

Conference Program

All Times are in Pacific Time (PT) Program is subject to change



The 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 Vancouver, BC, Canada, from October 21-23, 2025. 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

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2025 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

EXPO HALL HOURS

Tuesday 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:35 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 10:15 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.

SFPE Pre-Conference

Monday, October 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-conference Seminar: Sprinkler Design for Engineers (Day 1 of 2) Instructors: Scott A. Futrell, PE, FSPPE; Kevin Hall, M.Eng., PE The course is designed to provide participants with the tools needed to design and install fire sprinkler systems in accordance with building and fire codes. The course will cover introductory aspects that are essential for engineers who are new to sprinkler system design, classification of the hazards and commodities to be protected, confirmation of the hydraulic data and preliminary hydraulic design, and preparation of design documentation. In addition, more advanced topics such as application of new technologies, protection of high-piled storage, and computer generated hydraulic calculations is also included. (A separate registration is required. For more information, visit our website .)
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Tuesday, October 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	SFPE Pre-conference Seminar: Sprinkler Design for Engineers (Day 2 of 2)
9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.	SFPE Foundation Pre-conference Workshop: Advanced WUI Training for the U.S. Fire Service (Day 1 of 1)
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Guided Technical Tour: False Creek Pumping Station Conference attendees are invited to explore the False Creek Pumping Station; a truly unique facility modeled after San Francisco's emergency water system and unparalleled anywhere else in the world. This tour provides an inside look at Vancouver's Dedicated Fire Protection System (DFPS)- a robust network of high-capacity pumps, underground piping, and a strategically located reservoir designed exclusively to respond to major earthquakes and catastrophic incidents. Visitors will have a rare opportunity to engage directly with the professionals who operate the system and tour the interior of the station. (Limited capacity. Registration Required.)
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Guided Tour: Vancouver Fire Hall No. 1 – Strathcona Step into the heart of Vancouver Fire Rescue Services at Firehall 1, the central hub that drives operational excellence across the city. During this tour, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with on-duty crews, fire investigators, and the department's information officer for a behind-the-scenes look at current fire trends, incident response strategies, and the infrastructure that supports frontline operations. (Limited Capacity. Registration Required.)
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	NETWORKING BREAK: ICE-CREAM SOCIAL (Open to All Attendees)
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.	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.
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	President's Welcome Reception and Expo Opening (Open to All Attendees)

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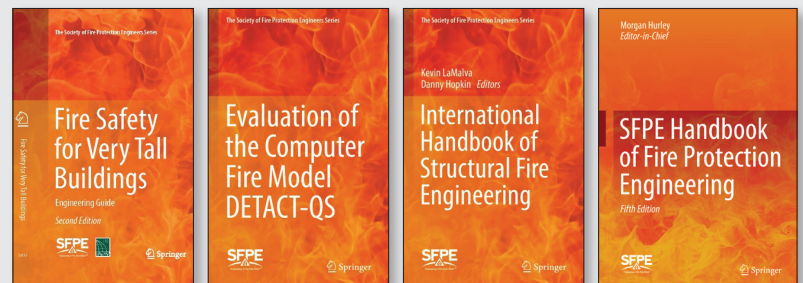
SFPE 2025 Annual Conference – Day 1

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.	<p>Opening Session Welcome Remarks SFPE 2025 Awards Ceremony SFPE Bryan Mentoring Award: Timothy A. DeRuyscher, PE, FSFPE, RAN Fire Protection Engineering, PC SFPE Ahearn President's Award: Kieran Ager, MSc, P.Eng, CP, CEng, MIFireE PMSFPE, CFPS, LMDG, & Shaun Kelly, P.Eng., CEng, IntPE, EUR ING, PMSFPE, Arencon Inc. SFPE Lund Award for Professional Recognition: Wojciech Węgrzyński, Prof., Instytut Techniki Budowlanej (ITB) SFPE Nelson Award for Inspired Service: Adam M. Barowy, PMSFPE, UL FSRI</p>
8:20 – 9:05 a.m.	<p>Opening Keynote Karen Fry, Fire Chief/General Manager, City of Vancouver The Future of Firefighting in Vancouver – Challenges and Innovations The City of Vancouver is situated on the Burrard Peninsula and is bounded by water to the north, south and west sides of the City. It is in a high seismic/earthquake zone with no major freeway infrastructure through the City. Mandatory sprinklers in all buildings have been implemented in the City since 1990. Chief Karen Fry has been leading the multifaceted Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, in Canada's third largest city, since 2021. From marine and tactical rescue to medical response and complex firefighting response, Chief Fry is at the forefront of technology, focused on firefighter health and modernizing equipment, and leading through innovation and adaptation to the demands of the firefighting profession. She will be presenting on the challenges and innovations in preparing Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services for the future.</p>
9:05 – 9:35 a.m.	<p>General Session Kristel Derkowski, MEDES, Manager of Research and Development, Taylor Architecture Group When National Codes Meet Northern Communities: The National Building Code of Canada and its companion codes are developed within a series of assumptions about the context in which they will be applied. What happens when these assumptions do not apply? This session will present findings from Taylor Architecture Group (TAG)'s original research on the gaps and misalignments that emerge when applying national model codes to facility design for northern and remote communities. In several instances, and particularly in the area of fire protection, viable and appropriate solutions for the far North are not offered by code. The transplanting of acceptable solutions from 'southern' Canada into a drastically different context can yield unexpected – and sometimes problematic – outcomes, for buildings and for residents in northern remote communities. In a region where resources and systems cannot be taken for granted, designers and regulators need to work with a discerning perspective on the question of acceptable risk</p>

9:35 – 10:05 a.m. **NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL**

NEW SFPE Series Available Now!
Exclusive for SFPE Members:
40% Off All Springer Titles



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Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (cont.)

Breakout Tracks

	Track A Building Design	Track B Industrial Risks	Track C WUI	Track D Sponsored
10:05 – 10:35 a.m.	Morgan Hurley, PE, FSFPE, Senez Consulting, Inc.: The Foundry – A Case Study in Resolving Challenges Associated with Adaptive Reuse of a High-Rise Office Building	Dong Han, PhD, AVP, Lead Research Scientist & Weston C. Baker, Jr., Senior Engineering Technical Specialist, FM: Hazards and Protection of Open-Top Combustible Containers	Gregory Baxter, Senior Researcher, FPIInnovations: Findings from the Grouse Complex Wildland-Urban Post-fire Case Study and Future Work	
10:40 – 11:10 a.m.	Rachel Kirk, PE, WPI, Summit Fire Consulting: Examining Time to Failure of Tenability Criteria in Residential Buildings with One vs. Two Exit Stairs Using Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS)	John Cholin, PE, FSFPE, Principal, J.M.Cholin Consultants, Inc.: Assessing Thermal Hazard to Personnel in Combustible Particulate Solid (Dust) Processing Facilities	Invited Speakers: Francisco Joglar & Genevieve Tan & Jonathan Hodges: Application of SFPE Guide to Fire Risk Assessment to Utility Wildfire Risk Mitigation	
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Nicholas Ozog, PE, WJE Associates & Kyle Christiansen, PE, Crux Consulting & Greg Metz, State of Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry: Data Behind the Single Stair Discussion	Haavard Boehmer, PE, Summit Fire Consulting: Computational Fire Modeling of Jet Fuel Spill Fires in Aircraft Hangars	Ryan Honary, SensoRy AI - UCLA: An AI-Enabled Fluid Dynamics Based Approach for the Detection of a Wildfire in its Incipient Stage	

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO HALL

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	General Session SFPE 2025 Awards Ceremony Jensen Award for Committee Service: William E. Koffel, PE, FSFPE, Koffel Associates, Inc. Lucht Award for Contributions to Education: Prof Richard S. Walls, Stellenbosch University Trailblazer Award: Jake A. Pauls, PMSFPE, Jake Pauls Consulting Services Spotlight Award: Craig E. Hofmeister, PE, FSFPE, LEED AP®, The Fire Consultants, Inc.; Francis J. Ellis Jr., National Fire Sprinkler Association; Kieran Ager, MSc, P.Eng, CP, CEng, MIFireE PMSFPE, CFPS, LMDG Fire Protection Person of the Year: Nicole Hollywood, M.Ed, University of Maryland
1:15 – 1:40 p.m.	General Session 5 under 35 Award Winners Presentations Brian O'Connor, PE, PMSFPE, NFPA Charlie Hopkin, PhD, PMSFPE, Ashton Fire Christopher Wicker, PE, PMSFPE, Coffman Engineers Dillon Grewing, PE, GSP, PMSFPE Performance Based Fire Protection Engineering Jazyah Aldossary, PMSFPE, Saudi Aramco

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Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (cont.)

General Session

Vusal Ibrahimli MASc, EIT, Canadian Wood Council

Co-Authors: Joseph Su, National Research Council of Canada, Marc Alam & Noah Fetterly, Canadian Wood Council

TOP Abstract Award Presentation

In order to limit the potential contribution of structures to fire growth and spread, the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) has historically prescribed the use of noncombustible construction for buildings exceeding a certain size, based on their major occupancy classification [1]. The 2020 edition of the NBCC introduced "encapsulated mass timber construction" (EMTC) as a new construction type, allowing tall wood buildings of Group C (residential) and Group D (business and personal services) major occupancies to be erected up to 12 storeys in building height, while maintaining an acceptable level of fire and life safety performance, equivalent to similarly sized buildings of noncombustible construction [2].

Compared to conventional building materials used in noncombustible construction, building with mass timber offers several competitive advantages, such as significant reduction in carbon footprint [3], accelerated construction times facilitated by ease of installation and the possibility of prefabrication [4], and, when integrated into the finished building aesthetics, enhanced biophilic benefits conducive to human health and happiness [5]. Despite these compelling benefits, fire safety of mass timber as a primary structural material remains a concern among some stakeholders [6]. As such, in summer of 2022, the Canadian Wood Council collaborated with federal and provincial bodies and other key partners to conduct a series of five full-scale fire tests under the Mass Timber Demonstration Fire Test Program (MTDFTP) [7], aimed toward developing a better understanding of (i) fire dynamics in residential suites (Tests 1 and 2) and an open-plan office space (Test 5), (ii) fire safety during construction (Tests 3 and 4), and (iii) impact of exposed mass timber surfaces on fire severity and duration (Tests 1-5).

This presentation summarizes the project background and objectives, methodology employed in the MTDFTP's full-scale fire testing series, key findings, and conclusions from this study.

★ TOP ABSTRACT AWARD ★

1:40 – 2:10 p.m.

Breakout Tracks

	Track A Battery Fires	Track B Human Behavior	Track C Fire Safety Systems – Special Hazards Water Systems	Track D Sponsored
2:20 – 2:50 p.m.	Pierce Lushinsky, PE, Summit Fire Consulting: Evaluating Fire Protection Strategies in Battery Electric Bus Parking Facilities Using Performance-Based Fire Modeling	Bryan Hoskins, PhD, PE, Oklahoma State University: Accounting for Changing Demographics when Calculating Movement Speeds	Lauren Gagnon, PhD, Fire & Risk Alliance: Risk Analysis for Use of Aerosol Fire Extinguishment in Battery Energy Storage Systems	
2:55 – 3:25 p.m.	Victoria Lutz, Fire Protection Research Foundation: Guidance for Minimizing Explosion Hazards in Energy Storage Systems: A Design Framework	Courtney Myers, PE, Jensen Hughes & Morgan Hurley, PE, FSFPE, Senez Consulting: Pierside Evacuation of Ships and Barges	Jeremy Souza, PE, CFPS, Code Red Consultants: AFFF to SFFF Conversions: A Case Study and Recent Lessons Learned	
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Benjamin Gaudet, PE, UL Solutions: Methods and Recommendations for Measurement of Explosion Hazards from Lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage Systems	Sandra Vaiciulyte, PhD, National Autonomous University of Mexico, & Brian Meacham, PhD, PE, CEng, EUR ING, FIFireE, FSFPE, Crux Consulting: Using Convergence Approaches to Help the Most Fire Vulnerable Populations in the Most Fire Vulnerable Buildings	Caleb Pierce & Nicholas Schopfer & Virginia Charter, PhD, PE, FSFPE, Oklahoma State University: Interim Results of Long-Term Fire Sprinkler Corrosion Testing	

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Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (cont.)

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL
Poster Presentations

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

General Session

Panel Discussion – Single Egress Design

This panel discussion is dedicated to exploring the critical aspects of fire safety in single stair tall buildings. The panel of experts will explore innovative design solutions, strategic firefighting approaches, and key considerations for maintaining structural integrity during emergency operations. The conversation will cover various smoke control and pressurization systems, as well as methods to mitigate risks across different building types. Each panelist will provide unique insights into the challenges and solutions related to fire safety in single stair tall buildings. The discussion will encourage audience questions and participation, making it an interactive session where attendees can gain a deeper understanding of fire safety in single stair tall buildings.

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

General Session

SFPE 2025 Fellows Award Presentations

Anthony R. Cole, PE, CFPS, CFEI, FSFPE, Senex Co.
William V.F. Cosey, PE, BS ChE, FSFPE, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Andrew Grenier, PE, FSFPE, Coffman Engineers
Michael Klemenz, PE, FSFPE, RAN Fire Protection Engineering, PC
Katherine A. Pothier, PE, FSFPE, Bowman Fire & Life Safety
Christine Theisen, MS, MBA, PE, FSFPE, Goodhead Consulting Engineers, LLC
Michael J. Wojcik, PE, FSFPE, Jensen Hughes

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Together in Celebration: SFPE's 75th Anniversary Reception

Celebrate 75 Amazing Years with Us! Join us for a reception celebrating our journey, our members, and the impact we've made together!

Become a
Member

Renew Your
Membership

Upgrade Your
Membership



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SFPE 2025 Annual Conference – Day 2

Thursday, October 23, 2025

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.	<p>Welcome & SFPE Foundation Awards</p> <p>Frederick W. Mowrer Global Scholar Award: Dia Luan, PhD student, Central South University</p> <p>Student Scholar Award (1): Mahdis Borhani, PhD student, University of Utah</p> <p>Student Scholar Award (2): Mohammad Javad Moradi, PhD candidate, Carleton University</p> <p>The Dr. Guylène Proulx, OC Scholarship: Leo Willem Menzemer, PhD student, Lund University / DBI – The Danish Institute of Fire and Security Technology</p> <p>The Jack Bono Award for Engineering Communication: David Morrisset, PhD, The University of Queensland, and Jonathan Reep, PhD, Ian Ojwang, Rory M. Hadden, PhD, and Angus Law, PhD, CEng, The University of Edinburgh</p> <p>The Arthur B. Guise Medal: Glenn Forney, PhD, National Institute of Standards and Technology</p>
8:15 – 8:50 a.m.	<p>General Session</p> <p>SFPE Foundation - 2025 Guise Medal Winner Keynote Presentation</p> <p>Glenn Forney, PhD, National Institute of Standards and Technology (USA)</p> <p>Putting the Smoke into Smokeview: Musings on Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We Might Go</p> <p>Smokeview is a tool used to visualize fire and smoke flow simulated by fire models such as FDS and CFAST. This talk will give an overview of how it came to be, show how some of the visualizations are performed, and give some examples of how visualizations have been applied to help gain a better understanding of fire phenomena. The end goal is to provide a tool to help make our lives safer from fire by better understanding how fire and smoke behave.</p>
8:50 – 9:30 a.m.	<p>General Session</p> <p>Leslie Marshall, PhD, SFPE Foundation</p> <p>Your SFPE Foundation: Donor Recognition, Impact, and Opportunities to Engage in Research, Education, & Outreach</p>
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	<p>General Session</p> <p>Elizabeth Weckman, PhD, PEng, Professor, University of Waterloo</p> <p>Do You Know What You Need to Know for Fire Safety Engineering?</p> <p>Fire safety engineering is a specialized field that is at the forefront of many current global challenges, but what does it take to be a fire safety engineer? The practice requires practitioners to adopt a broad interdisciplinary approach with focus on determining fire risks, developing strategies, and selecting systems to mitigate fire in order to protect people, property, and the environment. At the same time, the success of each fire safety project hinges on masterfully orchestrating communication among a diverse ensemble of stakeholders—from building owners and architects to government officials, firefighters, and community members—each bringing their unique perspective to the collaborative table.</p> <p>On the technical side, tackling a fire safety challenge requires a deep understanding of fundamental concepts in fluids mechanics, heat transfer, thermodynamics, materials and structures as they apply to fire dynamics and behaviour, fire risk and prevention, human behaviour and environmental safety, fire modeling and fire detection, suppression, and protection. On top of this is the situational knowledge that the practitioner must apply, including material flammability, codes, standards and regulations, testing, design of fire safety systems, and emergency response. Different combinations of underlying knowledge are required for each application, whether it be fire safety in industry, the built environment, wildfire management, hazardous materials, energy storage, or fire investigation. And of course, with ever-evolving fire risk and tools, practitioners must keep abreast of the most up-to-date knowledge and hone their skills with modern tools as they become validated for use.</p> <p>Despite these complexities, fire safety engineers can overcome challenges by aligning project goals, sharing information openly, and fostering collaboration at every stage. By prioritizing clear and effective communication with all stakeholders, they ensure that fire safety solutions are not only technically sound and compliant with regulations, but also truly protect people, property, and the environment in a rapidly changing world.</p>
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	NETWORKING BREAK IN EXPO HALL

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Thursday, October 23, 2025 (cont.)

Breakout Tracks

	Track A Structural Fire Engineering	Track B Emerging Technologies & Infrastructure	Track C SFPE Foundation Research	Track D Sponsored
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Richard Emberley, PhD, CalPoly & Brian Meacham, PhD, PE, CEng, EUR ING, FIFireE, FSFPE, Crux Consulting: Post-Earthquake Fire Performance of 10-Story CFS Structure: Overview of Test Program and Initial Findings	Jonathan Hodges, PhD, Jensen Hughes: Roadmap to Accelerating Fire Safety Design through AI-Integrated BIM Technologies	Karli Steranka, PE and Bishoy Awad, PhD, Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC: Energy Storage System Hazards	
11:20 – 11:50 a.m.	Claire Yuan, PEng, CP, PE, GHIL Consultants: Fire Performance of Steel-Timber Connections in Mass Timber Construction: A Pilot-Scale Study	Allie Gilks, MS, PEng, LMDG Building Code Consultants Ltd.: Passenger Safety for Commuter Rail in the Urban Canadian Context	Richard Walls, PhD, Stellenbosch University: Fire Testing of Sustainable Materials	
11:55 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	Bryant Hendrickson, PE, CFEI, Blue Engineering and Consulting: Field Testing of Fireproofed Beams Engulfed in a Hydrocarbon Pool Fire	Hubert Biteau, PhD, PE & Austin Smith, Code Red Consultants: Sensitivity and Uncertainty Analysis of Explosion Prevention Methodologies for Energy Storage Systems	Nils Johansson, PhD, Lund University: The Interface Between Digital Buildings and Fire Service Operations	

12:25 – 1:40 p.m. NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO HALL

12:35 – 1:35 p.m.	NETWORKING LUNCH The Women in Fire Protection Engineering Join SFPE's Women in Fire Protection Engineering Special Interest Group for a lunch roundtable discussion on topics relevant to women in our profession. Registration will be available onsite. This event is generously supported by FM.	
1:40 – 2:10 p.m.	General Session Birgitte Messerschmidt, Research Director, National Fire Protection Association & Morten Moelgaard Schmidt, Fire Safety Consultant and Technical Lead, Jensen Hughes DK Rising from the Ashes – The Copenhagen Stock Exchange – Renovation and Rebuilding of a Cultural Heritage Building	
2:10 – 2:40 p.m.	General Session Victoria Lutz, Fire Protection Research Foundation Modern Vehicle Hazards in Parking Garages and Vehicle Carriers	

2:40 – 3:00 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK

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Thursday, October 23, 2025 (cont.)

Breakout Tracks

	Track A Case Studies	Track B Fire Safety Systems	Track C WUI/Building Design	Track D AI/Digitalization
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	David Stacy, Summit Fire Consulting (PBFPE) & Rachel Kirk: Smoke and Heat Venting for Cold Storage Facilities: A Computational Analysis of Alternative Ventilation Strategies	Donna Settle, PE, Gallagher & Deborah Freeland: Bridging the Gap: The Insurance Perspective on Fire Protection Engineering and ITM	Jason Brolund, Fire Chief, West Kelowna Fire Rescue: 100 Years of Firefighting... in 36 hours	Arwa Abougharib, MSc, University of British Columbia: Scientific Machine Learning for Structural Fire Modelling: A Critical Review
3:35 – 4:05 p.m.	Christine Theisen, PE, MBA, Goodhead Consulting Engineers, LLC: The Who, What, Where, When, and Why of a 1985 Smoke Control System - A Forensic Analysis Case Study	Evan Ford, LMDG Building Code Consultants: Numerical Analysis of the Efficacy of Stair Pressurization by Stack Effect – An Exploration of Canada’s Deemed-to-Comply Solution for High Building Exit Stairs	Daniel Gorham & Joseph Willi, UL Research Institutes, Fire Safety Research Institute: Evaluation of Window Frames and Protection Materials During Exterior Fire Exposure	Yogish Gopala, Lead Research Scientist, FM, & Johannes Falk, Fire Protection Solutions: Algorithms for SMART Sprinkler Systems
4:10 – 4:40 p.m.	Jenny Sideri, PhD, PE, Thornton Tomasetti: Investigations of Fire Impact on Buildings: Tools and Case Studies	Stanislav Kostka, Lead Research Scientist & John LeBlanc, FSFPE, Staff Vice President – Senior Engineering Technical Specialist, FM: Application and Limitations of Oxygen Reduction Systems	James McGonigal, PhD, CEng, & Adam Bittern, PhD, CEng, Astute Fire Engineering: Fool’s Gold: The Consequence of Non-Scientific Safety	Hao Liang, PhD & Barry Qiu, P.Eng.: Blueprint AI Technologies, Inc.: AI-Augmented PDF Drawing Review for Building Code Compliance: Enhancing Efficiency and Consistency
4:45 – 5:15 p.m.	General Session Bruce Campbell, Vice President – DOE Market Leader, Jensen Hughes A Brief History of Nuclear Fire Protection Fire protection in nuclear facilities is critical to operational safety, ensuring the well-being of workers, the environment, and national security. This session will explore the evolution of nuclear fire protection, beginning with key historical incidents such as the Browns Ferry and Rocky Flats fires and the subsequent regulatory framework that shaped current practices, including NRC Appendix R and HPR approaches for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Legal considerations, including the Price-Anderson Act and regulatory requirements under Title 10, will be discussed, highlighting compliance obligations for nuclear operators. Additionally, the session will explore the role of performance-based design approaches in enhancing safety, with discussions on fire testing methodologies for unique nuclear facility features. With the next generation of nuclear reactors presenting both new opportunities and challenges, this session will provide valuable perspectives on how fire protection measures are being adapted to ensure continued safety and resilience in the nuclear industry.			
5:15 – 5:30 p.m.	Invitation to 2026 Annual Conference in Atlanta SFPE President and Greater Atlanta Chapter Representative			