President’s Message...

Our October meeting was a field trip to the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation manufacturing plant in Stratford, CT. It was an excellent learning experience which included a Power Point presentation about the facility, dinner at the on-site firehouse, and a tour of the plant. My sincere thanks to Vicki Serafin for coordinating the response forms and gathering the required information from everyone so we could pass through security and enter the site. I also want to thank Rich Reitberger for arranging the bus transportation for us.

On October 2, 2008, The American Red Cross and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released results of a survey showing the majority (79%) of Americans are concerned about the rising cost of heating their homes, and many will use an alternative heating source to reduce their bills this winter. The survey identified additional behaviors related to appliance maintenance and cooking that could also present home fire hazards this winter.

According to NFPA reports, cooking and heating are the leading causes of home fires. The survey revealed that 48% of households will use an alternative heating sources including portable space heaters, stoves, ovens and fireplaces. A third (36%) of people with fireplaces reported they never cleaned or inspected their chimneys. The survey also found 23% of respondents did not consider it essential to make sure someone is home when food is cooking on the stove.

Young adults, ages 18-24, were more likely than other respondents to state they will use the oven to keep the kitchen warm this winter (17% versus 7% for all households). Young adults were also less likely to take precautionary steps such as removing the lint from the dryer filter after every load (one in three do not remove the lint after every load).

Respondents also revealed another unsafe behavior, which is disabling (37%) smoke alarms when they go off in a non-testing situation. More than half (53%) of the households surveyed have not taken any of three common actions in most home fire escape plans, which includes discussing with family members how to get out of the home, deciding on an outdoor meeting place and practicing the plan.

Finally, Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 AM, Sunday, November 2. As a reminder, this would be an excellent time to change the batteries in you smoke detectors, your carbon monoxide detectors and exercise the circuit breakers in you home!

See you all at the Hanover Manor on November 3.

David Gluckman
NJSFPE Chapter President

http://www.sfpe.org/Chapters/NewJersey.aspx
The October meeting was held in conjunction with our bus trip visit to the Sikorsky Helicopter plant in Connecticut. The bus trip was both informative and a great opportunity to see how sophisticated and complex helicopters are manufactured and assembled.

We also looked at in-place detection and suppression systems and some very specialized manufacturing processes and equipment. We were briefed by on-site Sikorsky fire department personnel who are responsible for the protection and emergency response to an area which is equivalent to a small city due to the amount of people on site at any given time. The plant fire department also treated us to their excellent cuisine and food preparation skills as we were their guests at a sit down dinner. They also gave us an overview of the plant and their functions in a pre dinner briefing. During the pre dinner meeting we conducted some Chapter business. The October Treasurers report was read and accepted as were the meeting minutes from the September 2008 meeting as published in the Fusible Link. The Chapter would like to thank the account team at Willis for setting up the tour of the plant.

**Chubb Fire Protection Seminars**

If you are looking for hands-on fire protection training, then these are the classes for you. Classes are conducted in Chubb’s Training Center which is located in Warren, NJ (30 minutes from NYC). Facility managers, sprinkler contractors, and compliance officers have found these sessions to be informative, practical and applicable to their jobs. All classes are now CEU approved in NJ, PA, NY and CT. You can get a detailed description and registration form of each class at [http://www.chubb.com/lcu](http://www.chubb.com/lcu).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Detection + Alarm Systems</td>
<td>11/10/08</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse Fire Protection</td>
<td>11/11/08</td>
<td>2 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprinkler Plan Review</td>
<td>11/13/08</td>
<td>2 day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CSB Finds Static Spark Set Off Fire and Explosions at Barton Solvents Des Moines Facility, Investigation Finds Equipment Not Intended for Flammable Service or Properly Bonded and Grounded

For more information, go to: Barton Solvents Investigation Information Page

Washington, DC, September 18, 2008 - A fire and series of explosions at the Barton Solvents Des Moines, Iowa, chemical distribution facility on October 29, 2007, was caused by a static electrical spark resulting from inadequate electrical bonding and grounding during the filling of a portable steel tank, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) determined in a final report today.

One employee received minor injuries and one firefighter was treated for a heat-related illness in the accident, which occurred about 1 p.m. A large plume of smoke and rocking barrels and debris triggered an evacuation of the businesses surrounding the facility. As the CSB Case Study notes, the main warehouse structure was destroyed and Barton's business was significantly interrupted. The accident occurred about three months after a July 17, 2007, explosion and fire destroyed a Barton Solvents facility in Wichita, Kansas. The CSB attributed that accident to static sparks and lack of bonding and grounding as well in a June 2008 final report.

CSB Chairman and CEO John Bresland said, "These accidents show the need for companies to address the hazards associated with static electricity and flammable liquid transfer. They should apply good practice guidelines - outlined in our Case Study - to determine if facilities are properly designed and safety operated."

The accident in Des Moines occurred in the packaging area of the facility as an operator was filling the 300-gallon steel tank, known as a tote, with ethyl acetate, a flammable solvent. The operator had secured the fill nozzle with a steel weight and had just walked across the room when he heard a "popping" sound and turned to see the tote engulfed in flames. Employees tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire with a handheld fire extinguisher before evacuating.

CSB Lead Investigator Randy McClure said, "The CSB investigation found the nozzle and hose were not intended for use in transferring flammable liquids. Furthermore, we found the steel parts of the plastic fill nozzle and hose assembly were not bonded and grounded. Static electricity likely accumulated on these parts and sparked to the stainless steel tote body, igniting the vapor that accumulated around the opening of the tote during filling."

The report notes that static electricity is generated as liquid flows through pipes, valves, and filters during transfer operations. Metal parts and equipment must be electrically wired to each other, known as bonding, and then electrically connected to the earth, known as grounding.

"In this case, all the conductive metal objects in the nozzle and hose, and the steel weight which was suspended from the handle by a wire, were all isolated from ground and were susceptible to static accumulation and discharge," Mr. McClure said. "This is a set-up for disaster."

The packaging area - where the fire started - had no automatic sprinkler system and was adjoined to the flammable storage warehouse. The investigation found the wall separating the two areas was not fire-rated. As a result, the warehouse was rapidly consumed, and although this area had an automatic sprinkler system, it was incapable of extinguishing the large blaze.

The Case Study lists several key lessons for safe handling and storage of flammables. "We would hope every operator of similar liquid transfer facilities downloads and studies this report and the earlier Barton Solvents Wichita report to avoid a repetition of these accidents," Chairman Bresland said.

Facilities are urged to ensure that equipment used to transfer liquids is properly bonded and grounded; fire suppression systems should be installed in packaging areas; and packaging to be used for flammable liquids - such as the portable steel tanks - should be separated from bulk storage areas by fire-rated walls and doors.

The CSB investigation determined that if Barton had implemented a comprehensive static electricity and flammable liquid safety program, in compliance with current regulatory standards and good practice guidelines, the fire likely would have been prevented. These include OSHA's Flammable and Combustible Liquids standard and codes and recommended practices of the National Fire Protection Association.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov.
U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Clearance from Noncontinuous Obstructions

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to explain the sprinkler spacing rules from noncontinuous obstructions.

Today’s photograph illustrates a common challenge for fire sprinkler installers: positioning sprinklers away from potential obstructions to the water discharge pattern.

This truss web is defined by NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems as a “noncontinuous obstruction”: where “beams, trusses, or other members may impede heat flow or water distribution in a manner that materially affects the ability of sprinklers to control or suppress a fire.”

In order to ensure that the sprinkler is located far enough from the structural element to minimize discharge interference, NFPA 13 establishes distance “rules” based on the sprinkler type and size of the obstruction. For standard spray and large-drop sprinklers, the “three times” rule applies; for extended coverage and residential sprinklers, use the “four times” rule.

For this standard spray upright (SSU) example, the sprinkler must be located at least three times the width or depth away from the obstruction, whichever is greater. Given a “standard 2 × 4” with the actual dimensions of 1-1/2 (depth) by 3-1/2 (width) inches (38 × 90 mm), how far away should the sprinkler be located from the web? Since the value for the width is the greater of the two dimensions, it should be used in the formula.

\[ 3 \times \frac{1}{2} = 3 \times 1.5 = 4.5 \text{ inches minimum clearance} \]

\[ (90 \times 3 = 270 \text{ mm minimum clearance}) \]

Remember this answer applies to standard spray and large-drop sprinklers only. Other sprinkler types must comply with other spacing rules. For standard spray sprinklers, the maximum distance the sprinkler must be from a noncontinuous obstruction is 24 inches (610 mm).

For additional information, refer to NFPA 13, Chapter 8.
MEETING NOTICE

Date: November 3, 2008

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

Price: $26.00

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

Speaker(s): Ed Armm, Rolf Jensen Associates

Topic: 10 Common Design Misunderstandings

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

OR PAY AT THE DOOR

NAME: ___________________________________________________________

COMPANY:_____________________________ TELEPHONE:__________________
## Meeting Dates/Programs 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>10 Common Design Misunderstandings—Ed Armm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>25 Principles of Alarm Science—Jeff Zwirn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Introduction to the Internal Fire Code—Robert Davidson, Davidson Code Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Case Study: Saw Mill Dust Explosion—John Cholin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>MIC—Microbiological Corrosion—Prevention &amp; Inspection Requirement—Pete Carey, Potter Signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Installation Issues with CPVC Piping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Green Impact on Fire Protection Technology—Vinnie Fichera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Fusible Link
350 West 31st Street
Suite 900
New York, NY 10001 USA
www.fusiblelink.com
+1 212-695-6670
Fax: +1 212-695-6671
Eammon@fusiblelink.com

---

### JMCC
John M. Cholin P.E., FSFPE, M.E.E.
J.M. Cholin Consultants, Inc.
Fire Protection Engineering and Consulting Services
103 Roosevelt Drive, Oakland NJ 07436 USA
Telephone: 201-337-8621 • Fax: 201-337-5603
jmc@jmcholinconsultants.com • www.jmcholinconsultants.com

---

### GB Risk Consulting, LLC
155 Moramarco Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430
Email: gbuser@gbrisk.com

---

### tyco
Fire & Security

---

### City Fire Equipment Co., Inc.
Paul J. Mc Grath
President
paul@cityfire.com
733 Ridgedale Avenue • East Hanover, NJ 07936
(973) 560-1500 Ext. 204 • Fax (973) 781-1099
Cell (973) 476-6132
UNDERSTANDING THE FIRE ALARM REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE® SEMINAR

SPONSORED BY:
THE AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
November 20, 2008
At The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, New Jersey 07936
Go to www.AFANJ.org for directions and a map

This seminar is beneficial for designers of fire alarm systems, project managers or lead installers responsible for fire alarm systems, sales people and authorities having jurisdiction responsible for fire alarm system plan review and/or acceptance testing. Discussions and practical exercises intended to improve the participant’s knowledge of how to use the building/fire codes for determining fire alarm requirements. This seminar is primarily based on the IBC®, 2006 edition.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE UNDERSTANDING FIRE ALARM REQUIREMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE SEMINAR

Please type or print:

Organization: ________________________________
Street Address: ________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip __________
Telephone __________________ Fax __________

For attending the seminar, we require the following information:

Attendee (s) Name: ________________________________ e-mail address: ________________________________
Name: ________________________________ e-mail address: ________________________________
Name: ________________________________ e-mail address: ________________________________

AFANJ, NJFBA members and government employees - 1-2 attendees $225.00 each
3+ attendees $175.00 each
Non-members - 1-2 attendees $325.00 each
3+ attendees $275.00 each

All fees are based on registration received prior to November 1 at which time all fees add $25.00

Registration fees must be paid in full prior to seminar.
NICET information can be downloaded from their website at www.nicet.org.
Cancellation and refund policy:
A full refund of the seminar registration fee may be obtained provided AFANJ receives written notification at least 7 days prior to the start of the seminar. All other cancellations will be subject to a $100 cancellation fee. Special circumstances will be handled on a case by case basis. AFANJ seminars are subject to cancellation due to low registrations. AFANJ cannot be responsible for losses resulting from the cancellation of any seminar. Download additional forms at www.AFANJ.org
2008-2009 Chapter Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program
Ed Armm, Chairman
Consulting - Peter Rullo

Arrangements
Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

Membership
John Cholin, Chairman

Nominating
Glenn Dietz, Chairman
Chuck Gandy
Glenn Buser

Scholarship Fund
Chuck Gandy, Chairman
Ed Armm
Mike Machette
Alternates: Rich Reitberger, Jim Tolos

Auditing
Joe Janiga, Chairman
John Warnet

Archivist
Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Nicole Davidson

Historian
Jim Tolos

Communications
Fusible Link—Brad Hart
Ana Crisostomo—Coordinator
Mailing/Automation/email—Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Bylaws
Jim Tolos, Chairman
Joe Janiga - Co-Chairman

Career Recruitment
Al Dopart, Chairman
Glenn Dietz
Dave Gluckman

Golf Outing
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Joe Janiga

Awards
Frank Savino, Chairman
Rich Reitberger

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

Chapter Seminar/Field Trip
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Dave Gluckman
Joe Janiga

 Legislative
Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Venice Fisher
Jerry Naylis

Finance
Rich Reitberger - Chairman
John Cholin
Bob Murray