

FLASHPOINT

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

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October Meeting Highlights

John Hurley of Specified Technologies, Inc. was the guest speaker at our October 15 meeting at Ivar's Salmon House.

John's presentation, "Proactive Approaches to Managing Smoke and Fire Barriers," encompassed different ways of providing fire stop for wall penetrations, from caulking to blankets to self-sealing collars that expand and seal pipe penetrations at various temperatures.

John is very knowledgeable about UL wall listings and how to achieve and maintain the wall rating. If you have ANY questions on achieving or maintaining ratings, what type of product works best for your particular application, or who to

contact to provide fire stopping for your building, application, or specific job, John is a great source to send you in the right direction:

John Hurley
Firestop Solutions Group
Specified Technologies Inc.
3530 33rd Way NW
Olympia, WA 98502-3233
(360) 866-2722
jhurley@stifirestop.com

We had 16 in attendance at the meeting. The food was excellent, as usual. A warm welcome is especially extended to Johnson Controls and Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau in attendance.

Next month's meeting is

Tuesday November 19th, again at Ivar's. The topic will be Fire Rated Glazing, by Technical Glass Products. A meeting notice will be sent out prior to the meeting, but please put it on your schedule. This will be our last scheduled meeting of the year.



John Hurley (Specified Technologies Inc.) presents at the October Chapter meeting.

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2002-03 Meeting Schedule

Chapter meetings are typically every third Tuesday of the month from September through April. Meetings are held at Ivar's Salmon House (401 NE Northlake Way, 206.632.0767).

In addition to being a great opportunity to network and meet your peers in the fire protection community, the technical presentations are an excellent source of continuing education and professional development close to home.

The following is the remaining 2002-03 Meeting Schedule:

November 19, 2002
Salt Lake City Olympics Fire Protection
Rolf Jensen & Associates

December 2002
No Meeting

January 21, 2003
Symposium on Performance Based Fire Safety Design
Adam Farnham
Interface Engineering

February 18, 2003
Viking Grate Nozzle Aircraft Hangar Protection
Martin Workman
Viking Corporation

March 18, 2003
NFPA 1, NFPA 5000, & C3
Robert Miller
NFPA

April 15, 2003
TBD

Please RSVP via email to Carl Anderson, PE at canderso@ci.tacoma.wa.us



UL investigates Firematic nickel-plated sprinklers

NORTHBROOK, Ill., USA - Sep. 9, 2002 - Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is asking building owners and fire sprinkler contractors to submit samples of Firematic model S & A 160°F sprinklers for testing. UL recently tested field samples taken from a single Connecticut location, revealing that some of these sprinklers did not operate as intended. UL is seeking additional samples from throughout the country to determine if the problem is more widespread.

Firematic brand sprinklers are equipped with a heat-responsive element (HRE) that uses solder which melts at a specific temperature. Once the solder melts, the HRE assembly should separate from the sprinkler body so that water is free to flow from the sprinkler. The nickel-plating on the HRE for these particular Firematic brand sprinklers may prevent the solder from melting properly. This results in the HRE remaining intact, which may prevent these sprinklers from operating in a fire condition.

Firematic Sprinkler Devices manufactured the sprinklers from 1976 through 1979. These sprinklers are rated

160°F and can be identified by the following markings on the product: "Firematic," date and temperature rating.

Testing on samples received from the one location revealed that the HRE assembly did not operate as intended in approximately 14 percent of the samples tested. UL tested nickel-plated sprinklers from another location and found all samples operating satisfactorily. More test samples are needed before UL can reach a final conclusion.

UL is requesting additional field samples of these sprinklers for operational testing. Although only samples of the Model S & A rated 160°F have shown unacceptable results, the following additional models manufactured between 1967 and 1993 with ratings of 160°F, 212°F, 286°F and 360°F should also be tested: "D," TU-57, TP-57, TU-80, TU-29, TP-29, TU-39 and TP-39. These models use the same HRE as the S & A 160°F sprinklers.

Building owners or fire sprinkler contractors desiring to have installed sprinklers tested should remove representative sprinkler samples from the in-

stallation and send them to UL for testing. Building owners may wish to consult with their sprinkler contractor or Firematic for information regarding removal and replacement of the test samples before submitting sprinklers to UL for testing.

Once properly removed and packaged according to the instructions, sprinkler samples can be sent directly to Mr. Stephen Angeliu at Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL, 60062; phone: +1-847-664-3687; e-mail: stephen.j.angeliu@us.ul.com for operational testing.

In keeping with UL's not-for-profit, testing for public safety mission, UL will conduct these operational tests at no cost to the submitter during the course of UL's on-going investigation, with the exception of expenses related to sprinkler removal, replacement, shipping and handling.

Firematic Sprinkler Devices can be reached at 900 Boston Turnpike Shrewsbury, Mass., 01545; Phone: +1-800-225-7288; Fax: +1-508-842-3523.



Firematic Sprinklers Under UL Investigation.

"Although only samples of the Model S & A rated 160°F have shown unacceptable results, the following additional models manufactured between 1967 and 1993 with ratings of 160°F, 212°F, 286°F and 360°F should also be tested: "D," TU-57, TP-57, TU-80, TU-29, TP-29, TU-39 and TP-39."

New Specification Approved for the Fire Protection Engineering PE Exam in 2004

SFPE, Bethesda, MD—SFPE has responsibility for the development of the professional engineering licensure exam in fire protection engineering which is offered across the United States every year. Periodically, we are required by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying to review and update the specification for the exam (which describes what

types of problems should be asked on the exam), to ensure that the exam accurately reflects the current tasks performed by engineers and the knowledge needed to conduct those tasks.

In 2001, licensed SFPE members were asked to participate in a survey: the "Professional Activities and Knowledge Ques-

tionnaire," or "PAK Questionnaire." Respondents were asked to rate each of the tasks and knowledge areas in terms of their importance in the protection of health, safety and public welfare. The PAK questionnaire was developed by a committee of licensed engineers with a diverse distribution of age, gender, geographic

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New Specification Approved for the Fire Protection Engineering PE Exam in 2004 , Cont.

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location, practice size, years of education and years of practice. A detailed statistical analysis was performed on the responses to the PAK questionnaire. Another carefully balanced committee of SFPE members was formed to review the results of the statistical analysis to decide what should be tested on the FPE PE exam, and what percentage of the total number of problems on the exam should come from each area of practice. This new exam speci-

fication will take effect with the October 2004 FPE PE exam.

In some ways, this new specification is very similar to the specification that is the basis for the current FPE PE exam (available from http://www.ncees.org/professional/pp_fire). However, there are some notable differences. The percentage of the questions on the exam that will cover building systems has approximately doubled, while the percentage of questions on water-based

suppression systems has been reduced by approximately 50%.

However, and more remarkably, the percentage of the exam that is dedicated to hazard and risk analysis and the fundamental principles that support hazard and risk analysis (fire science and human behavior) has approximately tripled. This change speaks volumes about the maturation of fire protection engineering as a discipline



SFPE Professional Development Week Moves West

SFPE, Bethesda, MD—SFPE Spring Professional Development Week moves west to Las Vegas this March 24-27, 2003. All events will be held at the Hampton Inn Tropicana in Las Vegas, NV.

Continuing professional development is essential in today's fast changing workplace. To meet the demands of our members, allied professionals, and increasingly, state licensing boards, SFPE will be bringing Professional Development Week to the West Coast. Mark your calendars for the Week of March 24-27, 2003!

National SFPE members register for one event and receive a 50% discount on the registration for additional (less expensive) events! See www.sfpe.org for more details!

Outline:

Events to be held include:

- Principles of Fire Protection Engineering
- Sprinkler Design for Engineers
- Introduction to Fire Dynamics Simulator and Smokeview

- Fire Alarm Systems Design
- Changes to NFPA 72 and 13, 2002
- Tenability Systems for Smoke Management
- How to Study for the FPE/P.E. Exam and
- Performance-based Design and the Codes

President's Post

Greetings to all current, future, and past members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of SFPE. After many years in absence, I welcome each of you to the resurrected Flashpoint newsletter.

Like most of you, the end of summer has left me busy both at work and at home (and for me, it all occurs in the same

place!). However, with an experienced set of Chapter Officers, I have been diligently "learning the ropes" while striving to meet the developing needs of our membership and public.

The resurrection of the Flashpoint, the improved format of Meeting Notices, and the continued development of a dedi-

cated website are some of the communication goals that your Board has established for this year.

These improved communication formats will keep our membership informed of technical issues, events, and job openings. In addition, they also establish

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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

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NEW WEBSITE COMING
SOON!!

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. Local Chapter Membership is available 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 protection systems, and facility management.

President's Post, Cont.

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a vital link to the general public that the Society of Fire Protection Engineers is *the* technical society related to all aspects of fire protection and life safety.

One of my primary target audiences within the "general public" are members of the architectural and engineering communities. Educating the A/E industry in the basics of fire protection engineering is an important step in seeing improvements in the fire safety of the built environment. This is not to say that code/standard development is not important. But in the day to day realm of construction, it is the A/E industry which produces the construction documents, repre-

sents building owner interests, and oversees the meeting of many code requirements.

Indeed, regardless of whether you are in contracting, insurance, or work for a fire department, you are affected by the fire protection knowledge (or lack thereof) of the A/E. (i.e. an inadequate construction specification results in poor construction which results in an unfavorable property insurance survey)

The National Chapter has established an Allied Professional Program as a membership avenue for A/Es and others who do not solely practice Fire Protection Engineering, but wish to be involved in SFPE and receive FPE Magazine and other member benefits.

In this regard, I encourage you to invite architects, engineers, and others to our upcoming Chapter meetings.

Increasing the awareness of our discipline is a continuous process, and I look forward to working toward this goal this year.

Thank you for being a part of your local SFPE chapter. If you have comments, suggestions, or wish to get more involved in the Chapter, do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other Chapter Officers.

- Eric Tuazon
425.917.1683