



THE FIRE LINE



How Technology is Changing Fire Engineering

Not very long ago all fire sprinkler plans were done freehand drawn on paper by a designer. NFPA was a small pamphlet that could fit in your back pocket. Jobs were listed, ordered, and welded by hand. Communication with contractors and foremen was done face to face, by snail mail, or a pay phone.

Times have definitely changed since then. Computer aided design coordinated in 3D, schedules that are updated daily, automated welders for fabrication, and the majority of communication is done through email which can now be sent to you anywhere via your cell phone and/or personal tablet. If there is a problem on a job, a picture can be sent to a designer or PM and a decision can be made, that day, helping to eliminate extended breakdowns on the job site. Plans can be changed in minutes rather than hours and distributed to those that need it instantly. In short, things move a lot faster and problems can be caught and fixed earlier in many cases. This is not to say problems don't exist, they have just changed.

Still with all the improvements in technology, buildings are built similar to the way they were back then, maybe with a few less right angles and a few more curves, but sprinkler pipe is still installed the same way, with screwed, grooved, and flanged fittings. As much as we hate change it is inevitable and if we want to stay a leader in our industry we need to embrace change. Recently we were awarded a large project over multiple other companies and it was not because we were the low bidder.

It was because they believed that we were the company that could get it done, adapt to their needs, and be technically advanced enough to handle a project such as this. It took long hours and a lot of hard work by many to secure this once in a lifetime project, but we proved we are the company for the job. Now let's prove it!

There are some very exciting changes on the horizon for Fire Engineering. New hardware and software is being developed that will allow us to track job progress, field check and install projects more efficiently and safely, estimate jobs faster and more accurately, and best of all eliminate a lot of hand paperwork that takes up so much of our time. **I believe that we have the best group of individuals working in the fire protection industry today and I hear it from contractors that we work with all time.** If we can help each other continue to find ways to improve our way of life and stay united, the future here at Fire Engineering is bulletproof.

Nick Dahlman

**When black cats prowl
and pumpkins gleam,
May luck be yours on
Halloween.**



WINTER SAFETY

Construction doesn't take a break in the winter so it's important at this time of year to think about the additional hazards that are present at jobsites due to winter weather. Cold temperatures, wet weather, and frigid winds can take a drastic toll on the human body. Make sure you wear the appropriate gear according to the weather.

Pay special attention during the winter months on your construction site to avoid safety hazards. Take time throughout the day, every day, to walk through the jobsite and look for hazards created by snow and ice. Keep an eye on walkways, work platforms, scaffolds, stairs and ladders. When icy spots are found use ice melt or find a new path. Make sure to communicate to your coworkers and job superintendant about any hazards found.

Portable heaters are necessary at times; however they can be very dangerous if not used appropriately. Have heaters inspected prior to the heating season to make sure they work properly and have repairs made if necessary. Place the heater on a sturdy fire-resistant surface and make sure hoses are protected from damage and excessive heat. The area where the heater is being used must be properly ventilated to allow excess fumes to escape. Keep combustible materials 10-15 feet away from heaters. Propane and other flammable gas cylinders must be stored upright and chained.

Most importantly, use common sense when working outdoors during the winter months. Take care of yourself and those around you.

Casey Benson

MARK YOUR CALENDER...

Fire's Annual Christmas Party
December 9, 2011
Red Lion Hotel
Join us for dinner, entertainment
and fun!

WELCOME

FIRE'S NEW EMPLOYEES

Office – Ryann Oneida
FS Field – Michael Leaming
SH Field – Todd Oborn

FIELD CLOTHING ORDER
DUE 11/03/11
SEE RONDA FOR DETAILS



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Celebration of Thought and Expression...

Life generates anger. Use less anger and more energy.

The past can no longer be a problem even if the present is.