

FSSA Bios, Headshots and Abstracts – 2021 SFPE Atlanta Virtual Conference

Presenter	Company	Topic
Chris White	Koorsen	Inert Gas
Gary Holmes	APS Fire	CO2
Steve Nelson	Orr Protection	Water Mist
Jeff Kidd	Hiller NE	Foam
Scott Panowitz	BFPE	Halocarbons

FOAM

Joe McElvaney, P.E.

Joe McElvaney is currently the Lead Fire Protection Engineer for The Hiller Companies. Before the Hiller Companies, he worked for over 20 years for the City of Phoenix Fire Department. He is a registered Professional Fire Protection Engineer in several states. He has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology and a Master of Science in Technology degree in Fire Service Administration from Arizona State University. Mr. McElvaney work experience include working on aircraft hangars, hospital, hazard materials, tall wood buildings. McElvaney is a member for SFPE, NFPA FSSA and AFAA.



Jeffrey S Kidd

General Manager, Hiller New England Fire Protection

Currently located in Willmington MA, Jeffrey Kidd has been with Hiller Companies since 1997.

Mr Kidd represents Hiller Companies on the Fire Suppression Systems Associations (FSSA) technical Committee and the NFPA Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Technical Committee (NFPAs 12, 12A and 2001). He also is the FSSA representative on the NFPA 45 Laboratories Containing Chemicals, NFPA 11 Foam and NFPA 409 Standard on Aircraft Hangars.

Mr Kidd is a graduate of Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in Electronic Engineering Technology, and he has a NICET Level IV Certification in Special Hazard Fire Suppression Systems Design.



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Water Mist

Steven Nelson

Director of Operations, Orr Protection Systems
Louisville KY

Having been in the fire protection industry for twenty-three years, Steven Nelson has achieved a NICET Level IV certified in both fire alarm and special hazards. Mr Nelson is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist. He earned a degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Eastern Kentucky University in 2017, and currently is working on an MBA.

Mr Nelson has six children and is happily married to my wife, Kim. His hobbies include fishing and riding his motorcycle.

Abstract

Mr Nelson will be delivering a beginner to intermediate level introduction to water mist systems, focusing on the different types of water mist systems, their applications, and how they suppress a fire. He will also cover installation and inspection guidelines. A case study will be presented as an example of a real installation.



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Halocarbon Clean Extinguishing Agents

Scott Panowitz, PE

Scott Panowitz is the Chief Fire Protection Engineer at BFPE International located in Hanover, Maryland. Mr Panowitz received his Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland and is a registered Professional Engineer in multiple states. He has over 23 years of experience in the design, installation, and testing of special hazard suppression systems.

Mr Panowitz also has experience as a code enforcer previously working as a Fire Protection Engineer for the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office. Scott is a member of the Fire Suppression Systems Association Technical Committee and a member of the NFPA 72 (Notification Appliances for Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems) and NFPA 101/5000 (Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment) NFPA Technical Committees. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE).

Abstract

Clean agent fire suppression systems are designed to protect critical equipment, high value assets, and business continuity. This presentation will highlight the history of halocarbons, explain what halocarbons are, how they extinguish fires, identify parameters needed to determine halocarbon design concentrations, and identify key design considerations needed to install a system. Case studies will be provided to demonstrate how these items are integrated as a total system.



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Inert Gas Clean Extinguishing Agent

Chris White

Chris White began his fire protection career in 1996 as a Special Hazards Service Technician at Indianapolis IN based Koorsen Fire and Security. Mr White has extensive experience servicing and testing clean extinguishing agent and CO2 suppression systems and fire alarm systems. In 2006, Mr White was promoted to the position of Corporate Clean Agent Instructor with responsibilities for clean agent and CO2 system ITM field and classroom training as part of Koorsen University at the Koorsen Fire and Security Training Center. He has worked in all aspects of Koorsen's operation including Corporate Engineering Department.

Mr White has achieved a NICET Level II- Special Hazards and has completed the FSSA Special Hazards Training Program as well as several programs as part of the National Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Program. He is on track to graduate this Spring with an Associate Degree in Fire Science from Purdue Global University.

Abstract

This presentation will explain what inert gas clean extinguishing agents are, how they extinguish fires, highlight design considerations for system installation. Included will be a case study regarding an inspection of a 48-cylinder inert gas system where piping and fittings were found to be improperly installed. The process of correcting while existing system still active and in place, meeting the customer, respective NFPA and manufacture requirements will be discussed. Highlighted will be the events of what transpired in the process of replacing the detection/control, refilling cylinders and system commissioning after re-design. Lastly, there will be discussion of how enclosure integrity influenced the system functionality.



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CO₂ Extinguishing Agent

Gary Holmes FPE

Director of Special Hazard and Alarm Systems
APS FireCo
Broken Arrow OK

Gary Holmes has taken a diversified path to APS FireCo and special hazards part of the fire protection industry, much of it involving product fire testing including with UL. Mr Holmes currently manages special hazard and fire alarm sales, design, and operations and is hands on performing calculations, layout and other functions to effect complete designs for fire alarm and clean agent, CO₂ and water mist special hazard suppression systems. Holmes is also responsible for managing corporate processes, optimizing them to ensure internal and external customer satisfaction, expense control and is accountable for attracting and retaining talent. Mr Holmes is married with two 'handful' children.

Abstract

The use of CO₂ special hazard fire suppression systems is one of the oldest methods of fire protection regularly used in modern times. Not surprising, as CO₂ is a reliable extinguishant. This presentation will discuss the basics of CO₂ fire suppression systems, based on the parameters outlined in NFPA 12; Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems published by the National Fire Protection Association. The presentation will include a synopsis of total flood applications and both Rate-by-Area and Rate-by-Volume local application. A case study will be used to illustrate to the participant the complexities of the technology.

