

State News for NSPE Members

Federal Infrastructure Bill to Provide Fire Defense Resources

So far this year, there have already been 614 wildland fires with 23 actively burning as of July 14, [MontanaRightNow.com reports](#).

As part of the recent bipartisan infrastructure law, President Biden announced new initiatives to support wildland firefighters and fire defense.

Federal wildland firefighters will receive a temporary pay increase, mental health and wellness support, and have more opportunity for growth through the establishment of a wildfire job series.

This support is specifically for federal firefighters, so it won't apply to firefighters with Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. However, according to the department, their 65 engines are fully staffed and they received a pay raise from the state earlier this year, so they'll start at \$15.50 an hour.

What this federal bill does mean for Montanans is there'll be increased funding available throughout the state for fire fighting, reducing risk of wildfires and improving the health of forests overall. [Read more](#).

Missoula Airport Receives \$11 Million in Federal Grant Funding

The Federal Aviation Administration yesterday announced nearly \$1 billion in grants to airports around the country (funded by last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill) and the Missoula Montana Airport is among the recipients. \$11 million in federal funding will help cover costs for the airport's ongoing terminal expansion and renovation project. The new south concourse opened on June 8, signifying the end of phase one of construction, according to a [Montana Public Radio report](#).

Airport Director Brian Ellestad says he expects demolition on the old terminal to ramp up in early August. "So this definitely helps our bank loans, so we won't have

to pull \$11 million worth of our bank loan, and then it gets us that much closer to being able to afford phase three."

Completing phases two and three will open two new jet bridges and ground gates and cost an estimated \$40 million. Other airports in western Montana also received grant funding, including \$2.8 million for Glacier Park International in Kalispell, \$1.9 million for Great Falls International, and \$1.5 million for Helena International.



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

Featured Jobs

[City Engineer](#)

Bozeman, MT

[Water Resources Engineering Group Leader](#)

Bozeman, MT

Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the [NSPE Job Board](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Missouri PE Takes the Lead of NSPE

Britt Smith P.E., F.NSPE, has started his term as NSPE's 2022–23 president. A formal installation ceremony will take place during the Professional Engineers Conference in Philadelphia on August 2.

"I can say honestly that I could not be more humbled to be the next president of NSPE," Smith stated during the recent House of Delegates General Assembly. "I



never dreamed that I would be in this position but knew that I wanted to just give back to the profession that has provided so much for me and my family.”

Smith is currently the operations division director for the City of Jefferson, where he manages all aspects of operations related to streets, parking, central maintenance, city facilities, and the airport, and leverages all available resources to accomplish the varying missions of each division. He also has experience as an engineering consultant and served in the US Army. Smith graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri – Rolla) with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering.

Since becoming a member of NSPE and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers in 1997, Smith has held many volunteer leadership positions with the Society including serving on the Committee on Policy and Advocacy, the Honors and Awards Committee, the Delivery System, Communication, and Technology Task Force, and as Missouri’s representative to the House of Delegates. Smith was named an NSPE Fellow in 2016. In Missouri, he served in a variety of chapter and state-level leadership positions, including as the 2011-2012 state president and president of the Jefferson City Chapter in 2001.

A strong dedication to volunteering also extends into Smith’s local community where he is involved with the United Way of Central Missouri and as a counselor for the Jefferson City Marriage Encounter. He has previously dedicated many years to the local Boy Scouts troop and as a volunteer baseball/softball coach.

Reconnect at NSPECon 2022

Attendance at [NSPECon 2022](#) in Philadelphia, August 1-3, is the best opportunity to engage and learn with your colleagues. The conference features multiple education tracks in leadership, trends in the industry, and career development. [Registration is open until July 28.](#)

Featured Keynote Speaker



Commander Mary Kelly, US Navy (Ret.), Ph.D., CSP, CPAE, will present “6-5-7: The 6 Stages of Any Crisis, Challenge, or Change, the 5 Steps to P.I.V.O.T. for Success, and 7 Leadership Reminders To Lead Through It.” Registered attendees will receive exclusive access to an online vault full of bonus resources from Commander Kelly.

Conference Session Highlights

- [You Want Me to Lead WHO to do WHAT? Lessons from the Frontlines of Engineering Leadership](#)
- [Reliability and Resilience of Energy Systems under Extreme Weather Events](#)
- [Generation Next: Engaging Multi-Generational Engineers](#)
- [Defending the License](#)
- [Career Development in Practice, Not Theory](#)
- [PE Day Luncheon & Panel Discussion: Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century](#)

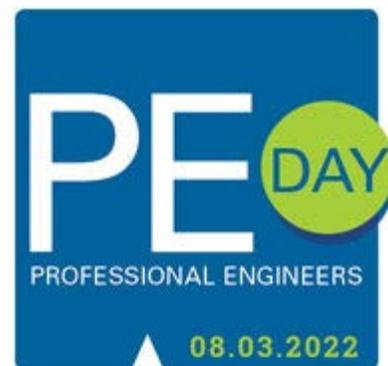
[Access the full NSPECon program.](#)

PE Day is Coming!

Celebrate licensure and the profession with PEs around the world on Wednesday, August 3, during the seventh annual [Professional Engineers Day](#)! Whether you plan to celebrate PE Day at home, in the office, or with your peers at the NSPECon 2022 in Philadelphia, you can show off your PE pride by sporting some PE Day logo wear for this year’s event.

NSPE’s [apparel shop](#) features the PE Day logo on a variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases.

[Shop now to celebrate in style!](#)



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