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July 2025
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Design Management

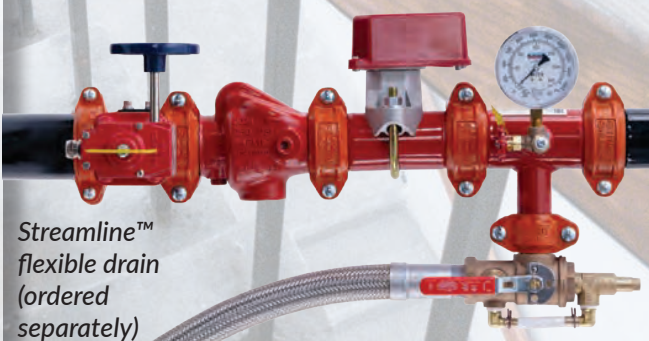
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Cover photo courtesy of Abbie Funnells at NFSA.

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Red Skelton's Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance

From *The Red Skelton Hour*, CBS TV, January 14, 1969

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I

Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge

Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance

My love and my devotion.

To the Flag

Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

of the United

That means that we have all come together.

States

Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic

Pledge of Allegiance poster

Republic – a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation

One Nation – meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible

Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty

Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice

The principle, or quality, of dealing fairly with others.

For All

For All – which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine. And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: **Under God**. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?



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Number 1 at *FPC* magazine:
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We are here to serve you.

*If there is anything you want,
please ask...*

*If we don't know, we probably
know someone who does.*

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FPC/Fire Protection Contractor for the benefit of fire protection contractors, fire protection engineers, fire sprinkler designers, fire sprinkler fitters, apprentices, fire fabricators, manufacturers, and distributors of fire protection products used in automatic fire sprinkler systems.

We cover something like 70 different topics over the course of a year.

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Since 1978

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Circulation: Last month, June 2025, our circulation was 1,726 copies and 61 digital subscriptions. We have subscribers throughout the United States and Canada and several foreign countries and territories.

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

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Last month, June 2025, our circulation was 1,726 printed copies plus digital subscriptions.

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- 12. FEATURE ARTICLES:** Send an article with photos of an installation, a company profile, or a technical report.

Please send your comments, stories, jokes, news releases, ideas, and articles to:
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National

Private Project Abandonments Hit Record Highs

A www.constructiondive.com story by Sebastian Obando, posted June 9, 2025, said a spike in scrapped jobs drove the sharpest rise in construction stress in over a year as developer confidence erodes, according to ConstructConnect.

Private developers scrapped more projects in May than in any other month on record, according to the latest data from Cincinnati-based ConstructConnect.

The Project Stress Index, a measure of construction projects that have been paused, abandoned, or have a delayed bid date, increased 11.4% in May. That figure puts project stress 22.8% above 2021 baseline levels, said Devin

Bell, Associate Economist at ConstructConnect.

“Abandonment activity has continued to rise, reaching its highest reading in over a year,” said Bell. “While public sector abandonment activity remains within historic levels, private sector abandonments have reached multi-year highs.”

Bell pointed to high interest rates and shifting market conditions as key factors reducing project viability. He said those pressures continue to erode developer confidence.

A 30.3% spike in overall project abandonments caused the surge in stress in May, according to the report. In contrast, delayed bids dropped 1.9% and on-hold activity remained essentially flat.

Since the end of 2024, abandonment activity has climbed 66.5%, while bid delays have increased 4.3% and on-hold activity has dropped 18.5%, according to the report.

For example, clean energy manufacturers canceled, closed, or downsized about \$8 billion in projects in the first quarter of 2025. That includes the cancellations of a \$1.2 billion plant in Arizona and a \$2.6 billion battery factory in Georgia.

For the month, private sector struggles stood out sharply, said Bell. Private abandonments increased 62.6% over the month, and are now up 92.2% year over year. That surge has led to the highest level of abandonments since ConstructConnect began tracking data in mid-2019.

Meanwhile, private projects placed on hold increased 23.1% over the past 12 months, according to the report.

Public projects moved in the opposite direction over the last year. Abandonments on public works remained flat, while public projects put on hold fell 15.2%, according to the report.

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Delaware

State Fire Commission Honors Town of Middletown and Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition

An item posted June 9, 2025, on www.delaware.gov said, on June 2, 2025, the Delaware State Fire Commission formally recognized the Town of Middletown with a proclamation honoring the town's recent adoption of an ordinance mandating fire sprinkler systems in all new residential homes. This ordinance, approved by the Town Council on May 5, 2025, requires all new one- and two-story residential dwellings and townhouses to be equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems.

The Fire Commission also presented a proclamation to Paul Eichler, Chairperson of the Delaware Fire Sprinkler Coalition, in recognition of his ongoing dedication to public education and advocacy around residential fire sprinkler systems. Chairperson Eichler played a vital role in working with Middletown town officials to provide critical information and guidance throughout the ordinance's development.

"We commend the Town of Middletown for taking this life-saving step and thank Chairperson Eichler for his tireless efforts in raising awareness about the importance of residential sprinklers," said Ron Marvel, Chair of the Delaware State Fire Commission. "These measures will protect families, save lives, and reduce the burden on our first responders."

With the passage of this ordinance, Middletown joins a growing list of Delaware municipalities – Lewes, Milton, Newark, and now Middletown – that require fire sprinkler systems in new residential construction. In addition, New Castle County mandates sprinkler systems in all model homes for new developments, while the City of Seaford does not require fire sprinkler systems but does provide reductions on permit fees if included in new construction or home renovations.

Hawai'i

Insurance Relief for Condo and Homeowners?

An article by Kimber Collins, updated June 5, 2025, on www.kitv.com, Honolulu, said as wildfire risks and hurricane season loom, thousands of Hawai'i homeowners, particularly those living in older condominiums, are facing soaring insurance premiums or being denied coverage altogether.

A new bill passed by state lawmakers could offer them a critical safety net.

Senate Bill 1044 expands the authority of the Hawai'i Property Insurance Association (HPIA), allowing it to temporarily provide coverage for high-risk properties that are otherwise uninsurable.

It also reopens the long-dormant *Hurricane Relief Fund* and **establishes a new state-backed loan program to help condo associations finance necessary repairs, including fire sprinklers and plumbing systems.**

"We've been hearing from homeowners across the state that it's difficult to find insurance," said Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole (D-Kaneohe, Kailua), the bill's author. "And the insurance some are being offered is far more expensive than what we've seen before."

Washington

State Fire Marshal Urges Installation of Home Fire Sprinklers

A June 9, 2025, item on www.dailyfly.com, Olympia, Washington said the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is encouraging homeowners and builders to consider residential fire sprinklers as a key safety feature, citing their proven effectiveness in reducing fire fatalities and property loss.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), homes equipped with fire sprinklers experience up to a 90% decrease in fire-related deaths and significantly less structural damage. Notably, Washington reported no fire fatalities in 2024 in buildings protected by sprinkler systems.


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Several Washington cities, including Olympia and Redmond, have adopted ordinances mandating sprinkler systems in newly constructed single-family homes, signaling a broader statewide push toward enhanced residential fire protection.

Unlike the widespread water discharge often seen in movies, home sprinkler systems activate individually and only in response to nearby fire, limiting both fire and water damage. They can be integrated into new builds or retrofitted into existing homes. The SFMO recommends routine visual inspections each month and annual professional maintenance to ensure reliability.

The benefits of home sprinkler systems outlined by the SFMO include:

Life Safety: Up to 89% reduction in fire-related deaths.

Property Protection: Fires are often contained with activation of only one or two sprinklers.

Environmental Impact: Less water used compared to fire hoses, reducing runoff and damage.

Cost Efficiency: Average installation cost is around \$1.35 per square foot in new builds.

Insurance Savings: Many insurers offer reduced premiums for homes with sprinklers.

Homeowners interested in retrofitting their residences can find detailed guidance through organizations such as the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition.

For more information contact the State Fire Marshal's Office: (360) 596-3904, or visit their official X account at: @WaFireMarshal.

United Kingdom

UK Group Pushes Copper over Plastic

"Plastic pipes in building risers represent fire safety gamble, warns CuSP," is the title of an article posted June 8, 2025, on www.fsmmatters.com/CuSP-issues-warning-over-use-of-plastic-pipes.

When considering the overall implications, the use of plastic pipes "presents significant risks." These include their potential contribution to fire spread, their environmental impact, and an "inability to match the durability and fire resistance" of more traditional materials.

Riser effect – accelerating fire spread

Building risers are vertical shafts running through every floor of a multi-story structure, housing essential services like water pipes, electrical cables, and ventilation ducts. In essence, they are the

building's central nervous system, but if not properly designed, they can also serve as a conduit for fire.


Building risers can create a pathway for fire to travel vertically through a structure. In the event of a fire, flames and smoke may spread through these shafts on a rapid basis, engulfing multiple floors in a matter of minutes.

CuSP notes that plastic pipes exacerbate this problem in several ways:

- Increased fire load. Plastic pipes add fuel to the fire, intensifying and prolonging its spread. This increases the risk of structural damage and collapse.
- Rapid flame spread. Plastic pipes ignite easily, allowing flames to race through risers. This can block escape routes and trap occupants.
- Toxic smoke and fumes. Burning plastic releases harmful chemicals like carbon monoxide, dioxins, and cyanide. These fumes can incapacitate building occupants and hinder firefighters.

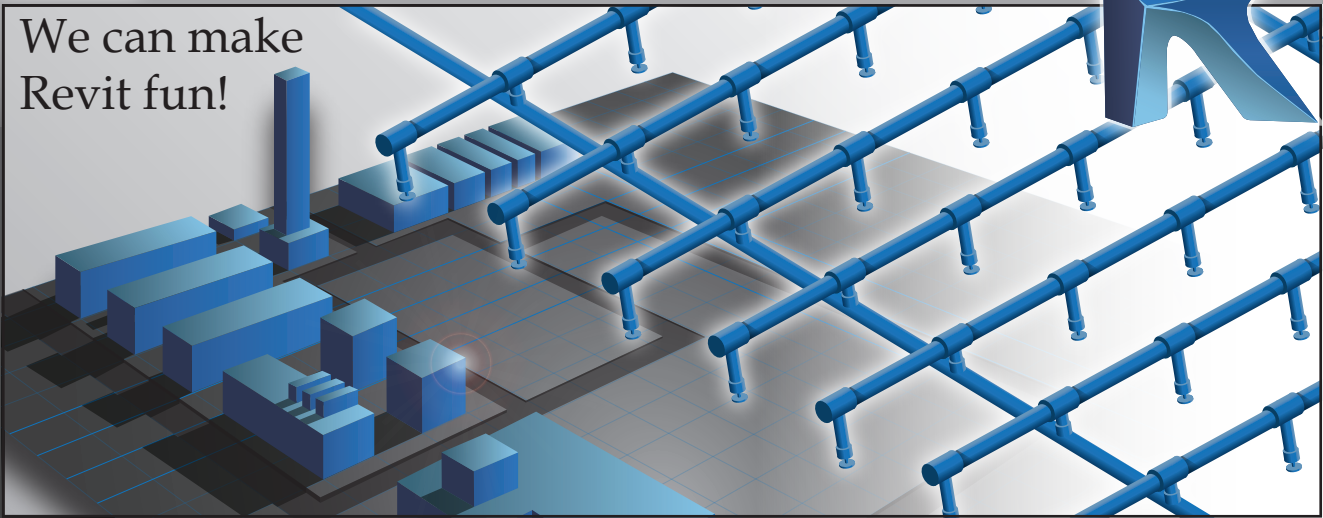
Firestopping challenges

One of the greatest challenges with plastic pipes is containing fires once they start. Fire stopping (i.e., the practice of sealing gaps in walls and floors



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to prevent fire spread) is “exponentially more complex” when plastic pipes are involved. Unlike copper, plastic melts at lower temperatures with the potential to create holes in fire-rated barriers. These breaches can act as channels for flames, smoke, and fumes.

To counteract this, special firestopping systems are required. These include collars and sealants designed to account for the melting behavior of plastic. However, even minor installation errors, such as an uneven sealant application, can compromise the entire system’s effectiveness.

Evidence from fire safety tests

Extensive research conducted by CuSP and Warringtonfire has shown that plastic pipes perform poorly in fire safety tests when compared to copper. Tests revealed that plastic pipes ignite quickly, burn rapidly, and release toxic fumes.

Copper pipes, on the other hand, are non-combustible, release minimal smoke, and don’t produce dangerous levels of toxic emissions. These findings present a compelling case for reconsidering the use of plastic pipes in building risers.

Copper has long been recognized as a reliable material for building infrastructures. Its inherent fire resistance, durability, and recyclability make it an ideal choice for critical applications including risers. By choosing copper, developers can significantly enhance fire safety, while also benefiting from its longevity and low environmental impact.

Need for regulatory reform

According to CuSP (Copper Sustainability Partnership), the current building codes in many regions fail to adequately address the fire risks posed by plastic pipes in high-rise structures. While fire safety is a stated priority for the construction industry, regulations often lag behind the latest research and testing outcomes.

Stricter guidelines must be implemented, suggests CuSP, in order to limit or prohibit the use of combustible materials like plastic in building risers. This is particularly crucial for high-rise structures where the stakes are somewhat higher due to the potential for rapid vertical fire spread.

Building a safer future

The safety of homes and cities depends on the choices made by construction professionals and policymakers alike. By prioritizing fire-resistant materials and advocating for stricter regulations, urges CuSP, we can reduce the risks and ensure that buildings are safe for generations to come.

Materials hidden behind walls can mean the difference between safety and disaster. When it comes to fire safety, there’s no room for compromise. CuSP’s, firm belief is that it’s time to make informed decisions designed to protect lives and safeguard communities.

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

From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.
— Proverbs 12:14

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Economics

Economic News Affecting the Fire Sprinkler Industry

Nonresidential Construction Adds 11,300 Jobs

The construction industry added 4,000 jobs on net in May, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) analysis of data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has increased by 126,000 jobs, an increase of 1.5%.

Nonresidential construction employment increased by 11,300 positions, with growth in all three subcategories. **Non-residential specialty trade added the most jobs**, increasing by 4,500 positions, while heavy and civil engineering and nonresidential building added 3,700 and 3,100 jobs, respectively.

The construction unemployment rate decreased to 3.5% in May. Unemployment across all industries remained unchanged at 4.2%.

“The nonresidential construction segment has now added jobs at over twice the pace of the broader economy during the past 12 months,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “This hiring has been aided by softness in the residential segment, which lost over 7,000 jobs in May, freeing up workers for nonresidential contractors. Even so, the industrywide unemployment rate fell to an exceptionally low 3.5% in May, indicating that the labor supply remains unusually tight.

“Despite healthy nonresidential hiring, the broader industry has added just 25,000 jobs from January to May. That marks the slowest five-month employment growth since 2020 and provides a clear indication that high interest rates, tight lending standards, and policy uncertainty are weighing on industrywide momentum. Of course, contractors remain broadly optimistic in the face of those headwinds, according to ABC’s Construction Confidence Index, with a majority of contractors expecting their staffing levels to increase over the next six months.”

For more information visit: www.abc.org/economics.

Contractors’ Backlog Falls Sharply in May

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) reported that its *Construction Backlog Indicator* fell to 8.4 months in May, according to an ABC member survey conducted May 20 to June 3. The reading is up 0.1 months since May 2024.

While the South maintains the longest backlog of any region, it was the only one to experience a decline in May. Only the Northeast has longer backlog on a year-over-year basis, while the other three regions experienced annual declines.

ABC’s Construction Confidence Index reading for profit margins improved in May, while the readings for sales and staffing levels fell. The readings for all three components remain above the threshold of 50, indicating expectations for growth over the next six months.

“The impacts of tariffs are increasingly apparent, with nearly one in four ABC member contractors reporting tariff-related project cancellations or delays in May,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “While 87% of survey respondents have been notified of tariff-related materials price increases, profit margin expectations actually improved in May.

“Of course, this survey was largely conducted prior to the announcement of the now-implemented 50% steel and aluminum tariffs, and margins will likely come under pressure in the coming months,” said Basu. “Despite this potential headwind, approximately six out of 10 contractors expect their sales to increase over the next two quarters, suggesting widespread optimism about the outlook.”

About ABC: Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2025, Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association established in 1950 with 67 chapters and more than 23,000 members.

Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps 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.

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The Human Side of Design Management

By Ivonn Ochoa

I began my career in fire protection as a drafter at the age of 23. I vividly remember admiring the director of our engineering department – not just for his technical expertise, but for the way he led with empathy. He cared about people, both personally and professionally, even under the pressure of constant deadlines, demanding clients, and complex regulatory requirements. That memory stayed with me and shaped my understanding of what real leadership looks like.

This article explores not only the technical aspects of fire sprinkler design management but also the human component – how we build teams, make hard decisions, and grow together in a demanding and essential industry.

What Is Design Management in Fire Protection?

Design management in fire sprinkler systems involves the planning, coordination, execution, and quality control of the design process to ensure compliance with codes, client expectations, and project timelines.

Core responsibilities include:

- Ensuring compliance with NFPA *Standards*, FM Global Data Sheets, local codes, and company specifications.
- Coordinating with architects, MEP engineers, contractors, and AHJs.
- Managing submittals, revisions, and permit approvals.
- Overseeing the accuracy of hydraulic calculations, seismic bracing calculations, and layout drawings.
- Leading internal teams, training junior staff, and improving workflows.

But design management is not just about deadlines and drawings – it's about people.

Blending Traditional and Modern Leadership

Over more than a decade, I've seen the strengths and challenges of both traditional and modern leadership styles. Older models often emphasize structure, discipline, and top-down

control – valuable traits when managing complex projects. Newer approaches prioritize collaboration, flexibility, and emotional intelligence.

I believe in a balanced model, one that honors the wisdom of past leadership while embracing modern communication and inclusivity. Fire protection requires precision and accountability, but also trust and adaptability. No system, team, or project thrives without both.

In my experience working in Mexico, a country that, according to the OECD, has among the highest average working hours globally, this balance becomes

even more critical. Long hours often make it difficult for professionals to achieve a healthy work-life balance. That's why creating a supportive team environment, one that encourages both high performance and personal wellbeing, is not a luxury; it's a necessity.

We must rethink leadership not as a tool of hierarchical control, but as a dynamic function of coordination, support, and accountability. I call this a hybrid leadership model: firm in direction, flexible in execution, and always grounded in human connection.

People Are Part of the System

If our team were a sprinkler system, how long could it function with significant leakage? How would that leakage affect other components, like the fire pump? It's not just a minor defect, it's a system-wide vulnerability.

We design, install, and maintain systems to prevent failure. Why should our teams be any different? Effective design management means actively cultivating a team that performs well under pressure, communicates clearly, and supports one another. That includes addressing burnout, managing workloads, and fostering a positive work environment, elements far more complex than any fire alarm circuit or pump layout.

“While flexibility is essential, too much of it – especially in the absence of clear boundaries – can backfire. I've seen cases where team members, feeling empowered but unstructured, begin making decisions that override established priorities.”

Tough Decisions and Team Alignment

Leadership isn't just about support – it's also about standards. At times, we encounter individuals who resist change, reject team dynamics, or push back against leadership grounded in trust and accountability. There's a fine line between helping someone adapt and tolerating behavior that undermines the group. Good design managers must make difficult decisions, not out of ego or control, but to protect the integrity and performance of the team.

While flexibility is essential, too much of it – especially in the absence of clear boundaries – can backfire. I've seen cases where team members, feeling empowered but unstructured, begin making decisions that override established priorities. When someone prioritizes based on personal judgment rather than project needs, the result can be delays, construction setbacks, dissatisfied clients, and serious coordination issues.

Not everyone on a team is equipped to make high-level decisions independently, and that's why, for some, vertical leadership models appear to “work better.” They provide a defined chain of command that limits ambiguity and reinforces accountability.

Final Reflection

All fire sprinkler managers know, or should know, that our job is to ensure technical excellence: deliverables that are code-compliant, buildable, and approval-ready. But great managers go further. They lead with empathy, communicate with clarity, and act with strength. They develop people while upholding standards.

The truth is, too much rigidity breaks teams. Too much freedom creates chaos. Design leadership is the art of navigating that tension, with humility, structure, and purpose. In the real world, challenges are inevitable, but with the right team, the right mindset, and the right mix of leadership styles, we can build something much stronger than any system we've ever designed. Because the best fire protection design and installation doesn't just comply with codes and *Standards* – it reflects the leadership behind it. Everyone involved in fire protection systems needs some level of leadership, and above all, a thoughtful balance in how that leadership is exercised.

About the Author:

Ivonn Ochoa is a mechanical engineer with NICET Level III certification in Water-Based Systems Layout and CETRACI certification in Mexico. She holds a professional extension in Plumbing System Design from UCLA and currently serves as Project Coordinator for the Northwest Region at Global Mechanical. She leads the design of fire protection and specialized mechanical systems, including compressed air, medical gases, and industrial gases, across residential, commercial, and industrial projects. She was recognized among the top 50 professionals in the 2019 Top Tech competition, selected from over 250 participants. With over a decade of experience, she is passionate about combining technical excellence with thoughtful leadership to build stronger, more resilient teams and systems.

For more information visit: www.bdefp.com/services.html, www.globalmechanical.com.mx/en/index.



Design Management

By Adam Tuomala

In short, the roles and responsibilities of the design manager haven't changed much over the decades. It doesn't really matter which discipline or trade you are responsible for; the proven tried and true methods of effective management are still intact and apply the same today as they did 50 years ago.

There are basically three keys to good design management: Planning, Organizing, and Directing.

Planning:

At one time I had a great leader who always asked the question, "How do you eat an elephant?" and of course the answer is "One bite at a time."

What our GM was saying is that sometimes it's easy to get overwhelmed, especially when you are working on larger projects. So, it's important to break projects down into manageable tasks – is there a fire pump, standpipes, underground, multiple typical floors, multiple zones, dry pipe or pre-action systems, etc. Understanding the scope of work in its entirety is very important to having a successful project. A good design manager (DM) will evaluate every aspect of the project and determine degrees of difficulty and assign specific tasks to their design team (usually based on one's level of experience and aptitude).

Planning a project can be a daunting task. Assigning specific parts of a project makes good sense. For example, if all an individual must consider is routing and calculating standpipes and PRVs, then the rest of the project is far less intimidating, allowing the designer to focus on the task at hand and probably do a better job. The same would apply to someone who is working on the fire pump room layout and design. Naturally, these individuals would collaborate and coordinate between themselves, and the DM would periodically monitor their work and progress.

Organization:

The real question here is, at what level does the DM really need to get involved? Smaller projects usually only require a meeting between the estimator, designer, and project manager, while larger projects, such as industrial or high-rise work, would require a significant time investment in coordinating and directing the team to ensure schedules and budgets are met. The DM is ultimately responsible for the finished product, and so there must be a level of accountability for everyone involved in the design process.

Organization can be as simple as setting up a basic 'job file'

that should have all of the relevant information in sub-folders, such as general project information, budgets, flow test information, PDF files, AutoCAD files, CIVIL plans, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP), structural, and basically anything else you can get your hands on, whether you need it or not. Too

much information is not an issue here, it's always easier to have something and not need it, rather than needing something and having to interrupt your workflow to find or track down information.

Budgeting is just as important. It would be great if there was a huge bucket of money that everyone could draw from aimlessly, but this is never the case. Budgets exist for a reason – to have an

expected expenditure for a budgeted line item, whether that be design, labor, material, overhead, project management, equipment rental, fabrication, and all the other expenses that require consideration.

A DM's role can significantly impact a project's budget in either good or bad ways. A poor design could require significant field changes, which in turn can break labor and material budgets while trying to unravel any design errors. On the other hand, maybe the water supply supports the use of extended coverage sprinklers. Eliminating heads and possibly branch lines or utilizing smaller pipe diameters can make the installation faster and improve labor, material, and fabrication budgets.

Directing:

Call it what it is, "directing traffic." Another role of the DM is to define and delegate responsibilities and expectations to every team member, as well as provide support and direction to the entire design staff. In other words, be a leader. An effective DM can make a company great; a poor DM will lead to little more than frustration and finger pointing.

These basic tenants of management are nothing new, and there are many more management skills to be learned for sure. Invest some time and be that individual that everyone likes and respects for their leadership.

About the Author:

Adam Tuomala, NICET IV WBSL, RME-G, SCR-G, ECR, FEL-K, is the owner of Phoenix Fire Protection, located at 3955 Outpost Trace, Lago Vista, TX 78645.

For more information contact: (512) 470-5585, phoenixfirepros@gmail.com, www.phoenixfirepros.com.

"Call it what it is, "directing traffic."

Another role of the DM is to define and delegate responsibilities and expectations to every team member, as well as provide support and direction to the entire design staff."

Design Management: Lessons from a Fire Protection Engineering Perspective

By Eduardo Lopez

The design of fire protection systems has undergone a significant transformation over the last 10 years. The introduction of 3D modeling has revolutionized not only fire protection but all disciplines across engineering and construction.

For our team, this shift was challenging. More than a decade ago, we began exploring Revit modeling. We took courses, bought books, read manuals, and invested in training, time, computers – everything. Eventually, those who learned first became the trainers of the rest of the team.

A curious thing about those early Revit courses: we always started by modeling architectural elements. Why? Because understanding the software interface required learning how it was originally intended to be used. This process was easier for the younger generations, while more experienced team members (like myself) took longer to adapt. Ironically, those “younger” engineers from 10 years ago are now the ones leading the charge in 3D modeling within the company.

So why share this? Because back then we believed 3D would make design faster and easier. In reality, it has often done the opposite, especially in the engineering stage, when we’re focused on producing plans, calculations, and detailed drawings.

In 2D design, we would create a sprinkler layout, indicate where a section should be cut, and draw that section manually. In 3D, the concept is that you create the piping, connect the sprinklers, place the section marker, and – like magic – the section appears. It’s true, it’s automatic. But it only works that way after you’ve built and customized all the necessary families, devices, and materials.

I know everything you’ve read so far may seem contradictory – “Doesn’t 3D help?” – and it does, eventually. But the learning curve and production setup are steep, especially for those of us who didn’t grow up with this technology. Let me explain why it actually slows us down in some situations.

In traditional 2D workflows, design was phased: the architectural and structural teams worked in parallel, and when their drawings were complete, the MEP trades would begin. This meant that fire protection, HVAC, and electrical all worked with a finalized architectural and structural base, and coordination was limited to other MEP systems.

Today, this no longer happens. In many projects, all disciplines start at the same time. This causes issues for our design team, especially when we’re expected to deliver a 30% or 40% submission without having the structural model. Yes, it’s technically possible to start without structure, but we prefer to do the work once, not two or three times. This has led to delays in our engineering deliverables. When structure is at 40%, we’re still at 20%. All we can produce are typical details, layout plans, and general notes.

That’s just one of today’s challenges. Another major issue is the blurring of the line between engineering and installation. Projects now tend to include both phases, but the terms “engineering” and “project” are often used interchangeably.

When clients ask us to “quote the project,” they often mean the full scope, from design to installation, whereas we, as engineers, understand “project” to mean just the design. This difference in terminology creates misunderstandings and misaligned expectations.

Another emerging challenge is that engineering and installation now happen in parallel. A project is considered “alive” – engineering starts, and just a few weeks later, installation begins. As engineering continues, construction progresses

too, which means engineering never truly ends. There’s no clear handoff point where we can say, “From here on, it’s the installer’s responsibility.”

Right now, we’ve finished an engineering package. The installation was awarded to another company. We’re no longer involved officially, yet we continue receiving requests to modify the design based on site conditions. From our perspective, this is no longer engineering; these are field changes, and they should be documented in the redlines for the as-built submission.

All of this is not to say that things were better in the past or that we used to work faster. The reality is that engineering is evolving – it has been changing for years, and it will continue to do so. What we must do now is accept that change and get on board as soon as possible, so that our implementation curve is shorter and we adapt more efficiently to the demands of modern design workflows.

Conclusion

The shift to 3D modeling and cloud-based design has transformed fire protection engineering. While the tools offer incredible potential, the workflow and management of design have become more complex, especially when project phases overlap and definitions blur. The key to moving forward isn’t just learning new software; it’s redefining roles, scopes, and processes clearly.

Until we separate the moment when engineering ends and construction begins, and ensure all teams speak the same language, we’ll continue facing these challenges, even with the most advanced tools at our disposal.

About the Author:

Eduardo Lopez is a licensed engineer (NICET #130312, CFPS 4229, CETRACI S03983714) with Baja Design Engineering in Mexicali, Baja California. He may be reached at: Office: +52 (686) 905-9855, Cell (427) 290-9839, elopez@bajadesign.com.mx.

“The shift to 3D modeling and cloud-based design has transformed fire protection engineering. While the tools offer incredible potential, the workflow and management of design have become more complex, especially when project phases overlap and definitions blur.”

Design Management: Lessons Learned

By Micah Davis, SET

With over two decades in the fire sprinkler industry, I have come to view fire sprinkler projects as having three phases: estimation, design, and installation. The critical nature of phases one and three is indisputable. A successful fire sprinkler project must start with an accurate estimate and conclude with an efficient installation. However, the design phase often gets overlooked. While no one would call it unimportant, in the rush to submit plans and create stocklists to meet the schedule, we tend to neglect the impact it can have on a project. In fact, design serves as the lynchpin between a great estimate and a well-coordinated installation.

I have spent most of my career in fire sprinkler design and now serve as the Senior Manager of Operations for Ferguson Fire Design (FFD), a design firm that is part of Ferguson Fire & Fabrication. Along with my counterpart, Carl Koslowski, Senior Manager of Design, we are working to apply the lessons we have learned about design team management to a growing team that currently consists of 54 associates. Below, I share three of the most important lessons we have learned about effective design management.

Lesson #1 – Find the Right Talent

Clearly understanding the qualities you are looking for when hiring is essential. For experienced designers, apparent knowledge of fire sprinkler design concepts along with extensive experience doesn't guarantee a successful hire. Has their experience been developed in a particular type of fire sprinkler project, and do they have weaknesses in others? Does their work ethic and attitude fit your culture? These are questions we have learned to ask when considering new candidates for our organization.

When we are looking to add new talent through our training program, we have also learned certain characteristics tend to produce better results. Two groups of candidates we have seen be most successful are those with field experience or mechanical engineering degrees. Again, a great work ethic and attitude are essential. Even the most talented candidate will cause problems if they don't fit your company's culture.

Lesson #2 – Provide Your Designers with the Support They Need

Once you have the right talent, you must develop the support that allows your rockstars to perform. Carefully evaluate the design process your team uses. What tasks are your senior designers doing that a designer in training could do? Better yet, what tasks can be done by administrators or CAD technicians? Work to keep your top talent on the tasks that only they can do

and find other people for the less technical parts of the design.

Supporting your designers also means considering your system. Your designers are most effective when they have all the resources they need. How is project information obtained and disseminated? Do you have an adequate system for setting up and assigning projects? Who is handling communication with the customer during design? Creating efficient systems around these aspects can keep your designers focused on producing design.

“A good design is a critical part of every successful fire sprinkler project, and managing design for fire sprinkler projects at any level is challenging but rewarding.”

Lesson #3 – Develop a Method of Tracking Production

For very small teams, design managers can check in regularly with designers to keep track of the progress on the projects. As your team grows, this will become more difficult. A well-developed method of tracking design progress without needing to get into the weeds of the project regularly is essential. We all know that the timeline for a fire sprinkler design is not always linear. The ability to easily adjust your expectations with the ebbs and flows of the design process will help you make better decisions regarding your design team's capacity and will help you identify problems that need the design manager's attention.

Consider what would work best for your team and situation. Does a Gantt chart work for your team, with start and due dates that can push or pull based on the circumstances? Would a work tracking system work better for your team where the project is divided into trackable units that can be claimed as progress is made? You will need to find a system that works for you and get full adoption among your team to make it successful. There will still be surprises and setbacks, but they will be fewer with a good system of production tracking.

Conclusion

A good design is a critical part of every successful fire sprinkler project, and managing design for fire sprinkler projects at any level is challenging but rewarding. As a design team grows, those challenges become more complex. A good design manager will adapt and adopt innovative methods that help keep their team on track. These three lessons I have learned over the years will hopefully be valuable to other design managers looking for insights that will help take their design team to the next level.

About the Author:

Micah Davis, SET, is Senior Manager – Fire Design & Engineering Operations with Ferguson Fire Design, LLC.

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Fire Sprinkler Design – Some Do's and Don'ts

By Anonymous Fire Sprinkler Designer

DO: Verify the structure and system layout on site before you release the project for fabrication.

DON'T: Assume the framing is exactly as shown on the structural plans.

DO: Make necessary changes to the fabrication reports before fabrication. It's easier to make changes to the design rather than putting it on the field crew to fix.

DO: Assume you are going to have to make lateral and elevation adjustments at certain junctions. I intentionally leave a coupling near the top of the riser and the lateral feed main. I also make these pipes a little long (planned field cuts). You probably won't nail it, just inform the installer and plan on making these adjustments. I do the same for the main drain and FDC piping. If possible, I leave a spool piece (Sch. 10) that can be easily cut and adjusted for the FDC.

DON'T: Have the installers waste time trying to cut and re-groove the Schedule 40 FDC pipe to get it to fit.

DO: Try to locate your cross mains on the backside of the truss you are hanging from; this will allow for minor adjustments on gridded systems.

DO: Pay attention to coupling locations. Think about the installer, if adjustments do become necessary, leave yourself an out so the installers can make field adjustments quickly and easily.

DON'T: Try to shove a 21' pipe segment into trusses that are spaced 3' apart.

DO: Verify your riser nipples or sprigs are the correct length.

DO: consider using 45° fittings when using hard pipe to flex drop combinations – a lot less bending of the flex hose.

DON'T: Get your fittings too close to the finished ceiling when using flex drops.

DO: Assume the lead in connection is NOT going to be where it's shown.

DO: Try to nail your riser elevations; your installer will quickly let you know what a lousy designer you are.

DO: Order pre-trimmed valves if possible. Or you can send out a nipple tray, 3/4" and 1/2" threading dies, small diameter pipe, a small pallet of fittings, a trim chart and installation diagram that shows several different ways to trim the valve. And then be prepared for many long phone conversations trying to explain how to change out the dies on the die-head. Meanwhile, the trim chart blew away in the wind somewhere and the valve trim eventually looks like something out of Transformers. Yay...

DO: Double check your fabrication *Standards* so you don't end up with an 18' tall Schedule 40 fire riser pipe! Some of you know exactly what I mean...

DON'T: Assume your design software is smarter than you are.

DO: Assume your design software is smarter than you are.

DO: remember we all make mistakes, learn from them and move on.

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AFSA

Call for VIP Trainers

The American Fire Sprinkler Association is delivering related technical instruction (RTI) to apprentices. As the program continues to expand, we are currently seeking qualified instructors for virtual education. AFSA apprenticeship instructors selected for this national training program will:

- Have an exceptional opportunity to share knowledge and expertise with hundreds of apprentices nationwide.
- Help meet the demand for a well-trained workforce.
- Be compensated by AFSA.
- Teach up to two (2) days per month from your home or office.

Qualified instructors should:

- Have extensive installation experience.
- Be familiar with AFSA's four-level apprentice training curriculum.
- Be experienced in conducting engaging training classes.

Interested trainers may contact: Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., FSFPE, (214) 349-5965 ext. 125, valentine@firesprinkler.org.

AFSA Training Requests

Anyone can request training using our two training request forms.

In need of training in AFSA's classroom or lab? Visit: www.firesprinkler.org/facility-request-form.

In need of a seminar at your location? Visit: <https://fs8.formsite.com/AFSA/jaszt9heto/index>.

Once submitted, AFSA Engineering and Technical Services staff will contact you about availability and customize a program based on the information you provide.

For more information visit: www.firesprinkler.org.

Alabama

The Alabama Fire Sprinkler Association is holding a *Weekly Inspection and Testing of Fire Pumps Class* on **July 10, 2025**, at 8:00 a.m. (CDT) at the Wetumpka Civic Center, 408 S. Main Street, Wetumpka, Alabama.

Designed to train facility maintenance personnel, owner's representatives, and others in methods, procedures, and requirements involved in conducting weekly inspection and testing of fire pumps, this one-day class meets the training requirements for an employee who is attempting to become certified and permitted to perform weekly fire pump inspections and tests. The cost of the class is \$500.

A Certificate of Completion from this class will be required to accompany application to the State Fire Marshal requesting that an employee receive a permit to perform weekly fire pump tests.

The Alabama Fire Sprinkler Association is comprised of fire sprinkler contractors, industry suppliers, code officials, as well as representatives from other associated organizations and individuals involved with or affected by fire sprinkler issues.

Our Association responds to developments in our industry in many ways. We work on a frequent basis with code officials on all levels to determine what effects different decisions or proposed changes will have on our industry. We seek to provide educational opportunities for all those involved in our cause.

The Alabama Fire Sprinkler Association invites you to become involved in an Association that is actively promoting the fire sprinkler industry and helping to make the decisions that will affect this industry for many years to come.

For more information visit: <https://alfiresprinkler.org/event-6147706>, www.alfiresprinkler.org.

Chesapeake Bay Chapter

The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association serves Washington D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia.

Chapter Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday every other month.

The American Fire Sprinkler Association is a professional organization consisting of open-shop fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, and professional members throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

Formed in 1981, AFSA's initial goal was to establish a recognized apprenticeship training program that would be available to open-shop fire sprinkler contractors to aid in the development of skilled craft persons.

For more information visit: www.afsachapeakechapter.org.

Florida

Both the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association and the American Fire Sprinkler Association Florida Chapter are working together for the Joint Legislative Planning Day on **August 21-22, 2025**, to be held at the Margaritaville Resort, 8000 Fins Up Circle, Kissimmee, Florida.

All members are encouraged to participate in the AFSA-FL/FFSA annual Joint Legislative Planning Day. This interactive session is your opportunity to help define our industry's top legislative issues. Participate in group discussions with both Associations' lobbying firms, talk details in break-out groups, and help develop stronger relationships with legislative guests. It's time to start planning for the 2026 Legislative Session.

The **AFSA Florida Fire Conference 2025** will be held **September 16-19, 2025**, in Tampa Bay.

Don't miss the premier annual gathering for Florida's fire sprinkler industry professionals. Hosted by the American Fire Sprinkler Association – Florida Chapter, this multi-day conference brings together contractors, designers, inspectors, and AHJs for cutting-edge training, networking, and industry updates.

There will be 32 CEU Hours for Contractors, 16 CEU Hours for Water-Based Inspectors (WBI), and 8 CEU Hours for Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs).

There will be a vendor tradeshow on September 17 with

Speed Rounds of Vendors Showcasing Products, along with games, food, Grand Prize Drawings, and more.

There will be a *Servant Leadership Presentation* from Jay Feaster, Tampa Bay Lighting.

Other presentations include: *Real Talk: Workers' Comp & Jobsite Safety for Fire Sprinkler Contractors* with Russ Leavitt, Jessica Cox, and Tera Cox; *What Would You Have Done to Avoid a Lawsuit* by Terry Victor; *NFPA 25 and Qualified Personnel* by Russell Leavitt; *Advanced Fire Protection Strategies for Today's Challenges* by David Stacey; *An Overview of Dry, Preaction, and Deluge Systems* by Melisa Rodriguez; and *Fire Pumps* by Chris Dilday.

Other programs include:

Sprinklers in Combustible Concealed Spaces by John Denhardt; *Window Sprinklers and Water Curtains* by Melisa Rodriguez; *Parking Garage Design – NFPA 88A to the Rescue* by Steven Scandaliato.

The special *Ask The Experts: Fire Sprinkler Panel – Code, Compliance & Practical Insight* with Russ Leavitt, Terry Victor, Melisa Rodriguez, and Pete Schwab will be hosted by Jessica Cox.

The *AFSA Industry Breakfast: Training, Advocacy, and Engagement for Florida's Fire Sprinkler Professionals* with Jessica Cox; *Contract Claims – Lessons Learned* with Steven Scandaliato and Russ Leavitt.

Sprinkler Protection & Lithium-ion Cells by Bryan Berkley.

NFPA 25 Inspection Testing & Maintenance Standard Update - The FL Fire Prevention Code will begin referencing the 2023 edition at the end of 2025 by Robby Dawson.

7 Habits of a Highly Effective Fire Sprinkler Designer by Micah Davis.

Contractor Forum with Aaron Jones, Suzanne Saults, Chris Johnson, hosted by Jessica Cox, and much more.

For more information visit: www.afsafl.org.

Virginia

The Virginia Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association is holding a seminar on September 18, 2025.

Tom Klecka has put together another outstanding seminar at the Chesterfield Fire Training Center with three highly discussed topics to interest many within your departments.

The seminar will begin on September 18 with registration at 7:30 a.m.

The morning session will include a discussion on *Freeze Protection for Water-Based Fire Protection Systems - NFPA 13, 2022 Edition*, while the afternoon sessions will discuss *Sprinklers in Combustible Concealed Spaces - NFPA 13, 2022 Edition*, and *Roles and Responsibilities - NFPA 25, 2023 Edition*.

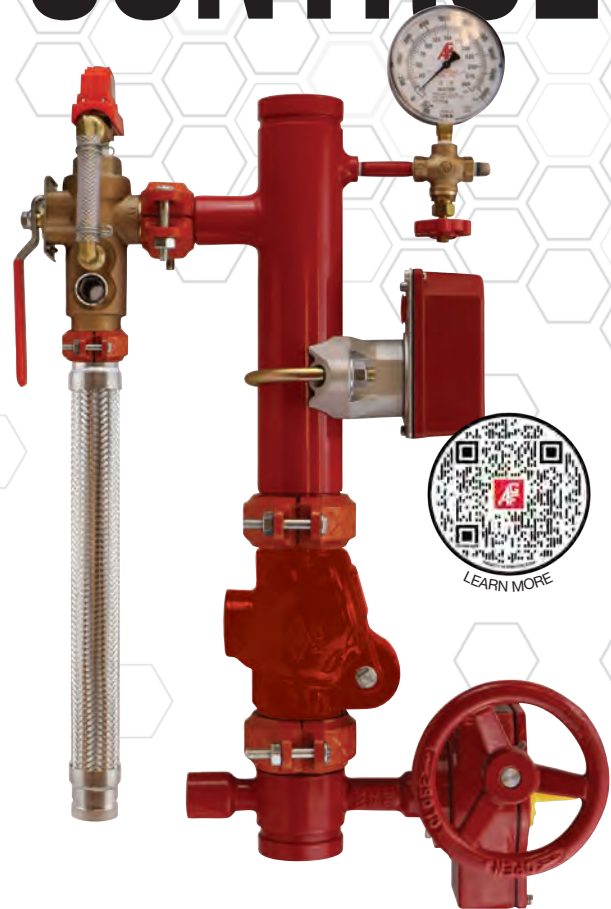
Bob Caputo with AFSA National will be the speaker for the day. With Bob's enthusiasm, this will be a "Can't Miss Event." Reservations have exceeded expectations in the past; seating certificates will be handed out at the completion of the seminar identifying credit hours for this training session.

Lunch will be provided by Mission BBQ, and Tom has promised cookies this year.

For more information visit: www.virginiaafsa.org or contact: Steve McGee, AFSA VA Chapter, (757) 345-9884.



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George DiMatteo will be one of the presenters of *History of the Sprinkler Industry*, on Thursday, October 16, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., during the AFSA44 Convention, Exhibition, & Apprentice Competition in Washington, D.C. October 14-19, 2025 (www.firesprinkler.org).

This seminar explores the evolution of fire sprinkler systems and the fire protection industry, beginning with the Great Chicago Fire and other major industry-changing fire events and how they led to the formation of AFSA to meet the need for training. It will trace how these pivotal events sparked the requirements of fire codes, the NFPA, and the development of early sprinkler systems, starting with Parmelee's innovations in 1874. Attendees will gain insight into the influence of insurance requirements, and the role of labor unions in advancing fire safety *Standards*. Spotlighting the major powerhouses of the industry, including Grinnell, it will follow the adoption and refinement of fire protection through the mid-20th century, including the introduction of key certifications like UL

and FM. This seminar will also examine significant turning points such as the construction of the World Trade Center – built without sprinkler systems – and the resulting shifts in regional codes and the eventual consolidation into the International Code Council (ICC), and will explore how industry dynamics changed as contractors began evolving into manufacturers, giving rise to names like Reliable, Viking and Tyco, and how this all shaped the industry today. Discussion will include current practices in supply chains, manufacturing, distribution, fabrication, and design, offering a comprehensive view of where the industry stands today.

George DiMatteo, DiMatteo Consulting, has over 45 years of experience in the fire sprinkler industry, beginning his career in 1979 with Delta Fire Systems. He co-founded a fabrication shop in Sacramento at just 29 and later joined Ferguson in 1992, where he played a key role in expanding their Fire & Fabrication division. George helped grow the business significantly, opening multiple branches and leading Ferguson's first

fabrication shop acquisition in 2000. After relocating to Texas in 2004, he held several leadership roles, focusing on growth strategy, acquisitions, and national expansion, overseeing more than 23 company acquisitions. Promoted to President of Ferguson Fire & Fabrication in 2011 and later Vice President of Ferguson Enterprise in 2016, George served on Ferguson's Executive Leadership Team until his retirement in 2024. Under his leadership, Ferguson Fire & Fabrication became the market leader in the industry. Widely respected in the field, George remains active on several national fire protection committees and received the prestigious *Henry S. Parmelee Award* in 2021 for his contributions to the industry.

Jeff Lewis, SET, VSC Fire & Security, Inc., Vice President of Inspections, will be one of the presenters of *Need Employees: High School CTE is Your Answer!* on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., during the AFSA44 Convention, Exhibition, & Apprentice Competition.

Lewis is Vice President of Technical Workforce Development for VSC Fire & Security, Inc. He holds an A.A.S. degree in Fire Protection Technology from Guilford Technical Community College and a B.S. Degree in Occupational Safety and Health with a concentration in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University. His NICET certifications include Level III in the Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems, Level III in Special Hazards Suppression Systems, Level II in Fire Alarm Systems, and Level II in the Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems. He is also an NFPA Certified Fire Protection Specialist. Lewis served as a review committee member and instructor for AFSA's ITM Inspector Development Program and has served on the Board of Directors for AFSA's Virginia Chapter, the Business Advisory Committee for Henrico County Public Schools CTE, and as an SME on three NICET committees.

In this presentation you will learn how the Virginia Chapter of AFSA and Henri-

In Memoriam

Abel Ben Mirafior, of Stockton, California, passed away on May 19, 2025, at the age of 69. He was born on April 6, 1956, in Merced, California, to Job Bing Sr. and Lydia Edith Mirafior. Abel leaves behind his beloved bride of 48 years, Judy Ann; two daughters, Brandy (John) Larson and Brooke (Jon) Freeman; and five grandchildren: Katelynn, Maddie, Jaxson, Kaden, and Mia.

Abel loved to work. He began his career in landscaping, then transitioned to cement masonry. In 1981, he shifted paths and pursued a career in Fire Protection. He founded his own business, ABE Builders/Fire Protection, in Stockton in 2005. Abel also had a passion for inspiring others to work, mentoring and developing young men and women, often helping them discover their own career paths.

Abel had a servant's heart. He volunteered countless hours of his time and expertise working at churches and orphanages around the world. For nearly 20 years, Abel donated his vacation time to serve as Camp Director for the Christian Life Center Youth Camp. His greatest treasures were his family and friends. Above all, Abel was a devoted Christian. To his family, friends, and employees, he was a living example of steadfast faith. For the last two years, Abel bravely fought pancreatic cancer with the same unwavering faith that defined his life. His courage and positivity inspired everyone who spoke with him. Abel will be missed beyond measure, but we find comfort in knowing we will see him again soon.

co County Public Schools have partnered together to create a tangible pathway for businesses to find their next employee. This partnership has allowed for the creation of the first high school program designed to prepare students to enter the profession with skills and certifications. Discover how AFSA's Virginia Chapter has gone from a career fair of about 25 students to now over 300 students in attendance. The value of "planting the seed" early will be highlighted along with the return on the investment.

Other speakers for this presentation include Mac Beaton, Henrico County Public Schools and Beverly Cocks, M.Ed., Henrico County Public Schools.

Michael Meehan, VSC Fire & Security, Inc., will be one of the presenters of *History of the Sprinkler Industry*, at AFSA44 Convention, Exhibition, & Apprentice Competition in Washington, D.C. October 14-19, 2025.

Meehan is a lifelong Virginian, who started his career with VSC as a pipe fitter apprentice while earning a degree in public administration from George Mason University. Immediately upon graduation in 1981, he entered the VSC Springfield, Virginia, office as a design trainee. Such foundational bedrock created strong technical skills that eventually led to estimating, project management, divisional, corporate, and ownership roles. Having gone from pulling pipe wrenches to C-suite leadership has led to Meehan's deep understanding of construction, fire protection contracting, and a foundational life perspective on value. Meehan has served on numerous community and fire protection industry boards. His accomplishments include being the past Chair of the American Fire Sprinkler Association and a 20-year veteran of the NFPA 13 committee.

For more information visit: www.firesprinkler.org.

Meaghen Wills, AFSA Schuylkill Chapter Executive Director, will be one of the presenters of *Women in the Industry on Wednesday*, October 15, 2025, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., at AFSA44.

Meaghen graduated from the University of Hartford in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in communications. Over the last 20 years she has worked at Anchor Fire Protection in Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania, where she does sales and project

management and is the Executive Director of the Schuylkill Chapter of AFSA. She is also active in AFSA nationally where she serves on the Convention Committee, Membership Committee, Legislative Committee, and the NextGen Initiative.

At AFSA44, a few leading ladies in the fire protection industry will share their distinctive journeys in a predominantly male industry. They will speak to what led them to senior leadership positions in various sectors of the fire and life safety market. They will share stories, success, adversities, as well as how they overcame the challenges

faced every day in a male-dominated field. Topics will include the importance of initiative, communication, training, mentorship, the opportunities women have to succeed, and more. Following the seminar, a social mixer and a chance to network with one another will follow. All are welcome to attend and bring your questions.

Other presenters include Linda Biernecki, AFSA & Fire Tech Systems, and Meda Merritt, AFSA.

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System Size Limitations And Why It's Necessary

By Adam Tuomala

We have all looked at System Protection Area Limitations, and when necessary, we zone the fire sprinkler systems in a manner that makes the most practical sense for the building layout. But do we really know and understand the reasoning behind the *Standard*? Why are there system limitations, and how did the committees come up with these numbers? What do they represent? Are they just arbitrary? A closer look at the intent of the *Standard* will help to gain a better understanding of how and why these limitations are in place.

Area limitations were derived from the previous 'pipe schedules' in earlier versions of NFPA 13. The pipe schedules became obsolete some years ago, and hydraulically designed systems became mandatory. Pipe scheduled systems were a graduated method of design, where the designer could determine pipe sizes for branch lines, cross, and feed mains based on the 'pipe schedules' outlined in the *Standard*. These systems naturally had size and head quantity limitations before additional 'risers' or 'zones' became required. The pipe schedules can still be found in NFPA 13 for the purposes of modifying or adding to these types of systems. The pipe schedules have been moved to the Annex portion of NFPA 13, in the event you ever need to refer to them.

When we look at the system area limitations, we ask how and why the committees came up with these numbers. Why is it 40,000 sq. ft. for extra hazard occupancies? Why is it 52,000 sq. ft. for light and ordinary hazard occupancies? Why didn't they simply round up to 55,000 sq. ft., or round down to 50,000 sq. ft.? What does that 2,000 sq. ft. represent?

The answer is relatively simple; For light hazard occupancies, the maximum area of operation per sprinkler is 225 ft². And for ordinary hazard occupancies, the maximum area of operation per sprinkler is 130 ft². The light hazard classification simply falls under the same area parameters as the ordinary hazard classification.

If we divide the maximum system area of 52,000 ft² by the maximum area of sprinkler operation for ordinary hazard of 130 ft², we come up with the answer of 400 sprinkler heads (52,000 ft² ÷ 130 ft² = 400).

Likewise, for extra hazard occupancies, the maximum allowable area of operation per sprinkler head is 100 ft². So, if we

divide 40,000 ft² by 100 ft², again, we come up with the same answer of 400 sprinkler heads.

This is not an arbitrary number, but rather a number that has been carefully considered and is practical and realistic. For hydraulically designed systems, it is not the intent of the *Standard* to determine the maximum number of sprinklers that can be installed within a system or zone, so this is why we are given the Area limitations in terms of square footage, and not in a maximum number of sprinkler heads allowable per system or zone.

System size limitations have more to do with system impairments than anything else. There is much to be discussed about different hazard classifications and how to properly "zone" larger buildings appropriately. The idea is to limit the size of these systems, or provide means of isolating portions of a system, so that they can be inspected, serviced or repaired without impairing all the fire protection features.

Consider this example: if you had a 300,000 ft² warehouse supplied from a single fire riser, and you had to replace one painted or damaged sprinkler head, it would be necessary to drain and impair the entire system to complete the work. Or, what if a fire riser was damaged and couldn't be repaired in a timely manner, the occupants and the entire building would be out of service and at risk until repairs could be completed.

Water conservation is becoming more of a concern today as well. Rather than draining hundreds or even thousands of gallons, system zoning can be advantageous in minimizing the quantity of water consumed when the system is drained. Other conservation efforts include fire pump flow metering (circulating water through the flow meter or back to a tank) rather than flowing thousands of gallons to the storm drain. Fire pumps still need to be tested through the test header every five years, but the water saved is significant.

About the Author:

Adam Tuomala, NICET IV WBSL, RME-G, SCR-G, ECR, FEL-K, is the owner of Phoenix Fire Protection, located at 3955 Outpost Trace, Lago Vista, TX 78645.

For more information contact: (512) 470-5585, phoenixfirepros@gmail.com, www.phoenixfirepros.com.

“Rather than draining hundreds or even thousands of gallons, system zoning can be advantageous in minimizing the quantity of water consumed when the system is drained.”

Aftermath

By Russ Leavitt

I love flying. Some years ago, I completed ground school for a private pilot's license and have done some piloting from the right seat. As a result, I love to read about airplanes, flying techniques, and about pilot experiences. Reading publications devoted to piloting aircraft is a wonderful way for me to vicariously live the life of a pilot. *Flying* magazine is one such publication. For years it had a feature each month called "Aftermath." The article dissected a recent crash of a private aircraft that resulted in fatalities.

As I read and digested these articles, I discovered that crashes of private airplanes are almost never caused by mechanical failure but rather the result of poor judgement being exercised by the pilot in command. Examples include flying in harsh weather, ignoring signs of fatigue, or flying in conditions for which they are not qualified. These instances of poor judgement were most often the result of a desire to keep the commitment of an appointment, to stay on schedule, or simply to get home after being away. The result of ignoring the "rules" or signs of impending danger while flying can be catastrophic. The adage of "haste makes waster" has deadly implications when piloting an aircraft.

In business, we are always striving for better efficiency and improved performance. However, going faster or pushing to meet a deadline while ignoring procedures that are in place to ensure quality and safety does not align with better efficiency or better performance. In fact, it often results in the opposite and, in extreme cases, the result can be catastrophic. Just as with flying, in the profession of fire and life safety the catastrophe can literally be death. Sloppy engineering, an incomplete system inspection or test, or the failure to observe workplace safety practices can lead to our own demise or the demise of others whom we have pledged to protect.

With the advent of better technology and aids for streamlining processes, there is increased pressure to complete tasks faster with the cost savings resulting in a better bottom line. While tools, including A.I., can be wonderful aids in delivering a quality product, nothing takes the place of a genuine passion for seeing a job well done – not just for the financial rewards but to do our best to ensure our customer receives what we promised to deliver.

In addition, we know from experience that there are times when we must protect our customers from themselves. In their quest to meet schedules and budgets, we must do our best to educate them to the dangers that come with accepting less than stellar or incomplete work, especially in understanding the risks associated with fire and life safety. Sometimes it is better to walk away from a project or client when they are only interested in obtaining a certificate of occupancy or a document showing compliance and not making an adequate investment for a job to be well done and complete.

So, the next time we are tempted to "short cut" a project or task in order to get home, stay on schedule, meet a deadline, or

placate a customer, we need to stop and ask ourselves: what decision is the right one? Am I exercising good judgement while under the duress of "getting the job done?" What are the potential consequences of my decision? It is my hope that we never have to compose our own report titled "Aftermath" unless it is about the aftermath of doing a job efficiently, on time, and with a great result. Now that would be a fun article to compose.

About the Author:

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

For more information visit: www.telgian.com.

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Highlights:

2025 NFSA Annual Seminar & North American Fire Sprinkler Expo

May 7-9, 2025 – Nashville, TN
By Abbie Gunnells, NFSA Events Manager

The fire sprinkler industry came together in full force this spring as the NFSA Annual Seminar & North American Fire Sprinkler Expo took over Nashville, Tennessee, from May 7-9, 2025. With 1,148 attendees, 35 education sessions, over 3,000 continuing education certificates awarded, and 90 exhibitors, this year's event marked one of the largest and most impactful in NFSA history.

The action-packed week kicked off Tuesday with 84 golfers at the 8th Annual Common Voices Golf Classic at Gaylord Springs Golf Links, setting the tone for a dynamic and engaging event.

Wednesday brought a full day of education sessions, covering everything from the latest in codes and *Standards* to innovations in fire protection technology. The evening wrapped with the much anticipated Opening Reception, offering valuable networking opportunities and a chance for attendees to reconnect and make new industry contacts.

Thursday featured the Opening General Session, headlined by keynote speaker Cody Byrns, whose inspirational message captivated the audience. The Expo floor officially opened, buzzing with activity as exhibitors showcased cutting-edge products and services driving the future of fire protection. Thursday evening, the Future Leadership Committee hosted attendees at The Stage on Broadway for a lively meet-and-greet – an ideal setting to continue networking with industry leaders.

On Friday, the final General Session brought powerful insights from keynote speakers Christopher Thornberg and Zach Page, who delivered thought-provoking discussions on economic outlooks and leadership in fire safety. The excitement continued within the expo hall as the Top Tech Competition reached its finale. Congratulations to Mike Morey, SET, CFPS

of Shambaugh & Son, L.P., who earned the coveted Top Tech title!

The event concluded in style with the Friday Night Awards Banquet, where industry excellence and dedication were recognized:

- Golden Sprinkler Award: Kent Mezaros, Quick Response Fire Protection
 - Russell P. Fleming Technical Service Award: James Lewis, American Fire Sprinkler
 - Public Safety Leadership Award: Bill Webb, CFSI
- NFSA Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame Inductees:
- Jack Walsh, Local 669 JATC;
 - Russ Fleming, NFSA;
 - Charles Barnett, ASCOA;
 - Andy Olah, Lubrizol/Novean; and
 - Sherman Davis, Landmark Sprinkler

Congratulations to all of our award winners and Hall of Fame inductees! Your unwavering dedication to the fire sprinkler industry is truly inspiring. We were honored to recognize and celebrate your outstanding contributions and achievements.

The 2025 NFSA Annual Seminar & North American Fire Sprinkler Expo was a resounding success, blending education, innovation, and recognition to further NFSA's mission: To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors! We truly appreciate your continued support and partnership! And to all attendees, speakers, and exhibitors: thank you for making 2025 unforgettable.

We can't wait to see you next year at the NFSA Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference. Save the date: April 29 - May 1, 2026, in Seattle, Washington!



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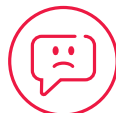
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For more information about the Dry Air Pac® Advance Series visit: www.generalairproducts.com, 855-769-5652.



IGS-300 Bank-of-Containers

Johnson Controls' ANSUL® Inert Gas System 300

Johnson Controls, a global leader for smart, healthy, and sustainable buildings, announced the new ANSUL® Inert Gas System 300 (IGS-300), strengthening its position in the fire suppression category. Engineered for simplicity and designed for safety, the new ANSUL IGS-300 helps protect a diverse array of buildings with valuable or sensitive assets and provides several capabilities that align with market and customer expectations for performance, cost, and lead time.

The ANSUL IGS-300 is suitable for a wide range of applications including control rooms, data centers, electrical switch rooms, financial institutions, museums, laboratories, medical facilities, petrochemical, oil and gas facilities, air traffic control towers, archives, mining centers, telecommunication sites, cultural and historic sites, and e-houses.

"With the launch of the new ANSUL Inert Gas System 300, we expect our specifying customers will leverage the simple design and installation features to be more competitive in winning projects," said Beth Bjorlo, Product Management Director at Johnson Controls. "This system represents a significant step forward in both fire protection safety and efficiency, providing our end users with peace of mind and dependable protection for their assets."

The ANSUL IGS-300 utilizes clean agents INERGEN® or IG-55, coupled with enhanced regulated flow technology and simplified actuation, to effectively extinguish fires while minimizing turbulence during discharge. This helps protect the integrity of sensitive equipment and materials critical for business continuity.



INERGEN Acoustic Nozzles Small and Large

Key features of the new ANSUL IGS-300 include:

Enhanced Regulated Flow Technology: Operating at nominal 60 bar, the ANSUL IGS-300 reduces pressure spikes, optimizes pipe scheduling, and reduces overpressure vent size requirements. This results in a reduced footprint compared to traditional systems, as well as enhanced overall performance and safety.

Global Recognition: The ANSUL IGS-300 boasts a suite of certifications, including UL Listed, FM Approved, and EN 12094 Compliant (CE & UKCA), helping specifiers ensure compliance with international *Standards* such as NFPA 2001, EN 15004 & ISO 14520.

Elevated Design Freedom: Architects and engineers can leverage the ANSUL IGS-300 to create custom layouts, with up to four rows of containers and extended pipe runs, facilitating efficient space utilization and simplified installation.

Sound Attenuation: Integrated acoustic nozzles mitigate sound levels during discharge, safeguarding sensitive equipment such as hard disk drives and maintaining a sound-sensitive environment.

Cost-Effective Package: The system's design reduces equipment materials and labor costs, streamlining installation, commissioning, and service while maintaining effectiveness.

Reduced System Complexity: User-friendly actuation options and master container actuation features streamline control and management, eliminating the need for a pilot container and offering flexibility in system configuration.

Streamlined Container Assembly: The simple container assembly features high-pressure containers with pressure differential valves, removable pressure gauges, and standardized transportation caps, enabling ease of maintenance and service.

Global Distribution & Regional Recharging: Accessible through authorized distributors worldwide, the ANSUL IGS-300 facilitates easy procurement, with

recharging available at Johnson Controls authorized regional locations for convenient maintenance.

For more information visit: www.firesuppression.jci.com/ansul-igs-300, or contact your Johnson Controls representative.

About ANSUL®—ANSUL, a premium brand of Johnson Controls, offers a full line of special hazard fire protection products including fire extinguishers and hand-line units; pre-engineered restaurant, vehicle, and industrial suppression systems; sophisticated fire detection/suppression systems; and dry chemical, foam, and gaseous extinguishing agents. ANSUL products are developed and tested at the ANSUL Fire Technology Center, one of the most extensive fire research and testing facilities in the world. ANSUL products meet the demanding challenges of industry and commerce, including high hazard/high risk markets such as automotive, aviation, mining, chemical and petrochemical, utility, fire service, and metal manufacturing/processing.

For more information: visit www.ansul.com.

About Johnson Controls — At Johnson Controls (NYSE:JCI), we transform the environments where people live, work, learn, and play. As the global leader in smart, healthy, and sustainable buildings, our mission is to reimagine the performance of buildings to serve people, places, and the planet.

Building on a proud history of nearly 140 years of innovation, we deliver the blueprint of the future for industries such as healthcare, schools, data centers, airports, stadiums, manufacturing, and beyond through OpenBlue, our comprehensive digital offering.

Today, with a global team of 100,000 experts in more than 150 countries, Johnson Controls offers the world's largest portfolio of building technology and software as well as service solutions from some of the most trusted names in the industry.

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Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.
— Psalm 33:12

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AGF MANUFACTURING, INC., offers free in-person training. On July 10, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET, they are holding an event in Charlotte, North Carolina.

This one-day class will feature presentations and training on *Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors & Comparison to 98% Purity Nitrogen*, *Exploring NFPA 13 Requirements*, and more. You may earn 4 NICET CPD Credits

For over 30 years, AGF Manufacturing has designed and produced innovative fire sprinkler products that provide an unprecedented combination of reliability, versatility, and code compatibility.

In 1986, George J. McHugh III and Alan B. Gilmore introduced the revolutionary TESTanDRAIN Model 1000 single handle inspector's test valve, which replaced the traditional test and drain loop with 17 different connections.

Over the years, AGF has expanded its TESTanDRAIN line to include more size, K-factors, and connection options than anyone on the market. Since then, AGF has introduced several unique products that meet the various demands of the fire sprinkler industry and support easier maintenance and more efficient systems.

For more information contact: AGF Manufacturing, Inc., 100 Quaker Lane, Malvern, PA 19355; (610) 240-4900, techsupport@agfmfg.com, www.agfmfg.com.

PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY, the largest fully integrated and full-service fire protection, life safety, and security services provider in the United States, has acquired **Fire Protection Equipment Company**, a fire safety and alarms provider serving customers in Virginia and North Carolina. This partnership enhances Pye-Barker's delivery of full fire code compliance services to communities on the East Coast.

Fire Protection Equipment Company offers comprehensive safety and security solutions, including fire extinguishers, alarm systems, **sprinklers, and fire suppression systems**. With hundreds of client relationships that span decades,

its strong reputation is built on expertise, quality of service delivery, broad product range, and reliable equipment.

Founded in 1926 by Deputy Fire Safety Marshal and volunteer firefighter Thomas J. Leahey, Fire Protection Equipment Company also specializes in firefighting and respiratory equipment. It is the exclusive MSA G1 distributor in the region, helping firefighters breathe and communicate better during rescue operations.

"Pye-Barker's support allows us to extend the legacy of our third-generation family business while increasing opportunities for our team to grow," said Bob Leahey, current owner of Fire Protection Equipment Company. "Keeping our community safe has always been at the heart of what we do at Fire Protection Equipment Company. As a firefighter and Fire Marshal, it's what my grandfather was called to. Now, with Pye-Barker's extensive resources, we will further his mission to protect our community."

"Fire Protection Equipment Company has become an expert of its trade," said Bart Proctor, CEO of Pye-Barker. "Their commitment to advanced fire protection is reflected by the long-term client relationships and the tenure of their technician team. This team is not only knowledgeable and experienced in fire safety, but they are truly dedicated to their craft, making them a valuable addition to Pye-Barker."

Fire Protection Equipment Company's skilled technicians will continue to serve customers in Virginia and North Carolina. Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP represented Pye-Barker in the transaction.

For more information visit: www.pyebarkerfs.com.

PYE-BARKER FIRE & SAFETY has acquired Colorado-based **Extreme Fire Protection**. Extreme Fire joins Pye-Barker's existing Denver-area fire protection and alarms teams, furthering Pye-Barker's commitment to complete life safety services for the surrounding community.

Founded in 2006 by Dwon Lewis and

his sons Shad, Cameron, and Cullen, Extreme Fire Protection provides comprehensive fire sprinkler services for office buildings, retail, government, education, healthcare, and multi-family properties. The team expertly manages the entire process from preconstruction planning through complete system installation and ongoing inspections, testing, and maintenance. Elevating the next generation of fire protection professionals, the company supports college programs and trade associations that further their mission to protect.

"Extreme Fire Protection Company pursues excellence in fire sprinkler services at every turn..." said Bart Proctor, CEO of Pye-Barker Fire & Safety.

S.A. COMUNALE has acquired **Midwest Sprinkler Corporation**, one of Kentucky's leading fire protection providers. Midwest Sprinkler Corporation will now operate as a division of S.A. Comunale, helping the organization expand their capacity in the Kentucky market.

Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, Midwest Sprinkler Corporation serves clients in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee, offering fabrication, design-build, inspection, and 24/7 service from a team of more than 80 skilled professionals. Their expertise includes fire protection systems for residential, institutional, industrial, and commercial environments, with a particular focus on the high-growth data center and manufacturing sectors.

"We are thrilled to bring Midwest Sprinkler Corporation aboard," said Stephen A. Comunale, President of S.A. Comunale. "With their proficiency and talent, we look forward to expanding our combined services west throughout Kentucky and into the surrounding states. Midwest has demonstrated a customer-first mentality and a can-do culture which aligns well with our values, attitudes, and priorities."

"I am excited by this opportunity to grow our team and our business, as well as access to further resources, capacity, and industry connections to support our

clients,” said Jack Candy, President of Midwest Sprinkler Corporation. “We bring a dedicated team with a unique depth of knowledge to S.A. Comunale and are excited to exchange, collaborate, and work together for the benefit of our clients and business.”

“Our people are the key to our success and adding Midwest Sprinkler Corporation to our team will only make us stronger,” said J.R. Fowler, COO of S.A. Comunale. “They have shown similar investment in their people with continuous comprehensive training and development of their workforce. I want to extend a warm welcome to their entire team.”

Jack Candy will continue as a part of Midwest Sprinkler Corporation, operating out of their Louisville office. With this addition, S.A. Comunale will now operate 16 branch offices and three fabrication facilities and employ over 1,300 professionals, including 700 skilled tradespeople.

S.A. Comunale provides mechanical and fire protection contracting to clients nationwide. With expertise in virtually every major market sector, they offer significant financial strength, an award-winning safety program,

and comprehensive end-to-end services. S.A. Comunale is a subsidiary of EMCOR Group, Inc. (NYSE:EME), a Fortune 500® leader in mechanical and electrical construction, industrial and energy infrastructure, and building services.

For more information visit: www.comunale.com.

THE WINSUPPLY FAMILY OF COMPANIES has welcomed several additions. Since the start of 2024, the Winsupply Family of Companies closed on six acquisitions in Tennessee, Arizona, two in Texas, Florida, Kansas, and Nebraska. This follows a strong 2023 with seven new Local Companies and three acquisitions.

Winsupply Local Companies are expected to achieve nearly \$8.3 billion in annual sales for 2025. This projection demonstrates Winsupply’s consistent and remarkable growth trajectory over the past several years.

This continued success can be attributed to various factors, including strategic expansions, a strong focus on building a bench, and the adaptability of Winsupply’s unique business model. As Winsupply moves forward, it remains

committed to supporting Local Companies and driving further growth in the years ahead.

“The growth potential for new Winsupply Local Companies, organically started, is massive,” said Rob Ferguson, President of Winsupply’s Local Company Group. “Winsupply’s purpose is to build entrepreneurs. We just happen to be doing it in wholesale distribution.”

Looking ahead, during calendar year 2025 (FY2026) Winsupply has the goal to open another 20 new Local Companies across its U.S. footprint. Including **Winsupply of Tucson (Fire Fab)** in Arizona.

Winsupply of Tucson offers a wide range of high-quality equipment and parts. We source the industry’s top products at competitive prices so you can get what you need when you need it, to get the job done right.

From Wheatland to Reliable, they carry the fire protection products you need from the brands you trust.

For more information contact: Winsupply of Tucson, 3824 S. Evans Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85714; (520) 210-8562, www.winsupply.com. □

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Introduction to Fire Sprinkler Systems

July 9, 2025 – Live Virtual Classroom Training

Fire Smarts delivers live training virtually through an online connection and in-person throughout the country on various fire protection training topics. Their instructors include internationally recognized industry experts with a proven ability and passion for educating their clients on the proper methods for design, installation, and inspection of fire protection systems. Learn from industry-leading professional engineers, NICET certified technicians, and members of NFPA *Code* and *Standard* technical committees.

This course is a high-level overview on fire sprinkler systems. The three required components for a sprinkler to function are examined: automatic sprinkler, water supply, and the connection (piping) between the two. In addition, this course also covers the four major types of sprinkler systems and the associated components. Basic installation requirements are reviewed along with system acceptance. CEUs Approved: 8 hours.

For more information contact: Fire Smarts, LLC, 70 Val Vista Dr. #181, Gilbert, AZ 85296; 888-365-5355. www.training.firesmarts.com

Hydraulic Calculations for F.P.

July 30, 2025 – Live Virtual Classroom Training

This course introduces the participants to hydraulic calculations including sprinkler operating pressure, elevation pressure, and friction-loss. This course will examine the density/area approach to determine design criteria including water demand for sprinklers and hose allowance. A review of the common system configurations is conducted, examining the benefits of each. The requirements for performing hydraulic calculations as per NFPA 13 are discussed including the required forms, C-values, and equivalent lengths. Further, participants will review hydraulic principles for calculating specific application sprinklers using minimum K-factors and pressure, the principles for determining the hydraulically most demanding area, and changing the sprinkler area of coverage, density, and orifice size to find the most efficient system layout and configuration. The calculation concepts for using looped and gridded configurations are examined. CEUs Approved: 8 hours.

For more information visit: www.training.firesmarts.com.

SFPE Engineering Solutions Symposium:

Modern Storage Challenges

August 12-14, 2025 – Chicago, IL

A technical engineering symposium dedicated to modern fire safety challenges in storage facilities, warehouses, and distribution centers. Storage occupancies are among the most challenging occupancies from an overall fire safety perspec-

tive. Many variables must be considered when designing fire protection and life safety systems for such facilities. This two-day, in-person event will discuss fire protection challenges in modern storage facilities.

An outstanding panel of experts are coming together to share their knowledge and best practices with fire protection engineers, designers, manufacturers, facility owners and managers, and first responders.

Topics covered during the event will focus on automated storage, protection of multi-row racks, cold storage design considerations, lithium-ion battery storage, and fire department response to large storage occupancies. Following the completion of the two days of educational content, day three will consist of a large-scale fire test (LSFT) at the nearby UL Solutions campus in Northbrook, Illinois.

At the conclusion of the Symposium, the participant will be able to: understand the unique fire safety challenges associated with modern storage facilities, warehouses, and distribution centers; identify key factors to consider when designing fire protection and life safety systems for storage occupancies; gain knowledge of best practices and expert recommendations for addressing fire safety in complex storage environments; examine fire service response strategies to storage occupancy incidents; apply insights from a large-scale fire test (LSFT) to fire safety engineering practice.

Program Committee: Phil Friday, PE, FSFPE – Chair; Kerry Bell, PE, FSFPE; Mark Fessenden; Magnus Arvidson; William Koffel, PE, FSFPE, SASHE; John Denhardt, PE, FSFPE; Ralph E. Bless, Jr., PE, SET, CFPS; James Golinveaux; Benjamin Ditch; Chris Jelenewicz, PE, FSFPE.

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

Fire Sprinkler System Requirements for Storage

August 20, 2025 – Live Virtual Classroom Training

Storage is one of the most challenging fire protection scenarios. This course is based on NFPA 13 and reviews the key decision points to apply an approved design option for fire sprinkler use with storage applications. Utilizing an interactive teaching method, this seminar follows the path that an engineer, designer, or AHJ uses when evaluating storage protection. The foundational questions of “What is being stored?”, “How is it stored?”, and “How high is it stored?”, are reviewed in detail. Once these questions are answered, the various design approaches are considered to determine the best solution for the particular scenario. The seminar ends with a hands-on activity using the information shared in the course. CEUs Approved: 8 hours.

For more information visit: www.training.firesmarts.com.

NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps

September 3, 2025 – Live Virtual Classroom Training

This course provides a review of the design, installation, and acceptance testing of stationary fire pumps. The course begins with a review of basic pump principles including laminar and balanced flow along with basic hydraulic principles. The difference between centrifugal and positive displacement pumps will be examined. The attendees will learn about the various types of centrifugal fire pumps and how each are best applied. The performance requirements, selection, and sizing of pumps will be discussed with hands-on activities to give experience in choosing the most cost-effective fire pump. Installation requirements will be thoroughly reviewed with illustrations of acceptable and unacceptable layouts. CEUs Approved: 8 hours

For more information visit: www.training.firesmarts.com.

SFPE 2025 Conference & Expo

October 21-23, 2025 – Vancouver, British Columbia

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.

You may sign up at their website to be notified when registration is open, and to get more information.

For more information visit: www.sfpe.org.

Future Fire Smarts Courses

Fire Pump Testing and Analysis - 4-hour Course - Online - **September 10, 2025**. This course covers the requirements and procedures for fire pump acceptance testing found in NFPA 20 and those for the ongoing periodic testing as mandated by NFPA 25...

NFPA 14 Standpipe Systems - 4-hour Course - Online - **September 10, 2025**. This course covers the types and classes of standpipes, design criteria, installation requirements, and acceptance testing...

Understanding and Applying NFPA 25 - 8-hour Course - Online - **September 24, 2025**. This course examines the scope and purpose of NFPA 25. Owner, AHJ, and contractor responsibilities are reviewed for issues such as accessibility, freeze protection, reporting, and safety...

Water-Based Fire Protection System Freeze Protection - 8-hour Course - Online - **October 1, 2025**. This course covers the NFPA Standards requiring water-based fire protection systems to be protected against freezing. Participants learn to identify and apply the items needed to be considered when making a choice on how best to provide adequate protection. Attendees will also examine the consequences of inadequate freeze protection versus the building owner's need for dependable and cost-effective fire protection...

Seismic Protection for Fire Sprinkler Systems - 8-hour Course - Online - **October 8, 2025**. This course is designed for those who have an understanding of seismic terms with a focus on the proper application of the requirements for seismic protection including flexibility, clearance, and bracing...

Plus many more...

For more information contact: Fire Smarts, LLC, 70 Val Vista Dr. #181, Gilbert, AZ 85296; 888-365-5355, www.training.firesmarts.com.

Save The Date!

2026 NFSA Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference

April 28 - May 1, 2026 – Seattle, WA

The 2026 NFSA Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at noon, through Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:00 p.m. Local Time.

The NFSA Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference takes place on even-numbered years. This event includes tabletop vendors, opening reception, the Common Voices golf tournament, learning sessions, opening and closing sessions with keynote speakers, and an awards banquet combine to make this event one of the most sought-after industry conferences.

The venue is The Westin Seattle, 1900 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

For more information contact: Abbie Gunnells, Events Manager, agunnells@nfsa.org.



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Calendar



July 10, 2025

18TH BURN AID GOLF CLASSIC
For Tangier Shriners Transp. Fund
Indian Creek Golf Club, Elkhorn, NE
Fire Spk. Contr. Assoc. of NE (FSCAN)
Kevin Mendick, kevin@mf-nc.com
www.fscan.org

July 22-25, 2025*

SOUTHERN FIRE SPRINKLER SUMMIT
Theme = Caddyshack
Hilton Pensacola Beach, Pensacola, FL
Ellen Ballard, (318) 841-1494
www.southernfiresprinklersummit.org

July 25, 2025

CFPA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
For Children's Hosp. & Burn Camps
Arrowhead Golf Club, Littleton, CO
Bryan Echelberger, (720) 935-5846
bryan@veritasfire.com
www.cofireprotection.org

August 13, 2025

NFSA MICHIGAN GOLF OUTING
For Great Lakes Burn Camp
Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club
Clarkston, MI, www.nfsa.org
Ron Ritchey, NFSA
(765) 412-6707, ritchey@nfsa.org
www.birdease.com/nfsamichigangolf

August 19, 2025

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

August 21, 2025

NFSA INDIANA CHAP. GOLF OUTING
For Hoosier Burn Camp
Country Club of Indianapolis
Ron Ritchey, (765) 412-6707
ritchey@nfsa.org
www.birdease.com/22940

September 8, 2025

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

September 11, 2025

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

September 22, 2025

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

September 24, 2025

CASA ONTARIO REGIONAL GOLF
For Camp BUCKO/SickKids Found.
Redcrest G.C., King City, Ontario
Daniel Beck, (905) 477-2270
dbeck@casa-firesprinkler.org
www.casa-firesprinkler.org

September 24, 2025

32ND AFSA-VA BURN SURV. GOLF
For Burn Survivors Foundation
Williamsburg N.G.C., VA
Bob Beckwith
bbeckwith@cavalierfire.com
Hooper Loscomb
timothy.loscomb@eaglefire.com

September 24-25, 2025

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

October 5-11, 2025

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October 9, 2025
FIRE SPRINKLER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION CHARITY GOLF For Burn Centers
 Strawberry Farms G.C., Irvine, CA
 Larry Seligman, (626) 673-5345
 larry@apfs.com

October 10, 2025
GBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT For Association Programs
 Dublin, CA, AFSA - Greater Bay Area Chapter, www.afsa-gba.org

October 13, 2025
KFSCAF ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
 Frankfort Country Club, Frankfort, KY
 Michelle Jacobi, KY Fire Sprinkler Contractor Assoc. Foundation
 michelle@ksae.com, (502) 223-5322

October 13, 2025
35TH SCOTTISH RITE CHARITY CLASSIC For Scottish Rite Hosp. for Children
 Trophy Club Country Club
 Trophy Club, TX
 Sarah Kiefer, (512) 844-6632
 sarah@fscatx.org, www.fscatx.org

October 14-19, 2025*
AFSA44 CONVENTION, EXHIBITION, & APPRENTICE COMPETITION
 Washington, D.C.
 www.firesprinkler.org

October 21-23, 2025
SFPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO
 Vancouver, BC
 SFPE, www.sfpe.org

October 24, 2025
25TH BOB McCULLOUGH MEMORIAL For Fire Safety Educational Projects
 Chateau Elan, Braselton, GA
 Mindy McCullough Buckley
 mindy@allsouthsprinkler.com
 www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

October 27, 2025
17TH LFSA GOLF TOURNAMENT Beneficiary To Be Determined
 Santa Maria G.C., Baton Rouge, LA
 Ellen Ballard, (318) 841-1494
 Louisiana Fire Sprinkler Association
 eballard@firetechsystems.com
 www.lafiresprinkler.org

NOVEMBER 14, 2025
NORCAL-NV SFPE GOLF EVENT For Scholarships
 Tilden Park G.C., Berkeley, CA
 Patrick Kogoma, (925) 997-3247
 patrick.kogoma@ffic.com
 www.ncnsfpe.org

November 21, 2025
GARY WENNES MEMORIAL GOLF For Arizona Burn Foundation
 Biltmore Golf Club, Phoenix, AZ
 Matthew Virtue, Cell (602) 376-4818
 matthew.virtue@victaulic.com
 Danny Garcia, dgarcia1@winsupply.com
 www.AZfiresprinkler.org

December 9, 2025
GFSA CHRISTMAS GATHERING For Toys for Tots
 Punchbowl Social, Atlanta, GA
 mindy@allsouthsprinkler.com
 www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

For more visit: www.fpcmag.com

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

Other Future Meeting Dates:
 AFSA, www.firesprinkler.org
 September 25-29, 2026, San Antonio, TX
 CASA, www.casa-firesprinkler.org
 June 2026, Toronto
 NFSA, www.nfsa.org
 Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference
 April 28 - 1, 2026, The Westin Seattle, WA



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Saved: Apartment

Sprinklers kept Kent apartment fire from spreading, according to a KIRO 7 News Staff item posted June 10, 2025, on www.yahoo.com.

Puget Sound Fire says one person was taken to the hospital after an apartment caught on fire in Kent.

The person is expected to be okay, they only had minor injuries.

Puget Sound Fire says the fire started in a first-floor unit. **Two sprinklers** went off and helped crews extinguish it.

The cause of the fire is now under investigation.

Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF) said a passerby had called 911 just before 1:00 p.m., reporting that a shed on top of the building was on fire.

When firefighters arrived on scene, they found smoke coming from the area of the roof.

Tower 2 put their ladder up to access the roof and found a heavily damaged “dog house,” but the fire was controlled by **sprinklers** and mill staff.

ESF says the building’s **sprinklers** helped control the fire, as well as mill staff. Firefighters on scene thoroughly searched the vicinity to ensure that the fire was completely out.

fire, according to an item by KJ Hiramoto posted May 31, 2025, www.foxla.com, Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a call of a fire at Crypto.com Arena a little after 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. According to LAFD, the indoor **fire sprinkler** went off in the first floor of the arena.

Crews were able to take down the fire in minutes. LAFD said smoke was coming from the kitchen area of the arena.

Firefighters did not report major damage except the fact that arena floors were wet from the sprinklers.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Saved: Mill

A fire at West Eugene mill was quickly contained by **sprinklers**, according to a news staff item posted June 3, 2025, on www.kval.com, Eugene, Oregon.

Saved: Arena

Firefighters made their way to Crypto.com Arena after part of the iconic downtown Los Angeles arena briefly caught

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Cheers to the headline and reporting on this fire sprinkler save: *Sprinklers Stop Apartment Fire on Fossil Blvd Before Firefighters Arrive.* This is the headline from a June 5, 2025, report on www.northfortynews.com out of Fort Collins, Colorado.

The item said: *Quick action by fire suppression system prevents injuries and major damage in Fort Collins apartment complex.*

A potentially serious apartment fire was stopped in its tracks on the afternoon of June 4, thanks to the rapid activation of a fire sprinkler system in a Fort Collins complex.

Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) responded to a second alarm call just before 3:00 p.m. in the 5000 block of Fossil Blvd. Upon arrival, crews found that a fire in a fourth-floor unit had already been extinguished by the building's automatic fire sprinkler system.

The incident highlights the vital role that sprinkler systems play in residential fire safety, preventing potential injuries and minimizing property damage.

To learn more about fire safety and updates from Poudre Fire Authority visit: www.poudre-fire.org.

Auxiliary Drain



*Photo taken a couple of years ago by Henry Fontana, Orange, CA
Henry@HenryFontana.com*

A WELL-PLACED JOKE CAN DRAIN TENSION FASTER THAN ANY FITTER ON THE JOB.

Did you drain that system yet?

Not yet; there is a question about the Auxiliary drain.



Cheers and Jeers to the reporting of this fire sprinkler save: *The headline giveth and the headline taketh away: Sprinklers Stop Fire in Downtown High-Rise, But Water Causes Major Damage in New Orleans*

This from an item on www.wvlv.com, June 5, 2025.

The photo caption noted: A kitchen fire forced 135 residents out of a downtown New Orleans high-rise apartment due to significant water damage.

The item did not say, as it should: lives and building saved.

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— Matthew 11:28, New King James Version*

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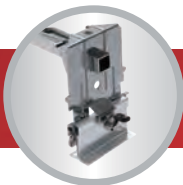


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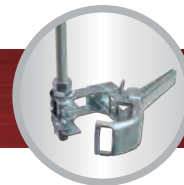
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