

SFPE Chapter eNews Content:

- SFPE Welcomes Spain Chapter and University of Illinois Student Chapter
- Chicago Chapter Holds Spring Event
- Checking in with the Oklahoma Chapter
- NY Metro Chapter Participates in Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo
- NY Empire Chapter Set to Host Modern Fire Challenges & Tactical Considerations for Fire Department Operations
- SFPE Chapters Busy During Engineers Week
- Chicago Chapter Participates in DuPage County Engineers Week
- Chapter Excellence Awards Templates Now Available Online
- New Jersey SFPE-AFAA NJ 5th Annual Symposium and Trade Show
- SFPE Benelux Chapter Presents Seminar on the Trilogy of Fire Safety in Tunnels or Underground Infrastructures

SFPE Welcomes New SFPE Spain Chapter and University of Illinois Student Chapter

SFPE would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly formed Spain Chapter and the University of Illinois Student Chapter to our network of chapters supporting the SFPE mission all over the globe. Welcome aboard!

Chicago Chapter Holds Spring Event

On April 1st and 2nd, the SFPE Chicago Chapter hosted the first annual Spring Educational Seminar at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Northbrook, IL. The event brought together over 30 professionals and members of the SFPE Board of Directors. Five exceptional speakers – Robin Zevotek (UL), James Golinveaux (Tyco), Daniel Madrzykowski (National Institute of Standards and Technology), Skip Donnell (Liberty Mutual Insurance), and Andrew Cox (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives) – presented on the latest issues impacting the fire protection engineering industry.

Zevotek started the seminar by discussing recent research conducted by UL and the University of Maryland identifying precursors to residential stove top fires and how to most effectively utilize the precursors to provide early fire detection while preventing nuisance alarms. UL is currently conducting experiments to continue his work.

Golinveaux followed Zevotek and spoke about changes to water based protection methods in storage facilities and the changing technologies. His presentation provided a comparison of the FM and NFPA 13 system design requirements, including eye catching fire test videos. In the afternoon, Madrzykowski identified new challenges fire fighters are faced with as a result of modern home designs and modern furnishings and the time to flashover. New research presented and reviews of past incidents showed that commonly used ventilation tactics and delays in water application are detrimental to occupant and firefighter safety and can induce flashover in residential structures.

Wednesday morning began with Donnell's presentation on photovoltaic panels (PV). He spoke about possible causes of PV panel fires and the "blind event", the necessity of proper installation and maintenance, and the challenges the panels pose for firefighters. He concluded by explaining the lessons learned from four costly fire losses involving PV panels, including the recent Dietz and Watson fire in southern New Jersey.

The last presenter, Cox, discussed how compartment fire ventilation impacts burn patterns and fire investigator techniques to identify such incidents. Cox explained that it is a common assumption in fire investigation that the fire originated where the damage is most severe. But frequently, changes in ventilation during the various stages of a fire can move the flame front many feet away from the origin and toward the vent, damaging the compartment near

the vent more than near the origin. The seminar concluded with a tour of UL, provided by Christopher Gates.

In the next couple days, the presentations will be posted online. The Chicago Chapter would like to thank the speakers for their time, UL for providing the venue and a tour of their facilities, and lastly the attendees for supporting this new venture. It is our intent to make the Spring Educational Event an annual event. Our goal is to provide a local opportunity to learn more about and discuss emerging issues in fire protection and network with other professionals. We hope to see you next year at the seminar in Chicago.

- SFPE Chicago Chapter



Pictured – Andrew Cox (ATF), picture by Nicholas Ozog



Pictured – Daniel Madrzykowski (NIST), picture by Nicholas Ozog



Pictured – James Golinveaux (Tyco), picture by Nicholas Ozog



Pictured – Robin Zevotek (UL), picture by Nicole Testa Boston

Oklahoma Chapter

A task group of volunteers from OK SFPE has worked together to establish minimum standards for the practice of fire protection engineering within the State of Oklahoma. This task group is made up of individuals with experience as engineers, contractors, and authorities having jurisdiction. In July of 2013 SFPE approved the first draft based on its compliance with existing SFPE, NICET, and NSPE Position Statements. In August of 2013 OK SFPE began the open comment period among its members. Monthly OK SFPE meetings were held to discuss the standards; comments from these meetings were incorporated into the working draft.

The OK SFPE task group will present these draft standards to multiple organizations and associations in the State of Oklahoma in an attempt to gain industry consensus. Upon successful completion, the OK SFPE task group will present the standards to the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors for eventual adoption as an enforceable document.

Currently, the draft minimum standards have been approved by OK SFPE and are now being presented to other stakeholder organizations in Oklahoma. The task group is working to reconcile stakeholder organization comments with the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

To review the current draft minimum standards, background documentation, and the task group members, please visit the OK SFPE website at:
<http://sfpeoklahomachapter.wildapricot.org/> ("Resources à OK FP Standards").

NY Metro Chapter Participates in Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo

NY METRO Chapter President April Hammond-Berkol and Past Chapter President Jeff Kroutil Staff Exhibit Booth

On March 30, members from the [SFPE](#) New York Metro [Chapter](#) hosted a booth at the Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Exposition. The chapter provided copies of Careers in Fire

Protection Engineering to interested students.



The Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo is a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among students, college recruiters and technical industries with the goal of increasing the quantity and quality of students entering the engineering professions.

SFPE New York Empire Chapter to Host Modern Fire Challenges & Tactical Considerations for Fire Department Operations on May 10

The [New York Empire Chapter](#) of [SFPE](#) and SUNY Onondaga Community College are sponsoring/hosting a unique training opportunity for the fire service and fire protection industry on the challenges of the modern fireground and changes in tactics that are sweeping the modern fire service.

The instructor for this event will be Robin Zevotek, P.E. who is a member of the [SFPE Fire Service Committee](#) and a Research Engineer with the [UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute](#).

This FREE event will be held on May 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the SUNY OCC main campus, Storer Auditorium.

UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute

Modern Fire Challenges & Tactical Considerations for Fire Department Operations

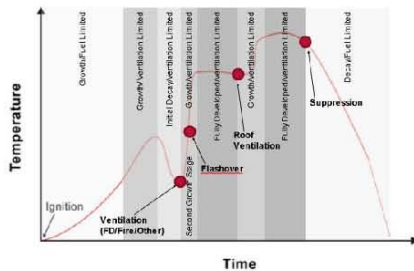
Saturday, May 10, 2014 • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. • Onondaga Community College, Storer Auditorium (Directions)

Robin Zevotek, P.E.

Research Engineer
UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute

The residential fire environment is changing. Over the past 50 years, materials found in residential structures have evolved from mostly natural fibers to almost all synthetic materials. The heat release rate of these materials yield much different compartment fire dynamics than taught in today's fire service training manuals. This hazard is compounded by changing building construction at rates which exceed the ability of codes and standards to keep up. In an effort to reduce this hazard, groups like NIST and UL are conducting research to develop tactical considerations for today's fire service. After conducting almost 100 test burns, these considerations provide tools for firefighters to address the changing environment they face on

today's fire ground. Understanding how things such as ventilation, compartmentation, construction practices, and staffing affect your incident action plan gives the best chance for success. After an overview of the changes in today's fire environment, Robin will discuss tactical considerations for controlling the flow path, softening the target, reading the smoke, pushing fire, and water application, all with examples from the most recent research results.



For inquiries please contact:

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SFPE Chapters Busy During Engineers Week

February 16-22 was Engineers Week and several SFPE chapters used this occasion to promote the profession of fire protection engineering. For example, at the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies' (HCES) Engineers Week Dinner Banquet on February 23, the [Hawaii Chapter](#) received the "Promotion of Engineering Award." The award was presented by the HCES for the exhibit which best promotes engineering to the general public. The Hawaii Chapter received this award for its exhibit, which was on display at the annual Engineers Week Exhibit at the Pearl Ridge Mall on February 22-24. More information can be found at <http://blog.sfpe.org/2014/02/sfpe-hawaii-chapter-wins-award-for-engineering-week-exhibit/>.

Members from the Chicago Chapter participated in the 30th Annual IIT West Engineers Week event held at the Rice Campus of Illinois Institute of Technology in Wheaton, IL on February 22. An estimated 1,500 students and their families attended the all-day event. More information can be found at <http://blog.sfpe.org/2014/03/sfpe-chicago-chapter-participates-dupage-county-engineers-week/>.

On February 23, members from the Central Virginia Chapter promoted the field of fire protection engineering to kids, parents, and teachers at the Celebrate Engineering Ingenuity Day. This [event](#) was sponsored by the Richmond Joint Engineers Council (RJEC) at the Science Museum of Virginia. The first 2-3 hours of the event included an open house/exhibition where engineering societies hosted booths to showcase their profession to the kids and parents. This was called Career Day, although the kids were mostly elementary and middle school aged. The SFPE Central Virginia Chapter staffed an exhibit booth for the Career Day portion of the event. It was well-stocked with handouts (thank you for the magazines and DVDs) including the Chemistry of Fire DVDs, Careers in FPE Magazine, salary summaries, and of course candy. More information can be found at <http://blog.sfpe.org/2014/02/sfpe-central-virginia-chapter-promotes-fire-protection-engineering-at-celebrate-engineering-ingenuity-day/>.

SFPE Chicago Chapter Participates in DuPage County Engineers Week



Members from the Chicago Chapter of the SFPE participated in the 30th Annual IIT West Engineers Week event held at the Rice Campus of Illinois Institute of Technology in Wheaton, IL on February 22.



An estimated 1,500 students and their families attended the all-day event.



More information can be found at <http://www.chicagosfpe.org/newsletter/chapternews.htm>.



Reminder: Start Completing Your Chapter Excellence Award Templates

The Chapter Excellence Award Templates are now available online to fill out. The deadline to submit your template to SFPE Headquarters is **July 31**. Please note that there are separate templates for US based and non-US based chapters. Any questions about the template submissions should be sent to Sean Kelleher at skelleher@sfpe.org. To access the template please [click here](#).

New Jersey SFPE-AFAA NJ 5th Annual Symposium and Trade Show

The NJSFPE and the AFAANJ look forward to seeing you again at this year's symposium. If this is your first time you will be surprised as to the level of the technical programs and information available from our generous vendors. This year's topic is **"Learning From the Past to Protect the Future."** We will have forensic presentations that will reveal shortcuts taken leading to systems not functioning properly. Wayne Moore will be presenting *"Have We Learned From The Past?"* - a look at historical fire protection initiatives - and will present a view on present day code requirements with a look at the credibility and reliability of our installed fire protection and alarm systems to determine what progress we have really made. We will also be presenting some new technologies during the afternoon 'B' sessions. Attendees will be given handout copies of all presentation at sign-in between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.

Thursday April 17, 2014

Continental Breakfast sponsored by the Vendors 7:30 - 8:30am

Morning Speakers will be Jerry Naylis and Wayne Moore, P.E. FSFPE

8:30 - 10:00am & 10:00 - 11:30 am

Trade Show hosted by the Vendors 11:30- 12:30 pm

Lunch with the Vendors 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Afternoon A 1:30-3:00pm	Afternoon B-1 1:30-3:00pm
John Drucker	James "Andy" Lynch
Afternoon A-2 3:00-4:30pm	Afternoon B-2 3:00-4:30pm
Rich Silvia	Technical Presentation TBD

You may attend either A or B sessions

[Get more information](#)

[Register Now!](#)

If you are a PE or AIA in NY or NJ .6 CEUs will be awarded if you sign in and provide an evaluation at the end of the presentations. CPDs will be awarded for NICET or NJ State Permits at 6 CPDs with sign- in and evaluation at sign- out. For any credit you must be present for the whole symposium.

SFPE Benelux Chapter Presents Seminar on the Trilogy of Fire Safety in Tunnels or Underground Infrastructures

The SFPE Benelux Chapter will present their third and final seminar on "Fire Safety in Tunnels and Underground Infrastructures" which will be held on **9 May** at Brussels Mobility, CCN Building level +1, 5 (just above the North Railway station in Brussels). The aim of the day is to present practical cases of different underground projects in Benelux and surrounding countries. For more information on how to register please e-mail Fabienne Poot Baudier at fpb@anpi.be.