President’s Message…

Our Chapter year is quickly coming to an end and will be highlighted by our Annual Meeting to be held Monday, June 20 at the Hanover Manor. Our technical topic at the meeting will be a discussion of what was done at Bell Labs to modernize their fire protection systems. The presentation will be held by Jensen Hughes, project designer/manager of the systems. Our Annual Meeting includes an extended menu plus beverages. Attending the meeting with your peers is a good way to kick off the summer. On May 6 we reported the passing of Bob Murray, Former NJSFPE Treasurer & Director. Bob was a great asset to our Chapter and to the Fire Protection Community at large. Bob will be missed. Our Symposium was held at the Hanover Manor on May 4. The event was attended by a large number of Vendors which support our event year after year. They brought with them new lines of products plus a wealth of technical information that is invaluable to our membership. We thank all of the vendor representatives for their time and support. The Symposium topics and speakers were second to none and is what makes our symposium a regional must attend event. Eric Babcock, PE from Jensen/Hughes spoke on designing to meet audibility and intelligibility requirements per the latest NFPA 72. Rob Schifiliti, PE briefed on circuits and pathways planning, design and installation for failure or for success. John Drucker, CET went over new requirements to meet the current codes recently adopted by the NJ Adaptation of the codes and NFPA. Jerry Naylis, ARM discussed an engineering approach to evaluating & protecting hazardous materials on railroads and responding to incidents. We thank all of our speakers for the great presentations. Overall the symposium was a success. Thanks to everyone for attending and supporting our Chapter!!

See you all at the annual meeting.

Rich Reitberger
President
Sprinkler ordinance repealed following homebuilder's lawsuit

Seven months after the Estero Fire Rescue District passed a life-saving ordinance to sprinkle its town's new homes, it has decided to repeal it.

As reported on this blog, two homebuilding associations in Florida filed a lawsuit challenging the ordinance, claiming it will create "imminent harm" to their business. The fire district passed the ordinance in October 2015 following an economic impact study countering this claim. However, a potential legal battle with the associations led to the fire district's commissioners unanimously repealing the ordinance in April, states the Naples Daily News.

Dick Schweers, the fire commission's chair, told the paper that while he supported the ordinance, the lawsuit played a pivotal role in the outcome. "We'll always be looking for ways to improve (fire) protection," Schweers told the paper.

A lawyer representing the building associations told the publication that the lawsuit hasn't officially been dismissed, but there's a good possibility that it will.
Developers who use lightweight construction materials to build apartment complexes and other multifamily dwellings should be subject to third-party inspections, forced to install sprinklers in attics and crawl spaces and required to use building elements with better fire resistance. Those were some of the conclusions of a white paper published Tuesday by a task force convened last year by the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects in response to the fire that destroyed more than half the units at the Avalon at Edgewater apartment complex and permanently displaced about 500 people.

“There was a lot of misinformation out there with regard to what the code requirements were,” Justin Mihalik, AIA chapter president and chair of the task force, said about the months after the Avalon fire in January 2015. The white paper, he said, is meant to serve as a guide for code enforcement and building professionals, as well as elected officials and members of the public, as they continue to push for changes to the state Uniform Construction Code.

The institute’s recommendations are the latest addition to a choir of voices calling for new regulations that proponents say would prevent more fires like the one that occurred in Edgewater. Fire officials have said that the Avalon complex, which used light wood frames, was in compliance with the state code but allowed flames to spread quickly. Some developers favor lightweight building materials because they are cheaper and provide for quicker assembly.

So far, however, firefighters and legislators have been largely unsuccessful in their attempts to change the code. Despite ample public input after the Edgewater fire last year, the state Department of Community Affairs, which was in the midst of updating the state Uniform Construction Code, did not incorporate many of the amendments sought by the fire service community. The next code update is due for 2018.

Likewise, none of the several bills introduced by lawmakers to address fire safety concerns in buildings constructed using lightweight materials — ranging from instituting a two-year moratorium on the approval and construction of multiunit residences with light frames to requiring concrete or steel structural frames in buildings over three stories — has been put before the full Senate or Assembly for a vote.

In its white paper, the AIA task force calls for sprinklers in attic and crawl spaces in any building that requires a sprinkler system. Some multifamily dwellings do not require such robust suppression systems, which can allow a fire to spread quickly if it reaches those places. The task force also recommends that various building elements, like fire walls and roof assemblies, have better fire-resistance ratings than currently required.

Building with wood, Mihalik said, is not necessarily a problem. “I can take a two-hour block wall and I can take a two-hour wood-framed wall, and they both will resist fire for two hours,” he explained. “It’s not about the wood; it’s about how we protect it.”

(Cont’d on next page)
In addition, the task force wrote that a series of “third-party inspections” can make sure that holes made in fire barriers for, say, electrical wiring are sealed properly and that contractors are forced to obey the letter of the construction code instead of getting lax treatment by local inspectors whom they are familiar with.

“We find as practicing architects in the field that this sort of buddy system is still out there between inspectors and contractors and the only way in some cases to avoid it and eliminate it is by way of a certified third party,” Mihalik said. “By hiring a third-party inspector who now becomes legally responsible, you have a better chance of ensuring that every single penetration is looked at and inspected.”

State code does not currently require such inspections, he said.

Disagreement remains, however, as to how to turn such recommendations into action. Mihalik said his organization favors working through the normal code update procedure, which typically occurs on a three-year cycle.

But Jerry Naylis, a member of the Department of Community Affairs’ Fire Safety Commission and a former chief of the Bergenfield Fire Department, said on Tuesday that the code update process is “tortuously slow” and results in regulations that “get watered down” along the way.

“Frankly, I have little confidence right now that the code change process in New Jersey is going to be the avenue to achieve increased fire safety protections,” he said. “That’s why the fire service community is turning to the legislative approach.”

Naylis said he supported a bill sponsored by Assemblyman John Wisniewski, D-Middlesex, that would restrict the size and height of multifamily dwelling units based on the materials and fire suppression system used.

In the meantime, representatives for AvalonBay Communities, the developer of the Avalon at Edgewater complex, have said that at four new high-density developments, either under construction or proposed, in Princeton, Maplewood, Teaneck and Wayne, it would voluntarily install sprinklers in the attics and all interstitial spaces and use masonry fire walls even though it is not required by state law.

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**Technical Topic for June 20th Annual Chapter meeting – Project Planning for Major Fire Protection System Rehabilitation at the Bell Labs Research complex**

Tim Costello, P.E. and Kit Bryant, AIA from Jensen Hughes will discuss the planning and issues related to major modifications to the fire protection and life safety systems at the historical Bell labs building. They will present a General Project Overview, Major Fire Protection / Life Safety Issues, FPLS Approach & Methodology, Conclusions & Lessons Learned and then take Questions from those in attendance. Both of the speaker bios can be found later in this Fusible Link edition.
Summer Season and Grilling Time is Here - See the Grilling Safety Info Graphic Below

Grilling Fire Safety

Knowing a few fire safety grilling tips will help everyone have a safe summer.

- Only use your grill outside.
- Keep it away from siding and deck rails.
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire.
- This will keep kids and pets safe.
- Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.
- Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Never leave any of them unattended.

Stay fire safe this summer!

For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.
Many commercial and multifamily residential fire alarm and detection systems are equipped with features to automatically summon the fire department in the event of an emergency. Often, this emergency signal is transmitted to an independent “supervising station” that is responsible for notifying the local fire department. (See Coffee Break Training FP-2010-35.)

A common misconception among fire service personnel is that the supervising station has a specific time limit from when it receives the emergency alarm to when it must call the fire department. That is not true.

According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, 2013 edition, except as permitted for alarm preverification and single-family dwellings, “all fire alarm signals received by a supervising station shall be immediately retransmitted to the communications center.” The Annex to NFPA 72 explains that “the term immediately in this context is intended to mean ‘without unreasonable delay.’ Routine handling should take a maximum of 90 seconds from receipt of an alarm signal.”

Thus, the 90-second reference in the Annex is a recommendation, not a requirement.

There are many reasons for not specifying a specific retransmission time, but one obvious one is that the supervising station may not have adequate staff to retransmit all the alarms that it receives simultaneously within a short time frame. Imagine two people on duty in the supervising station when an electrical storm, tornado or other significant event affects a wide area and many — if not hundreds — of the emergency alarms are reported simultaneously. It may be impossible for that staff to report the alarms within a specific time frame.

Alarm signal preverification is a circumstance where the local fire department permits the protected premises to investigate the alarm before dispatching the fire department. There are very specific conditions outlined in NFPA 72 where this arrangement is permitted, and in those cases the supervising station likewise must immediately notify the fire service communications center that a fire alarm signal has been received and verification is in process.

For more information, consider enrolling in the National Fire Academy (NFA) course “Fire Inspection Principles” (R/N0220). Information and applications can be obtained at http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/47. The course is available at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland, or through your state fire service training agency.
Robert Murray
Passing
Former NJSFPE Treasurer & Director

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the recent passing of our friend and former past Chapter Officer Bob Murray. Bob was a big part of our Chapter and will be missed. Details and further information on Bob's funeral below. Rich

Robert E. "Bob" Murray, consulting engineer, active in fire protection organization, of South Plainfield, 69 Robert E. "Bob" Murray, 69, of South Plainfield, N.J., died on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J. Funeral services will begin on Monday, May 9, at 9 a.m. in the McCriskin - Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, followed by a Funeral Mass in Sacred Heart R.C. Church at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains, N.J. Family and friends may join for visitation on Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. Born in Jersey City, N.J., Bob resided in Kearny, N.J., and Edison, N.J., until the early 1970s, when he settled in South Plainfield to raise his family. After receiving a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, Bob worked for many years in the industry prior to owning and operating his own business, Associated Consulting Engineers, P.C. He previously served as treasurer of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Bob enjoyed being outside, hunting, fishing, gardening, and skiing. He also enjoyed traveling, cooking, and spending time with his family. Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Nancy A. (Jenkins) of South Plainfield; two children, Jill Murray of Tabernacle, N.J., and Dan Murray of San Francisco, Calif.; two brothers, John Murray of White Township, N.J., and Frank Murray of Columbia, Md., and four grandchildren, Torrie, John, Taylor, and Julianna of South Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob's memory to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org. For more information, please see mccriskinfuneralhome.com for Bob's interactive webpage.

Chapter Supporting the PE exam Again This Year

The chapter is looking to organize a PE Exam Study Group that would meet once a week and prepare those who are interested in taking the FPE exam in October, 2016. The Chapter would arrange a classroom to meet one evening per week where students could watch the on-line SFPE course. Students would have to enroll in the course themselves. The Chapter would only arrange for the classroom space. The link below is the SFPE Course information. The Chapter is looking to see who may be interested in the course. http://sfpe.site-ym.com/?page=PEExamPrepCourse

If you have an interest please contact Rich Reitberger at richreit522@gmail.com
Trends and Patterns of U.S. Fire Loss 2014

NFPA has published the above document that can be found at:


An abstract summary of the report is as follows:

Abstract

This report provides a broader context and historical perspective for the results from NFPA’s annual fire department experience survey that were published in NFPA’s annual report, Fire Loss in the United States. Over the past three decades, the number of fire department responses has increased sharply. The largest increase was in medical aid and rescue calls. Fire calls have fallen markedly.

In 2014, only 4% of all fire department responses were to fires. Almost two-thirds (64%) were medical aid or rescue responses. Fire departments responded to 3.5 times as many medical aid or rescue calls in 2014 as in 1984.

While total reported fires have continued to decline over the past 15 years, this is primarily due to a drop in the number of vehicle fires and outside and unclassified fires. The decline in structure fires has been much smaller. In 2014, structure fires accounted for 38% of reported fires, with home structure fires representing 28% of the total. Home structure fires caused 84% of all civilian fire deaths, 75% of civilian fire injuries, and 59% of total direct property damage. Vehicle fires accounted for 15% of the reported fires. Almost half (47%) of the reported fires were outside, non-structure, non-vehicle fires or other unclassified fires.

While today’s fire departments do much more than fight fires, home structure fires are still a serious problem. Home fires still cause the majority of all civilian fire deaths, civilian injuries and property loss due to fire.

Keywords: fire statistics, fires, fire deaths, fire loss, fire injuries, fire department calls.

Acknowledgements

The National Fire Protection Association thanks all the fire departments who participate in the annual NFPA fire experience survey. These fire departments are the original sources of the data that make this analysis possible. Their contributions allow us to estimate the size of the fire problem.

For more information about the National Fire Protection Association, visit www.nfpa.org or call 617-770-3000. To learn more about the One-Stop Data Shop go to www.nfpa.org/osds or call 617-984-7451.

Copies of this analysis are available from:
National Fire Protection Association
One-Stop Data Shop
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169-7471
www.nfpa.org
e-mail: osds@nfpa.org
Nomination of Officers and Directors for 2016-17 NJ-SFP

President Reitberger, according to the Bylaws of the New Jersey Chapter of the SFPE, the nominating committee submits the following slate of Officers and Directors for the NJ Chapter’s 2016-17 year. The election is scheduled to be conducted at the annual business meeting to be held on June 20, 2016 at the Hanover Manor.

**OFFICERS**
- President, Rich Reitberger
- First VP, Paul McGrath
- Second VP, Mike Newman
- Secretary, Chris Vitale
- Asst. Secretary, Dave Gluckman
- Treasurer, Marios Michaelides
- Asst. Treasurer, Glenn Buser

**DIRECTORS**
- Jim Loftus (1st year of 2nd term)
- Marvin Maradiaga (1st year of 1st term)
- Ed Armm (2nd year of 1st term)
- Ernesto Vega-Janica (2nd year of 1st term)

Joe Janiga is Immediate Past President, a voting member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors welcome volunteers to serve in leadership capacities on the Board or Committee activities. Any member with a desire to run as candidate for Chapter Officer or Director is encouraged to do so. Contact the Chapter Secretary, Chris Vitale at Christopher.vitale@fmglobal.com by May 20, 2016 which is at least 4 weeks before the business meeting.

Joe Janiga, Operations Chief Engineer, FSFPE
FM Global - New York Operations
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Parsippany, NJ 07054
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Email: joseph.janiga@fmglobal.com
Employment Opportunities

Lockton Northeast Series – Property Risk Control Consultant

Location: Hartford (Farmington)/New York City/Philadelphia (Blue Bell)

About Lockton:

More than 5,300 professionals at Lockton provide 41,000 clients around the world with risk management, insurance, and employee benefits consulting services that improve their businesses. From its founding in 1966 in Kansas City, Missouri, Lockton has attracted entrepreneurial professionals who have driven its growth to become the largest privately held, independent insurance broker in the world and 10th largest overall. Independent researcher Greenwich Associates has awarded Lockton its Service Excellence Award for risk management for large companies. For five consecutive years, Business Insurance magazine has recognized Lockton as a "Best Place to Work in Insurance." To see the latest insights from Lockton's experts, check Lockton Market Update.

Lockton is known throughout the insurance industry as an entrepreneurial, progressive and successful insurance broker. As a result of continued individual and group accomplishments, Lockton has a record of steady and substantial growth. Unlike publically held companies that have to report to public shareholders on a quarterly basis, Lockton operates on a long term goal basis over years, not quarters. If you are a committed professional with a passion for delivering unparalleled service, Lockton is interested in hearing from you.

Job Description:

Responsibilities: Lockton is searching for an experienced property risk control consultant to work in a fast-paced team environment to support the insurance placement process, participate in the acquisition of new business and advocate for the client with insurers and support their risk management/property loss prevention processes and programs.

Qualifications:

• 5+ years of insurance carrier, broker or risk management property risk control experience.
• Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering or Applied Science or equivalent
• PE license or CFPS certification a plus
• Strong oral and written communications skills
• Proficiency in knowledge and application of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards and FM Global Data Sheets
• Strong interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with clients
• Expertise in development and analysis of property insurance industry loss estimates including MFL’s, PML’s and LE’s.
• Strong advocacy skills in working with FM Global insured clients
• Self-motivated individual with successful ability to work in a team environment
• Microsoft Office and internet proficiency

Interest candidates should contact David A. Larson, SVP - Risk Services Practice Leader, Lockton Companies, 1185 Ave of the Americas, New York, NY 10036; E-mail: dlarson@lockton.com; Office: (646) 572-7367.

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4/20/2016

NFPA Position Statement

The Sleeping Room Door: Open or Closed?

The Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) met on March 30, 2016 to discuss the fire and life safety issues associated with sleeping in a room with the door open or closed. The Committee recognizes that many homes do not have NFPA’s recommended smoke alarm coverage and some residents use alternative sleeping areas. As a result, the Committee critically examined the issues that impact educational messaging around this topic. Variables include:

- Will a closed door delay early warning from a smoke alarm located outside the sleeping room?
- Will a single station smoke alarm, installed in the sleeping room with the door closed, provide early warning to a fire outside the sleeping area to allow for safe escape?
- Does a closed sleeping room door impact the use of that door as the primary escape route out of the room?
- What is the impact of a closed door when the fire originates in the sleeping room and no smoke alarm is present in the room?
- About one-quarter of home fire deaths occur from fires that originate in sleeping rooms. How will a closed sleeping room door impact the rates of fatalities?
- Does closing the sleeping room door have the potential to increase risk of injury or death from fire?
- Does a closed sleeping room door have different implications for special populations such as those who have mobility, sensory, or cognitive disabilities?
- Will a closed sleeping room door reduce fatalities in homes if working smoke alarms are not present?

Based on these and other unanswered questions, the Committee recommends additional research to examine these and other variables.

The current message in the 2015 Educational Messages Desk Reference is:

- If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected.

The Committee came to consensus to modify the message to the 2016 Educational Messages Desk Reference:

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected.

The Educational Messages Advisory Committee meets periodically to review NFPA’s fire safety education messages and provide recommendations to NFPA for updating and revising the messages. When applicable, the messages are made consistent with NFPA’s codes, standards, and related criteria. The Committee comprises national, state, and local fire and life safety experts.
Meeting Dates/Programs 2015-2016

June 20


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The NY/NJ Chapters Scholarship Golf Outing Committee sends their special thanks to our long time sponsor Russ Fleming and the National Fire Sprinkler Association. We appreciate your continued support!!
**HELPFUL LINKS**

**ADAAG** [http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/index.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/index.htm)


**AFSA** [http://www.firesprinkler.org/](http://www.firesprinkler.org/)


**Campus-Firewatch** [http://www.campus-firewatch.com/](http://www.campus-firewatch.com/)


**CPSC** [http://www cpsc.gov/](http://www cpsc.gov/)

**CSAA** [http://www.csaaul.org/](http://www.csaaul.org/)

**Municipal Codes (E Codes)** [http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html](http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html)


**FSDANY** [http://www.fsdayn.org/regs.htm](http://www.fsdayn.org/regs.htm)

**FSI** [http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/)

**FSSA** [http://www.fssa.net/](http://www.fssa.net/)


**Home Fire Spklr Coalition** [http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/)


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

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