



FIRE BUCKET

September, 2026



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 9, 2026

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



Time: Registration 11:15 – 11:30 am
Lunch at 11:45 am
Program 12:00 pm

Speaker: Mike Taylor, E.I. Regional Sales
Manager Engineered Corrosion Solutions

Topic: Science of Pipe Corrosion and
Mitigation Strategies.

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

Make Reservations with:
Josh Keller
JKeller1@SummitFireConsulting.com
614-623-6970

Reservations Deadline: Friday September 4 ,
2026 – 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.

Future Meetings

Chapter Meetings

November 11, Combustible Dust Hazards and
Explosion Protection

January 13, Science of Wildfires

March 10, WES3 Temporary Wireless Fire
Alarm Systems

May 12, Tour of Sutphen Fire Truck Facility

Golf Outings

Burn Center Outing – September 21, 2026

New Board Members

During our May meeting, a new slate of officers
was elected. The new members are as follows:

Cory Blair - President

Josh Keller – Vice President

Jim DiMarzo - Treasurer, Golf Outing Chair

Bill Laing – Secretary

Bob Fischer – Past President

Phil Sisia – Board Member

Chad Miller – Board Member
Ryan Oyster – Board Member, Backup
Treasure
Juston Howell – Board Member
Carl Sellke – Board Member

Thanks to all who have stepped to serve our chapter. If you are interested in becoming a board member or volunteering to help the chapter, please contact one of the board members.

Ohio's AFFF Takeback Program **Information for Fire Service**

[Source: Ohio Department of Commerce](#)

Following the successful destruction of more than 13,500 gallons of toxic firefighting foam, Ohio's Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Takeback Program is launching a second round to help communities safely dispose of additional material.

While AFFF is a critical tool for airports and fire departments in battling flammable liquid fires, it comes with an environmental risk. AFFF contains high concentrations of PFAS compounds, also known as "forever" chemicals, which resist natural degradation and can contaminate our water, soil, and air.



We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to safely and responsibly dispose of your AFFF stockpiles at no cost.

Complete details can be found by [clicking here](#)

West Jefferson Amazon facility **evacuated due to fire**

[Source: WBNS](#)

Dozens of solar panels caught on fire on the roof of an Amazon facility in West Jefferson, which prompted an evacuation on Wednesday.

According to West Jefferson Police Chief Brandon Smith, several agencies responded to a report of a structure fire at the Amazon facility located at 1550 W. Main St around 12:10 p.m.



Crews confirmed that there was a fire on the roof of the building and began battling the blaze. The West Jefferson Police Department and Madison County Sheriff's Office helped evacuate employees from the facility. Smith said that the fire was contained.

The extent of the damage is unknown. Jefferson Township Fire Chief Dan Gatley said about 75-100 solar panels caught on fire.

Officials say sprinklers at **California medical equipment** **warehouse didn't work during** **blaze**

[Source: AP](#)

Firefighters responding to a [blaze that destroyed](#) a massive medical equipment warehouse in Northern California that was still burning a day later were hindered by sprinklers

and hydrants that weren't working, authorities said Friday.

The 1 million-square-foot (93,000-square-meter) warehouse in Tracy, a city about 55 miles (88.5 kilometers) east of San Francisco, supplied medical equipment to area hospitals. It's owned by Medline, a major medical-surgical products provider of medical equipment such as latex gloves, masks, surgical instruments. Smoke billowed Friday from the blaze that sent embers flying for miles, as firefighters continued to put out hot spots and city crews cleaned debris from nearby streets.



Authorities said they don't yet know why the water system failed during the blaze but it appeared to be a problem with the facility's system, not city supply.

Local fire codes generally require large warehouses to have hydrants and sprinklers and ensure both are functioning, said Brian O'Connor, a licensed fire protection engineer with the National Fire Protection Association. "If you have a large facility, it can be difficult for firefighters to stretch a hose from the closest public hydrant to the building," he said.

Crews responding to the blaze that broke out around 1 p.m. Thursday encountered flames on the roof and noticed no water coming out of the building's sprinklers, Tracy Deputy Fire Chief Brian Bagley said. A fire official found a pump was pushing little to no water through both the sprinklers and on-site hydrants, he said.

Firefighters were forced to try to connect to city hydrants instead. The building was engulfed by fire within 40 minutes, Bagley said.

"It's very, very challenging," Bagley told reporters. "You can imagine it's a skyscraper laying on its side."



He said firefighters have gained ground on the blaze they are battling in windy and low humidity conditions with temperatures that reached 95 degrees Friday.

"The density and the volume of smoke has changed drastically from this morning. The smoke is a lot lighter and not quite traveling as far," he said, adding that the wind was helping the smoke move away from residential areas.

Ohio State Fire Marshal Festival

[Source: Fire Marshal Facebook Experience Columbus](#)

Bring the whole family to the Ohio State Fire Marshal Festival for a day filled with exciting demonstrations, hands-on experiences, family attractions, and public-safety fun. The festival takes place Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Ohio State Fire Marshal Campus in Reynoldsburg.

Watch MedFlight and Air Evac helicopters arrive for landing demonstrations, see the aircraft up close, and step inside for a memorable experience. Families can also explore fire trucks and emergency vehicles during Touch-a-Truck, featuring West Licking Fire District, Violet Township Fire Department and Truro Township Fire Department.

The day will also include Harrison Farm Petting Zoo, inflatables, the Kiddy Combat Challenge, face painting, caricature artists, a K-9 demonstration and appearances by Sparky the Fire Dog and Boots the Mouse. Guests can meet firefighters and public-safety professionals while exploring interactive exhibits and activities focused on fire prevention, emergency preparedness and safety.

Food vendors will be available throughout the festival, making it easy to spend the day learning, exploring and creating family memories. Follow the Ohio State Fire Marshal Facebook page for festival updates and attraction announcements.



California Blaze Sheds Light on Two Major Modern Fire Safety Hazards in Warehouses

[Source: NFPA](#)

A fire that has been burning for several days in Los Angeles is a stark reminder of the fire, electrical, and life safety hazards of modern warehouses.

The blaze began on June 17 at a cold storage facility in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of L.A. While an official cause of the fire has yet to be announced, speculation has centered on the

solar photovoltaic (PV) system installed on the building rooftop. In a statement released in the days following the start of the fire, representatives of the company that owns the building, Lineage Logistics, said the fire likely started while a subcontractor was servicing the rooftop solar panels.

Regardless of the exact cause of the fire, the incident involves two major and growing hazards in modern commercial properties, especially warehouses: cold storage and PV systems.

Similar to cold storage, the use of solar PV installations in commercial properties has also grown rapidly over the past several years. This is being driven largely by global goals associated with renewable energy.

A 2023 global workshop co-organized by NFPA and the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF), the research affiliate of NFPA, found that the presence of solar panels at a facility can influence fire ignition risk, fuel load, and fire behavior.

“Initial findings indicate that risk related to the installation of PV panels is not only associated with increased fire load and possibility of ignition, but also with how a fire develops on a roof,” according to the published findings from the workshop. “This change in fire behavior may increase the extent and speed of the fire spread and thus also the intensity of fires. At the same time, the presence of electrically charged PV modules poses an additional challenge for firefighters dealing with such rooftop fires.”



This seems to be the exact experience of LAFD firefighters during the Boyle Heights blaze. “The nature of a solar panel is it’s still working to conduct electricity, so it’s very dangerous for our firefighters,” an LAFD spokesperson told ABC 7 News on the day the fire broke out. Given the dangers of the PV panels—plus the building access challenges posed by the cold storage insulation—the spokesperson said LAFD had been using rare aerial water drops to fight the fire, similar to how wildfires are often controlled.

For the full story, [Click Here](#)

California fire wipes out toilet paper warehouse that served 50M people

Source: [USA Today](#)

A raging fire believed to be arson wiped out a 1.2 million-square-foot tissue paper warehouse in California that serves the needs of roughly 50 million people, authorities said April 8.



The six-alarm blaze in Ontario, California, happened at a warehouse leased by personal care and hygiene giant Kimberly-Clark early in the morning. There were no injuries to the roughly 20 employees who were in the building at the time of the fire, according to Fox 11 Los Angeles.

But the blaze “risks West Coast supply shortages for more than 3% of sales” at Kimberly-Clark’s US business and could raise transportation costs, according to a note from Diana Gomes, a Bloomberg Intelligence senior

industry analyst, according to the trade publication Insurance

According to the department, initial units arriving at 12:36 a. m. on April 7 “encountered a well-established fire” at Kimberly-Clark’s 1.2-million-square-foot concrete tilt-up warehouse. Firefighters first tried to fight the rapidly growing blaze from within the bowels of the structure, but were ultimately pushed out by the extreme heat. They then transitioned to an external attack, attempting to douse the fire with “high-volume master streams,” the department said.



Editor’s Note: Various internet reports indicate the warehouse was protected by an ESFR sprinkler system. However, it was overwhelmed due to numerous fires being set at the same time.

The Hero Gets the Bonus. The Engineer Gets the Lecture

Source: [LinkedIn - Chief Executives: AI Strategy, Enterprise ROI & Scale](#)
[Jafar Shareef](#)

We celebrate the employee who pulls an all-nighter to fix a crisis. We reward the leader who swoops in to save the day. But what about the one who built the system that prevented the crisis from happening in the first place?

The paradox is clear:

🔥 Firefighting is visible. It’s dramatic. It looks like leadership.

⚙️ Prevention is invisible. It's quiet. It looks like overhead.

Yet every time we reward the firefighter and ignore the engineer, we are implicitly telling our teams: "Create chaos, and you'll be noticed. Prevent it, and you'll be forgotten."

That's how you build a culture of heroic burnout, not sustainable excellence.

Real leadership isn't celebrating the hero. It's asking: "Who made sure the fire never started?"

And then rewarding them accordingly.

💬 Have you ever been the "Engineer" in a culture that celebrates "Heroes"?

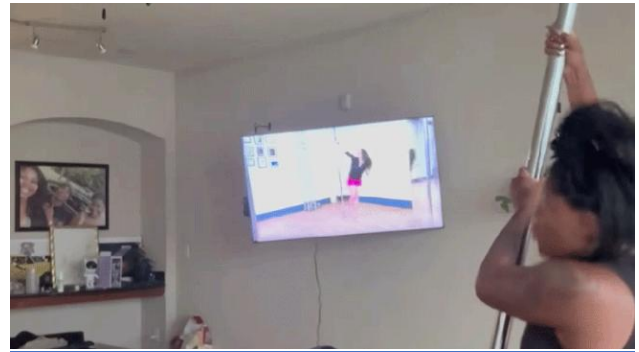


Houston woman floods apartment after dance pole hits fire sprinkler amid practice

[Source: Fox 26](#)

HOUSTON - A Houston woman accidentally flooded her apartment after a dance pole came loose from the ceiling during a practice session

and struck a fire sprinkler, sending water pouring through the unit.



Gilbert captured the entire incident on her phone as it happened.

The video shows the pole slowly falling before hitting and activating the sprinkler system.

SFPE 2026 Annual Conference & Expo



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 Atlanta, USA from October 6-8, 2026.

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. A post-conference evaluation for the 2025 SFPE Annual Conference in Vancouver showed that 98% of survey respondents would recommend the conference to their colleagues. [Click Here](#) for more information.

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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 _____

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

- The annual chapter dues are \$25. The chapter year runs September to August
- The meeting cost for members is \$25 which includes your meal.
- The meeting cost for nonmembers is \$30 which includes your meal
- The chapter offers a one-pay option that covers the cost of dues, 5 chapter meetings and meals. This one pay option costs \$135 for the year

Payments of dues, chapter meetings and one pay options can be made on our site operated by Square
<https://sfpe-centralohio.square.site/>

You can bring this application to a meeting or return via email to:

Jim DiMarzo
Treasurer Central Ohio Chapter SFPE
jdimarzo@industrialsalesco.com

We ask for everyone to fill this application out so we can keep our records updated