

FLASHPOINT

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Travis Allen, PE
tallen@bellevuewa.gov

1st Vice President

Joe Skvarla, PE
joes@firesystemswest.com

2nd Vice President

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

Secretary & Treasurer

Shawn Bliss
shawn.bliss@seattle.gov

Executive Committee

Michael Fitz, PE
mfitz@mde.com

David Trull, CFPS
dtrull@tvafiresafety.com

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

Eric P. Tuazon, PE
eric@tuazon.com

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September Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

We kicked off the 2006-2007 luncheon season with a presentation about sprinkler system corrosion by Ross M. Degerstedt P.E., NACE of Coffman Engineers.

Ross is a member of National

Association of Corrosion Engineers International. His presentation focused on water quality – "It's all about the water". Some of the items Ross touched on included not using untreated water in sprinkler systems, the use of stainless steel (not recommended), using clean water for filling and test-

ing, adding corrosion inhibitors, dielectric couplings, MIC pre-treatment, plastic pipe, and lined pipe. Ross is a wealth of knowledge on this topic and can be reached at Coffman Engineers [(206) 623-0717; degerstedt@coffman.com].

October Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

Our October presenters were Steve Adams and Rick Carlton of West Coast Infrared, LLC [(800) 450-7959;

steve@westcoastinfrared.com].

West Coast Infrared does electrical and mechanical thermal imaging for both preventative maintenance as well as nonde-

structive testing. They also do agricultural testing (heat generated by hops for example, and as a little side test – finding worms in apples! The big focus
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November Meeting Highlights

By Joe Skvarla

November's speaker was Mark Pierepiekarz, P.E., S.E., with MRP Engineering [(425) 430-0500; mrp@mrpengineering.com]. Mark's presentation to 17 members who took advantage

of the break in the weather dealt with his 3 month tour of the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina to do damage assessments for local schools. Mark focused on wind damage versus water damage. In many areas it was obvious that wind damage and subsequent rain

preceded the water damage from the storm surge by several hours. Some brick buildings were built on a concrete slab, but had no foundations. These acted as barges in the surge! Mark observed that there was such an area-wide path of de-
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President's Post

Where has the year gone? I can't believe we are into November already. My tenure as your Chapter President will come to a close at the end of the year. This is a great Chapter that continues to grow and take on new challenges. I took over the lead of a well run

Chapter and set out with the primary goal to further establish and build on the existing programs. I didn't feel that any major changes were necessary. The newsletter and website had already been reinstated. Through networking with SFPE National and others, we now

distribute the newsletter to over 250 professionals. The website has also become a tool to post job opportunities and meeting notices. It is routinely updated on a monthly basis.

We had a strong membership
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November Meeting Highlights, continued

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struction that it is virtually impossible to plan for contingencies, especially with reconstruction. Initial focus was on getting utilities back up and running. Extrapolating to our Northwest and the possibility of widespread earthquake damage, Mark's impression is that we would face some of the very same problems, from a personal standpoint (having

enough water and food stored at home) to businesses and business interruption. One stat showed that 66% of small businesses have still yet to open.

On another note, chapter officer elections were supposed to be held. However, we didn't have the required 10 national members on hand (we had 3 of the 17 attendees as national members). We did an informal vote,

with the following results:

President – Joe Skvarla
 1st VP – Vince Collins
 2nd VP – David Trull
 Sec/Tr – Shawn Bliss
 Executive Committee – Mike Fitz
 Executive Committee – Travis Allen
 Executive Committee - Ron Greenman

President's Post, continued

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base of 77 members at the end of 2004. Today we sit at 103 members.

We are financially sound with total assets of just over \$30,000, and have kept our lunch meetings to \$20 despite rising costs. We have updated our Constitution and also completed a financial audit. As we have grown, we have struggled with keeping our documents and records at the level required. We had three Treasurers during the last two years, which further added to the difficulties. However Shawn Bliss stepped in and not only took on this important position but also spearheaded our first seminar which was well attended. Our Chapter has been awarded two consecutive Silver Medal

Awards by National SFPE.

We also tried to give back to the membership through lower rates to events like the seminar and golf tournament. We tried to tackle the scholarship, which we have not been very successful in granting, and I'm disappointed that we didn't make much headway on this.

I want to encourage you to stay involved and look for an opportunity to help out. The Executive Committee is a great way to help steer the Chapter, without requiring a large time commitment. But we are no different than any other volunteer organization. We need people to step up and volunteer their time and talent to keep us on track. We tried to hold elections at the November meeting, but did not

have sufficient members present for a quorum. We'll try again in January, so please mark your calendar. The nominated officers are: President- Joe Skvarla, 1st VP- Vince Collins, 2nd VP- David Trull, Secretary/Treasurer- Shawn Bliss, Executive Committee- Mike Fitz and Ron Greenman.

Thanks again for the chance to serve you through our Chapter and I am confident that the leadership will continue to Advance the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering.

Best regards,

Travis

October Meeting Highlights, continued

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for their testing is twofold: 1) avoid fires via loose connections, etc., and 2) increasing life expectancy on equipment. This testing obviously could help a client avoid unwanted downtime on critical equipment.



8th Annual Pacific Northwest Chapter Golf Tournament

This year's tournament was held at Druid's Glenn for the first time, after 3 years at Echo Falls. We had 72 golfers this year, compared to 75 last year and 57 in 2004. This year's tournament netted about \$2700 for the chapter, \$1000 of which goes into the scholarship fund and the rest "seed" money for next year's tournament.

The following were winners:

1st Place with a score of 60 (12 under): Tom Frank, Troy Thrun, Mark Murray, and Jesse Wilson

2nd Place (61, -11): Jerry Kenkel, Eric Wirth, Tim Barker, and Mark Mannex

3rd Place (62, -10): Greg Miller, Craig Bartol, and Paul Fix.

Pictures are now posted on our website,

<http://www.sfpepnw.org>.

Fire Protection Engineering Career Information

The SFPE website is the definitive resource for information on fire protection engineering, including education, licensure, careers, and job opportunities. Make sure to check out the site and continue to spread the word on the rewarding career of fire protection engineering.

www.sfpe.org

Fire protection engineers seldom have trouble finding work. In fact, the demand for fire protection engineers has far outpaced the number of people qualified to fill the positions. Even with an average starting salary of \$55,000 and an industry-wide mean of \$91,000, knowledgeable fire protection engineers are hard to come by.

Each year in America, more

than 3,000 people die as a result of fire. Because fire protection engineers design ways to protect people from fire, many fire protection engineers find a great sense of purpose in their career.

In 2005, the first issue of Careers in Fire Protection Engineering was published. This special issue focuses on promoting fire protection engineering as a career. The editorial for this issue features two fire protection engineering graduates talking about their experiences in college and as fire protection engineers. You can access this issue digitally at www.FPEmag.com/careers (make sure to disable your pop-up blocker). You can also receive a free copy by contacting SFPE at 301.718.2910 (ext. 108) or at chris@sfpe.org.

SFPE Websites:

<http://www.sfpe.org>

<http://www.FPEmag.com>

<http://www.careersinfireprotectionengineering.com>





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 2006-07 Chapter Meeting Schedule can be found on the our website, www.sfpepnw.org. Check often for upcoming meeting dates and time:

December 2006
No Meeting

January 15, 2007
Topic: TBD
Location: Ivar's Salmon House

February 20, 2007
Topic: TBD
Location: Ivar's Salmon House



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.