



Session 4A:

ASRS – Discussion on NFPA 13 2028 Edition

Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (ASRS) are a broad class of material handling and storage systems incorporating automation, robotics, dense storage configurations, and innovative storage methods. As with all emerging technologies, there is an inherent lag in the development of effective fire protection and fire prevention due to the lack of experience and understanding of the hazards and challenges associated with technology. There have been several notable fires involving ASRS facilities experienced globally such as the Amazon Distribution fire in Redlands, California in 2020, the Ocado Supermarket Automated Warehouse fire in Erith, UK in 2021, and the Canadian Tire fire in Toronto, Canada in 2023. This presentation will discuss the current state of ASRS facilities, trends in ASRS practices, and fire protection design schemes being utilized in practice.

Mark Hopkins

Summit Fire Protection



Mark Hopkins, P.E., FSFPE, Engineering Director and Industry Liaison with **Summit Fire Consulting**, is a registered Fire Protection Engineer with over 30 years of experience in the fire protection industry. Mark was previously Vice President of Engineering for the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

Mark has both B.S. ('92) and M.S. ('96) degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park in fire protection engineering. Mark has been a member of numerous NFPA technical committees, including but not limited to NFPA 13D, 13R, 13 (SSI, AAC, SSI, HBS, and SSD), 25, 30, 72, 101, 101A, 200, 232, 550, 551, 909, 914, and 5000. He is currently a member of the NFPA 13 SSI, 72 IDS, 200, and 30B technical committees. Mark is Chair of the NFPA Cultural Properties Committee which oversees NFPA 909 and 914.

Mark has authored many technical articles, newsletters, and other publications. Mark is an SFPE Fellow, a member-at-large of the SFPE International Board of Directors, and Immediate Past President of the SFPE Chesapeake Chapter. He is an IFSA alternate member of the NFSA's Engineering Committee. Mark is a Maryland State Fire Prevention Commissioner. Mark is an adjunct lecturer for the University of Maryland Department of Fire Protection Engineering.

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