



# New England Chapter Newsletter

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<http://www.sfpe-newengland.org>

## *The Home Stretch!*

Our chapter's year started back in September 2016, and so far, it has been a great one! We would like to thank all members who have attended and participated in the SFPE NEC 2016-2017 year! We've had some excellent presentations on topics relevant to the New England area, with the goal of maintaining life safety and fire protection of occupants and first responders. Topics included the importance of maintaining proper working conditions during construction, the design and installation of in-building communication systems, as well as the protection of marijuana grow facilities, which will be a new challenge after the passing of the 2016 Massachusetts Ballot Question 4. A special thanks is also given to all participants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fire Protection Technology Expo and Trivia Night. We had over 10 vendors and 60 participants! This has become a great tradition the past few years and we hope to build off this success in future years.

In November our Immediate Past President, Tracy Vecchiarelli, had the opportunity to represent our chapter at the SFPE Conference & Expo in Philadelphia. We were awarded the Silver Chapter Excellence award. We are grateful for this recognition, while also striving to get back to the Gold level next year. With this in mind, we have refocused our attention on creating new initiatives to improve and strengthen the SFPE NEC community. In January, we worked with Worcester Polytechnic Institute's SFPE student chapter in organizing our very first WPI career night! The event included a panel comprised of speakers from various aspects of the fire protection community, which allowed for an open discussion with WPI students about potential career paths. This proved to be a very positive event, with 40 WPI students in attendance. In addition, the event seemed to have positively influenced the SFPE student chapter, which grew from 8 to 20 members in the lead up to the event. We hope to continue this program in the future as part of our outreach efforts.



The board hopes that events like this, along with the increased donation levels for the A.L. Brown Scholarship Fund, will promote further interest in the fire sciences among students from around New England. Applications for the A.L. Brown Scholarship are due February 24, 2017. Please visit the SFPE NEC for additional information and to apply!

Finally, the board is also working to create another path for outreach through a grant program for fire departments in the New England region. The program will seek to provide funding to the fire service to assist with their fire prevention and response efforts. Details of this program will be released in March.

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Join us for our next dinner meeting on Monday, March 6, which includes a presentation by Professor Nick Dembsey of WPI and his research team, featuring Dr. Courtney Carignan of the T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and a Mr. Frederick Brokaw, a Junior at WPI working towards his BS in Architectural Engineers and MS in Fire Protection. The presentation aims to showcase the tradeoffs between health and fire safety for gymnastics training facilities. These facilities contain large volumes of polyurethane foam in the form of landing mats and loose foam pit cubes, which have been designed and treated with fire-retardant materials. This interactive presentation will provide practical, useful information, and allow time for questions and discussion with AHJs to better inform them relative to the potential trade-off between foam toxicity and fire safety. Visit the SFPE NEC [Events Page](#) to learn more and register for the event!

Also, mark your calendars as the 2017 SFPE NEC Annual Seminar is fast approaching, and will be held on Thursday, April 13! Topics will range from discussion on large loss fires, further discussion on NFPA 241 plans (follow up based on the recent Fire in Cambridge, MA), updates regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code, and more! Additional information on presenters, topics and how to sign up will be distributed in March.

Thank you everyone, and we hope to see you all soon!

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
September 09, 2016	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual AL Brown Scholarship Golf Event	
October 03, 2016	NFPA 241, Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations	Lieutenant Chris Towski, Cambridge Fire Department
November 07, 2016	Bi-Directional Amplifiers	Joseph Brooks, City of Boston Fire Department, Gary B. McCarraher, Town of Franklin Fire Department, and Admir Surkovic, Radio Solutions, Inc.
December 05, 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Fire Protection Technology Expo and Trivia Night	
January 18, 2017	WPI Career Night	
February 06, 2017	Marijuana Grow Facilities – A Chronic Problem	Jen Hoyt, Dept. of Fire Services
March 06, 2017	Gymnastics Training Facilities: Foam Pit Cube Flame Retardant Toxicity and Fire Safety	Professor Nicholas Dembsey, WPI, Dr. Courtney Carignan, Harvard, and Mr. Frederick Brokaw, WPI
April 13, 2017	Annual Seminar	
May 1, 2017	Energy Storage Systems	Lieutenant Paul Rogers, FDNY