



# FIRE BUCKET



January 2018

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

[SFPECOC.Webs.com](http://SFPECOC.Webs.com)

## Next Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday January 10, 2018

**Location:** Spaghetti Warehouse – 397 West Broad St. Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Speaker:** Jeff Jackson – Technical Sales Representative - Pentair (Erico / Caddy)

**Meeting:** Seismic Bracing of Fire Protection Systems

**Time:**

Registration 11:15 – 11:30 am

Lunch at 11:30 am

Program 12:15 pm

**Cost:** \$20.00 (Members)

\$25.00 (Non-members)

No cost to one-pay members. However, reservations are required.

Reservations Deadline: January 8, 2018, 4 pm

Contact: Mike Lyons  
mlyons@d8fire.com  
614-207-7590

## Future Meetings

March 14, 2018

May 9, 2018

June 29, 2018 – Phil Gentile Golf Outing

September 17, 2018 – Burn Center Outing

## Thomas O'Connor

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Tom O'Connor. Tom was the President of the Central Ohio Chapter of SFPE from 1989-1991. He was also served as our Secretary and Vice President before becoming President.



He was a graduate of Northeastern University, worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, and finished his career as a Fire Protection Engineer at American Electric Power in Columbus.

The Chapter made a donation to the Assistance Lead of Metro Columbus in memory of Tom. The Assistance League mission is to provide support for children, schools, the aged, and victims of assault.

## SFPE Burn Center Donation

At our November meeting, we presented a check for \$30,000 to the OSU Burn Center. Dr. Larry Jones, MD accepted the donation on behalf of the burn unit. This year's event is planned for September 17, 2018. Details will be available in the spring.



**Christmas tree disposal**

Source: NFPA.org

Christmas trees are combustible items that become increasingly flammable as they continue to dry out in your home. Nearly 40 percent of home fires that begin with Christmas trees occur in January. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur they're much more likely to be serious.



**Statistics**

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 200 structure fires per year that began with Christmas trees in 2011-2015. These fires caused an annual average of 6 civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and \$14.8 million in direct property damage.
- On average, one of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are much more likely to be deadly than most other fires.
- Four of every five Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January.
- In one-quarter (26%) of the Christmas tree fires and 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.

**Put a Freeze on Winter Fires**

Source: NFPA.org

**Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!**

**Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of** December, January, February

**Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 7 reported home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths.**

**Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source** like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.

**Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

**Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible from your home.**

**Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.**

**Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.**

**Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.**

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).



*Click on picture to go to web site*

**Explosion/Fire at Hebron area business**

Source: NBC4i

HEBRON, Ohio (WCMH) – Multiple fire crews and a hazmat crew are responding to a large structure fire in Hebron, Ohio.

The two-alarm fire was reported at 581 Milliken Drive just before 12:30 am.

The Hebron Solvent Recycling Services, part of the Clean Harbors Environmental waste management service, is housed in the building.

According to their website, the plant works with recycling “spent industrial solvents.”

They also provide fuel blending and wastewater treatment.

According to Hebron Fire Captain Ryan Wyse, there was an explosion and fire at the plant. He said the fire took about 15 minutes to contain, and crews did find a little remaining fire after sweeping the building.

The building reportedly has adequate fire suppression systems, including foam.

Fire crews have been backed out and the hazmat team has been sent in to investigate. Officials believe there is no danger to the public at this time, but say firefighters are taking all precautions necessary to avoid dangers from chemicals and structural damage caused by the fire and explosion.

The Licking County 911 Center says there have been no injuries reported at this time.



Explosion reported at Hebron area business

***Building use and the importance of owner's certificates in sprinkler system design***

[Source: Matt Klaus – NFPA.org](http://NFPA.org)

One of the most common questions that I'm asked when I'm teaching new sprinkler system designers is "where do I start?" Most designers want to jump right into selecting sprinklers or analyzing the water supply. While those steps are certainly the meat and potatoes of the design process, the real starting point is the review of the owner's certificate.

When we consider the key players in the design and installation of a sprinkler system, most of us jump right to engineers, designers, and installing contractors. What is often missed is that all of the work done by these individuals is based on the owner providing direction on what hazards will be present and how the building will be used. Since the owner (or a representative of the owner or project development team) is not often thought of as an integral part of the design process, the owner's certificate is often an afterthought, and in some cases not considered at all.

One of the reasons this starting point is skipped is because many people don't know where to look for the section in NFPA 13, Installation of Sprinkler Systems, that requires it. When I ask even the most seasoned designers to name at least one of the requirements found in Chapter 4 of NFPA 13, I'm often greeted by blank stares or by the sight of a lot of people looking at the ceiling in search of an answer. That's because Chapter 4 is one of the shortest chapters in the standard and is often brushed off as it pertains to "general requirements." While this chapter is fairly limited, it does contain the requirement for the owner to outline what will be in the building, which is critical for the development of the hazard and/or commodity assessment outlined in Chapter 5.

In many cases, the designer or engineer will simply get drawings from an architect or some other member of the design team and start reading off the room labels. They will read labels like "office space," "conference room," and "library," and start assigning occupancy classes from the annex of Chapter 5. But does reading a single word off of a schematic design plan really tell the designer what is happening in that particular area of the proposed building? More likely than not, it allows designers to fill in the blanks in their own minds about what they think an "office" or "library" is. It's these kinds of leaps in the design process that make an owner's certificate necessary. It allows the system designer to leave their preconceptions of what an "office" is behind so they can focus on the specific office they're being asked to protect on any given project.



Due to the lack of scrutiny over these owner’s certificates, I have seen some that offer almost no guidance and provide the designer with little to go on to assist them in accurately assigning occupancies classifications. In these instances, it is imperative that designers push back and get the information they need. If you look at the requirements of Chapter 5 and the definitions of light, ordinary, and extra-hazard occupancies, they contain concepts like material combustibility, fuel arrangement, and maximum stockpile thresholds. If the owner’s certificate does not provide sufficient information to assist the designer in applying these definitions, how can the designer feel comfortable with their final assessment? In the same way that plan reviewers must “train” designers to put plans together the way they want to see them, designers must “train” the owner to provide information in a way that allows for the most efficient and effective system design possible.

Retaining and giving the appropriate consideration to the information on the owner’s certificate can also help keep designers out of trouble. As a designer, you do not want to enter litigation having either ignored the information provided on the owner’s certificate or having received a certificate with vague or ambiguous information without having asked for additional criteria that would assist in the proper occupancy classification.

**MATT KLAUS is NFPA technical services lead for fire protection engineering.**

**SFPE Seeking Volunteers**

[Source: SFPE.org](http://SFPE.org)



Volunteers are at the heart of SFPE’s work. Without volunteers’ time and expertise, SFPE simply could not provide the essential technical standards and guidelines, information and tools, vibrant community, and exceptional experiences that we all value so highly. Together, we accomplish remarkable things

and are moving the fire protection engineering profession forward throughout the world. The following committees are actively seeking volunteers for the following:

- Continuing Professional Development
- Membership and Chapter Relations
- Outreach and Advocacy
- Professional Qualifications
- Research, Tools & Methods

To fulfill our vision of being the leaders in engineering a fire-safe world, we need the best skills, passion and varied perspectives to build an energetic, inclusive and innovative corps of volunteer leaders.

You may [review detailed opportunities online](#). If there is an opportunity that interests you, complete and submit the Standing Committee Volunteer form to indicate your interest in lending your expertise to this collective effort. You should select which committee you are requesting to serve on. Once approved by the Board of Directors, you will be assigned to a specific subcommittee or task group by the Committee Chair. All appointments are for three years.

**The Coolest And Most Iconic Water Towers**

[Source: Watercheck.biz](http://Watercheck.biz)

Leaning Tower Of Niles (Niles, Illinois) - This water tower is a half-size replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Built in 1934 by Robert Ilg, its original purpose was to store water for outdoor recreational swimming pools.



Coffee Cup Water Tower (Stanton, Iowa) - Originally there was only a Coffee Pot water tower, honoring Virginia Christine, spokeswoman for Folgers Coffee. The Coffee Cup water tower was erected in 1996 to supplement the pot. It holds 150,000 of water, which makes a bunch of coffee!



Brooks Catsup Bottle Water Tower (Collinsville, Illinois) - Built in 1949 to supply water to the nearby Brooks catsup plant, this water tower is known as the biggest catsup bottle in the world.



Watermelon Water Tower (Luling Texas) - This 154 feet high and 56 feet in diameter spectacle crowns the town known for its Watermelon Thump Festival, held annually the last week of June.



Circleville Pumpkin Water Tower (Circleville, Ohio) - The town built this pumpkin-designed water tower to commemorate their annual pumpkin festival, which is one of the biggest festivals in the United States.



Old Forester water tower at Brown-Forman Headquarters in Louisville, KY



## **Join the National Society of Fire Protection Engineers**

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) is the professional organization that represents fire protection engineers worldwide. Through its membership of over 5,000 professionals and 63 chapters, SFPE advances the science and practice of fire protection engineering internationally.



For more information, visit <http://www.sfpe.org/GetInvolved/Membership/Join.aspx>.

### **Web Links**

SFPE Central Ohio Chapter  
[www.sfpecoc.webs.com](http://www.sfpecoc.webs.com)

Society of Fire Protection Engineers (National) [www.sfpe.org](http://www.sfpe.org)

American Fire Sprinkler Association  
[www.firesprinkler.org](http://www.firesprinkler.org)

ICC Website  
[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

National Fire Sprinkler Association  
[www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

N.I.C.E.T.  
[www.nicet.org](http://www.nicet.org)

Ohio State Fire Marshal  
[www.com.state.oh.us/sfm](http://www.com.state.oh.us/sfm)

OSU Fire Safety Website  
[www.firesafety.osu.edu](http://www.firesafety.osu.edu)

Underwriters Laboratories  
[www.UL.com](http://www.UL.com)

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: We will be sending out all Chapter information via e-mail.

ARE YOU A NATIONAL MEMBER IN SFPE?      YES      NO

Annual dues for the Central Ohio Chapter of SFPE are \$20 and \$10 for Retirees. You can pay a single/one-time fee and receive ALL five of the regular scheduled chapter meetings and your local membership dues all for ONLY \$98.00. This is a savings for the year of \$22.00. You must pay the full \$98.00 with this membership application or renewal to take advantage of this new program. 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 make check payable to *Central Ohio Chapter, SFPE*. 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 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.

**September 2017 – August 2018**