President’s Message...

Thanks this past month to Nathan Gould of ABS Consulting for his excellent and timely presentation on Seismic Hazard Mitigation. It was a subject most current in the news and something new for many of us. The flyer is out for our upcoming joint seminar with AFAA. We have lined up a number of great and well know speakers which is a good mix of both suppression and detection disciplines. In combination with the seminar we are also conducting a trade show which is fast filling up with vendors who will present the latest in technology and products related to the protection and detection fields. Attached to this issue are the flyer and vendor forms. Attend, participate and be informed. You don’t want to miss this event. Mark your calendars – Friday April 23rd at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (formally Holiday Inn) Frontage Rd. at Newark Liberty International Airport. Just a reminder if you haven’t paid your 2009-2010 dues please send it in to SFPE NJ Chapter c/o Vicki Serafin P.O. Box 8268, Parsippany, NJ 07054. See you all at our next meeting.

Rich Reitberger
NJ Chapter President
The meeting was called to order by president Reitberger at 6:10 with a salute to the flag followed by introductions. There were 20 members in attendance.

The minutes from the January meeting were accepted. Erratum: The minutes of the January meeting erroneously omitted that Jim Tolos made a motion to change our by-laws so that membership dues will be payable by the first (September) meeting of our chapter year. The membership voted to approve.

Bob Murray read the Treasurer’s report which the members voted to accept.

Rick Ravaioli discussed the FireFacts seminar sponsored by City Fire last month on inspection and testing of water based fire protection systems. He commented on how informative the presentation was and thanked City Fire on behalf of our members who attended.

Bob Murray mentioned Assembly Bill No. 3835 which now requires that registered Professional Engineers in NJ meet continuing education credits.

Chuck Gandy mentioned that the scholarship golf outing will be held at the West Point Golf Club on June 21.

Paul McGrath announced City Fire’s new web site at www.cityfire.com and invited the members to log on and give him their feedback.

Brad introduced our featured speaker, Dr. Nathan Gould of ABS Consulting whose topic was ‘Seismic Hazard Mitigation’. Dr. Gould opined that east of the Rockies earthquake is out of sight and out of mind. We shouldn’t forget though with the coming 200th anniversary of the 1811-12 New Madrid quake, which because of ground and bedrock conditions was felt here and as far as New England.

US building codes typically did not identify much quake exposure in our region. As a result of a 1996 USGS study there has been huge jumps in seismicity, including our region. He briefly reviewed building components such as the diaphragm (floor or roof) being either a rigid or flexible member connected via vertical elements to the foundation through a load path. He discussed the lateral loads imposed on a building by quakes, compared them to wind loads and summarized that if you do one thing, get the load path right. He discussed that current code is really only to life safety, getting the occupants out and that building, contents damage and business interruption is likely to result. He followed that industry is moving beyond code requirement toward performance based design. Future designs may be for enhanced performance which might specify no building damage and no disruption to operations.

He mentioned ASCE 41 ‘Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings’ he gave an example of major rehabilitation work ABS has been involved in, which since has experienced a major quake. Finally he mentioned that the cost to enhance quake performance of new buildings to operational level is an additional 1 to 2% while enhancing to immediate occupancy level costs about ½ to 1½% more.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

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Green Buildings and Fire Safety Project

State Fire Marshals Exploring Green Buildings/Fire Safety Connection

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has received an assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the US Department of Homeland Security for a project entitled “Fire Safety and Green Buildings: Bridging the Gap.” Its objective is to develop and share information for both code enforcement officials and first responders to address the fire safety gap that currently exists in the interface between established fire safety practices and the new building technologies and criteria being employed in “green” building design.

Deliverables include the formation of a Working Group to advise on the project and develop an agenda for needed educational materials; development of an interactive forum/online clearinghouse for outreach and sharing of information; and guideline publications for use by authorities having jurisdiction and first responders.

If you have a topic or a question that you would like NASFM to explore in greater detail through this project, or a resource that you would like the online clearinghouse to post or link to, please contact Project Manager Karen Deppa at info@greenbuildingfiresafety.org
CSB Board Members to Consider Urgent Gas Code Recommendations Following Deadly ConAgra Explosion; Investigation Team to Present Findings at Public Meeting in Raleigh

Raleigh, NC, February 4, 2010 — The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is set to consider two urgent recommendations that national fuel gas codes be changed to improve safety when gas pipes are being purged (cleared of air) during maintenance or installation of new piping.

The recommendations – to be voted on by board members at a CSB public meeting in Raleigh tonight – grow out of the CSB’s ongoing federal investigation into the June 9, 2009, natural gas explosion at the ConAgra Slim Jim production facility in Garner, North Carolina, which caused four deaths, three critical life-threatening burn injuries, and other injuries that sent a total of 67 people to the hospital.

In preliminary findings to be presented at a news conference this morning and at the public meeting tonight, CSB investigators determined that the catastrophic explosion resulted from the accumulation of significant amounts of natural gas that had been purged indoors from a new 120-foot length of pipe during the startup of a new water heater in the plant that made Slim Jims, a popular beef-jerky product. During pipe purging, workers feed pressurized gas into a pipe in order to displace air or other gases so that only pure fuel gas remains in the piping when it is connected to an appliance such as a water heater or boiler.

CSB Chairman John Bresland said, “The board is very concerned that companies across the country continue to purge pipes indoors, and this evening we will consider recommendations to the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA), the American Gas Association (AGA) and the International Code Council (ICC). Currently, the codes of the NFPA and ICC do not require gases to be vented outdoors or define adequate ventilation or hazardous conditions, nor do they require the use of combustible-gas detectors during these operations. The CSB recommendations, if adopted, would urge that these things be done.”

The NFPA and the ICC are prominent organizations whose codes are used and followed by government bodies, private organizations and individuals nationwide.

CSB investigations supervisor Donald Holmstrom said his team made the recommendations to the board during the course of the ConAgra investigation after discovering gaps in the fuel gas codes. “Purging flammable gases into building interiors is a recipe for disaster. At ConAgra, we determined the accident would not have happened had the gas been vented safely outdoors through a hose or pipe,” Mr. Holmstrom noted that since the June 2009 accident, ConAgra has instituted strict policies on purging, requiring it be done to safe outdoor locations.

As proposed, the CSB recommendations would urge the NFPA, the American Gas Association (AGA), and the ICC to enact tentative interim and then permanent changes to the National Fuel Gas Code. These would require that purged gases shall be vented “to a safe location outdoors, away from personnel and ignition sources.” In cases where outdoor venting is not possible, companies would be required to seek a variance from local officials before purging gas indoors, including approval of a risk evaluation and hazard control plan. The recommendation would also require the use of combustible gas detectors to continuously monitor gas concentrations; the training of personnel about the problems of odor fade and odor fatigue; and warnings against the use of odor alone for detecting releases of fuel gases.

The CSB issued a safety bulletin in October 2009 entitled “Dangers of Purging Gas Piping into Buildings.” The bulletin’s key lesson is: “Purging new or existing gas piping into a building can be highly hazardous due to the possible accumulation of gas … and the associated danger of fire and explosion.” It notes that large numbers of workers are at risk, including plumbers, gas installers, maintenance workers, contract supervisors, and industrial facility managers.

Mr. Holmstrom said, “The CSB has examined several other similar accidents in which gas was purged indoors and not detected. We have determined that workers cannot rely on their sense of smell to warn them of danger, in part because people become desensitized to the odorant added to natural gas and propane. Gas detectors must be used.”

Other incidents examined by the CSB include: a 1999 explosion at a Ford power plant in Dearborn, Michigan, killing six, injuring 38, and causing a $1 billion property loss; a 2008 explosion at a Hilton Hotel under construction in San Diego, California that injured fourteen people, a 2005 school explosion in Porterville, California, burning two plumbers; and an explosion at a hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 2007 severely burning two plumbers.

In addition to Chairman Bresland, the board consists of William E. Wright and William B. Wark. There are currently two board vacancies. Approval of recommendations requires a majority vote. The CSB meeting will be held at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, 421 South Salisbury Street.

Following a presentation of preliminary findings by the investigation team, the board will receive the views from a panel of experts: Chris Noles of the North Carolina State Fire Marshal’s Office (the state has passed strict regulations to require outdoor gas purging since the accident), Ted Lemoff of the National Fire Protection Association, and Belinda Thiel of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents employees at the ConAgra Slim Jim plant.

Finally, the board will hear from members of the public who wish to speak. “This was a devastating accident,” Chairman Bresland said, “and it is my hope that workers and residents in the area will let us know their views on the need for the stricter codes that we will be considering on Thursday evening.”

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.

For more information, contact Director of Public Affairs Dr. Daniel Horowitz, 202-441-6074 cell, or Hillary Cohen, 202-446-8094 cell.
Governor Jon Corzine enacted legislation on Monday that would require mandatory continuing education for license renewal for professional engineers. The statement on the bill is below. NJSPE and its chapters and interest groups will immediately begin assembling programs and seminars to help our members conform to this new requirement with a minimal amount of expense and time. NJSPE was the proponent of this legislation because we wanted to ensure that the Regulatory Board would be required to accept appropriate alternative learning vehicles such as webinars, online instruction, professional writing, etc. Please be assured that you, as a member of NJSPE, will be kept up to date regarding the latest offerings and opportunities to meet these new requirements.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3835**

This bill requires professional engineers to complete not more than 24 credits of continuing professional competency relating to the practice of professional engineering, two of which credits shall be in professional practice ethics, during each biennial licensure period to be eligible for renewal of their licenses. In the case of education courses or programs, each credit shall be equivalent to one hour of instruction. The State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors shall establish standards for continuing professional competency in professional engineering and these standards shall be in conformity with a national model, such as that of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Waivers of the required continuing professional competency may be granted by the board on an individual basis due to hardship or other good cause. Those professional engineers whose first renewal date occurs within 12 months after the enactment of the bill would not have to complete the required professional engineering continuing professional competency credits to renew their license. Those whose first renewal falls more than 12 but less than 24 months after the enactment of the bill would be required to complete the required professional engineering continuing professional competency credits on a pro rata basis.

Notwithstanding the 24 credit continuing professional competency requirement for professional engineers and land surveyors, each person licensed as both a professional engineer and a land surveyor, as a condition for biennial certification, must complete not less than 36 credits of continuing professional competency relating to the practice of professional engineering and land surveying, with not less than 12 credits to be completed in professional engineering and not less than 12 credits to be completed in land surveying.

The bill also provides that each professional engineer who is licensed to practice landscape architecture, as a condition for biennial certification, must complete not less than 12 hours of continuing education in landscape architecture.

Finally, the board shall allow a professional engineer to carry over a maximum of 12 continuing professional competency credits to the next biennial licensure period.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2853, which is also reported by the committee today.
Five men killed in a blast in early Feb at the under-construction Kleen Energy power plant in Connecticut. They were engaged in preparing a gas pipe and turbine for purging, reports the Hartford Courant. The five were responsible for monitoring the pipe during and after the purging operation, with all non-essential staff leaving the main power building when the purging operation began. The explosion occurred in the courtyard behind the main power building, blowing off its walls and causing the team of five to be killed by shrapnel. A further 27 were injured in the blast, most of whom were standing outside the building, having left it when the purging process began. Some were in nearby construction trailers. One theory is that the odor of mercaptan, which is added to gas so that build-ups cannot occur without a smell being detected, is at least partially absorbed by newly laid pipes. This, added to the possibility of "odor-fatigue" — where nasal passages become accustomed to odors over time — could have permitted the outdoor build-up of gas to the significant level required to cause an explosion. However, lower-explosive-limit (LEL) detectors would also have been in use by the purging crews.

Gas detectors, analyzers and security cameras have been seized by police investigating the blast. Kleen Energy was reported to have $664m in basic insurance cover, plus $212m business interruption/delay cover. Initial loss estimates were at $50m for damage to the plant and $100m for a year's delay in completion. Up to 40% of the loss was likely to find its way to the London market, reported Insurance Day, while Business Insurance said that Scor, Aegis, Travelers and Chartis had a small percentage of the total liability.
SFPE, New Jersey Chapter & AFAA - NJ
Proudly Announce

SPRING TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2010
Friday April 23, 2010
Ramada Plaza (formally the Holiday Inn)
160 Frontage Road
Newark, NJ 07114
973-589-1000

“Changing Codes in a Changing World”
Coffee & Danish – 7:30 am

Morning - 8:30 am
Robert P Schifiliti, PE

Avoiding Common Traps That Will Get You in Trouble
Wayne Moore, SET, P.E., FSFPE,

Vendor Show

Lunch – Buffet

Afternoon
Afternoon Session A

Changes To FM Global Data Sheet 2-0 and Data Sheet 8-9
Weston C. Baker Jr., Sr. Engineering Technical Specialist
FM Global -Engineering Standards

NFPA -13 UPDATE
NFSA instructor TBD

Afternoon Session B

Appliances Announce - Changes to Chapter 18
Ray Grill, P.E., FSFPE

Devices Detect - Changes to Chapter 17
John Cholin, P.E., FSFPE
REGISTRATION FORM

SPRING TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2010
Friday April 23, 2010
Ramada Plaza (formally the Holiday Inn)
160 Frontage Road
Newark, NJ 07114
973-589-1000

Price for the Seminar is $100
(Make checks payable to “NJ Chapter SFPE”)

Name_________________________________________________________________
Company_____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________Phone No__________________
City ____________________________________State ___________Zip__________
e-mail address_________________________________________________________

Afternoon Seminars (check one) “A” ________ “B” __________

Amount Enclosed $________________________

Mail to: NJSFPE Spring Seminar 2010
c/o Vicki Serafin
P.O. Box 8268
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Questions or to reserve your seat in advance, please call Vicki Serafin at 973-541-6771
Directions to the Ramada Plaza, Newark Liberty Airport are attached.
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.
From North
Take Route 1 or 9 South and watch for Airport sign. Take Frontage Road at immediate right.
From New Jersey Turnpike take Exit 14. After the toll plaza make the 2nd right - see sign marked Frontage Road.

From West
From I-78 East, take Exit 58-B Frontage Road Exit. Stay on Frontage Road, and the hotel will be on the right.

From South
From Route 1 or 9 North, exit Frontage Road and follow ramp to hotel.

Ramada Plaza (formally the Holiday Inn)
Newark Liberty Airport
160 Frontage Road
Newark, NJ 07114
973-589-1000
The Society of Fire Protection Engineers New Jersey Chapter
The Automatic Fire Alarm Association of New Jersey
Proudly Announce

SPRING TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2010
“Changing Codes in a Changing World”

Friday April 23, 2010
Newark Liberty Airport, Newark, NJ

Place: Ramada Plaza (formally the Holiday Inn)
160 Frontage Road
Newark, NJ 07114
973-589-1000
Time: 7:30 am to 5 pm

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Vendor Registration Form

Vendor Table Fee is $500
(Make checks payable to “NJ Chapter SFPE”)

Name ________________________________________________________________

Company _____________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________ Phone No.____________________________

City _____________________________ State ___________ Zip ________________

E-mail address_________________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed $________________

Mail to: NJSFPE Spring Seminar 2010 – Vendor Registration
c/o Rich Reitberger, P.O. Box 8268, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Questions please call Rich Reitberger at 973-541-6771 or Ed Armm at 212-695-6670
MEETING NOTICE

Date: March 1, 2010
Place: Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ
Price: $30.00
Dinner: 5:00-6:00 (Cash bar for mixed drinks)
Dinner at 6 PM
Topic: HVLS (High Volume Low Speed) Fan Update—Peter Wilse, XL GAPS

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

OR PAY AT THE DOOR

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

COMPANY: ___________________________ TELEPHONE: __________________
## Meeting Dates/Programs 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>HVLS (High Volume Low Speed) Fan Update—Peter Wilse, XL GAPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Annual Technical Seminar—Various speakers—Trade show. Topics to include: New FM Storage Standards and Alarm Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Pop up Curbs—Flammable Liquids</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>FM Global Standards Update</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Golf Outing—West Point</td>
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**Associated Fire Protection**

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100 Jackson Street
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(973) 884-7250 Ext. 150
Fax: (973) 884-4511
rstraten@alpfire.com

www.alpfire.com

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**Slicer & Associates**

Fire Protection and Loss Prevention Consulting

J. Sargent “Sarge” Slicer

P.O. Box 1647
West Chatham, MA 02669-1647
Office 508-945-5074
West Chatham, MA 02669-1647
Mobile 973-493-0369
West Chatham, MA 02669-1647
VM & Fax 866-395-6172
West Chatham, MA 02669-1647
Member – SFPE & NFPA
sargeslicer1@myiboxx.com

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**Associated Consulting Engineers, P.C.**

Robert E. Murray, P.E.
President

214 Clarke Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
(908) 755-5081 Fax (908) 755-5087 Email rmurray@afesfirepro.com

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**JMCC**

John M. Cholin P.E., FSFPE, M.E.E.

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Fire Protection Engineering and Consulting Services
101 Roosevelt Drive, Oakland NJ 07436 USA
Telephone: 201-337-8621 Fax: 201-337-5603
jmcc@jmcholinconsultants.com • www.jmcholinconsultants.com

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**GB Risk Consulting, LLC**

Glenn D. Buser, P.E.
201-891-1405
201-450-7559 (Cell)

GB Risk Consulting, LLC
155 Moramarco Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430
Email: gbuser@gbrisk.com
2008-2009 Chapter Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program
Ed Armm, Chairman
Consulting - Peter Rullo
Richard Ravaoli

Arrangements
Vicki Serafin, Chairperson

Membership
John Cholin, Chairman

Nominating
Dane Gluckman, Chairman
Glenn Dietz
Chuck Gandy

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 Smith

Historian
Jim Tolos

Communications
Fusible Link—Brad Hart
Ana Crisostimo—Coordinator
Mailing/Automation/e-mail—Vicki Serafin, Chairperson
Website—Joe Janiga
Facebook & Twitter Coordinator—Todd Vazquez

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Bylaws
Jim Tolos, Chairman
Joe Janiga - Co-Chairman

Career Recruitment
Al Dopart, Chairman
Glenn Dietz
Dave Gluckman
Glen Buser

Golf Outing
Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Joe Janiga

Awards
Rich Reitberger, Chairman

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
Vinnie Fichera
Jerry Najlis
Dave Kurasz

Finance
Rich Reitberger - Chairman
John Cholin
Bob Murray

HELPFUL LINKS

ADAAG http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/index.htm
AFAA National http://www.afaa.org/
AFSA http://www.firesprinkler.org/
ANSI http://www.ansi.org/
ASHRAE http://www.ashrae.org/
Campus-Firewatch http://www.campus-firewatch.com/
Coffee Break Training http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/
CPSC http://www.cpsc.gov/
CSAA http://www.csaaul.org/
Municipal Codes (E Codes) http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html
FM Global http://www.fmglobal.com/
FSDANY http://www.fsdayn.org região.htm
FSI http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/
FSSA http://www.fssa.net/
Fire Tech Productions—Nicet Training (FTP) http://www.firetech.com/
Home Fire Spklr Coalition http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/
AFAA-NJ http://www.afaanj.org/
National of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED) - http://www.nafed.org/index.cfm