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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:	September 27 2023
TIME:	6:00pm to 8:00pm
PLACE:	Olive Grove Restaurant
TOPIC:	Communication Skills for Construction & Consulting
SPEAKER:	BJ Allen; Warfel Construction

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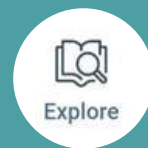
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- As a paid advertiser, you will have your advertisement in the newsletter for one full year (9 editions) and company logo displayed on the Chapter website.
- Ads for the year will begin in the September issue and run through the May issue.
- All ads must be paid in full prior to the advertisement being included in the newsletter.
- Advertiser must provide ads in high resolution PDF format. Logo must be provided in .jpeg format, 200px wide size
- Cost per advertisement is as follows:
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Chuck Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Chapter President

Greetings fellow chapter members! Welcome to another exciting season of the Baltimore ASPE Show! I've been writing these articles for the past six years now and it seems that there's always something new to talk about. This is why being a Baltimore ASPE member has been so rewarding. When I started back in 2017, I could remember a time where we would have to solicit the audience for topics for the next meeting. That's not a condemnation of our previous board, it's an observation that the importance of continuing education has taken in the past decade or so. When more people attend our meetings, we're able to attract a diverse group of speakers and discuss a wider range of topics!

I'm always going to tout our strong relationships with our Affiliates. Manufacturers and engineers have always been the backbone of our chapter. A willingness to share expertise, regardless of company affiliation has been critical to our success. The healthy back and forth we hear during our meetings is the best indication that what we are hearing is accurate. A rising tide floats all ships, after all.

We have many things planned this season, including our acclaimed joint meetings with the Local 486, our annual golf outing, a local plant tour, Engineer's Week, AYP and WOA events, including (hopefully) the return of the summer party! For those of you who missed out, our summer party was held at the gorgeous Oregon Ridge Park, where we rented a pavilion. There was excellent Barbecue from Andy Nelson's, games, and live entertainment! Speaking of which, props to Ben Eagles for his first live performance! This was all put together by our loving board members in appreciation for our chapter. Thanks to goes to you, Kathy, Jason, Niki, Karen, and Chris.

Don't forget that the ASPE Technical Symposium will be held September 28th through October 1st in Bellevue, WA. It's a hike, I know, but it is a once a year event where you can get up to 12 CEUs for your PE, CPD. More importantly, this is the best way of learning about new technologies, code updates, system design, fire protection, and more. I personally am looking forward to learning about the Next-Generation Water Conservation Technologies. We can only skate by on 0.35 GPM faucets and 1.28 GPF flush valves for so long, right? You can always find out more on ASPE.org.

We're also looking into new amenities for our chapter members. First on our list is Baltimore ASPE merch! Who doesn't want a polo to show off their favorite chapter? Maybe a mug to show off at work? We'll be putting together a few ideas and offering them through our website over the next few months. We'll bring samples as they become available and maybe have a few giveaways!

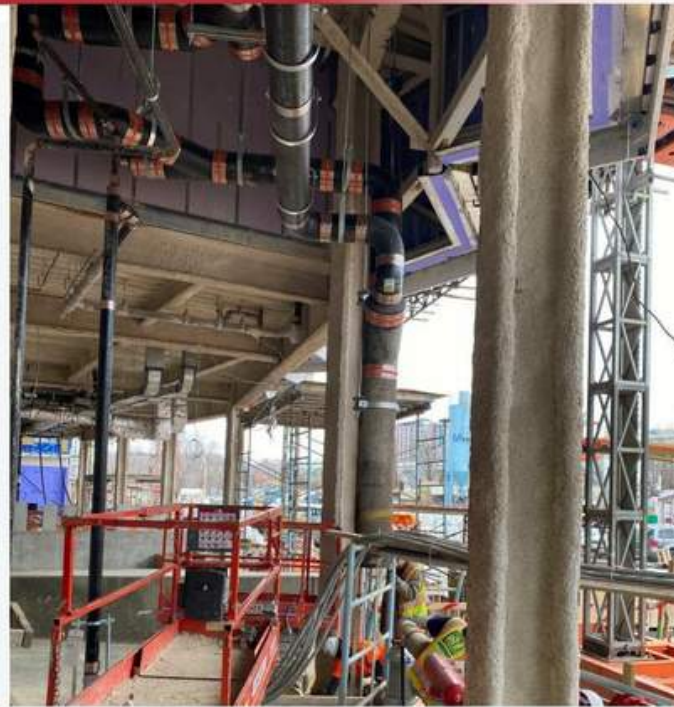
Don't forget to check out our other articles in this newsletter for other exciting news! Tune in next Month! Same ASPE Time, Same ASPE Channel (If you remember where this slogan came from, bring a younger engineer to the meeting this month!)



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

Technical Report

Welcome back to another exciting year of technical meetings after our summer break! It was great to see everyone at our first annual summer picnic, but with no technical presentation I've been itching to get back into another year of enriching technical meetings. As we begin to transition from the warm and relaxing days of summer to the brisk days of autumn, it's time to come together once again as a community of plumbing professionals to engage in knowledge-sharing, learning, and networking.

The upcoming year promises to be one filled with enlightening technical discussions and insights. We have been diligently curating a lineup of topics that is sure to spark some interest. With guest appearances from presenters like fan-favorite Professor Ken Isman, critically acclaimed engineer Chuck Swope, and plenty of new faces, you'll be on the edge of your seat this year learning about vacuum system design, grease interceptors, siphonic roof drains, and more! Check out our full meeting schedule later in the newsletter for a more exhaustive list!

Kicking us off for the year is a presentation a few of you may recognize. I heard from several folks who were disappointed that they missed BJ Allen's presentation on communication skills in the construction industry at our joint event in April with Local Union 486, so he's back! For those of you who aren't familiar, our esteemed presenter for the evening will be none other than BJ Allen, the Director of Healthcare at Warfel Construction Company. With a wealth of experience in construction and consulting, BJ is poised to share his insights into effective communication strategies that are essential for success in the plumbing engineering field. From collaborating with project teams and clients to presenting ideas with impact, his expertise will undoubtedly be invaluable to all attendees.

Effective communication is the glue that holds the intricate web of construction and consulting together. It ensures seamless coordination, prevents misunderstandings, and fosters productive relationships among stakeholders. Whether you're a seasoned professional looking to refine your skills or a newcomer eager to gain a competitive edge, this session promises to deliver practical takeaways that can be applied immediately to your work.

Thank you for being an integral part of ASPE, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on September 27 for a deep dive into communication skills for construction and consulting with BJ Allen. Until next time, keep the faucets flowing and the drains clear!

Julian Chiveral
Vice President- Technical

A Quiet Threat: Conquering Carbon Monoxide in K-12 Schools

Building staff can be armed with the knowledge of avoiding CO gas accumulation through preventative measures and inspections.

June 1, 2023 by Austin James

The latest editions of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC) require carbon monoxide (CO) detection for K-12 schools. This also applies to other building types, such as daycares serving children and young adults.

It's with good reason. Upon inhalation, CO gas enters the bloodstream and interacts with hemoglobin, the blood protein transporting oxygen throughout the body. Oxygen levels decrease as CO increases, leading to asphyxiation symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and even death.

Children under the age of six have hemoglobin levels of about 9.5 to 14 g/dl (grams per deciliter) compared to 11.5 to 18 g/dl for adults, according to Ada Health (www.ada.com/hemoglobin-levels). Kids also have a higher respiration rate. This combination of factors leads to faster circulation of CO throughout the body, putting children at higher risk of serious illnesses even at low exposure levels.

With many K-12 facilities relying on gas-powered equipment for their energy needs and children spending eight or more hours within these spaces, it is crucial to understand how CO is created and how to prevent its accumulation within buildings.

Detecting the Undetectable

Dubbed the silent killer, CO is a poisonous gas devoid of color or odor produced through partial burning. Its presence in buildings often stems from malfunctioning gas-fired equipment such as furnaces and boilers. When operating normally, this equipment supports efficient combustion through the precise mixing of fuel and air.

However, if proper exhaust practices are not observed or when improper installation occurs, the likelihood of the development of CO gas increases. We will look at a few examples of how poor exhaust practices or improper maintenance related to the exhaust process can result in dangerous conditions.

Chapters 5 and 6 of the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) set forth requirements for venting of appliances and specific equipment such as fireplaces, boilers, water heaters, air-conditioning appliances and several others. Equally important to the venting requirements are the requirements for combustion air, ventilation air or dilution air.

These requirements are outlined in Section 304 of the IFGC. The exhaust process is not only about proper construction and routing of exhaust flues or vents, but also careful consideration to proper ventilation of the room containing the appliance and proper airflow to support the combustion process.

Where exhaust flues and vents do not comply with the requirements of the IFGC, creation and accumulation of hazardous gases can begin. If the flues and vents are not sloped properly or are not protected on the exterior of the building, the exhaust gases, typically heavier than air, can backdraft back toward the appliance and begin filling the room. A blockage at the exterior discharge can be caused by many things, including animals, snow, rubbish or an accumulation of brush.

While typical exhaust gases may not include CO, as they begin filling the room of the fuel-burning appliance, the oxygen levels begin to decrease. As discussed previously, a reduced oxygen level paired with the gas combustion process can lead to incomplete combustion. Once this partial combustion process begins, the CO gas begins to accumulate. While removing the typical combustion gases from a room is essential, the creation of CO gas can still occur, even when proper exhaust practices are followed.

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Where an appliance requires exhausting or venting of combustion by-products, requirements for exhaust are important, but equally crucial are the requirements for proper ventilation of the area containing the fuel-fired appliance. When heavy gases need to be exhausted from a room, a positive pressure is required within the room, as well as sufficient airflow and oxygen supply to properly dilute the combustion gas.

Section 304.5 of the IFGC outlines the minimum needs for indoor combustion air. The standard method is to provide a minimum air volume of 50 cubic feet/1,000 BTU/hour of the rated appliance input. Additional sections allow for further modifications or alternate methods that can be tailored to a specific appliance or indoor space.

Regardless of the method, maintaining these minimum air volumes is critical to the operation of the equipment and the safety of the building occupants.

Where ventilation or combustion air relies upon outdoor air and uses openings directly to the exterior, proper inspection and maintenance of the outdoor openings are critical. Similar to obstructions to exhaust flues and vents, obstacles to outdoor air openings can also lead to the creation of CO gas. If proper ventilation, whether indoor or outdoor, is not provided in the space containing the appliance, changes in air pressure and a decrease in oxygen levels will begin to facilitate incomplete combustion.

As noted, the impacts of improper exhaust and insufficient ventilation or combustion air will begin the production of CO gas in very similar ways. Creating a negative room pressure will physically pull exhaust air back into the room through the exhaust network. The accumulation of exhaust gases or the reduction of oxygen due to insufficient ventilation leads to a decrease in the efficiency of the combustion process, which then leads to the direct creation of CO gas.

Preventing Catastrophe

While the latest editions of the International Building Code and the International Fire Code require CO detection for new K-12 buildings, that stipulation doesn't retroactively extend to existing K-12 schools. In fact, existing facilities are not covered by IFC, IBC or NFPA 101, Life Safety Code from a CO detection standpoint.

Despite the lack of detection requirements in these cases, safeguards can be put in place to ensure the proper functioning of appliances and to support the exhaust and ventilation process.

Several minor maintenance and inspection tasks can be performed to help identify and reduce the possibility of CO gas. First, visually inspect all exhaust and vent discharges in addition to all outdoor air-intakes and indoor ventilation openings. Any obstructions or accumulations on or around these openings should be cleared immediately. If continuous obstructions occur, steps should be taken to provide additional protections for these openings.

Visual inspection of appliances should also occur; any accumulation of liquids from or near the exhaust connections may indicate improper sloping of exhaust ducts. This accumulation of liquid can cause corrosion in the exhaust duct itself or on the appliance. Any damage to the exhaust duct or appliance should be remedied.

Lastly, as buildings and their systems age, their efficiencies decrease. When it comes to the ventilation of rooms containing gas-fired appliances, a room can, over time, change from a positive pressure to a negative pressure. Any time maintenance staff enter these spaces, attention should be paid to the force needed to open or close doors, as well as any rushing air movement when opening doors and entering the room.

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If noticeable air movement occurs in the direction of the room, this could be an indication the room has a negative air pressure. This should lead to an investigation of the fuel-fired appliance, the exhaust and the ventilation of the room to ensure accumulation of hazardous gases has not occurred.

Physical failures between inspection periods can still result in the creation of CO gas, even when proper maintenance and inspection practices are followed. When preventative measures fall short, passive CO detection, alarms and automatic intervention can provide a necessary backup.

NFPA 72 – National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code contains CO detection design requirements (<https://bit.ly/3njzW7H>). The 2019 and 2022 editions provide the most current guidance for CO detection systems or alarms. Where a building is equipped with a fire alarm system, these CO detectors can be provided with location identifiers.

These identifiers, paired with some minor modifications to the plumbing or mechanical equipment gas supply line, can provide a quick and automatic shutdown of the equipment.

For example, a janitor's closet with a gas-fired water heater would be provided with a CO detector connected to the building fire alarm system. Where CO gas is detected, the fire alarm system will annunciate that the CO detector within the janitor's room has been activated. The fire alarm system would then be programmed to shut off the gas supply line serving the water heater. Once the fuel is removed, the combustion process is halted, and additional creation of CO gas cannot occur.

A typical installation for a water heater would not be capable of being shut down by the fire alarm system. It would require the addition of an electric solenoid valve and a wye-type strainer to be installed within the gas supply line. The addition of this equipment will not negatively impact the performance of the unit but will provide an automatic means of isolating the equipment and limiting the level of hazardous gases.

Through education and training, building staff can be armed with the knowledge of how to prevent CO gas accumulation through preventative measures and inspections. With an intimate knowledge of the common causes of CO gas creation and the capabilities of a building's fire alarm system, engineers can standardize methods of passive CO gas detection and automatic equipment shutdown.

These efforts are crucial in keeping students and other occupants of K-12 facilities safe.

Austin James is a fire protection technical manager at Henderson Engineers, a national building systems design firm.



Kathy Dwyer
Treasurer

Welcome to 2023-2024 ASPE kickoff newsletter. We are all looking forward to a great year and many exciting topics. Our wonderful VP Tech with the help of el president have come up with a practical and exciting group of new presentations for you to enjoy. Pass the word around the office and let's get some newbies to some of these presentations!

I am happy to report our chapter is in solid financial position. We have had many supportive companies step up and advertise which is much appreciated. I hope you will support those who support ASPE. You all have been great about singing up and I do appreciate that have less and less last minute sign ups or walk-ins. The restaurant needs the counts earlier than the day of which is the reason I ask for some advance notice.

The Olive grove restaurant is ready with their yummy crab cakes and hospitality!

I look forward to seeing all of you soon!



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Chris Imhof, PE, CPD
Vice President – Legislative

Legislative Report

2024 ICC Codes

The 2024 International Plumbing Code and 2024 International Mechanical Code are now available online at the below links:

[2024 International Plumbing Code](#)

[2024 International Mechanical Code](#)

Other ICC codes are not available yet, including the International Building Code and International Fuel Gas Code.

DOE Proposes New Energy Efficiency Standards for Water Heaters

The proposal would require the most common-sized electric water heaters to achieve efficiency gains with heat pump technology and gas-fired instantaneous water heaters to achieve efficiency gains through condensing technology. These standards would take effect in 2029 if finalized.

[DOE Proposes New Energy Efficiency Standards for Water Heaters](#)

COMAR 09.12.50

2021 Code Cycle Adoption Information

State (the Department) has adopted the 2021 edition of IBC, IRC, IECC, IgCC & IEBC for

- (I) COMAR 09.12.50 Model Performance Code & COMAR 09.12.51 Maryland Building Performance Standards
- (II) COMAR 09.12.57 International Green Construction Code
- (III) COMAR 09.12.58 Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code Regulations

The effective date is May 29, 2023. State law requires local jurisdiction to start implementing & enforcing the new requirements by May 29, 2024.

Chris Imhof, PE, CPD
Vice President – Legislative



Brian Crisp, CPD, GPD
Vice President- Membership

Membership Report

Welcome everyone to another ASPE Calendar year! As Steve Harvey likes to say on one of my favorite shows, "we got another good for ya." We have another fantastic lineup of meetings this year, including some special non-monthly events for everyone to enjoy. I personally am looking forward to the May meeting as we'll have a back to basic type topic. I hope to see everyone at our meetings, participation in the meetings help to grow our plumbing community.

The Baltimore Chapter is holding steady 128 members, which is about 10 higher than we started with last ASPE calendar year. We didn't have any new members over the summer, so I'm going to throw some random stats at you. We had a big jump in membership last year and it is great to see, we're up to 32 AYP members and we only had 13 AYPs two year ago! The average age of a member has reduced from 50.4 to 47.1 in that same timeframe.

If you would like to shout out someone in the Chapter who is doing a superb job or has an interesting story to share, let me know! When nominated I will be highlighting a special member from time to time so we can get to know our fellow members better. Please don't nominate any board members, everyone already knows how awesome we are 😊

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining like the cool people above, or at least hearing about the benefits of membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can also join directly at <https://www.aspe.org/join>.

Thanks and see you at the meetings!

Brian Crisp, CPD, GPD
Vice President, Membership
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Karen Schulte, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD + C
Women of ASPE Liaison

On June 22 WOA hosted a cooking event at the Baltimore Chef Shop.

Thanks to Delta Faucet and Barger Agency for sponsoring the event where we got to prepare and enjoy a delicious family style meal including Mussels Normandy, Croque Monsieur, Camembert & Toast, Pommes Frites, Balsamic Roasted Vegetables and Tarte Tatin.

We all learned a few new kitchen tricks while working together to prepare our gourmet meal.



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 - Flow rates ideal for small to mid-sized design projects
- Self-diagnostic
 - Digital electronic control with 2-line LCD display
 - Programmable temperature setpoint
 - Easy setup/easy error coding
 - Upon power failure, holds last set temperature to avoid thermal shock

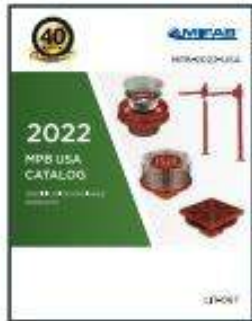
PROTON SERIES: MODEL FEATURES GUIDE				
	Proton 1.0	Proton 2.0	Proton 2.5	Proton 3.0
Simple and intuitive user commissioning and setup	•	•	•	•
Alarms for when unit maintenance is required	•	•	•	•
User programmable set point range between 65 °F and 180 °F	•	•	•	•
Automatic hot/cold water shutoff upon cold/hot water inlet supply failure	•	•	•	•
Valve controls at time of no use: 0.0 GPM*	•	•	•	•
Single valves available in 1" to 3" valve outlet sizes	•	•	•	•
Manifold assemblies available in up to 6" valve outlet sizes	•	•	•	•
Enhanced controller with programmable disinfection mode		•	•	•
Three additional temperature probes (inlet hot, inlet cold, return temp.)		+	+	•
Five relay contacts that switch on during alarm states		+	+	+
Remote alerts to assist Maintenance and Service Personnel		+	+	+
Loss of power alert		+	+	+
Broken temperature probe alert		+	+	+
"Out of range" temperature alert (± 10 °F)		+	+	+
Motor connectivity and operation alert		+	+	+
Service required @90% full shuttle movement alert		+	+	+
Enhanced controller with BACnet MS/TP connection			•	•
Enhanced controller with Wi-Fi				•

*When properly installed near the hot water source with a continuously operating recirculation pump

• Standard
+ Optional

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ACCESS DOORS
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BACKFLOW PREVENTERS
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NH-2022-06
NO HUB COUPLINGS
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TDSD-2023
SHOWER DRAINS
(LIT-077)



TDSS-2023
STAINLESS STEEL
TRENCH DRAINS
(LIT-072)



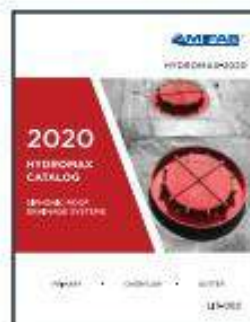
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 mvanlentenjr@highlandtank.com
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Schedule of Events

SEPT 27	Communication Skills for Construction & Consulting	BJ Allen Warfel Construction
OCT 25	Vacuum System Design	Nikita Patel Sherman Engineering
NOV 15	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

MONTHLY
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OPPORTUNITIES

Tabletop Presentations: \$100 to provide a tabletop presentation of equipment or material relative to the plumbing profession. The tabletops will be set up from the beginning to the end of the monthly meeting and provides the opportunity to provide a brief (under 5 minutes) presentation.

Please make checks payable to the Baltimore Chapter of ASPE. Contact Kathy Dwyer or Chuck Swope if interested