Welcome to the new 2005/2006 Chapter year. Your Board of Directors has put together an excellent program this year which will include a trip to the Factory Mutual Research Corp. research campus in RI in October. This is an all day event. There are still seats on the bus available so contact Vicki Serafin to reserve your space. Dues notices and membership renewals went out to the membership so please get them back to the Chapter home office as soon as you can. I am also pleased to announce that the New Jersey Chapter has been selected by SFPE National as a Silver Level Chapter Excellence Award Winner. The criteria for the award was measured against all other Chapters and included select criteria on operations and programs. Sarge Slicer, immediate Past President, will accept the award on our behalf at the annual meeting in San Diego, CA in October. See you all at the September meeting.

Rich Reitberger
Chapter President
Tonight's meeting was our annual election and the President’s presentation of awards. Prior to the meeting officially starting Rich Reitberger called order to present Jim Tolos with the chapter’s Service Award as Jim had to leave. Rich let everyone know that he might be the president but without Jim’s help and direction the job would not be the pleasure that it is.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by our President, as is our custom. All those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves. Introductions were followed by a salute to the flag.

The May minutes were approved as published in the Fusible Link. The treasurer’s report for May was read and accepted.

As there were no changes to an uncontested ballot Ed Armm cast the single vote to carry the nominations for next year’s Officers and Board of Directors. Sarge Slicer reported that Ed Armm will only carry on as secretary for one more year; this rumor has not been substantiated.

We had three applications for membership tonight. Nicole Davidovitch of Affiliated FM, William Yacus of AON and Gregg Marafelias of AON. All were approved by a vote of the board and the membership. Nicole will become the Chapter Archivist.

Sarge started tonight’s presentations speaking about NFPA, SFPE and Liberty Mutual conducting surveys of clients that had warehouses with ESFR sprinklers. The results showed that buildings of 600,000 sq. ft. averaged 5,800 sprinklers of which approximately 62% were obstructed. Of this a total of 800 were obstructed by bar joists, 2,800 by wind bracing and 100 by conduit. It was learned that when the pendent sprinklers were replaced with upright sprinklers the obstructions that were greater than 12 inches away no longer caused an obstruction. The average cost for this change was greater than $400,000.

Sarge informed us that it was imperative that NFPA 13 and manufacturers instructions are followed.

Sarge explained to the membership the nature of the “Corporate 100” and the amount of support they provide to the SFPE. Bill Koffel a past president of the SFPE is the chair of the Corporate 100 group. He informed us that National was in the process of creating a new web page. Available on the new page will be an area for technical comment and review as well as access to technical information and news letter access.

Rich was next and he provided us with a summary of the past physical year as well as a look forward. Rich listed the topics we provided at the past years meetings with a quick review of each. Rich’s look back included last falls seminar on High Rise Fire Safety and the creation of the Bob LeBlanc Library.

Prior to looking ahead Rich took time to make two additional award presentations, the Presidents Award was given to Brad Hart for all of his hard work making the Fusible Link such a professional and valuable newsletter/resource. Rich next presented yours truly with the Hats off Award. I must add that when you have to attend a meeting on your birthday receiving a much appreciated and unexpected award makes it very sweet.

Moving on to our future Rich spoke about the July 29th planning meeting and asked for input from the membership as to topics of interest for next year.

Rich next spoke about the bus trip to the FM Global Test Center. We will leave at 5:00 AM on October 18, 2005 for a day filled with fires and explosions, what more can an FPE ask for. In a video presentation we got to see the new FMG facility, its Fire Test Lab, Hydraulic Test Lab, Natural Hazards Test Lab, Electrical Hazards Lab and finally the Dust Explosion Test Bunker. After the presentation everyone was eager to sign up for the trip, as a reminder it is limited to the first 40 Members. Please sign up with Vicki Serafin.

Our final speaker for tonight was Chuck Gandy who spoke about his time in Vegas at NFPA as well as some very interesting results discovered while FM was bringing their new test labs on line.

Some of the points of interest at this years NFPA Conference were a symposium on hydrogen and alternative fuels and variable speed controllers for fire pumps.

Chuck next spoke about the new FMG Fire Test Building and the 20 mW Calorimeter used to measure oxygen loss and the amount of heat generated by a fire. During testing of the new lab FMG attempted to perform the same tests from the old lab to insure the same results, during this testing it was found that for the most part the old test data matched the new data showing the accuracy of the new lab. However, one area where new and old data did not agree was during the testing of large drop sprinklers. Once the conflicts were discovered 17 more full scale fire tests were conducted, after which a decision was made by FMG that they would no longer approve large drop sprinklers. The videos didn’t lie, large losses and lots of water.

What was learned was that in test after test the amount of sprinklers that fused exceeded design and did not contain or suppress the fires. FMG determined through the continued testing that the problem is with the cardboard used for packaging. Today’s cardboards have a two fold problem, more recycled material requires more glue and secondly more wax is used in the manufacture of the cardboard. These two issues both act to prevent the packaging from absorbing water to slow the fire spread.

After a short Q & A session the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.
**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Loss Prevention Consultant**

The Loss Prevention Consultant will be responsible for conducting field inspections of existing and potential risks for insured hospitals, physician practices and healthcare facilities. They will assist with the coordination and provision of safety-related in-service education and training to policyholders. Participate in fee-for-service work. They will write comprehensive reports for policyholder and fee-for-service clients. Track all loss prevention activities in the activity tracking system. The ideal candidate will have 3 or more years experience with federal, state and local Loss Prevention standards, preferably in the healthcare industry. They will have good knowledge of OSHA, Joint Commission and the National Fire Protection Association standards. A bachelor degree in a related field is preferred. A valid driver’s license is necessary and the ability to receive designation as a CSP, CIH, or other professionally recognized certification. Please send your resume by e-mail: hrjobs@pinsco.com or fax to: (609) 951-5823.

If you should have any questions, please call:

Corinne M. Pecht  
HR Generalist  
Princeton Insurance Company  
746 Alexander Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
Phone: (609) 452-9404 x306

**Fire Protection Engineer Entergy - Vermont**

We are seeking qualified candidates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering, or equivalent plus 3 to 5 years of applied fire protection program experience in a nuclear power plant environment. Any interested please call Lee White at 504-576-6747 or email resume at LWhite6@entergy.com.

**Fire Protection Safety Professional - Greater Houston Area**

Looking for a Safety Professional with Fire Protection background for the Greater Houston area. This position supports the client’s plants worldwide and will focus on Emergency Response including Fire and Water System design, performance, and integrity. This position also will be involved in traditional safety issues and PSM as well but the background they are focusing on is the Fire and Water Systems knowledge and experience. Travel is about 25%. A four year degree is required. This is a key position on their corporate staff reporting to their Manager of Global Excellence. This company has an excellent safety record world wide.

Anyone interested or with questions please contact:

John Meyer  
The Obermeyer Group, Ltd.  
Specializing in the Nationwide Recruitment of Safety, Health, and Environmental Professionals  
P.O. Box 270711, Fort Collins, Colorado 80527  
Phone: 970-223-9688  
Fax: 970-223-0543  
E-Mail: jmeyer@frii.com or jmeyer@ehspro.com  
Web Site: www.ehspro.com
BUS TRIP
FM Global Research Campus
West Glocester, RI

WHEN:          October 18, 2005
               5:00 a.m. Bus will depart at this time.

WHERE TO MEET: FM Global Parking Lot
               400 Interpace Parkway
               Bldg. C - North Parking Lot
               Parsippany, NJ 07054

$40 / person

Please note that this trip is only open to NJ Chapter members.

Rich Reitberger will have coffee and donuts on the bus. There is a bathroom. This will be an all day event. The
Research Campus will be providing continental breakfast and lunch for us. We will return by at least 7 pm.

We have 25 seats available; please respond ASAP to ensure your seat on the bus.

Call Vicki Serafin at 973-541-6771 to reserve now.
Payment must be received by August 1, 2005

Sent a copy of this flyer and your check to: Vicki Serafin
                                        AffiliatedFM
                                        400 Interpace Parkway
                                        Bldg. C - 3rd Floor
                                        Parsippany, NJ 07054

Note: There will be NO refunds after September 1, 2005
Confusion with First Alert Smoke Detectors Clarified
Special Report: First Alert Smoke Alarm

IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section
July 15, 2005

This is a special report from the IAFC’s Fire and Life Safety Section related to a developing story involving the third-party testing and certification of a line of smoke alarms that are currently being sold across the United States.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 3,900 civilian fire deaths in 2004. Approximately 82% of these deaths (3,225) occur in the home, and over half of all fires occurred in one- and two-family dwellings.

Smoke alarms play a critical role in fire safety in the home. The NFPA reports that having a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire by almost 50%. It is estimated by the NFPA that if smoke alarms had been present in every home that 710 lives would be saved.

Older buildings may not undergo significant renovation or upkeep by the owner. The smoke alarms that are installed may be single-station smoke alarms that are not interconnected, which leaves a gap when it comes to alerting all of the occupants to a fire. Hardwired, interconnected smoke alarms are a solution that has been in place for a number of years, but may not always be employed in these occupancies unless a building or fire code mandates it.

A new product line has recently been introduced by First Alert called OneLink which employs wireless technology that could help to address this issue. When one smoke alarm is activated, other compatible smoke alarms in the building are also activated by wireless radio transmission, providing the early warning to the occupants to react to the fire.

Typically a smoke alarm will undergo rigorous testing by an independent testing laboratory to verify that it complies with the requirements of UL 217, Single and Multiple Station Smoke Alarms. Any certified testing laboratory can carry out these tests and if a product should pass these requirements it is then authorized to have the logo or “mark” from the testing laboratory placed on the product. This is an indicator to the consumer and code enforcement authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) that the smoke alarm will operate properly.

There are a number of testing laboratories in the United States that are certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as National Registered Testing Laboratories (NRTL). One of the most widely known is Underwriters Laboratories (UL), but there are others, including Intertek ETL Semko.

According to Mark Devine, vice president of Residential Business for First Alert, two of the three smoke alarms that comprise the OneLink line were sent to Intertek ETL Semko for testing that started on April 4, 2005 and was completed on May 6, 2005, which was prior to when the products were scheduled to be shipped. However, Devine reported, this was insufficient time to have the Intertek ETL Semko mark placed on either the packaging or the smoke alarms. The third smoke alarm, a hardwired version was submitted at a later date.

The smoke alarms were then distributed directly to Home Depot stores by First Alert prior to June 8, according to First Alert spokesperson Deb Hanson. “We then entered into the marketplace with the product with full listing and testing compliance that was done by ETL,” said Devine.

However, based on documents entitled “Authorization to Mark” issued by Intertek ETL Semko, the authorization to carry the Intertek ETL Semko mark was provided for only two of the three smoke alarm models on June 17, 2005, which is after when the products were shipped to Home Depot stores. These two models are the wireless smoke alarm (Model SA 500CN) and the wireless smoke and carbon monoxide alarm (SCO 500CN). The third product currently being sold as part of the OneLink line is a hardwired smoke alarm (Model SA 520CN) that interfaces with both existing hardwired smoke alarms and the wireless smoke alarms. No listing exists on the Intertek ETL Semko website for this product.

In response to an inquiry as to why the hardwired smoke alarm did not receive certification at the same time as the other two models, Devine said that this model had been submitted later than the other two models. In an email Hanson reported that, according to Devine, “this unit has been successfully tested by ETL and complies to all of the requirements. This model authorization to mark paperwork is in process of routing within ETL for final signature. He (Devine) confirmed that the product in stores is manufactured and tested in accordance with the standard and is in construction compliance with the same products tested by ETL.”

In response to a question about the process that Home Depot goes through when accepting a product, Devine reported, “For this particular process we had to provide them (Home Depot) the testing certification before they were accepted into the product process. We did provide them with the documentation before it was placed into inventory.”

(Home Depot declined repeated requests for an interview for this report and referred all inquiries to First Alert. In addition, Devine declined to supply copies of the Authorization to Mark despite repeated requests. Copies of these documents were obtained from other sources.)

The fact that these products are being sold without labels on the smoke alarm from an independent testing laboratory and that one model has not been given certification has created significant concern in the fire protection community across the country.
The Fire and Life Safety Section issued the following statement regarding this action.

There are few sections in the model codes which are as instrumental in preventing loss of life due to fire as simply and economically as the requirement for smoke alarms in all one and two-family occupancies. These devices must be reliable in order to maintain public safety and confidence.

Properly operating and maintained smoke alarms are a cost-effective way for homeowners to reduce the risk of death or injury due to fires in their homes. Installation codes such as the NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm code require smoke alarms to be listed in accordance with ANSI/UL 217 requirements. Most states have adopted the International Residential Code and in section R317, it requires all smoke alarms to be listed and installed in accordance with NFPA 72. The current 2002 edition of NFPA 72 in section 11.11.1 requires that smoke alarms carry a mark or certification that the unit has been approved or listed by a testing laboratory. These nationally-recognized safety codes include construction and performance requirements to ensure that these devices operate reliably when smoke is present and do not create false alarms. Smoke alarms in one and two-family occupancies are one of the most important requirements in the model codes for preventing life loss due to fire. There are few sections in the model codes which are as instrumental in preventing loss of life due to fire as simply and economically as the requirement for smoke alarms in all one and two-family occupancies. These devices must be reliable in order to maintain public safety and confidence.

For years, smoke alarm manufacturers have consistently provided only listed smoke alarms for sale in the U.S. However, we now understand that a manufacturer has made a business decision to sell smoke alarms through a national retailer that are not listed in accordance with UL 217 or any other nationally-recognized safety standard. Homeowners who purchase smoke alarms to protect their families are probably not familiar with installation code requirements that require these products to be listed and rely on the manufacturer and retailer to provide products that comply with nationally-recognized safety standards.

The Fire and Life Safety Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs feels that such negligent action by the manufacturer and retailer should not be tolerated, and every effort should be made to remove these products from the market place. Protecting our citizens and their children from fires in their very homes should be first and foremost in the minds of all manufacturers and retailers.

According to Devine, “We have been in communication with many of the fire marshal’s offices in many states and have reached a conclusion with many of them...we’re not aware of any being pulled off the shelf right now.”

However, Delaware State Fire Marshal Willard Preston reported that he ordered that these products be removed from stores on July 1 because they lacked the required marks from an independent testing laboratory. Several other states are considering taking similar action. One state fire marshal voiced the concern that even though the units are known to be compliant with UL 217, several years in the future this could be an issue with these unmarked units being involved in a fire.

In Massachusetts, the fire code requires that any smoke alarms that are installed also be certified, according to an official from the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal’s office, and that units lacking this certification would not be allowed.

NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code, which is used in 45 states, does have requirements regarding what information shall be included on a smoke alarm.

11.11.1 Alarms. All alarms shall be plainly marked with the following information on the unit: (2) A mark or certification that the unit has been approved or listed by a testing laboratory. A spokeswoman for the Consumer Product Safety Commission would not comment on whether the CPSC was investigating the issue of certifications for the OneLink smoke alarms. While CPSC does not require that independent testing be done of life safety products, they strongly encourage it to ensure that products will function as needed and provide an expected level of safety to the public.

“These were not rushed to market,” said Devine. “This process was very deliberate and thought through. The certification timing was to apply the mark but that we could not timely meet the requirements of the customer.”

“Testing was complete and certified prior to shipping,” continued Devine. “There are no requirements in NFPA that says it should have a mark (on the unit itself).” However, as indicated earlier in this report, NFPA 72 does state that a mark or label indicating that the unit has been approved or listed be included on the smoke alarm. Devine reported that all future shipments of the OneLink products will have the ETL mark.

The following written statement was provided by First Alert.

Smoke alarms and combination smoke and CO alarms must meet requirements outlined in the National Fire Alarm Code, NFPA 72. Per NFPA 72, smoke alarms shall be in compliance with UL 217. While the initial shipments of OneLink alarms sent to The Home Depot did not have the UL or ETL mark of certification on the product or package, Intertek Testing Services (ETL), a nationally recognized agency, tested and certified these products to the applicable UL standards. All future shipments of OneLink alarms to The Home Depot will have the ETL mark of certification on both the package and the product.

BRK Brands Inc., the makers of First Alert OneLink branded alarms, meets or exceeds the requirements of UL Standard 217, Single and Multiple Station Smoke Alarms and UL Standard 2034, Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms, respectively as well as Part 15 of the FCC rules regarding RF signaling. At this time, two of the smoke alarms currently have certification from Intertek ETL Semko that was provided after the products were shipped and placed on sale. There is one smoke
alarm, the hardwired version, which has not received certification from an independent testing laboratory, although this is pending, according to Devine. In all cases, the existing products that were initially shipped do not carry a mark indicating that they are certified per UL 217 as required by NFPA 72.

More information can be found at the First Alert OneLink website, or by contacting First Alert’s Customer Service at 1-800-323-9005 or from First Alert’s spokesperson, Deb Hanson, at 630-851-7330. The listing for the two wireless, battery-powered smoke alarms can be found at Intertek ETL Semko’s Listed Mark Product Directory.

The mission of the IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section is to provide leadership and vision for chief fire officers and managers in an effort to reduce the risk of injury, loss of life and property loss in their communities through effective fire prevention efforts.

This report was prepared for the IAFC Fire & Life Safety Section by section board member Ed Comeau.

Viega, Fenwal and United Fire Protection Join Forces to Protect Lady Liberty

July 8, 2005
Consulting-Specifying Engineer

In 2003, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. was asked by the U.S. National Park Service to raise funds necessary to make a number of critical improvements to the statue. The planned improvements included upgrading safety, fire and emergency notification systems.

On 9/11/2001, the National Park Service closed the Statue of Liberty National Monument due to direct terrorist’s threats. On December 20, 2001, Liberty Island reopened to the public. Since then, more than 4 million people have enjoyed the park. However, the statue herself still remained closed. In August 2004 after all projects were completed, visitors were welcomed back and can now view inside the statue through a glass ceiling, guided by a park ranger, an enhanced lighting and new video system.

The foundation engaged architects and engineers to provide a variety of design solutions, and United Fire Protection, N.J., was chosen as the contractor to install a new high-sensitivity smoke detection system.

The high sensitivity smoke detection (HSSD) application itself is inside the stairwell area of the statue, which is largely off-limits to the public now after increased security was established post 9/11. A demonstration system was shown to be effective in this area as part of the preliminary design portion of the project, witnessed by both the engineering firm and the National Park Service.

The HSSD system utilizing air-aspirating technology. The fundamental theory is to actively bring the smoke particulate matter to the detector—rather than passively waiting for the smoke to drift to the location of the detector. The system does this by a series of tubing networks with small holes, attached to a central detector unit with a fan, drawing the air from the monitored space, back through the tubing network, to the detector.

The detector utilizes a laser-based particle discrimination technology to determine both the number of particles and the size of the particulate in order to determine and discriminate between smoke levels and other contaminants like dust or pollen. The result is a magnitude more sensitive than standard spot detectors.

Additionally, because the equipment uses the particle discrimination technique, no filtering is required and thus maintenance of the unit is minimal.

The result, says the contractor, was a project that finished ahead of schedule in July 2004. “We saved between 20% and 30% in labor costs at least,” said Joe Savino, United Fire Protection. “We have been using the system since 1999 and find it extremely efficient.”

The Statue of Liberty is more than a monument. She is a beloved friend, and a living symbol of freedom to millions around the world. The exhibits are a tribute to the people who created her, to those who built and paid for her, to the ideals she represents, and to the hopes she inspires. Viega, FenWal and United Fire Protection are partners who are proud to be a part of her history.

For more about Propress from Viega, visit their website. For information about HSSD from Fenwal, visit their website.

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Meeting Dates/Program 2005-2006

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

Sept. 12  Sprinkler Application/misapplication - Joe Brosseau, Tyco Fire Products, NE Regional Manager
Oct. 3    Fire Loss Expectancies/Cleanup Techniques
Nov. 7    Statue of Liberty - Review of advanced smoke detection system installed (HSSD)
Dec. 5    Mass Notification/Ray Gail
Jan. 9    Combustible Dust - John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates
Feb. 6    Egress Modeling - Ed Arm, RJA & others
March 6   NFPA - 20 - Fire Pump Update
April 3   Foam Protection & the environment
May 1     Tyco Trailer Demonstration
June 12   Annual Meeting/Losses - Mike Newman, Johnson & Johnson, John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates

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: September 12, 2005

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):

Topic: Sprinkler Application/Misapplication

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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005. 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**
- Chuck Gandy, Chairman
  - Robert Hall
  - Mike Machette
  - Dave Gluckman

**Auditing**
- Joe Janiga, Chairman
  - Glenn Deitz

**Archivist**
- Nicole Davidowitch

**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
  - Glenn Deitz
  - Dave Gluckman

**Golf Outing**
- Richard Reitberger, Chairman

**Awards**
- Rich Reitberger, Chairman
  - Mike Newman

**NY Chapter Liaison**
- Tom Kuhta (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
  - Dave Gluckman

**Legislative**
- Rich Reitberger, Chairman
  - Vinnie Fichera
  - Jerry Naylis

**P.E. Test Questions**
- Chuck Gandy, Chairman