



## Session 3D

### Technology Running Way Ahead of Fire Protection Code Development

Anyone involved in fire protection engineering these days is likely experiencing the effects of technology change, particularly in electronics and energy. The design challenges these changes present make it difficult to specify the correct solution. Complicating the issue is the lack of effective guidance in the codes and standards. Where technical committees are attempting to address the unusual fire hazard in today's computer, data, and telecommunications centers, the guidance debated and agreed upon doesn't completely solve the issue and is inadequate or incorrect.

This presentation will provide examples where technology solutions for today's electronics and energy needs outpace the ability of current and developing fire codes and standards to adequately address hazard complexities. At the conclusion, there will be a brief discussion on an upcoming fundamental technology transformation – actually, one already here – that will give a perspective on ethical challenges for the design engineer.



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Paul Rivers is a research Senior Fire Protection Specialist at 3M Company. Located in St Paul Minnesota USA, Paul has over 40 years in the fire protection industry, working in fire insurance, fire protection consulting, and fire sprinkler contracting for 15 years. He has worked in 3M laboratories over the past 27 years in product development with a focus on fire protection solutions for critical assets. He is a registered professional engineer in Minnesota and Illinois.

Mr. Rivers is the immediate past President of the Board of Directors for SFPE International and the past President of SFPE – Minnesota Chapter. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Fire Suppression Systems Association (FSSA), as well as a member of the FSSA Technical Committee. In addition, Mr. Rivers has served as the following:

- Principal member of NFPA GFE technical committee on Gaseous Media Fire Extinguishing Systems, USA (NFPA 12, 12A, 2001)
- Principal member of NFPA ESS technical committee on **Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems**, USA (NFPA 855)
- Member of the USA Technical Advisory delegation to the ISO TC21/SC2 for Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Member of the USA Technical Advisory delegation to the ISO TC21/SC8 for Gaseous Media and Firefighting Systems Using Gas