



# FIRE BUCKET

January, 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:** January 14, 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:** Scot Robertson, SET  
Vice President of Engineering  
Safe Fire Detection

**Topic:** Air Sampling Fire & Smoke Detection  
Systems

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

Make Reservations with:  
Cory Blair  
[cblair@gbsalarm.com](mailto:cblair@gbsalarm.com)  
614-702-1607

**Reservations Deadline:** Friday January 9,  
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**

**Date:** March, 11, 2026 - State Fire Marshal  
Fire Code update. Phil Warner, State  
Fire Marshals.

May 13 2026 - TBD

### **Golf Outings**

Burn Center Outing – September 21, 2026

## **John Falk**

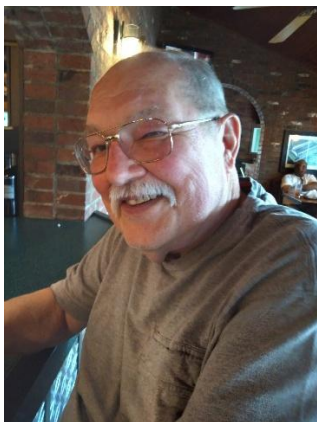
With heavy hearts, we share the passing of John C. Falk Sr., our recently retired treasurer and Lifetime Member of the Central Ohio Chapter of SFPE. John passed away peacefully on October 10, 2025, at age 79, surrounded by his loving family.

For 33 years, John served as our treasurer, guiding the chapter with integrity and wisdom. His 44-year career at Capital Fire Protection Co. and NICET Level IV certification in sprinkler system design reflected his passion for excellence, inspiring us all to learn and grow. Known for his sharp wit and steady presence, John was a pillar of our community.

We extend our deepest condolences to John's family.

John's full obituary is available at:  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/john-falk-3/>.

In his honor, let us carry forward his dedication to SFPE-COC. May his memory be a blessing.



### **SFPE – Burn Center Outing Donation**

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

Although rain forced an early end to this year's outing, a good time was had by all.

We are pleased to announce that this year's outing generated a donation of \$66,000.

In the 36 years of this outing, we have generated over \$725,000 in donations.

Thanks to all of those who participate.

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



### **Officials say champagne sparklers likely caused Swiss resort fire**

[Source: ABC News](#)

The blaze killed at least 40 people at a bar in a popular ski town, officials said. Sparklers atop champagne bottles most likely started the fire, and many of the victims were teenagers.

Swiss investigators are working to identify the victims of [a fire on New Year's Day](#) that killed at least 40 people, many of them teenagers, and injured 119 others in a bar in the ski resort of Crans-Montana, about 120 miles east of Geneva.



The fire at the bar, Le Constellation, was probably caused by sparklers on champagne bottles in the downstairs area, Béatrice Pilloud,

the regional prosecutor general, has told reporters. The sparks appear to have ignited the ceiling, interviews with witnesses and video footage suggest. Survivors said they struggled to escape up a narrow basement staircase.



The authorities have placed the two managers of the bar under investigation on suspicion of criminal negligence, and officials have said that it could take weeks to [identify the dead](#) because of the severity of the victims' burns. On Sunday, [the police said](#) that they had identified 24 of the dead, the youngest of whom was a 14-year-old Swiss girl.

### **The fire was most likely caused by sparklers.**

At around 1:30 a.m. on Thursday, waiters hurried through Le Constellation carrying bottles of champagne topped with small sparkling candles, according to the authorities, interviews with survivors, [photographs](#) and [videos](#).

The shower of sparks ignited foam insulation material that appeared to cover parts of the ceiling. The flames ripped through the basement of the bar, in what the authorities have called [a flashover](#), when a fire in an enclosed space spreads quickly.

More information can be found at [NY Times Site](#)

## **Texas Industrial Recycling Fire Near Tyler Airport Highlights Plastic and Oil Fire Load Risks**

[Source: Risk Logic](#)

On the evening of November 20, 2025, a large industrial fire broke out at an oil and plastic recycling facility off Highway 64 West near Tyler Pounds Regional Airport in Smith County, Texas. Officials dispatched fire crews at 6:22 p.m. They arrived to find heavy smoke and active fire conditions involving combustible materials stored throughout the facility. The situation highlighted significant plastic and oil fire load risks. The incident prompted a multi-agency response. Smith County ESD2, Tyler Fire Department, and Lindale Fire Department all assisted, with hazmat resources requested due to the nature of the materials involved.

As the fire intensified, portions of the roof collapsed, forcing firefighters into defensive operations. Firefighting and overhaul operations extended into the following morning as crews addressed hot spots and hazardous runoff concerns.



### **Implications for Property Loss Prevention**

For insurers, risk managers, and industrial facility owners, this event underscores the elevated loss potential associated with recycling and processing operations handling plastics and hydrocarbon-based materials.

Key property risk implications include:

- Combustible material concentration. High-volume plastic and oil storage dramatically increases fire severity when not properly separated or protected.
- Structural vulnerability. Non-fire-resistive roof and wall assemblies are prone to early



failure under high heat, expanding loss beyond the point of origin.

- Suppression limitations. Facilities without fixed systems designed for high-challenge commodities rely heavily on manual firefighting, which becomes ineffective once structural integrity is compromised.
- Community and regulatory exposure. Evacuations, air quality monitoring, and hazmat operations extend loss impact beyond the insured property, increasing regulatory scrutiny and business interruption risk.

FM and NFPA guidance consistently emphasize commodity classification, storage arrangement, and protection alignment as critical controls for facilities processing combustible plastics and oils.



For the entire article, [click here](#).

### **Safety Challenges in Warehouses**

[Source: NFPA](#)

Storage and safety in modern warehouses are changing faster than ever due to rising consumer demands, high land costs, and more. To meet these demands, organizations are creating warehouses that are far larger than in the past, consolidating new commodities and materials together, and stacking those goods at greater heights—all of which pose serious safety challenges for warehouses both in the United States and internationally.

This webinar will highlight ongoing changes in storage and distribution within warehouse facilities and the challenges that they present to

fire protection systems. New and emerging trends, including cold storage, high-bay automated storage and retrieval systems (ASRS), and complex multi-row rack configurations, will be addressed, as well as the purpose and function of fire alarm and sprinkler systems; the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) programs for these systems; and incorporating emergency action plans.

**FREE WEBINAR**  
**Safety Challenges and Fire Protection Systems in Modern Warehouses** | TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 12 P.M. ET

Between 2018 and 2022, NFPA data shows an estimated annual average of...

**1,508** FIRES IN WAREHOUSES OCCURRED.

These fires caused an annual average of...

**\$323 million** IN DIRECT PROPERTY DAMAGES.

**BRIAN O'CONNOR**  
NFPA Senior Technical Services Engineer

**SHAWN MAHONEY**  
NFPA Senior Technical Services Engineer

**JOIN US LIVE!**

For information and to register, [click here](#).

### **Stoking the Flame**

[Source: NFPA](#)

***Despite fledgling efforts to promote the profession, fire protection engineering remains a little-known discipline among young people pursuing technical careers—even as demand for FPEs has never been greater. What does that gap mean for the safety community, and how can the industry and educators attract a new generation of practitioners?***

In late August, Ann Aquino arrived on the leafy green campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts, eager to

begin her two-year [master's degree program in fire protection engineering](#). She started receiving job inquiries just a few weeks into her first semester.

"I've already had at least one firm reach out to ask me when my degree will be completed," chuckled Aquino, 22, who earned her bachelor's in architectural engineering from WPI last spring. Her LinkedIn page is also starting to fill up with unsolicited inquires. "I was actually expecting that," she said about the early interest, "but it's still comforting because I know people in other fields who are trying really hard to find a job and are having trouble."



If one values job security, there might be no better time than the present to become a fire protection engineer (FPE). For at least a decade, fire protection engineering firms around the world have struggled to find enough qualified people to help them tackle the growing number of projects that require fire and life safety design and oversight. Precise figures on FPE supply and demand do not exist, but experts offer an array of anecdotal evidence suggesting the gap continues to grow.

Despite the growing demand for FPEs, the numbers continue to go in the wrong direction as the industry's workforce ages and not enough young workers emerge to replace them.



A field experiment by WPI students using flame refluxer technology. Observers hope that cooperative efforts between industry and educators to promote the field of fire protection engineering—as well as some savvy leveraging of our innate fascination with fire—can begin to attract more qualified people to the profession. Photo Credit: WPI.

In a [2015 survey](#) conducted by SFPE, an alarming 25 percent of FPEs said they were planning to retire within the next 10 years. No follow-up survey has been conducted this year to see if that prediction came to fruition, but the trend suggests that the profession will continue to lose a significant number of workers in the near future.

For the entire article, [click here](#).

### **How Sprinklers Work**

[Source: Facebook – Learning with Lyrics](#)

This may be a little basic for this group, but you can show you family or customers how sprinklers work. (Be sure to unmute the sound.)



**SFPE - In Person Seminar:  
Protecting Flammable and  
Combustible Liquids 2026: San  
Antonio, TX**

Starts: Mar 17, 2026 09:00 (CT)

Ends: Mar 19, 2026 17:00 (CT)



This 3-day course will address a broad range of issues related to safe handling and storage of flammable and combustible liquids. Included in this course is a review of certain large fire losses; fundamental risk determinants; fire testing and defining the risk; strategic planning for safe operations and storage; navigating and understanding the relevant fire codes, regulations, and standards; and using passive and active features for specific occupancies. The presentation will include numerous videos of actual fires and medium and large-scale fire tests.

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course the participant will be able to:

- Understand circumstances that led to certain types of fires & explosions.
- Identify the varied physical, combustion & reactivity properties of liquids that effect the likelihood of ignition types and severity of fires.
- Gain a deeper appreciation for the effects on people, environment, surrounding area, & businesses where these events occurred.
- Appreciate prevention and mitigation measures that can lower the frequency and magnitude of fires and explosions.
- Prioritize prevention and mitigation measures and understand their limitations.
- Understand the conditions that may lead to fire control and extinguishment.
- Become more familiar with mandatory requirements and guidelines that

provide good advice on fire risk management.

- Determine which standardized tests are used to evaluate the fire hazards of flammable and combustible liquids.
- Understand the fire performance of different container types and the ability of sprinklers to mitigate fires including the conditions necessary to qualify as "protected storage."
- Specify passive and active physical features for specific occupancies, such as production facilities and storage occupancies.
- Review the current status and challenges associated with transitioning from AFFF-based foam to SFFF.

[More information](#)

**Location**

SwRI Fire Technology Department  
6220 Culebra Road, Building 143  
San Antonio, TX 78238

**Did You Get One of These for  
Christmas?**

[Source: LinkedIn](#)



Kevin Feak, PE, LEED AP • 2nd  
Senior Fire Protection Engineer (PE) | Engineering Program & Ri...

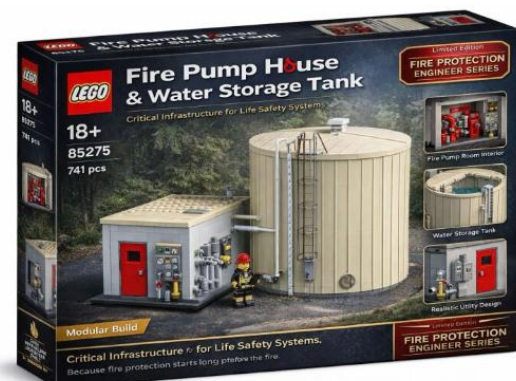
[+ Follow](#) ...

1w • Edited •

The below design is an unofficial concept. Not affiliated with or endorsed by LEGO.

The Fire Pump design has gotten some great feedback from the life safety and fire protection community. Up next in the Fire Protection Engineering Series is the Pump House and Water Storage Tank, a fun and practical addition for protecting your brick buildings.

What other fire protection systems should I turn into a brick build?





**Central Ohio Chapter Officers**

Bob Fischer – President  
Viking SupplyNet  
Phone: 440-463-0720  
E-mail: [bfischer@supplynet.com](mailto:bfischer@supplynet.com)

Cory Blair - Vice President  
Genesis Building Systems  
E-mail: [cblair@gbsalarm.com](mailto:cblair@gbsalarm.com)  
614-702-1607

Jim DiMarzo - Treasurer, Golf Outing Chair  
Industrial Sales Co.  
E-Mail: [jdimarzo@industrialsalesco.com](mailto:jdimarzo@industrialsalesco.com)

Bill Laing – Secretary  
Fishbeck  
E-mail: [wmlaing@fishbeck.com](mailto: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](mailto:PhilipS@mnelectric.biz)

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

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

Juston Howell – Board Member  
Williams Fire  
E-mail: [justin.howell@williamsfireinc.com](mailto:justin.howell@williamsfireinc.com)

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

Mark Bowman – Fire Bucket Editor  
AXA XL Risk Consulting  
Phone: 614-751-5049  
E-Mail: [mark.bowman@axaxl.com](mailto:mark.bowman@axaxl.com)

**Lifetime Members**

Dick Weitzel (Deceased)  
Gerald Tulga  
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