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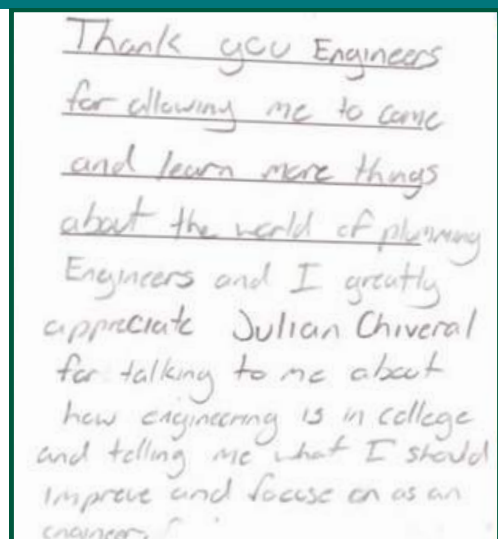
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MEETING FORMAT

6:00 – 6:30	Social
6:30 – 6:45	Announcements & Table Tops
6:45	Dinner Served
7:00 – 8:00	Presentation

DATE:	March 27, 2024
TIME:	6:00pm to 8:00pm
PLACE:	Olive Grove Restaurant
TOPIC:	Fire Protection II: Pre-Action
SPEAKER:	Josh Shapiro, Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company

[Register Today](#)



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Chuck Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Chapter President

Greetings fellow chapter members and soon-to-be chapter members! I wanted to first thank Professor Ken Isman for his years of dedicated service to our chapter. We reached out to him back in 2019 to initiate our February Fire Protection Month program. He was consistently one of our most popular presenters for not only his expertise, but his engaging way of making the topics easy to understand. He will be retiring from his position at the University of Maryland's Department of Fire Protection Engineering this year. We wish him well and he is always welcome to stop by and say hello!

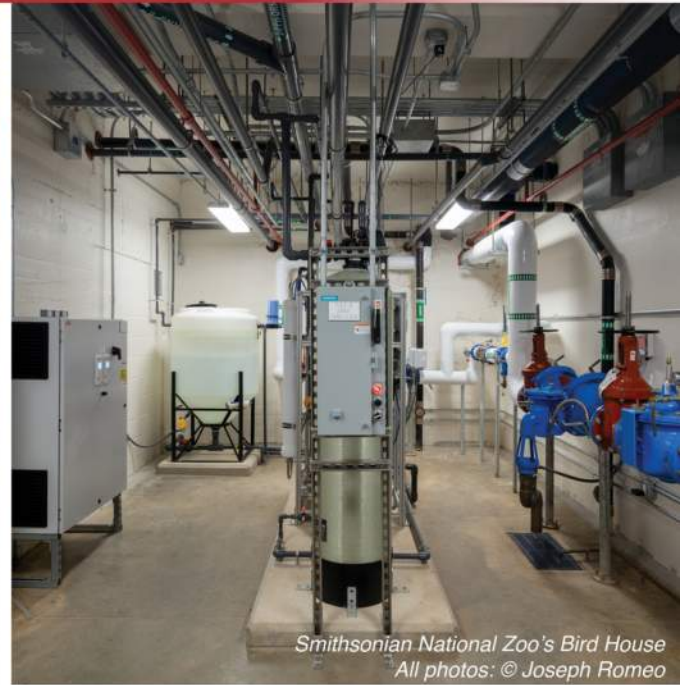
In other news, we also had our annual participation in the DiscoverE Engineer's Week program. This year we engaged with around 60 students from Kenwood, Patapsco, and Phoenix Academy High Schools at the Engineering Society of Baltimore's Garret-Jacobs Mansion. There we had a short presentation describing the plumbing engineering community, the different career paths that could be involved, and had a mini-career fair afterwards. I say "Career fair" but our twist on it was that we were promoting ourselves to the students and giving them an idea what a day in the life was like. Our panel included engineers like myself, manufacturer's representatives, as well as the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union showing that there are many paths to take and that not one of us can succeed without the others. I spoke a little bit about this last month, but I wanted to report that it was a complete success!

I also wanted to give a shoutout to our siblings at the DC ASPE Chapter. The very next day after the Engineer's Week presentation, I got to hobnob down in Georgetown with some fine folks for their first Awards Ceremony. There they recognized their long-tenured members as well as a special recognition for our little chapter. I hope to return the favor in the upcoming season for our **50th anniversary**. Oh, did I not mention September will start our **50th anniversary** season? Must've slipped my mind...

You may have noticed a recent email detailing our Annual Golf Outing and Cookout! Exciting times, indeed. Thanks to our own Dave Goodell, we are happy to announce that we will be holding it at the Timbers at Troy again. Last year, I was coerced given the opportunity to play for my first time in 20 years! Naturally, it rained so much that it ruined the leather on my phone case. On the bright side, I didn't get a sun burn and I could blame my horrible score on the rain. Win-Win!. I hope to see you all there on a bright sunny day.

We hope to keep the exciting times continuing well past the golf outing and cookout into our May activities, which will bring around our annual UA486 Hands On Event, and summer picnic. Look further into this newsletter or on our website for details on how to sign up for our upcoming events.

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Smithsonian National Zoo's Bird House
All photos: © Joseph Romeo



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MARCH 20, 2024
12-1PM EST

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Chris is a market development specialist for Water Control Corporation, where he travels and works with WCC's sales agencies to help grow their presence in the commercial spec markets.

Chris has worked in the plumbing and water treatment industry for the past 37 years and is a past President and CEO of WCC. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of Minnesota.

Chris lives with his wife, Dawn in their home in Houlton, WI. His favorite pastime is piloting their small plane wherever exciting new journeys might take them!



Julian Chival, LEED AP BD+C
Vice President- Technical

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

W.H. Auden

We, as plumbing engineers and professionals, play a vital role in ensuring access to clean and safe water, an essential part to sustaining life. We are responsible for designing and implementing systems that deliver fresh water to our communities, as well as treating and disposing of wastewater safely. Just as love is indispensable for humanity's collective wellbeing, so too is proper plumbing infrastructure.

Now that I've got your attention—let's talk plumbing engineering! Firstly, a big thank you to all who attended last month's meeting. Ken Isman, clinical professor from the University of Maryland, delivered an electrifying presentation on fire protection systems, answering many of the questions we received. With his expertise and engaging delivery, Ken truly set the room ablaze with knowledge! We appreciate his time and insights into such a critical aspect of the work that we do.

Now, let's turn our attention to our upcoming monthly meeting, scheduled for March 27. Our featured presentation will delve into the fascinating realm of pre-action sprinkler systems and will be presented by Sam Schwander, esteemed Technical Services Manager at Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company.

Pre-action sprinkler systems are a vital component of fire protection, especially in environments where accidental activation could prove catastrophic. Sam will discuss the basics of different sprinkler system types, before guiding us through the intricacies of pre-action systems, from design considerations to installation best practices. Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the field, this presentation promises to offer valuable insights and perhaps even spark some new ideas.

So, mark your calendars for March 27 and prepare to join us for what is sure to be an enlightening and engaging discussion. As always, the success of our meetings relies on your participation and enthusiasm!

Wishing you warmth, wealth, and wisdom!

Julian Chival

Vice President- Technical

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GOLF OUTING & COOKOUT

26 APRIL
2024

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1:30 PM	Cookout (Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.)
2:00 PM	Awards & Prizes

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ASPE BALTIMORE GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Reservations will be confirmed when check and participant information is received.



For more information, contact: [David Goodell](mailto:dave.goodell@aspe.org)

Winterizing Fire Sprinkler Systems

An annual procedure can aid in keeping this life-safety system functioning as intended and ready should a fire incident occur.

February 5, 2024

Winterizing fire sprinkler systems is a critical service needed to reduce the chance of water damage issues associated with frozen piping. Winterization should always be performed prior to the onset of cold weather and may be performed by the customer (owner) or by qualified technicians or inspectors, depending upon the applicable state or local rules.

Fire protection service providers can provide winterization services as a standalone service call or as a part of an annual or quarterly inspection service agreement.

When performing this service, refer to the checklist for the items to be included (see Figure 1). This checklist is not considered proprietary or confidential information and may be shared with contractors and their customers who choose to self-perform some or all the services noted.

As with any inspection service provided, it is critical that the technician or inspector check each item on the list and make notes on any deficiencies or recommendations for corrective action, as well as note any corrective actions provided during the inspection.

Generally, service providers do not offer a guarantee or warranty with inspection services. The work is being performed for the purpose of preventive maintenance, testing of equipment and review of changes or recommended services that should be performed. This work is not intended to be a guarantee of equipment or a guarantee against equipment malfunction.

The service provider should retain a copy of the completed checklist (or similar inspection report) as a record of work performed, along with the corresponding work order. This inspection record and any resulting recommendations can be transmitted to the owner or occupant of the building/facility and the local authority holding jurisdiction, where required. Open communication will only improve the ability to maintain systems properly.

Chapter 4 of NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, establishes all responsibility for fire sprinkler system inspection, testing and maintenance as the system(s) owner's responsibility. Service providers should limit liability by ensuring the customer understands everyone's role in system maintenance and clearly communicate the customer's obligation to check all items using the checklist throughout the cold months.

For example, maintaining minimum heat in spaces that have water-filled piping can be confirmed by a service provider during a winterization inspection. Still, the owner or occupant needs to make sure the heat continues to operate as expected throughout the cold weather season.

Service technicians and inspectors should instruct the owner/occupant on how to perform the minimum level of maintenance required for the building's system, document such instruction on the winterization checklist and familiarize them with applicable NFPA 25 requirements. It is a team effort to keep systems operational over their lifespan.

Dry Systems and Drum Drip Assemblies

One example of an area where the owner/occupant should be involved is when a dry system is present. Commonly, drum drip assemblies will be used as auxiliary drains to remove collected condensate from low points in the system that do not return to the main drain. Depending on the temperatures and environment, this should be periodically checked to make sure water has not accumulated.

Winterizing Fire Sprinkler Systems

For a procedure for draining the assembly, see Exhibit I. It is important for the owner/occupant to know how many of these are in the facility and to check them so any water can be removed in a timely manner to avoid damage to the system.

Inform the client of potential failures or causes of freezing problems. Note that air compressors and unit heaters must be inspected periodically to ensure continued operation after the winterization inspection. Also, condensation can and will continue to collect in low-point drains and may freeze if not emptied.

Following an annual procedure, simplified here, can aid in keeping a fire sprinkler system functioning as intended and ready should a fire incident occur.

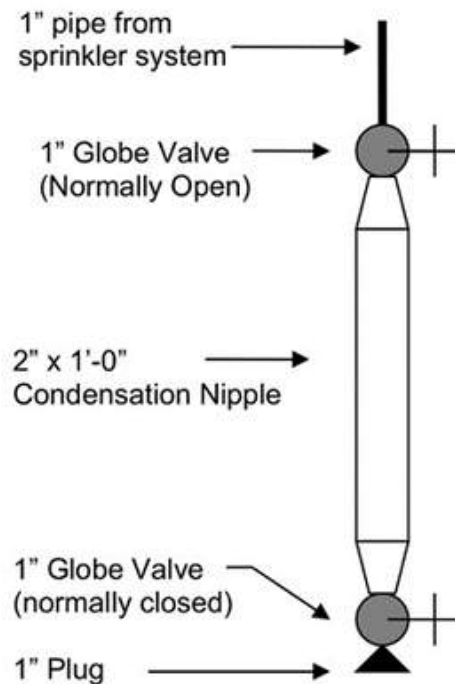
Procedure for winterization inspection:

1. Inspect and check whether those components are visible from the floor level or are accessible.
2. Attest to the condition or operation of the items checked at the time of the inspection.
3. Provide the customer with a copy of the checklist or report along with any needed instructions, such as a Drum Drip Assembly Instruction Sheet.

Preparing for the colder season before it arrives and arming the owner with the details to keep the system in tip-top form will create the best fire protection scenario for a property.

Robert Caputo, CFPS, is the president of the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA), chair of the NFPA 24 and NFPA 291 technical committees and a member of multiple National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) technical committees. He is a contributor to the NFPA 13 and NFPA 25 Handbooks, as well as the NFPA Inspection Manual. A senior member of NFPA and AFSA faculties, Caputo has written and presented seminars worldwide on fire protection and life safety systems and is a regular speaker at AFSA and NFPA conventions.

Exhibit 1



Typical Drum Drip Assembly / Condensation Nipple

Dry pipe sprinkler systems are required to be installed with the piping pitched to drain, such that water will not accumulate at low points and freeze, causing split pipe or broken fittings. The low points in a system should normally be equipped with a Drum Drip Assembly or Condensation Nipple similar to the one depicted above.

The 1" globe valve on the top or inlet side is left open to allow condensation to collect in the larger nipple. Periodically, especially prior to and during cold weather conditions, the condensation must be drained to avoid freezing and breaking of this assembly, which will result in a tripped valve and flooded sprinkler system.

This is done by following these steps:

1. Close the top valve to seal off the air within the sprinkler system,
2. Remove the 1" plug and open the bottom valve and drain any water into a bucket.
3. Close the lower valve and replace the plug.
4. Re-open the top valve.

CAUTION: Opening bottom valve with top valve open may cause dry pipe valve to trip and flood the system.

Fire Sprinkler Systems Winterization Checklist

Job Name: _____	Date: ____/____/____
Street: _____	Work Order No: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	Inspector: _____
Contact Name: _____	Phone: _____

Item Name	Initials of Inspector	Comments or Recommendations
Dry Pipe/ Pre-Action System(s) Total # of Systems:		
Check all dry pipe and pre-action systems to make sure they are not flooded		
Drain ALL low point drains. Verify & record location of all drains with Owner/Occupant. No. of Low Point Drains: _____		
Verify proper operation, function and settings for the air compressor or alternate air supply. Drain condensation from air compressor tank.		
Antifreeze System(s) Total # of Systems:		
Check the antifreeze systems by testing the concentration of the antifreeze solution. Adjust the level of antifreeze solution in the systems when necessary.		
Valve Room(s) Total # of Rooms:		
Check valve rooms, pump rooms, stair enclosures and areas with exposed piping for the following:		
Heaters are working properly		
Dampers are closed		
No unprotected openings are present		
Fire Department Connection(s) Total # of FDC's:		
Verify FDC is not full of water and ball drips are working properly		
Misc Additional Items:		
Check water storage tank heaters for proper operation where present		
Determine if heat tracing is intact and operating properly – including monitoring systems for heat trace systems		
Visually inspect the integrity of any pipe insulation where provided.		
Visually inspect any wet pipe in attic areas to determine if required insulation is in place, or if the insulation has been disturbed		

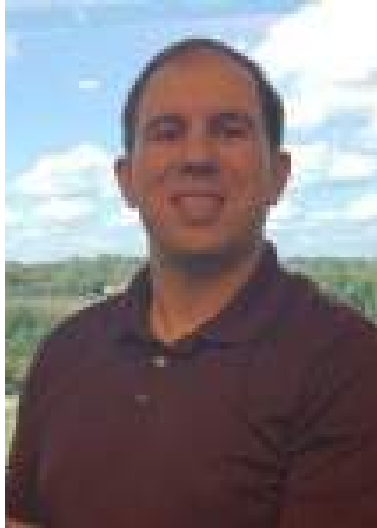
- ✓ Provide the Customer with a copy of the completed inspection checklist (if requested) and attach a copy to the work order.
- ✓ Provide the Customer with at least one copy of the Drum Drip Assembly Instruction Sheet
- ✓ Reiterate the importance of the owner/occupant to periodically inspect these items throughout cold weather months.
- ✓ Document all deficiencies/recommended repairs or modifications. (Attach additional pages if needed)

Important Note: This inspection service is performed for the purpose of preventive maintenance, testing of equipment and review of changes or recommended service which should be performed. The work is not intended to be a guarantee of equipment or a guarantee against malfunction of equipment. Periodic inspections are the responsibility of the building owner or a designated representative of the owner of the property.

Owner's Signature (or Authorized Representative)

Date: ____/____/____

Figure 1: Winterization Checklist



Chris Imhof, PE, CPD
Vice President- Legislative

2024 Maryland Legislative Session

The 2024 Maryland Legislative session began on January 10th.

The following is a list of proposed legislation relating to plumbing, building construction, climate action, trades, and licensing.

SB0096/HB0024

Environment – Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions

Altering the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings; requiring the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High Performance Green Building Program to ensure that the Program aligns with certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; requiring the Department of General Services to identify State-owned facilities that are potential candidates for energy performance contracts; etc.

SB0258/HB0130

Department of General Services – State Buildings and Facilities – Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Altering the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings; requiring the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High Performance Green Building Program to ensure that the Program aligns with certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; requiring the Department of General Services to identify State-owned facilities that are potential candidates for energy performance contracts; etc.

HB0210

Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use and Electric – Ready Standards

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt, on or before January 1, 2025, and as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, a requirement that new buildings meet all energy demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels and an electric-ready standard for certain buildings.

HB0244

Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Act – Civil Penalties – Alterations

Altering certain civil penalties for violations of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Act; and requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to annually increase the maximum and minimum civil penalties in a certain manner.

HB0245**Department of the Environment – Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation**

Authorizing the Department of the Environment to charge a fee for processing and issuing on-site sewage disposal permits and individual well construction permits under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to establish a certain fee for the Responsible Personnel Training Program Certification; requiring a holder of a license to transfer oil into the State to pay a certain fee when oil owned by the licensee is first transferred into the State; establishing the Private Dam Repair Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc.

SB0586/HB0503**Public Safety – Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems – Requirements and Prohibitions**

Prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or distribution of corrugated stainless steel tubing that does not meet a certain International Code Council standard; requiring certain tubing used in the construction of fuel gas piping systems in certain buildings to meet a certain standard; and providing a civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for a violation of the Act.

SB0689/HB0823**Fire Protection and Prevention – Residential Rental Property – Requirements (Melanie Nicholle Diaz Fire Safety Act)**

Establishing certain requirements relating to the installation of certain fire safety equipment in residential rental high-rise buildings and certain other property; authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a certain property tax credit; establishing the Workgroup to Develop Fire Safety Best Practices for Pre-1974 High-Rise Buildings; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 2024; etc.

HB0841**Environment – Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction – Water Bottle Filling Stations and Reporting**

Requiring that a water bottle filling station be installed in certain new construction beginning October 1, 2024; requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct a certain survey, gather certain data, and identify alternative methods for providing drinking water on or before October 1, 2025; and requiring the Department, on or before December 1, 2025, to submit the survey and alternative methods to the Governor and General Assembly.

SB1033/HB0926**Maryland Building Performance Standards – Local Requests for Guidance – Religious Considerations**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, on request of a local jurisdiction and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to provide guidance for the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building Performance Standards in relation to any religious observance, practice, or belief

SB0835/HB0992**Environment – Delegated Authorities – Well and Septic Program Permits**

Requiring a local health department or county government to which the Department of the Environment has delegated authority to administer a septic and well program to submit, on or before December 1, 2024, a schedule of review times for well and septic program permits to the Department for approval; and requiring certain entities to submit well and septic program permit data to the Department for review beginning 3 months after the original schedule submission is approved by the Department and every 3 months thereafter.

HB1024**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program – Expansion PG/MC 101-24**

Expanding the Connection Pipe Emergency Replacement Loan Program to include certain sewer pipes and diagnostic actions; altering the maximum amount of a loan that may be made under the Program from \$5,000 to \$10,000; altering the total amount of loans that the Program may provide or have outstanding from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000; and increasing to \$200,000 the amount of funding through fiscal year 2034 which the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission must include for the Program in the Commission's budget.

SB056/HB1135**Environment – Water Pollution Control – Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution (Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution Act)**

Environment – Water Pollution Control – Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution (Protecting State Waters From PFAS Pollution Act)

HB1241**Environment – Polyvinyl Chloride and Chlorinated Polyvinyl Water Piping – Prohibition (WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR)**

Prohibiting a person from using certain polyvinyl chloride or chlorinated polyvinyl chloride piping in the installation, repair, or replacement of a water pipe or plumbing intended to dispense water for human consumption beginning January 1, 2025; and establishing the Water Pipe Safety Workgroup.

SB1023/HB1279**Maryland Building Performance Standards – Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric– and Solar–Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2024)**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt, on or before certain dates and as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, a requirement that new buildings meet all water and space heating demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels, energy conservation requirements, and an electric– and solar–ready standard for certain buildings; etc.

All proposed legislation can be found [here](#).

Chris Imhof, PE, CPD
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Nikita Patel, PE
Education Chair

We are already in the planning stage for our annual Joint UA/ASPE Event, and I am happy to announce the date of our event has been confirmed for Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Please stay on the lookout for more details, including a registration link to reserve your spot. Just like previous years, we will continue to hold hands on activities with cast iron and copper pipe, but we also plan to add a track for returning members to enjoy!

The ASPE Convention is coming to Columbus, OH! This year, attendees will get to enjoy all the city has to offer AND MORE! The trade show/expo floor will be hopping as usual, and there will be over 20 classes offered for credit. The ASPE Education Committee is hard at work selecting the best topics and speakers for your enjoyment and education.

We're very lucky to have a resource like Dave Bailey in our chapter to coordinate CPD Review Classes. Did you know you can access CPD Practice Tests as an ASPE member on the main website? To learn more, visit: <https://education.aspe.org/CPDPracticeTests>

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Hello there! I hope this message finds you in good health. I'm thrilled to announce an upcoming AYP webinar and wanted to share the details with you.

On March 20th, from 12-1 pm, Chris Soderholm will be hosting a free webinar on Domestic Water Treatment. This webinar is open to all ASPE members, and I strongly recommend securing your spot by registering as early as possible. You can register via the link on [Page 5](#).

Please note that the AYP Headshots & Happy Hour event has been postponed. We will keep you updated on a new date in the weeks to come.

Best regards,
Nicole Murphy, Harry Eklof & Associates
nmurphy@harryeklof.com • 443-926-6821



Nicole Murphy
AYP Liaison

We are excited to announce the spring women of ASPE event will be April 18th at McFadden Art Glass Studio. Each attendee will get to work with a resident glass artist to blow their own glass piece. Thanks to the generous sponsors Delta and Barger agency we are able to offer this event free of charge. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Best regards,
Karen



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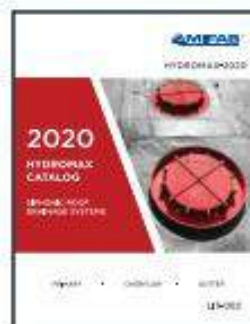
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SEPT 27	Communication Skills for Construction & Consulting	BJ Allen Warfel Construction
OCT 25	Vacuum System Design	Nikita Patel Sherman Engineering
NOV 16	Generator Basics	Jim Webster Kelly Generator & Equip.
DEC 13	Air Compressors	Will Dargan Cummins Wagner
JAN 24	Grease Interceptors	Schier Products
FEB 28	Fire Protection Specialties	Ken Isman University of Maryland
MAR 27	Fire Protection- Pre-Action Systems and Clean Agents	Josh Shapiro Reliable Sprinkler Co
APR 24	Siphonic Roof Drains	UV Systems
APR 2024	Annual Golf Tournament	Details to Follow
MAY 22	Natural Gas Sizing	Chuck Swope Mueller Associates ASPE Baltimore President
JUN TBD	Annual Summer Party	Details to Follow

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