

August 2025
\$8



***FPC magazine's 2025
Person of the Year***

Jeff Lewis

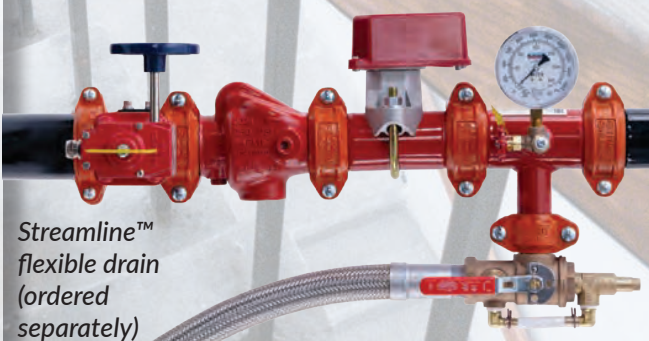
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~ ON THE COVER ~



Congratulations to Jeff Lewis, FPC's 2025 Person of the Year! His story starts on page 12, and you can catch up on the full list of past honorees starting on page 14. You won't want to miss a single thing in this edition! And tell us what you think!

PERSON OF THE YEAR

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FPC's 2025 Person of the Year

HALL OF FAME

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Previous Honorees

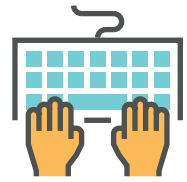
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A Changing Industry... Yet, Still the Same...

Many changes have taken place in the fire sprinkler industry; and changes are happening now. Perhaps most notably are the many sales and Mergers and Acquisitions. Many companies have changed hands, or are now part of a bigger organization. Private equity firms are buying up contractors left and right.

Still Hanging Pipe, Still Stacking Cash

Yet the fire sprinkler industry is fundamentally the same as it ever was. We are still hanging pipe and stacking cash. Installing the best fire protection systems money can buy. Protecting people and property, and saving lives.

Still Family

The fire sprinkler industry is still family. While some families have left the industry, we are still family, and there are many great people in the next generations that are stepping up and doing well. The programs at the Associations to focus on the next generation are helping immensely. And, the workforce development programs at companies and Associations will pay off for decades to come. (See page 12.)

Products

We are still about pipe, valves, fittings, and fire sprinkler devices. When my father started in the fire sprinkler industry in 1948, there may have been like three kinds of fire sprinklers, and basically one kind of pipe. Now, we have choices galore and more options coming our way. Innovators are developing new and better ways to protect people and property from fire, and making more products and tools to help us do it. We will share these with you as they become available.

Design, Inspect, Test, & Maintain

Computers will continue to influence the design, fabrication, and installation of fire sprinkler systems; and the inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire sprinkler systems will be automated, logged, shared, and stored electronically, digitally, and sometimes remotely.

Still the Same

When it comes down to it, we are still about getting the wet stuff on the hot stuff. Putting fire sprinklers up above the fire and letting those automatic fire sprinklers activate when needed to extinguish or control the fire until the fire service arrives. Success stories abound. Fire sprinkler systems are still the best fire protection money can buy.

Keep up the good work.

—*Brant R. Brumbeloe*
Editor

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward.
— Proverbs 12:14 (New International Version)

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Readership: Fire sprinkler contractors and systems designers make up most of our circulation. Readers include architects, engineers, fabricators, manufacturers, suppliers, unions, fitters, universities, libraries, etc., totaling over 40 categories.

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Letters

Letters *to the* Editor

Successful Event!

On behalf of the Illinois Burn Prevention Association Board, thank you very much for your donation to the Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational for this year's 29th annual event that was held on June 3. It was thanks to generous donors such as *Fire Protection Contractor* magazine and our fire protection industry sponsors that we were able to have such an incredible year.

This singular golf outing raised \$136,000 for burn prevention programs and burn injury care in Illinois. Benefitting organizations include Camp "I Am Me" for burn-injured children, From Tragedy To Triumph Foundation (which offers scholarships to young burn survivors), and hospital burn units at OSF St. Anthony (Rockford) and Cook County Stroger (Chicago). Of particular interest, we reached a milestone with From Tragedy To Triumph Foundation, having donated more than \$200,000 to the charity.

— Erik Hoffer

Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Tinley Park, IL
www.nifsab.org

[see page 26 for event photos]



Collector's Corner



Courtesy of the Ryan Craig collection, Chesapeake, VA

Send Us Your Photos

Attention fire sprinkler collectors: Please send photos of your collectibles! Please e-mail high-resolution photos to: info@fpcmag.com.

Historic Pics & Pieces:

We also welcome all stories and photographs related to the fire sprinkler industry...

Items may be sent to: Brant Brumbeloe, Editor,
FPC magazine, PO Box 370, Auburn, CA 95604.
Original photos and items will be returned upon request.

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National

Hiring Rate, Job Openings

Though contractors are optimistic in the face of a subdued labor market, it's not yet clear how President Donald Trump's immigration policies have affected the data.

This according to a July 2, 2025, article by Zachary Phillips, on www.constructiondive.com.

Construction counted 3,000 more open jobs on the last day of May compared with April, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report. The industry had 245,000 unfilled positions at the end of the month.

That change was minimal compared to the month before, but the current market has been soft in recent months compared to last year, according to Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Chief Economist Anirban Basu. May 2025 had about 35% fewer open positions than the same month in 2024.

At the same time, layoffs also remained historically low, economists said, indicating that contractors are keen to hang onto their workers. "These figures indicate that contractors are becoming more cautious overall, scaling back on growth and expansion plans, but not turning to widespread layoffs," said Macrina Wilkins, Senior Research Analyst for the Associated General Contractors of America.

"Even with fewer openings and hires, firms are holding on to their current workforce, signaling the continued value they place on skilled workers amid persistent labor shortages and uncertainty around project pipelines," Wilkins said.

The year-to-date hiring rate in construction is lower than any other year in the series, which began 25 years ago, said Basu in a release.

But low hiring rates, low layoffs, and fewer openings don't paint the whole picture.

"Of course, it's unclear how immigration policy uncertainty is affecting these data," Basu said. "To the extent that a

decline in the hiring of undocumented workers is not reflected, the industry could be significantly weaker than it appears."

Nonetheless, Basu said contractors remain optimistic in the face of those numbers, with over half of ABC members reporting optimism for staffing in the second half of the year.

Georgia

Fire Prompts Hazmat Response

An item by Atlanta News First staff posted July 7, 2025, on www.atlantaneWSfirst.com, Cartersville, Georgia, said a hazmat team was called to help with putting out a fire at a factory in Cartersville.

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The fire happened around 9:00 p.m. at the Hanwha Qcells factory located at 251 Great Valley Parkway.

Fire crews responded to a fire alarm and **sprinklers being turned on** at the facility. When firefighters arrived, they saw smoke coming from the building.

According to the fire department, the factory had hazardous material inside, but no one was in the factory when firefighters arrived. To be safe, a hazmat response was there with firefighters putting out the fire.

The fire was put out and there were no injuries. The hazardous material was contained, as the fire department said the site was deemed safe from “any significant environmental impact.”

A contracted hazmat cleanup team was called as fire units stayed to help. Units were released from the scene at about 6:00 a.m., according to the fire department.

The fire department said the investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing.

New York

FM-200 Clean Agent Fire Suppression Protects Critical Infrastructure

An article on www.einpresswire.com said fire-safety professionals in New York City and South Florida point to FM-200™ (HFC-227ea) clean-agent systems as a proven solution for spaces where

water would be catastrophic.

Developed by DuPont (now Chemours) in the 1990s to replace ozone-depleting Halon, FM-200 is an odorless, colorless gas stored under pressure in sealed cylinders.

The discharge is fast – typically under 10 seconds – and, because FM-200 leaves no residue, there is minimal equipment damage or downtime after a fire. In fact, one manufacturer notes FM-200 “discharges as an electrically nonconductive, clear vapor” and “leaves no residue and does not require costly clean up” unlike sprinklers or dry chemical systems. These qualities make FM-200 ideal for occupiable, mission-critical spaces where sensitive electronics, irreplaceable artwork, or archival materials are kept.

FM-200 first gained market acceptance in 1994 as an industry game-changer. Introduced by DuPont as an alternative to Halon 1301, FM-200 was one of the first clean agents approved for occupied areas. It is listed in NFPA 2001 as “HFC-227ea,” and international protocols have since phased down its production due to high global-warming potential.

Several major companies dominate the clean-agent market, ensuring FM-200 technology is robust and widely supported. DuPont (now Chemours) remains the chemical supplier behind FM-200, while system integrators like Kidde (part of Carrier) and Ansul (Johnson Controls) engineer the cylinders, valves, and nozzles to deliver it.

Kidde’s product materials highlight FM-200’s safety: it is “non-ozone-deplet-

ing,” “safe for total flooding of occupied spaces,” and, again, “clean – no residue to clean up.”

Ansul and its Pyro-Chem division also market FM-200 systems for high-value risks. Their literature notes FM-200’s advantages: it’s nontoxic, electrically nonconductive, and “unlike water... will not shortout electronic equipment,” nor will its discharge chill circuitry like CO₂ systems do.

In sum, firms like Kidde, Ansul, and Fike supply turnkey FM-200 setups (cylinders, detection panels, piping) all designed to NFPA 2001 and UL/FM Standards.

Each cylinder is painted and labeled for compliance; for instance, Ansul’s FM-200 cylinders are UL-Listed and factory-sealed to exacting tolerances.

In recent years, environmental policy has led users to consider newer agents (like 3M™ Novec 1230 or inert mixtures), but FM-200 remains ubiquitous, especially in retrofit jobs.

One clean-agent supplier notes FM-200’s phase-down under U.S. law, but emphasizes it’s still “widely accepted” for critical sites.

Through all these advances, one theme holds steady: FM-200 systems let facility managers meet fire-protection goals without sacrificing their equipment or exhibits.

For the whole story contact: Gabriel Jean, Safety Group Corp., 204 Oakwood Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516; (347) 445-4880.

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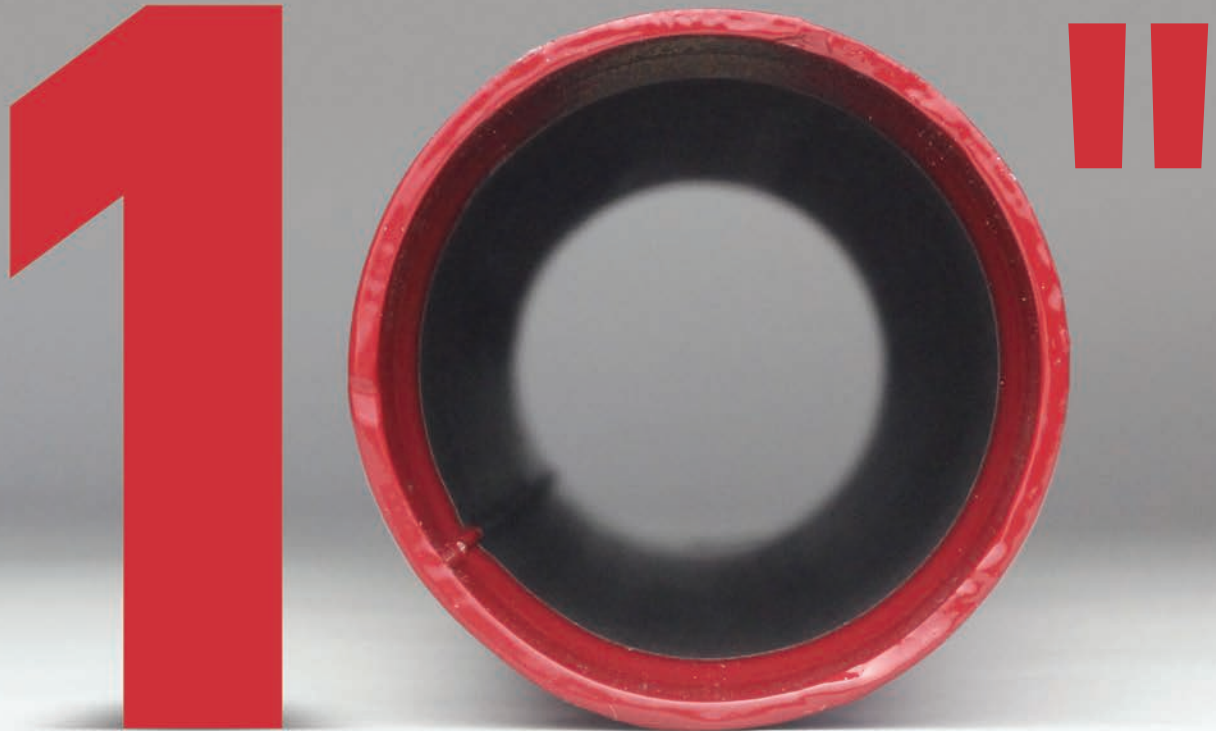
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Ohio

Cincinnati's Housing Fire Codes

An item on www.cincinnati.com said don't ignore the chirp, renters: Replacing your smoke alarm battery is your responsibility.

Cincinnati tenants are responsible for maintaining smoke detectors, including battery replacement and reporting malfunctions.

Landlords are required to install smoke detectors, and new buildings have stricter requirements like hardwired detectors and sprinkler systems.

Tenants should check smoke detectors upon move-in and contact their landlord or 311Cincy if detectors are missing or malfunctioning.

The unmistakable chirp of a smoke alarm might keep you up at night, but it's an important reminder to keep your

smoke alarm in working order, especially if you're a renter in Cincinnati.

That's because the city's housing and fire code places the responsibility on the two-thirds of Cincinnati residents who rent, not their landlord, to replace the battery.

Several homes and apartments that have experienced destructive fires in 2025 have had **no working smoke alarms**. City officials recommend testing smoke alarms once a month and reporting if they don't work.

Generally, Cincinnati's housing and fire codes require smoke detectors in homes and apartments.

For new buildings, hardwired smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are required; **for new buildings with four or more units, a fire sprinkler system is also required.**

Existing buildings, including historic buildings, must be maintained according to their original approval in the city.

Tennessee

Fire Marshal on Hydrants, Sprinklers, and Fire Safety

A July 7, 2025, item on WGNS News, www.wgnsradio.com, said their recent podcast had host Scott Walker sit down with **Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Fire Marshal Brian Lowe** to discuss how quickly tragedy can strike when fire-works aren't disposed of properly...

Fire Marshal Lowe shed light on how the City of Murfreesboro plans fire hydrant placement in new neighborhoods to keep residents safer and **what homeowners should know about fire suppression systems**. Plus, learn about the importance of **commercial fire sprinkler systems** and what businesses can do to protect people and property.

Whether you're a homeowner, renter, or business owner, this conversation offers valuable insight to help you prevent fires and stay prepared. Tune in and learn practical safety tips that could save lives.

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Person of the Year



FPC truly appreciates those who Help fire sprinkler contractors, those who are engaged in Education, and those who are actively Promoting fire sprinkler system installations.

FPC's 2025 Person of the Year

Jeff Lewis

Jeff Lewis, CET, is Vice President of Technical Workforce Development at VSC Fire & Security.

Q: When did you begin your career in the fire sprinkler industry?

I started in 1990 fresh out of college. I had an interest in fire protection and was looking into a career in the fire service. I had obtained an associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology and was looking to put it to good use. I had relocated to Virginia from North Carolina and was looking at fire departments in central Virginia when an opportunity in the fire sprinkler industry presented itself. I knew the industry existed from my course studies but knew nothing about it. What I found was a dynamic and interesting career field that became my passion.

Q: Who trained you and/or who were your mentors?

My career began with Eagle Fire in 1990. At that time, Eagle was a small company with five employees – most contractors were on the smaller size. This was pre-NFPA 25, and a different time in the industry. Harry Hoffon and Tommy Herman, the two owners, taught me the core skills that I still use today. I owe much of my success to their investment in me as a 22-year-old kid. I learned about anything and everything I could; wet systems, dry systems, pre-action, deluge, foam, fire pumps, and more. During this time I also learned the importance of the other side of the house, becoming familiar with contracts, proper documentation, and the business side of things.

In 1996, I joined VSC, which was Virginia Sprinkler Company at the time. It was here that I brought all my learning together and really learned the entirety of our contracting business – from sales to installation, inspections, and service. Mike Martin, retired Chief Operations Officer, taught me about the financial side of the business. Mike had a significant impact on my career growth and what I have been lucky enough to accomplish. After working together for over 22 years, we are still in touch today and meet often for lunch. He offers advice

and the occasional spreadsheet from time to time. I have been blessed to have countless individuals in my life who have deeply impacted my career in such a positive way.

Q: What type of work have you done and what do you do now?

Most of my career has been in inspection and service, with two years spent selling and project managing special hazard projects. I have just recently begun a new role as Vice President of Technical Workforce Development. This is an exciting opportunity, and I am proud of the work VSC Fire & Security is doing in this area.

My team's role is to reach out to schools and build bridges to attract young people into our industry. We have developed an internship program designed for students between their junior and senior years of high school to work with us during their summer break. The goal is to have them become registered youth apprentices in their senior year of high school. We piloted the program with three students in Virginia and Maryland. It was so successful that we have now branded the program and will roll it out throughout our organization. The second part of the team's role is to build programs within the high school itself. Working alongside the AFSA Virginia Chapter and partnering with Henrico County Public Schools, we have worked directly with students on renovation projects, installing fire sprinklers in a single-family home. The home project will be an ongoing part of the construction trades program. In addition, we have a fully functional fire sprinkler lab in the ACE Center at Virginia Randolph High School that is being used to pilot a program in Virginia to develop new talent for the fire protection industry.

Q: How did VSC come into being?

VSC has a long history that goes back to 1958 when the company was founded by Roland Giles. The company grew from a single office and fabrication shop to two offices, then to five, and now has more than 37 locations with over 2,000 employees. We have grown from being a fire sprinkler contractor to becoming a full-service fire protection provider.

Q: What products and services do VSC offer?

Being a full-service provider, we offer design, installation, and service of fire sprinklers, fire alarm, special hazards, fire extinguishers, kitchen suppression, and inspection and testing services.

Q: What groups or associations do you belong to?

AFSA, AFSA VA Chapter, NFPA, NCAFED, and NAFED. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the AFSA VA Chapter and NCAFED.

Q: Are you on any committees?

I am currently on the AFSA Technical Advisory Committee and the Business Advisory Committee with Henrico County Schools.

Q: How did you become involved with training?

In truth, I was led into it by people who recognized that I have a talent for it. Finding your 'Why' involves listening to those close to you who point out your strengths.

Q: What is on the horizon for you?

To continue working to close the 'Awareness Gap' about our industry. To help VSC continue to be a destination employer by creating a place where young people can see themselves being a part of. This also involves helping to further develop our Learning and Development program for existing employees. What do they want to learn, where do they want to go with their career, and how can we help them to be successful? The executive leadership team at VSC has a clear vision as it relates to this issue and has placed us in a leading role. VSC has created a unique and weird team that you typically would not find inside a fire protection contracting company, such as individuals who are former schoolteachers, a workforce development specialist, and an experienced adult education specialist with advanced degrees in education.

Q: Where do you see the fire sprinkler industry headed in the next two, five, or 10 years?

To parrot what has been said by others, it will be how our industry uses AI to save labor time. How can AI be used to complete design drawings in a shorter time, allowing designers to have more output for the same number of hours worked? AI can be used to help inspectors complete their inspection reports completely and in a timely way. In short, moving from being an 'art' to a 'science' where we can achieve more predictable and reproducible results by responding to outliers more quickly.

Q: What are some of the problems and concerns facing the fire sprinkler industry?

We need to be focused on our labor shortage. There was a time during my career when we only competed with our fellow contractors for labor. That is not the case anymore. Our competition is much wider today than ever. We compete with every other trade out there. The labor forecasts do not look good. As an industry, we should be working to close the Awareness Gap with students and their parents. We have a great industry with an important mission; we can no longer be a 'well-kept secret.'

Q: Do you have anything else to add?

I would like to say what a privilege and honor it is to be recognized by *FPC* magazine.

See photos from the Technical Workforce Development Program Jeff facilitates on pages 36 & 38.

Hall of Fame

Previous FPC Person or Organization of the Year Recipients

2024 Russell Leavitt, Executive Chairman of Telgian Holdings, Inc. has served the fire sprinkler industry since 1982. He has been on multiple committees, and served with Associations and Chapters. He actively helps fire sprinkler contractors, with education and training, and promotes fire sprinkler system installations.

2023 The Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Texas is a non-profit trade association that was originally formed in 1981 as TXFSCA and reformed in 2012 as FSCATX. Its purpose is to educate and advance fire sprinkler contractors in the great state of Texas as well as promote and preserve ethical standards in the fire sprinkler industry.

2022 Stephen Meyer – for significant contributions to the industry. His numerous “firsts,” patents, innovations, and developments include many sprinklers, valves, and more. And “...he continues to have a vision for developing products that have

enabled our contractors to be more productive, and our systems to be more attractive to developers and architects.” – Buck Buchanan

2021 Wayne Gey – Long serving contractor, and fire sprinkler promoter. Wayne Automatic – Not just a company, a cause...

2020 Matt Klaus – For educating contractors and promoting properly installed fire sprinkler system installations...

2019 Wayne Waggoner – For promoting system installations, educating lawmakers, civil servants, the general public, and helping fire sprinkler contractors...

2018 Manning J. Strickland, Sr. – Very active Association member, Past Chair of the AFSA with years of service on multiple committees...

2017 Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association of Southern California – The oldest and largest regional fire

sprinkler contractor association in the U.S.A.

2016 Seneca College of Applied Arts & Technology School of Fire Protection – Helping fire sprinkler contractors by educating and producing fire sprinkler designers; and promoting fire sprinklers...

2015 Common Voices – An advocates coalition determined to create a fire-safe America, through fire sprinklers...

2014 David Killey, Fire Busters, Inc. – A Canadian contractor promoting fire sprinklers and excellence...

2013 Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association – A leader in AHJ communications, and fire sprinkler promotion and education, since 1983...

2012 George L. Church, Jr., CET, Rowe Sprinkler Systems, Inc. – Advocate, educator, and friend to fire sprinkler contractors...

2011 Cecil Bilbo, Academy of Fire Sprinkler Technology – Leader in designer training and education for all...

2010 The International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Coalition – Formed in 2007 to promote fire sprinklers in homes...

2009 Kraig Kirschner – Second generation owner of AFCON; NFPA 13 Technical Committee on Hanging and Bracing...

2008 Bill McKay – A fire sprinkler contractor, advocate for fitter’s pension rights; fights against abuse of Prevailing Wage...

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2006 **The Center for Campus Fire Safety** – A central focal point for the complex issues surrounding campus fire safety...

2005 **John F. "Sonny" Scarff** – Director of Corporate Fire Protection for Marriott International hotels for over 30 years...

2004 **Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board** – A leader in educating and informing the general public...

2003 **Gene B. Endthoff** – Coined the phrase "Trade-Ups." With NFSA for 17 years, he advanced the cause of sprinklers...

2002 **Steve Muncy** – President of the AFSA, coalition builder, leader, educator...

2001 **Richard M. Patton, F.P.E.** – Over 40 years in fire protection. Engineer, researcher, code work, consultant, contractor, educator, innovator, and fire sprinkler advocate...

2000 **Russell P. Fleming, F.P.E.** – Engineer with the National Fire Sprinkler Association, worked on building codes, standards, NICET, and much more...

1999 **Patrick Coughlin** – Director of the Residential Fire Safety Institute (formerly Operation Life Safety)...

1998 **Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition** – Formed in 1996, to inform the public about home fire sprinkler protection...

1997 **Robert G. Caputo** – Past Director of the San Diego Fire Protection Association, contractor, educator, and advocate...

1996 **Steve Hart** – Fire sprinkler advocate, former Fire Chief, former head of Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Southern California...

1995 **Edward H. Smith** – Advocate for fire sprinklers, instrumental in the formation of the AFSA...

1994 **Bruce and Connie Gordon** – Courage and tenacity to speak out about their troubles with Local 669...

1993 **John Viniello** – President of the NFSA, industry leader in fire sprinkler concerns, legislation, and sprinkler codes...

1992 **Donald J. Pamplin** – Former Chief of the Vancouver, BC Fire Department, promoter of fire sprinkler installations...

1991 **Cobb County Fire Department, Sprinkler Division** – A leader in developing a sprinkler division in their fire department...

1990 **Thomas C. Campbell** – Former Fire Chief of Salinas, California. An excellent leader in public education...

1989 **Florida Fire Sprinkler Association** – The "Granddaddy" of all state associations...

1988 **Ron Coleman** – An outstanding proponent of residential sprinkler installation, author, columnist, and speaker...

1987 **Harry Shaw** – Early promoter of residential fire sprinklers nationwide and proponent of Operation Life Safety...

1986 **Bill Meyer** – One of the greatest leaders in the sprinkler industry...

1986 **Harold Black** – American Fire Sprinkler Association co-founder and strong industry leader...



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NFSA Returns to the St. Louis Zoo for Follow-Up Fire Sprinkler Presentation

By KJ Spurlock

The National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) returned to the St. Louis Zoo in May for a follow-up presentation on fire sprinkler safety. Building on the success of the initial session, NFSA representatives KJ Spurlock and JP Penet spoke to facility staff about the critical role sprinkler systems play in protecting commercial buildings.

The presentation highlighted real-world case studies and data demonstrating the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in minimizing damage and saving lives. The NFSA team also reinforced the

importance of ongoing maintenance and understanding system capabilities.

The continued partnership with the Zoo reflects NFSA's mission to educate, engage, and advocate for stronger fire protection across Missouri.

For more information contact: KJ Spurlock, State Coordinator, MO; spurlock@nfsa.org, (314) 834-0952, Cell (314) 803-7418.

Bringing Fire Sprinklers to Life: **NFSA Mid-Atlantic's Demonstration and Outreach Campaign** From NFSA New Jersey Chapter

The NFSA Mid-Atlantic team has been actively promoting the importance of fire sprinkler systems through live demonstrations, public education, and firefighter training events across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Our Side-by-Side Live Burn Trailer remains the centerpiece of our outreach. It vividly shows the difference in fire growth and survivability between sprinkler-protected and unprotected rooms, making it one of the most effective public education tools we've ever deployed.

Our 31' Valve Trailer is another hands-on resource, featuring risers, standpipes, an FDC, and cutaway sprinkler system components. We use this extensively at career days, schools, fire service trainings, and expos to help explain how fire sprinkler systems function.

We also have two additional support trailers – the NJ Trailer and PenJerDel Trailer – that are used for Touch-a-Truck events, firehouse open houses, and firefighter training sessions. These smaller but highly visible trailers help expand our presence in communities where the larger units may not be practical or needed.

All of these efforts support our mission of raising awareness, educating stakeholders, and encouraging broader support for fire sprinkler systems across all occupancies. Our sole mission at the NFSA is to save lives and property from fire by the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.

For more information or to schedule a visit contact: Dave Davis, NFSA New Jersey Coordinator; (609) 410-0616, davis@nfsa.org, www.saveandprotect.org.



NFSA Side-by-Side Burn Demo Live-Streamed During Home Fire Sprinkler Week

Home Fire Sprinkler Week wrapped up on May 16 in Kent, Washington, with a national event hosted by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition at Viking Supplynet. NFSA, the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, the National Fire Protection Association, UL Research Institute/Fire Safety Research Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget Sound all combined forces to bring this nationally streamed event to life. Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority provided fire suppression for the event.

The side-by-side demonstration featured two identically furnished rooms, one with fire sprinklers and one without. The fire sprinklers activated within minutes, while the room without fire sprinklers burned so hot it went to flashover – a deadly condition in which everything combusts at once and no one survives.

Team NFSA thanks our members who attended the event in person. We had a great crowd!

For more information visit: www.nfsa.org.



Photo credit: Eric P. Tuazon, P.E., Fire Protection Engineer, Tuazon Engineering, PLLC

NIFSAB's Record Year

From NIFSAB

After an organizational record year of 77 **side-by-side fire sprinkler demonstrations in 2024**, the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board expects to conduct a similar number of demonstrations in 2025. Through June, side-by-side demonstrations have been performed at the Gurnee Mills First Responders Expo; fire department open houses in Channahon, Orland Park, and Sugar Grove; citizen/junior firefighter academies in Lake Forest and Sugar Grove; and for high school students in Arlington Heights, Itasca, and St. Charles. Dozens of demonstrations will be performed in the coming months at Community Public Safety and National Night Out events and Fire Prevention Week/Month open houses events at fire departments.

For more information contact: Erik Hoffer, Executive Director, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, 7605 185th St., Tinley Park, IL 60477; (708) 403-4468, Cell (708) 261-4503, erik@nifsab.org.



Sugar Grove FPD side-by-side demo 6/13/2025

Send your comments
and reactions to:
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Gurnee Mills First Responders Expo 5/17/2025



Side-by-side demo for St. Viator H.S. Forensics Classes 4/11/2025



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Left to Right: Fire Chief Fernando Gray, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue; Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy and HFSC President; and Sr. Deputy Fire Chief Robert Nolan, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue.

Bringing Safety Home Fire Safety Advocacy Award Recipients Announced

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Sprinkler Initiative and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) have awarded the U.S. and Canadian Bringing Safety Home awards to **Las Vegas Fire & Rescue** and **Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services**.

This award honors fire safety advocates in North America who diligently promote the importance of **home fire sprinklers**, use HFSC and NFPA resources to educate decision-makers, and recognize that protecting all new homes could have a tremendous impact on public safety and community risk reduction.

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue was recognized because of their work establishing relationships with the local Homebuilder Associations to learn about and address their concerns. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas conducted a cost-benefit analysis and concluded there were significant benefits in protecting all new homes with **fire sprinklers**. Through collaboration, their efforts led to the Las Vegas City Council approving a **sprinkler ordinance** in 2019. Since then, more than 18,000 new homes have been built with fire sprinklers protecting residents and firefighters.

Stouffville Fire & Emergency Services was recognized because their team worked closely with their building and planning departments, engaging developers and offering incentives to protect entire developments with **fire sprinklers**. These incentives, combined with strong advocacy and education, made **home fire sprinklers** an increasingly attractive option, contributing to safer and more resilient communities. As a result, all new homes in four subdivisions and two future developments will be protected with home **fire sprinklers**.

“Both fire departments had dedicated teams that understood the challenges and the need to work closely with builders during the early stages and learn about their concerns and how **fire sprinklers** can benefit all stakeholders,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy and HFSC President. “Thanks to their efforts, citizens and firefighters will be better protected.”

As recipients of the Bringing Safety Home Award, both fire departments will each receive a \$1,000 stipend to support further **fire sprinkler** advocacy and educational initiatives.

About the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC): For 27 years, HFSC has developed and provided comprehensive, non-commercial, educational resources that highlight the life safety benefits of protecting homes with fire sprinklers. HFSC's mission is solely educational and its materials are available to everyone at no cost through HFSC's website: www.homefiresprinkler.org.

About the Fire Sprinkler Initiative®: The Fire Sprinkler Initiative®, a project of the National Fire Protection Association, is a nationwide effort to require the use of home fire sprinklers and the use of fire sprinkler requirements for new construction. Visit the Fire Sprinkler Initiative website at: www.firesprinklerinitiative.org.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The Association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA Codes and Standards can be viewed online for free at: www.nfpa.org/freecaccess.



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The Evolving Role of Design Management in Modern Organizations

By Jared Van Gammeren

In today's fast-paced and innovation-driven industries, the role of design management has become increasingly vital. While traditionally associated with aesthetics and creativity, design management now encompasses a broad spectrum of responsibilities that bridge the gap between design, business strategy, and project execution. This article explores the multifaceted nature of design management, its relevance in specialized fields like fire protection, and the evolving expectations placed on design managers.

Understanding Design Management

Design management is more than just overseeing creative output. It is a strategic discipline that integrates design thinking with business objectives to drive innovation, efficiency, and competitive advantage. According to the Design Management Institute, it involves the continuous coordination of processes, decisions, and strategies that result in well-designed products, services, and environments. It links design with innovation, technology, and customer needs, aiming to enhance both organizational success and quality of life.

Wikipedia defines it as a field that employs project management, strategy, and supply chain techniques to support creativity and structure within an organization. Simply put, it is the business side of design – ensuring that creative efforts align with broader organizational goals.

“Often, the most experienced designer is promoted to the role of design manager. While this seems logical, it's important to recognize that technical expertise does not always translate into effective management.”

Design Management in Practice

In practical terms, design management is akin to project management, but with a focus on the design process. It ensures that budgets are met, timelines are adhered to, and designs are effectively communicated and coordinated. This is particularly relevant in technical fields like fire protection, where design must meet stringent regulatory *Standards* and integrate with complex construction processes.

The responsibilities of a design manager extend far beyond overseeing drawings. They include organizing teams, man-

aging workflows, coordinating with other departments, and ensuring that all aspects of the design process contribute to the successful delivery of a project.

The Designer's Role: More Than Just Design

At its core, the role of a designer involves having a project to design and the skills to execute it. However, in many organizations, especially smaller ones, designers often wear multiple hats. They may be responsible for tasks such as:

- Coordinating with project teams.
- Requesting and managing CAD files and construction documents.
- Performing flow tests and BIM coordination.
- Managing software tools and staying updated with new technologies.
- Handling administrative tasks like billing, purchasing, and licensing.
- Estimating, budgeting, and even sales.
- Scheduling and training staff.

This extensive list illustrates that even a single project can become complex when a designer is expected to manage all these responsibilities. In such cases, the need for a dedicated design manager becomes evident.

Transitioning to Design Management

Often, the most experienced designer is promoted to the role of design manager. While this seems logical, it's important to recognize that technical expertise does not always translate into effective management. Personality traits play a significant role. Many designers are introverted and prefer focused work over juggling multiple tasks. A successful design manager, on the other hand, must be comfortable with planning, multitasking, and leading a team.

As teams grow, so does the complexity of managing diverse personalities and communication styles. A design manager must not only understand the technical aspects of design but also possess strong interpersonal and organizational skills.

Key Responsibilities of a Design Manager

A great design manager does more than supervise. They actively work to improve processes, support their team, and align design efforts with organizational goals. Key responsibilities include:

- **Scheduling and Workflow Management:** Developing systems to manage short- and long-term schedules, ensuring that work is evenly distributed and deadlines are met.

- **Resource Acquisition:** Establishing processes to gather necessary project information in advance to avoid delays.
- **Project Assignment:** Matching projects with designers based on skills, experience, and availability.
- **Design Handoff and Goal Setting:** Creating structured handoff processes and setting clear goals for each project.
- **Quality Control:** Implementing design *Standards* and review procedures to minimize errors and reduce risk.
- **Performance Reviews:** Providing regular feedback, recognizing achievements, and addressing areas for improvement.
- **Team Feedback and Engagement:** Encouraging open communication and fostering a positive work environment.
- **Workforce Planning:** Forecasting future workload and staffing needs to ensure the team is adequately resourced.
- **Recruitment and Training:** Identifying talent sources and developing replicable training programs for new hires.
- **Technology Oversight:** Managing software tools, updates, and innovations to enhance productivity.
- **Project Analysis:** Reviewing completed projects to provide feedback to estimators and ensure accurate budgeting.

Creating a Positive Work Culture

Beyond technical and managerial duties, a design manager plays a crucial role in shaping the team’s culture. Making the workplace enjoyable, encouraging collaboration, and celebrating successes contribute to a motivated and high-performing team.

“Beyond technical and managerial duties, a design manager plays a crucial role in shaping the team’s culture. Making the workplace enjoyable, encouraging collaboration...”

Conclusion

Design management is a dynamic and essential function that blends creativity with strategy. It requires a unique combination of technical knowledge, leadership skills, and business acumen. As organizations continue to recognize the value of design in achieving their goals, the role of the design manager will only grow in importance. By embracing this role with a thoughtful and proactive approach, design managers can drive innovation, improve efficiency, and elevate the impact of design within their organizations.

About the Author:

Jared Van Gammeren has been in the fire sprinkler industry for over 20 years. He has worked his way up through the ranks as an installer, foreman, superintendent, designer, estimator, project manager, design manager, director, and owner. He has estimated, designed, and managed fire protection work on hospital facilities, industrial projects, schools, and mixed-use buildings.

Out of his desire to provide the best design services to companies from coast to coast, Jared, along with Darin Syverson,

P.E., created Driven Fire Consultants in 2015. With his experience, management style, and the greatest design team available, Jared believes Driven Fire Consultants is one of the top fire protection design and engineering firms in the nation. Driven is currently performing work in 30 states and has licensed engineers in nine states.



Jared holds NICET Level III in Water-Based Systems Layout and NICET III in Inspections and Testing of Water Based Systems. He completed Fire Pump Applications, Inspections & Testing from Oklahoma State University in 2008, and Analysis of High Piled & Rack Storage Systems and Hydraulic Calculation of Automatic Sprinkler Systems in 2009. Jared is a volunteer firefighter for the Inwood Fire Department, serves as an Alternate Member on NFPA 33/34 and NFPA 11 and Principal on NFPA 30B and currently serves on the AFSA A&E Committee, the Convention Committee for AFSA 44 and Co-Chairs the design training subcommittee for them. Jared is also on the FLC committee for NFSA.

He may be reached at: jaredv@drivenfire.com, (605) 444-3762, www.drivenfire.com.

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Am I Relevant?

By Russ Leavitt

I had dinner earlier this year with my brother-in-law. Ron retired after spending a career on the financial side of business. He was incredibly successful and recognized as an expert in his field. He traveled the world in his role and he and his wife Karen have lived in some of the great financial centers around the globe including three years in New York City – living and working in Manhattan. It was awe-inspiring to visit them in their corner 25th floor apartment and its view of Central Park. I would be untruthful if I claimed to not be a bit envious.

We spoke of life after one's career, and he made an interesting observation – with his retirement, he lost much of the “relevancy” that had defined him. He struggled with the loss of influence that he had as a finance and accounting expert. This is not to say he was not busy in his retirement. He managed his investments, built a second home in the mountains of Idaho, bought a winter home in Arizona, took numerous road trips around the United States, tried new hobbies, and volunteered at his church and for charities. However, even though he was busy doing worthwhile things, he still felt he lacked having any real influence on many issues that mattered to him. As a result, he decided to do something about it.

He was able to regain much of the influence he had lost when he became an adjunct professor at Boise State University. In addition, he and Karen took on the role as mentors for students enrolled in an international educational program designed for populations in underserved countries. These teaching and mentoring roles have required him to stay on top of emerging financial technologies and systems. He is busy but once again fulfilled and happy with his life.

Losing relevancy can happen to organizations as well as individuals. One of the biggest challenges in today's world is the constantly evolving business environment. However, if a company does not adapt to deal with changing markets, tougher competition, emerging technology, or new products, it will soon find itself irrelevant. Change is not new, but the speed of change has dramatically increased during my lifetime, es-

pecially in the last decade. Standing still for just a brief period of time can have a dramatic negative effect on a company's relevancy in the marketplace.

Individuals must also adapt to keep up with the changing business environment. We do not need to “retire” to lose our relevancy; we can lose it by simply digging in our heels and refusing to move. I can use myself as an example. I spent the early years of my career as a designer. However, even though I know how to design, there is virtually no market for a designer who can only draw by hand. My lack of skills in using computer-aided design tools has made my relevancy as a designer largely disappear. Fortunately, I developed other skills to keep my place in our industry.

Constantly reinventing ourselves and our businesses is a necessary component for long term success. It can feel daunting, but if we lag behind the market or our competition, we will soon find that our personal or company vision has become a pipe dream. So, the next time we find that we must change the way we operate, sell, or service our customers, don't complain too severely – remember that without change we can soon lose our relevancy and that is definitely not a part of anyone's game plan.

About the Author:

Russ Leavitt is the Executive Chairman of Telgian Holdings. With over 40 years of experience, he holds a Level IV certification from NICET in Fire Sprinkler Layout and Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) designation. He is a Board Member and Chair of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the Chair of the NFPA 13 Sprinkler System Discharge Criteria technical committee. He also serves on the NFPA 13 Installation committee, as well as the NFPA 3, NFPA 4, and NFPA 25 technical committees. Russ conducts seminars internationally on a variety of fire and life safety related subjects and has authored a number of articles and training materials.

For more information visit: www.telgian.com.

“Constantly reinventing ourselves and our businesses is a necessary component for long term success. It can feel daunting, but if we lag behind the market or our competition...”

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A Day on the Green For a Great Cause

\$13,000 Raised for the Firefighters Burn Institute

On a beautiful Monday in June, the Greater Bay Area Chapter of AFSA hosted its annual charity golf tournament – and thanks to the generous support of our members, sponsors, and community partners, the event was a resounding success.

With 108 registered golfers teeing off for a cause, the tournament raised an incredible \$13,000 to benefit the Firefighters Burn Institute (FFBI).

The event wasn't just about golf – it was about coming together. A large group from the FFBI joined us on the course and at the banquet to celebrate the day's impact and connect with those who helped make it possible. Their presence was a powerful reminder of the importance of our support and the lives it touches.

We were also proud to be joined by several generous sponsors whose contributions helped bring this event to life. Their support made every aspect of the day, from prizes to refreshments, possible.

Following the tournament, attendees gathered for a banquet, where most of the Greater Bay Area Chapter Board of Directors were in attendance to show their appreciation and share in the camaraderie.

More than just a fundraiser, this year's tournament was a celebration of community, commitment, and the drive to make a difference.

We thank everyone who participated, sponsored, or supported in any way. We're already looking forward to next year!

For more information contact: Alicia Karrick, Executive Director, Greater Bay Area Chapter American Fire Sprinkler Association; (510) 398-9185, www.AFSA-GBA.org.

The Illinois Burn Prevention Golf Invitational

This singular golf outing raised \$136,000 for burn prevention programs and burn injury care in Illinois. Benefitting organizations include Camp "I Am Me" for burn-injured

children, From Tragedy To Triumph Foundation (which offers scholarships to young burn survivors), and hospital burn units at OSF St. Anthony (Rockford) and Cook County Stroger (Chicago). Of particular interest, we reached a milestone with From Tragedy To Triumph Foundation, having donated more than \$200,000 to the charity. (*See Letters for more.*)





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As the company grew, so did the McHugh family's role in it. George's

sons, Jim and George IV, joined the business and helped expand its offerings, while continuing to manufacture products in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Their leadership preserved AGF's hands-on approach and commitment to customer service, while driving the company forward with new products like the COLLECTanDRAIN auxiliary drain system and the PURGEnVENT air vent line.

This year marks an important milestone: AGF is now welcoming the third generation of McHughs. George "Joe" McHugh recently joined the company as Director of Operations, bringing with him over a decade of experience from his time in logistics and program management at Amazon. His background in process improvement and operational efficiency will help AGF continue to grow, without compromising the values that have made it successful.

For the McHugh family, this isn't just about continuing a legacy. It's about honoring the people and principles that got them here. Joe's grandfather built AGF on a foundation of ingenuity and trust. His father and uncle carried it forward with dedication and a clear vision for the future. And now, with Joe on board, the company begins a new chapter – still family-owned, still American-made, and still committed to making the fire protection industry better.

In a time when many companies are being bought, outsourced, or folded into larger conglomerates, AGF stands out as a rare constant: a business where the family name is still on the door, and where the people behind the name are still actively involved in earning their customers' trust every day.

For more information visit: www.agfmfg.com. □

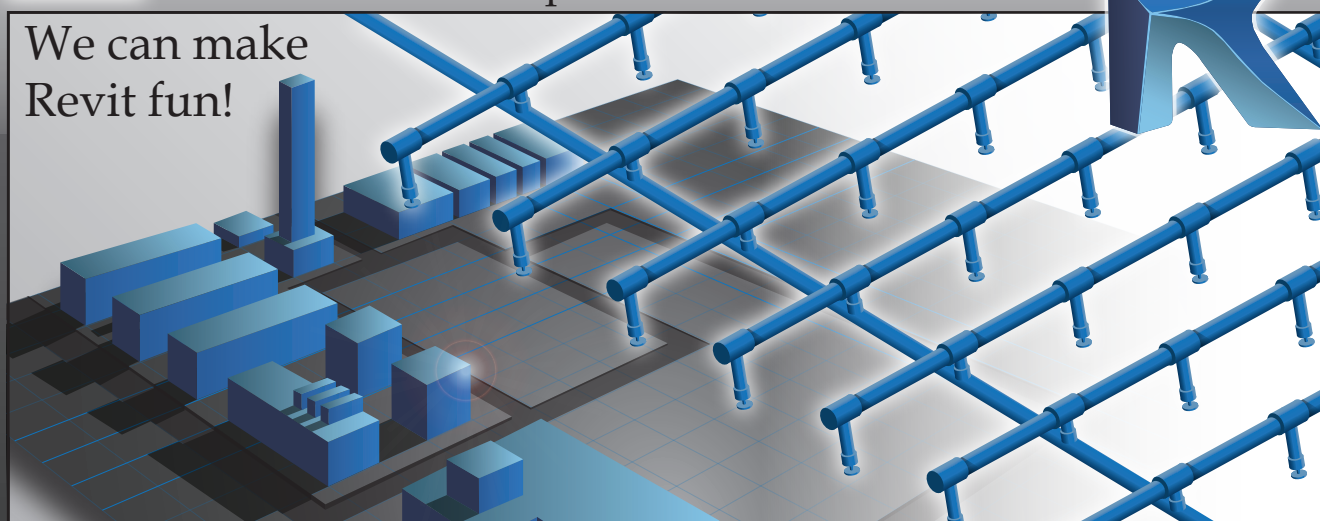
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NFPA Conference & Expo June 16-20, 2025 – Mandalay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV



Daniel Long, Cooper Garden, & Clay Ivey presented their Limited Area Systems Poster at NFPA.

“We also had two advisors on this project and six other undergraduate students and one masters student. They could not attend the conference...”

— Clay Ivey, B.S. Fire Protection Engineering
Oklahoma State University, clay.ivey@okstate.edu



Reddy Palicharla, Bill Payne (tall guy), Donnie Bartalone, Lisa Villa, & Ellen and Bill Stelter
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www.mastercontrols.com



Christopher and Dawn Logan
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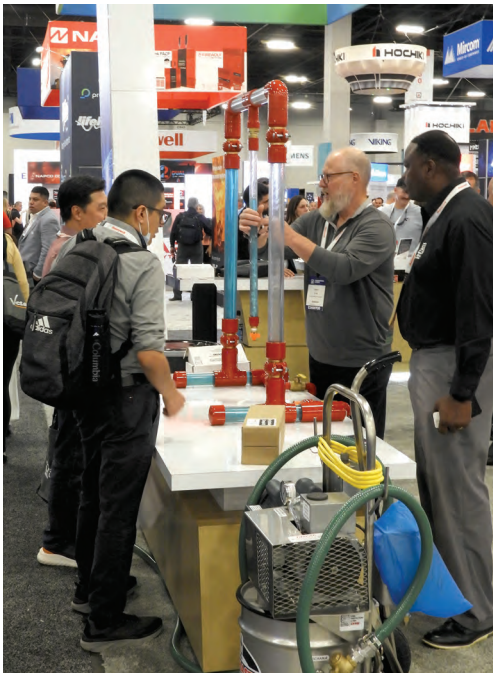
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Marny McNitt, Robert Caputo (AFSA), Peg Paul, & Lisa Woodward

Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

www.homefiresprinkler.org



Diane Russell, Ashley Caliri, & David Russell

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Next Year:
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Las Vegas again in June 2026...
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Armstrong Fluid Technology has expanded its family of Vertical-In-Line Fire Pumps with the addition of the new 750gpm 5x4x10PF model.

This new size is available with Design Envelope technology, featuring connected intelligence, performance tracking, and automated alerts to support more cost-effective maintenance and better occupant safety. Due to the managed “ramp-up” of output, there are no pressure spikes on startup, pipes are better protected, water delivery is ensured, and the risk of water hammer is reduced.

Other features include: Reduced on-site work for power cabling; Reduction of PRVs and drain lines; Elimination of safety issues related to supply pressure; Reduced costs for design engineers, contractors and building owners.

“This new size of Vertical In-Line fire pump offers excellent performance in a key range of flow and pressure output. And with the addition of Design Envelope technology, customers can enjoy the security of performance tracking throughout the lifecycle of the pump,” said Michael DeMille, Global Offering Manager - Fire Pumps.

About Armstrong Fluid Technology: In the shift toward digitalization and integration of fluid-flow systems, Armstrong leads the industry. With advanced solutions that leverage edge computing, IoT, machine learning, digital twin technology and demand-based control, Armstrong provides and protects efficiency in building mechanical systems, approaching energy optimization as a whole-building challenge and advancing the practice of full lifecycle management. Focusing on HVAC, Plumbing, Gas Transmission, and Fire Safety applications, we provide energy-efficient, cost-effective solutions and performance management services to building and facility professionals around the world.

Armstrong Fluid Technology is committed to sustainability. In 2019, Armstrong signed the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, a program launched by the World Green Building Council. As a signatory to the program, Armstrong has pledged to ensure that all its offices and manufacturing facilities operate at net-zero carbon by the year 2030.

In April of 2024, Armstrong Fluid Technology celebrated the 90th anniversary of the company’s founding. Over its 90-year history, Armstrong has contributed to numerous iconic buildings and projects worldwide. Despite changes and growth, the company maintains a strong commitment to its original values of Community, Service, Learning, and Innovation. Commenting on the 90th anniversary, Executive Chairman, Charles Armstrong stated, “As Armstrong Fluid Technology looks to the future, it remains dedicated to advancing intelligent fluid-flow technology, maintaining high standards of customer service, and promoting sustainability in its practices.”

12 WAYS TO GET FREE PUBLICITY

- 1. PEOPLE NEWS:** Send us news items about your activities in the fire sprinkler industry.
- 2. COMPANY NEWS:** Send us news about fire sprinkler companies.
- 3. REACTION:** Send your responses to *FPC* articles.
- 4. OTHER VOICES:** An open forum for your view on any subject in the industry.
- 5. LETTERS:** Write a signed letter to the editor.
- 6. CALENDAR:** Submit information and dates for industry activities.
- 7. WATCHDOG:** Inform us of actions taken to correct misleading news reports or media events.
- 8. NEW PRODUCTS:** Introduce new products for use by fire sprinkler contractors.
- 9. LITERATURE:** Send us brochures and flyers of interest to industry affiliates.
- 10. NEW LISTINGS & APPROVALS:** Concerning products used in the industry.
- 11. GUEST EDITORIAL:** Write a Guest Editorial on issues, problems, and concerns facing the industry.
- 12. FEATURE ARTICLES:** Send an article with photos of an installation, a company profile, or a technical report.

Send all items to: info@fpcmag.com



FM Approved In-Rack Storage Product Family

New FM Approved Intermediate Level In-Rack Storage Family

Viking Group, Inc., a Michigan-based manufacturer and distributor of fire protection solutions, is excited to announce over 20 sprinkler configurations in its **brand-new FM Approved intermediate level in-rack storage family**. Including both ELO and ESFR sprinklers, guards, watershields, and various installation tools, this new line of intermediate in-rack solutions ensures that customers can solve extensive storage obstacles in a world of growing automation and storage footprint expansion. In addition to the family's broad FM Approval, the ESFR offering includes UL Listed options.

Applications such as automatic storage retrieval warehouses face unique challenges – contractors need to provide sufficient protection from difficult storage fires while simultaneously avoiding racking or container obstructions that could limit the sprinklers' coverage. With the 20+ sprinkler and accessory configurations in this new offering, this complete solution offers flexibility and ease.

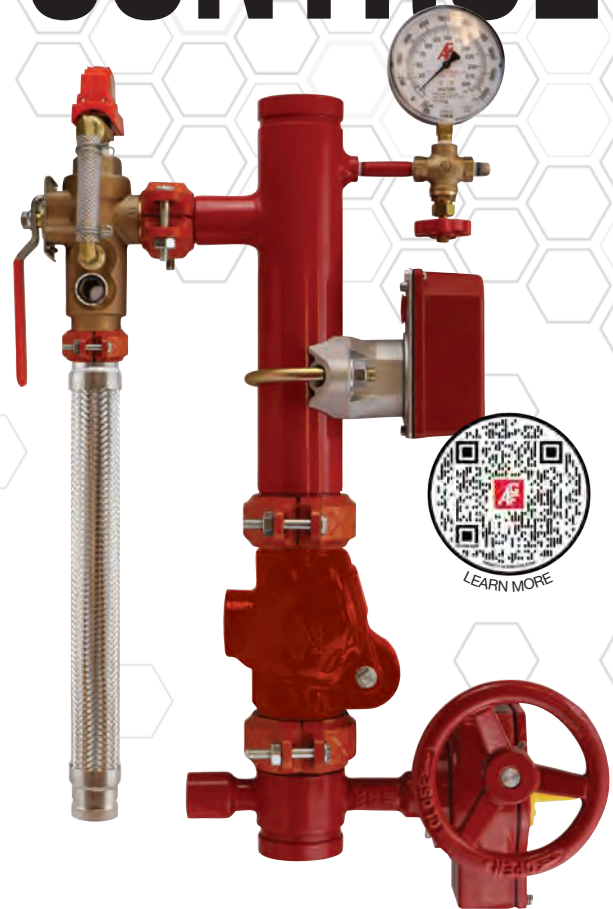
“Our new offering really amplifies existing in-rack solutions and makes it so that the customer has an entire family of key options to choose from,” states Martin Workman, Sr. Vice President – Product Experience. “With the addition of our new guards and watershields, new installation tools including a recessed wrench for easy install, and the ability to utilize InstaSeal compatibility, customers have a large offering that makes their high-challenge rack storage schemes a lot easier to tackle.”

For additional information on the sprinklers, including part numbers, installation tools and information, and technical datasheets, visit: www.vikinggroupinc.com, or contact your local Viking SupplyNet sales representative.

Viking is a global leader in manufacturing and distributing innovative fire protection and life safety systems. For more than 100 years, the company's products and services have protected lives and property worldwide from the devastating effects of fire. For more information on Viking's complete line of fire protection products and services visit: www.vikinggroupinc.com.



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George “Joe” McHugh is the new Director of Operations at AGF Manufacturing, a leading innovator in the fire sprinkler industry. This milestone marks the continuation of a proud family tradition, as Joe becomes the third generation of the McHugh family to help lead the company.

Joe brings over a decade of operations and logistics leadership from Amazon, where he most recently served as a Senior Program Manager for Amazon Logistics ACES. Throughout his 11-year tenure, he led large-scale process improvement initiatives, launched and optimized logistics delivery stations across North America, and implemented lean principles to enhance efficiency and performance.

At AGF Manufacturing, Joe will oversee all operational aspects of the business, with a focus on streamlining processes, scaling production capabilities, and supporting continued growth in product innovation and customer service.

“Welcoming Joe to the team represents more than just a new hire – it’s a continuation of the values that built AGF from the ground up,” said Jim McHugh, President of AGF Manufacturing. “As one of the few remaining family-owned businesses in the fire sprinkler industry, we are excited to see a new generation

carry forward our legacy of quality, reliability, and innovation.”

Founded in 1986, AGF Manufacturing has earned a reputation for engineering dependable, American-made products for fire sprinkler systems. The company’s product lines include PURGENVENT air vents, TESTanDRAIN valves, heated auxiliary drains, and other industry-first solutions designed to simplify installation and maintenance while enhancing system performance.

For more information visit: www.agfmfg.com.



Daniel Sanborn has joined Bull Moose Tube Company as the Regional Sales Manager working remote and assigned to the Chesterfield Support Center. Danny reports directly to Dave Weinrich, Director of Sprinkler Sales.

Danny has over 15 years of experience in customer relationship management, territory development, and product sales within the fire protection, industrial, and oil and gas industries. He began as a Sales Estimator for Protect Controls Inc. Gaining experience, he transitioned into Product Development and Sales with Hahn Equipment Company Inc. Most recently, he worked in the capacity of Regional Sales Representative of Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. leading

project negotiations and collaborating with both inside sales and management teams for favorable outcomes for all parties. Danny holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Texas At Tyler with a focus in Marketing.

For more information visit: www.bullmooseindustries.com.



Tracey Bellamy is Chief Engineering Officer with Telgian Corporation and has more than 30 years of experience in fire protection engineering. He serves on 14 NFPA committees, including NFPA 1, 11, 13, 15, 25, 30, 30B, 101, and 5000 as well as being a major contributor to the NFPA 13 and 25 *Handbooks* and the upcoming new NFPA *Fire Protection Handbook*. He holds professional engineering licenses in 49 of 50 states and all of the U.S. Territories. He is an active member of NFPA and SFPE.

At the recent NFPA Expo and Conference, he presented *Sprinkler Protection Guidance of the Modern Warehouse* with Mark Hopkins, Summit Fire Consulting, and Amanda Kimball, Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF).

Mark Hopkins is the Engineer Director/Industry Liaison, Summit Fire Consulting (SFC), Wakefield, Rhode Island.

Mark has over 30 years of experience

in fire protection engineering and code consulting. Mark co-authored the FPRF reports titled *Identifying Challenges to the Fire Service in Storage Facilities* and *Quantification of Water Supply Adjustments*. Mark is currently working on the FPRF project titled “Landscape Analysis of Automatic Storage Retrieval Systems and Fire Protection Guidance” and has served on numerous FPRF project technical panels, so he is very familiar with its process and expectations. He has also authored chapters in the *NFPA 13 Handbook*, the *NFPA Fire Protection Handbook*, and many other documents. He has served on numerous NFPA and SFPE technical committees, including but not limited to NFPA 13 (SSD, SSI, AAC, and HBS) and NFPA 25. Mark has presented technical reports to a variety of NFPA technical committees on a broad range of subjects and has presented at numerous national and international conferences. Mark is a Fire Prevention Commissioner in the State of Maryland responsible for amendments to the State Fire and Life Safety Codes. Mark is also a member-at-large for the SFPE Board of Directors.

At the NFPA Expo he presented: *Sprinkler Protection Guidance of the Modern Warehouse* with Tracey Bellamy, and Amanda Kimball; *Identifying Challenges to Fire Service Response in Storage Facilities* with Brad Cronin, CFPS, Avon Fire Department, and Jacqueline Wilmot, BHC; and *Performance of N2 Generators and Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors for Dry Pipe Systems*.

Recordings may be available of some NFPA presentations.

Amanda Kimball, P.E., is the Executive Director of the Fire Protection Research Foundation, in Quincy, Massachusetts, the research affiliate of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

In her role as Executive Director, Amanda provides leadership on research initiatives that pertain to fire protection, emergency response, and virtually everything that challenges safety in the built environment. She is also a registered professional fire protection engineer in the state of Massachusetts. Prior to her arrival at FPRF in 2011, she worked

for seven years in a consultant capacity for Arup, providing insights on fire protection engineering, building code life safety, the design of fire protection systems, and the egress modeling of buildings and subway stations. Amanda has her BS in Civil Engineering and MS in Fire Protection Engineering from WPI. □

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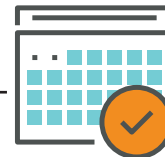
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www.birdease.com/nfsamichigangolf

August 19, 2025

37TH BURN CENTER INVITATIONAL
For St. Mary's Burn Center & More
 Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI
 Jim Gawloski, gawloksij@gmail.com
www.giveawf.org/bcgi

August 21, 2025

NFSA INDIANA CHAP. GOLF OUTING
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 Ron Ritchey, (765) 412-6707
ritcheynfsa@nfsa.org
www.birdease.com/22940

September 8, 2025

29TH NFSA MN BURNAID CLASSIC
For Burn Aid Foundation & More
 Dellwood C.C., Dellwood, MN
 Matt Gallagher, (651) 755-3906
info@burnaidfoundation.org

September 11, 2025

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
 AFSA Chesapeake Chapter
 The Links at Challedon, Mt. Airy, MD
 Danielle Fowler, (410) 972-1122
daniellef@pottersignal.com
www.afsachesapeakechapter.org

September 16, 2025

IFPA GOLF OUTING
For Association Programs
 Poplar Creek Golf Course
 Hoffman Estates, IL
ifpachicago@gmail.com
www.ifpanet.org

September 22, 2025

36TH ANNUAL BURN OUTING
For State Burn Center & More
 The Medallion Club, Westerville, OH
 Bob Dawson, bdd4@yahoo.com
 (614) 561-8145, www.sfpecoc.com

September 24, 2025

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dbeck@casa-firesprinkler.org
www.casa-firesprinkler.org

September 24, 2025

32ND AFSA-VA BURN SURV. GOLF
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September 24-25, 2025

24TH INT'L WATER MIST CONFERENCE
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Manchester, UK
www.iwma.net

October 5-11, 2025
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 9, 2025

FIRE SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION CHARITY GOLF
For Burn Centers, Strawberry Farms G.C., Irvine, CA, Larry Seligman (626) 673-5345, larry@apfs.com

October 10, 2025

GBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT
For Association Programs
Dublin, CA, AFSA - Greater Bay Area Chapter, www.afsa-gba.org

October 13, 2025

KFSCAF ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
Frankfort Country Club, Frankfort, KY
Michelle Jacobi, KY Fire Sprinkler Contractor Assoc. Foundation
michelle@ksae.com, (502) 223-5322

October 13, 2025

35TH SCOTTISH RITE CHARITY CLASSIC
For Scottish Rite Hosp. for Children
Trophy Club C.C., Trophy Club, TX
Sarah Kiefer, (512) 844-6632
sarah@fscatx.org, www.fscatx.org

October 14-19, 2025*

AFSA44 CONVENTION, EXHIBITION, & APPRENTICE COMPETITION
Wash. D.C., www.firesprinkler.org

October 21-23, 2025

SFPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO
Vancouver, BC, SFPE, www.sfpe.org

October 24, 2025

25TH BOB McCULLOUGH MEMORIAL
For Fire Safety Educational Projects
Chateau Elan, Braselton, GA
Mindy McCullough Buckley
mindy@allsouthsprinkler.com
www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

October 27, 2025

17TH LFSA GOLF TOURNAMENT
Beneficiary To Be Determined
Santa Maria G.C., Baton Rouge, LA
Ellen Ballard, (318) 841-1494
Louisiana Fire Sprinkler Association
eballard@firetechsystems.com
www.lafiresprinkler.org

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

NORCAL-NV SFPE GOLF EVENT
For Scholarships
Tilden Park G.C., Berkeley, CA
(925) 997-3247, patrick.kogoma@ffic.com, www.ncnsfpe.org

November 21, 2025

GARY WENNES MEMORIAL GOLF
For Arizona Burn Foundation
Biltmore Golf Club, Phoenix, AZ
Matthew Virtue, Cell (602) 376-4818
matthew.virtue@victaulic.com
Danny Garcia, dgarcia1@winsupply.com
www.AZfiresprinkler.org

December 9, 2025

GFSA CHRISTMAS GATHERING
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Punchbowl Social, Atlanta, GA
mindy@allsouthsprinkler.com
www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

For more visit: www.fpcmag.com

Also Visit:

- Academy of Fire Sprinkler Technology
www.firesprinkleracademy.com
- American Fire Sprinkler Association
www.firesprinkler.org
- American Subcontractors Association:
www.asaonline.com
- BlazeMaster®, www.blazemastertraining.com
- Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association
www.casa-firesprinkler.org
- Fire Smarts: www.firesmarts.com
- Fire Tech Productions: www.firetech.com
- Fire Pump Academy:
www.firepumpacademy.net
- Florida Fire Sprinkler Assoc.
www.fsa.nfsa.org
- FMI: www.fminet.com
- National Fire Protection Assoc.:
www.nfpa.org
- National Fire Sprinkler Assoc.:
www.nfsa.org
- Oklahoma Fire Sprinkler Association
www.ofsa.info
- Seneca Polytechnic
www.senecapolytechnic.ca

Illinois Fire Prevention Association

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Photos from the Technical Workforce Development Program Jeff Lewis facilitates. See POY pages 12-13.



*Meda Merrit and April Jones greet students
at AFSA VA Career Fair*



Students at House Renovation Project



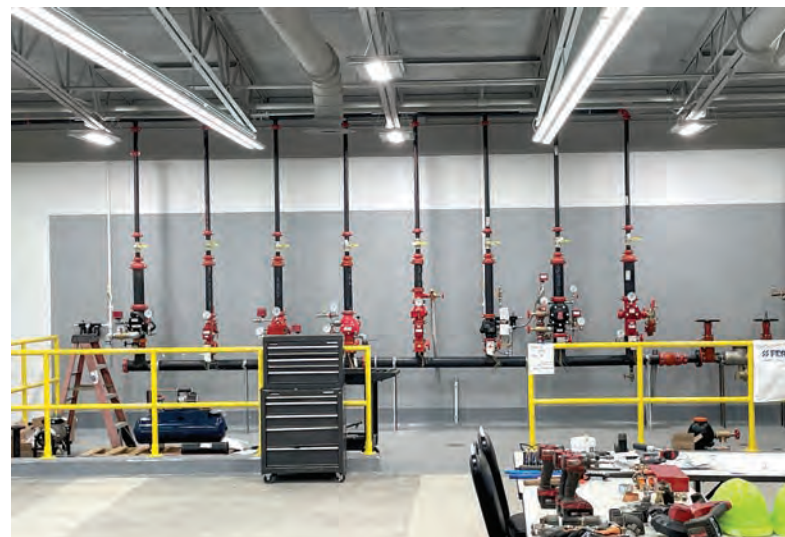
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that build your house.
— Proverbs 24:27 ESV

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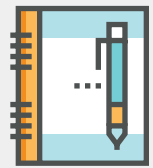
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Technical Workforce Development with Jeff Lewis: This is Henrico County Public Schools' Letter of Intent Signing Day. The two graduates are (L) Jasper Mubawa and (R) Brandon Oliver. VSC Staff left to right: Jeff Lewis, Nick Craig, Jason Dixon, JB Wilson. Pictured in the back is Precision Machining Teacher Kevin Osby.

He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business."
— Acts 19:25 (NIV)



Technical Workforce Development with Jeff Lewis: two Raleigh HS 2025 Summer Interns. Pictured are: (L) Barry Bandy, Division Manager for VSC Raleigh, (C) Summer Intern Sean Amrine, and (R) Summer Intern Abram Campbell.

Also at NFPA

Mark Fessenden
International Fire
Sprinkler Association
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Fort Pierce, FL.....\$2.8 Million
Orlando, FL\$11 Million

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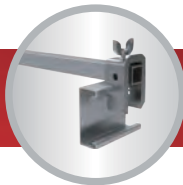
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