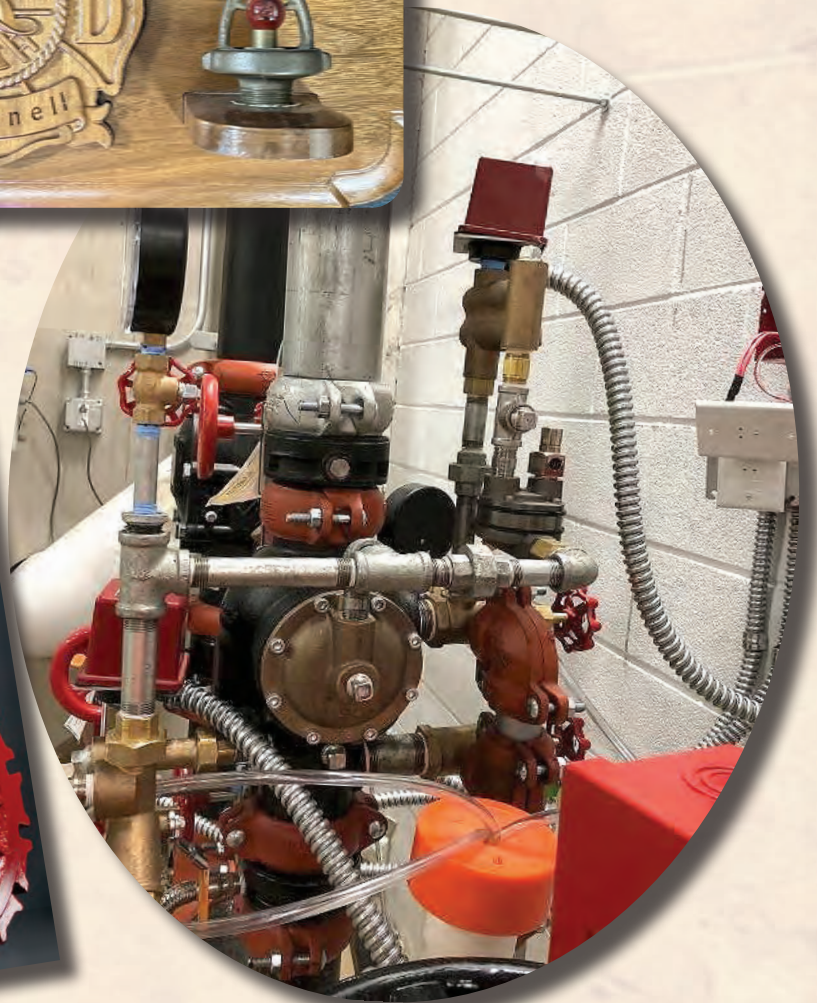
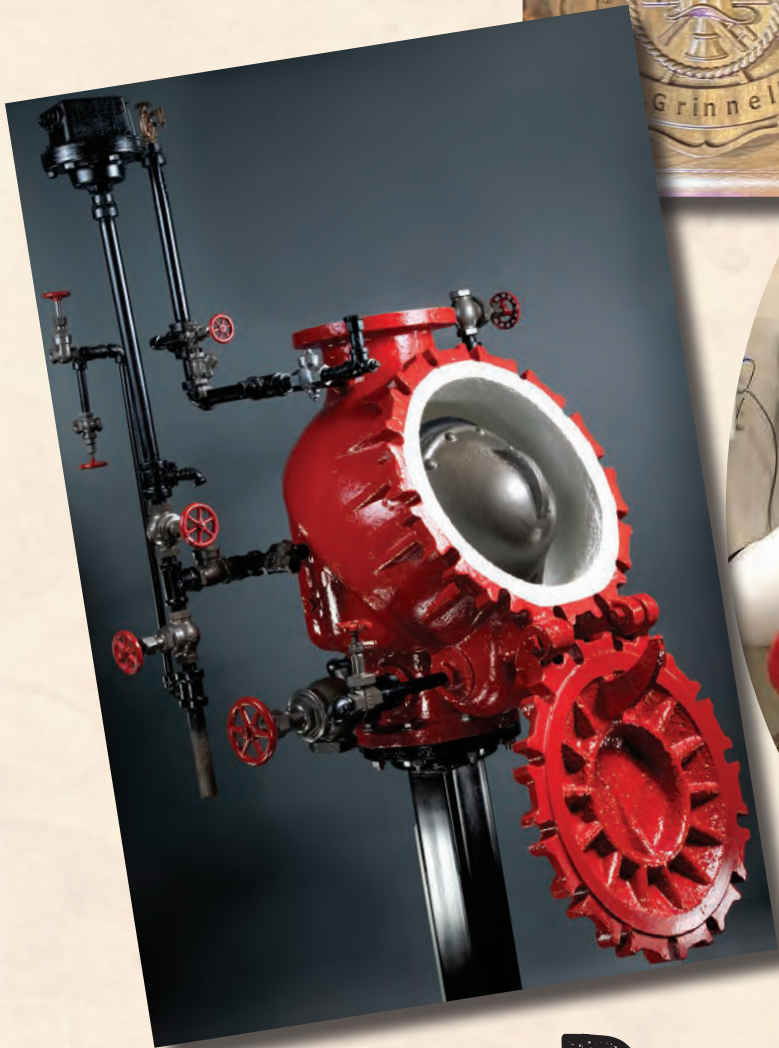


March 2025  
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# DRY PIPE SYSTEMS

also

*History & Old Photos*

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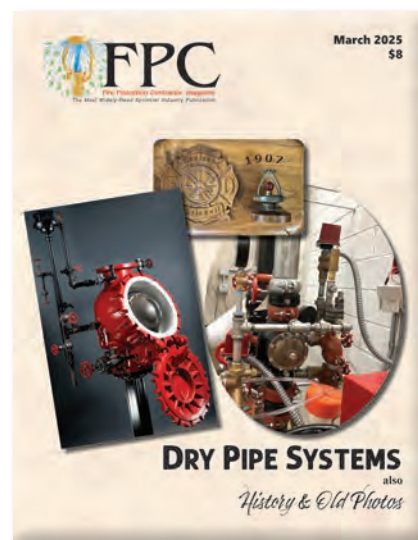
~ ON THE COVER ~

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Cover photos from Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. and Victaulic. See the Dry Pipe feature articles starting on page 14. Our History feature begins on page 20. Russ Leavitt reminds us not to ignore the small stuff on page 22. Also, catch the many opportunities coming up in both the Calendar and Seminars & Events columns! Don't put this edition down until you have read every page!

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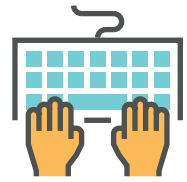
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## Greatness Abides...

### *& Fire Sprinklers are Functionally Perfect*

I really can't say enough about how great the fire sprinkler industry is. Great people, great companies, great products and services – and the best fire protection money can buy.

The fire sprinkler industry is rife with great people. Smart, friendly, kind, caring, well-meaning, and passionate people.

Indeed, the fire sprinkler industry has many eminent people – people that are exceptional in their field. If you want to meet some of them all you have to do is go to a meeting of a local fire sprinkler group or a chapter meeting of a fire sprinkler Association, or, better yet, go to the annual meeting of the American Fire Sprinkler Association, the National Fire Sprinkler Association, or the National Fire Protection Association (and/or the Canadian, Mexican, or international Associations). You will be impressed by the great people in these groups. The high-quality seminars and the excellent presentations are worth your while, worth your time, worth your money. Giving back to the industry that has given you so much can actually help you get even more.

The fire sprinkler industry has taken a lot of black eyes over the decades, but we put up with it. We know that fire sprinkler systems really are the best fire protection money can buy. There is hardly a week that goes by when there is not a fire sprinkler success story in the news. Sometimes the headline belies the fact that a fire sprinkler saved a life, a home, a busi-

ness, or much more. Sometimes they focus on water damage... or occasionally they will cite a failure of a fire protection system when the system was not at fault. Like with an attic fire, when there were no sprinklers in the attic. Or, when the occupancy was changed and the system was overloaded, or with battery fires, or explosions. Still, we abide.

Fire sprinkler systems are functionally perfect. When properly designed, installed, and maintained, they have, and will, perform perfectly. Checking the fire to allow the fire service to arrive, and often putting out fires altogether. There must be over 500 documented cases of this in the last decade; perhaps more than a thousand.

Please see the Calendar and Seminar columns for multiple opportunities to be with and learn from some of the greatest people in our industry. And, see the Success Stories page for just a few examples of fire sprinklers saving lives, property, businesses, and a cat!

*As always, we are yours, for a better fire sprinkler industry,*

*— Brant R. Brumbeloe*

abide /ə-bīd'/ intransitive verb

To put up with; tolerate: synonym: endure.

To wait patiently for. To remain in a place.

*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

— John 15:4 (NKJV)

**FPC magazine**, Fire Protection Contractor  
ISSN: 1043-2485

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**Since 1978**

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## A letter to FPC, November 1989

### **Biggest Problem Facing Industry?**

As I read the responses to your question, “What is the biggest problem facing the fire sprinkler industry today?”, I began to realize my chief complaint is people who complain all the time!

Our industry provides life and property safety. We are part of a noble profession. We put something back into the society we live in, we make a difference.

Hell, some guys even make a profit! (whoops.)

We get to see most every type of business in the world, and learn a little something about each of them.

Have you ever known a sprinkler contractor who didn’t know his way around town without a map?

I love this industry, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Happy-up you guys – life is too short to take it so seriously, you’re not going to get out of it alive anyway!

Of course it’s a challenge, if it wasn’t, it wouldn’t be as enjoyable or generate as much pride.

If you are not enjoying the ride, get off the bus!

— Robert Caputo  
Garvin Fire Protection Systems, Inc.  
San Diego, CA  
Circa 1989

### **Editor’s Comments:**

True words, well said. And, still good advice. We serve in a noble profession; we make a difference; we get to see and learn so much; and we need to enjoy it!

### **Personnel Problems Persist**

Another letter, also in *FPC*’s November edition, said the biggest problem facing the fire sprinkler industry today, “*would have to be the lack of qualified personnel.*”

Sound familiar? The fire sprinkler industry has struggled with this concern for as long as most of us can remember. There is a persistent designer shortage most of the time, and finding, and keeping, good people is an ever-present challenge.

The November 1989 letter on this topic said: “*The fire sprinkler industry needs to start promoting the fire sprinkler industry as a career opportunity at the high school level.*”

Many in the fire sprinkler industry have done just that; and at the last AFSA meeting it was said that we have to start educating even younger people.

*What do you think?*  
info@fpcmag.com

**In 1776, Thomas Paine said:**

*“We have it in our power to begin the world over again. A situation, similar to the present, hath not happened since the days of Noah until now. The birthday of a new world is at hand.”*

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# NewsBriefs

## National

### \$750 Stipends for Home Fire Sprinkler Outreach

*NFPA Fire Sprinkler Initiative Week communicates the dangers of home fires to residents and firefighters.*

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) will select 40 fire departments to each receive a \$750 stipend to conduct a Home Fire Sprinkler Week outreach program during the week of **May 11-17, 2025**. The stipend program is generously funded by a grant from State Farm®. Applicants for the stipend must sign up for the free Built For Life Fire Departments (BFLFD) program and describe their plan to use and evaluate their awards.

Home Fire Sprinkler Week is co-sponsored by HFSC and the NFPA Fire Sprinkler Initiative. The week communicates the dangers of home fires to residents and firefighters and promotes the crucial safety advantages of constructing new homes and retrofitting existing residences with fire sprinklers. Fire departments of any size or type can use the \$750 stipend to:

- Create and print customizable materials from the Home Fire Sprinkler Studio.
- Build a Home Fire Sprinkler NFPA 13D Display following the HFSC guide.
- Produce an educational banner or canopy tent utilizing HFSC display graphics. Fire department logos may be added.
- Purchase a monitor to play HFSC's educational videos.
- Purchase a virtual reality headset to play HFSC's VR video.
- Post HFSC videos or graphics on their fire department Facebook page and use the stipend to boost the messages.
- Build or refurbish a side-by-side demonstration.

Participants in Fire Prevention Week can take advantage of the free resources of the HFSC Studio at Home Fire Sprinkler Studio to create a wide range of educational materials for their fire sprinkler community outreach initiatives. With this easy-to-use online tool, fire departments can design their own flyers, posters, and social media cards; share messages

through their social media platforms; and print customized materials to distribute at community events such as home shows and open houses, and during Fire Sprinkler Week and Fire Prevention Week.

Now in its eighth year, Home Fire Sprinkler Week has grown increasingly popular with fire departments in the U.S. and Canada, and HFSC anticipates widespread participation again in 2025. Every day will feature a different theme focusing on key facts about home fire sprinklers and how they protect people living in homes, firefighters and the entire community.

This year's themes will be: **Monday:** Fire is Fast, Sprinklers are Faster. **Tuesday:** The Cost to Communities Without Fire Sprinklers. **Wednesday:** Fire Sprinklers are Part of a Fire-Safe Community. **Thursday:** It's Easy to Live with Home Fire Sprinklers. **Friday:** Protect What You Value Most - Installed fire sprinklers significantly reduce home fire injuries, deaths, and property loss.

"That's why all national building codes require sprinklers in new construction," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy and President of the HFSC. "Every new home built without fire sprinklers is substandard threatening Community Risk Reduction for decades. Our Home Fire Sprinkler Week resources underscore not just that we can do better; they underscore exactly how to do better."

About the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC): HFSC was formed in 1996 to inform the public about the life-saving value of sprinkler protection in one- and two-family homes. HFSC is a purely educational, non-profit organization and the leading resource for independent, noncommercial information about home fire sprinklers.

For more information visit: [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org).

## Illinois

### Two-Years After Deadly Fire

An article by Jasmine Minor posted February 4, 2025, [www.abc7chicago.com](http://www.abc7chicago.com), said some tenants have returned to the high-rise after the fatal fire, but concerns linger after two years.

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Hundreds of residents in a Kenwood high-rise are still waiting to move back in after being displaced by a deadly fire.

Harper Square residents said some people have moved three to five times since being displaced, and they all say they just want to go home.

“It is cheaper to keep you alive than allow you to die in one of these buildings,” said Rev. Robin Hood with Morning Star.

More than two years of frustrations have mounted for hundreds of residents who were forced to leave their homes after a fire took one woman’s life.

**“We have 600+ high-rises in Chicago that are un-sprinklered or not fully sprinklered,” said Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board Executive Director Erik Hoffer.**

Harper Square apartments in Kenwood is one of the high-rises built before 1975. Because of that, Hoffer says, **there is currently no mandate to require fire sprinklers in the building.**

“We have to decide that this is not going to happen again. We are not going to lose more people,” Hoffer said.

ABC7 asked building management if fire sprinklers were installed or would be installed and was told that the building was up to code.

“If we had fire extinguishers or fire

sprinklers in those buildings, it would have stopped it at that first unit – 140 units of residents; two years of anxiety,” tenant Ken Harris said.

A related article by Adam Harrington and Steffanie Dupree posted February 4, 2025, on [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com), said fire investigators **blame the lack of sprinklers** for the damage caused by the blaze. The building was built in 1970 – long before sprinklers were required – and it was never retrofitted.

**Advocates for sprinklers say the cost of fire repairs is often much more than the cost of retrofitting.**

And a [www.chicago.suntimes.com](http://www.chicago.suntimes.com) item said the co-op building isn’t fully equipped with **fire sprinklers**, raising concerns about future fires, according to **Erik Hoffer**, Executive Director of the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

### Iowa

## Minimalist Living Community to be Vacated

The Cedar Rapids Fire Marshal has ordered the Kiteville Minimalist Living Community to be vacated for multiple

safety violations, according to an article by CBJ news staff posted February 4, 2025, on [www.corridorbusiness.com](http://www.corridorbusiness.com).


The Cedar Rapids Fire Marshal’s Office issued the order due to “multiple life safety violations related to the safety of their patrons,” according to a press release.

The building, which is promoted online as “a modern, technology-optimized solution to short-term and long-term stays,” was placarded by city crews with notifications of the order to vacate.

According to the release, the action was driven by “repeated inactions by the facility’s ownership and management teams to remedy documented **fire suppression and alarm system failures** and to address noted life-safety violations in multiple areas of the facility.”

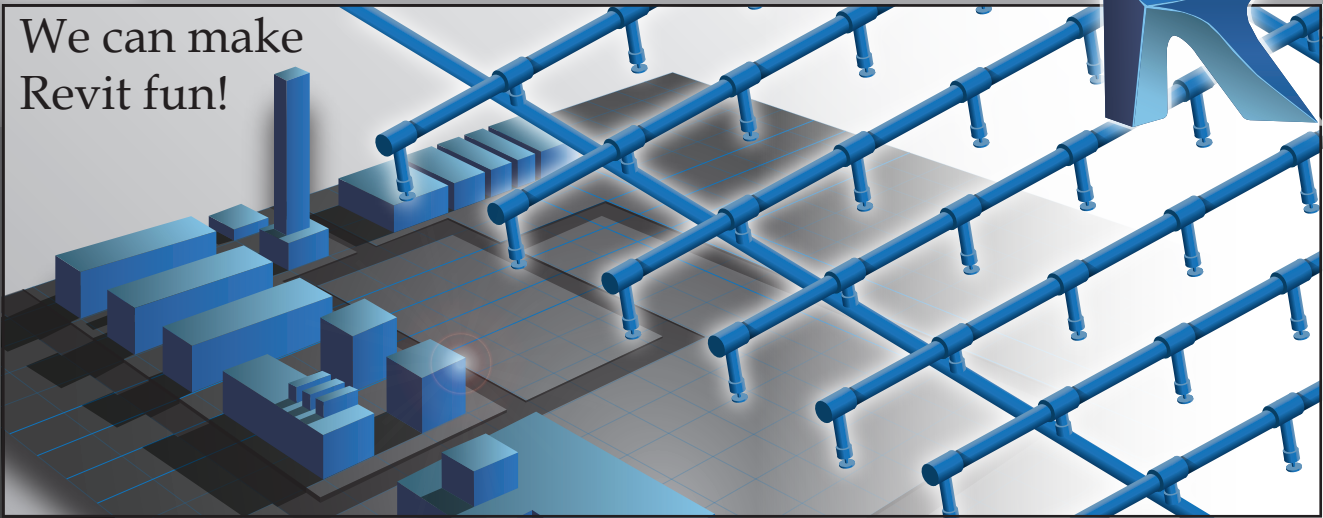
The issues with the facility, formerly a Sheraton Hotel, a Clarion, and most recently a Ramada, began during a January 22 call for service, during which Cedar Rapids Fire Department crews identified **broken fire suppression pipes** in the facility’s former dining area. Fire suppression sprinklers were found to be leaking after being allowed to freeze and burst.

“Fire Marshal Office representatives find repeated code violations with life



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safety equipment,” the City Fire Marshal’s report shows. **“Sprinkler and fire alarm systems have not been repaired.”**

Massachusetts

## Worcester to Implement Fire Sprinkler Law

An article by Olivia Lemmon posted February 5, 2025, on [www.spectrumnews1.com](http://www.spectrumnews1.com), Worcester, Massachusetts, said Worcester city leaders are looking to mandate installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in residential buildings across the city.

City Manager Eric Batista will ask the City Council to locally adopt a state law, which mandates the systems are in buildings with four or more units.

The fire department said fire sprinkler laws over the years have played a crucial role in reducing fire-related deaths and improve overall fire safety.

“It’s proven time after time,” said Assistant Chief Adam Roche. “Sprinkler systems, they obviously save lives and they reduce the amount of fire damage

and fire loss. Basically, a sprinkler system keeps a fire at its lowest stage, until the fire department arrives and can fully extinguish the fire. The initiative is really to make the community safer, and it’s safer for the residents, safe for the firefighters, and also to really decrease property loss, and to decrease people being displaced by fires, which, obviously, when we’re talking about four dwelling units, we have significant amount of people living in those buildings.”

Under state law, any community which chooses to accept the section and its provisions must ensure any new residential building, or a building being renovated to the point of it being classified as new construction, must have an approved automatic sprinkler system installed as part of the state’s *Building Code*.

New York

## Attic Fire: Sprinklers

### Not Activated

A January 29, 2025, item by Darian Stevenson on [www.syracuse.com](http://www.syracuse.com) said a huge fire that ripped through two

buildings in a Baldwinsville, New York, apartment complex started in the attic, away from smoke alarms and sprinklers, according to a fire official.

The flames in the attic area spread quickly due to the wide open space over the buildings, according to North West Fire District Chief Tony McIntyre. Most of the fire – about 95% – was in the space above the top floor and below the roof, he said.

McIntyre said the smoke alarms and the sprinklers inside the New Legacy Apartments complex were working, but they weren’t activated because the fire was in the attic. The fire sprinklers and the smoke alarms were below the attic, he said.

“If there’s no fire, they’re (the sprinklers) not going to be activated,” McIntyre said. “They’re all heat activated and there was no heat on the first, second, and third parts of the living space.”

One sprinkler was activated due to heat, but McIntyre said others, located on the side of the building where the fire did not spread, were not activated due to the lack of heat.



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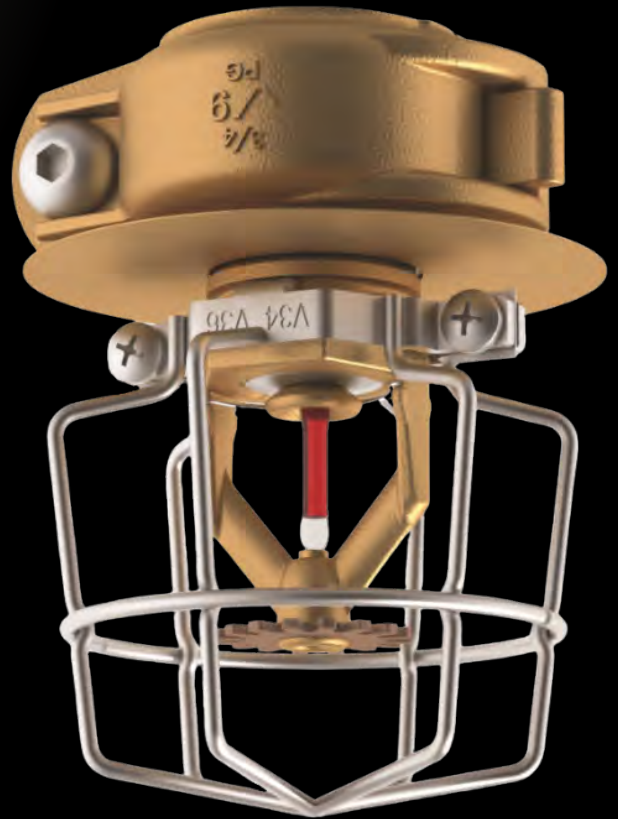
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# Work, Wages, & Workplace

## Highlights from the 2024 data:

- The union membership rate of public-sector workers (32.2%), continued to be more than five times higher than the rate of private-sector workers (5.9%).
- The highest unionization rates were among workers in education, training, and library occupations (32.3%) and protective service occupations (29.6%).
- Men continued to have a higher union membership rate (10.2%) than women (9.5%).
- Black workers remained more likely to be union members than White, Asian, and Hispanic workers.
- Nonunion workers had median weekly earnings that were 85% of earnings for workers who were union members (\$1,138 versus \$1,337).
- Among states, Hawaii and New York had the highest union membership rates (26.5% and 20.6%, respectively), while the lowest rates were in North Carolina (2.4%), South Dakota (2.7%), and South Carolina (2.8%).

### National

## Construction Workers are 89.7% Not Union

According to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2024 Union Members Summary, a record low 10.3% of the U.S. construction industry belongs to a union, a decrease from the prior historic low of 10.7% in 2023.

BLS reports that 7,978,000 construction industry workers were not members of a union in 2024, a 12,000-person increase from 7,966,000 workers in 2023, while union membership decreased by 38,000 to 916,000. The construction industry shrunk by 26,000 workers, from 8.92 million in 2023 to 8.894 million in 2024.

"It is remarkable that the construction industry's union membership dropped to a new historic low of 10.3% following four years of anti-competitive and inflationary Biden administration policy schemes pushing taxpayer-funded construction projects to union-signatory contractors through project labor agree-

ments on new federal and federally assisted infrastructure, clean energy, and manufacturing construction projects," said ABC Vice President of Regulatory, Labor and State Affairs Ben Brubeck. "Barriers to construction industry union membership are extremely low – workers can freely go to a local union hiring hall, join a union, and be dispatched to union-signatory contractor jobsites in a short amount of time. What this says about American construction workers is that they are not wild about the product unions are selling, and unions' radical policies and politics are not appealing."

"With construction materials prices up 38.6% since February 2020, higher interest rates, and a workforce shortage of 439,000 in 2025, the headwinds currently facing the construction industry are considerable," said Brubeck. "Now is the time for the Trump administration to level the playing field in a way that creates more value for taxpayers through healthy competition for construction projects based on merit. One way President Trump can give the contracting community immediate regulatory relief is by fully eliminating former President Biden's harmful pro-PLA policies, one of which a federal court ruled against earlier this month because it reduced competition on 12 federal construction contracts and violated congressional intent. Eliminating PLA mandates would save taxpayers an estimated \$10 billion per year on federal and federally assisted construction projects."

*Celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association established in 1950 that represents more than 23,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC and its 67 chapters help members develop people, win work, and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work.*

For more information visit: [www.abc.org](http://www.abc.org).



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## Construction Spending

National nonresidential construction spending decreased 0.2% in December 2024, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled \$1.241 trillion.

Spending was down on a monthly basis in nine of the 16 nonresidential subcategories. Private nonresidential spending increased 0.1%, while public nonresidential construction spending was down 0.5% in December.

“Public sector nonresidential spending fell sharply in the last month of 2024, but that decline was likely a short-term phenomenon as the transition between presidential administrations and cold weather delayed construction work,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu.

“What little private sector nonresidential momentum exists remains concen-

trated in just two segments,” said Basu. **“Data centers, which are part of the office category, and manufacturing accounted for 94% of the increase in total nonresidential construction spending from December 2023 to December 2024. Activity in these segments, and perhaps only these segments, will remain elevated regardless of upward pressure on construction costs.”**

## Construction Analytics Outlook 2025

According to Ed Zarenski: Construction spending as of December is up 6.5% vs 2023. All sectors gained between 6% and 7% over 2023. Growth is forecast at 5.3% in 2025. While Residential and Non-building Infrastructure will both gain 7%, Nonresidential Buildings will only see growth of 1.5% in 2025.

In February of 2025, with the December 2024 data in hand, his forecast for

2025 spending is \$2,268 billion, 5.3% higher than his current 2024 forecast of \$2,154 billion. There is strength in most markets, but Manufacturing is starting a downward slope in spending after three years of blockbuster performance.

His construction spending forecast for 2025 Nonresidential Buildings is only an annual gain of 1.5%. Low growth is driven by projects ending in Manufacturing and Warehouse.

Whenever we get an unusually large increase in new construction starts and spending, the tapering off of those projects leads to a decline on the tail end.

Some notable declines are Warehouse (-2.7%), Office w/o Data Centers (-3.6%), and Highway/Bridge (-2.9%). All begin 2025 down from the average in 2024. However, Data Center spending was up 16% in Nov-Dec vs the average of 2024, so begins 2025 on a high note.

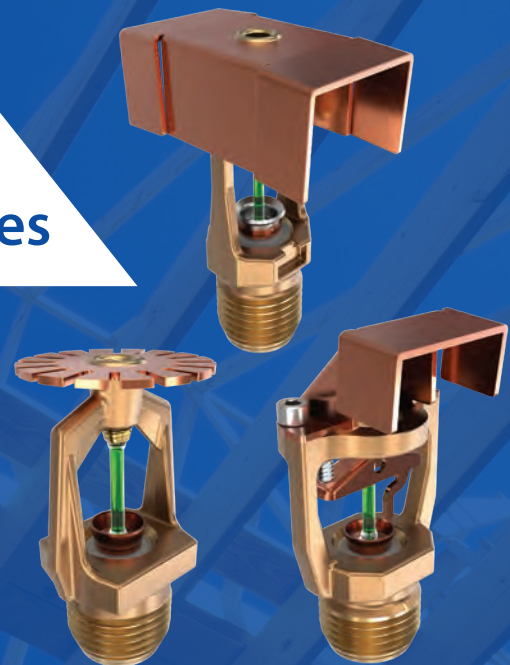
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## Understanding Dry Pipe Fire Sprinkler Systems and Their Applications

By Henry Fontana

Imagine a frigid winter night where temperatures plummet below freezing, and a fire breaks out in an unheated warehouse. Traditional wet pipe sprinkler systems might fail, leaving the property vulnerable. How can you ensure reliable fire protection in such challenging conditions? Enter the dry pipe fire sprinkler system – the snow boots of the fire protection world, ready to tackle freezing temperatures without slipping up.

In this article, we explore the features of dry pipe systems, why they are chosen, and the adjustments required in hydraulic calculations to ensure optimal performance.

### What is a Dry Pipe Fire Sprinkler System?

A dry pipe fire sprinkler system is a type of sprinkler system where the pipes are filled with pressurized air or nitrogen instead of water. The water is held back by a special dry pipe valve and only released into the piping when a sprinkler head activates due to heat.

This design prevents water from sitting in the pipes, which is particularly advantageous in settings where temperatures may drop below freezing, causing water to freeze and potentially damage the system. (No one wants a fire AND an indoor ice rink.)

#### Did You Know?

*According to the NFPA, fire sprinkler systems reduce the risk of fire deaths by 87% and property damage by 69%. Additionally, nearly 30% of sprinkler failures are due to freezing pipes, highlighting the importance of using dry pipe systems in cold environments. A 2021 report indicates that more than 20% of fire sprinkler installations in North America are dry pipe systems, demonstrating their significant role in fire protection for cold climates.*

### Why Choose a Dry Pipe Fire Sprinkler System?

Dry pipe systems are typically used in properties exposed to cold environments. These include:

- **Unheated Warehouses:** Large storage facilities without climate control. (Think of it as protecting your goods from a fire without turning them into popsicles.)
- **Parking Garages:** Open structures where outdoor temperatures affect interior conditions. (Bonus: No one wants to scrape ice off their car *and* deal with frozen sprinklers.)
- **Outdoor Canopies and Loading Docks:** Areas where water-filled pipes are at risk of freezing.
- **Refrigerated Spaces:** Cold storage areas for perishable goods.

The primary benefit of a dry pipe system is its ability to function effectively in these challenging conditions, ensuring reliable fire protection without the risk of frozen pipes.

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### Design Considerations for Dry Pipe Systems

While dry pipe systems are invaluable in cold environments, they come with specific design considerations to ensure reliability and performance.

#### 1. Increased System Complexity:

- Dry pipe systems require additional components such as dry pipe valves and air compressors.
- The system must be designed to minimize the length of pipe and the amount of air to reduce the time it takes for water to reach the fire.

#### 2. Delayed Water Delivery:

- Unlike wet pipe systems, there is a slight delay in water discharge as the air must first escape from the pipes.

This delay makes precise hydraulic calculations even more critical.

- NFPA 13 requires that water delivery time in dry pipe systems be limited to 60 seconds to ensure effective fire suppression.

### 3. Limitations on System Configuration:

- Grid-type configurations are not suitable for dry pipe systems because they can trap air and delay water delivery. Instead, tree-style configurations are recommended to facilitate quicker air expulsion and water flow.

## Hydraulic Calculations for Dry Pipe Systems

Hydraulic calculations for dry pipe systems differ from those for wet systems because of the need to account for air displacement and the additional friction losses in the piping network. Key adjustments include:

### 1. Pressure Adjustments:

- The starting pressure for a dry pipe system is determined by the air or nitrogen pressure needed to maintain the system in a ready state. This pressure must be sufficient to keep the water supply from prematurely entering the piping network.

### 2. Water Delivery Time:

- NFPA *Standards* specify the maximum allowable time for water to reach the most remote sprinkler head after system activation. This delivery time must be factored into the system's hydraulic calculations.

### 3. Pipe Sizing and Layout:

- Larger pipe sizes or shorter pipe runs may be necessary to reduce friction losses and improve water delivery time.

### 4. Flow Rate Considerations:

- The flow rate calculations must include the additional resistance caused by the dry pipe valve and the need to expel air from the system before water reaches the fire.

## Practical Example: A Success Story

To illustrate the benefits of dry pipe systems, consider an unheated warehouse in a region with sub-zero winters. Traditional wet pipe systems in this facility would have been prone

to freezing, risking significant damage and system failure. By installing a dry pipe system with a carefully designed tree-style configuration and precise hydraulic calculations, the property owner ensured reliable fire protection. This approach safeguarded both the inventory and the building itself, demonstrating the value of tailoring fire protection solutions to environmental challenges. (No frozen pipes, no headaches, no problem!)

## Maintenance and Testing

Dry pipe systems require regular maintenance to ensure their readiness. This includes:

- **Air Pressure Monitoring:** Ensuring that the air pressure remains within the specified range.
- **Valve Inspections:** Verifying the proper function of the dry pipe valve.
- **Trip Testing:** Testing the system to confirm that water delivery meets the required time standards. NFPA 25 mandates annual trip testing and monthly air pressure inspections.
- **Drainage:** Removing condensation or water accumulation from low points in the system. (Because nobody wants a surprise mini-waterfall when they least expect it!)

## Conclusion

Dry pipe fire sprinkler systems provide an effective solution for fire protection in environments prone to freezing. Their design and operation require careful consideration of environmental conditions and precise hydraulic calculations to ensure reliability and compliance with fire safety *Standards*. By understanding these systems' unique requirements, property owners and fire protection professionals can ensure optimal protection for assets and lives, even in the most challenging conditions.

To learn more about selecting the right fire protection system for your property, consult a certified fire protection professional today. (And remember, fire protection doesn't have to be boring – just effective!)

### About the Author:

Henry Fontana is Branch Manager with VFS Fire & Security Services, A Fortis Brand. He may be reached at: 501 W. Southern Avenue, Orange, CA 92865; (714) 778-6070, henry.fontana@vfsfire.com.

*Dry pipe fire sprinkler systems provide an effective solution for fire protection in environments prone to freezing. Their design and operation require careful consideration of environmental conditions and precise hydraulic calculations to ensure reliability and compliance with fire safety Standards. By understanding these systems' unique requirements, property owners and fire protection professionals can ensure optimal protection for assets and lives, even in the most challenging conditions.*

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## Two for the Price of One: Dual-Purpose Fire Protection Valves in New-Build Data Centers

By Johnathan Carl, C.E.T., and Karl Wiegand, P.E.

**W**ith a surge in data center construction comes increasing challenges in protecting facilities and their contents. New data center projects typically have two distinct construction phases, which often leads to designs with additional costs and labor. In this article, we'll analyze different approaches to optimize fire protection schemes in data center construction.

### New Data Center Construction

When new data centers are being constructed, a fire protection system will need to be put in place to protect the shell buildings. At this point, the buildings likely don't have a fire alarm system, HVAC, or finished interior spaces. For this reason, a dry system will be installed to protect the building under construction in the event of a fire. Then, once the shell is filled with equipment and construction has been completed, the data center will require a preaction system to protect the high-value servers and electrical equipment.

### Design Options with NFPA 13

Following a conventional approach in compliance with NFPA 13 means the fire protection system is designed for two different valves, with a dry valve installed in the first phase and a preaction valve installed in the second phase. This would take twice the installation effort and time, and require the wasteful disposal of the first, lightly used dry valve since reconditioned valves are not permitted on new systems.

Alternatively, if you want to use one valve, you must modify a preaction valve to be able to work in both phases. This entails installing a non-interlock preaction valve in the first phase and then retrimming it to a double-interlock preaction valve in the second phase.

A non-interlock preaction valve activates upon operation of a detection device or automatic sprinklers, meaning electric (fire alarm system) or pilot line detection is required. Since the building is unlikely to have electric detection in the first phase, the next option is to install pneumatic detection, such as a dry pilot line with pilot line detectors. This approach requires the additional cost and labor of pilot line nozzles, pipes, hangers,

and removal of these components (or clear markings that they are abandoned in place).

### Design Options with NFPA 241

Rather than reaching straight for NFPA 13, designers can work with the building owner to use NFPA 241, *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alterations, and Demolition Operations*. This *Standard* has guidance better suited to buildings that are still under construction. NFPA 241 recognizes that construction conditions may not always allow fire protection systems to be installed as intended by their respective *Standards*. Chapter 4 addresses the issue by establishing that systems are allowed to deviate from NFPA 13 criteria while the building is under construction. NFPA 241 permits the use of a Fire Prevention Program approved by the AHJ to provide temporary fire protection. The building owner must designate a Fire Prevention Program Manager (FPPM) to

implement, oversee, and enforce the Fire Prevention Program. Reference NFPA 241 Section 4.3.2. for specific sprinkler protection requirements.

With a properly designed Fire Prevention Program, a preaction valve can be used during both phases of the building's life cycle. During the construction phase of the project, it can be used as a non-interlock preaction valve. With the permission of the AHJ, the FPPM can omit the dry pilot line. Installing a non-interlock preaction valve without its pilot line means its operation will completely depend on the air loss in the sprinkler piping, making the preaction valve perform like a dry valve. Double-interlock preaction valves operate at a similar speed to dry valves, as they are dependent on both their faster operation mechanism (detection system or pilot line) and their slower operation mechanism (loss of air in the sprinkler system). Once the fire alarm detection system is completed, the valve can be converted to its final design as a double-interlock preaction valve.

### Always Consult with Your Manufacturer

Using a NFPA 241 Fire Prevention Plan allows the data center to stay within the applicable code without making sig-

*“Since the building is unlikely to have electric detection in the first phase, the next option is to install pneumatic detection, such as a dry pilot line with pilot line detectors.”*

nificant modifications to the system valve and piping. Using one preaction valve body and swapping out the trim can greatly reduce labor and material costs for new construction data center projects. It should be noted that not all manufacturers have valves compatible with this conversion. The valve manufacturer should always be consulted to verify if the conversion can be accomplished with their valves.

**About the Authors:**

Johnathan Carl, C.E.T., is a Senior Fire Protection Application Specialist at Victaulic, a global producer of mechanical pipe-joining, flow control and fire protection solutions for the most complex piping applications. He holds multiple NICET and NFPA certifications and has served over 27 years in the fire protection industry as a sprinkler fitter, project manager, designer, and lead inspector. Johnathan has also served as a

South Whitehall Fire Department Engine 32 Captain for over 18 years. He currently serves on NFPA 14, NFPA 24, and NFPA 420 as a Principal Committee Member; he is a former Alternate Committee Member for NFPA 13 and the NFSA/NFPA 25 task force committee.

Karl Wiegand, P.E., is a Senior Application Engineer at Victaulic, where his primary duties consist of training, technical support, research and development, and representing Victaulic within the fire protection industry. Over the last 15 years, Wiegand has held positions on NFPA 15, NFPA 24, and NFPA 750, as well as AWWA's Backflow and Water Metering committees. Wiegand continues to represent the sprinkler industry on NFPA 16, 101, 820, and 5000 AWWA's Fire Protection Committee and Underwriters Laboratory's UL199 STP.

For more information contact: [kwiegand@victaulic.com](mailto:kwiegand@victaulic.com); learn more at: [www.victaulic.com](http://www.victaulic.com).



*Installed Victaulic Series 769N Non-interlock Preacton Trim Configuration  
(Image credit: Victaulic)*

## Air Supply Updates to 2025 Edition of NFPA 13

By Ray Fremont Jr.

As the 2025 edition of NFPA 13 rolls out, fire sprinkler contractors should be aware of some significant updates regarding air supplies in dry and pre-action sprinkler systems. Changes in this edition – concerning air compressors, nitrogen generators, and Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors (VCIs) – merit particular attention due to their impact on system efficiency and compliance. This article is meant to highlight these updates to provide information and insights for contractors, designers, and AHJs.

### Air Compressors Must be Listed for Fire Sprinkler Systems

NFPA 13 now mandates that if an air compressor is dedicated to a sprinkler system, it must be listed specifically for fire protection. The only compressor listing that specifically references “fire sprinkler” is UL 1450-VDUR. The VDUR designation, which stands for “Air Compressor, Special Type,” is a category exclusive to fire protection. Contractors should be vigilant about this difference going forward.

The testing of UL 1450-VDUR-compliant compressors includes several requirements that distinguish them from those with a standard UL 1450 Listing (Craftsman, Black & Decker, and other commercially available compressors). Notably, UL 1450-VDUR compressors are tested for long-term endurance and safety under conditions far exceeding operation levels of standard use air compressors.

• **Pressure Switch Testing:** UL 1450-VDUR fire sprinkler air compressors undergo extensive testing of the pressure-regulating control switch, which must perform under rated

load for 100,000 cycles of operation. The calibration must not shift more than 5% above the initial calibration pressure setting. This ensures reliability and accuracy in operation, maintaining system integrity and responsiveness when needed most. Most air compressor pressure switches have no cycle standard, and UL 1450 non-VDUR compressors only have a 30,000-cycle requirement.

• **Permanent Wiring Connection:** UL 1450-VDUR compressors must be permanently connected to a wiring system, disallowing the use of plug and cord connections commonly found in retail quality compressors. This requirement enhances safety by reducing the risk of malfunctions and accidental system trips due to someone flipping the light switch. (Also, must be installed in accordance with NFPA 70, Article 430.)

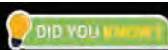
• **Testing at 5x the Maximum Relief Valve Setting:** This ensures structural integrity under extreme conditions, even at maximum operating pressure. Safety relief valves

also ensure that air compressors comply with industrial safety standards, such as those set by OSHA and ASME.

• **Clear Markings of the Max Rated Operating Pressure:** Pushing any air compressor beyond its listed pressure range can not only be dangerous, but also affect NFPA 13’s required 30-minute system fill requirement. More pressure = less flow, and less flow = more time your system will take to reach that higher pressure. Fire sprinkler air compressors are sized to meet this 30-minute fill requirement, and the pressure ratings of each compressor should be followed in the field.

• **Proper Labeling:** Every UL 1450-VDUR fire sprinkler air compressor will include labeling stating it is “Intended to be Installed in Accordance with NFPA 13,” and “For Use in Fire Sprinkler Systems.” This not only gives AHJs an indicator of compliance in the field, but also protects contractors from potential liability with the use of other commercially available, non-UL-1450-VDUR compressors.

By testing to these strict standards, UL 1450-VDUR listed compressors provide a higher level of safety and reliability. Fire sprinkler contractors must be vigilant in selecting air



#### Nitrogen's Inability to Reach 98% Purity Throughout Systems

Recent studies by Summit Fire Consulting, published in Sprinkler Age, reveal significant challenges in achieving consistent nitrogen purity in sprinkler systems using nitrogen generators.

Tests with various purge methods showed that even after eight weeks, the highest average purity was 97.3%, with many areas failing to reach 95% or even ambient levels, falling short of the 98% industry standard.



compressors, opting only for those that meet these enhanced specifications. UL Listing requirements for fire sprinkler air compressors are still evolving, so stay tuned updates.

### Protection Against Leak Rate Issues for Nitrogen Generators

The new edition provides a significant revision regarding nitrogen generators. This equipment is now required to be sized to a minimum leakage rate of 1.5 psi (0.1 bar) per hour (NFPA 25 allowable rate), while maintaining 98% concentration throughout the entire sprinkler system. This change stems from feedback indicating that many nitrogen generators were unable to sustain the required flow necessary for corrosion mitigation as system leak rates grow over time. Consequently, many systems either failed or were left in an air “bypass” mode after a Low Air alarm, leading to increased costs and corrosion issues for both contractors and building owners.

This updated *Standard* compels manufacturers to design nitrogen generators that can perform at and beyond the NFPA 25 permissible pressure leak rates from day one commissioning. Producing 98% purity nitrogen on-site is an inefficient process and difficult to maintain long-term. For contractors, this means careful consideration must be given to the sizing and selection of nitrogen generators. Ensuring that these units are capable of meeting these demands from the outset is crucial for avoiding future failures.

### The 2025 Standard Integrates Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors: A New Approach to Corrosion Mitigation

The *Standard* has formally adopted language defining VCI’s, or Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors, and given instruction on their use and delivery method in dry and pre-action sprinkler systems.

The three aspects that the new edition calls out regarding the use of VCIs include:

- The Vapor Corrosion Inhibitor shall be from a listed assembly (such as Vapor Pipe Shield) that is permanently installed on the system.
- The Vapor Corrosion Inhibitor shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- In new systems, a C value of 120 shall be permitted where a vapor corrosion inhibitor is used.

The new edition of NFPA 13 highlights the role of Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors (VCI) in optimizing system design and reliability for the long term, while offering significant cost savings compared to more conventional methods of corrosion control like nitrogen generators.

#### About the Author:

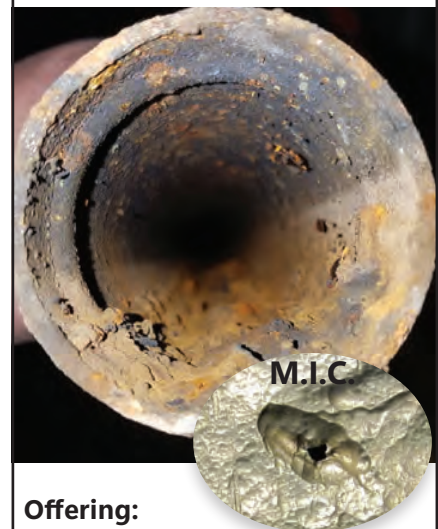
Ray Fremont Jr. is President of General Air Products, Inc. To learn more about how these changes to NFPA 13 and other *Standards* affect fire protection contractors and their customers, contact: sales@generalairproducts.com, 800-345-8207.



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Fire Protection Contractor *magazine* enjoys covering the history of the fire sprinkler industry. Because, it is fun, we can learn from it, and it deserves to be remembered!



## *A Historic Milestone in Fire Protection:*

# The First Glass Bulb Sprinkler Prototype

From Henry Fontana

This remarkable artifact, dating back to 1907, represents a pivotal moment in the history of fire protection. It is an original prototype of the glass bulb sprinkler, designed by Frederick Grinnell in collaboration with Thomas Edison. The prototype features a spherical glass bulb – a groundbreaking innovation for its time.

While the design was a leap forward in fire sprinkler technology, it quickly became evident that the spherical shape did not provide consistent temperature activation across the bulb. This discovery led to the development of the now-standard cylindrical glass bulb, which ensures equal temperature ratings and reliable activation.

This prototype stands as a testament to the ingenuity and collaboration of two of the era's greatest inventors, marking the beginning of modern fire sprinkler technology. It highlights the continuous evolution of fire protection systems and serves as a reminder of the innovation that has helped protect lives and property for over a century.

This piece is a proud part of my collection and a tribute to the rich history of fire protection.

— Henry Fontana  
Branch Manager

VFS Fire & Security Services, A Fortis Brand



*Assorted custom color Globe heads. — Jeff Suleski, Commonwealth Sprinkler Co., Haverhill, MA*



*This display highlights a 1923 Reliable Model B “C” Dry Pipe Valve manufactured by The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. Inc. Originally found still in service at Industrial Maintenance Welding & Machining Company (1341 W. Pershing Rd., Chicago), it was recovered and restored by millwrights in 2015. The collage features photos of the original facility, the valve’s internal schematic, and the fully restored valve, alongside the Reliable brand medallion and logo. It underscores Reliable’s heritage and commitment to research, engineering, service, and quality.*

*OTHER VOICES is FPC's opinion piece section; FPC welcomes all voices, viewpoints, and opinions on matters concerning fire sprinkler contracting and the fire sprinkler industry!*

## Don't Ignore the Small Stuff

By Russ Leavitt

**W**e have heard the adage “the devil is in the details” so often that it is a cliché. However, that does not make it untrue. As I look at my life I am amazed at the enormous impact (positive and negative) that the smallest of things can have. It is true for a company and our industry. We are often so focused on the *big picture* that we inadvertently miss (or perhaps “dismiss” is a better word) the small stuff, even though it is the seemingly minor or unimportant issues, tasks, or events that shape the *big picture*.

I spent a part of my time over the years serving as an expert witness for litigation involving fire suppression systems. I have been retained in a significant number of cases. My involvement has ranged from simply reviewing and evaluating the facts of a case, to preparing detailed reports, rendering opinions, and testifying in court. The cases are almost never straightforward as there are always lots of issues that come together to create the situation that led to the litigation. However, in every situation determining the difference between who was “right or wrong” was pared down to one or two small details.

My own firm was not exempt. Fifteen years ago, we settled a large loss where our subcontractor left a “dry fitting” in CPVC piping system. A “dry fitting” refers to a fitting that was installed without applying the solvent (cement) needed to bond the fitting to the pipe. Fittings on plastic pipe can fit snugly without the cement. They will often initially hold the water pressure but eventually they separate and can discharge substantial amounts of water. If a technician is careless, it is easy to put the pipe and fittings together to determine the measurement for cutting the pipe and then forget to take it apart and apply the cement. In this case, one pipe fitting (a small thing) out of thousands was not glued, it eventually gave away, and caused a \$700,000 loss.

I could relate examples covering all areas of business but let me cite just a few. Consider these examples and whether they relate to your responsibilities. I am sure you can find comparisons in your everyday duties. The purpose is simply to remind ourselves of how important it is to *not* ignore the small stuff.

- We write the wrong year on a sprinkler inspection tag.
- We misplace a decimal point on the amount due when preparing an invoice.
- We install 6" diameter pipe in a sprinkler system where the hydraulic calculations called for 4" pipe (or vice-versa).
- We use an uncalibrated gauge when measuring the nozzle

pressure while conducting a fire hydrant flow test.

- We neglect to name a beneficiary on our 401K account.
- We inadvertently hit “reply all” on an e-mail and send a message that was not intended for everyone.
- We use the wrong edition of the *Code* when preparing an analysis for a customer.
- We open a main drain without first investigating where the water is going.
- We neglect to send an inspection report to the fire department where it is required to do so.

The list is endless but hopefully you see the picture. Some of the examples cause situations that have minor impact beyond us as individuals, but others can create an unhappy customer who takes their business elsewhere, result in a large fire loss, or threaten our ability to conduct business.

Stuff happens. We know this. However, most bad events can be prevented if we are just a little more diligent in watching for the small things. The types of things that if left undone or uncorrected can have an impact exponentially larger than the misstep itself. It happens all the time. Success in life and business depends in large part on our diligence in making sure little things don't become big things.

Ensure a much happier and successful life by not ignoring the small stuff.

### About the Author:

Russ Leavitt is the Executive Chairman of Belgian 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](http://www.telgian.com).



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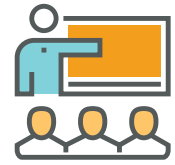
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For more information contact: Ryan J. Smith, CFPS, Executive Director, Fire Smarts LLC, (480) 280-9600, [www.firesmarts.com](http://www.firesmarts.com).

## 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Clay Shoot

**March 21, 2025 – Dawsonville, GA**

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association is holding their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Clay Shoot at 11:00 a.m. on March 21, 2025, at the Etowah Valley Sporting Clays, 619 Sporting Hill Drive, Dawsonville, Georgia.

Team and individual registrations are available. (Many of the Sponsorships are sold out.)

For more information contact: Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, 1525 Broadmoor Blvd., Buford, GA 30518; [info@georgiafiresprinkler.org](mailto:info@georgiafiresprinkler.org).

## Inspection, Testing, & Maintenance of Automatic Sprinkler Systems (IT&M)

**March 24-25 & June 23-24, 2025 – Stillwater, OK**

The Oklahoma State University (OSU) workshop *Inspection, Testing, & Maintenance of Automatic Sprinkler Systems (IT&M)* will be offered on March 24-25, and again June 23-24, 2025.

How well does your company comply with NFPA 25 Standards for inspecting, testing, and maintaining water-based fire protection systems? OSU's two-day workshop features hands-on laboratory training with automatic sprinkler systems and expert instruction to bring you up to speed on the latest standards. The workshop agenda covers acceptance tests, visual inspections, functional tests, impairments and system restoration, component and assembly maintenance, procedures, and practices. (FPTC Core Requirement.)

For more information contact: Oklahoma State University (OSU), 5202 N. Richmond Hill Drive, Stillwater, OK 74075; (405) 744-5715, [ceatfire@okstate.edu](mailto:ceatfire@okstate.edu), <https://ceat.okstate.edu/extension/professional-development/courses/fire-protection-and-loss-control.html>.

**Call for Abstracts: March 25, 2025**

## SFPE 2025 Annual Conference

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers invites researchers, professionals, and experts to submit abstracts for their upcoming SFPE Annual Conference. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your innovative projects, cutting-edge research, and valuable insights in the fire protection and safety engineering field.

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

Presentation abstracts should provide sufficient scope and results to determine the quality and applicability of the engineering concepts that would be presented. Presentations must be noncommercial in nature. All abstracts will be reviewed by a panel of experts and independently rated. The highest-rated abstract will be awarded the Top Abstract Award and featured in the conference's general session.

**Why Submit?** Showcase Your Work: Gain visibility and recognition for your work in front of a global audience.

**Network with Peers:** Connect with top professionals and industry leaders in Fire Protection and Fire Safety.

**Opportunities:** The top-rated abstract will receive the prestigious Top Abstract Award and will be featured in the General Session.

>>>>>

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**Important Dates and Deadlines:** March 25, 2025 - Abstract submission site closes at 11:59 p.m. EST; May 16, 2025 - Abstract notifications e-mailed to submitters.

**Topics of Interest:** The Program Committee encourages presentations on all fire safety topics. The Committee strongly encourages submissions on: **Fire Safety Systems - Special Hazard Systems; Fire Safety Systems - Water-based Systems;** and much more.

For more information contact: SFPE, 9711 Washingtonian Blvd., Suite 380, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; (301) 718-2910, education@sfpe.org, info@sfpe.org.

## Oconee County Touch A Truck Burn Demonstration

March 29, 2025 – Watkinsville, GA

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association will be holding a fire sprinkler burn demo at the Oconee County Touch A Truck Burn Demonstration on March 29, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., at Heritage Park, 2543 Macon Highway, Watkinsville, Georgia.

Touch a Truck is a hands-on event from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for children to see, touch, and explore their favorite big trucks, heavy-duty equipment, and large vehicles. Each vehicle will be staffed with a trained operator.

For more information contact: Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, 1525 Broadmoor Blvd., Buford, GA 30518; info@georgiafiresprinkler.org.

## Proper Application and Use of NFPA-25 (2017 Ed)

March 31-April 2, 2025 – Norcross, GA

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association is holding ACE Training – *Proper Application and Use of NFPA-25 (2017 Ed)* on March 31- April 2 for the training portion, and the test will be on April 3 (the test must be registered for separately and is not included with the class registration fee).

This ACE Training & Testing will be held at SPP Pumps in Norcross, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Wednesday.

For more information contact: Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, 1525 Broadmoor Blvd., Buford, GA 30518; info@georgiafiresprinkler.org.

## 24<sup>TH</sup> IFPA/SFPE Chicago Chapter Fire Protection Product Show

April 8, 2025 – Addison, IL

The Illinois Fire Prevention Association and the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers are hosting their annual product show on April 8, 2025, from 2:00-6:30

p.m., at the Medinah Banquets, 550 N. Shriners Drive, Addison, Illinois.

This is one of the largest exhibitions of products, services, and related industrial components of the fire protection industry in the Chicagoland area. Admission to the show is free.

Manufacturers, fabricators, distributors, insurance organizations, engineering companies, and fire prevention associations will exhibit the cutting edge of fire products, services, and information.

There will also be two free CEU or Professional Development Classes prior to the show.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served in the banquet hall for all attendees. A cash bar will be available, plus Door Prizes will be awarded.

Vendors may contact: jennifer.block@victaulic.com.

For more information contact: IFPAChicago@gmail.com.

## 2025 NCN-SFPE Annual Seminar

April 17, 2025 – Hayward, CA

The Northern California-Nevada Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (NCN-SFPE) is holding the NCN-SFPE Annual Seminar on April 17, 2025, from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (PST) at Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward, California.

Proceeds from this seminar will benefit the Chapter Scholarship Fund for fire protection engineering students.

Keynote presentations by Dr. James Milke include *Advances in Smoke Control Design* and *Design Fires*.

Dr. Jim Milke, P.E., is Professor Emeritus and past Chair of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland. He is also a Senior Principal Engineer with Fire and Risk Alliance. He received his PhD in Aerospace Engineering, MS degree in Mechanical Engineering, and BS degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland. In addition, he has a BS degree in Physics from Ursinus College. He served on the faculty of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering for over 40 years. Jim has served as the Fire Protection Engineer for Fairfax County, Virginia, and a Research Fire Prevention Engineer at NIST. He is a Fellow and Past President of SFPE. He is a Life Member of the NFPA and a current Member and Past Chair of the NFPA committee on Smoke Management Systems. He has received awards for teaching, communications, and service from the University of Maryland, NFPA, SFPE, Automatic Fire Alarm Association, **American Fire Sprinkler Association**, and Siemens Building Technology Division.

More details will be available soon.

For more information visit: [www.ncnsfpe.org](http://www.ncnsfpe.org).

## Free NICET and AIA Certified Training Seminars!

Webinars

UNITED Fire Systems offers FREE webinars to the engineering community to help you understand the most important topics in fire protection today. Learn about the latest information on sprinkler pipe corrosion, the newest advancements in

smoke detection, and the most important things to know about preaction fire sprinkler systems.

They offer three different Courses:

- Praction and Dry-Pipe Fire Sprinkler Internal Corrosion – Causes, Consequences, and Countermeasures
- Praction Fire Sprinkler Systems – Important Guidelines
- Advanced Technology Smoke Detection

UNITED Fire Systems is an Approved Provider of continuing education credits by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). If you are an AIA member, you will earn one Learning Unit for each webinar you attend. Not an AIA member? We will still send you a certificate for 0.1 CEUs for each course! We are also recognized by NICET as a training provider! Earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points to help you keep your NICET certification.

*Praction and Dry-Pipe Fire Sprinkler Internal Corrosion – Causes, Consequences, and Countermeasures* is an in-depth look into the reasons and results of corrosion in sprinkler piping. The course begins with learning about the different types of corrosion that can happen to sprinkler piping. From there, the course explores what happens to sprinkler piping due to corrosion. The course ends with presenting effective prevention strategies.

Learning objectives: 1. Comprehend the fundamentals of steel corrosion. 2. Identify causes and types of corrosion within sprinkler piping. 3. Understand consequences of corrosion within sprinkler piping. 4. Offer countermeasures to prevent corrosion within sprinkler piping.

*Advanced Technology Smoke Detection* is an in-depth look into the advancement of smoke detection technology. After reviewing the history of smoke detectors, the course describes various principles of advanced smoke detection, followed by examples.

Learning objectives: 1. Understand how far smoke detection has come. 2. Know the difference between different smoke detection principles. 3. Discern which smoke detection technology is the best solution. 4. Understand other environmental hazards that can be detected in specific buildings.

*Praction Fire Sprinkler Systems – Important Guidelines* is an in-depth look into preaction sprinklers. This course covers regulation on preaction fire sprinkler systems, including guidelines for the control panel, detector regulations, and other rules to follow when using preaction sprinklers.

Learning objectives: 1. Understand rules for use of preaction sprinkler systems. 2. Comprehend proper fire detector spacing for preaction sprinkler systems. 3. Present various advanced fire detection options. 4. Learn about sprinkler corrosion and countermeasures.

Each Course can be provided in-person or via webinar. Registered with AIA CES, all courses follows strict requirements for impartial content, provide automatic reporting to AIA for Learning Unit credit, and a Written Certificate of Completion for non-AIA and NICET continuing education credit. Each course is approximately one hour, a minimum time investment with maximum content benefit. Best of all – each course is FREE to all!

For more information contact: UNITED Fire Systems, 1 Mark Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033; (908) 688-0300, <https://unitedfiresystems.com/blog-training-opportunities>.



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## Armstrong's Range of Vertical-In-Line Fire Pumps

Armstrong Fluid Technology has expanded its family of new Constant Speed Vertical-In-Line Fire Pumps with a maximum 500 USGPM flow for both 60hz and 50hz markets and featuring new high-pressure ratings of up to 160PSI.

Armstrong Vertical-In-Line Fire Pumps eliminate the need for offset piping and motor realignment. They also use less floor space than comparable Horizontal Split Case designs. Other features of this new model include:

- Smaller motor than comparable pumps at the same duty point.
- Much smaller environmental footprint than standard diesel pumps.
- UL/ULC and FM Approvals.

“Armstrong is one of only four manufacturers who can offer a VIL fire pump reaching 160psi @500 USGPM,” said Michael DeMille, Global Offering Manger Fire Pumps. “This new model is an excellent addition to our existing Vertical-In-Line pump series.”

For more information contact: Armstrong Fluid Technology, 844-238-2377, [www.armstrongfluidtechnology.com](http://www.armstrongfluidtechnology.com).



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*A 1923 Reliable Model B "C" Dry Pipe Valve by the Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. Inc. Found still in service in Chicago; it was recovered and restored by millwrights in 2015.*

## Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association was formed in 1983 by merging the local Chapters of the National Fire Sprinkler Association and the American Fire Sprinkler Association. This Association is a non-profit organization.

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association is holding ACE Training – *Proper Application and Use of NFPA-25 (2017 Ed)* on Monday, **March 31-April 2, 2025**, for the training portion, and the test will be on April 3 (the test must be registered for separately and is not included with the class registration fee).

This ACE Training & Testing will be held at SPP Pumps in Norcross, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Wednesday.

Other GFSA events include: **March 29, 2025**, at 1:00 p.m., the Oconee County Touch A Truck Burn Demonstration; **July 22, 2025**, the Southern Fire Sprinkler Summit; **September 9, 2025**, General Membership Meeting & Corn-hole Tournament; **September 13, 2025**, the Cherokee County Touch A Truck Event Burn Demonstration.

For more information contact: Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, 1525 Broadmoor Blvd., Buford, GA 30518; [info@georgiafiresprinkler.org](mailto:info@georgiafiresprinkler.org).

## NFSA

Ready to take your career to the next level? National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) members get an exclusive 25% discount on tuition for any class at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) – a partnership designed to help you grow and succeed.

In September of 2023, NFSA announced its partnership with EKU in Richmond, Kentucky, home to one of the nation's fire protection programs. There are three degree concentrations from which to choose: Engineering Technology, Administration, or Arson and Explosives investigation. The University is also home to a well-regarded construction management program, which affords students the chance to take courses in that discipline. The school is

unique in that for several years now all the classes for all three programs have been available via online education.

With all of these classes being offered online it provides NFSA members with an excellent and affordable way to provide professional development. It is worth noting that this discount applies to all the classes EKU offers, not just the fire protection specific courses.

For more information visit: [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org). □

Please send your news and photos to: [info@fpcmag.com](mailto:info@fpcmag.com)

*This may include: Association News, Benefits (dates, announcements, and reports), Calendar items, Cartoons, Classifieds, old pics for Collector's Corner, Company News, and more...*

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**PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY**, the largest fully integrated and full-service fire protection, life safety, and security services provider in the U.S., will be a primary partner of the No. 42 Toyota Camry XSE entry driven by John Hunter Nemechek for 14 events during the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season.

“Pye-Barker has been a longtime supporter of mine throughout my racing career, dating back to my Truck Series days,” said Nemechek. “I’m thrilled to continue with Pye-Barker at LEGACY MC. I hope to make everyone at Pye-Barker proud when I represent them both on and off the track.”

“I’m excited to see Pye Barker extend and expand with the CLUB,” said co-owner Jimmie Johnson. “The Pye-Barker leadership and team members share the same mindset and vision as we do at LEGACY MC. Additionally, John Hunter is a great spokesperson for their brand, and we can’t wait to deliver for them.”

Every day across the U.S., Pye-Barker Fire & Safety’s team of 8,000 fire and security experts protect their communities by installing, testing, and servicing fire suppression systems, extinguishers, **fire sprinklers**, security systems, and fire alarms, and providing 24/7 alarm monitoring. Since its founding in 1946, Pye-Barker has grown to more than 250 locations nationwide, while remaining dedicated to caring for customers and team members like family.

“At Pye-Barker, we’ve built a culture where individual work is rewarded, but your team has your back. That’s a philosophy I see reflected in the sport of racing,” said Bart Proctor, Pye-Barker Fire & Safety CEO. “We admire John Hunter [Nemechek] for his integrity as an athlete, willingness to put in the work, and dedication to his teammates. Our shared values make him a great representative of Pye-Barker and make us proud to continue this relationship with Nemechek and LEGACY MC in 2025.”

Pye-Barker’s tagline is, “Define your legacy here,” reflecting the company’s commitment to upholding its values and culture for current and future team members. At Pye-Barker, individuals are empowered to build a legacy to support their families, grow within the company, and serve their communities with pride.

Pye-Barker Fire & Safety will first appear on the No. 42 Toyota Camry XSE at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) on **Sunday, March 2**. Last season, when Nemechek and his green, blue, and white-themed Pye-Barker scheme hit the track, success followed. Nemechek scored three victories in the Xfinity Series with the brand and led 16 laps last season in the No. 42 Cup Series entry at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

**THE FAMILY BUSINESS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.**, has a variety of services, seminars, and articles of help to family businesses. “How to Select the Best Independent Directors for Your Family Business Board” was a recent webinar.

Related articles include: *What Makes for a Great Family Business Board?*; *Evolving Your Family Business Board*; and *Unlocking the Value of High-Performing Family Enterprise Boards*.

For more information contact: The Family Business Consulting Group, Inc., 8770 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 1340W, Chicago, IL 60631; (773) 604-5005, [www.thefbcg.com](http://www.thefbcg.com).

**RIDGID**®, a part of Emerson’s professional tools portfolio, recently completed an advanced manufacturing investment to expand its press jaw production at its world headquarters in Elyria, Ohio. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 30,000-square-foot workspace was held January 29, 2025, for its employees and invited guests.

The new pressing production area incorporates flexible robotic systems, new milling machines, and high-capacity part fixtures. Each machine has the capability to run all pressing parts, instead of select components, for increased efficiency. These new machines, combined with new in-house capabilities, will reduce lead time by 30 days and double the annual production capacity of jaw sets. This enables customers to receive needed jaws faster for quicker job completion.

“This investment in new equipment and an improved workflow means we can quickly produce a press jaw set made in America that keeps us competitive in the marketplace,” said John Ruese, VP of Product Strategy & Development, RIDGID. “What makes this manufacturing space special is how it brings together the best of both worlds. We’ve incorporated state-of-



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the-art machinery, while maintaining our commitment to quality through hands-on assembly and inspection by our skilled team members. This balance ensures we continue delivering the exceptional quality that RIDGID is known for around the world.”

This is the latest RIDGID investment into their 27-acre campus that includes their world headquarters, as well as a 463,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, state-of-the-art technology lab, customer training center, and an authorized service center.

RIDGID celebrated 25 years as the industry leader in pressing in 2024 and markets the only press jaws manufactured in the United States. The brand first introduced press technology to North America in 1999 and has continued to help professional tradespeople utilize the platform to drive jobsite efficiencies. This commitment has led RIDGID to become the most recognizable name in pressing, with a product portfolio of innovative solutions that help tradesmen and women achieve fast, secure, and flame-free connections. Their most recent pressing innovation was introduced last fall, the RP 251 Press Tool, a compact press tool that delivers powerhouse performance with total access.

About Emerson: Emerson (NYSE: EMR) is a global technology and software company providing innovative solutions for the world’s essential industries. Through its leading automation portfolio, including its majority stake in AspenTech, Emerson helps hybrid, process, and discrete manufacturers optimize operations, protect personnel, reduce emissions, and achieve their sustainability goals.

For more information visit: [www.Emerson.com](http://www.Emerson.com).

**SERVICETRADE**, an innovative software platform designed to enhance business value and optimize operations for commercial, mechanical, and fire contractors, announced the integration of its popular platform with The Compliance Engine by BRYCER, the market-leading platform for Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) **fire system inspection** compliance. BRYCER partners with hundreds of AHJs, including states, counties, cities, municipalities, and fire departments across the U.S., to enable timely digital compliance reporting.

ServiceTrade Chief Product Officer Brook Bock summarized the importance of the integration: “All commercial buildings are required to comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and local regulations for equipment inspections and safety. BRYCER leads the market with its extensive network of hundreds of AHJs nationwide, helping **fire protection contractors** meet the specific requirements of each jurisdiction. ServiceTrade helps contractors track inspection requirements, streamline workflows, and now simplify reporting via direct integration with The Compliance Engine. It’s a win for contractors and their clients by enabling more inspections to be scheduled, completed, and submitted to the AHJ on time. The integration makes it easier for contractors to maximize inspection revenue while eliminating manual compliance data entry to AHJs.”

Sheri Marler, Billing Supervisor at **Marmic Fire & Safety**, shared, “ServiceTrade and The Compliance Engine integration will transform our workflow by creating a seamless, automated system that eliminates manual uploads. This integration will not only save our team significant time, it will also enhance accuracy. The ability to track and clear deficiencies automatically is particularly important, and it will deliver both time savings

and improved precision for our operations.”

The ServiceTrade platform is specifically designed for the recurring nature of inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) work and for reducing the inherent liability risk of the fire protection services industry. Automating inspection scheduling, generating NFPA compliance reports, and submitting them digitally to AHJs save contractors time and reduce errors. ServiceTrade’s NFPA-compliant inspection forms, inspection deficiency management workflows, recurring ITM scheduling, and reporting capabilities dramatically improve fire service contractors’ efficiency. ServiceTrade’s integration with The Compliance Engine automates interactions with AHJs and eliminates manual data entry and reporting. The results are increases in efficiency, more repair revenue through inspection deficiency management, and stronger client relationships.

“We’re proud to partner with BRYCER, the leader in the business,” continued Bock. The Compliance Engine is widely recognized as the platform with the most connections to AHJs in the U.S. It helps them track and manage inspections, testing, and maintenance for commercial fire protection systems in their jurisdiction.

Bryan Schultz, Co-Founder of BRYCER said, “Automating inspection reporting has been proven to increase the number of fire protection systems tested and repaired by as much as 72%. BRYCER integration with ServiceTrade will enable commercial service contractors to efficiently increase compliance through on-time safety inspections, which benefits their business, the building owner, and the AHJ.”

For more information visit: [www.servicetrade.com](http://www.servicetrade.com).



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**William Koffel, PE, FSFPE**, will present *Principles of Fire Protection Engineering* on April 7-8, 2025, at the SFPE European Conference & Expo on Fire Safety Engineering in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Conference dates are April 9-10, 2025, and the Pre-conference seminars dates are April 7-8, 2025.

This course presents the application of science and engineering principles to protect people, property, and their environments from the harmful and destructive effects of fire and smoke. It covers areas of fire detection, suppression, mitigation, and human behavior and recommendations on maintaining a tenable environment for evacuation during a fire scenario. Participants will examine fire suppression systems components to include fire science, fire safety design, fire detection, and fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, **automatic sprinkler systems**, and smoke control principles. Industry *Standards* and variations will be discussed using codes and building codes. It is open to all individuals interested in gaining or refreshing their basic to intermediate knowledge of the principles of fire protection engineering.

William “Bill” Koffel is the Director of Special Projects and founder of Koffel Associates, Inc. He is recognized as an expert in the fire protection and life safety aspects of codes and standards. Koffel Associates is a fire protection engineering and life safety design and consulting firm founded in 1986.

Koffel graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland, earned his Professional Engineering license in the specialty of fire protection engineering in 1983, and worked in private industry as well as in the Maryland State Fire Marshals’ office. Totally committed to the fire protection and life safety industry with its governing codes, *Standards*, and design guidelines, he is Past President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, serves on numerous National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Commit-

tees, past member of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee on Structural Safety Issues, and is one of a handful of approved NFPA instructors teaching various code-related seminars, nationally and internationally.

For more information visit: [www.sfpe.com](http://www.sfpe.com).



**Michael DiRezze** recently joined the Fire Protection Sales Team at General Air Products. As the National Sales Manager – Canada, DiRezze will work with fire protection contractors and distributors to develop new business opportunities and provide product expertise throughout all of Canada. Based in the Greater Toronto area, DiRezze joins the company with over 20 years of national sales management experience in both the automatic fire protection and wholesale promotional good industries, where he took on strategic sales roles and developed successful relationships with customers. As part of the General Air Products team, DiRezze will focus on the sale of and training on the company’s full line of dry pipe sprinkler system filling solutions.

For more information visit: [www.generalairproducts.com](http://www.generalairproducts.com).

**Cary Webber**, Director, Technical Resource Application, The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. Inc., will speak on *Data Center Protection: Best of the Best of the Best* at the NFSA Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo, May 7-9, 2025, to be held at the Music City Center, 201 Rep. John Lewis Way South, Nashville, Tennessee.

Cary has over 45 years of experience

in the fire protection industry, having held positions as designer, Estimator, Project Manager, Service Manager, and Inspections Manager. Cary joined Reliable in 2012 as a Technical Services Manager for the West Coast region and was promoted to Director in 2017. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington and an Associate in Applied Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Spokane Community College. He has been NICET certified as a Level IV Senior Engineering Technician (SET) in automatic sprinkler system layout and is an NFPA Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS). Cary currently sits on the NFSA Engineering and *Standards*, NFPA 11, 13, 15, 25, and 30 committees.

For more information visit: [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

**Jason Webb**, Director of Industry Affairs for Potter Electric Signal Company, will lead *Update in Industry Training Initiative by the Training and Education Committee* at the NFSA Annual Seminar and North American Fire Sprinkler Expo, May 7-9, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Training and Education Committee will provide an update on its work thus far, a snapshot of training in our industry, and a look into what’s coming. The goals and objectives of the seminar include an introduction of the committee, sharing of the scope and work thus far, and more.

Jason Webb, following retirement from a 25-year fire service career that included over 12 years as AHJ in a high-growth metropolitan fire department, spent five years as a fire safety advocate, trainer, and program developer/manager for the National Fire Sprinkler Association and the Automatic Fire Alarm Association before coming to Potter.

He is an accomplished author and instructor, providing continuing education for firefighters, fire and building code officials, fire protection contractors, facility managers, and design professionals for over two decades. He is an

active member of the ICC, NFPA, NFSA, AFSA, AFAA, FSSA, and SFPE, and sits on numerous codes and *Standards* development committees.

For more information visit: [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

**Guy Colonna**, FSL Consulting LLC; **Raymond Grill**, Ray Grill, Consulting PLLC; and **John LeBlanc**, Factory Mutual, are three new appointments to the NFPA Standards Council.

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) Board of Directors announced the appointments and the reappointment of **Randy Krause** to a second three-year term, **Jeffrey Foisel's** appointment was extended for three years, and **Rodger Reiswig's** appointment was extended for one year. All appointments and re-appointments began on January 1, 2025.

**Guy Colonna** joined NFPA as an engineer and staff liaison after serving in the U.S. Coast Guard for 12 years with assignments afloat and ashore. During his 34-year tenure at NFPA, he staffed committee projects responsible for documents on maritime fire protection and industrial and chemical hazards. He also developed and instructed training programs for many of these topics and authored numerous technical papers and presentations. Colonna currently serves as a Principal Member of NFPA technical committees on hot work safe practices, confined space safe practices, and classification and properties of haz-

ardous chemical data. He holds engineering degrees from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Stanford University, and is a registered professional engineer in chemical engineering in Massachusetts. He holds professional memberships with NFPA, AICHE, ACS, ASSP, and SFPE. Since retiring, Colonna has remained active as a consulting engineer with FSL Consulting LLC.

**Ray Grill** is Principal of Ray Grill Consulting PLLC. He is licensed as a fire protection and mechanical engineer in several states with more than 40 years of experience in fire protection engineering. Grill is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He is also a lifetime member of NFPA and has served as a trustee of the Fire Protection Research Foundation. Grill currently Chairs the Installation Technical Committee of NFPA 13, the Building Services and Fire Protection Equipment Technical Committees of NFPA 101 and 5000, and serves on the Notification Appliance and Emergency Communications Technical Committees of NFPA 72. He is also an NFPA 72 instructor for NFPA.

**John LeBlanc** is a Staff Vice President and Senior Engineering Technical Specialist within the chief engineers group at Factory Mutual (FM), where he has worked for 40 years. LeBlanc is responsible for the development and updating of FM's property loss prevention data sheets on ignitable liquid handling/storage, aerosol products, explosion protection systems, and provides support

to all the special hazard subject matter experts who handle combustible dust standards, flammable gas standards, hazardous chemical standards, and special protection systems. He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and a Master of Science in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He currently serves on 15 NFPA committees, is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and a fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

The NFPA Standards Council, appointed by the NFPA Board of Directors, is comprised of 13 members. The responsibilities of the Council include overseeing NFPA *Standards* development activities, ensuring compliance with the NFPA Regulations and Rules, and serving as the appeals body over matters related to *Standards* development.

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.

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## March 10-13, 2025

**LAYOUT TECHNICIAN: APPLICATION**  
Virtual  
[www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays](http://www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays)

## March 11, 2025

**IFPA/SFPE ANNUAL PRODUCT SHOW**  
Medinah Banquets, Addison, IL  
Danielle Sandfox, (847) 524-8250  
[danielle@foxsprinkler.com](mailto:danielle@foxsprinkler.com)  
Dave Cobian, (847) 623-9059  
[dave@centurysprinkler.com](mailto:dave@centurysprinkler.com)

## March 11-13, 2025

**FIRE PROT. AND LOSS CONTROL**  
Stillwater, OK  
Oklahoma State University (OSU)  
(405) 744-5715, [ceatfire@okstate.edu](mailto:ceatfire@okstate.edu)  
[www.ceat.okstate.edu](http://www.ceat.okstate.edu)

## March 18, 2025

**VERTICAL STANDPIPE SYSTEM ZONES**  
12:30-1:30 p.m., Virtual  
[www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays](http://www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays)

## March 24-25, 2025

**INSPECTION, TESTING,  
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SPRINKLER SYSTEMS (IT&M)**  
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## March 26-28, 2025

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[www.ceat.okstate.edu](http://www.ceat.okstate.edu)

## April 2-3, 2025

**FIRE SPRINKLER INTERNATIONAL 2025**  
Salzburg, Austria  
[deedundon@outlook.com](mailto:deedundon@outlook.com)  
[www.firesprinklerinternational.com](http://www.firesprinklerinternational.com)

## April 2-4, 2025

**OFSA'S 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOONDOGGLE**  
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tulsa, OK  
[www.ofsa.info](http://www.ofsa.info)

## April 8, 2025

**24<sup>TH</sup> IFPA/SFPE CHICAGO CHAPTER  
FIRE PROTECTION PRODUCT SHOW**  
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Others contact:  
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## April 8-10, 2025

**AGC ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
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AGC Convention Services  
[meetings@agc.org](mailto:meetings@agc.org)

## April 9-10, 2025

**2025 SFPE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE &  
EXPO ON FIRE SAFETY ENGINEERING**  
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Edinburgh, UK  
[www.sfpe.org/europe25/home](http://www.sfpe.org/europe25/home)

## April 15, 2025

**TECH TUESDAY: EOD CASE STUDIES**  
12:30-1:30 p.m., Virtual  
[www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays](http://www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays)

## May 7-9, 2025\*

**ANNUAL SEMINAR AND NORTH  
AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER EXPO**  
Music City Center  
JW Marriott, Nashville, TN  
NFSA, [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org)

## May 11-17, 2025

**HOME FIRE SPRINKLER WEEK**  
Nationwide Events  
[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

## May 15, 2025

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIRE PROT. EXPO**  
Thornton, CO  
[www.cofireprotection.org](http://www.cofireprotection.org)

## May 20, 2025

**TECH TUESDAY: OBSTRUCTIONS**  
12:30-1:30 p.m., Virtual  
[www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays](http://www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays)

## May 20-22, 2025

**FIRE PUMP APPLICATIONS,  
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## June 3-5, 2025

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## June 25-27, 2025

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## July 22-25, 2025\*

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## September 16-18, 2025

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**October 20-24, 2025**

**CASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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www.casa-firesprinkler.org

**October 30, 2025**

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**November 5-7, 2025**

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MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV

www.dbia.org/design-build-conference-expo

**Other Dates by Organization**

**Fire Tech Productions**

www.firetech.com

Mar. 4: *Fire Pump Maintenance Master*; Atlanta, GA

Mar. 12: *I&T Fire Alarm Systems*, Indianapolis, IN

Mar. 17: *Inspect/Test. Fire Spk. Systems*, Atlanta, GA

Mar. 19: *Inspect/Test. of Fire Pumps*, Atlanta, GA

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Mar. 5: *Fire Pump Testing and Analysis*

Mar. 5: *NFPA 14 Standpipe Systems*

Mar. 12: *Understanding and Applying NFPA 25*

Mar. 19: *Water-Based Fire Prot. System Freeze Prot.*

Mar. 26: *Res. Fire Sprinklers: Homes to High-Rise*

Apr. 17: *Seismic Protection for Fire Sprinkler Sys.*

Apr. 30: *Intro to Spec. Haz. Fire Suppression Sys.*

May 14: *Fire Alarm Interconnectivity to the Fire Sprinkler System*

May 28: *Fire Protection Requirements for Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS)*

May 28: *Equivalent Means and Methods with an Emphasis on Full-Scale Fire Tests*

June 4: *NFPA 13D Res. Fire Sprinkler Systems*

July 9: *Intro to Fire Sprinkler Systems*

July 30: *Hydraulic Calculations for Fire Protection*

Aug. 13: *Intro to Fire Alarm Systems*

Aug. 20: *Fire Spk. Sys. Requirements for Storage*

Sep. 3: *NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps*

Sep. 10: *Fire Pump Testing and Analysis*

Sep. 10: *NFPA 14 Standpipe Systems*

Sep. 24: *Understanding and Applying NFPA 25*

Oct. 1: *Water-Based Fire Protect. Sys. Freeze Protect.*

Oct. 8: *Seismic Protection for Fire Sprinkler Systems*

Oct. 22: *Fire Alarm Interconnectivity to the Fire Sprinkler System*

Nov. 12: *Res. Fire Sprinklers: Homes to High-Rise*

Nov. 19: *Intro to Spec. Haz. Fire Suppression Sys.*

Dec. 10: *Fire Protection Requirements for Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS)*

Dec. 10: *Equivalent Means and Methods with an Emphasis on Full-Scale Fire Tests*

**NFSA Tech Tuesdays** (Virtual 12:30-1:30 p.m.)

www.nfsa.org/technical-tuesdays

Mar. 10-13: *Layout Technician: Application*

Mar. 18: *Vertical Standpipe System Zones*

Apr. 15: *Tech Tuesday: EOD Case Studies*

May 20: *Tech Tuesday: Obstructions*

Jun. 17: *Tech Tuesday Live NFPA Conference*

Jul. 15: *Tech Tuesday: Data of System Failures*

Aug. 19: *Tech Tuesday: NFPA 13D*

Sep. 16: *High-Piled Storage Process*

Oct. 21: *Hydraulic Supplement*

Nov. 18: *Field Inspections*

Dec. 16: *Special Designs*

**Oklahoma Fire Sprinkler Association**

The Alarm, Locksmith, and Fire Sprinkler Committee remaining dates for 2025 meetings: Mar. 5, Apr. 9,

May 7, Jun. 4, Jul. 9, Aug. 6, Sep. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 5,

Dec. 10.

**Also Visit:**

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## Saved: Industrial Building

A February 8, 2025, item on [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), from *Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, Minnesota, said a vehicle fire inside an industrial building in Shakopee could have resulted in heavy damages but **fire sprinklers** prevented the blaze from spreading, according to City Fire Marshal Tom Pitschneider.

Shakopee firefighters were called at 10:17 p.m. to A Scape Inc., a landscaping company at 690 Valley Industrial Circle S. The fire was contained by two **sprinklers**, Pitschneider said. Fire damage was limited to the vehicle.

“Without the **fire sprinklers** this business and others in the building would have been a total loss,” Pitschneider said.

## Saved: Apartments

An item by Odyssey Fields posted February 7, 2025, on [www.dcnnewsnow.com](http://www.dcnnewsnow.com), Washington, D.C., said D.C. Fire and EMS is crediting the **sprinkler system** after a fire was contained inside an apartment in Northeast D.C.

Just before 7:30 a.m. in a post on X, the fire department said crews were called to a box alarm at an apartment.

However, the small blaze was contained after **sprinklers** were activated in the apartment.

“**Sprinklers save lives and property**,” said the fire department in the post on X.

— *Thanks for sending this and other items goes to Kelly Reynolds codexperts@aol.com*

## Saved: Apartments

A February 3, 2025, item on [www.desertsun.com](http://www.desertsun.com), La Quinta, California, said **sprinklers** inside a two-story multi-family building put out a fire before it could spread, but caused enough water damage to three units to displace some residents, a Riverside County Fire Department spokesman said.

The fire was reported at a multi-unit building in the 50600 block of Eisenhower Drive, said Riverside County Fire Department spokesman Mark Annas.

“The first arriving engine company reported the fire to be out and **sprinklers** activated,” Annas said. “Water damage was sustained in the apartment of origin and two downstairs apartments. The Red Cross was contacted to help two men, two women, and two children in finding other lodging until theirs dries out.”

## Saved: Apartments

“Early Morning Fire Extinguished at West Town on 8<sup>th</sup> Apartments” is the title of a January 29, 2025, item on [www.kval.com](http://www.kval.com) out of Eugene, Oregon: A fire broke out at the West Town on 8<sup>th</sup> apartments in Eugene, according to Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF).

ESF crews were first alerted around 5:40 a.m., after receiving a call about haze and smoke in an apartment.

While firefighters were enroute to the scene the building’s smoke alarms went off, said ESF, a short time later the building’s **sprinkler system activated**.

The resident of the apartment was alerted by the smoke alarm, said fire officials, and **the sprinklers controlled the fire**.

Crews then worked to finish extinguishing the blaze before managing smoke and water damage.

## Saved: Seniors, Condos, & Cat!

An item posted January 27, 2025, on [www.shorennewsnetwork.com](http://www.shorennewsnetwork.com), Bel Air, Maryland, said a **fire sprinkler system** is being credited with preventing major property damage and saving lives, including a beloved pet, during a fire at Park View at Bel Air, a multi-unit senior condominium. No injuries were reported, and only a few residents were temporarily displaced, receiving assistance from friends and family.

The fire began in one of the units, and the occupant initially attempted to ex-

tinguish the flames. When the fire grew beyond control, **the sprinkler system activated**, prompting the resident to evacuate, leaving behind his cat, “Betty.” While investigating the incident, Deputy State Fire Marshals located Betty – wet but unharmed – and, with the help of Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company firefighters, reunited her with her owner.

**Acting State Fire Marshal Jason M. Mowbray praised the sprinkler system, stating, “Residential fire sprinklers are proven to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property, including, in this case, our beloved pets.”**

He emphasized that the system not only safeguarded the residents but also prevented significant fire damage to the property.

## Saved: Target Store

An item posted November 14, 2024, on [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), said someone wasn’t feeling the Christmas spirit when the decorations aisle at the Valley Plaza Mall Target in Bakersfield, California, was set on fire.

Employees say the alarm going off in the mall is not uncommon.

“I just assumed that maybe it was a robbery; I didn’t really think that it was going to be a fire,” said Soudavan Thor, a mall employee. “Then there’s like smoke everywhere, the smell was pretty bad too. Even this morning the smell stayed.”

The Bakersfield Fire Department is trying to identify a woman in a pink hoodie who was riding a silver mountain bike they believe is responsible for the fire. Leo Lopez has been coming to the Target at the Valley Plaza Mall for five years.

“Who would want to burn the Christmas aisle, let alone at Target!” said Leo Lopez.

With no set date to reopen, customers will have to make a detour for shopping.

For now, the Christmas spirit is taking a pause at this location. Fire officials said most of the cleanup will be from the activation of the **fire sprinklers** inside the store.



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**P**ye-Barker Fire & Safety is a primary partner of the No. 42 Toyota Camry XSE entry driven by John Hunter Nemechek for 14 events during the 2025 NASCAR Cup Series season. [See more in Company News, pages 30-31.]



## Home Fire Sprinkler Week Outreach Program during the week of May 11-17, 2025.

Now in its eighth year, Home Fire Sprinkler Week has grown increasingly popular with fire departments in the U.S. and Canada.

Every day will feature a different theme focusing on key facts about home fire sprinklers...

Support the groups that are supporting you!

For more information visit:

[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

**C**heers to Worcester, MA, Assistant Chief Adam Roche, who said: “It’s proven time after time, sprinkler systems, they obviously save lives and they reduce the amount of fire damage and fire loss. Basically, a sprinkler system keeps a fire at its lowest stage, until the fire department arrives and can fully extinguish the fire.”

**S**ome sectors, such as data centers and infrastructure, are set for rapid growth, while clean energy projects and high-speed rail could see federal support dwindle.

— Julie Strupp and Sebastian Obando  
[www.constructiondive.com](http://www.constructiondive.com), 2/5/25

**C**heers to Jeff Lewis and the AFSA Virginia Chapter for their work on helping the industry to find new workers. They hosted the 2025 Career Fair at Regency Mall on February 25<sup>th</sup>. They utilized a targeted approach to identify specific students with specific skill sets that could meet their criteria.

**M**ore on such efforts will be in future editions of FPC. Tell us what’s good: [info@fpcmag.com](mailto:info@fpcmag.com).



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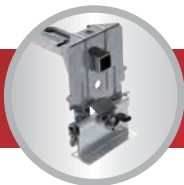


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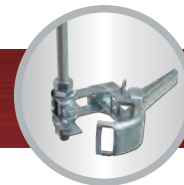
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