President’s Message...

Welcome to Fall; I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I spent the better part of two days searching the internet for a witty way of asking the membership why the vast majority of you do not take part in the society. Our membership is 259 members but only 68 up to date (paid their dues). Of the 68 members in good standing only 17 members attended our first meeting in September. I encourage all of you to partake in the opportunities and benefits that being a member in good standing offers you. Your board of directors is working to get New Jersey PE continuing educational credit for attending technical presentations. Will this increase attendance, only the future can tell. Your board works tirelessly to bring in top shelf speakers in an effort to advance the science and practice of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, to maintain a high ethical standard among its members, and to foster fire protection engineering education.

You will receive this edition of the Fusible Link prior to our annual field trip meeting; It looks like it will be a great day and we have Rich Reitberger to thank for setting up this trip and luncheon. I hope the bus is full when it leaves the FMG parking lot. Registration information will be found in the pages of this edition of the Fusible Link.

We are also looking forward to Fire Prevention Week which is coming up quickly, it is October 9 – 16. The goal of “It’s Fire Prevention Week is to protect your Family from Fire!” is to protect all families, especially those at the highest risk. See additional information in this edition on what NFPA has planned for the week.

Nothing but the very best,

Ed Armm
Chapter President
President Armm convened the meeting at 6:00 PM with a salute to the flag and customary introductions.

The Treasurer’s report for September 12, 2011 was read and accepted by the members. There is $17,373.65 in the balance.

The Secretary’s report for the June 6 meeting was discussed and accepted by the members.

Rich Reitberger discussed our October 12 field trip to the NJ Air National Guard. Plans are to leave FM Global’s parking lot about 6:30 am.

Merton Bunker, Deputy Director of Fire Protection at the US Department of State gave us a presentation titled, “Engineering Diplomacy, a Look at Fire Protection Challenges in Department of State Overseas Facilities.” Items discussed included:

- An overview of the functions Merton performs for the State Department. This includes maintaining buildings, planning, and construction of diplomatic facilities worldwide.
- What the role of the State Department in general is.
- His group is comprised of 3 division chiefs and 32 staff in total.
- A major fire in Moscow in 1988 was the driving force for starting this group.
- Mostly US codes are used for the projects that are performed (e.g., IBFC, IFC, IRC, NFPA 13, 20, 24, 70 and 72). At times, local codes are used if more stringent.
- New compounds that are built are provided with sprinklers throughout and have smoke control and purge systems.
- There are many challenges regarding all phases of construction. This includes labor issues, workmanship, cost, technical challenges, cultural issues, legal issues, contractor issues and architectural concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15

This year, the theme is preventing the leading causes of home fires and keeping your family and community safer with life-saving technology. On the NFPA web site you’ll find educational material and tip sheets on the leading causes of home fires, information about protecting your home and families with life-saving technologies, and the importance of home escape planning. Some of these resources can be found on the following links:

- Join us for a FREE webinar on Sept. 14 for an overview of FPW resources and strategies
- New audio public service announcements featuring Sparky the Fire Dog®
- Our blog is updated daily – join the conversation
- Test your fire safety IQ with our online quiz
- Reach high-risk populations with your safety messages

GB Risk Consulting, LLC
155 Moramarco Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430
Email: gbuser@gbrisk.com
To: Members of Fire Alarm Industry  
From: Alex Spektor, Director, FAIU  
Effective Date: June 20, 2011  
Subject: Fire Alarm Acceptance Test - Checklist

PRIOR TO SCHEDULING AN ACCEPTANCE TEST, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL AND READY FOR INSPECTION.

☐ 1. Construction Documentation: FD approved plans, Plan Examination (Form TM-1), Electrician’s Sign-off (Form A-433), Manufacturer’s cut sheets, MEA Listing or Certificate of Acceptance for all equipment used.

☐ 2. Construction Site: The construction site is substantially clean of debris and arrangements have been made to protect devices after the test is completed if necessary.

☐ 3. System Readiness: The installation of the various components is free of defective workmanship. The fire alarm system has been 100% checked and pre-tested, and functions are in complete compliance with the FD approved plans and sequence of operations, specifications and manufacturer’s recommendations.

☐ 4. Central Office Connection: The fire alarm is permanently connected to a listed Central Station and the required zoned signals have been verified.

☐ 5. Qualified Testing Personnel: All appropriate installers must be present including electrical contractor, fire alarm technician(s), sprinkler (fire pump) installer if test involves sprinkler alarms or fire pump; HVAC contractor if test involves duct smoke detectors, fire or smoke dampers.

☐ 6. Communication Means: Two (2) portable radios are provided.

☐ 7. Testing Equipment and Tools: digital voltmeter; DBA meter; flashlight; voice intelligibility meter if intelligibility testing is required; detector testing equipment specified by manufacturer; equipment to provide access to all devices (stepladder, lift, extension rods, etc.).

☐ 8. Contracts: System Monitoring and Maintenance contracts are available on the job site.

☐ 9. Special Arrangements.

9.1. All persons and facilities receiving alarm, supervisory, or trouble signals and all building occupants have been notified of the testing.

9.2. The system test was coordinated to prevent interruption of the critical building systems or equipment.

Note: Upon inspector’s request all testing might be done on battery power.

If you need further clarification, please contact Barry Brown, Deputy Chief Inspector at 718-999-2469 or the Scheduling Supervisor at 718-999-2467.

Alex Spektor  
Director, FAIU
We are excited to announce the destination for our annual Fall Bus Trip. This year we are going to McGuire Air Force Base, NJ and will visit with the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard. Attached is the flyer for our October 12, 2011 trip. We will tour their maintenance hangar and see up close a KC-135R air refueling tanker. We will also get a mission brief and visit the NJANG Heritage Center Museum. A trip to the base fire house is also planned. We will have a late lunch at a venue in the area.

Space is limited to 40 so reserve your seat today. This trip is limited to NJ Chapter members only. A benefit to belonging to our great organization.

Don’t miss out.
Rich Reitberger
Tour Director.

FALL BUS TRIP
Wednesday October 12, 2011
Leaves from FM Global Parking Lot
Parsippany, NJ
7:30 am SHARP

Aircraft Hanger Protection Systems – McGuire AFB, NJ

This trip we will visit the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard on McGuire Air Force Base, NJ. The 108th fly’s and maintains the KC-135R air refueling tanker at McGuire. We will tour their maintenance facility, look at the hanger fire detection and protection systems and get a mission and history briefing of the unit as well as visit base facilities including the fire house. We will stop for a late lunch after the tour. Note: The bus will leave at 7:30 SHARP from the FM Global parking lot behind 400 Interpace Parkway, Parsippany, NJ 07054. This is the normal bus boarding location we used for past trips. There are a limited number of seats – 40 First Come First Served Dress is casual. Bus should be back in Parsippany by 6 pm. Call Vicki Serafin at 973-541-6771 for reservations.

Thank you for your Support
The Fate of the Division of Fire Safety in NJ - A letter from the Chapter President

Commissioner Griffa
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800
August 25, 2011

RE: Gov. Christie wants to eliminate the Division of Fire Safety

Dear, Commissioner Griffa,

The New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers is extremely concerned over the latest news of the dismemberment of the Division of Fire Safety. The loss of this Division, which regulates and controls the fire protection industry in New Jersey, will be detrimental to all the citizens as well as businesses in New Jersey.

These hard working individuals maintain safe working environments for the public, industries, businesses, etc; ensuring the fire protection companies in New Jersey are performing to codes and standards while eliminating the companies who are not working to these standards. This industry and the public in general will feel effects harshly if this division is dismantled.

Our association as do many others, works cooperatively with this division to maintain and improve New Jersey’s life safety and fire protection. Please reconsider and maintain the Division of Fire Safety as it stands today.

The Division of Fire Safety (and before that the bureau) were created by action of the legislature (statute) not by an act of the administration (regulation). It appears to simply shutter the windows and lock the doors of the Division of Fire Safety would be in violation of the statue.

Yours in Life Safety

Edward B. Armm
President SFPE NJ Chapter
Cc: The Honorable Governor Chris Christie
The Honorable Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
University Housing Fire Recap

EMMITSBURG, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in college and university residential buildings that include dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses. The report, University Housing Fires (2007-2009) (PDF, 788 Kb), was developed by the National Fire Data Center and is a part of the USFA's Topical Fire Report Series. An estimated average of 3,800 university housing fires occur each year. Annually, these fires are responsible for 25 injuries and $9 million in property loss. This report is based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report:

- 95 percent of university housing fires occur in dormitories or dormitory-type residences, and 5 percent occur in fraternity and sorority houses.
- University housing fires occur most frequently in the late summer and fall - peaking in September - and mainly in the early evening hours between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., when students prepare snacks or cook meals.
- Cooking accounts for 88 percent of all university housing fires and is the leading cause.
- Confined cooking fires, those confined to the container, account for 81 percent of all university housing fires.

Topical Fire Reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.
So Much for DuPont’s “Best in Class” Safety Procedures – CSB Issues Report on West VA Plant Methyl Chloride, Phosgene and Sulfur Trioxide Release

Washington, DC, September 22, 2011 — The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released its final report on a series of three accidents that occurred over a 33-hour period on January 22 and 23, 2010, at the DuPont Corporation’s Belle, West Virginia, chemical manufacturing plant – including a fatal release of deadly phosgene gas, which was used as a chemical weapon in World War One.

The Board voted 4-1 to approve the report following an extensive public comment period initiated with the release of a draft report on July 7, 2011, in Charleston, West Virginia. In the final report, the Board took into consideration all of the comments filed by industry stakeholders, members of the public and other interested parties, some of which resulted in factual corrections or language changes to the draft report.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “We thank those individuals, companies and agencies who helpfully commented on our report. Our final report shows in detail how a series of preventable safety shortcomings -- including failure to maintain the mechanical integrity of a critical phosgene hose -- led to the accidents. That this happened at a company with DuPont’s reputation for safety should indicate the need for every chemical plant to redouble their efforts to analyze potential hazards and take steps to prevent tragedy.”

The CSB also released a safety video today entitled “Fatal Exposure: Tragedy at DuPont,” based on the investigation, which features an animation depicting the sequence of events leading to the death of a worker when a phosgene hose suddenly burst. The video also explains the causes of two other toxic chemical releases detailed in the report and features comments by Board Member John Bresland, CSB Investigation Team Lead Johnnie Banks and Investigator Lucy Tyler.

The report makes numerous safety recommendations. Among them, DuPont was urged to enclose all of its phosgene production and storage areas so that any releases of phosgene will be contained. (The Belle facility subsequently announced it was ceasing phosgene usage in 2011, and had no plans to resume use.)

The CSB recommended that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) revise the General Industry Standard for Compressed Gases to be at least as effective as the relevant National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 55 (the Compressed Gases and Cryogenics Fluids Code). This would require secondary enclosures for highly toxic gases such as phosgene and provide for ventilation and treatment systems, interlocked failsafe shutdown valves, gas detection and alarm systems, piping system components, and similar layers of protection.

DuPont’s Belle facility occupies more than 700 acres along the Kanawha River, eight miles east of Charleston, the state capital. The plant produces a variety of specialty chemicals.

The series of accidents began on January 22, 2010, when an alarm sounded leading operators to discover that 2,000 pounds of methyl chloride, a toxic and extremely flammable gas, had been leaking unnoticed into the atmosphere for five days. The next morning, workers discovered a leak in a pipe carrying oleum, producing a fuming cloud of sulfur trioxide. The phosgene release occurred later that day, and the exposed worker died the next evening in a Charleston hospital.

Noting the company started as a gunpowder manufacturer in 1802, and became a major chemical producer within 100 years, Dr. Moure-Eraso said, “DuPont has had a stated focus on accident prevention since its early days. Over the years, DuPont management worked to drive the injury rate down to zero through improved safety practices.”

Dr. Moure-Eraso continued, “DuPont became recognized across industry as a safety innovator and leader. We at the CSB were therefore quite surprised and alarmed to learn that the DuPont Belle plant had not just one but three accidents that occurred over a 33-hour period in January 2010.”

CSB board member and former chairman John Bresland noted the CSB finding that the phosgene hose that burst in front of a worker was supposed to be changed out at least once a month. But the hose that failed had been in service for seven months. Furthermore, the CSB found the type of hose involved in the accident was susceptible to corrosion from phosgene.

Team Lead Johnnie Banks said, “Documents obtained during the CSB investigation showed that as far back as 1987, DuPont officials realized the hazards of using braided stainless steel hoses lined with Teflon, or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). An expert employed at DuPont recommended the use of hoses lined with Monel, a metal alloy used in corrosive applications. The DuPont official stated: ‘Admittedly, the Monel hose will cost more than its stainless counterpart. However, with proper construction and design so that stresses are minimized…useful life should be much greater than 3 months. Costs will be less in the long run and safety will also be improved.’”

In fact, the Monel hose was never used.
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Internal DuPont documents released with the CSB report indicate that in the 1980’s, company officials considered increasing the safety of the area of the plant where phosgene is handled by enclosing the area and venting the enclosure through a scrubber system to destroy any toxic phosgene gas before it entered the atmosphere. The analysis concluded that an enclosure was the safest option for both workers and the public. However, the documents indicate the company was concerned with containing costs and decided not to make the safety improvements. A DuPont employee wrote in 1988. “It may be that in the present circumstances the business can afford $2 million for an enclosure; however, in the long run can we afford to take such action which has such a small impact on safety and yet sets a precedent for all highly toxic material activities.[sic]”

The need for an enclosure was reiterated in a 2004 process hazard analysis conducted by DuPont, but four extensions were granted by DuPont management between 2004 and 2009, and at the time of the January 2010 release, no safety enclosure or scrubber system had been constructed. CSB investigators concluded that an enclosure, scrubber system, and routine requirement for protective breathing equipment before personnel entered the enclosure would have prevented any personnel exposures or injuries.

The CSB investigation found common deficiencies in DuPont Belle plant safety management systems springing from all three accidents: maintenance and inspections, alarm recognition and management, accident investigation, emergency response and communications, and hazard recognition.

CSB Team Lead Banks said, “The CSB found that each incident was preceded by an event or multiple events that triggered internal incident investigations by DuPont, which then issued recommendations and corrective actions. But this activity was not sufficient to prevent the accidents from recurring.”

The CSB recommended that the DuPont Belle facility revise its near-miss reporting and investigation policy to emphasize anonymous participation by all employees so that minor problems can be addressed before they become serious. The CSB report also recommends the Belle plant ensure that its computer systems will provide effective scheduling of preventive maintenance to require, for example, that phosgene hoses get replaced on time.

For the DuPont Corporation, the Board recommended the company require all phosgene production and storage areas company-wide have secondary enclosures, mechanical ventilation systems, emergency phosgene scrubbers, and automated audible alarms, which are at a minimum consistent with the standards of the National Fire Protection Code 55 for highly toxic gases.

Industry groups have established various good practices for the safe handling of phosgene and other highly toxic materials in compressed gas cylinders. The report concluded that the most comprehensive guidelines are those set forth by the National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA.

The Board recommended that an industry group, the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) adopt the more stringent guidelines of NFPA Code 55 for the safe handling of phosgene and other highly toxic gases.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC), a prominent chemical industry trade association, was urged to revise its Phosgene Safe Practices Guidelines Manual. The Board recommended the manual advise against the use of hoses for phosgene transfer that are constructed of permeable cores and materials that are subject to corrosion by chlorides. And the ACC was urged to include guidance for the immediate reporting and investigation of all potential near-miss phosgene releases.

Chairman Moure-Eraso said, “Adoption of the CSB recommendations by OSHA, the Compressed Gas Association and the American Chemistry Council will greatly improve the safe handling of toxic gases nationally and will protect workers from deadly exposures.”

Public comments made on the draft report may be found at www.CSB.gov. Among the revisions made to the report as a result of comments were to better define thermal expansion in a phosgene hose; to note that phosgene operations were shut down permanently at the Belle plant after the accident; the timing of the oleum leak and the relative size of holes in the oleum piping; and that a Compressed Gas Association standard had been updated after, not before, the Belle plant phosgene accident; and the addition of a reference to EPA’s Chemical Accident Prevention Program and the fact that EPA, in addition to OSHA, has a requirement that companies initiate incident investigations within 48 hours.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious 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 CSB Communications Manager Hillary Cohen, 202-446-8094 (cell), or Sandy Gilmour, 202-251-5496 (cell).
THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER OF THE 20TH CENTURY DIES

Harold E. “Bud” Nelson, known to many as “the most influential fire protection engineer of the 20th century” and the father of the emerging discipline, died on July 21 in Fairfax, Va., from complications after a fall, according to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE). He was 82 and lived in Bethesda, Md.

Fire protection engineering is considered a unique subset of construction, but its high-profile industry status today may stem from the pioneering 60-year career of Nelson, who developed many innovations in fire protection design, modeling and systems approaches that have improved building safety, particularly in high-rise structures.

Nelson began and ended his career analyzing the effects of spectacular building fires. As a young government engineer in 1959, he probed a basement fire in the Pentagon that burned 4,000 sq ft of the giant office building and caused $30 million in damages. Nelson's analysis led to a new industry-wide fire protection standard for IT equipment. In 2002, at age 72, Nelson was tapped by two federal agencies to investigate fire-related factors in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers after the 9/11 attack. His analytical prowess was in demand—although not always appreciated, as when he was critical of a federal guide on design practices (ENR 3/14 2005, p. 21).

Nelson advocated design based on how a fire, a building and its occupants would interact, says an SFPE spokesman. He was an early developer of computer-based fire simulation tools that used algebra to predict fire effects, the spokesman adds. His FPE TOOL is “the most widely used fire modeling program ever developed,” according to Fire Chief magazine.

Following a career with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other agencies, Nelson joined Hughes Associates, a Baltimore consultant. He was a past president and fellow of SFPE, among numerous other industry honors. Nelson also was the first recipient of SFPE's top annual service award, which was named for him.

Says Frederick W. Mowrer, director of the Fire Protection Engineering Program at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo: “He was always a passionate advocate for the profession, and he left a unique and indelible mark on it.”

SFPE to Offer Free Webinar on Mass Notification on November 16, 2011

SFPE will offer a free webinar on mass notification on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 2:00 pm (U.S. Eastern Time.) The webinar will cover the following topics:

- How to address integration and interoperability of indoor, outdoor and personal wireless devices for campus or facility wide communications.
- The importance of net-centric communication
- How to provide multiple layers of personal and public alerting
- Intelligibility Standards dictated by Chapter 18 and 24 of NFPA 72-2010
- Designing voice and Mass Notification Systems to achieve maximum Intelligibility
- How to overcome emergency system obstacles and find simple solutions to meet Mass Notification requirements

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers will award attendees 0.1 CEUs for participating in the entire webinar. For more information, or to register for the free webinar, see https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=registration.jsp&eventid=359787&sessionid=1&key=9DFEB2D15B6CFC0A17D456EBA9936FD2&partnerref=fpe&sourcepage=register.
MEETING NOTICE

Date: October 12, 2011—Field Trip

Place: Meet at FM Global parking lot
        400 Interpace Parkway
        Parsippany, NJ 07054

Price: $30.00

Topic: Field Trip to McGuire AFB, NJ—Meet no later than 7:30 am for Bus.
       See high expansion foam systems, KC-135R Air Refueling Tanker, various hanger protections
       systems

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 2011-2012

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<td>Fire &amp; Smoke Curtains—A discussion of what the latest standards are and how to apply them</td>
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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://web.ansi.org/
ASHRAE  http://www.ashrae.org/
Campus-Firewatch  http://www.campus-firewatch.com/
Coffee Break Training  http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/efa/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.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/
AFAA-NJ  http://www.afaanj.org/
National of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED)  -  http://www.nafed.org/index.cfm

ADVERTISE IN THE FUSIBLE LINK

Do you want your business to be known by over 125 professionals in the local Fire Protection industry? Advertise in the Fusible Link. $100 per chapter fiscal year. Contact Vicki Serafin for more info: Vicki.serafin@affiliated.fm.com