



Cascade Chapter

Society of Fire Protection Engineers

# BRANCHLINES

Volume 5, Issue 9

May 2010

<http://www.cascadesfpe.org>

## Chapter Officers

President: Kenton Aikens,  
PE, Interface Engineering  
Inc.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jim  
Schwager, PE, Portland Fire  
Bureau—Retired

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Kathleen  
Roach, Interface Engineering  
Inc.

Treasurer: Bryan Duffel,  
Siemens Building  
Technologies

Secretary: Stewart McLaughlin  
PE, Tecom, Inc. / CGF-B1

Past President: David Gessert,  
PE, Fire Protection Consulting

Members at Large:  
John Durkin, Northwest Fire  
Suppression

Don Krause, Viking Automatic  
Sprinkler Company

David Smith, Vancouver Fire  
Department (Newsletter Editor  
& Webmaster)

## Meeting Announcement

Are you ready for the new Carbon Monoxide requirements coming in the new building codes and in existing residences in Oregon? Jim Schwager will present new Oregon requirements effecting existing residential properties and new International Code requirements soon to be effective in Oregon and Washington that will require the addition of Carbon Monoxide detectors. What effect will this have on your business? Be ready to answer your clients questions about the new requirements and assess the risk to your family. How will this effect your business and are there issues we should be aware of?

Meeting: **Thursday May 13 11:30-1:00**  
Multnomah Athletic Club  
1849 SW Salmon St., Portland, OR 97205

If you are interested in attending, please **R.S.V.P. Jim Schwager at Portland Fire Bureau by phone (503-823-3765)**. Meetings start at 11:30 A.M. and run until roughly 1:00 P.M. Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25. Directions to the Multnomah Athletic Club (MAC) are available on the SFPE Cascade Chapter website. (<http://www.cascadesfpe.org/directionstext.htm>).

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from September through June. Meetings start at 11:30 A.M. with a buffet style lunch followed by a brief meeting and presentation by a guest speaker.

## **June 10 – New FM Sprinkler Data Sheet 2-0**

Mark Mannex, P.E., Chief Engineering Technical Specialist for FM Global will introduce Factory Mutuals new Data Sheet 2-0, Installation Guidelines for Automatic Sprinklers, which replaces several former Data Sheets, including Data Sheet 2-8N, which was largely based on NFPA 13. The new Data Sheet 2-0 is a global standard, and is completely independent of NFPA. It introduces new terminology and guidelines, such as for obstructions. Mark will also discuss FM Global's new version of FM Global Data Sheet 8-9 Storage of Class I, 2, 3, 4 and Plastic Commodities, which has been completely rewritten.

## **Oregon smoke alarm data available**

Updated smoke alarm data covering 2005-2009 is now available on the Office of State Fire Marshal website.

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Data\\_Services/Smoke\\_Alarm\\_Data\\_2005-2009.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Data_Services/Smoke_Alarm_Data_2005-2009.pdf)

## Fire Marshal Crawford announces retirement

After seven years in Vancouver as fire marshal and planning chief, Deputy Chief Jim Crawford has announced his retirement.

His last day at work will be May 14. While in Vancouver, Crawford supervised fire code enforcement, plan review, fire investigation and public education activities for the Fire Marshal's Office. He coordinated planning activities and was an effective liaison with other local, state and federal organizations. He oversaw implementation of new inspection fees and fireworks citations in Vancouver. He helped design extensive changes at the VFD, including using the integrated risk management approach which focuses on service delivery and behavior change to improve public safety.

"I am proud to have been affiliated with the Vancouver Fire Department. I have mixed emotions, but after 35 years in the fire service I think it's time to retire," Crawford says.

Crawford earned the admiration of his peers, and was named Washington State Fire Marshal of the Year in 2009. Prior to his employment at the VFD, he was the chief fire marshal in Portland. He started his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1975 at Clackamas County Fire District 1 in Oregon.

"Jim has moved us forward on many fronts," says Fire Chief Don Bivins. "His strategic approach to problem-solving, his idealism and his belief in our capacity to make the community safer through prevention programs and partnerships will be sorely missed."

Beginning next month, Chief Bivins has assigned Assistant Fire Marshal Heidi Scarpelli to serve as interim fire marshal; and Crawford's planning duties will be assumed by Deputy Chief Steve Streissguth.

Crawford plans to remain in Vancouver, where he lives with his wife, Karen. He says he will continue his involvement with national fire prevention organizations.



## Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced In Senate

*News from NFSA website – Positive Sprinkler Legislation*

On Friday, January 22, 2010, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) as primary cosponsor, introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act of 2010. The bill is the Senate companion bill to HR 1194 in the House of Representatives introduced last year by Representatives Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Eric Cantor (R-VA). The FSIA intends to amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code to classify fire sprinkler retrofits as a five year property for purposes of depreciation. Passage of this landmark fire protection legislation will accelerate cost recovery of fire sprinkler retrofits in a large inventory of critical occupancies built under older codes prior to requirements for inclusion of fire sprinkler systems and get us one giant step closer to a fire safe America. Hats off to a small working group of allied organizations who have worked tirelessly over the past several months on behalf of many more groups to get this bill introduced. In addition, we applaud the vision and leadership of Senators Carper and Collins in joining together to insure bipartisan support for a very important quality of life issue. This is Senate bill S 2947.

## **What Fire Protection Lessons are there from the oil platform Deepwater Horizon's explosion and sinking?**

**From Bloomberg Business Week — Owner of sunken oil platform had safety concerns**

By DAVID KOENIG, DALLAS

Transocean Ltd., which owned the drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, eliminated bonuses for top executives last year over concerns about safety problems at the company.

The company said in a regulatory filing on April 1 that it eliminated the bonuses "to underscore the company's commitment to safety and to increase the incentive for executive officers to promote ... the avoidance of future fatal accidents."

Less than three weeks later, the company's Deepwater Horizon rig, which it leased to BP PLC, blew up and sank. Eleven workers were killed and the accident spawned a huge oil spill that is now endangering wildlife and businesses along the Gulf's coastline.

Transocean's chairman and CEO told shareholders in a letter in March of a "thorough review" of safety practices taking place across the company.

Transocean spokesman Guy Cantwell said Tuesday that management recommended that the board not pay bonuses last year.

Cantwell said four deaths occurred in 2009 on different rigs in four different countries. Reports on one death, in Azerbaijan, appeared in the media, but Cantwell declined to disclose other locations and whether any were in U.S. waters. None were related to drilling, he said.

The company had two workers killed in 2008 and none in 2007, Cantwell said.

Transocean is scheduled to report first-quarter financial results on Wednesday, followed by a conference call with analysts on Thursday. From April 20, the date of explosion, through the close of trading Monday, Transocean's stock market value fell to \$23.45 billion from \$29.6 billion. Shares were down slightly on the New York Stock Exchange again Tuesday.

The company is already facing lawsuits. A Houston law firm filed a wrongful-death claim in a Texas state court Tuesday on behalf of one of the 11 killed on the Deepwater Horizon. The lawsuit alleges that the rig wasn't seaworthy and didn't meet federal safety standards.

The family of another dead worker filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Louisiana shortly after the explosion, charging Transocean and BP with negligence.

Several other lawsuits have been filed against the companies on behalf of fishermen and others who expect to be harmed by the spill, and the governor of Florida is considering suing.

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday changed its outlook on Transocean debt to "stable" from "positive," citing the potential for large legal expenses and liabilities related to the oil spill. Fitch didn't change its ratings on Transocean debt, which are "BBB," or investment-grade but carrying a moderate default risk.

Fitch said Transocean carries \$950 million in liability coverage before deductibles, and oil companies usually repay rig owners for costs related to blowouts. But the rating agency said Transocean could still be vulnerable for damages above \$950 million if was found to be negligent.

Insurance should cover the loss of the \$560 million Deepwater Horizon, which sank in about 5,000 feet of water, but Transocean has a deductible of \$10 million per event on personal injury liability, Fitch said.

Transocean's annual shareholder meeting is planned for next week in Switzerland.

*What do you know about the Deepwater Horizon catastrophic event? As engineers and system providers what do we take away from this? This is a link to a transcribed radio interview with a survivor of the explosion. He describes the events prior to the explosion.*

*<http://discuss.epluribusmedia.net/content/interview-deepwater-horizon-rig-survivor> Read the interview and imagine the extreme engineering considerations involved in these operations.*

## **License plate to honor fallen fire and law enforcement personnel**

In June 2009, Governor Kulongoski signed the Oregon Fallen Public Safety Officer License Plate bill allowing for the development and sale of a special license plate honoring Oregon's fallen firefighters and law enforcement personnel. Proceeds from the sale of the plates will pay for families and honor guard escorts to attend national memorial services at either the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland or the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. Efforts for the special plate were started by Mary Nunnenkamp and her son Brett to honor the memory of husband and father, Randy Nunnenkamp, a Washington County Sheriff Detective who was killed while off-duty in 2006. The Police Memorial Trust fund is the acting fiscal agent for donations needed to raise the remaining \$8,000 before the plate can be produced. Oregon law does not allow taxpayer dollars to be used in development of specialized license plates. After initial production funds are raised, there is still a requirement to sell a minimum of 1,000 plates the first year, and to sell or renew 500 plates each following year for the plate to be continued. Once the program is in place, a three-person committee consisting of a law enforcement representative, fire service representative, and the bill's originator Mary Nunnenkamp, will administer the fund as a subcommittee of the Police Memorial Trust Fund. For more information, visit the Facebook page for the Fallen Public Safety Officer License Plate.

### **Advanced kitchen fire protection seminar**

The Oregon Fire Equipment Distributors association is hosting a seminar on advanced kitchen fire protection May 21, 2010 at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. The seminar is free to Authorities Having Jurisdiction and \$220 for other attendees. To register, contact Brenda Casey at 503-201-3396 or email [brenda@metrosafetyandfire.com](mailto:brenda@metrosafetyandfire.com).

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

US POSTAGE

SFPE Cascade Chapter



Branchlines is the official newsletter of the Cascade Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and is published to provide information about Chapter activities.

Branchlines also seeks to provide the members of the Chapter with stimulating dialogue in the major areas of fire protection; Basic and Applied Research; Engineering, including standards development; Prevention, including education, inspection and enforcement; Early fire Detection, Alarm and Suppression, both automatic and manual.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** Branchlines is sent to all current members and friends of the Cascade Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Anyone interested in joining may download an application from our web site by visiting, <http://www.cascadesfpe.org/>.

**"I can accept the theory of relativity as little as I can accept the existence of atoms and other such dogma."**  
*Ernst Mach, 1838-1916*

**"The energy produced by the breaking down of the atom is a very poor kind of thing. Anyone who looks for a source of power in the transformation of the atom is talking moonshine. "**  
*Sir Ernest Rutherford, 1933*

**"Atomic energy might be as good as our present day explosives, but it is unlikely to produce anything very much more dangerous."**  
*Winston Churchill, 1939*