Conference Program

All Times are in Eastern Time (ET) ***Program is subject to change***

SFPE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO ATLANTA

SFPE 2026 Annual Conference & Expo

Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), the world's leading professional society for fire protection and fire safety engineering, welcomes you to the SFPE Annual Conference & Expo, being held in Atlanta, GA, from October 6-8, 2026.

Participate in two days of live education spotlighting the latest trends, research, solutions for emerging challenges, and technologies transforming the fire protection engineering profession. Join industry experts and enjoy many networking opportunities to connect with your peers. Exhibitors will showcase the latest technologies, products and services currently offered within the industry.

Registration
Imperial Registration (Marquis Level)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026	12:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 7, 2026	7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 8, 2026	7:30 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Expo Hall Hours
International Hall (International Level)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 7, 2026	9:35 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 8, 2026	10:10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Pre-Conference

Monday, October 5, 2026

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	**Fire Ops 101: A Hands-On Technical Experience** *Registration Closed (Wait List Only)* Ever wondered how firefighters actually use the systems you design? Join us for an immersive, hands-on training experience where participants will work alongside fire service professionals to gain insight into firefighting operations. This unique event is designed to bridge the gap between fire protection system design and real-world operations, providing a valuable perspective that can directly inform engineering decisions and interactions with fire service.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

12:30 – 3 p.m. *Imperial Salon A* *(Marquis Level)*	**Chapter Leadership Forum and ACE Awards** This workshop is designed for current and future chapter leaders to connect, network and enhance their communication and leadership skills. SFPE will also recognize SFPE Chapters that demonstrated excellence in contributing to the needs of their members and the Society in the past year.
1 – 3 p.m. *Intl. Salon C* *(International Level)*	**Pre-Conference Seminar: SFPE Ethics Series and Peer Review for Fire Protection Engineers** This seminar covers ethics for fire protection engineers, provides an overview of ethics, and explains how engineering practice relates to ethics. It will also explain the ethical obligations of an engineer, the SFPE Code of Ethics, and typical ethical challenges faced in the field. There will also be an exploration of the practices and principles involved in the independent evaluation of engineering work products. All registered attendees will also receive access to the SFPE online on-demand course on this topic and earn a separate Certificate of Attendance for the course. (Registration Required) Instructors: Carl F. Baldassarra, PE, FSFPE, and Ray Grill, P.E., LEED AP, FSFPE **$**
3 – 3:30 p.m. *Imperial Foyer*	**NETWORKING BREAK: ICE-CREAM SOCIAL** ***(Open to All Attendees)***
3:30 – 5 p.m. *Imperial Salon A*	**Pre-conference Session** ***James Milke, PhD, PE, FSFPE: Smoke Control Challenges in Tall Atria (Open to All Attendees)*** When the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta was opened in 1985, the atrium was iconic, being one of the highlights of the property. A smoke exhaust system for the atrium and stairwell pressurization was included in the design of the building. These types of systems, now commonplace in such buildings of this type and size, were relatively new developments in the 1980's. Atrium smoke management has changed appreciably over the last 40 years. This presentation will review the changes in the engineering design of atrium smoke management systems. The review will describe how those changes provide opportunities to link the smoke management design with design goals related to the risk profile for these spaces. ***(Open to All Attendees)***
5 - 7 p.m. *International Hall*	**President's Welcome Reception and Expo Opening** ***(Open to All Attendees)*** *Generously Supported by* SAFE

Conference Program

All Times are in Eastern Time (ET) ***Program is subject to change***

SFPE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO ATLANTA

SFPE 2026 Annual Conference – Day 1

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

7:00 – 7:55 a.m.	**SFPE Corporate 100 Partners Networking Forum *(Invitation Only)***
8:00 – 8:20 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**Opening Session** ***Welcome Remarks: Shamim Rashid-Sumar, PE, FSFPE, SFPE President & Chris Jelenewicz, PE, FSFPE, SFPE Chief Executive Officer*** **SFPE 2026 Awards Ceremony:** **SFPE Bryan Mentoring Award:** Elizabeth J. Weckman, PEng, University of Waterloo **SFPE Ahern Award:** Beth Tubbs, PE, FSFPE, International Code Council **SFPE Jensen Award for Committee Service:** Stephen Dale, PE, CFPS, ARM, Cincinnati Insurance Companies **SFPE Lund Award for Professional Recognition:** Patrick van Hees, PhD, Lund University
8:20 – 9:05 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**Opening Keynote: Engineering the Next Alarm: Futures, Trends, and a Shared Playbook for a City That Is Growing Up—Fast** ***Chief Roderick M. Smith, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department***
9:05 – 9:35 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session: Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems** ***David Rhodes, VP Education FDIC / Group Editor Clarion Fire Rescue Editor in Chief Fire Engineering*** Standpipes bring water for firefighting throughout buildings however the firefighter air supply is limited to a small cylinder of air carried on their back that only last 15-20 minutes. Moving spare air cylinders require additional dedicated personnel and time to bring to the fire floor. Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems work just like a water standpipe and allow firefighters to quickly refill their air cylinders in the protected stairwells. This technology keeps the firefighters in the fight without losing critical situational awareness and a constant rotation of crews. For engineers, these systems introduce important considerations around pressure regulation, material compatibility, redundancy, and integration with existing life-safety systems, ultimately enhancing building resilience and supporting more efficient emergency response.
9:35 – 10:05 a.m. *International Hall*	**NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL**

Breakout Tracks (30 minutes)

	Track A **Industrial/ Infrastructure** *Imperial Salon B*	Track B **Smoke Control/ Performance-based Design** *Imperial Salon A*	Track C **Adaptive Reuse/ Retrofits** *International Salon 2*	Track D **Sponsored** *International Salon 1*
10:05 – 10:35 a.m.	John LeBlanc, FSFPE, FM: **Identifying and Mitigating Explosion Hazards in Buildings, an Insurance Perspective**	Pierce Lushinsky, PE & Adam Reis, PE, Summit Fire Consulting: **Design and Commissioning Challenges of Elevator Pressurization Systems: Improving Coordination and Performance**	Virginia Charter, PhD, PE, FSFPE & Haejun Park, PhD, PE, Oklahoma State University: **Design Considerations for Sprinkler Retrofits: An Evaluation of Limited Area Sprinkler Systems by Large-scale Burn Tests**	Max McLeod, Director National Business Development, Siemens Industry, Inc. SI Buildings Division: **Digitalization as a Positive Disruptor in Fire Protection Design** SIEMENS
10:40 – 11:10 a.m.	Jack Poole, PE, FSFPE, Poole Fire Protection: **Fire Protection and Hazard Mitigation Analysis for Mission Critical Facilities**	Madison Di Vico, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger: **Selecting Critical Fire Scenarios For Cantilevered Buildings**	Karl Wallasch, Dip.-Ing. CEng, MIFireE, PMSFPE, & David Bostelmann, MEng (Hons) CEng MIFireE, Trigon Fire Safety: **Challenges and Benefits of a Fire Safety Portfolio Approach**	Scot Robertson, President/ CEO, Safe Fire Detection: **Early Detection of Lithium-Ion Battery Failure in Energy Storage Systems** SAFE
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Andrew Grenier, PE, FSFPE, & RJ Petrey, Coffman Engineers, Inc.: **Fire Protection and Life Safety Analysis of an Existing Roadway Tunnel**	Shannon Alvarez & David Stacy, PE, Summit Fire Consulting: **Analysis of Stage Smoke Control Requirements: Evaluating the IBC Vent Area Approach Through FDS**	Warren Bonisch, PE, FSFPE & Adriana Alvarado, WJE Fire & Life Safety: **Rehabilitation of 40-Year-Old Super High Rise**	Steven Redden, SET, Regional Sales Manager, Fire: **Self-Regulating Variable Speed Fire Pump Units** ARMSTRONG

Conference Program

All Times are in Eastern Time (ET) ***Program is subject to change***

SFPE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO ATLANTA

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (cont.)

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. *International Hall*	**NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO HALL**
1:15 – 1:30 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** **SFPE 2026 Awards Ceremony** ***Presented by Raymond B. Bizal, PE, FSFPE, Chair, SFPE Awards Subcommittee*** **Lucht Award for Contributions to Education:** Virginia R. Charter, PhD, PE, FSFPE, Oklahoma State University **Trailblazer Award:** Noah L. Ryder, PhD, Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC **Spotlight Awards:** Simón Santamaria MSc, PhD, CEng, MIFireE, Stantec Consulting; Daniel Gorham, P.E., PMSFPE, UL FSRI
1:30 – 2:00 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session: Beyond the Consensus Process: The Evolving Landscape of Single-Exit Stairway Multifamily Code Development** ★ TOP ABSTRACT AWARD ★ ***Nicholas E. Ozog, PE, PMSFPE, MS, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. & Kyle Christiansen, PE, PMSFPE, Senez Co.*** States and jurisdictions are addressing outside pressures and public comment code changes in different ways. Without passing judgment on a preferred approach, we will present our findings of a comparative review of North American building code requirements for single-exit stairway (SES) multi-family dwelling unit (MFD) buildings in the context of how they came to be. For additional context some governments are addressing code changes specific to SES MFD by making legislative changes outside the typical consensus code development process; while others like the State of Minnesota are commissioning studies to evaluate both the current 'level of safety' in their codes to provide comparative context for any proposed amendments. Since no building can be considered 100 percent safe the decision makers need to make societal risk decisions when amending codes, whether through legislation or an established code development process. Through the SES MFD context, this presentation will show the different adopted code language of these methods and how a data supported risk informed approach (RIA) can provide decision makers with additional information and context.

Breakout Tracks (30 minutes)

	Track A **Case Studies/Carparks** *Imperial Salon B*	**Track B** **Cladding/PBD** *Imperial Salon A*	**Track C** **SFPE/Modeling** *International Salon 2*	**Track D** **Sponsored** *International Salon 1*
2:10 – 2:40 p.m.	Paulina Mejia, & Amelia Pludow, PhD, Jensen Hughes: **Integrating Stakeholder Engagement into WUI Fire Engineering: A Regional CWPP Case Study from the San Gabriel Valley, Los Angeles County, California**	Gaurav Agarwal, PhD, & Timothee Rodrique, PE, FM: **Fire Performance of BIPV Façades and the Impact of Passive Protection Systems**	Michael Crowley,PE, FSFPE & Robert Libby, PE, FSFPE: **From 1951 to Now- Has SFPE Made a Difference? SFPE Major Contributions in the Past 75 years.**	Melisa Rodriguez, PE, SET, PMSFPE, Sr Manager, Industry Relations: **A Guide for FPE's when Specifying Breathing Air Replenishment Systems** Johnson Controls
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Justin Fletcher, PE & Warren Bonisch, PE, FSFPE,Wiss Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.: **EV Charging Station Retrofits in Existing Buildings: Lessons from a Fire and Life Safety Case Study**	Haonan Chen, PhD Student, University of Science and Technology of China: **Large-scale Experimental Investigation of Fire Spread between Floors with Glass Façade**	Oliva Hunt MS, EIT, Jensen Hughes: **Estimating the Heat Transfer from an Electric Vehicle Fire using Fire Dynamics Simulator**	Mark R. Anderson, CET, GROL, Industry Affairs Leader: **Innovations in Aspirating Smoke Detection** KIDDE COMMERCIAL
3:20 – 3:50 p.m.	Jonathan Hodges, PhD, PMSFPE, UL Research Institutes FSRI & Christian Rippe, PhD, PE, Jensen Hughes: **Probabilistic Evaluation of the Structural Consequences of Multi-Vehicle Fires in Carparks**	Sahar Dorosti: **Performance Optimization of Foam Fire Suppression Configurations for Industrial Solvent Extraction Operations**	Tao Lai: **Catastrophe and Risk Solutions: Physics-Based, Extensively Validated Modeling of Large-Scale Urban Fire Spread in the United States**	Liam Arstall, Head of Product Marketing: **Specialist Fire Detection in Warehousing & Logistics: Matching the Technology to the Risk** FFE Specialist fire detection

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (cont.)

3:50 – 4:30 p.m. *International Hall*	**NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL & POSTER PRESENTATIONS**
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** ***Moderator: Melisa Rodriguez, PE, SET*** **Panelists: Ross Bestgen, Api Group / Western States Fire Protection; Rachel Brodie, PE, Amazon Web Services (AWS); Chris Downing, Johnson Controls; Brian Ferguson, Deputy Fire Marshal, Battalion Chief, Prince William County VA, Dept. of Fire and Rescue; Robert O'Neill, PE, kW Mission Critical Engineering; Donna Settle, PE, Gallagher** **Panel Discussion – *Evolving Fire Protection Strategies for Modern Data Centers*** As data centers continue to grow in scale, complexity, and power density, fire protection approaches are evolving to meet new operational and reliability challenges. This panel will bring together representatives from across the fire protection industry to discuss current trends, lessons learned, and emerging strategies for protecting mission critical facilities. Topics will include suppression system selection, lithium-ion battery considerations, high-density computing environments, water usage concerns, detection technologies, and balancing life safety with business continuity. Attendees will gain practical insights into how the industry is adapting to support the next generation of data center design and operation.
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** ***SFPE 2026 Fellows Award Presentations*** **Kevin L. Biando, PE, FSFPE,** The Biando Group, LLC **W.C. (Chuck) Boyte, MS, PE, CFPS, FSFPE,** Sompo International **Dr. Danny Hopkin, MEng, EngD, CEng, FIFireE, FIMechE, FSFPE,** OFR Consultants **Shaun Kelly, P.Eng., CEng, IntPE, EUR ING, FSFPE,** Arencon Inc. **Alana MacLellan-Bonnell, MScFPE, P.Eng.,** Jensen Hughes **Nicholas E. Ozog, PE, FSFPE,** Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc. **Michael Strömgren, MSc, BSc, FSFPE,** Bricon **Dr. Arnaud Trouvé, FSFPE,** University of Maryland **Steven Venditti, PE, FSFPE,** Sparc Fire Protection **Mr. Craig M. Vesely, PE, CET, FSFPE,** Affiliated Engineers, Inc
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Skyline North (Level 10)*	**SFPE Fellows' and Awardees' Reception *(Open to All Attendees)***



Conference Program

All Times are in Eastern Time (ET) ***Program is subject to change***

SFPE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO ATLANTA

Thursday, October 8, 2026

8:00 – 8:15 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**Welcome & SFPE Foundation Awards** **Frederick W. Mowrer Global Scholar Award:** Mahadev (Dev) Rokade, PhD Student, University of Edinburgh **Student Scholar Awards:** Maria Binte Mannan, PhD Candidate, University of Maryland; Tadele Mekuriaw Getu, PhD Candidate, Queen's University **The Dr. Guylène Proulx, OC Scholarship:** Gulsah Atas, PhD Student, RMIT University **The Jack Bono Award for Engineering Communication:** Jason Floyd, Ph.D., FSFPE , and Jonathan Hodges, Ph.D., UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute **The Arthur B. Guise Medal:** Elizabeth Weckman, PhD, PEng, Professor, University of Waterloo
8:15 – 8:50 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session*: 2026 Guise Medal Winner Keynote*** ***Beth Weckman, PEng, University of Waterloo: Bridging Science and Practice: Advancing Fire Safety Engineering Through Interdisciplinary Research*** Modern fire safety engineering requires an interdisciplinary approach to address increasingly complex global risks from wildfires and new technology. Fundamental investigations spanning laboratory to full-scale experiments strengthen the scientific foundations of fire protection engineering through improved understanding of fire growth, smoke and hot gas transport, material flammability, compartment fire dynamics, and fire behaviour under realistic conditions. Transforming these scientific discoveries into workable, evidence-based solutions; however, requires open communication and strong partnerships amongst fire scientists and engineers, social scientists and health researchers, policymakers and the fire service. By connecting fundamental research with operational experience and community needs, interdisciplinary collaboration creates new opportunities for evidence-based solutions that enhance training, emergency response, risk management, and public safety. This presentation outlines how integrated research efforts can bridge disciplinary boundaries to accelerate innovation and strengthen fire resilience. The outlook is both ambitious and optimistic: a future in which interdisciplinary research drives transformative advances in fire safety engineering and enables innovative, performance-based strategies to reduce fire risk while protecting people, property, critical infrastructure, and the environment.
8:50 – 9:30 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** **A Fire-Safe World for All: Celebrating Your Impact at the SFPE Foundation** ***Maria B. Marks, CFPS, SET, Lisa VanBuskirk, PE, Amanda Tarbet, MSLS*** Building a fire-safe world for all starts with your support. This session is dedicated to recognizing our major individual, industry, and chapter donors while showcasing the tangible results of your contributions. Join us for an inspiring look at your impact on our latest research, education, and outreach efforts, highlighting the Grand Challenges Initiative, the 2026 WUI Fire Engineering Summit, and our most recently completed projects and ongoing works-in-progress.
9:30 – 10:00 a.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** **Narrowing the Gap: Smaller Aisles and Flue Spaces Under Taller Ceilings** ***Phil Friday, PE, FSFPE, The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co. Inc.*** Advances in ceiling-only protection for storage of plastic commodities continues to evolve. This presentation will provide an update to what is state-of-the-art in this important area of fire protection. Although warehouses continue to become more expansive, height is often limited by available ceiling-only Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) fire sprinkler protection options. In addition, end-users and developers desire the ability to maximize available storage space inside the building. This presentation explores how the selection of ceiling-level automatic fire sprinkler systems directly influences peak roof deck height, clear height, maximum allowable storage height and overall volumetric storage capacity in warehouse occupancies. Special attention will be given to ESFR (Early Suppression Fast Response) sprinkler systems, which are often the key to unlocking the highest storage potential without the need for in-rack sprinklers. Attendees will gain practical insights into how strategic sprinkler system choices can optimize fire protection while maximizing usable space—all while complying with currently published installation standards.

Thursday, October 8, 2026 (cont.)

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
International Hall

NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL

Breakout Tracks (30 minutes)

	Track A **Emerging Technologies** *Imperial Salon B*	**Track B** **Structural Fire Engineering** *Imperial Salon A*	**Track C** **SFPE Foundation** *International Salon 2*	**Track D** **Sponsored** *International Salon 1*
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Juan Cuevas R, PhD, FM: **Thermal Runaway and Fire Dynamics in Lithium-Ion BESS: A Multi-Scale Experimental Study**	Tyler Dallas, EIT, & Ata Anvari, PhD, PE, Wiss Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.: **Old Buildings, New Tricks: Structural Fire Engineering in Existing Buildings**	Jason Floyd, Ph.D., FSFPE, and Jonathan Hodges, Ph.D., UL Research Institutes': **Spyro - A Cone Calorimeter Scaling Pyrolysis Model for Predicting Fire Growth and Spread** *Supported by the SFPE Foundation*	Zack Devine, Application Manager, & Jarell Sheffield, AHJ & Market Development Manager: **A Blueprint for Two-Way Emergency Communication: From Code Trigger to System Acceptance** RATH by AVIRE
11:20 – 11:50 a.m.	Haejun Park PhD, PE, & Ruiqing Shen, PhD, Oklahoma State University: **Assessment of Fire Risk and Extinguishment Protocol of Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in Commercial Aircraft**	Young-Geun You, PE, PhD, UL Solutions: **Effect of Wood Species on Charring Rate and Firestop System Performance in Cross-Laminated Timber Assemblies**	Daniel Gorham, PE, Fire Safety Research Institute & Lisa VanBuskirk, PE: **WUI Fire Engineering: Updates from SFPE Foundation & Partners**	Jeff Merwin, Director of Business Development: **The Newest "Must Specify" Technology and New Twists on Corrosion Mitigation Technologies** POTTER The Symbol of Protection
11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Christian Vogt, MS, UL Fire Safety Research Institute: **Performance and Fire Risk of Overpack Materials for Defective, Damaged and Recalled Lithium-Ion Batteries**	Zishanul Hussain, PhD Student, University of Maryland, Code Consultants Inc.: **Conditions Governing Self-Sustained Smoldering of Timber in Wall Corners of Compartment Fires**	David Icove, PhD, University of Tennessee – Knoxville and Co-Chair, GCI DAIC Working Group: **A Fire Protection Engineer's Role in Fire Investigations: Past, Present, and Future**	Chris Wesner, President & CEO: **TITANUS REX - A new Era of Aspirating Smoke Detection** WAGNER® BETTER SOLUTIONS IN FIRE PROTECTION

12:25 – 1:30 p.m.
International Hall

NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO HALL

1:30 – 1:50 p.m.
Imperial Salon B

General Session

5 under 35 Award Winners Presentations

Ahmed F. Alrashdi, Saudi Aramco
Saleel Anthrathodiyil, P.E., CFPS, PMSFPE, MIFireE, Telgian Engineering & Consulting
Paul Horne, PhD, University of Canterbury
Alexandra Schraiber, PMSFPE, UL
Ruiqing Shen, Ph.D., Oklahoma State University

Thursday, October 8, 2026 (cont.)

1:50 – 2:50 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**General Session** **Panel Discussion: Fire Protection Strategies for Retail & Big Box Occupancies** ***Moderator: Andrew Valente, PE, FSFPE*** **Panelists: Tracey Bellamy, CFPS, PE, Chief Engineering Officer, Telgian Engineering and Consulting; Nicholas A. Dawe, Division Chief / Fire Marshal, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services; Mark Hopkins, PE, FSFPE, Engineering Director, Summit Fire Consulting; Michael Joanis, PE, Chief Operating Officer, NFSA** Retail and big-box stores present a uniquely challenging fire protection environment—massive floor plates, high ceilings, dense and varied commodity storage, complex egress patterns, and ever-changing layouts driven by merchandising demands. This panel brings together experts to examine how these factors intersect and what it takes to design, evaluate, and maintain effective fire protection systems in these dynamic spaces.
2:50 – 3:10 p.m. *Imperial Foyer*	**NETWORKING BREAK**

Breakout Tracks (30 minutes)

	Track A **Fire Safety Systems - Industrial** *Imperial Salon B*	**Track B** **Human Behavior** *Imperial Salon A*	**Track C** **Fire Safety Topics** *International Salon 2*	**Track D** **SFPE Resources** *International Salon 1*
3:10 – 3:40 p.m.	Mark Hopkins, PE, FSFPE, Summit National Fire Consulting & Mark Anderson, Edwards/ Kidde Commercial: **Detection for Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems**	Raeshawn Kennedy, PE, Goodhead Consulting Engineers: **The Influence of Geographic Location and Building Typology on Movement Evacuation Times in Computational Simulation Modeling**	Shangkun Jiang, University of Florida: **Wildfire Evacuation Analysis Using Facebook Data: Evidence from Palisades and Eaton Fires**	Jonathan Hodges, PhD & Joshua Reichert, PE: **Research, Tools, and Methods Standing Committee Update**
3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	John Owens, PE, Cedar Ridge Science Consulting, LLC & Nicholas Johnson, Standard Fluids Corporation: **"PFAS" Doesn't Always Mean What You Think It Means: A Fluorochemical Engineer's Perspective**	Bryan Hoskins PE, PhD, Oklahoma State University: **Movement Speeds for Different Stair Geometries**	Michael Drury PE, PhD, AISC: **Structural Insights for the Design of Passive Fire Protection in Steel-Framed Buildings**	Jimmy Jönsson, PE, FSFPE: **On-demand Principles of Fire Protection Engineering Course Introduction**
4:20 – 4:50 p.m.	Joseph McIntyre, PE, PhD: **Fire Detection in Industrial Peanut and Cottonseed Warehouses: Determining Pre-combustion and Combustion Gas Species and Measuring Gas Flow Dynamics in Scale Model Warehouses**	Federico Latosinski, PhD Student - Professor, National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco: **Trusted Messengers and Affiliative Behaviour Shape Evacuation Decisions of Hospital Companions**	Brian O'Connor PE, PMSFPE, NFPA: **NFPA 800: A Lifecycle Approach to Battery Safety**	Randy Day, PE & John Frank, PE, FSFPE: **SFPE PE Exam Review Course and Resources**

Thursday, October 8, 2026 (cont.)

4:55 – 5:25 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**Closing Keynote** ***Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, Former U.S. Fire Administrator, Principal Fire Safety Strategist, UL Research Institutes*** **Telemetry and Tolerance - What Formula 1 Teaches Fire Protection Engineering About Deciding with Data** Fire protection engineering rests on data: design fires, heat release rates, occupant movement assumptions, sprinkler response indices, reliability factors. Yet much of that empirical foundation was established decades ago, under fuel loads, construction methods, and occupancy patterns that no longer exist. Our models have grown more sophisticated. The evidence beneath them has not kept pace. Formula 1 (Racing) confronted the same problem and answered it with instrumentation. Hundreds of onboard sensors stream telemetry every lap, and mandatory accident data recorders capture the physics of every impact. Forces once estimated are now measured, and each measurement feeds the next generation of chassis design, barrier standards, and regulation. The result is a closed feedback loop between real-world performance data and engineering standards — and a sport that has reduced driver fatalities to two in three decades. This closing keynote applies that model to fire protection engineering. Former U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell examines the correlation gap in our own practice: the distance between what our models predict and what instrumented fire research and modern incident data actually demonstrate. She reviews what changed when NERIS replaced NFIRS as the national incident data foundation, what recent full-scale fire dynamics research means for design assumptions still embedded in code, and how building sensor networks, digital twins, and AI-assisted modeling are moving performance-based design from static prediction toward continuous validation. Fire protection engineers hold the technical authority to define what evidence is sufficient. The question is whether the discipline will instrument itself — or continue to certify safety against data it can no longer defend.
5:25 – 5:30 p.m. *Imperial Salon B*	**Invitation to 2027 Annual Conference in Minneapolis** ***SFPE President and a SFPE Minnesota Chapter Representative, Melisa Rodriguez, PE, SET***



Last Updated 10/1/2026.