



THE FIRE PROTECTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Symposia

[Early Bird
Registration is Open
for SupDet 2010](#)

This year's program features:

- An engineering workshop on innovative fire protection design concepts for high challenge warehouses (and featured suppression and detection sessions on this topic)
- A special session on U.S. Navy developments in clean agent extinguishant research
- New smoke alarm studies from U.S. and international research organizations

Join us in Orlando,
February 16-19.

Contact the Foundation

epeterson@nfpa.org for more information or to participate in Foundation programs

[Foundation Website](#)



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November-December 2009

New Project

Dust Explosion Hazard Thresholds

Recently there has been an increased awareness of the explosion hazard associated with combustible dusts and federal governmental agencies have begun using NFPA 654 as a standard for assessing compliance with the General Duty Clause of the OSH Act of 1970. NFPA 654, *Standard for the Prevention of Fire and Dust Explosions in Manufacturing, Processing, and Handling of Combustible Particulate Solids* and other NFPA standards contain criteria for maximum dust layer thickness; however there is variation in these criteria and their technical substantiation has been questioned. The Foundation has initiated a project to establish the technical basis for quantitative criteria for determining that a compartment is a dust explosion hazard that can be incorporated into NFPA 654 and other relevant safety codes and standards. Phase I activities to gather and analyze all available information on the topic and formulate straw-man criteria are underway.

Research Planning

Best Practice Guidance for Emergency Messaging

The Technical Committees of the National Fire Protection Association responsible for NFPA 72®, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*® have undertaken a major project to incorporate requirements for the planning, design, installation and use of Emergency Communications Systems. The Foundation is developing a project focused on establishing best practices for emergency message content and delivery as a function of emergency type, temporal framework, intended audience and delivery format. The program will develop tools and templates for message providers (e.g., incident commanders, facility managers, etc.) to assist in planning and composing messages that will maximize effectiveness for the method of delivery. Messaging strategies will focus on events internal to buildings or collections of buildings. Sponsors are invited. kalmand@nfpa.org

New Reports available on the Foundation's Website

Fire Safety in Theatres - A New Design Approach

Stage fire protection measures, details differing from one region to another, have been established, codified and enforced throughout the world and have changed little over the past 100 years. Technological advancements in both stagecraft and fire protection systems have led to a need in the theater community to study the current state of requirements and to see if, under today's design practices and advanced knowledge in fire protection engineering, these measures are effective, amenable, or even unnecessary.

At the request of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Doors and Windows, the Foundation facilitated the conduct of a project by Arup Fire to address this issue. The objective of the study was to assess the level of protection afforded by stage active fire protection measures in the event of a fire in the stagehouse of a proscenium theatre. CFD modeling of representative theatre spaces was conducted to explore fire growth and development, activation of fire protection systems and the development of untenable conditions.

Reaching the U.S. Fire Service with Hydrogen Safety Information: A Roadmap

This study provides an overview of the U.S. Fire Service to help improve the transfer of hydrogen safety information to and from the emergency response community. This report is a compendium of the following three parts that comprise this study:

Part 1: Fire Service Primer (a detailed primer that provides an overview of the Fire Service in the United States);

Part 2: Permitting Roadmap and Incident Response Protocols (an overview of permitting and incident response, with details for purposes of illustration of six specific case study jurisdictions); and

Part 3: Emergency Responder Training Needs (an overview and summary of training needs for applications involving hydrogen-based applications such as road vehicles, rail vehicles, industrial lift trucks, fixed sites, etc).



