Message from Chapter President...

This past month the Chapter went on the road with a bus ride to the FM Global Research Campus in West Glocester, RI. The test center is on 1600 acres and includes a 108,000 sq ft main testing building which includes a 33,000 sq ft large-burn lab and a 20 megawatt, 35 ft diameter fire-products collector. During our tour we witness a large scale flammable liquid fire test in the burn lab. We also toured the Natural Hazards Lab and witnessed a roof covering pressure test and 2x4 lumber launcher cannon which was shot at plywood sheets to simulate what might happen in a hurricane environment. The last demonstration was a full scale dust explosion at the Dust Explosion Bunker. The tour was especially educational and enlightening. We hope to have more of these field trips in the future.

Last month’s Fire Safety Week meeting was very successful. We thank all the members who invited family members and guests to the meeting to learn about fire safety in the home, work and school and to help keep our local environments safe from fire. I especially want to thank both Joe Janiga and Chuck Gandy for putting together an excellent program. This may be an annual event in October.

Keep the dues coming in and please attend the monthly meetings when you can. See you all at the November meeting.

Rich Reitberger
Chapter President
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Rich Reitberger, our President. Introductions followed the salute to the flag as is our custom. Tonight was a very special meeting for us as many members brought their spouses, girlfriends and one brought his fiancée. We opened up our meeting to more participants so that all could learn additional fire prevention techniques for home, dormitory and assisted care facilities (our family, our kids away at college and our parents).

The September meeting minutes were approved as published in the Fusible Link. The treasurer’s report for October was read and accepted. Vicki handed our membership cards to all those present that are paid to date. The card includes the members “Paid to Date” to remind us when our dues are due.

We had one application for membership tonight. Dave Gluckman read the application from Sharon Antonas of GM Global who is applying for membership as a supporter. Her membership was accepted by a vote of the general membership.

The theme of tonight’s meeting was National Fire Prevention Week.

Rich told everyone to take the Fire Prevention quiz which was found in a bag of handouts found at all seats. The handouts included an ID badge with the NJSFPE logo as well as other goodies. Information was purchased from NFPA relating to Fire Prevention Week this included the following pamphlets: Use Candles with Care, Fire Safety 101 College Fire Safety, Kitchen Fire Safety, Fire Safe Holidays, Exit Drills in the Home or EDITH, Home Fire Prevention Checklist, and Fire Facts all of which are published by NFPA. The NFSA through our board member Vinny Fichera also donated 25 copies of the “Sprinkler Man” coloring book.

Tonight’s presentation was a corporate effort by our own Rich Reitberger, Joe Janiga and Chuck Gandy. First up was Joe who reviewed all of the pamphlets mentioned above. Joe reminded all of us that October 9 - 15 is National Fire Prevention Week. Joe pointed out that the theme of National Fire Prevention Week seemed to be pointed at only the young it was in fact directed at the young, the old and everyone in between. Joe showed us the NFPA video “Fires Fury” which was followed by a short discussion.

Next up was Rich where he stressed the need for safety when using candles. He highlighted the rules that there should be no combustibles within one foot of a flame and if you leave the room blow it out.

Chuck was next up and his focus was on campus safety. Chuck informed us that the University of Michigan had just set aside fifteen million dollars for sprinklers. We talked about Seton Hall and the reactionary attitude of fire safety in that lives seem to have to be lost prior to initiatives to save life. Chuck left us with always knowing two ways out and not to trust exit signs but to verify your own egress paths.

Joe returned with a check list to review. Joe went over some very scary statistics concerning fire losses in property and life. Joe surprised most of us with a list of the number 1, 2 and 3 causes of fires in the home, those being lint dryer fires, kitchen fires and fires started with candles. Joe then showed a video from NIST dealing with Christmas tree fires, those present were amazed with the speed the fire grew and how short a period there was between the fire starting and the area becoming fully engulfed in flame and untenable (less than 5 minutes).

Finally Rich came up to review the quiz and award prizes to those that answered the questions accurately. Fire extinguishers combination smoke/CO detectors and batteries for home single station smoke detectors were awarded.

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

Fire Protection Engineer - Entergy Corp., 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.

Anyone 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.

Risk Engineering Property Consultant - Zurich

Zurich Financial Services (www.zurich.com) is an insurance-based financial services provider with a global network that focuses its activities on its key markets in North America and Europe. Founded in 1872, Zurich is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. Through its offices in more than 50 countries, 57,000 Zurich employees serve clients in more than 120 countries. In North America, Zurich (www.zurichna.com) is a leading commercial property-casualty insurance provider serving the global corporate, large corporate, middle market, small business (not offered in Canada), specialties and programs sectors.

Position Location: New York, New Jersey area
Position ID: 9647

We are seeking a Risk Engineering Property Consultant with the following skills: Under limited management and technical direction, provides advanced level risk assessment and intermediate risk improvement services for customers and business partners; provides basic level training for customers, service design and coordination, mentoring, marketing, and loss investigations.

Qualified Candidates will possess: Bachelors Degree or equivalent; three or more years of experience evaluating property for associated risk and exposures; predominantly field position, surveying account locations in the NJ-NY area, with some minor account coordination; solid knowledge of highly protected risk market; demonstrated proficiency related to PC and software applications; history of working successfully in a team environment; high level of knowledge regarding exposures and controls; advanced level of knowledge within industry segment

This position is also eligible for a company car.

We can offer you competitive compensation, training and career development opportunities. If you are looking for a world class, forward thinking team environment that provides you with the tools to achieve your goals, visit our Career Center at www.zurichna.com and search for Position ID # 9647. All qualifying candidates will be subject to a complete background check. An EEO/AA Employer, in North America, Zurich supports a diverse workforce.

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This will be the first installment of a technical article from the Fire Protection Research Foundation from the symposium dated June 28-30, 2000

ABSTRACT
A three-year programme of work has recently been completed to study the flammability of communications (“data”) cables installed in hidden voids. The comprehensive research has highlighted a number of problems with very serious implications for fire safety in buildings. These hazards and the risk of them arising are likely to become more acute in the future as the demand for increased installed volumes of cables accelerates. This paper provides an overview of the studies which have included site visit surveys of cable installations in “I.T. intensive buildings, full-scale scenario based fire tests, Standard fire tests (including new test designs to meet the EC Construction Products Directive (CPD) harmonised Reaction-to-Fire requirements), small scale tests and CFD numerical modelling. The new dangers which have been identified include:

(i) The proliferation of many generations of cables types in hidden voids potentially resulting in high fire loads.

(ii) The presence in some installations of forced airflow in voids containing cables, which could spread fire and fire products around a building.

(iii) Absence of detection and/or suppression systems in some hidden voids.

(iv) Missing, damaged or ineffective fire stops in voids resulting in very large effectively un compartmented volumes.

(v) The possibility of explosive re-ignition of unburnt fire gases as a result of oxygen depletion.

(vi) The specification of cables based on existing test results, which in some cases may not reflect “real-fire” behavior.

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent years have seen a very rapid rise in the use of Information Technology (IT) systems through such innovations as the Internet, and “Local Area Network” (LAN) computer-based message and information systems. This has resulted in an equivalent demand for communication (or “data”) cabling to be installed in buildings as such systems are expanded and upgraded to meet these ever-increasing requirements. The result is that the hidden voids in buildings - such as underfloor spaces and plenum ceilings - are becoming packed with very large numbers of cables. It is common practice to install new cables alongside the old because it is uneconomical to remove existing cables and also because there are often uncertainties about which cables are still required and which are redundant. The rapid growth of cable installations is a trend which appears set to continue at an increasing rate.

Such voids may be relatively deep - im is not uncommon - and also cover a very large area, compared to inhabited rooms in the same building, which may have been compartmented to reduce fire spread. Barriers may be installed to reduce the volume of these voids and to act without adequate sealing. This is particularly prevalent when new cables are installed alongside old. Fire detectors or fire suppression systems are not routinely installed in such spaces and there is thus the potential for a fire to grow to a substantial size with widespread distribution of fire products throughout a building, before being detected, located and dealt with by the Fire Service.

Further, the nature of the cable insulation materials themselves, which for the vast majority of applications are based on olefinic synthetic polymers (often with a variety of additives), means that there can be a wide spectrum of fire performance, from very poor to very good and with cable upgrades in buildings, a wide variety of cable types consisting of several “generations” may be present. In practice there are two main classes of communication cable insulation materials, the more traditional
“halogen” containing products such as PVC and the newer “zero-halogen” products, the latter developed through the perception by some of the potential for halogenated cables to release more smoke and irritant/corrosive gases in fires.

Although the potential fire hazard of communications cables has been recognized for many years, the regulations around the world relating to cable fire safety are very variable and call upon various test protocols for performance measurement. Latterly the development of European “Euroclasses” and associated tests for the harmonisation of reaction-to-fire testing within the European Economic Community has given new impetus to the development of a realistic fire test regime and classification scheme specifically for communication cables.

With this background, a “Partners in Technology (PIT) contract from the UK’s Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR) was awarded, which consisted of a three year study with industry support to determine the implications for fire safety of these developments.

Recent moves within the European Community to harmonize “Reaction to Fire” tests and classification, under the Construction Products Directive have given increased relevance to this work.

The work was completed in March 1999 and this paper is an overview of the study and the main conclusions and recommendations which have been reported.

To be continued on the December issue of the Fusible Link.
Meeting Dates/Program 2005-2006

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

Nov. 7  Statue of Liberty - Review of advanced smoke detection system installed (HSSD). Speakers from United Fire and Landmark Fire.

Dec. 5  “Integration of Mass Notification in NFPA 72.” “The background of the incorporation of Mass Notification in NFPA 72 will be reviewed and the proposed changes to the National Fire Alarm Code to accommodate integration of Mass Notification systems with fire alarm systems will be presented.” Ray Grill Fire Business Area Leader of the Americas for Arup

Jan. 9  Combustible Dusts - Demonstration of deflagration in explosion apparatus - John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates

Feb. 6  Egress Modeling discussion and software presentation - Ed Arm, RJA

March 6  Changes to NFPA 20 - Fire Pump Standard - Presentation by Ken Isman

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 1 1⁄2 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: November 7, 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): Speakers from United Fire and Landmark Fire

Topic: Statue of Liberty - Review of advanced smoke detection system installed (HSSD).

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
Phone: (973) 541-6771
Fax: (973) 541-6909

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

COMPANY:___________________________TELEPHONE:______________________

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.
2005-2006 Chapter Committees

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Consulting - Nick Chergolis & Peter Rullo

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Tom Kuhta (Pat Egan back-up liaison)

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Joint Seminar/Chapter Seminar
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Vinnie Fichera
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