



Session 1B

Obstructions and ESFR Sprinklers-Phase 3 Update

Coordination of ESFR sprinklers with field obstructions has long troubled designers and engineers. Compliance with the existing requirements found within NFPA 13 can be challenging. These requirements are based upon limited testing conducted in the early phases of ESFR development. Much has changed in the progression of the sprinkler, ESFR sprinklers are now available in different sizes and are used in a wide variety of applications. The Fire Protection Research Foundation commissioned this research project to explore the relationship between obstructions and ESFR sprinkler performance with the goal of providing data to the NFPA 13 committee for use in evaluating the present obstruction requirements. This presentation will showcase current fire testing conducted just months ago which has not been publically seen before. Attendees will develop a basic understanding of the obstruction/ESFR relationship and the path forward for this research project.



Garner A. Palenske, P.E.
Vice President
Jensen Hughes

Garner A. Palenske, P.E., is a registered fire protection engineer with over 29 years of experience. Mr. Palenske is currently a member of the NFPA 13 Discharge and Correlating Committees. He has published several fire research projects including, Obstructions and ESFR Sprinklers Phases 1 and 2, Fire Safety in Consumer Fireworks, Storage, and Retail Facilities Hazard Assessment; High Velocity Low Speed Fan Research-Phases I and II; and Fire Protection of Compact Mobile Shelving Test Program. Current work includes commodity classification fire testing projects.

Prior to joining JENSEN HUGHES (legacy Aon FPE), Mr. Palenske served as the Fire Protection Engineer for the San Diego Fire Department, and worked as an engineer at FM Global. He is a graduate of California State University, Fullerton, where he earned bachelor's degrees in both Structural Engineering and Business Administration. Recently Mr. Palenske has completed selected graduate classes in the Cal Poly MS FPE program.

Mr. Palenske is also a frequent author, speaker, and expert witness on fire protection and code compliance issues.

WWW.SFPEATLANTA.ORG

Please visit the website for conference costs and registration information.