the Fusible Link.
4. Various legislative issues were reported. The first item mentioned was about the promulgation of legislation regarding balanced housing. All housing where State money is involved will have to be sprinklered, even one family dwellings. This includes new construction as well as property that is renovated or rehabilitated. The second item discussed a proposed law where personal tax deductions may be allowed for the purchasing and installation of sprinklers and alarm systems such as smoke and CO detectors.
5. The NJ Chapter is thinking about creating an award for former Assemblyman John Kelly in honor of all the work he did advocating fire protection within the State.

6. A motion was made and carried to accept the application of John Kuechelmann as a member of the NJ SFPE Chapter.
7. John Cholin will present the topic at our next meeting about a fly ash silo explosion. In the event of inclement weather, members should check the web-site to make sure the meeting has not been cancelled.

### TECHNICAL PRESENTATION SUMMARY FROM DECEMBER 3 MEETING

Joe Janiga, Chuck Gandy and Rich Reitberger discussed, "Surfing the Fire Protection Web - Internet Resources." The use of the Internet can be a useful tool to retrieve the latest information on issues related to fire protection engineering and obtaining technical information from manufacturer's web sites regarding fire protection equipment and devices. Via satellite link from a cell phone we were able to tour numerous useful web sites and associated links. Some specific sites visited included:

[www.njsfpe.com](http://www.njsfpe.com)  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
[www.sprinklerreplacement.com](http://www.sprinklerreplacement.com)

[www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)  
[www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)  
[www.maptech.com](http://www.maptech.com)



## Another Sprinkler Recall by CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced its staff filed an administrative Complaint against Sunbeam Corporation and its subsidiaries Chemetron Corporation and Chemetron Investments, Inc., of Boca Raton, Florida, and Grucon Corporation and its subsidiary Sprinkler Corporation of Milwaukee, Inc., of Wisconsin. The CPSC's three Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the issuance of the Complaint. The Complaint alleges that Star Sprinkler's model ME-1 fire sprinkler made from 1977 through 1995 presents a substantial product hazard. The Complaint seeks a nationwide recall of the approximately 700,000 Star ME-1's Star Sprinkler manufactured during this period.

In its Complaint, the CPSC staff alleges that these sprinklers are defective and are likely to fail to operate properly in a fire, thus exposing the public to serious injury or death. The sprinklers have been installed in day care centers, nursing homes, health care facilities, supermarkets, and other buildings. The CPSC staff is aware of a nursing home fire in which three Star ME-1's reportedly failed to operate.

The CPSC staff filed the Complaint after discussions with the companies failed to result in a voluntary recall and replacement plan. In seeking a recall of the Star ME-1 sprinklers, the Complaint calls for extensive public notice of the hazard and

remedy.

The CPSC previously announced that Mealane Corporation voluntarily recalled Star ME-1's manufactured from 1975 through 1976. In addition, Central Sprinkler Company voluntarily recalled Star ME-1's manufactured from 1996 through 1998. Consumers can obtain information about those recalls at CPSC's website at: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

While the CPSC staff pursues an acceptable recall and replacement plan, consumers with Star ME-1 sprinklers should be sure to have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. The CPSC staff also recommends that consumers have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. As always, consumers should diligently practice fire safety to reduce the possibility that a fire will occur.

The CPSC staff urges anyone who is aware of any instances in which a Star ME-1 sprinkler has failed to operate properly when tested or in a fire to report that information to the CPSC using CPSC's on-line reporting form at: [www.cpsc.gov/talk.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html). For more information, call CPSC's toll-free Hotline at (800) 638-2772.

## FM Global Revises Its ESFR Sprinkler Data Sheet and Now Offers it for Free to Address Increased Risks Created by Improper Installations

(JOHNSTON, RI) – FM Global, the developer of Early Suppression, Fast-Response (ESFR) sprinkler technology for warehouse fire protection -- particularly high rack storage -- has released a newly revised, easier to understand version of its Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet 2-2 *Installation Guidelines For Early Suppression, Fast-Response Sprinklers*. FM Global is making this data sheet, written for fire protection system designers and installers, available for FREE in order to address all-too-common misunderstandings about ESFR technology, and the increased international use of such sprinklers.

FM Global, as a commercial and industrial property insurer that specializes in loss prevention engineering, is continuing to see improper ESFR installations that could prevent such sprinklers from suppressing a fire, according to Joe Hankins, FM Global senior engineering specialist. "That could lead to

devastating and costly consequences for a property owner,” Hankins says.

The revised and reorganized instructions contain more in-depth explanations and illustrations for proper installation of ESFR sprinklers. The data sheet also emphasizes the challenges that can impact the effectiveness of ESFR sprinklers including roof height, structural members, lighting, HVAC, storage heights and certain types of commodities.

While ESFR technology offers a cost-effective way to meet the challenges of protecting today’s warehouses, “closely following FM Global guidelines is essential to ensure reliable ESFR performance,” says Hankins. “Many rules of thumb for control-mode sprinkler installations don’t apply to ESFR sprinklers, and seemingly minor deviations from the guidelines can totally impair an ESFR system. Plus an improperly installed system can be very expensive, if not impossible, to fix.”

To obtain a free copy of the data sheet online visit [www.fmglobal.com/esfr](http://www.fmglobal.com/esfr) or call FM Global Customer Services at (781) 255-6681. Registered users of FM Connect, FM Global’s private customer Web site, can also obtain a copy of the data sheet at <http://fmconnect.fmglobal.com>.

## WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Since 1993 WPI has been providing Fire Protection Engineering courses to off-campus students who find it impossible to attend classes at one of WPI’s three campuses. WPI uses a variety of commonly available technological tools to provide the same classes to distance students as provided to on-campus students.

Off-campus students can earn a Master of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering at their homes or work places. Certificate programs and non-credit continuing education courses are also available. The latter courses may be very valuable when the expected requirement for continued educational credits are initiated by the state licensing/certification Boards. The courses are offered on the traditional Fall/Spring semester schedules.

For more information about WPI’s Fire Protection Engineering program and Distant Learning Network send name, address, email, phone and fax numbers to:

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Advanced Distance Learning Network  
100 Institute Road  
Worcester, MA 01609-9966

Call - 508-831-5220  
Email - [adln@wpi.edu](mailto:adln@wpi.edu)  
[www.wpi.edu/](http://www.wpi.edu/)

On September 1, 1971 Connecticut’s Statewide Uniform Building Code became effective, authorized by Public Act 69-443. Connecticut became the FIRST STATE in the nation to have a uniform statewide building code (mandatory) and a complete code administrative system. Prior to this adoption Connecticut maintained a recommended building code which could be adopted by the local community. In 1970, over 30 legislative bills were filed to repeal the public act. In 1970 fifteen were refiled. However the opposition faded after the Board finally completed the administrative section.

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Job openings for HPR, Risk Control and FPE's seem to be on the increase. Rather than turn the Fusible Link into a want ad press, we will limit space for this purpose to a reasonable degree. Current job openings will be published in full on the New Jersey Chapter's web site: [www.njsfpe.com](http://www.njsfpe.com)

## HIGHLY PROTECTED RISK (HPR) PROPERTY SPECIALIST

TVA Fire & Life Safety is looking for several HPR engineers to work out of our NJ office. Other positions throughout the US are also available. The candidate will advise customers for the purposes of safeguarding property against fire, explosion, and related hazards by performing the following duties:

- ◆ Conducts detailed surveys of industrial and commercial properties to obtain construction, occupancy, protection and exposure details.
- ◆ Evaluates adequacy of protection.
- ◆ Reviews plant conditions to determine largest potential catastrophic loss (Maximum Foreseeable Loss).
- ◆ Prepares detailed engineering reports in a timely fashion to confirm survey findings and outline recommendations.
- ◆ Analyzes exposures, prioritizes needed improvements and provides loss prevention/control advice to existing and prospective customers.
- ◆ Develops protection requirements for new construction projects and evaluates proposed safeguards through review of plans and on-site inspections.
- ◆ Prepares correspondence to communicate engineering findings and recommends priorities.
- ◆ Maintains regular contact with customers to resolve loss prevention/control issues; suggests alternative solutions to recommendations.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor's degree (B. S.) in an applicable engineering discipline or equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Three years experience with an HPR firm is preferable. Working knowledge of Factory Mutual and NFPA Standards.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to respond to inquiries from customers. Must possess the ability to read, analyze, and interpret full sets of blueprints, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Must possess the ability to write reports, business correspondence, and to effectively present information and respond to questions from customers.

Please contact Chuck Gandy, TVA Fire & Life Safety, 200 Valley Road Suite 306, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856- (973) 398-1445 x4514, fax (973) 398-1442, e-mail [cgandy@tvafiresafety.com](mailto:cgandy@tvafiresafety.com).

## FM GLOBAL JOB OPENINGS

FM Global's Parsippany, NJ office has several job openings for engineers and underwriters in their HPR and Commercial Properties divisions. If you are interested in applying for any of the following you can e-

mail your resume to [joseph.janiga@fmglobal.com](mailto:joseph.janiga@fmglobal.com) or call Joe at 973-402-2200x6774.

**ACCOUNT ENGINEER** - In this position, you will work directly with the underwriters to evaluate and assess the nature, probability, and magnitude of loss potential and communicate this to the customer and account team. You'll prioritize exposures, ensure the customer understands the hazards and risk to their facilities, find agreeable solutions, and you'll implement needed changes. Through teamwork with FM Global field engineering, underwriting, claims and new business development, you'll provide leadership and responsive service with innovative solutions to challenges that will foster long-term customer relationships.

The candidate should have an engineering Degree and at least 3 years F&EC field engineering experience. Must have excellent communication, analytical, presentation, sales, time management, and teamwork skills. Strong leadership, risk identification, quantification, and assessment skills are required. Effective problem solving and computer skills are needed. About 20% overnight travel is anticipated.

**F&EC LOSS PREVENTION CONSULTANT** - The person(s) in this position will be responsible for loss prevention evaluations and risk improvement for a wide range of occupancies in the NJ/NY metropolitan region.

The candidate should have a B. S. degree in an engineering discipline. The candidate should have excellent written and verbal communication skills along with strong interpersonal skills. Additional skills include computer competency in current technology and software, excellent time management skills and the ability to work independently from a home office. Expected overnight travel is approximately 10-25%.

### UNITED FIRE PROTECTION CORP.

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**NFPA Foundation Symposium  
January 23**

The NFPA Foundation is sponsoring a three-day symposium starting on January 23 in Tampa, Florida.

### Research & Practice: Bridging the Gap

This 12th "Bridging the Gap" symposium will begin with a keynote address relating recent events, fire testing and the new ATF Fire Research Laboratory by Richard Tontarski, chief of the new facility.

An international panel discussion of perspectives on the events of September 11, 2001 and the aftermath will follow. The recent tragedies have raised many issues in fire safety. As the experts go to work to address them, communication among all fire safety disciplines about new analyses and solutions is ever more vital.

There also will be presentations on case studies demonstrating the uses of new fire test documentation, and new research results suitable for immediate use on day-to-day problems. Some will be co-presented by teams of laboratory test experts, fire protection engineers, and industry safety officials. There will be special sessions on performance-based design, and on detection and suppression in industry. There will be an extended tutorial on flammable liquids protection. Presenters are primarily "real world" practitioners like you -- fire protection engineers, code writers, AHJs - as well as researchers, who believe in the importance of "bridging the gap".

Topic discussions are as follows:

- 📍 "Recent Events, Fire Research and the New ATF Fire Test Center", Richard Tontarski, Chief, Fire Research Laboratory, ATF National Laboratory Center, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
- 📍 Perspectives on 11 September 2001 - Panel discussion
- 📍 Recent and Current Fire Sprinkler System Data
  - Automatic Suppression Systems: What Are the Benefits?
  - Flammable Liquids Storage Research: A Study of Fire Protection Designs for Rack Storage of Flammable Liquids Storage in Drums
  - New Research on Plastic Pallet Protection
  - Dry Pipe Sprinkler Systems: Effect of Geometric Parameters on Expected Number of Sprinkler Operations
  - Multipurpose Residential Systems with Gridded Layouts – Moving Residential Fire Safety to a New Plateau
  - A Method to Systematic Fire Protection Work
  - Documenting, Applying Performance Measures

- Fire Safety Engineering: Some Recent Applications in Switzerland
- The Case for Performance Metrics for Fire Protection Devices
- Using Sensor Signals to Analyze Fires
- Measuring and Calculating Sprinkler Water Distribution
- Practical Aspects of Using the Phase Doppler Particle

**GEORGE KOUTSOUBIS PE**  
SENIOR ENGINEER

**ALPHA-OMEGA ENGINEERING PA**  
235 Water Street • Perth Amboy NJ 08861  
Tel 732.826.6162 • Fax 732.324.0057  
For More Info: [www.AOServices.Net](http://www.AOServices.Net)

- Analyzer (PDPA)
- Sprinkler Research at NIST
- Fire Detection and Suppression Studies at Kemano Village

### 📍 Real Fire Alarm & Detection Solutions

- Development of a New Fire Test Facility for Smoke Detectors
- Effect of Smoke Source and Horn Configuration on Enhanced Deposition, Acoustic Agglomeration, and Chladni Figures in Smoke Detectors
- Investigation into the Characteristics of a Smart Fire Detector
- Fire Protection for IT and Telecommunications Facilities
- A Study of the Effectiveness of Passive Infrared Burglar Alarms to Detect Fires and Smoke
- Video Smoke Detection in Road Tunnels

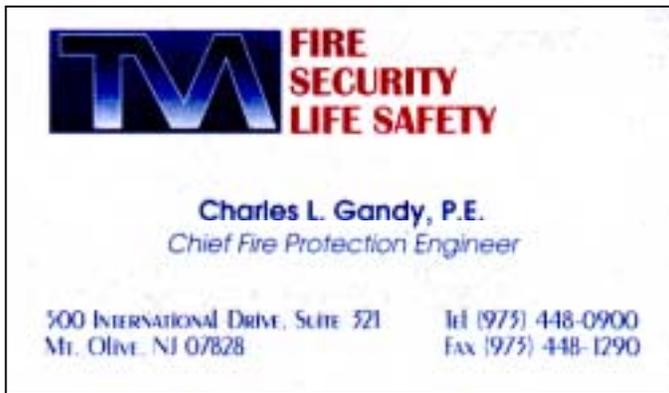
### 📍 Special Problems and Special Solutions

- FOAMSPEX – Large Scale Foam Application-Modeling of Foam Spread and Extinguishment
- Environmental Issues Affecting Foam Use
- Combining Total Flooding and Local Application – Fine Water Mist Coverage for Hydrocarbon Processing Hazards
- Mixed Phase Fire Suppression Systems: Applications and Benefits
- Object Protection Using the Minifog Fine Water Spray System
- A Critical Discussion of Claims of Smoke Scrubbing by Water Mist

- 12 pounds or 12,000 pounds? New Technology to Protect the Interior of Critical Enclosures
- Aerosol Generators for Fire Suppression Systems

For More information to the web at:

<http://www.nfpa.org/Research/ResearchFoundation/Symposium/Symposium.asp>



# Meeting Dates/Program for 2001-2002

(Programs Subject to Change)

Watch web page concerning cancellation In case of possible inclement weather conditions

Feb. 4	Business Continuity Planning - Larry Wenzel
March 4	HID Lighting Dangers, GE Ed Yandek
April 5	NJ Chapter Seminar - Engineering Ethics Panel Discussion, Legal Consideration in FP Design, Modeling Performance of Detectors for PBD - to be held at the Hanover Manor, Hanover, NJ
May 6	Sprinkler Fitters Union 696 Sprinkler Economics, Field Trip @ Milburn
June 3	Viking Upright ESFR

## **\*Watch Web Page for Weather Announcement**

**POSITIONS TAKEN BY SPEAKERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE POSITION OF THE NJ S.F.P.E.**

All meetings are held at the Hanover Manor, Eagle Rock Road, Hanover, NJ (approximately 1½ miles west of Eisenhower Parkway). Get Acquainted Hour 5:00-6:00 p.m. Adjournment is usually before 8:30 p.m. The Executive Committee meets at 4:00 p.m.

Editors Note--If you would like to advertise your company and help offset the cost of this publication, as well as having your business card in front of over 150 Fire Protection Professionals please call John Cholin at (201) 337-8621 for further information. The cost is \$100 for 10 issues.

## **COMMITTEES 2001-2002**

### **Standing Committees**

#### *Program:*

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chairs, with input from all members  
Consulting – Nick Chergotis

#### *NY Chapter Liaison:*

Rich Reitberger (Pat Egan back-up liaison)

#### *Arrangements:*

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chair

#### *Membership:*

Sarge Slicer, Chairman

#### *Nominating:*

Joe Janiga, Chairman  
Glenn Deitz  
Bob Murray

#### *Scholarship Fund:*

Rich Reitberger, Chairman  
Robert Hall  
Two NY Chapter members to be assigned

#### *Auditing:*

Jim Tolos  
Joe Janiga

#### *Archivist/Historian:*

Jim Tolos

#### *Communications:*

#### *Fusible Link:* Brad Hart, Interim Editor

Dave Gluckman, Asst. Editor  
Ana Crisostomo, Publishing

#### *Mailing/Automation:*

To be determined

### **Special Committees**

#### *Bylaws:* Jim Tolos, Chairman

Joe Janiga – Co-Chairman

#### *Career Recruitment:*

Al Dopart, Chairman  
Tom Brereton  
Joe Stavish  
Glenn Deitz  
Dave Gluckman

#### *Golf Outing:*

Richard Reitberger, Chairman  
Bob Murray

#### *Awards:*

John Ed Ryan  
Frank Savino

#### *PE Examination:*

John Cholin, Chairman  
Joe Janiga  
Mike Newman  
Chuck Gandy

#### *Joint Seminar/Chapter Seminar*

Richard Reitberger, Chairman  
Nick Chergotis  
Pat Egan  
Dave Gluckman

#### *Legislative:*

Rich Reitberger, Chairman  
Jerry Naylis  
Bob Murray  
Nick Chergotis

**Michael T. Newman, P.E.**  
**Manager**  
**Property Loss Prevention**  
**Johnson & Johnson**  
**One Johnson & Johnson Plaza**  
**New Brunswick, NJ 08933**  
**Phone: (732) 524-3224**  
**Fax: (732) 524-2196**

**MEETING NOTICE**

Date: Monday, January 7, 2002  
Place: Hanover Manor  
16 Eagle Rock Avenue  
East Hanover, NJ

Price: In Advance - \$22 At Door - \$25

Dinner: Chicken or Fish

Social Hour: 5:00-6:00 (Cash bar for mixed drinks)  
Dinner at 6 PM

Speaker: John M. Cholin, PE  
J.M. Cholin Consultants  
Oakland, NJ

Topic: The Impossible Explosion – A Reconstruction

All officers, directors, and committee chairman are requested to attend a meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Hanover Manor.

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**Please note for this meeting:**

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO  
"SFPE N.J. CHAPTER" TO:**

**Michael Newman**  
**Johnson & Johnson**  
**One Johnson & Johnson Plaza**  
**New Brunswick, NJ 08933**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken

Fish

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY **FRIDAY, January 4, 2002**. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.

Fusible Link Editors NJSFPE  
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