

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

April Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

April's speaker was Tom Zeiner of Tyco Fire & Building Products. Tom is the Business Development Manager for Tyco Fire and Building Products.

Tom spoke in front of 22 attendees regarding different types of sprinkler valves and current innovations including the DV-5 Deluge valve and the Dry Sprin-

kler Boot.

The Deluge Valve DV-5 is an external resetting diaphragm style deluge valve. It is not susceptible to water hammer, and can be mounted in the horizontal or vertical position. He spoke on their Dry Sprinkler Boot which helps to seal freezer penetrations while eliminating the need for caulking or insulation. It's fast and

easy installation helps direct moisture buildup from entering freezer penetrations. Tyco also has a Mobile Valve Demonstration Unit that can travel to your facility or site to assist in "hands on" training of personnel. Tom is based out of the Vancouver, WA area and can be reached at tom.zeiner@tycofp.com or the old fashioned way, by phone, at (360) 735-8355.

May Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

May's speaker was Bruce Fraser, Director, Industry Relations at SimplexGrinnell [brfraser@tycoint.com, (978) 731-7274]. Bruce spoke about the up-and-coming "Mass Notification" systems that the government is currently requiring, and how NFPA 72 committee is looking to "merge" it into a future edition of NFPA 72. We had a good turnout of 24 members and other visitors for this very interesting topic. Bruce

sits on a number of NFPA committees and among them is National Fire Code (NFPA 72) committee. This committee is looking at the integration of Mass Notification Systems (MNS) into the Fire Code and the ramifications on the audibility requirements of the Code. As currently proposed, the next edition of NFPA 72, under Annex G, will allow the use of the fire alarm system audible and visual devices for the purpose of Mass Notification. According to Bruce, the

formal proposal will be released for comments in July of this year and in October the committee will review the comments and produce a working document. Bruce pointed out that there are many facets to merging the two systems, e.g., will all fire alarm systems be equipped with voice capability in order to accommodate the MNS, will there be two separated colors of visual devices, or one, etc.

Inside this issue:

April Meeting Highlights	1
May Meeting Highlights	1
President's Post	1
SFPE Position Statement	2
Technologies Identified That Better Awaked Children	2
SFPE Grant Assists Fire Service	3
Upcoming Events	4

President's Post

Can you believe we're almost half way through 2005? We finished out the first half of the year with a good turnout for another well received speaker. Thanks to Eric Tuazon and others for making the speaker arrangements. I think you'd agree that we've had some very good topics and quality speakers. We are looking for good candidates for the fall and next year. If you have any sugges-

tions for a topic or speaker, please send your comments to Joe Skvarla (joes@firesystemswest.com).

We will take a short break from Chapter meetings for June, July and August. Our monthly meetings will kick off in September with a presentation on Fire Protection Contracts and Liability. This should prove to be an interesting topic, so mark your cal-

endars for September 20th. If you've been to a recent meeting, you've noticed that we have made some menu changes for the luncheons. Despite an increased cost for all the meals, we have maintained the luncheon fee at \$20. We've considered other venues, but have yet to find anything of comparable quality for the price.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Post, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

A Chapter PE exam problem writing session was recently held at Weyerhaeuser's corporate offices in Federal Way. Thanks to Carl Anderson, Joe Skvarla, and Vince Collins for putting a morning in to help out on this important activity. Without our continued support and submission of questions, the PE for Fire Protection will fade away.

The Chapter board has nearly completed the updating of the

Chapter Constitution. We expect to have it ready for your review and vote during the September meeting. Current members should plan to attend this meeting to ensure that we have a quorum for acceptance of this work.

Finally, before we finish off the summer, we will be having our 7th Annual Golf Tournament at Echo Falls on August 2nd. This has always been a fun event and this year should prove to be no different than the past. Get

your team together and get your registration in prior to June 30th to get in on the reduced green fee. Your company's sponsorship would be greatly appreciated at any level. There's opportunity to sponsor a hole, or provide merchandise, or golf balls, etc.

Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you on August 2nd.

-Travis

Revised Position Statement on the Design of FP Systems

The SFPE Board of Directors Task Group has revised the Society's Position Statement entitled [The Engineer and the Technician: Designing Fire Protection Systems](#) formally known as the SFPE White Paper. This version that is available for

comment is a draft. The task group included representation from the fire protection industry and design engineers. Please send comments to cjelene-wicz@sfpe.org. Comments will be due June 15, 2005.

The Position Statement can be downloaded at:

<http://www.sfpe.org/sfpe30/pdfsanddocs/Position%20Statement.pdf>

Technologies Identified That Better Awaken Children in the Event of Fire

SFPE — Bethesda, MD

Recently published research identifies types of smoke alarms that more reliably awaken children. This research showed that young children, 6-10 years old, are much more likely to awaken to smoke detectors that use voice or emit a low pitched alarm than smoke detectors that use higher pitched sounds.

This research follows studies conducted in late 1990's, which showed that only 6% of children aged 6-15 would reliably awaken in response to a smoke alarm with a high-pitched beeping sound. In the research, children were exposed to one of four types of alarms while they were sleeping: a high pitched alarm with a continuous tone, a

recording of the child's mother's voice, a recording of a female actor's voice, or an alarm which emitted a regular pattern of three beeps at a pitch similar to normal speaking voice.

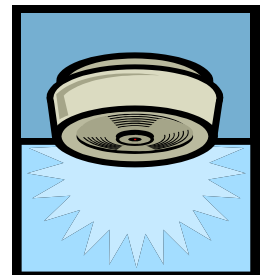
The recording of the parent's voice stated the child's name, that there was a fire, and instructed the child to wake up and go outside. The recording of the actor's voice said "danger," that there was a fire, and directed to go and investigate. When children were exposed to the high pitched alarm, they awakened only 57% of the time. However, when children were exposed to either of the voice recordings or the pattern of three beeps at a pitch similar to voice, the children woke up nearly all of the

time.

For the experiments where the recording of their mother's voice was played, all of the children awakened. In the cases where either the recording of the female actor's voice or the pattern of beeps was used, the children woke up approximately 95% of the time.

The research also showed that children awoke more quickly when exposed to either of the voice messages or to the pattern of beeps at a pitch similar to a speaking voice than to the high pitched alarm. For recorded messages or low pitched beeps, all children that woke up did so in less than one minute. When a high pitched alarm was used, over 25% of

(Continued on page 3)



Technologies, Continued

(Continued from page 2)
the children that did wake up took over one minute to awaken, with some children requiring almost three minutes to wake up.

According to Morgan Hurley, Technical Director of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, "this research has dramatic implications for the choice of smoke detectors that are installed in children's bedrooms." "Parents should choose smoke detectors that either use a re-

corded voice message or a tone of a frequency similar to voice."

"Older people are generally much more likely to wake up than children when a smoke alarm goes off," says Hurley. "Therefore, regardless of the type of smoke detector that is used, parents should plan to help their children in the event of a fire."

Hurley also advises that any smoke detectors used should be a type approved by an inde-

pendent testing laboratory. Hurley further notes that "fire is a big problem. In the U.S., over 3,000 people die in fires each year, most of them in their home." "Using research like this is another example of how fire protection engineers use science and technology to make the world safer from fire."

SFPE Grant Assists Fire Service

SFPE — Bethesda, MD

Each year in the United States, there are enormous economic losses as a result of fire. According to Federal Government Statistics, almost 1.6 million fires were reported in America in 2003. These fires contributed to over \$12 billion dollars in direct property losses.

Because of these substantial personal economic losses as a result of fire, the Federal Government is providing grants to assist State, regional, national or local organizations to address fire prevention.

As part of this program, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) has been awarded a grant to develop three college level courses in the subject of fire protection engineering. These courses will be used in colleges throughout the United States that offer fire science programs at the associate's

and bachelor's degree levels.

"These fire science programs provide our nation's firefighter's the opportunity to pursue college-level learning," said SFPE Engineering Program Manager Chris Jelenewicz. "The curricula developed by SFPE will provide fire science students with a firm understanding of the fundamental engineering principals that are used to design ways to protect people from fire."

Additionally, as part of this grant, SFPE will develop two engineering guides. The first will summarize methods that predict fire hazards and the second will provide a framework for conducting fire risk assessments. SFPE will also develop a web-based distance learning program for the fire service on the topic of fire risk assessment.

This grant was provided by the United States Fire Administra-

tion's Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Program that is part of the FY 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Program is designed to assist State, regional or local organizations in protecting citizens and firefighters against the effects of fire and fire-related incidents.

"In this nation, far too many individuals lose their lives or are injured by fire. Among these victims are firefighters, who provide emergency response services to their fellow residents," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "The nation's firefighters and American homes are safer today through this important grant program."





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!

Chapter Meetings and Events Schedule can be found on the Chapter website, www.sfpepnw.org. Make sure to mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates:

August 2, 2005
7th Annual Golf Tournament
 Echo Falls Country Club
 Snohomish, WA

2005 7th Annual Golf Tournament!!

- ➔ **Tuesday, August 2, 2005**
- ➔ **Check in by 12:00 PM**
- ➔ **Shotgun Start @ 1:00 PM**



Mark Your Calendars!

**Organize your foursome
 (or sign up individually)**