



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Sound Reasoning for Keeping your Fire Suppression System Up-to-Date

A recent NFPA Journal article really resonated with me; so much in fact that I went out and conducted a few risk assessments after reading it. The article is based on a devastating fire that occurred

in 2015 at a large General Electric facility in Kentucky. The General Electric Appliance Park sat on 900 acres of land. It included a 700,000 square foot building, known as AP-6, that once housed equipment to manufacture air conditioners. However, over the years, some manufacturing operations were transferred to other facilities in other areas of the world. So as time went by, AP-6 became, essentially, a place to store appliance parts. These parts took up 85 percent of the building's interior and included metal nuts and bolts, plastic hoses, rubber belts, etc. These parts were stored in cardboard or plastic boxes that were stacked one on top of the other in blocks rising up to 12 feet high. Additionally, some parts were stored on wooden pallets in racks reaching 24 feet in height.

While Appliance Park had a water-based fire protection system that was once considered to be state-of-the-art, the system had grown inadequate over the years as AP-6 slowly changed from a

manufacturing facility into a storage facility. And when the fire broke out in AP-6, the fire suppression system was completely overwhelmed by the rapidly spreading fire. Most of the fire pumps proved inoperable and the sprinklers inside AP-6 were not originally engineered to control fires that involve highly combustible materials such as plastic. And unfortunately, the sprinkler upgrade that General Electric had planned had not been completed. The end result was a \$110 million loss for General Electric.

With the AP-6 fire in mind, please read on to see what can be done so that history does not repeat itself.

What building owners need to know about keeping sprinkler systems in step with building use:

NFPA 25, Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, places the responsibility for compliance solely on building owners. While decades ago authorities



having jurisdiction (AHJs) were able to get around to inspecting every property in a given area, that practice is no longer feasible due to a growing number of buildings and, in some jurisdictions, shrinking fire service resources. It's now up to building owners to be proactive and make any necessary changes to water-based fire protection systems before changes to their building's use or contents are made.

With that in mind, the 2017 edition of NFPA 25 includes information to help building owners understand when an evaluation of their property's water-based fire protection system is needed. Below are six actions that would require a system evaluation before being completed.

1. REMODELING OR ADDING ON TO ANY PART OF THE BUILDING. For example, if a building owner were to install a cross-corridor door, it might affect the spacing of sprinklers throughout the hallway. This could render one or more sprinklers out of compliance with NFPA 13, Installation of Sprinkler Systems.

2. CHANGING THE USE OR FUNCTION OF ANY SPACE WITHIN THE BUILDING. With change of use or occupancy often comes a change in the contents and placement of everything that is inside of the building. In the case of the General Electric warehouse, the building had been, over time, changed from manufacturing space to storage space. The results of the ensuing fire were catastrophic.

3. CHANGING THE MAKEUP OF THE PRODUCTS STORED OR THE PACKAGING MATERIALS USED. Changes in product packaging and storage materials, such as adding foam inserts, bubble wrap, or plastic wrap to packages - or converting from wooden to plastic pallets—can significantly increase the fire hazard. Changes in the amount and placement of other products, such as cleaning supplies, which can be highly flammable, should also be considered.

4. ADDING RACKS OR INCREASING THE HEIGHT OF STORED MATERIALS. More rack space means a higher density of potentially combustible materials. These kinds of changes can require significant modifications to sprinkler systems, such as the addition of an in-rack sprinkler system.

5. MOVING OR CHANGING THE STORAGE ARRANGEMENT. Examples of this include adding solid shelves to racks or changing width of the aisles. Both activities, just like adding racks, can increase the density of combustible materials in a given area.

6. REMOVING HEATING SYSTEMS. If a warehouse is void of employees, it might seem to make good sense to remove heating systems in the space. However, doing so can make pipes that supply sprinklers more prone to freezing.

NFPA Journal

March | April 2017 online edition

[NFPA](#)



ASSE Moves to Change Name as Part of Rebrand

Park Ridge, IL –

The [American Society of Safety Engineers](#) is proposing to change its name to the American Society of Safety Professionals as part of an effort to update the organization's brand and more accurately represent its makeup.

"The occupational safety and health profession has evolved since our founding," a recently launched [ASSP](#) website states. "When we began, engineers made up our entire membership. Today, the occupational safety and health profession encompasses many disciplines, and only 3 percent of our members hold the [professional engineer] license. The word 'professionals' is a more inclusive term that better reflects the diverse makeup of our membership."

ASSE stated that officials will unveil the rebrand during the first quarter of 2018. Accompanying moves include creating a separate, global logo and a new website.

The society's House of Delegates is scheduled to vote on the logo and name change June 19 at ASSE's Safety

2017 Professional Development Conference & Exposition in Denver. Members will be eligible to vote electronically for 45 days after the HOD vote. Members also can provide feedback to delegates via the contact section on ASSP's website.

"The Board of Directors believes the future is now," ASSE President Thomas F. Cecich said on the ASSP website. "Changing our name and logo are bold, significant proposals that we believe will position our organization for the future."

Safety and Health Magazine

Online Edition

April 12, 2017

[Safety and Health Magazine](#)

OSHA NEWS

OSHA Provides a Deadline for Fall Protection Training

It seems like many people have been talking about the "upcoming" and "recently passed" Walking/Working Surfaces rule for a long time. That being the case, many people may remember that contained within the rule were some delayed effective dates. This means that while

most of the regulation was effective this past January, employers were given some extra time to come into compliance with certain aspects of the law. Unfortunately, for those who were not paying close attention, these delayed dates have started rolling around; and they may have caught some employers completely off guard. In fact, one key date just passed and, if you were not aware, you could find yourself in non-compliance.

As of May 17, OSHA requires that all workers are trained in both fall hazards and any equipment covered by the final rule. Please consider that this is not a new training requirement. Workers in fall protection situations should already be trained; however, you need to ensure that they have now received training on any new aspects of the regulation that apply to them. This training includes what hazards they are exposed to and how you are protecting them, as well as how to utilize equipment such as Personal Fall Arrest Systems (PFAS – Harness, lanyard, anchor point). If you've already done this, keep up the good work!



If you were putting off training employees, you no longer have that option. Now that we're past the deadline, here's what OSHA requires you to do ASAP to come into compliance:

1. Each employee must be trained by a qualified person, which, according to OSHA, is someone who "by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, has successfully demonstrated his ability to solve or resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project." It is important you ensure that the person delivering training meets this definition, not only so that your employees are receiving all the necessary information to keep them safe, but to ensure your compliance with the requirement should your training come under scrutiny.

2. Each employee must be trained on what fall hazards they are exposed to, how to recognize fall hazards, and what procedures they need to follow in order to keep themselves safe.

3. Employees must be trained on how to properly install,

inspect, operate, maintain and disassemble fall protection systems that they use.

4. Each employee must be trained in the correct use of fall protection systems, including proper hook-up, anchoring, tie-off techniques, as well as methods of inspection and storage as specified by the manufacturer.

Additionally, OSHA offers further specifics to which this deadline applies:

1. Employees must be trained in the proper care, inspection, storage and use of equipment.

2. Employees that use dockboards must be trained to properly place and secure it.

3. Employees who use rope descent systems must be trained in proper rigging and equipment use.

4. Employees who use a designated area must be trained in their proper setup.

OSHA also notes that retraining is necessary in certain situations, such as:

- When an employee demonstrates that they don't have the knowledge or skill they should have in regards to fall protection,
- When workplace changes make the old training obsolete,

- Or when new fall protection systems or equipment are being used.

Finally, OSHA requires that training must be easily understood. While this may sound like common sense, it is not unheard of for employers to have employees sit through a training session in a completely unfamiliar language just to make sure they receive documentation of training.

However, this caveat doesn't *just* apply to which language a person understands. If a person is illiterate, for example, this requirement could mean that they must be presented the information – and tested – orally. As an employer, you will have the burden of proving that your employees understood the training, should OSHA audit your company. This is often accomplished through some type of exam, whether written, oral, or practical. Whichever way you choose, be prepared because OSHA *will* ask, "How did you know they understood it?"

If you are one of the companies that has not trained your people, you should start working on it immediately. A great number of incidents,



injuries, and fatalities can be traced back to the fact that people were not properly trained for the work they do and the safe ways in which to perform that work. Train your people now, before something happens. Keep them safe by arming them with knowledge.

Finally, as a reminder, below are the remaining upcoming deadlines for the Walking/Working Surfaces rule:

- November 20, 2017 – Inspecting and certifying permanent anchorages for rope descent systems.
- November 19, 2018 – Installing personal fall arrest or ladder safety systems on new fixed ladders greater than 24' in length and on replacement ladders, including on outdoor advertising structures.
- November 19, 2018 – Ensuring that all fixed ladders over 24' including outdoor advertising structures, are equipped with a cage, well, personal fall arrest system, or ladder safety system.
- November 18, 2036 - Replacing all cages and wells used as fall protection with ladder safety devices or personal fall arrest systems.

Simplified Safety

Online edition

May 2017

[Simplified Safety](#)

Job Market Links

[ASSE](#)

[BCSP](#)

[EHS Careers](#)

ASSE Chapter Links

Find us on the web at:

[ASSE NFL](#)

Find us on Facebook at:

[ASSE NFL](#)

Local Chapter Officers and Chairs

Elected Officers

- President - Steve Brown
- President Elect - Bob Dooley
- Secretary - Steve Wilson
- Treasurer - Yaniv Zagagi
- Delegate - Anne Rogers
- Delegate - Dave Bedsole

Appointed Chairs

- Past President - Dan Hemsall
- Membership Chair - Eric Gray
- Program Chair - Tom Drygas
- Newsletter Chair – Open / Bob Dooley
- Activity / Golf Chair - Open
- SPY / Social Chair - Bri Harris
- Web Master Chair - Open
- Social Media Chair - Vernon Adams

Local Chapter Meeting Schedule

The chapter is currently on summer break. Monthly sessions will resume in September.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Back in the Saddle Again...

It's me again! As most of you know, I recently completed a 4 year stint as Area Director for Georgia and North Florida for ASSE, and spent about 6 months as acting Region IV Vice-President. Currently, I serve on the Society's Bylaws Committee. I was honored when the nominations committee asked me to fill an opening created when our President-Elect, Lance Simons, had to step aside. I was also disappointed because I saw the good things Lance had done, and the energy he brought to the chapter. I'd like to take this public opportunity to thank him for all his service, and I hope you stay active with us. The seat is yours whenever you want it.

Thanks are also due to the rest of your volunteer leaders. Their commitment to the supporting our profession is truly appreciated. If they are

like me, they realize that the small amount of time they donate to the chapter gets paid back many times over with the network they have developed, the opportunities that present themselves and the leadership skills they develop that they can take with them to their other professional (and volunteer) endeavors.

I am looking forward to continuing the service the chapter has been providing its members in the 10 years since I last held this office. The team is putting together our programs for the fall and fun activities for members and their families. I hope you will join us for these events.

Last, we need a Newsletter Chair to round out our slate of leaders. If you have an hour a month, please let me know. Bob Dooley has done a great job, and now as he moves into his role as President-Elect it's a good time to pass the baton.

Enjoy your summer, be safe, take care of your employees and I will see you in the fall!

Steve Brown, Chapter President 2017-2019

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