



Editor Fusible Link:  
Brad Hart &  
Ana Crisostomo  
Tel: 646-572-3920  
Fax: 646-871-3920

# Society of Fire Protection Engineers

## New Jersey Chapter

# FUSIBLE LINK

APRIL 2010

### Chapter Officers

#### President

Rich Reitberger - 973-541-6776  
Richard.reitberger@affiliatedfm.com

#### First V.P.

John Cholin - 201-337-8621  
jmc@jmcholinconsultants.com

#### Second V.P.

Ed Armm - 212-695-6670  
earmm@rjagroup.com

#### Past President

Dave Gluckman - 973-410-4635  
Gluckman\_da@willis.com

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rmurray@acefirepros.com

#### Asst. Treasurer

Richard Ravaoli - 908-272-0066  
rravsrf@verizon.net

#### Secretary

Joe Janiga—973-541-6774  
Joseph.janiga@fmglobal.com

#### Asst. Secretary

Brad Hart - 646-572-3920  
bhart@lockton.com

#### Director

Dave Kurasz—866-226-6006  
kurasz@nfsa.org

#### Director

Glenn Buser - 201-891-1405  
gbuser@gbrisk.com

#### Director

John Warnet - 973-541-6986  
John.warnet@fmglobal.com

#### Director

Jerry Naylis - 201-384-2059  
jerryaylis@aol.com

#### Special Executive Assistant to The Board

Vicki Serafin  
vicki.serafin@affiliatedfm.com

## President's Message...

April is a month that brings warmer weather, new flowers, baseball and the annual NJSFPE Technical Seminar. This year we are teaming up with AFAA – NJ to bring our membership both a relevant and educational seminar which will include our vendor trade show, a look at new products and services for the fire protection and detection fields. As you know, this year's Technical Seminar will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (formally the Holiday Inn – Newark Airport) Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme “ Changing Codes in a Changing World” is designed to help you the professional stay current and on top of detection and protection system codes and standards. We have some great speakers lined up as well as a full trade show. You will not want to miss this year's event, Plan now and get your registration in early as seats are limited.

The Chapters' Officers are also looking ahead and planning next year's programs and activities. If you are interested in becoming involved with Chapter committees or even a Director's position please let any of the current Board of Directors know and we will gladly fill you in on the benefits and rewarding aspects of serving in this capacity. Thanks for your continued support of the Chapter and the profession. See you all in Newark.

Rich Reitberger  
NJ Chapter President

<http://www.sfpe.org/Chapters/NewJersey.aspx>

[www.twitter.com/newjerseysfpe](http://www.twitter.com/newjerseysfpe)

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/New-Jersey-Chapter-of-the-Society-of-Fire-Protection-Engineers-SFPE/230335010430?ref=search&sid=1603495530.128212107..1>

## Minutes of March 1, 2009 SFPE Meeting

The meeting was called to order by president Reitberger at 6:05 with a salute to the flag followed by introductions. There were 17 members present.

The minutes from the February meeting were accepted.

Bob Murray read the Treasurer's report for March 1 followed by a vote to accept.

Our Spring Technical Seminar 'Changing Codes in a Changing World', will be held at the Newark Airport Ramada Inn on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a joint seminar with AFAA which will include a substantial trade show and concurrent afternoon sessions covering changes to alarm and sprinkler protection codes/standards.

The scholarship golf outing has been scheduled for June 28 at the West Point Golf Club. (Note the date; it is different from what we previously reported.)

Our featured speaker, Mr. Peter Wilse of XL GAPS spoke to us about updates

to research on High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) fans. Pete says that since he last spoke to us there have been several more fire tests conducted, so there have been five altogether to date, three palletized and two rack arrays. One test, performed at UL's labs was 20 stacks of Cartoned, Group A plastics 15 ft high under a 25 ft roof with K 11 sprinklers and the fan running at half speed. Ignition was below the fan blade tip between 4 sprinklers. Seventy three ceiling sprinklers operated. The test was a failure and had to be terminated.

Another test set was of 12 ft high palletized storage (20 stacks again) of Cartoned Class 2 commodity under a 22 ft roof. (One performed without and one with a HVLS fan present and operating.) According to Pete this pair of tests confirmed that the fans pose a problem over high hazard palletized storage but probably do not over low hazard palletized storage.

A test of Rack storage of cartoned Group A plastics 15 ft high under a 25 ft roof opened 9 or 10 sprinklers, hopeful results.

Pete brought up that the FPRF has conducted tests of rack storage of cartoned group A plastics 20 ft high under a 30 ft roof with K14 Suppression Mode sprinklers at 50psi. Test results have varied depending on the location of the ignition source with respect to the fan. Ignition source under the fan blade tip has resulted in success, while ignition under the hub of the fan has resulted in failure.

Pete mentioned that in all cases fans have been located 'between four' sprinklers and have been arranged to power/coast down upon sprinkler operation with the fan blades ultimately stopping 'between' the ceiling sprinklers.

Pete mentioned that six insurance companies have banded together into the 'Property Insurance Research Group' each promising annual funding to support six or seven more tests. Pete requested if your company can help to contact him about joining the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

### Engineers' Club of Philadelphia Spring Semester Courses

#### ECP SPRING SEMESTER COURSES

The Engineers' Club is offering courses which meet the needs of many practicing technical professionals. You can download the entire [Spring 2010 Course Catalog](#) (pdf format) or follow the links below to the online information.

While there are seven different categories that are being offered, the following are Fire Protection related:

#### Fire Protection

- FP-1: Sprinkler Systems Basics
- FP-2: Advanced Sprinkler Systems
- FP-3: Smoke Control Systems
- FP 4: IBC Smoke Control Requirements

For questions, email [Susan Best](#) or call (215) 985-5701.

## Update on the Kleen Energy Investigation Blast

**The following is an excerpt from the preliminary investigation of the above explosion. It is hard to believe that the practice described below is common in the industry.**

The safety issues raised by this accident are not limited to Connecticut. These issues are larger than any particular company, facility, or individual. The U.S. has embarked on an ambitious construction effort for new natural gas power plants. Thousands and thousands of workers across the country will be involved in constructing these plants. The safety of these workers and the nation's energy independence are at stake as these gas-fired plants are built over the next 20 years.

The CSB has a team of ten here investigating at the Kleen Energy accident site. On behalf of all of us at the CSB, we extend our deepest condolences to the families of Ronald Crabb, Peter Chepulis, Raymond Dobratz, Kenneth Haskell, Christopher Walters and Roy Rushton. The goal of the CSB investigation is that terrible accidents like this will not happen again and that no families will suffer such tremendous losses in the future.

The CSB team arrived at the site on February 8th. Since that time, the CSB team has conducted a large number of interviews, reviewed documents, and closely examined the accident site on numerous occasions. We appreciate the outstanding cooperation from the workers at this facility, who despite living through such a horrible ordeal have provided valuable information to CSB investigators.

This accident occurred during a planned work activity to clean debris from natural gas pipes at the plant. To remove the debris, workers used natural gas at a high pressure of approximately 650 pounds per square inch. The high velocity of the natural gas flow was intended to remove any debris in the new piping. At pre-determined locations, this gas was vented to the atmosphere through open pipe ends which were located less than 20 feet off the ground. These vents were adjacent to the main power generation building and along the south wall. The open pipe ends are visible here in the photographs.

You can actually see the high-pressure gas venting out of one of these open pipe ends in this photograph taken a short time before the accident on February 7.

This cleaning practice is known within the natural gas power industry as a "gas blow." Industry personnel have indicated to CSB investigators that gas blows are a common practice during the commissioning of new or modified gas pipes at their facilities.

CSB investigators have reviewed gas utility records for the morning of the accident. These records together with written pipe cleaning procedures and witness testimony confirm that the gas blows occurred intermittently over the course of the morning. At the same time that gas blows were underway, there were potential ignition sources present in the surrounding area, including inside the power plant building. There were many construction-related activities underway inside the building.

Determining the exact ignition source is not a major focus of our investigation at this point. In most industrial worksites, ignition sources are abundant and efforts at accident prevention focus first and foremost on avoiding or controlling the release of flammable gas or vapor.

Initial calculations by CSB investigators reveal that approximately 400,000 standard cubic feet of gas were released to the atmosphere near the building in the final ten minutes before the blast.

That is enough natural gas to fill the entire volume of a pro-basketball arena with an explosive natural gas-air mixture, from the floor to the ceiling.

This gas was released into a congested area next to the power block building. This congested area likely slowed the dispersion of the gas. The gas built up above the lower explosive limit of approximately 4% in air and was ignited by an undetermined ignition source.

In the days since the accident, companies and safety regulators from around the world have contacted the CSB asking about the circumstances of this devastating accident. Some companies, including a power plant here in the region, indicated that they themselves have been planning similar gas blows as part of commissioning pipes in the very near future.

A major focus of the CSB investigation is to determine what regulations, codes, and good practices might apply to these gas blows. To this point, no specific codes have been identified, but we are continuing our research.

In the meantime, we strongly caution natural gas power plants and other industries against the venting of high-pressure natural gas in or near work sites. This practice, although common, is inherently unsafe.

The CSB is investigating possible alternatives to this practice, including the use of air, steam, nitrogen, or water or the use of combustion devices to safely destroy the gas. Combustion devices like flares can safely burn up flammable gas or vapor, preventing the possibility of an explosion.

Recommending safer alternatives will be a primary focus of the CSB investigation as we move forward.

Just three days prior to this tragic accident, the Chemical Safety Board recommended changes to the National Fuel Gas Code to prevent disastrous explosions involving gas purging. We note with great appreciation that just yesterday, at a meeting in San Francisco, the NFPA panel responsible for the fuel gas code voted to move forward with the CSB's recommendations to make purging practices safer at work sites across America. These provisions will apply at hundreds of thousands of facilities, once fully adopted.

The type of purging described in that code is different from the gas blows used in the power industry, and power plants remain exempt from the national fuel gas code. However, gas purging as defined in the code has certain similarities to gas blows, in that gas is applied at one end of a pipe and gas is intentionally vented at the other end to the atmosphere.

There is an underlying common theme among the tragic accidents at Kleen Energy, the ConAgra Slim Jim plant in North Carolina, the Ford River Rouge power plant in Michigan, the Hilton Hotel in San Diego, and many other purging-related accidents. Companies must ensure that flammable gases are not vented into close proximity with ignition sources and workers. That is a vital safety message from all these tragedies.

We encourage the gas power industry to closely study the very positive actions recommended by the NFPA and the American Gas Association committees yesterday. The CSB investigation will focus on determining what permanent changes in standards or practices are needed to prevent future accidents involving gas blows.

Thank you for attending this morning and we will be happy to answer questions from members of the media. Please state your name and affiliation with your questions.

## 2010-2011 New Jersey SFPE Nomination for Officers and Directors

In compliance with the Nomination Section of the Constitution and By-Laws of the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of Officers and Directors. The election will be conducted at the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2010 at the Hanover Manor.

President	Rich Reitberger
First VP	John Cholin
Second VP	Ed Armm
Secretary	Joe Janiga
Asst. Secretary	Brad Hart
Treasurer	Bob Murray
Asst. Treasurer	Rich Ravaioli
Board of Directors (2-year term)	Dave Kurasz

Chapter members, Glenn Buser (second year of second term), John Warnet (second year of second term) and Jerry Naylis (second year of second term) will remain as Board of Directors member-at-large.

Dave Gluckman will be Immediate Past President, a voting member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors welcomes volunteers to serve in leadership capacities within the organization including Committee activities and the Board itself. No other members made their interests and willingness to serve known to the Nominating Committee prior to this report. Any member with a desire to run as a candidate for Chapter Officer or Director is encouraged to do so. They must contact the Chapter Secretary, Joe Janiga (973-541-6774) at least four weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. In accordance with the New Jersey Chapter By-Laws, candidates must submit the signatures of five voting members of the New Jersey Chapter SFPE along with their letter of intention to run for any of the above positions. According to the calendar, the deadline is Monday, May 17, 2010.



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Fax: +1 212-695-6671  
Cell: +1 347-728-0867  
earmm@rjagroup.com





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**Robert Volinski**  
*National Account Manager*

ADT Security Services, Inc.  
695 Route 46 West  
Suite 200  
Fairfield, NJ 07004

Tele: 973 439 6477  
Fax: 801 327 0769  
email: rvolinski@adt.com

*The following article is taken from the Feb 2010 Campus Firestone magazine*

## **Carbon Monoxide Alarm Laws Result from Family Tragedies**

By Kidde R & C Division, Mebane, NC 27302

To date, 25 U.S. states, as well as several large municipalities, have laws passed or pending to require carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in residences. Yet, look beyond the numbers, and you'll find heartache and bravery. You'll hear from families spurred by tragedy to make a difference. People like Cheryl Burt, Tom Julia, Maria Dempsey and Barbara Bertot. They come from different cities, different areas, but all are on the same personal quest to stop a Silent Killer. Each has experienced firsthand the tragic result of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Minnesota resident Cheryl Burt lost two sons to CO poisoning, while Maria Dempsey's sister, Caroline, died while on a ski trip in Aspen with her family. Caroline Lofgren's husband and two children died as well. When an off-campus Virginia Tech apartment building filled with carbon monoxide, Tom Julia's daughter, Kristin, died, and 19 others were injured. Florida resident Barbara Bertot lost her teenage daughter, Janelle, to CO poisoning as well. Each will tell you that a simple device – a CO alarm – may have saved their loved ones from death or severe illness, so all are demanding change. Their voices, along with advocates from fire departments, public health and safety organizations, have asked lawmakers to make their communities safer.

### **Federal and State Lawmakers are Listening**

In addition to half of the U.S. states either requiring or considering a CO alarm requirement, the International Residential Code (IRC) Council voted in March 2009 in favor of adopting a code that requires the installation of CO alarms in newly constructed one- and two-family dwellings. In December, a subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee heard testimony for Senate Bill 1216, the "Residential Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act." Sponsored by Senator Amy Klobachar (D-MN), S 1216 would require all carbon monoxide alarms sold in the U.S. to comply with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2034, the third-party independent standard to which manufacturers test and list their alarms.

Currently, listing a CO alarm to this standard is voluntary, although most states with laws requiring residential CO alarms mandate that they meet UL 2034. Many carbon monoxide alarm laws include requirements for college and university dormitories, as well. Both Illinois and Massachusetts require CO alarms in dormitories, as does New York's expanded law, which went into effect February 22, 2010. Recent industry and independent surveys show that CO alarm usage in homes has almost doubled in the past six years, from 27% in 2003 to 50% in 2009. Yet, carbon monoxide remains the leading cause of unintentional poisoning deaths in America, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This odorless, invisible gas claims 500 lives and sends another 20,000 to emergency departments each year, according to the CDC. Cheryl, Tom, Maria, Barbara and so many others remain on a quest to ensure every home has at least one CO alarm. It's a quest to remind lawmakers and officials how simple prevention can save lives, and one that they hope will keep others from suffering senseless tragedies.



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**

*The New 2010 NFPA 72: More than Just a Fire Alarm Code*

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




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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

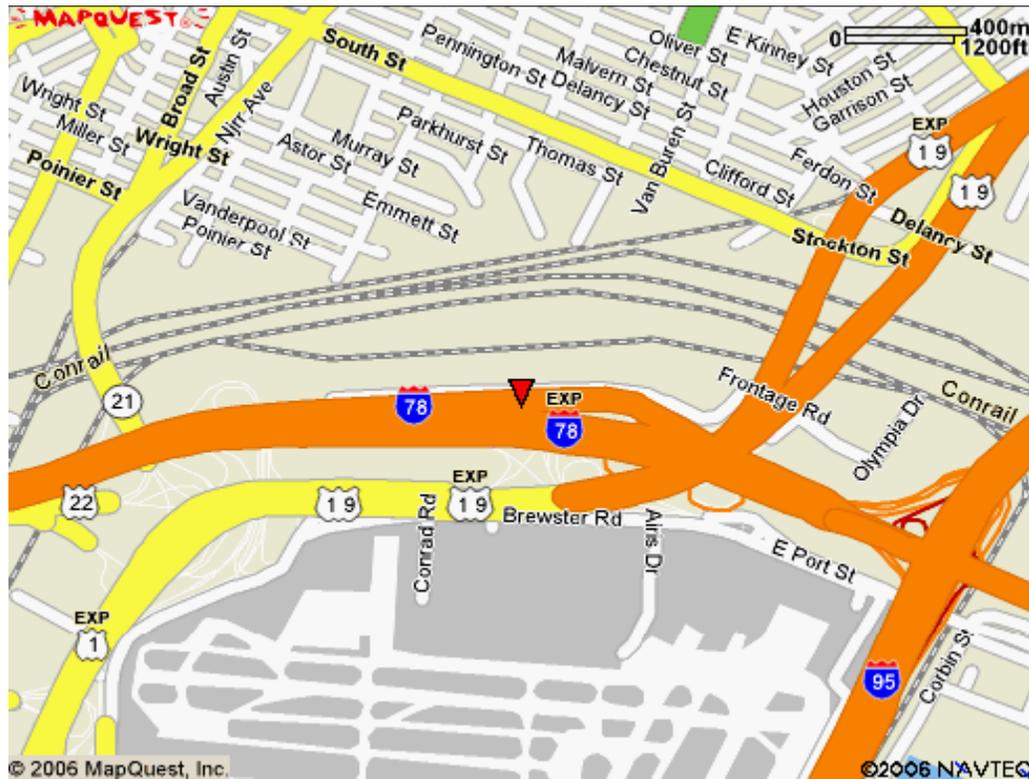
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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 Dates/Programs 2009-2010

DATE	TOPIC
April 23	Joint AFFA,NJ SFPEChapter Seminar—Changing Codes in a Changing World—Various speakers—Trade show. Topics to include: New FM Storage Standards, Alarm and Sprinkler Protection Codes and Standards
May 3	Pop Up Curbs for Flammable Liquid Containment – Dag Anheim
June 14	FM Global Standards Update
June 28	SFPE Scholarship Fund Golf Outing—West Point Golf Club

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**J.M. Cholin Consultants, Inc.**  
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155 Moramarco Court  
Mahwah, NJ 07430  
Email: gbuster@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

Dave 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 Crisostomo—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 Deitz  
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 Naylis  
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.affaa.org/>

**AFFSA** <http://www.firesprinkler.org/>

**ANSI** <http://web.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>

**FDNY** <http://nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

**FM Global** <http://www.fmglobal.com/>

**FSDANY** <http://www.fsdany.org/regs.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/>

**HVAC Bld. Control Fire Safety** <http://www.iklimnet.com/hotelfires/hotelfiresmain.html>

**AFAA-NJ** <http://www.affaanj.org/>

**International Code Council** - <http://www.iccsafe.org/>

**International Code Council Residential Sprinkler Exam** - [http://www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2009/0709\\_ResidentialSprinklerExam.pdf](http://www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2009/0709_ResidentialSprinklerExam.pdf)

**The Joint Commission (JCAHO)** - <http://www.jointcommission.org/www.JointCommission.org/>

**Material safety data Sheets (MSDS-OSHA Site)** - <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/index.html>

**National of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED)** - <http://www.nafed.org/index.cfm>