Message from Chapter President...

This month’s meeting presentation is expected to be quite exciting. It is on Combustible Dusts - a demonstration of a Deflagration in an Explosion Apparatus from a true expert in the field, John Cholin, of JM Cholin Associates. John’s presentations are always very thorough, factual and ever enlightening. You don’t want to miss this one.

Just a reminder, our Spring Technical Seminar is right around the corner. Monday April 3, 2006 is the date. See the attached flyer to sign up. Feel free to pass it on to friends, clients and co-workers.

Rich Reitberger,
Chapter President
The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Glenn Deitz our Vice President. Introductions followed the salute to the flag as is our custom.

The General Meeting Minutes for our January Meeting were approved as published in the Fusible Link. The Treasurer’s Report for February was read and accepted.

We had no applications for membership tonight.

Sarge Slicer mentioned the need for some new blood in our board of directors; our secretary has held the position for five years and wishes to move up, there is also a need for a member at large. Sarge informed us that those interested should contact a board member as listed in each edition of the Fusible Link. He continued with an update on the Order of the Engineer. There will be a total attendance open to the NJ SFPE of 12 people; this would be applicants and their family members wishing to take part in the initiation ceremony which will be held at the US Military Academy, West Point on April 19th. Contact Sarge for more details.

Ed Armm let everyone know that the NY SFPE will be holding the Spring Seminar in May. As the date gets closer Ed will provide updates as to exactly when, where and the topics.

Rich Ravaioli gave us an update as to what was happening in Trenton such as Senate Bill S-474 which is Senator Sweeney’s latest attempt to bring back his bill that will exclude all except union pipe fitters and master plumbers from working on automatic sprinkler and other suppression systems. Automatic fire sprinkler layout and the different requirements for wet, dry deluge and pre-action sprinkler systems are something which the typical pipe fitter and very few master plumbers have very little training for, let alone the requirements of high and low pressure special hazard suppression systems. Senator Sweeney still wants to give layout duties to fitters so little has changed with this bad legislation. On another note we learned that something has changed in Trenton; Jack Kennedy who was one of our guest speakers last year is no longer heading up the Contractor Certification and Emblems Unit of the NJ Division of Fire Safety. He was made an investigator with the lead post being assigned to Gary Licknack, who is now the acting Supervisor. The unit has relocated to 2 Advantage Court in Bordentown, NJ. The email address remains www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs.

Rich followed with an update on licensing in NJ and let everyone know that largely due to the efforts of our own Joe Janiga the requirements for visual inspections and other elements of keeping an automatic sprinkler system properly maintained have been changed to allow properly trained in-house staff to again perform some of these duties. The change reads;

The Division shall not require an in-house employee to obtain a certificate of certification for performing routine maintenance or monthly, weekly or daily inspection or testing of fire protection equipment provided:

i. The employer has a documented, readily-available procedure in effect governing routine maintenance and monthly, weekly or daily inspection and testing; and

ii. The employer can provide proof the personnel performing the work have been trained on the current Uniform Fire Code provisions governing routine maintenance or monthly, weekly or daily inspections or testing for the work they may be required to perform. A non certified person is still prohibited from performing quarterly, annually or other non-routine maintenance. The changes go on to allow the emergency closure of a valve if a system leaks as long as their actions are followed up by certified personnel.

Rich continued with other changes to include the reduction from 3” to 1” the size required for vehicle lettering, finally he asked us all to please go to the State Legislature site to view the exact wording and all of the changes to the law.

Jerry Naylis reported that professional fees, etc. may go up to generate revenue to make up the shortfall in the state budget. At this point, nothing is cast in stone and everything is up for discussion.

Chuck Gandy spoke next, he let everyone know that our PE exam review class was a go for this year; the class will run from the first Monday after Memorial Day to the Last Monday after Labor Day for testing in October. Chuck reminded us of the 100% success rate those that attend the class have in passing their exams, this is twice the national passing rate for those taking the Fire Protection Engineering licensing exam. The efforts of Chuck, John Cholin, Joe Janiga and some of our other members in not unappreciated.

Tonight’s presentation was about Egress Modeling, it was presented by Michael Nicoletta, AIA the manager of Rolf Jensen & Associates New York City office. Mike began with a definition of egress modeling and stated that evacuation calculations can be analyzed and solved using a computer simulation which was tonight’s subject or performed using mathematical equations taken from the pages of the SFPE Handbooks’, Emergency movement chapter.

Mike explained that models are used to help understand the relationship between cause and effect, to achieve a more realistic graphic representation of the evacuation process, to assess the level of life safety provided in a building and finally to simply provide an easy to understand graphical display. Many clients and end-users find spreadsheets of complex mathematical equations to be less than easy to understand and not very useful in understanding their situations. The model simply provides the big picture in an easy to digest and use form. Egress Modeling can be used to evaluate an existing building, however, it is recommended that modeling be used prior to going to construction to evaluate exits and egress paths.

Some of the concerns of egress modeling were identified as people’s responses to cues, their decision making capabilities, how they move through smoke, the distribution or exits and reactions/results of compromised exits and exit paths. Mike next talked about choosing the right model; he discussed the types of modeling available and the advantages and disadvantages of each. During this part of his presentation Mike listed the features of each program, their availability, methodology, the quality of the graphics, compatibility with AutoCAD drawings to same time and cost, how the different programs are validated and whether the occupant is viewed globally or individually.
We learned that occupant behavior was another variable in egress modeling. Occupant behavior can be expressed in multiple ways: no behavior, implicit behavior, conditional behavior, functional analogy, artificial intelligence or probabilistic. Occupant movement also provides options depending on the program used; a specific unrestricted velocity can be assigned by the user or the program. Restricted flow will be shown where density of occupants increases causing bottlenecks and queuing. Options include density correlations, inter-person distances, and potential or the numeric value assigned to each grid cell in the space being modeled. Modeling occupant movement can be based on the availability of the next grid cell, a pre programmed condition or other model link.

Mike moved on to discuss in more detail the various egress model programs that are available. He introduced us to STEPS, EGRESS, EXITT, Egress Pro, ASERI, EVACNET, EXIT89, SIMULEX and finally PathFinder and Exodus. Mike explained who developed the programs as well as where, their availability, user interfaces or ease of data entry and the advantages/disadvantages of each were discussed in detail. Mr. Nizoletta provided examples of the PathFinder and Exodus programs as these are the ones Rolf Jensen & Associates either developed (PathFinder) or has licensed to use (Exodus). The verification of both programs was explained, Mike told us that fluid dynamics and not the human thought process was used to base egress. The user interface, programming and other data input methods of PathFinder were explained before we were given an example of the graphic results in a movie Mike projected within his presentation. The people were simple dots moving through a building to exits, however, congestion and bottlenecks were clearly depicted and easy to see. Finally Mike showed the same type of movie using Exodus where the occupants are three dimensional rather then one dimensional dot. The results using Exodus were clear to see, however, Mike reminded us that the aesthetically pleasing three dimensional graphics require more user input time and therefore higher cost to the client or end-user.

After a short Q & A session the meeting was adjourned at 8:00

Cable Fires In Hidden Voids - New Dangers Discovered
Coldwell R., Fardell P.J., Hoare D. Chitty R.
Fire Research Station, Building Research Establishment Ltd.
Do the Many Sprinkler Recalls Threaten Sprinkler Installation Trade Offs?

Defective sprinklers spur fire officials to push for backups - By Peter Eisler, USA TODAY WASHINGTON

Building codes around the nation rest heavily on the theory that sprinkler systems provide the best protection against fire. Now, with millions of defective sprinklers being recalled, fire officials face a new question: What if a sprinkler fails? Beginning in the 1970s, state and local codes gave property owners who installed sprinklers more and more leeway to scale back on other safeguards such as smoke alarms and fire-resistant construction materials. However, those so-called trade-offs are getting a second look after a string of four sprinkler recalls that has identified 45 million defective sprinkler heads in the past seven years - a number equal to about one in every 10 sprinklers installed nationwide since 1991.

“We think we’ve gone too far with the trade-offs in the codes, and we’re seeking to reverse that trend,” says New York State Fire Administrator James Burns, president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals. “With all the trade-offs we’ve got now, we’re afraid a building with one of these faulty sprinklers is going to burn.”

The fire marshals and other fire-safety groups are campaigning for code changes so that buildings with sprinklers would be required to have more backup protections such as smoke alarms and flame-resistant walls. They’re getting some resistance from sprinkler makers and developers worried about higher construction costs, especially for the commercial and multiple-occupancy buildings that often require more fire protection.

More Recalls Possible
Sprinklers have been in use for a century, and not one was recalled until 1998. Of the four recalls since then, the biggest is a recall of 35 million sprinkler heads now being replaced by Tyco Fire & Building Products. More recalls could be on the way. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is still investigating other sprinkler models, says Gib Mullan, the commission’s head of compliance. Those investigations include a review of at least one model produced by the Reliable Sprinkler Co., which lost a court challenge of the product safety commission’s authority to assess sprinkler performance. All of the sprinklers recalled so far use valves sealed with rubber O-rings that can corrode and fail to open. The faulty sprinklers include both “wet” systems, which use pipes filled with water, and “dry” systems, which tend to be used in colder climates because the pipes are empty of water until the sprinklers are activated. The O-ring valves no longer are used by any sprinkler maker.

“What we’re trying to do is replace an older technology with a newer one that doesn’t use an O-ring,” says Tyco Vice President Carmine Schiavone. Tyco will keep offering free replacement of its defective heads for as long as the company is receiving a “significant” flow of claims, Schiavone says.

Tyco has spent more than $2 million publicizing the recall. The company is trying to raise awareness among sprinkler installers, Schiavone says, because it often takes a trained eye to spot the flawed sprinklers. Tyco also has a website (www.sprinklerreplacement.com) and a toll-free number (1-866-505-8553) to help consumers. Prudence or an overreaction?

The fire in-safety circles is that the news of the Tyco recall and other smaller sprinkler recalls might discourage businesses and others from installing sprinklers, which safety experts still see as the best defense against fire. When properly installed and maintained, they have an unmatched record of preventing multiple deaths in fires. “There’s no question that a sprinkler system provides great, great protection,” Maine State Fire Marshal John Dean says. But the recalls have made fire officials more aware of the need for backup protections, he adds. “We don’t want to put all our eggs in one basket.” The fire marshals are bringing their concerns to two organizations that write the model codes used by most state and local governments: The International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. The codes of both groups include trade-offs that allow buildings with sprinklers to go without some of the fire-safety protections required for buildings that lack sprinklers. Some aren’t as keen on changing the rules.

John Viniello, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, an industry group, says the efforts are an overreaction that could drive up construction costs and lessen builders’ incentives to install a proven safety feature. He notes that there has yet to be a death associated with the recalled sprinklers.

“Trade-offs have been in the codes for 50 years - it’s nothing new,” he says. “So why should you have the belt-and-suspenders approach to fire safety, which is what (fire marshals) are asking for, when you haven’t had the loss of life?”

Fire marshals acknowledge the concerns about rethinking trade-offs in building codes. “There is this pressure from groups to try to contain building costs, especially in areas that want to have development, and we’re sensitive to that,” Dean says. “We can encourage the use of sprinklers by allowing some (trade-offs). We just want to make sure we have some backup,” he says. “It’s like cars: We have seat belts and we have air bags, and we tell people to use both.”
Career Opportunities...

Project Manager
Fire Protection Engineering

Job Reference Code: 23-MH318

Location: Duluth, Georgia (Metro-Atlanta)

Relocation: A relocation package will be provided for the selected candidate.

Description: Take full responsibility for all aspects of each project. The first objective is to deliver exceptional value to the client, exceeding his/her own expectations. The second objective is to manage the project responsibly and profitably. Position does not require sales to new clients.

Basic Qualifications: Ready to assume project management and senior fire protection engineering duties for a variety of fire protection engineering and consulting projects including fire hazard analysis, fire system design, code analysis, etc. Strong desire to engineer innovative solutions to complex fire protection or code compliance problems using a team approach. Ready for a higher level of responsibility and compensation.

P.E. in fire protection engineering preferred. BS degree in fire protection engineering or traditional engineering disciplines important. Consulting engineering and project management experience essential. Total of 5 to 10 years of varied work experience is ideal. Experience in Property Loss Control Engineering a plus.

Career Opportunity: Harrington Group, Inc. was founded in 1986 in Atlanta. We enjoy a national reputation for honest hard work, creative solutions, and exceptional value delivered to our clients. We are well managed and profitable. We are currently growing and demand for our services is high. Our 5-year plan includes continued strong growth, which will provide opportunities for our associates to grow in responsibility and compensation.

Harrington Group is an Open-Book company. We share all company financial performance information with our associates on a monthly basis. We encourage our associates to “think like owners” and participate in the continuous improvement of the firm, based upon real-time financial performance information.

Contact Information:
John Callahan 973-765-9200
Millennium Search Associates, LLC jcallahan@msasearch.net

APPLY: E-mail Resume in Word Document format to: 23-MH318@apply.maxhire.net

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.
Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
New Jersey Chapter  
Proudly Announces  

SPRING TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2006  
Monday April 3rd, 2006  
East Hanover, NJ  

Time :  8:30 am to 3 pm  
Place:  Hanover Manor  
16 Eagle Rock Ave  
East Hanover, NJ 07936  
973-992-7425

Morning  
Detailed Analysis of Why the WTC Towers Fell: by Hughes Associates, Inc.  
Fire Safety Lessons to Better Protect People and Buildings  
Experts from the firm that conducted the forensic analysis have developed a program specifically for fire safety professionals. Join this panel discussion to explore the theory behind the cause of the collapse, the resulting human behavior during the emergency evacuation and the impact of the investigation findings on the code making process. Most importantly, attendees will take away key lessons learned that they need to incorporate into their fire safety programs to better protect people and buildings in today’s era of catastrophic risk.  

Glenn D. Buser, P.E., is Vice President and Director of Risk Control Services. He is responsible for the analysis, planning, and execution of property risk control programs for global risk management and insurance industry clients. Mr. Buser has spent the last 30 years helping companies better protect their operations and employees.  

Derek A. White, P.E., Senior Engineer with 15 years of experience in industrial fire protection. In addition to serving clients, he has spent the two years following the 9/11 events working on the forensic evaluation of the WTC 9/11 event supporting the Silverstein legal team in its litigation with insurers to prove multiple loss events.  

Steven M.V. Gwynne, Ph.D., Senior Scientist for modeling human behavior during egress and emergency evacuations of buildings. He has spent the last several years studying major loss of life disasters, such as the WTC 9/11 event, and developing new human behavior models and tools to support client evacuation and human safety.

Afternoon  
Foam Protection & The Environment: by representatives from Ansul, Kidde - National Foam and PMK Group, an environmental engineering firm. Update on the current status of foam protection products, properties and the effects on the environment. The future of AFFF and High Expansion Foams, the types of hazards foam is the best solution for and other hazards it can protect. Testing and environmental issues will also be discussed.  

Course CEUs will be awarded for those who attend (0.6 CEU/6.0 contact hours).  
Coffee and Danish will be served in the AM. Buffet lunch served at Noon.  

Price for the seminar is $75
REGISTRATION FORM (REGISTRATION LIMITED)

Price for the seminar is $75
(make checks payable to “NJ Chapter SFPE”)

Name _____________________________________

Address _________________________ Phone No. ____________

City ________________________ State ________ Zip__________

Amount Enclosed $________________

Mail to: NJSFPE Spring Seminar
        c/o Vicki Serafin
        Affiliated FM Ins. Company
        400 Interpace Parkway
        Building C - Third Floor
        Parsippany, NJ 07054-1196

Questions or to reserve your seat in advance please call Vicki Serafin at 973-541-6771

Directions to the Hanover Manor are attached.
DIRECTIONS TO THE HANOVER MANOR
The Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936
Phone: (973) 992-7425
Alternate: (973) 887-2682
The Hanover Manor is located on Eagle Rock Avenue in East Hanover, New Jersey. Entrance to parking lot from Eastbound or Westbound Eagle Rock Avenue.

Coming From PA or Route 80 East: Take Route 80 East to the Route 280 cutoff. Take Route 280 East to Exit 1. Go straight through the light at the end of the ramp and bear right onto Ridgedale Avenue. Follow Ridgedale approx. 1.2 miles (road makes a sharp bend) and make a left onto Eagle Rock Avenue. Take Eagle Rock Avenue about 1/10 mile to the Hanover Manor on the left.

Coming From New York City: George Washington Bridge to Route 80 West. Get off at Exit 52. At end of ramp, make a right onto Two Bridges Road, which will lead into Passaic Avenue. At the end of Passaic Avenue make a right onto Eagle Rock Avenue. Take Eagle Rock Avenue about one mile until you see Hanover Manor on the right.

Coming North on Garden State Parkway: Take Parkway North to Exit 145 (Route 280). Take Route 280 West to Exit 4A. At first traffic light, turn right onto Eagle Rock Avenue. Go about one mile to Hanover Manor on the right.

Coming South on Garden State Parkway: Take Parkway South to Route 80 West. Take Route 80 West to Exit 52. At the end of the ramp, make a right onto Two Bridges Road, which will lead into Passaic Avenue. At the end of Passaic Avenue make a right onto Eagle Rock Avenue. Take Eagle Rock Avenue about one mile until you see Hanover
Meeting Dates/Program 2005-2006

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

March 6  Combustible Dusts - Demonstration of deflagration in explosion apparatus - John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates

April 3
(8:30 - 3:00 PM)  NJ Chapter Spring seminar. Major subjects to be covered are the results of the Hughes investigation of the World Trade Center (some differences to the NIST findings) and Foam Protection and the Environment

May 1  Tyco Trailer Demonstration

June 12  Annual Meeting/Losses - Mike Newman, Johnson & Johnson, John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates

June 26  Joint NY & NJ Golf Scholarship Outing - West Point, NY

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.

NJ CHAPTER SEMINAR - APRIL 3

Included in this edition is a flier announcing the seminar that the chapter is organizing and which will be held at the Hanover Manor. Two topics will be covered including new findings as to the causes of the World Trade Center and recommendations that should concern anyone either working in a high rises or who provide fire protection related services to them.
MEETING NOTICE

Date: March 6, 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): John Cholin, JM Cholin Associates

Topic: Combustible Dusts - Demonstration of deflagration in explosion apparatus

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, MARCH 3, 2005. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.
2005-2006 Chapter Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program
Dave Gluckman, 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

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
Past Chapter Presidents

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

Finance
Rich Reitberger - Chairman
John Cholin
Bob Murray