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President’s Message…

Our December meeting was attended by over 40 people who enjoyed a great selection of Napa Valley wines hosted by Justine, a fabulous turkey dinner with all the trimmings topped off with a great presentation on storage batteries presented by Bruce Johnson of UL. It was a great way to start the Holiday Season and spend time with colleagues and peers. In addition we raised donations for Homeless Veterans through Vincent Pisano's group, The Engineers Club. Thanks to all for participating and congratulations to those who won home with some great baskets of cheer. Our next meeting is Monday January 9. Our speaker is from Stat-X who will brief on the latest with this suppression technology and what new products are available. Per their literature, the Stat-X generators are self-contained, eliminating the need for expensive pressure vessels, piping, and installation manpower. This significantly reduces both initial installation and ongoing maintenance costs. Come on out and learn more about this technology. Also as a reminder, if you haven’t gotten around to paying your dues you can do it at the next meeting as well. 2017 looks like a great SFPE year !!! We'll keep you posted on upcoming speakers, the Technical Seminar (May 18) and the Annual Scholarship Golf Outing (June 12th).

Happy New Year to all !!

See you at the January Meeting.

Rich Reitberger
Chapter President
E-Bulb

Manufacturer:

JOB Thermobulbs GmbH

E-Bulb is a thermally activated circuit interrupter and extinguisher.

This product is a thermo-glass bulb filled with NOVEC engineered fluid, and has a (metallic) coated surface being able to carry a current of up to 16A (at voltage from 0…250V and any frequency).

So, in case of a fire on a PCB, e.g. in a home appliance, in computer power supplies, switching power supplies or LED lights driver unit, the rising temperature causes the bulb to burst, thus interrupting the (input)power (preventing a fire from re-igniting as the energy is cut off).

At the same time, as the bulb bursts, the extinguishing agent is released, extinguishing the fire directly on the board at a very early stage. The effectiveness has been tested and approved by the independent MPA Institute Dresden This, together with the properties of NOVEC (non-conductive, clean agent, no-residues, non-corrosive) this solution is ideal for on-board fire protection in small enclosed volumes.

Intelligent Auto-Aligning Beam Detector

Manufacturer:

Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd.

Apollo Fire Detectors is pleased to announce the introduction of its new Intelligent Auto-Aligning Beam Detector, designed for detecting smoke in large open areas such as warehouses, churches and sports centers.

The new Intelligent Beam Detector is compatible with CoreProtocol, the new Apollo digital communication protocol. Additionally, the device is backwards compatible with existing Apollo XP95 and Discovery protocols and can be installed with up to two detector heads per controller, thus saving on installation time and costs.

The device comprises of a ground level Loop-Powered Controller and detector head with an operating range of 8m-50m with a receiver and an alignment motor in the same housing for quick and simple installation, an optional additional detector head can be connected to the controller. The detector automatically compensates for environmental effects on the beam signal by a combination of drift compensation and motorized realignment of the beam.

In addition, the operating range of each detector head can be increased up to 100m by using the Extension Kit, which comprises of three additional reflective prisms. Each head has a loop address and the device has a built-in 20T negative bi-directional short circuit isolator.

Wide Range of Diesel or Electric Fire Pump Systems
Built to NFPA 20 standards, ranging from 150 to 5,000 gpm.

FIRE PUMPS

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Six People injured, Four Critically in Fire at Exxon’s Giant Baton Rouge Refinery on Nov. 23, 2016

Four people were in critical condition after a fire hit a giant ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Tuesday, a local hospital said.

The incident was the fourth in two days to hit Gulf refineries, cutting fuel production in the region at plants with combined capacity of over 1 million barrels per day. January gasoline futures jumped as much as 0.75 percent late on Tuesday.

Exxon said the fire was extinguished around 4 p.m. (2200 GMT) and the company had accounted for all staff at the refinery.

Baton Rouge General Hospital said four people in critical condition were admitted to the regional burn unit, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The fire broke out at an 18,750-bpd alyklation unit, which produces high-octane gasoline components, as five people prepared to restart it following repair work, sources familiar with the plant’s operations said.

A compressor blew out during the restart attempt, the sources said, setting off the blaze.

Two operators and two contractors were injured, the sources said. The two operators are women.

An Exxon spokesman said details of the fire were under investigation.

The refinery is the fourth-largest in the United States, with capacity to refine 502,500 bpd in crude oil.

- A three person investigative team from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) was deployed to the scene.

ExxonMobil’s Baton Rouge Refinery is one of the country’s 150 refineries covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Process Safety Management regulations. Despite some positive initial steps toward improvement in process safety management at the federal level, CSB investigations have emphasized the need for a more comprehensive process safety management system in the U.S. to protect worker safety, public health, and the environment. In fact, the modernization of process safety management regulations is one of the CSB’s Drivers of Critical Chemical Safety Change, a list of key chemical safety advocacy initiatives.
FM Global Explores Reliability and Value of Next-Generation Fire Sprinklers

New technology aimed at protecting more challenging warehouse fire scenarios

JOHNSTON, R.I., USA—Warehouses, served by increasingly powerful automated materials-handling equipment, are steadily getting taller, posing new fire risks and stressing traditional fire protection systems like heat-triggered ceiling sprinklers.

That’s why FM Global, one of the world’s largest commercial property insurers, has pioneered research on next-generation sprinklers that, if brought to market, are designed to activate earlier and in batches, better suppressing highly challenging fires. A new FM Global report (www.fmglobal.com/researchreports) provides an early glimpse into their reliability and cost-effectiveness. It complements information from actual fire testing already documented in two previously issued reports.

As conceived, new “SMART sprinklers” (SMART stands for simultaneous monitoring, assessment and response technology) will use multiple sensors and programmable logic to extinguish fires more quickly with less water, theoretically enabling warehouses to be bigger, use less-expensive water systems and store more challenging materials.

“In order to provide their benefits, SMART sprinkler systems are more complex,” said FM Global Vice President of Research Louis A. Gritzo, Ph.D. “That’s why we have performed research on their reliability and costs as well as their benefits. These variables are important to our clients in designing resilient storage solutions.”

The research envisioned highly challenging fire risk conditions, meaning those outside the scope of existing FM Global protection recommendations. An example is a warehouse storing paper rolls in stacks taller than 42 feet (12.8 meters) protected by SMART sprinklers. The study compared this scenario to conventional risk conditions—a warehouse storing standard materials at a height below 42 feet and employing traditional sprinklers.

The new report, called “Evaluation of the Availability of the SMART Sprinkler System,” found that:

Estimates of the availability of these early wired and wireless SMART sprinkler configurations (i.e., their ability to operate when called upon) is 86 percent and 83 percent, respectively, over a 30-year product lifetime—compared to 97 percent for an established, traditional sprinkler system.

The gap between SMART sprinkler availability and that of traditional sprinklers can be roughly halved by increasing inspection, testing and maintenance from once to twice yearly.

The estimated lifetime cost of inspection, testing and maintenance of traditional sprinklers is 50 percent lower than that of SMART sprinklers.

In a sample case used to provide a preliminary evaluation of the technology, initial installation cost for a 55,000-square-foot (5,110-square-meter) warehouse was estimated to be US$280,000 for traditional sprinklers, US$710,000 for wired SMART sprinklers and US$740,000 for wireless SMART sprinklers. Actual cost would vary widely depending on the setting, vendors and configuration.

“Like all technology, fire protection solutions are evolving in exciting new ways and will continue to evolve,” said Gritzo. “Our role is to provide innovative solutions to the marketplace, inform clients about their options, guide them so they can make good decisions and help prevent losses that could harm their business.”

The SMART sprinkler used in the research was a proof-of-concept design created by FM Global researchers, not a commercially available product. Therefore, the availability and cost-benefit values are intended only as initial guidance for companies considering placing such a product on the market and for clients for whom the product might provide net benefit.
FM Global conducts new large-scale fire tests on warehoused lithium-ion batteries

Research yields first-ever fire protection standards for the product, helping companies cost-effectively protect their businesses

JOHNSTON, R.I., USA—Lithium-ion batteries, so useful in smartphones, electric cars and energy storage systems, can catch fire and explode. The risk is magnified in warehouse settings where hundreds of thousands of batteries could be stored.

Among the key findings:

Corrugated board cartons and plastic dividers tend to catch fire before significant involvement of the cartoned batteries.
Large-format lithium-ion batteries, such as those used in electric cars, generally present a higher hazard than small-format batteries used in smartphones and laptops. Large-format batteries tend to ignite more quickly in a warehouse fire.

Properly configured ceiling sprinklers can suppress the fire, whether ignited by an exploding battery or an external source.

The tests build on FM Global research reported in May 2013 (http://newsroom.fmglobal.com/releases/fm-global-releases-technical-research-report-on-fire-hazards-associated-with-the-bulk-storage-of-lithium-ion-batteries) which, like this latest phase, was conducted in partnership with the nonprofit Property Insurance Research Group (PIRG) and in collaboration with the National Fire Protection Association’s Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF).

A detailed report of the testing, data and fire protection recommendations is available for free online at www.fmglobal.com/researchreports, (http://www.fmglobal.com/research-and-resources/research-and-testing/research-technical-reports) and a summary is available at www.nfpa.org/lithiumbatteryhazards. The findings will inform FM Global Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets, which provide engineering guidelines that risk managers, property owners and code authorities can use to protect their facilities. Videos of the lithium-ion battery testing are available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIEPQwbNZGeFa2b31kmsdBWvvwIxxi6RA).
Computer Equipment Room Fire

A fire started in a computer assembly and product testing facility. The facility’s testing room is about 4,500 square feet (418 square meters) and has a raised noncombustible floor. The space between the concrete foundation and the raised floor contains ductwork, coolant piping, electrical conduit, AC electrical power cables and power distribution units that provide power to all computer system server cabinets being tested. It also serves as an air handling plenum to circulate cool air for the computer systems.

An alert came to the security office when multiple smoke detectors activated in the testing room. The emergency response team was dispatched and verified the presence of smoke in the testing room. After the event, further investigation by an outside restoration service revealed that the walls, ceiling, computer equipment and underfloor space had been contaminated by corrosive smoke. The cause of this fire was determined to be electrical arcing in the AC power cables beneath the raised floor. This resulted in charring and thermal damage to a number of the cables and plastic cable jacketing material, compounding the smoke damage.

The main HVAC units had shut down upon activation of the smoke detectors. However, the individual computer rack system power supplies did not turn off. The cooling fans for the individual computer rack systems continued to operate, further circulating the corrosive smoke throughout the computer equipment.

Fire damage was limited, as the electrical protection device for power distribution to the electrical cables tripped, removing power to the involved computer equipment and the ignition source. Ceiling sprinklers did not operate because the fire did not generate enough heat at the ceiling level to activate the sprinklers.

Here are ways to minimize a similar event from occurring at your facility:

- Have a detailed power isolation plan to de-energize equipment.
- Conduct infrared testing of the power cables.
- Interlock the computer equipment power supplies with a VEWFD (very early warning fire detection) system.
- Use plenum-rated electrical power cables that do not exhibit corrosive qualities.

Install an FM Approved total flooding inert gas extinguishing system below the raised floor.

LOSS HISTORY

Fires involving computer rooms, though infrequent, average more than US$1.2 million per loss. This loss exceeded US$10 million due to the amount of smoke damage to equipment and downtime.

How does it extinguish fires?

Unlike other agents that work by reducing oxygen levels or by cooling, the aerosol extinguishes by chemical interaction with the free radicals that fuel the growth of the fire — in the same manner as halon did. The aerosol stream contains ultra-fine (1-2 micron) particles of potassium compounds that provide a large surface area interaction with the fire. In the fire zone the free potassium radicals bind with the free radicals of the fire (O, OH, H) to rapidly slow and extinguish the fire.

”Free Radicals” are essential to the propagation of a fire — OH, H and O. Stat-X suppresses the fire primarily by chemical interference with these “free radicals” within the fire zone. Potassium radicals (K) are the main active component of the Stat-X aerosol. These potassium radicals react with the radicals of the flame.

* Free radical — an uncharged molecule (typically highly reactive and short-lived) having an unpaired valence electron.

Much more including videos can be found on this product and various options. An animation of how a local and total flooding system works can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oD7ERrKHKo

New Animations Detail Viking Model F Dry System Activation and Reset

Viking introduces two new animations to depict the activation and reset procedures for the Viking Model F Dry Valve System.

**Activation Animation**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwVZUBar0co&feature=youtu.be
This detailed animation depicts the activation of a Viking Dry Pipe fire sprinkler system. An excellent training tool, the video shows all system components and their interaction during the activation process.

**Reset Animation**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE7KhGs01GU&feature=youtu.be
The animation delivers a step-by-step visual instruction for placing a Viking Dry Pipe fire sprinkler system back in service after activation, showing proper reset sequence and settings for all system components.

To view more videos and animations from Viking, visit our website or YouTube channel.
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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!!

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: Monday, January 9, 2017

Place: Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Price: $30.00

Time: Gathering starts at 5 PM, meeting starts at 6 PM

Topic: Stat X Presentation

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<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Flammable and Combustible Liquid Storage—NFPA 13 &amp; NFPA 30—Bob Benedetti, NFPA</td>
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<td>April/May</td>
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<td>June 4—7</td>
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**Meeting Dates/Programs 2016-2017**
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://webansi.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.csaa.org/
Municipal Codes (E Codes) http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html
FM Global http://www.fmglobal.com/
FSDANY http://www.fsda.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

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