



FIRE BUCKET

September, 2025



A publication of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

[SFPECOC Web Site](https://sfpe-centralohio.square.site/)

Next Meeting

Date: September 10, 2025

Location: TAT Ristorante Di Famiglia
1210 S James Rd, Columbus, OH 43227



Speaker: Jeff Merwin Director of Business Development Potter Electric Signal Company

Topic: Automation in Sprinkler Testing

Cost: \$25.00 (Members)
\$30.00 (Non-members)

Make Reservations with:
Cory Blair
cblair@gbsalarm.com
614-702-1607

Reservations Deadline: Friday September 5,
2025 – 5:00 P.M.

Everyone who plans to attend, including pre-paid members, must make a reservation and check-in at the meeting.

Meeting fees can be paid online at <https://sfpe-centralohio.square.site/>

SFPE - Central Ohio Chapter On-Line Payment Center

The site works in Chrome, Edge and on iPhone. It does not work on Internet Explorer.

Annual Chapter Dues

The annual chapter dues are \$20. The dues are used to support the chapter operations and promote our chapter. The annual membership runs from September to September. The meetings do not carry over from year to year.

We also offer a One-Pay option. For \$120, you get your annual dues and the 5 chapter meetings. You must pay the full \$120.00 with this membership application or renewal to take advantage of this program.

You can pay your annual dues on our Chapter On-Line Payment Center. This secure site is operated by Square. Click here to go to the site.

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Future Meetings

Chapter Meetings

Date: November 12, 2025 - TBD

Date: January, 14, 2025 – TBD

Date: March, 11, 2025 - TBD

Golf Outings

Burn Center Outing – September 22, 2025

SFPE – Burn Center Outing

The 36th Annual Burn Center Outing will be held Monday September 22, 2025 at The Medallion Club. The outing is sold out with a total of 204 golfers.

Although we are sold out, you can still make a donation by going the registration site:

[The 36th Annual Burn Center Golf Outing](#)

Last year's outing generated a **\$70,000** donation.

Thanks to all of those who participate.

Information is posted on our chapter web site
[Burn Center Page](#)

SFPE COC Names Lifetime Members

The Borad of the Central Ohio Chapter voted to name five members as Lifetime Members. These people have been influential in the development and growth and provided exceptional service to our chapter. The Lifetime Members are:

Dick Weitzel
Gerald Tulga
Bruce Larcomb
John Falk
Phil Gentile

Dick Weitzel, Gerald Tulga, and Bruce Larcomb

were the first three Chapter Presidents and heavily involved in developing the chapter. John Falk was also one of the original members and has been the chapter Treasure since 1983. Phil Gentile became President in 1986 and was heavily involved in the Chapter until he passed in 2010.

John Falk to Retire as Chapter Treasurer

John Falk has announced his retirement as the chapter Treasurer. John was one of the founding members of the chapter and has served as the Treasurer since 1983. The chapter is grateful for is 42 years of service.



If you see John, please thank him for his years of service to our chapter.

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Engineering a fire-safe world since 1950. Headquartered near Washington, DC, and in Brussels, BE, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers is the world's leading professional society for fire protection and fire safety engineering.

5500+	98	26	72
SFPE Members	Chapters	Student Chapters	Countries

To join the National Chapter, click on the link:
[Join/Renew](#)

SFPE 2025 Annual Conference & Expo

[Source: SFPE](#)

Starts: Oct 21, 2025 17:00 (ET)

Ends: Oct 23, 2025 17:30 (ET)

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), the world's leading professional society for fire protection and fire safety engineering, welcomes you to the SFPE Annual Conference & Expo, being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from October 21-23, 2025.



Participate in two days of live education spotlighting the latest trends, research, solutions for emerging challenges, and technologies transforming the fire protection engineering profession. Join industry experts and enjoy many networking opportunities to connect with your peers. Exhibitors will showcase the latest technologies, products and services currently offered within the industry.

For more information and to register, you can visit [here](#).

Charge into Fire Safety!

[Source: NFPA](#)

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign, October 5-11, "**Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,**" works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely. The campaign stresses how important it is to [BUY, CHARGE, and](#)

[RECYCLE](#) safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.



Charge into Fire Safety: 3 Steps

Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

Experiments Studying Fire Blanket Effectiveness to Control Electric Vehicle Fires are Completed

[Source: UL Research Institute](#)

Researchers from the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of [UL Research Institutes](#), continued work on the [Fire Safety](#)

[of Batteries and Electric Vehicles](#) research project. In this third phase of experiments, researchers simulated two electric vehicle (EV) fire scenarios: one in which a fire blanket is deployed with no water suppression (e.g., where water is not available, or well in advance of water suppression) and another in which the blanket is deployed with initial and ongoing water suppression.

Exploring Multiple EV Fire Scenarios

Following a review of U.S. and international standard operating procedures with guidance from the project's [technical panel](#), researchers designed experiments evaluating the two most common ways the fire service deploys a fire blanket during an EV fire incident. One experiment set focused on using a fire blanket to control the EV fire without water suppression. The other experiment set focused on the use of a fire blanket in combination with water suppression using an under-car type EV nozzle to control the fire.

These experiments will answer critical research questions:

- Are fire blankets effective at controlling an EV fire until water arrives?
- Can fire blankets slow or stop thermal runaway propagation when the battery pack is involved?
- Does suppressing the cabin fire before blanket deployment improve blanket effectiveness?
- How does water suppression combined with blanket deployment impact thermal runaway propagation?
- When should fire blankets be removed?
- What is the post-deployment condition of fire blankets?



EV Fire Blanket Experiment Setup and Data Collection

Researchers completed a total of four (4) tests using two (2) EV models, selected based on their performance in previous [water suppression experiments](#) that evaluated hose stream effectiveness. Each scenario was tested one time on both EV models. Before the experiments, each EV battery pack was charged to 100% to induce a severe thermal runaway propagation behavior. Researchers placed a premixed burner below the lithium-ion battery pack to apply a consistent heat source and induce a thermal failure in the battery cells. This burner remained in operation until the battery pack heated enough to trigger thermal runaway propagation. After propagating thermal runaway was confirmed, six (6) minutes were allowed to pass to simulate a standard fire department response time. After six (6) minutes the fire blanket was deployed and left in place until experiment termination, while temperature, flame spread, gas species, and blanket condition were monitored. The same procedure was followed for the fire blanket with water suppression tests; however, this time, researchers positioned an EV nozzle below the vehicle when the fire blanket was deployed. Again, temperature, flame spread, gas species, and blanket condition were monitored until experiment termination.

For the complete store [Click Here](#)

Massive fire and explosion at Louisiana auto supply plant forces evacuations

Source: The Independent

An explosion at a Louisiana auto supply plant resulted in a massive blaze and a billowing black plume of smoke, as authorities ordered people to evacuate the area.

Everyone living within a mile of Smitty's Supply, just north of Roseland, was told to leave their homes on Friday evening after the blast.



The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office wrote on X that there is "no timeline for lifting as business explosion and fire continues to be active."

Video captured by local outlet WBRZ showed bright orange flames burning through the plant that produces oils and auto fluids, contrasted with the dark smoke filling the air.

A nearby highway intersection was closed as more than 35 agencies responded to the fire, including the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, according to authorities and multiple reports.



There are a number of articles on line. For this article [Click Here.](#)

Final Grenfell Anniversary Before Tower Comes down

Source: BBC

Bereaved families, survivors and local residents will come together in west London this weekend to remember the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.

The Met Police investigation into what led to the "[avoidable](#)" tragedy in 2017 which claimed the lives of 72 people – 18 of whom were children - is still ongoing .

In a few months' time, work will begin to [take down the 23-storey building](#), so this year's eighth anniversary will be especially poignant. Many families and survivors believe the tower should stay until there are criminal prosecutions while some local residents say they find it difficult to see every day.



For the entire article, [Click Here](#)

Netflix Documentary Grenfell: Uncovered

Grenfell: Uncovered, premiered on Netflix on June 20. The film gives voice to victims, reveals behind-the-scenes details of the investigation, and exposes how corporate interests and government failures contributed to the disaster. But what exactly happened that night—and what followed?

[Watch Grenfell: Uncovered | Netflix Official Site](#)



Electrostatic discharge caused an explosion and fire of flammable liquid vapors.

Source: YouTube – Wolff Global



Click on the picture for a quick video showing the power of static electricity.

Central Ohio Chapter Officers

Bob Fischer – President
Viking SupplyNet
Phone: 440-463-0720
E-mail: bfischer@supplynet.com

Cory Blair - Vice President
Genesis Building Systems
E-mail: cblair@gbsalarm.com
614-702-1607

Jim DiMarzo - Treasurer , Golf Outing Chair
Industrial Sales Co.
E-Mail: jdimarzo@industrialsalesco.com

Bill Laing – Secretary
Fishbeck
E-mail: wmlaing@fishbeck.com
Phone: 614.363.1002

DIRECTORS

Phil Sisia – Past President
McKeever & Niekamp Electric, Inc.
Phone 937-431-9363
E-mail: PhilipS@mnelectric.biz

Chad Miller – Board Member
S.A. Comunale
Phone: 614-291-7001
E-mail: Chad.Miller@comunale.com

Ryan Oyster – Board Member, Backup
Treasure
Johnson Controls
Phone: 614-374-5727
E-mail: ryan.oyster@jci.com

Juston Howell – Board Member
Williams Fire
E-mail: jhowell.wfa@gmail.com

Carl Sellke – Board Member
Industrial Sales Co.
Phone: 614-882-1916
E-Mail: csellke@industrialsalesco.com

Mark Bowman – Fire Bucket Editor
AXA XL Risk Consulting
E-Mail: mark.bowman@axaxl.com

Lifetime Member

Dick Weitzel (Deceased)
Gerald Tulga
Bruce Larcomb
John Falk
Phil Gentile (Deceased)

The FIRE BUCKET is published as a free forum for its members. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Central Ohio Chapter, or its Editor.



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Central Ohio Chapter

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER OF SFPE

☐ NEW☐ RENEWAL

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ARE YOU A NATIONAL MEMBER IN SFPE? ☐ YES ☐ NO

The annual are \$20. We also offer a One-Pay option. For \$120, you get you annual dues and the 5 chapter meetings. You must pay the full \$120.00 with this membership application or renewal to take advantage of this new program. Annual membership runs from September to September and the meetings do not carry over from year to year. Membership in the Chapter includes the member fee for meetings, and a subscription to *The Fire Bucket*, our Chapter's Newsletter

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PLEASE EMAIL APPLICATION TO: Ryan Oyster – Board Member
Johnson Controls
E-mail: ryan.oyster@jci.com

Applications can be submitted at the next meeting. Please complete a new application every year, so we can keep our database current. Dues run from September 1st to August 31st of each calendar year.

If paying by check, please make check payable to *Central Ohio Chapter, SFPE*.