NJSFPE
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FUSIBLE LINK

April 2026

Register today for our April 30th Symposium Exhibitors, Sponsors and Attendees

SFPE New Jersey AfAA NEW JERSEY

Apr 30

15th Annual Spring Symposium and Expo- Registration

Our 15th Annual Symposium and Tradeshow.

A day of speakers on today's hot topics, trade show with the latest from leading manufacturers and service companies and the ability to network with the leaders of NJ's Fire Industry.

Joining us are the 8 County North Jersey Training - the Carmine Davino Training Session for Fire Officials.
Featuring
* Staff from DCA

The Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Ave, East
Hanover, NJ 07936

Apr 30, 2026 07:30am - Apr 30, 2026 04:00pm

Register HERE

SFPENJ.org

Minutes of March 16, 2026 Chapter Meeting

President Maradiaga Convened the meeting at 6:15PM with a salute to the flag. There were eight members in attendance. Following dinner our own Mark Bagniewski made a presentation about Artificial Intelligence and Fire Protection Engineering. This was jointly created by Mark and Evan Fitzgerald who, unfortunately, was unable to attend. Starting with some (perhaps 'ancient') history Mark pointed out that in 1950 the first 'machine driven' conversation took place. Chess mastery demonstrations occurred in the 70s with Siri, Roomba and many other notable milestones more recently.

While AGI, Artificial General Intelligence is the goal, Mark showed that there are many AI applications in use already. They range from narrow AI to Large Language Models. There are (at least) seven different AI products available free for public use with premium versions available for fee. Statistics say nearly 70% of insurance companies use AI now. Mark gave some examples of using AI to detect developing smoke from WUI fire and ongoing work for the app to predict fire spread/travel. And he showed how AI can be used for fire protection design review and determining code compliance. He also mentioned that AI is being used to 'manage/monitor' smart buildings. As to down sides Mark brought up 'knowledge cut-offs', hallucinations (which is a machine generated guess when it doesn't have an answer), the fact that if prompted to AI will lie, and that it can be used to create deep fakes. Mark explained that AI doesn't have ethics, or shaky ethics in the opinions of some people. And while it provides what appears to be thorough, competent results to questions those results can be incorrect and it is up to the human to verify/validate/double check. Mark brought up one example where he got his GPT to flip flop answers on a question 3 times. It seems to this observer that human nature may be a serious potential flaw with AI. That is the operator's reliance in the machine's answer without thoroughly verifying/validating it for correctness/accuracy. This may require a heightened degree of ethics from the humans operating AI. It may also require each of us to more carefully consider what sources of news and information we consider. As long as unscrupulous people have access to AI deep fakes can corrupt our understanding of the world around us. Mark gave us a lot to consider, AI is already here (all around even), and we should expect there is a lot more coming.
Thanks to Mark and Evan for this thought-provoking presentation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

2026 UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

May 12 (Tues) Joint Regional meet w/ allied industry organizations – D. Davis
June 1 Foundation Scholarship Golf Outing at Galloping Hill GC, Union, NJ
June 8 Annual Chapter Meeting & Election of Officers

Officers and Trustees Nominations 2026-2027

In accordance with the Incorporated Bylaws of the SFPE New Jersey Chapter, Inc. the following is the proposed slate of Officers and Trustees including terms of service indicated below for Officers and Trustees. The election is scheduled to be conducted at the Chapter's annual business meeting to be held during June 8th, 2026.
We are electing new Officers and two Trustees

Officers (One Year Term – August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027)

President – Richard Reitberger
Vice President – Carl Monesmith
Secretary - Joe Janiga
Treasurer – Evan Fitgerald

Trustees (Three Year Terms – Alternating Years)

Jim Loftus	(**3 Year Term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028)**
Victoria Valentine	**(3 Year Term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029)**
Ernesto Vega-Janica	(**3 Year Term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027)**
Mark Bagniewski	**(3 Year Term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028)**
Dave Davis	(**3 Year Term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029)**

Nominating

Evan Fitgerald
Dave Gluckman
Jerry Naylis

The Chapter encourages volunteers to serve in leadership roles on the Board or on Committees.
Any member who desires to run for Chapter Office, Trustee or serve on a committee is encouraged to do so by contacting the Secretary Joe Janiga at jwjaniga@gmail.com at least 4 weeks before our annual meeting in June.

Maximize flexibility with UL Listed Data Center Upgradeable Systems

The Data Center Upgradeable System is a pre-trimmed dry system riser designed for quick and easy field conversion to a preaction system—without replacing the main valve. It features an A-1 Differential Valve and includes all key system components in one packaged solution, designed for applications like data centers. Available in sizes from 1-½" through 8", the Data Center Upgradeable System is cULus Listed and offers flexibility for versatile spaces.

Features and advantages of Viking's Data Center Upgradeable System:

- Utilizes a Viking Model VXD Deluge valve and trim as a dry pipe system that can be easily upgraded to a single- or double-interlock preaction system
- Includes unions at release for easy preaction conversion
- Features a robust 6:1 differential design with the A-1 Differential Valve to control the water supply to the sprinkler system piping that is equipped with closed sprinklers
- Each riser includes key system components—valve, trim, check valve, pressure switches, drains and gauges—ready for install right out of the box
- PTR trim offered with or without additional isolation butterfly valve
- Multiple sizes available to meet your unique system needs

For more information, please contact your Viking sales representative or visit our website at **vikinggroupinc.com**.

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General reference only. Prior to the design, layout, and/or installation of any sprinkler system, please refer to Viking's technical documentation and consult with the AHJ.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number:	Model VXD Data Center Upgradeable System
Listings/Approvals:	cULus Listed
Sizes:	1-½", 2", 2-½", 3", 4", 6" 8"
Finish:	Black Epoxy Polyester Coating
Material:	Ductile Iron
Trim Offered:	PTR w/wo isolation butterfly valve and separate conversion kit required for upgrade to preaction
Item Price Group:	V406
Occupancy/Hazard:	Commercial
Technical Datasheet:	F_040125

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The Valve & System Configurator makes it a breeze to build out your system riser. Check it out by scanning the QR code, or visiting webtools.vikingcorp.com/valveconfig.

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Work For Risk Logic click Here

Navigating Flue Space Requirements: NFPA 13 vs. FM Updates

Link to article Here

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Now with VAPOR Pipe Shield

Corrosion Prevention for Dry & Preaction Systems

The PrePaK™ Cabinet

Quiet operation, compact design **ideal for occupied spaces**

Powder-coated steel construction

Factory-wired terminal box consolidates connections

Easy service access

Vapor Pipe Shield®
for corrosion protection

New streamlined Model DD Air Maintenance Device

Time-tested Model DDX valve with external reset for easy service

Now available in the trusted **PrePaK™**, **Vapor Pipe Shield®** uses **advanced VpCI® technology** to prevent internal pipe corrosion with a low-maintenance design engineered for efficient system protection.

For technical questions or information, contact **tech@reliablesprinkler.com** or call **1-800-557-2726**.

Vapor Pipe Shield® is a trademark of General Air Products, Inc.
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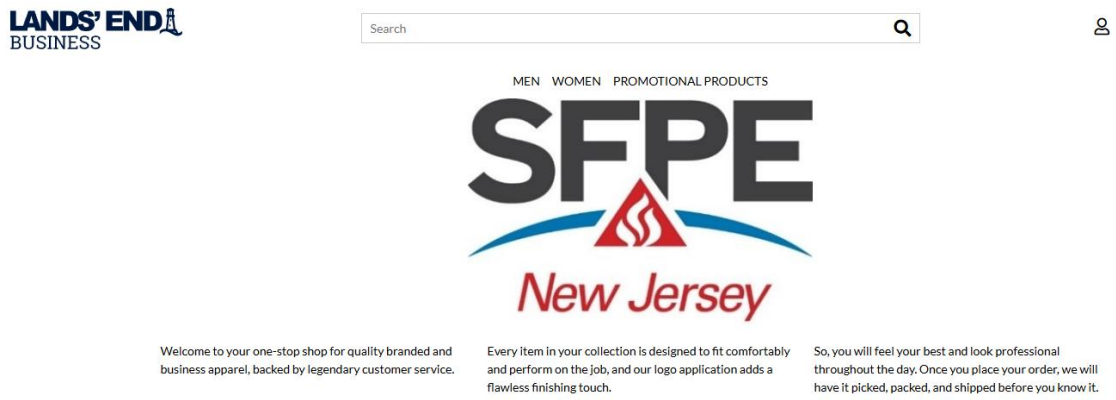
NJ SFPE Chapter Merchandise



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Are you a professional member?

If you haven't already, apply for professional membership to become the gold standard in your profession. Encourage your chapter members to do the same. Professional membership is highly regarded and increasing the number of professional members will improve your Chapter's ACE score!

More Info - [Go HERE]

SFPE Weekly News Brief – a customized weekly news brief published every Thursday that includes a hand-curated selection of industry news and SFPE updates.

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FOUNDATION

Donate today and help a Fire Protection Engineering student reach their goal of becoming an FPE. Your donation is also tax deductible. www.njsfpe.org/scholarship_fund_donations

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SFPE New Jersey

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Full Page ……..…$ 1,000

Make your check out to: "NJ Chapter SFPE" and send along with this Form to:

Rich Reitberger
NJSFPE
7 Mayapple Drive
Brick, NJ 08724

To Pay Online go Here

*Please send your Scanned Business Card or Artwork to the following e-mail address: richreit522@gmail.com

Any questions call Rich at: 973- 902-1319

Thank you for your continued support

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2026

Have you Paid your 2026 Chapter Dues? If not do it today!!

Your dues goes a long way to help to fund our meetings, programs and activities.

NJ Chapter Dues - $ 20

AHJ / Code Official / Retired – NJ Chapter Dues - $ 0

Payment:

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To pay by mail make out your check to: "NJ Chapter SFPE" and send in along with the attached Application form below to:

Rich Reitberger - NJ Chapter SFPE

7 Mayapple Drive, Brick, NJ 08724

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SFPE New Jersey

Thank you for your continued support

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SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering

The SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering, 6th edition, is the definitive reference on fire protection engineering and performance-based fire safety. Over 130 eminent fire engineers and researchers contributed chapters to the Handbook, representing universities and organizations worldwide. Purchase the handbook or select chapters.

Order Your Copy

Current Chapter Leadership

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David J Davis (**3 Year Term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026)**

Questions or Comments or if you need further information about the Chapter contact the Fusible Link editor at
contact@sfpenj.org

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