

# FLASHPOINT

*Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering*



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

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## February Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

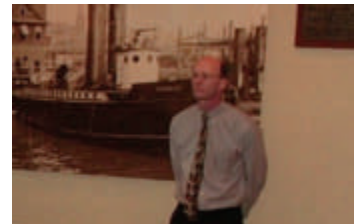
February's meeting was held once again at Ivar's Acres of Clams on Pier 54 as the Salmon House renovations continue. Thirty members and guests attended on this not-so-sunny day to listen to Rich Richardson, Sr. FPE at Seattle Fire Department (R.Richardson@ci.seattle.wa.us; (206) 386-1456) talk about Seattle's new Marina fire protection ordinance.

If you would like to read the complete ordinance, direct your web browser to: <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/fire/FMO/firecode/marinaOrdinance.htm>.

The ordinance came about as a result of the two recent, and highly publicized and politicized, marina fires in which fire boat response was debated. The "land" based fire department also had difficulties in locating the nearest fire hydrant. Many of these covered moorings are

difficult to find, and hydrants, especially at night, can play hide and seek.

The new ordinance requires phased in fire protection over the coming years for existing marinas.



## March Meeting Highlights

By Travis Allen

The March Chapter meeting featured Michael Fitz, Professional Engineer and Certified Fire Investigator with MDE Engineers, Inc., discussing Thermal Analysis of Sprinkler Systems.

We had 28 members present, including one who drove from Bellingham. Mike's presentation opened with a discussion of the Response Time Index (RTI) of the automatic sprinkler's thermal element. He

covered the various standards (NFPA 13 and ISO 6182-1 and UL) and their associated response time criteria for Standard, Intermediate and High Temperature rated sprinklers. He also discussed some of the tools available to determine the RTI.

Much of Michael's work involves investigations regarding the activation/failed activation of automatic sprinkler systems. The RTI is a critical component in his investigation work. Mi-

chael discussed the various factors that can affect the activation time of the sprinkler. These were the link (size, material), orientation, use of heat collectors, contamination, use of o-rings. Several sample sprinklers were on display for our examination. He then chronicled two investigations that he was involved in to determine the method of failure.

The first involved determining if a sprinkler frame was damaged  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Post

We are well into the new year, just about ready to leave the first quarter of 2006. Our monthly meetings were moved to the Downtown Ivars, while the Lake Union location was being remodeled. Despite the change in venue, and added hassles of parking, each of the

three meetings this year have been very well attended. We have had three very informative presentations and the meetings also serve as a great opportunity to network with each other.

Our Chapter membership re-

mains strong, even though our numbers, are a bit behind last year's. Your continued support of this Chapter is needed. If you haven't updated your membership for 2006, would you please consider joining the Chapter? Your support of the

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## March Meeting Highlights, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*  
by freezing or mechanical damage. The second investigation involved the use of CPVC piping for a housing complex that had suffered freeze damage. The analysis for this project included Infrared Thermography, Finite Element Analysis and wall section testing in an environmental chamber to validate analysis. A job well done to Michael for a thorough and

interesting presentation! Michael can be reached at (206) 622-2007 or emailed at mfitz@mde.com



## President's Post, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*  
Chapter can also be provided through various other activities including assisting with PE Exam writing, providing a company bio for our newsletter, providing or being a presenter at a Chapter meeting, not to mention golf sponsorship.

Did I mention the golf tournament? It will be held on August 1st, at Druids Glen in Covington ([www.druidsglengolf.com](http://www.druidsglengolf.com)). A 1PM Shotgun will be mark our

8th event. So mark your calendars, get your foursome together and keep your eyes open for further information that will be forthcoming.

We are evaluating holding a seminar in the Seattle area. The consensus at March's meeting appeared to be in favor of a one day seminar. There was good interest in a fire alarm related topic. Any suggestions of presenters are welcomed and can be submitted to any of

the board members.

We're back at Ivars on Lake Union in April, so I hope to see you there.

-Travis

## Get Your Pacific Northwest Chapter Shirt Here!

High Quality Polo shirts are available for the Chapter membership, at an excellent price. These shirts are Devon & Jones, 100% Peruvian Pima Cotton. The Pacific Northwest Chapter logo is embroidered on the left chest as shown in the picture. These shirts are being made available to our membership at a 30% discounted price. They are only \$20! Samples will be shown and order forms will be available at the October meeting. Or you can place your order directly by contacting Travis at [Travis.Allen@Weyerhaeuser.com](mailto:Travis.Allen@Weyerhaeuser.com). And yes, there are Men's

and Women's styles available to select from.

You can view the shirts and available colors at the following websites:

Men's shirts:  
[www.devonandjones.com/product/D340.htm](http://www.devonandjones.com/product/D340.htm)

Women's shirts:  
[www.devonandjones.com/product/D440W.htm](http://www.devonandjones.com/product/D440W.htm)



## Profile—Tacoma Fire Department

The Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) is recognized as one of the most progressive, innovative and dynamic fire departments in the nation as demonstrated each day through the dedication and hard work of our 400+ firefighters and 35 civilian staff members.

TFD takes pride in its ability to serve the needs of our diverse community. Each day, our citizens call upon us to respond to a variety of emergencies including: structure fires, emergency medical responses, hazardous materials and technical rescue situations.

Fire prevention and education also play a major role in our service to the Community. The Tacoma Fire Department is committed to each and every citizen who calls upon us. Perhaps of particular interest to Flashpoint readers are the Department's Fire Prevention and Public Education Activities. In support of the Department's mission, comprehensive new construction permitting and inspection, systematic existing building inspection and fire protection system ITM programs are administered by the Fire Marshal's office (Division of Prevention and Emergency Preparedness).

The Tacoma Fire Department invites citizens who live or work within the city limits of Tacoma to attend C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Teams) classes. Aimed at preparing groups of citizens within the community to prepare for and respond to disasters, the classes follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Similar calluses are offered in cities across the United States.

The idea behind this model is to teach people in neighborhoods how to help each other in the first few minutes or hours following a disaster – before emergency responders are able to get to them to render professional help. In the classes, students gain hands-on skills such as how to put out small fires, render first aid in a disaster situation, and perform light search and rescue. C.E.R.T. classes are a valuable addition to the more traditional NFPA "Remembering When," "Learn Not To Burn," and "Risk Watch" curricula offered by the Department to schools, and older adults.

Annually the fire department attempts to assist every commercial building by conducting an inspection to help find fire and life safety hazards. Protecting life and property is a key part of our mission and important to every building and business owner. It is also important to employees, customers and the general public and the reputation of our community. The men and women assigned to the Department's Operations Division do the vast majority of these inspections. Annually, each commercial building is inspected by the crews of our 16 engines and 4 truck companies. There are over 5500 buildings in our tracking system.

Additionally, the Officers of the Fire Prevention Bureau inspect all hazardous and high-risk occupancies. Fire Prevention Officers also track and ensure that all Fire Alarm, Sprinkler, Standpipe, Extinguishing Systems, and Fire Escapes are tested and remain in good operational condition. There are over 3100 Fire Prevention Sys-

tems in our inspection tracking system.

The TFD employs a Fire Protection Engineer who works with the City's Building and Land Use Division or Public Works (the Building Department). In conjunction with Prevention Officers the FPE reviews plans, issues permits, and conducts acceptance testing for the following:

- Above ground tanks containing flammable and combustible liquids or hazardous material
- Underground tanks containing flammable and combustible liquids or hazardous material
- Fire alarm systems
- Fire sprinkler systems
- Underground water supplies for fire sprinkler systems
- Hood and duct extinguishing systems
- Standpipe systems
- Special/Other extinguishing systems

The FPE, in conduction with the Fire Marshal and Prevention Bureau Officers is also responsible for developing local Fire Code amendments and associated policies as well as developing and issuing informal and formal Code interpretations.

Finally, the Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for determining the cause of origin of all significant fires within the jurisdiction of the Tacoma Fire Department. Annually, Prevention Bureau Officers conduct technical investigations of over 250 fires. This information is used to identify reoccurring problems, focus our public education efforts, assist in inspection planning and identify incendiary fires as well as identify those that set them.





Society of Fire Protection Engineers

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

CHECK-OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.sfpepnw.org](http://www.sfpepnw.org)

**About SFPE.** The Society of Fire Protection Engineers was established in 1950 and represents professionals practicing in the field of fire protection engineering. The Society has approximately 3500 members in the United States and abroad, and 51 regional chapters, 10 of which are outside the United States. The purpose of the Society is to advance the science and practice of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, to maintain high ethical standards among its members, and to foster fire protection engineering education.

**About the Pacific Northwest Chapter:** The Pacific NW Chapter was chartered May 12, 1963 as the fifteenth SFPE Chapter. The first chapter meeting was held September 24, 1963 at the Vice-roy Times Court in Seattle, WA. Chapter participation is open to any person with an interest in fire protection and fire safety. The Chapter is made up of professionals from varied backgrounds, including insurance, fire authorities, consulting/design, fire systems, and facility management.

## Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

The 2005-06 Chapter Meeting Schedule can be found on the our website, [www.sfpepnw.org](http://www.sfpepnw.org). Make sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

### April 18 Chapter Meeting

Ivar's Salmon House

To Be Determined

### May 16 Chapter Meeting

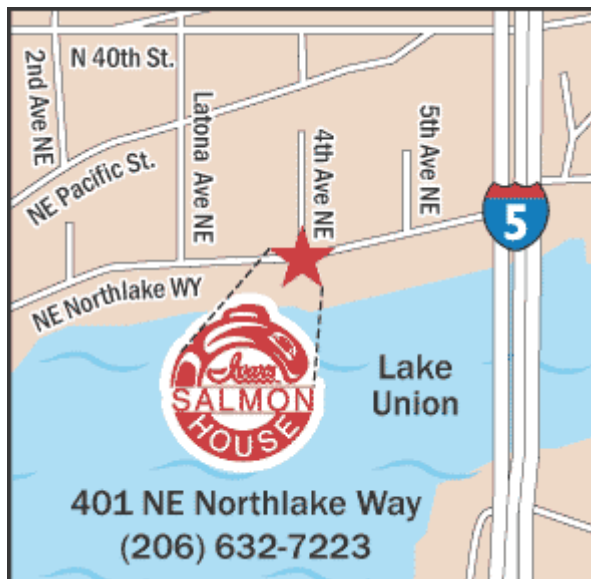
Ivar's Salmon House

To Be Determined

### August 1—8th Annual Golf Tournament

Druids Glen in Covington

*More Info to Follow*



**Ivar's Salmon House**  
401 NE Northlake Way  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 632-0767

Directions to Ivar's Salmon House:

Take 1-5 to N.E. 45th Exit (#169). Go east, toward the University of Washington, and turn right at Brooklyn Avenue. Follow Brooklyn to Pacific Street and turn right. At stop sign, turn left. The Salmon House is one block further, on the left, at 401 N.E. Northlake Way.