

FLASHPOINT

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Travis Allen, PE
travis.allen@weyerhaeuser.com

1st Vice President

Joe Skvarla, PE
joes@firesystemswest.com

2nd Vice President

Vince Collins, PE
vincent.ctr.collins@faa.gov

Secretary & Treasurer

Carl Anderson, PE
canderso@ci.tacoma.wa.us

Immediate Past President

Eric P. Tuazon, PE
eric@tuazon.com

Executive Committee

Michael Fitz, PE
mfitz@mde.com

David Trull, CFPS

dtrull@tvafiresafety.com

Inside this issue:

November Meeting Highlights	1
January Meeting Highlights	1
President's Post	1
Magnesium Fire	2
Board Meeting Minutes	3
Sprinklers at Extreme Makeover	4
Upcoming Events	5
Company Profile—RJA	5

November Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

Our November 16th chapter meeting was very well attended by 26 members and guests. Our guest speaker was Dale Kent with 3M. Dale gave a very interesting presentation on Novec™ 1230, a new clean agent extinguishing agent. Novec™ 1230 brings additional options to FM-200 and Inergen for protecting your high-valued, sensitive equipment and data.

Novec™ 1230 fluid's environmental profile, low toxicity characteristics and fire performance make it a sustainable solution as a halon replacement alternative to HFCs. Novec™ 1230 fluid can be applied in streaming, flooding, inerting and explosion suppression applications in areas such as data processing centers, telecommunications, commercial and military aviation, and other similar applica-

tions.

Novec™ 1230 was originally developed in partnership with Ansul. Tim Carmen, with Ansul, was also in attendance to discuss Ansul's Novec™ 1230 extinguishing systems. There are numerous vendors in the Puget Sound region that distribute the Novec™ product.

Dale Kent can be reached at (651) 631-0629 or at

January Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

January's chapter meeting, Hi-Fog water mist fire protection by Marioff, was very well attended by over 30 members and guests, including several first time attendees. The presentation was by Allan Rhodes, Western Regional Manager for Marioff's Hi-Fog system [(707) 291-3381, allan.rhodes@marioff.net]. The local Hi-Fog rep, Steve Raab of West-

fire Coastal Inc [(206) 381-3090, s.raab@westfire.com] was also in attendance. Allan had a very interesting presentation, including videos of fires on 2 Royal Caribbean cruise ships (one of which this writer will be on later this year!). The first video showed a fire in an engine room not protected by Hi-Fog. It took 3 hours before the fire was declared fully extinguished. The second fire took place in 2002. This diesel en-

gine room was protected by an "open head deluge" type Hi-Fog system. The fire was declared extinguished in 5 minutes! Hi-Fog systems, born in the marine industry, can now be used in many areas where traditionally CO-2 or other gas systems have been used. For more information see www.Hi-Fog.com.

President's Post

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and I send our Chapter's best wishes for a great 2005 to you. Our chapter finished 2004 on an excellent note. Our financial strength includes a checking and savings balance total of \$8,793.25 and an education fund account of \$16,781.16. 2004 closed out with a Chapter count of 77

paid colleagues.

2005 started just as strong with 31 people in attendance of our January meeting. By the close of the meeting we had a total of 15 attendees who paid their 2005 dues. Thank you for your continued support.

Your board is currently review-

ing the Chapter By Laws and Constitution. All changes will be brought before the chapter for voting approval. These documents are posted on our Website for your review. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Speaking of the website, take a
(Continued on page 2)

President's Post, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

look at it (www.sfpepnw.org). Joe Skvarla has been updating the site and we will be posting job openings as they are submitted. We are also trying to develop a relationship with the UW Engineering School to help foster fire protection engineering.

We continue to seek new opportunities to improve membership privileges and your input would be helpful in this endeavor. Your suggestions can be directed to any of the board members. Carl Anderson sent an email request to each of you to submit a company profile for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. This is a great way to share and learn of the fire protection

businesses in the Northwest. Please send your submissions to Eric Tuazon at Eric@tuazon.com.

While not related to fire protection, I want to encourage you to contribute to the Tsunami relief efforts. Many of your employers are matching donations and there are some great organizations we can support. Just down the street from Weyerhaeuser's Corporate Office is World Vision (www.worldvision.org). Seattle's own Tully's Coffee has partnered with them to give 100% of the net proceeds of their Tsunami Response Blend towards disaster relief. Please take advantage of one of the many opportunities to help.

The Board is meeting regularly and all members are invited to attend. Meeting dates will be posted in the 'Upcoming Events' section of the Flashpoint. Please contact me for time and directions.

Finally, as mentioned during the January Meeting, Morgan Hurley, SFPE Technical Director will be the featured guest at our March 15th meeting. He will be presenting the Guise Medalist Award to our local member Vyto Babrauskas. We are planning a social hour after the meeting, so mark your calendar and watch for further details.

Best Regards, Travis

Review Finds Sprinklers Did Not Fuel Magnesium Fire

ANDERSON, Indiana
AP & Indianapolis Star. --

Investigators found that broken pipes might have been the source of the water feeding a magnesium fire that prompted authorities to evacuate thousands of people from their homes, a city official said.

Connie Smith, a spokeswoman for Mayor Kevin Smith, said Monday that sprinklers at the Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp. recycling plant did not go off in the area where the company had magnesium _ which flares up and explodes when in contact with water.

Smith said water from other parts of the building entered the area once the fire spread, through working sprinklers in other areas or from broken water pipes. She said the company correctly had disabled the sprinkler system in the magnesium storage area that investigators earlier believed was the water's source.

After magnesium in a scrap bin caught fire Friday evening, plant workers immediately tried to put it out with dry material, fire officials said.

But the water from other parts of the building helped fuel the burning magnesium, which by Friday evening forced the evacuation of about 5,000 residents in the vicinity because of worries about hazardous fumes.

Those residents were allowed to return home Saturday after the fire subsided, and the Environmental Protection Agency left Sunday after being satisfied with air quality in the city about 25 miles northeast of Indianapolis, Smith said.

Officials were uncertain how much of the 300,000 pounds of magnesium stored in the plant for recycling did not burn in the fire.

Smith said the company was working to continue collecting debris this week.

Investigators could know the cause of the fire by the end of the week, but Fire Chief J.R. Rosencrans said he did not believe it was intentional.

He said company officials had been cooperative, but that he was concerned about the source of the water. "If it hadn't been for the water, we wouldn't be talking today," he said. "Somehow the water got involved with it and complicated the situation."

About the Anderson magnesium plant (Sources: AMACOR, World Book Encyclopedia, U.S. Geological Survey)

Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp. (AMACOR) supplies magnesium alloys to the die-casting and the aluminum industries. It bills itself as the largest magnesium recycling facility in the world.

The annual production capacity
(Continued on page 4)

Pacific NW Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Pacific NW Chapter, SFPE
Board Meeting –
January 11, 2005

Attendees:

Travis Allen
Joe Skvarla
Vince Collins
Carl Anderson
Eric Tuazon

Absent:

David Trull
Michael Fitz

Minutes:

Review of Action Items from November Meeting

- All Board members are to follow-up on any unfinished action items from the November meeting.
- Flashpoint needs to be out NLT Friday January 28th. Eric needs our articles and information NLT the 26th. Vince will provide an article relating to his residential sprinkler installation. Eric will provide an article of general industry interest. Travis will provide President's Post. Carl will provide Board meeting minutes and budget summary. All need to help identify good topics/article for future issues of Flashpoint. Joe will write up the chapter meeting recap. (Joe, Carl, Vince, Eric, Travis)
- Members will be invited to submit a paragraph describing their company and its FP activities for inclusion in the flashpoint. (Travis, Carl)
- Carl will look into obtaining a debit card for the account. (Carl)
- Travis is still looking into membership and speaker gift options.
- National Members and Long Time members will be

recognized at upcoming meetings after the new year. (Travis)

- A Membership gift pen will be given to all members after the beginning of the year. (Travis).
- Logo mugs are available from National. Joe will check on pens at Costco-Business. (Joe, Travis)
- Eric presented the finished name tags for Chapter meetings. Eric prepared a name tag for everyone on the database. Vince will bring to the January meeting and handout as people arrive. (Vince)

Constitution/Bi-Laws (Constitution Articles I-IV)

- Board reviewed Article I-IV of the Constitution. Vince will type up suggested changes in preparation for presentation to the Chapter membership and approval vote. (Vince)

Board meeting dates and times

- Reminder from November minutes - March (3/1), June (6/7), August (8/23). 11:30-1PM at Weyerhaeuser. The 8/23 meeting may conflict with vacation plans. The intent is to have a post golf tournament/pre September Chapter meeting.

Financial Report- Carl

- Carl reported that as 1/11/05, our balances were as follows:
- Checking: \$6,255.99, Savings: \$2,537.26, Market Rate Savings: \$4,614.48, CD: \$12,166.68. This totals \$25,574.41.
- Carl will provide monthly account balance to Eric for publishing (Carl)

- Dues notice needs to go out ASAP. (Carl)

Chapter Meetings

- Joe will coordinate with Ivar's management regarding noise issues and table set-up. (Joe)
 - Check-in will include new name tags for any attendees in out database. Kudos to Eric for preparing the badges.
 - Flyers, handouts, magazines, etc. will be provided when available (Travis)
 - March meetings with National Guest (Morgan Hurley) will have the meal adjusted so that we are not eating during their presentation. We will adjust so the meals are ordered ahead of time. (Joe).
 - Future Speakers- needed for April and May. Submit candidate contact info to Eric. Mike (via email) indicated Keith Cline from MDE could speak on MIC. Vince contacted Chuck Sparks, but Chuck has not followed up with Eric. (All)
 - A nominal speaker gift will be selected and given to every speaker. See notes above. (Travis, Joe)
 - Vince will forward invitation to UW engineering students and faculty to attend meeting at no cost. (Vince)
 - March meeting will include social time, larger room, possible no-host bar, slide show, photos
- #### **Web Page**
- Joe to 'go-live' with job posting link. (Joe).
 - Joe will update website "yellowpages" in March.

(Joe)

- Total cost to host and maintain website for 2004 was \$346.65..

Education/Scholarship Committee (2nd VP)- Getting the word out

- Vince suggested inviting UW engineering faculty and students to attend a meeting free of charge. Board agreed so long as numbers are reasonable. Eric will get UW contact information to Vince. Vince will make contact with the UW and invite students to meetings. (Eric, Vince)

Next Board meeting March 1, 2005 in Federal Way (Weyerhaeuser).

Minutes prepared by Carl Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Magnesium Fire, continued.

(Continued from page 2)
of the plant is approximately 30,000 metric tons. Magnesium is a silver-white metal. Because of its light weight, it often is used in alloys for aircraft and automobile parts.

Recycled magnesium represents a substantial source of the metal. Pure magnesium does not occur in nature, and much of the magnesium used in the United States is recovered from seawater.

Because it burns with a brilliant white light, magnesium is used in fireworks and incendiary bombs. Other uses include tanning, dyeing and making cement, fertilizer and insulating materials.

[Chapter Note: The proper protection of magnesium is generally well documented in fire safety codes and standards, including the 2003 International Fire Code, Chapter 36, Flammable Solids.]

A fire at Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp. in Anderson, Indiana was first reported about 4:30 p.m. Friday. About 8:30 p.m., the fire appeared to explode; flames burst into the air, and heavy smoke spewed over the area.



NFSA Members Bring Sprinklers to TV's Extreme Makeover

From NFSA.org

On Sunday, January 16, 2005, ABC TV's Extreme Makeover Home Edition program featured it's second home with fire sprinklers installed.

The materials were donated by National Fire Sprinkler Association

(NFSA) Member Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company and the drafting and installation were performed by NFSA Member Western States Fire Protection.

Congratulations to the crew that completed the installation in the 1200 sq.ft. home in just

seven hours!!!

The NFSA co-sponsored Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition is in discussions with the producers of the show to install fire sprinkler systems in all of the homes that they renovate for future shows.



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

CHECK-OUT OUR WEBSITE
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 Viceroy 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 2004-05 Chapter Meeting Schedule can be found on the Chapter website, www.sfpepnw.org. Make sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

February 15, 2005

Chapter Meeting at Ivar's
 Joe Achak / Fire Sentry Corp
Visual (Video) Smoke Detection

March 1, 2005

Chapter Board Meeting
 Weyerhaeuser HQ, Federal Way
 (Please contact Travis Allen for time and directions)

March 15, 2005

Chapter Meeting at Ivar's
 Morgan Hurley, PE
 SFPE Technical Director
SFPE Technical Activities & Guide Medalist Presentation to Vyto Babrauskas, Ph.D.

Company Profile—Rolf Jensen & Associates

Submitted by Brian Thompson

Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc. (RJA) is a professional consulting firm providing an extensive range of engineering services on projects involving life safety, fire protection, and building codes for commercial, institutional, and industrial clients worldwide.

Founded in 1969, RJA is recognized as a global leader in fire protection engineering, life safety and building code consulting. Today, RJA employs more than 125 technical professionals located in 17 offices who work closely with our international strategic alliances to deliver on project commitments around the world. Our professionals hold degrees in a multitude of engineering disciplines including fire protection, mechanical, civil, and electrical as well as architecture.

RJA has worked with all the participants in the built industry to provide fire protection solutions for clients. Our client base includes Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, architectural firms, building owners, developers, and facilities managers.

We have worked for clients on unique and challenging projects in a variety of markets. RJA has demonstrated project experience working on government complexes, themed entertainment venues, telecommunication centers, transportation hubs, and assembly structures. We have also provided our fire protection expertise for educational facilities and campuses, high-rise buildings, healthcare facilities, hotels, and corporate real estate.

Our professionals are not only members of organizations such as Society of Fire Protection

Engineers, but are also active – through Chairing or participating on committees – in the code development process of both the National Fire Protection Association and the International Code Council. RJA is also represented on the International Fire Code Committee and the International Fire Performance Committee. Their contributions to the state of fire protection art and science are documented internationally in dozens of articles, books, manuals and research papers.

The Chapter publishes company profiles as a service to its members. If you are a current member of the Chapter, or join soon, please send an article (in electronic format) profiling your company to Eric Tuazon. (eric@tuazon.com)