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SFPE Greater Atlanta

Session 4C:
NFPA 72 Addressing Smoke Detectors Above 10 Feet

There has been confusion in design and code enforcement regarding what to do when smoke detectors are installed on ceilings higher than 10 ft. There is a need to understand the impacts of ceiling height and detector spacing and to develop standards. This session will review the current NFPA 72 requirements for smoke detector spacing, highlight the results of an NFPA Research Foundation project for detector spacing on high ceilings, present actions taken by the NFPA 72 technical committee for initiating devices and the next steps to develop the needed guidance.

Matt Lausch
Jensen Hughes

Matthew Lausch is a distinguished professional with over three decades of expertise in the fire protection industry, specializing in fire alarm and mass notification systems. As a Mid-Atlantic Operations Leader at Jensen Hughes, based at their world headquarters in Columbia, MD, Matthew brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the organization.

Throughout his career, Matthew has excelled in various aspects of fire safety, including people leadership and project management, cost estimation and system design, engineering and consulting, testing and commissioning of fire alarm and mass notification systems. A 1996 graduate of Penn State University, Matthew holds a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering degree. His commitment to professional development is evident through his Senior Engineering Technologist status and NICET Level IV certification in Fire Alarm Systems from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.

Matthew's industry involvement and leadership extend beyond his role at Jensen Hughes: active member of the Automatic Fire Alarm Association (AFAA), having served on their training committee, member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Principal Member of the NFPA 72 Technical Committee on Initiating Devices for Fire Alarm Signaling Systems. He is also a Life Member and Past Chief of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company in Manassas, Virginia. His expertise and insights have been recognized in the industry: presented a case study on the fire alarm system replacement at the National Air and Space Museum at the NFPA World Safety Conference & Exposition in Las Vegas (2008), published an article on visual notification in Consulting-Specifying Engineer (April 2023), speaker at the Automatic Fire Alarm Association 2023 Annual Fire Expo. Matthew's extensive experience, coupled with his ongoing contributions to the field, positions him as a leading authority in fire protection and life safety systems.