

## *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering*

This first issue of the *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering* heralds a new chapter in the technical development of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. For much of the history of the Society, we lacked formal documentation of the basis of our profession through technical publications. Then, from 1974 to 1988 SFPE technical reports were issued to communicate technical information to the membership. Recently, technical papers began to appear in the SFPE bulletin.

While these efforts were important steps, the recent publication of the *SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering* is a major milestone in defining the technical basis of our profession. For the first time, a single volume describes the full breadth of our technical knowledge of fire and fire protection engineering. The value of the handbook is already clear and approaches available to further improve future editions are also becoming clear.

Because our knowledge base continues to grow, there is an ongoing need to communicate developments in fire protection engineering to the members of SFPE. This led the Publications Committee to propose to the Board of Directors that an archival, peer reviewed journal be established. Through the *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering*, new developments in fire protection engineering will be reported to the membership in a timely way with material from the journal ultimately finding its way into future editions of the *SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering*. The SFPE is making major strides in developing and documenting the technical basis of our profession and the *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering* is an important component of this process.

There are many fire research journals in existence already; some argue too many. As such one may question the need for yet another journal. The uniqueness and value of the *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering* lies in the audience that it serves. Of all the fire research journals in existence today, this is the only journal specifically dedicated to communicating with practicing fire protection engineers. For the most part, other journals are written by researchers to communicate with other researchers. The *Journal of Fire Protection Engineering* will publish papers which report the results of work which has progressed to the stage where the results of the work can be used to solve fire protection engineering problems. The papers will include research results, review papers, and applications of the state-of-the-art technical methods to the solution of fire protection engineering problems.

Original contributions to the journal are invited. See the inside back cover for instructions to authors.

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Editor