Message from the Chapter President...

As we approach the holiday season I along with the Officers and Board of Directors of the NJ Chapter of SFPE wish all of you and your families a healthy, happy and enjoyable holiday season and up coming New Year.

All members should have received renewal dues notices for this year. Please take the time and send it back as soon as you can.

Our November guest speaker, Mr. John Kennedy of the NJ Division of Fire Safety and his briefing on the workings of his department was both enlightening and thought provoking. I want to thank everyone for coming out and participating. I believe the open discussion we had helped all of us understand the fire protection equipment maintenance and testing issues we have here in NJ and where we need to direct our efforts for change.

Our December meeting topic is “Pharmaceutical Hazards & Loss Prevention” which will be presented by those in our Chapter who are experts in the field. Plan to attend this most interesting meeting and learn one industry’s approach to protecting their assets. See you all in December.

Rich Reitberger
Chapter President
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by our President Rich Reitberger. A salute to the flag was followed by all attendees introducing themselves as is our normal custom. Rich extended a special welcome to the large contingent of representatives of the NY Metro Chapter of SFPE that were in attendance for the night’s meeting.

The October minutes and September treasurer’s report were read. Motions were made to accept, seconded and both the secretary’s minutes and treasurer’s report were accepted.

Rich spoke about the success of the Chapter’s Seminar October 19, and titled “High Rise Fire Safety” which was well received. Rich mentioned the upcoming December 6 meeting which would be about Pharmaceutical Hazards and Loss Prevention which Mike Newman will be involved in.

Ed Armm brought up the new Senate Bill No. 1667. Once again the general consensus of the meeting attendees was that this is not a good bill. However, no one had written to their state legislature as yet. We must contact our state legislatures if we feel that this new bill will be a restraint of trade and a handicap to both the engineering industry as well as that of our clients.

Vinny spoke about the NFSA’s stand against this proposed law and Richard Ravaiolli spoke of the DCA; DFS Certification Committees stand which was also negative. The URL for the State of NJ web site is http://www.state.nj.us/, to find information about the bill or to locate your area’s representative the web site is http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/ . If we do not voice our displeasure with this bill we will have to live with the law.

This bill will bring the cost of testing and maintenance to a prohibitive level and may well work to cut down on the amount of testing causing unsafe conditions. It would require a fire alarm technician who is licensed as well as a union sprinkler fitter to both be present to run a fire pump, open an inspector’s test valve or operate any test valve supervisory devices.

One request for membership was read by Ed Armm for John Drucker, Fire Code Official of Red Bank, motions were made to accept John as a Chapter Supporter which was seconded and approved by all in attendance.

Past President Chuck Gandy spoke to us about the new direction the SFPE is taking on a national level with Kathleen Almand, P.E. leaving and David D. Evans, P.E., Ph.D., FSFPE being appointed Executive Director of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Chuck feels that this is a big step forward for the Society and is hopeful for our future.

Chuck asked all PE’s in the room to meet at the end of the meeting to work out details for PE exam question writing.

Our presentation this evening was by Chief John (Jack) Kennedy the Supervisor of the “Contractor’s Certification & Emblems Unit” of the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Division of Fire Safety (DFS). He was aided by his assistant Chris Michallis the program development specialist for the Contractor’s Certification & Emblems Unit AKA Jack’s body guard. Jack’s presentation was about the “NJ Administrative Code 5:74 - Who Can Inspect, Test and Maintain Fire Protection Equipment”

Jack and Chris were introduced by Rich Ravaiolli who again is on the advisory committee for Contractor’s Certification.

Jack basically explained the law and told us that there are currently approximately 1,080 companies registered and certified and over 3,000 certified individuals. Fire suppression or sprinkler has 540 technicians certified, special hazards 168, fire alarm 703, portable extinguishers 322, kitchen hood systems 187 with an additional 76 certified in the all category that encompasses all fields.

Jack seems to agree with some of the comments as to the lack of professionalism exhibited by some of those currently certified; he believes that is because if a PE or Fire Official recommended someone for certification he had no choice but to do so. He feels that all ships will reach the same level though as in three years those not qualified will not meet the recertification requirements and be weeded out.

Those that were not grandfathered will have to meet the following requirements to become certified, National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level II in Fire Alarms Subfield for fire alarms and in the Special Hazards Subfield for special hazards, NICET Level II in the Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems Subfield with the completion of 19 work elements from the Design and Layout of Water Based Systems Subfield as well as fire sprinklers. For Certification in hand held portables and kitchens the National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED) has certification programs.

Continuing education will have to be kept up and that will be performed by both NICET and NAFED. Each certification field will require 30 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per year or a total of 90 CEUs each three years.

At the time this law was written it excluded PE’s from certification. However, after it was passed it changed to require even a PE to become certified to do and installation, testing or maintenance of systems. Design and Layout are excluded from certification.

A number of changes are in the works such as not requiring the excavator to be certified to lay the main. The NJ SFPE Legislative Committee through Joe Janiga is working on getting an exclusion for those that test and maintain equipment in their own plants however, these changes are not guaranteed and take a minimum of six months to a year for enactment.


Jack took some tough questions and handled them quite well, he is only the messenger and like most of us know that we are better off with a less than perfect law then no law at all.

After the presentation Jack opened it up for a very lively discussion period that lasted longer then the original presentation. For those that did not get their questions answered you can contact Chief Kennedy at 609-292-2291 or by email at JKennedy@DCA.State.NJ.US.
Senior Risk Manager Position  
Stryker Corporation

Full details of this position were contained in the November Fusible Link edition

EXPECTED RISK MANAGER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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• Participate in joint discussions with FMG Engineering and Stryker plants concerning “disputed” FMG recommendations

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• Help research possible additional uses for captive (e.g., benefits, D&O, front for insurers subject to FET)

• Liability Claims Handling

• Help research and respond to insurers’ batch claim information requests

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• Help analyze coverage proposals and options

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DECEMBER 6 CHAPTER MEETING AND PRESENTATION

At our next meeting the technical presentation will be on “Pharmaceutical Loss Control Issues”. Glenn Dietz of Schering Plough and Joe Janiga of FM Global will speak on “The Hazard of Plastic Panels as Interior Finishes”. Mike Newman of Johnson & Johnson and Jim Tolos, retired from Schering Plough and current Fire Inspector will each present a pharmaceutical loss they have investigated.

NYC FPE Position Opening

A National Fire Protection Consulting firm has immediate opening for engineer experienced in fire protection design and analysis in its New York City office. Send resume and salary requirements to M. Meade at Rolf Jensen & Associates, 360 West 31st Street, Suite 1104, New York, NY 10001, Fax: 212-695-6671 or email to mmeade@rjagroup.com.
The following technical article was written by John M. Cholin, P.E., M.E.E., S.F.P.E., J.M.Cholin Consultants, Inc. 101 Roosevelt Dr., Oakland, NJ 07436 This is the first of several installments.

Performance-Based Design

The performance-based design environment has emerged as an important new dimension in fire protection engineering over the past decade. It represents the promise of enhanced fire safety at lower cost, using fire protection resources more efficiently and to greater effect. While performance-based design was once an abstract concept it has matured into a design method that addresses those occasions where the prescriptive code does not adequately address the fire protection needs of a specific location or where a prescriptive approach spends fire protection resources in a manner that does not provide adequate return.

Before we can discuss the role performance metrics have in the performance-based design process, perhaps we should define “performance-based design”. We suggest that we can define “performance-based design” as a design method in which the performance or capability of a design is demonstrated through engineering analysis and calculation. Thus the design professional uses mathematic relations, correlations and models to simulate the fire she/he intends to address and demonstrates with that simulation that the proposed design will achieve the design objectives. Clearly, such a method relies upon there being clearly expressed design objectives and quantitative criteria that can be used to determine when those objectives have been met. As a concept, performance-based design is not really that new. Most other engineering disciplines know of no other design process. Historically, engineering has employed a performance-base design process wherever the fundamental physics underlying the technology was understood. This is true of naval, aeronautical, automotive, electrical and electronic design, to name a few.

Performance-based design of fire protection systems is not new either. For years designers in the industrial arena have been designing fire protective systems to achieve specific fire protection objectives rather than complying with a prescriptive code. Whether the application is an automotive spray-painting facility, oil/gas production and process facility or other specialized industrial process, the owner cannot rely on a prescriptive code document to provide a meaningful fire protective strategy to achieve many fire protection objectives. The owner determines the extent of fire damage she/he can accept. This becomes the loss prevention goal for the facility or process. The fire protection engineer uses the customer’s goal to establish specific fire protection objectives that are then reduced to quantitative fire protection criteria. The fire protection system is then designed to meet those performance criteria. The resulting design is the product of a logical progression from goals to objectives to performance criteria to design. This design method can be used to achieve almost any objective. Indeed, performance-based design has been used to protect property and mission continuity for years.

A significant obstacle to the expansion of the use of performance-based design is the lack of adequate performance metrics for fire protective equipment. It is the reliance upon quantitative criteria and computational models in the performance-based design environment that forms the driving force behind the development of performance metrics for fire protection devices, equipment and systems. Without a quantitative performance metric it is impossible to demonstrate that a given fire protective device or system has achieved a design objective.

A performance metric can be thought of as a measure of how well a device performs its intended function. It is a quantitative measure of performance or functionality. Virtually every other product we purchase has some type of performance metric associated with it. Automobiles have all sorts of performance metrics associated with them from gas mileage, acceleration and braking distance to crash endurance. There are entire publications devoted to measuring and publishing such metrics for automobiles. With most other products, whether computers, aircraft or coffee makers there is a performance metric that tells the potential consumer what she/he can expect from that particular make and model product. All such products have been designed in a performance-based design environment and our society measures their worth in terms of performance per unit of cost.

To be continued in the January 2005 Issue
Attend the Orlando, FL Professional Development Week and get the information you need to stay current in your profession! Learn about the latest developments in fire, electrical, and life safety in an interactive format that helps you apply the Codes with confidence! All seminars are taught by distinguished experts, many of whom participate in the code-making process. You’ll also earn valuable CEUs and have the chance to network with your peers.

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Meeting Dates/Program 2004-2005

(Programs Subject to Change)
Watch web page concerning cancellation in case of possible inclement weather conditions

Dec. 6  "Pharmaceutical Hazards & Loss Prevention" - Joe Janiga, FM Global; Mike Newman, Johnson & Johnson; Glenn Deitz, Schering-Plough, Jim Tolos, Consultant

Jan. 3  Note: Change - "Fire Alarm Occupant Notification" Issues and Design of Occupant Directed Alarms - John Cholin of JM Cholin Associates


March 7  "Mitigating Earthquake Damage - Reinforcing Techniques"

April 4  "Fire Trailer & Dynamics" - NFSA Fire Burn Trailer & Fire Burn Dynamics

May 2  "Chubb Lab" - Visit and Demonstration of Chubb’s Fire Protection Systems Lab in Warren, NJ

June 6  "Annual Meeting/Loss Lessons"

June 27  Joint NY/NJ Chapter Joint Scholarship Golf Outing at West Point

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 fiscal year.
MEETING NOTICE

Date: December 6, 2004

Place: Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ

Price: In Advance - $22 At door - $25

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

Speaker(s): Joe Janiga, FM Global; Mike Newman, Johnson & Johnson; Glenn Deitz, Schering-Plough, Jim Tolos, Consultant

Topic: “Pharmaceutical Hazards & Loss Prevention”

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

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO “SFPE NJ CHAPTER” TO:
Vicki Serafin
Affiliated FM
400 Interpace Parkway, Bldg C - 3rd Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054-1196
vicki.serafin@affiliatedfm.com

NAME: ___________________________________________________________
COMPANY: __________________________ TELEPHONE: ____________________

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2004. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.
2004-2005 Chapter Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program
Mike Newman, Chairman
Consulting - Nick Chergotis & Peter Rullo

Arrangements
Vicki Serafin, Chairwoman

Membership
Glenn Deitz, Chairman

Nominating
Sarge Slicer, Chairman
Glenn Deitz
Bob Murray

Scholarship Fund
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Auditing
Joe Janiga

Archivist
Rich Reitberger (FM Global Library)

Historian
Jim Tolos

Communications
Vicki Serafin

Fusible Link
Brad Hart, Editor
Dave Gluckman, Asst. Editor
Ana Crisostomo, Publishing
Vicki Serafin, Distribution

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Executive Assistant to the Board
Vicki Serafin

Bylaws
Jim Tolos, Chairman
Joe Janiga - Co-Chairman

Career Recruitment
Al Dopart, Chairman
Ed Armm

Golf Outing
Richard Reitberger, Chairman

Awards
Jim Tolos
Frank Savino

NY Chapter Liaison
Rich Reitberger (Pat Egan back-up liaison)

PE Examination
John Cholin, Chairman
Joe Janiga
Mike Newman
Chuck Gandy

Joint Seminar/Chapter Seminar
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Vinnie Fichera

Legislative
Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Vinnie Fichera

P.E. Test Questions
Chuck Gandy, Chairman