



# ASPEnewsletter

Southwestern Ohio Chapter

Nov 2010 Volume 28 Issue 7

Chapters are not authorized to speak for the Society

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLUMBING ENGINEERS  
SOUTHWESTERN OHIO CHAPTER**

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## ASPE February Meeting

**Date:** TUESDAY, February 19<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Location: RAMADA INN, 6147 W St Rte 122, Middletown, Ohio. 513-424-1201. From I-75, take the Middletown Exit and go east to the Ramada Inn.

**Schedule:** 11:30-12:00 PM Lunch  
12:00-12:45 PM Program

**Speaker:** "Specialized Fixed Fire Control Systems & The Adding of F-500" presented by Thomas Price of Hazard Control Technologies.

**Cost:** \$20 at the door Engineers/Designer/Contractor/Code Official  
\$140/Year Meal Assessment. \$25 at the door Mfg. Rep./Vendor  
or \$160/Year Meal Assessment

**Reservations:** Contact Bob McCain of BSE at (e-mail) [rlmccain@bseltd.biz](mailto:rlmccain@bseltd.biz), (phone) 937.312.0217 or (fax) 937.438.0195 before **MONDAY February 15<sup>th</sup>** so that a head count can be established. As always, guests are welcome. Bring a friend.

## FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Feb 16, 2010 "Specialized Fixed Fire Control Systems & The Adding of F-500" presented by Thomas Price of Hazard Control Technologies.
- Mar 16, 2010 "Comparisons of Hot Water Boiler/Storage Tank VS Tank Type Heater for Commercial Applications" presented by Denny Lammers of Campbell Equipment Company.
- April 20, 2010 "CPVC Fire Sprinkler Systems" by Tom Rauenswinder of Spears Manufacturing Co.
- May 18, 2010
- June 1, 2010 Dayton Dragons
- June 2010 Region II Presidents Meeting

**All meetings held in Middletown unless noted otherwise  
All meeting topics subject to change without notice**

February/March 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11 Give yourself a 'Valentine'; make your reservation	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16 SW Ohio Chapter meeting	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6

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	<p><b>No Lead Commercial Brass</b>          WE GOT THE LEAD OUT</p>	

## Technical jargon...

- *Last month, the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) removed all listings to the 1996 edition of ASSE 1016: Performance Requirements for Individual Thermostatic, Pressure Balancing, and Combination Pressure Balancing and Thermostatic Control Valves for Individual Fixture Fittings. This move was done because three new standards have been developed to clarify questions regarding the 1016 standard: ASSE 1016: Performance Requirements for Automatic Compensating Valves for Individual Showers and Tub/Shower Combinations, ASSE 1069: Performance Requirements for Automatic Temperature Control Mixing Valves, and ASSE 1070: Performance Requirements for Water Temperature Limiting Devices.*

*-Casper the Friendly Ghostwriter*

## Legislatively speaking...

- In December 2009, both New Hampshire and Pennsylvania voted to adopt the 2009 International Residential Code, becoming the **first two states to require fire sprinklers in new homes and townhomes** beginning in 2012. The provision is still part of the next iteration of the Ohio Residential Code. Various factions (especially home builder associations) are working to have the requirement stricken from the proposed code.

Also in December 2009, the State of California voted to adopt the International Residential Code, effective January 1, 2011 complete with the requirement for sprinklers in residential occupancies. The International Residential Code adoption is a first for the state of California.

The California action adds to the growing list of 2009 I-Code adoptions at the state and local levels; recent adoptions include Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New Hampshire. The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Codes were updated to the 2009 versions of the International Building, Existing Building, Residential, Fire, Energy Conservation, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Performance and Wildland-Urban Interface codes. The new codes went into effect on December 31.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs approved the adoption of the 2009 International Building, Residential, Energy Conservation, Mechanical and Fuel Gas codes, to take effect in February with a six-month grace period.

The New Hampshire State Building Code Review Board updated the state's building code to include the 2009 International Building, Residential, Energy Conservation, Plumbing and Mechanical codes, effective April 1.

Other codes being adopted by states include the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which will produce approximately 15% in energy efficiency gains compared to the 2006 edition, according to US Department of Energy.

- The California Building Standards Commission unanimously adopted the **first-in-the-nation mandatory Green Building Standards Code (CALGREEN)**. Taking effect on January 1, 2011, this comprehensive set of regulations will achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and water use. It will require every new building to reduce water consumption by 20 percent, divert 50 percent of construction waste from landfills, and install low pollutant-emitting materials. It also requires separate water meters for nonresidential buildings' indoor and outdoor water use, with a requirement for moisture-sensing irrigation systems for larger landscape projects, and mandatory inspections of energy systems.

- Speaking of matters green, the International Code Council is set to publically release the first-ever **International Green Construction Code (IGCC)** in March. The IGCC is specifically designed to integrate and coordinate with the other International Codes that span the spectrum of the building industry including building, energy conservation, fire and life safety, plumbing, mechanical fuel gas and existing structures. Like the other sets in the International Codes, an open ANSI consensus process was used in the development of the IGCC.

- Contained within the pages of the new 2009 International Building Code (IBC) are several provisions that relate to **fire suppression systems**. These include:

*310.1 Residential Group R.* This now mandates that R-4 occupancies be provided with a sprinkler system, regardless whether the Design Professional opts to comply with the IBC or the International Residential Code.

*Section 419 Live/Work Units.* The ICC recognizes a nostalgic trend of two story commercial construction, with business occupancy on the first floor and residential occupancy on the second floor. As these buildings will be considered primarily residential in nature, sprinklers will be required.

*422.5 Automatic Sprinkler Systems (for Ambulatory Health Care Facilities).* Automatic sprinkler systems will be required for ambulatory care facilities that are classified as Use Group B (Business). This is due to the added life safety hazards present in the physical limitations of certain individuals.

*507.7 Group A-2 Buildings of Type III and IV Construction.* A list of conditions including sprinklers has been added to allow unlimited areas for Group A-3 buildings used as a church, community hall, dance

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hall, exhibition hall, gymnasium, lecture hall, natatorium or tennis court of Type III or IV construction.

*Table 508.2.5 Incidental Accessory Occupancies and 913.2.1 Protection of Fire Pump Rooms.* To bring the IBC in line with criteria set by NFPA 20, rooms housing a fire pump will be required to have a two-hour separation (or one-hour with sprinklers). In high-rise buildings, fire pump rooms must have a two-hour separation.

*509.2 Horizontal Separation of Buildings.* This section was extensively modified to allow other occupancies below the horizontal separation besides parking and has added a requirement for the building below the horizontal separation to be provided with automatic sprinkler protection.

*902.1 Fire Area.* For the purpose of defining the threshold requirement for sprinkler protection the definition of fire area has been relocated from Chapter 7 to Chapter 9 and changed to include areas of the building not provided with surrounding walls which are under a roof. Now the floor area of all covered areas regardless of whether or not they are enclosed by exterior walls must be included in the floor area for determination of the sprinkler requirement threshold.

*903.2.3 Sprinkler Protection in Group E Occupancies.* The threshold fire area for requiring sprinklers in school occupancies has been reduced from 20,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet.

*903.2.7 Group M occupancies used for display or sale of upholstered furniture now require sprinkler protection regardless of fire area size.* The former threshold of 12,000 square feet was removed due to the potential for high heat release rate fires with this use.

*903.2.10 Group S-2 Enclosed Parking Garages.* Enclosed parking garages will no longer require an automatic sprinkler system unless the fire area is greater than 12,000 square feet or the garage is located beneath other occupancies.

*903.3.1.2.1 Sprinkler Protection of Residential Balconies and Decks.* Sprinklers will now be required for exterior balconies and decks serving dwelling units when there is a roof or deck above. Note that even though NFPA 13R exempts these areas, compliance with the IBC will now mandate these areas be protected regardless of the presences of combustible construction. There have been many recent fires, many involving fatalities where fires starting on exterior balconies or decks have extended into the building.

*903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D Sprinkler Systems.* This change allows townhouses to be sprinklered using NFPA 13D in addition to one- and two-family dwellings.

Townhouses are multiple single-family dwellings governed by the IRC.

*1613.6.3 Automatic Sprinkler Systems.* In this new paragraph the IBC now recognizes sprinkler systems installed in accordance with the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 are deemed compliant with the seismic bracing requirements of Section 13.6.8 of ASCE 7.

**-Ronald K Bartley PE, CPD, CPI**

## Through the pipes...

- Despite some indicators that the overall US economy is beginning to improve, nonresidential construction spending is expected to decrease by 13.4% in 2010 with a marginal increase of 1.8% in 2011 in inflation adjusted terms, according to the American Institute of Architects' Consensus Construction Forecast. **Commercial and industrial projects will continue to see the most significant decrease in activity.** Thanks, in part, to federal stimulus spending, institutional building categories will fare better over 2010.

## Other Voices...

"I am the Plumbing Inspector and I most certainly AM the Code Official!"

"I do not inspect based upon the approved drawings: I inspect strictly on MY interpretation of the Ohio Plumbing Code."

Have you heard either statement being said by a State of Ohio-certified Plumbing Inspector while performing inspection duties on a job site? Because if so, **you have heard an inspector who is overstepping the authority granted to them by their certification.** Under the rules established by the Board of Building Standards (BBS), for the State of Ohio, Department of Commerce, Division of Industrial Compliance and Labor, an inspector is charged with overseeing installations as shown on the approved Contract Documents. Approved Contract Documents are those that have been reviewed by a Certified Plans Examiner and accepted as code-compliant by the Chief Building Official (CBO)-for that jurisdiction. It is **not** within an inspector's authority to make code interpretations in the field.

Should an inspector find a suspected violation of the Ohio Plumbing Code in the system installation and installed per the approved Contract Documents (yes, plans examiners are human and can make a mistake), the inspector must follow the BBS rules as outlined in Chapter 1 of the Ohio Building Code. The

inspector should directly report the alleged violation to the CBO. The inspector should cite the code section believed relevant to the alleged violation. The inspector must be prepared to show that if allowed to remain as is, the alleged violation could have a deleterious effect on public welfare or safety. The CBO would then consider the inspector's position and take one of several actions. In the case the CBO does not believe any real violations exist, he could advise the inspector to simply note his concern on the record of inspection. Or, if the CBO feels the alleged violation is legitimate but of no significant consequence to public welfare and safety, he could simply acknowledge and thank the inspector for his concern and diligence, and advise the plans examiner to more closely watch for such violations in the future. Or the CBO could agree with the inspector and issue an adjudication order for corrective action. The point of all of this is that only the CBO has that authority under the laws of the State of Ohio.

An inspector may never alter the approved design, stop the work in progress or direct the contractor to make changes in a design prepared by and bearing the seal of a registered Professional Engineer.

The inspector is the CBO's "eyes" in the field, charged with the responsibility to see that the Owner constructs what they have a legal right to build as shown on the approved Contract Documents. An inspector should not accept or approve work that does not conform to that as shown on the approved documents.

***-David D Dexter,  
PE, FASPE, LEED AP, CPD, CPI, CPPE  
President  
Central Ohio Chapter***

***Ronald K Bartley, PE, CPD, CPI  
Vice President, Legislative  
Southwestern Ohio Chapter***

## **Parting thought...**

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

***-Anonymous***

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