

ASPE NEWS

American Society of Plumbing Engineers
Eastern Michigan Chapter
www.aspe.org/Eastern_Michigan

Serving our membership since 1975

Vol. 9, Issue 2

Plumbing Design Class

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2005
NEW regular meeting day:
2nd Wednesday of the month

Time: 5:30 - 9:00 PM
Dinner & Class

Cost: ASPE & ASSE Members: NC
Non-members: \$15.00

Location: Plumbing Training Center
1911 Ring Rd., Troy, MI
SEE map on back page

Topic: Grease Interceptors (FOG)
New Standards and Code
Requirements

Speaker: Wayne Harrison
A nationally renowned instructor
SEE page 3 for bio

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005
Double Containment Piping Systems
Speaker: TBA
See the full class schedule on our web site.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

RSVP prior to day of class

Phil McCrory, VP Tech:
(810) 736-8871 phone
pmccrory72@hotmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Esteban Cabello, PE, CIPE



The September meeting was a success as all of us were welcomed to a brand new facility. Many thanks to the Metropolitan Detroit Plumbing Industry Training Trustees and training director, Carl Schroeder, for allowing ASPE to conduct our monthly meetings at the new Plumbing Industry Center in Troy, MI. I would also like to thank Jim Rodgers (Region 2 Director) for visiting and speaking to our members regarding Society issues and the upcoming Symposium. Jim drove in from Indianapolis, which was much appreciated. Jim basically said that the Society will have a balanced budget this year, the society magazine should break even by the end of next year, and the society deficit will finally begin to decrease. Our September meeting featured compressed air which was nicely done by the Ingersoll-Rand team and this month's topic will be grease interceptors. As a reminder, please email your confirmation of attendance with our VP Tech, Phil McCrory.

*Your president,
Esteban*

Hurricane Katrina & The Codes

Ronald George, CIPE/CPD



9-15-05 - When I first saw Hurricane Katrina on TV, I thought this storm would be of little impact compared to last year's hurricanes. It was barely a category one storm and it was just brushing the southern tip of Florida. Florida had been through three major hurricanes in 2004 and it looked like Florida was going to get another visit from Mother Nature. As it turned out, the storm was downgraded to a tropical storm just as it moved over Florida and it slowly moved out into the Gulf of Mexico.

The storm dipped a bit south in the Gulf and gained strength in the warm gulf waters before turning north and heading for the gulf coast. I believe it was on a Friday evening newscast when the reported path of the storm appeared to be turning north toward the Louisiana coast. That is when I heard the first mention of the possibility of a direct hit on New Orleans. At that time, the storm had just upgraded to a category three hurricane and it was expected to grow to at least a category four. The radar screen showed the size of the storm growing to cover most of the Gulf of Mexico and eye of the storm was projected to

continued on page 4

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Speaker Bio

Wayne Harrison

The Josam Company employs Mr. Harrison as their plumbing code specialist, to help write new as well as needed revisions of plumbing codes. Wayne Harrison is a member of PDI (Plumbing & Drainage Institute www.pdionline.org) and helped to write the "new" ASME A 112. 14.3 and 14.4 Standards for grease interceptors and grease recovery devices (GRDs). He is currently the team chairman for the revisions of the Stainless Steel DWV Drainage Systems ASME A 112.3.1. Wayne has been a plumbing/ mechanical contractor in the State of Oklahoma for 30 years and on the Oklahoma Plumbing Board of Commissioners for over 21 years. Additionally, Mr. Harrison helps to educate contractors, engineers, inspectors, and waste water departments in areas of grease accumulation for the removal of the fats, oils and greases. Mr. Harrison helps to educate the advantages of Stainless Steel Drainage Systems currently used on all cruise ships and most marine port authorities, as well as chemical drains and DWV drainage systems. Mr. Harrison currently holds (5) US and (5) Canadian patents regarding water heater stands and safety drain pans. He is currently on 3 ASME committees, and attends the ICC Code Hearings, IAPMO/UPC Code hearings, as well as attending PDI meetings for grease interceptors, and the new technology Grease Recovery Devices. He is working with the Department of Environmental Protection Agency for more regulations of grease controls. He will be discussing the different types of grease recovery devices and the maximum allowable grease output.

VP TECHNICAL REPORT

Philip McCrory



One of the challenges I have as a plumbing designer is: Do I spell grease interceptor with an 'e-r' or an 'o-r'? Then it gets more challenging when it comes to sizing the unit and proper component selection.

These days, with recent legislation of the Clean Water Act, food service establishments just can't flush their waste down the drain anymore. The city doesn't want the grease clogging up their lines, and the new high school kid, that just got hired, doesn't want to clean the grease trap. (Trap is easier to spell than interceptor). So what do we do?

Fortunately for us, Wayne Harrison will be here to discuss FOG, Fats-Oils-Grease. Mr. Harrison has an impressive list to back up his expertise on FOG. He is a code specialist that has helped to write the new ASME standard for grease interceptors, has been a Master Plumber/ Mechanical Contractor for 30 years, holds several patents for water heater stands and safety drains pans, is on ASME committees, ICC & IAPMO/UPC Code hearings, and has presented seminars across the country to other engineers, code, health, plumbing officials and waste treatment management.

We are fortunate that he will be here this October. I'm going to be there. I need to know the answer: 'e-r' or 'o-r'?

Phil

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Hurricane Katrina

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follow a path towards New Orleans. I knew from a recent visit to New Orleans, the levees around New Orleans were only designed for a category three hurricane.

As news of the impending disaster filled the TV, I became concerned for all the people that I had worked with and made friends with while working in New Orleans earlier this year.

I spent some time there working on a nursing building that is part of the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Nursing and part of Charity Hospital. It was only a couple of blocks from the Louisiana Superdome. My daily drive from the Marriott Hotel on Canal Street to the job site brought me down Canal Street and through the central business district and by the Superdome and many other familiar areas that were being shown on the TV news footage.

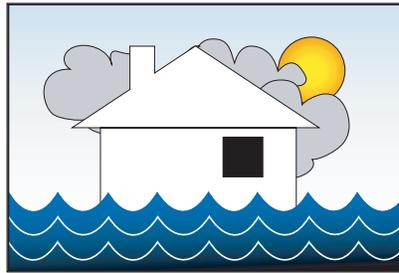
While I was working there, I took a city tour which included the levy system and the massive pumping stations. It is well known that most of the city was below sea level on one side and below Lake Pontchartrain on the other side. There was discussion of hurricanes and the levee being designed for a category three hurricane, but the discussions with locals seemed to always talk about the city being spared from the path of the storms. The architecture of the city was grand. The people were all very friendly and full of southern charm and hospitality. There were many well maintained mansions throughout the city and especially on St. Charles Avenue and in the Garden District. There were many well-maintained old buildings in the French Quarter that were hundreds of years old. I also visited the swamps and fishing villages south of New Orleans. These areas were probably wiped out during the hurricane.

During my stay in Louisiana, I met many wonderful people. I wondered how they are all doing and if they got out before the storm. The I-10 Freeway next to the building where I was working travels across downtown New Orleans and the exit ramps come down to grade level. One of those ramps became a boat ramp for rescue workers. I walked past that ramp on several occasions on my way to get lunch at a local restaurant. I saw the restaurant submerged in water in the background of the Superdome shots on the news. It was very sad to see news reports on TV showing people being dropped off at that freeway ramp. We have witnessed the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

My children were out of school for a long Labor Day weekend and asked what we could do to help. I am a volunteer firefighter, so I contacted the fire chief and made arrangements to conduct a "Fill the Boot" fundraiser for "Hurricane Katrina" victims. Over the Labor Day weekend we collected over two thousand dollars to send for relief efforts. The kids made signs and held them up while fire fighters collected money at a local intersection.

Later, I sat in stunned silence watching continuing TV images on CNN of the many tragedies and human suffering taking place. I

wondered if many low-lying areas that are flooded would eventually be leveled and not rebuilt because of the flood level elevation.



I was the fire chief of the village of Estral Beach, Michigan for several years. Estral Beach has suffered through two major floods in 1952 and 1972. The Corp of Engineers raised the level of Lake Erie a couple of feet to help with shipping

in the very shallow lake. Estral Beach is located on the western shores of Lake Erie and subject to storm surges when the wind blows out of the east. Raising the lake level has contributed to a higher flood elevation. The Corps of Engineers built levees around the village and installed pump houses in several low areas to pump the water over the levee and into Lake Erie. It's a miniature New Orleans. After the floods in Estral Beach, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which has jurisdiction, will not allow any new construction in the 100 year flood plain without the living quarters of the structure being built above the 100 year flood elevation for Lake Erie. FEMA has been enforcing rules for flood prone areas for many years in order for the community to be able to participate in the FEMA flood insurance program. Communities that do not comply with the enforcement requirement will lose their FEMA flood insurance for the entire community. A problem arose because the FEMA flood insurance program was not tied to the building codes. It created a dilemma when code officials went to a job site and tried to enforce FEMA requirements, and the requirements were not specifically mentioned in the building codes that the building officials were allowed to enforce. Many code officials were threatened with lawsuits and had to fight homeowners that wanted to build without complying with the FEMA flood insurance requirements. The building officials were told by FEMA to enforce their flood zone requirements in order to protect the integrity of their communities flood insurance program. That was the catch-22 for the building officials. They needed the FEMA requirements in the Building Code in order to enforce them.

Several years ago, FEMA started proposing these flood plain requirements in the model building, plumbing and mechanical codes with much resistance. Most of the resistance was because many people at the code hearings did not understand why they needed these requirements in the codes. The FEMA requirements do not allow the living areas of a structure to be built below the 100 year flood elevation. No basements were allowed in the flood plain, and piping & tanks installed below the flood plain needed to be restrained to resist floating and wave action. The often overlooked area in the FEMA requirement is the flood elevation should also include the elevation of the associated wave action. The wave action elevation is not clearly defined and needs some clarification. The wave action height should be based on the potential for winds and wave heights in the given geographical

VP LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Barry Pines, CIPE/CPD



In the latest issue of the "Bulletin", the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety quarterly newsletter, Mr. Robert Konyndyk, Chief Plumbing Inspector for the State of Michigan, wrote a column about "Trap Primers". It seems that the ASSE 1018 Standard applies to a SINGLE TRAP with a 1/2" connection. This

means that the distribution units that we have been using, i.e. Sioux Chief, Mifab and PPP, are not legal. When the State adopted the Michigan 2003 Plumbing Code, the Standard was not updated, therefore, not allowing the multiple trap connections. I have researched the Code and the Standard and Mr. Konyndyk is 100% correct. I have been informed of numerous cases where the contractor has been given violations for these installations and had to remove them. So be forewarned, if you specify or install the distribution units, you will be removing them. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me.

Barry

ADDENDUMS

The following memo was sent out by a project manager in one of the John E. Green Company offices: A "Summer 2005 Bulletin" released by the State of Michigan Plumbing Bureau of Construction Codes includes a plumbing item banning the use of any trap primer distribution manifolds. At one of my jobsites, we were recently rejected for our initial final plumbing inspection due to the fact that we had installed a couple of these distributors before this new regulation had even been released. This regulation was enforced retroactively on us just the same, and we had to remove the distributors, and install additional trap primers so that each floor drain would have its own. I have spoken with the Assistant Chief Inspector regarding some of the other details involved, and he says that even the electronic headers that have been specified in the past year or so are illegal. Also, we need to be sure that no piping less than 1/2" I.D. is used for trap priming installations. *Submitted by Dave Jones, Asst. Branch Manager, John E. Green Company*

Trap Primer Dilemma Not a Problem For Engineers: Over the past two months, we have read reports of the State of Michigan not allowing trap primer manifolds. It started with the disallowing of trap primer distribution units for pressure actuated trap primers. Then it went on to not allow electronic/solenoid operated trap primers. It is true and a bit unfortunate, but until the new 2006 edition of the International Plumbing Code is adopted, plumbers cannot use products manufactured to new standards. Professional Engineers can still design and specify electronic/solenoid operated trap primers under the Alternative Materials and Methods sections of the code. This is normally done for commercial work. It's a technicality and it would be nice if the State could accept new products manufactured to new consensus standards without requiring an engineer. *Submitted by Ron George, CIPE/CPD, President, Ron George Design & Consulting Services*

area. I think, in our area, they use three feet for wave action on top of the approximate five feet for the flood elevation so most living quarters need to be about eight feet above the existing grade. The mechanical portions of the code requirements require all mechanical equipment (furnaces, air-conditioning units, ductwork & piping) to be mounted above the flood elevation. Piping and tanks in the flood elevations must be restrained against floating or wave actions. These requirements assure the equipment will not get flooded and suffer mold issues or be torn out by wave action in a storm.

All new homes in Estral Beach are built with the garage, storage and maybe some shop space on the ground floor, and the living quarters are above. The walls perpendicular to the lake are reinforced concrete and the walls parallel with the lake are stud walls that can break away with storm wave action. I wonder if this is what they will require in New Orleans. In some low lying areas, they may not allow them to rebuild, or they may need the bottom two floors to be non-living spaces such as a garage and storage areas. I am hoping New Orleans will come back. They will need to spend more money on the levees, and clearing areas of the city that are very low. Maybe the low-lying areas could be made into parks or should be filled in to allow buildings to be rebuilt. There are many unanswered questions. Will New Orleans survive? I'm sure there will be a New Orleans in the future; however, it will probably be significantly downsized. The city of New Orleans will take a long time to recover from this. I just hope New Orleans is not going to be a modern day Pompeii.

I will be going to Baton Rouge, Louisiana with another member of our Volunteer Fire Department next week to help with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. We are both trained fire fighter and Emergency Medical Technicians. We originally booked a flight into the recently opened New Orleans Airport only to find all the rental cars were swept away in the flood waters and they do not expect to have any rental cars until some time in October. We changed our flight reservations to Baton Rouge so we were able to reserve a car. We plan on sleeping in our car or on air mattresses outside for the week. We are bringing with us boxes of medical supplies to help with treating people in one of the many temporary field hospitals. We have registered with the local Red Cross and will report there to be deployed daily for whatever relief efforts are needed. This will probably be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we realize it will not be easy. We are volunteering our time and expenses for this effort. I plan on taking lots of pictures during our trip.

Editor's note: *Ron George and Ray Tobin were in Long Beach, Miss. on 9-23-05. They have worked wherever a hand was needed, not only in the medical tent, but unloading daily truckloads of water, food and supplies, and working in kitchens on wheels with the Southern Baptist organization preparing 10,000 hot meals a day. The devastation is total where they are, according to Ron, and even photos will never be able to convey the destruction. All that can be done is scrape up the debris, haul it to a landfill and start from scratch to rebuild. According to Ron, the Southern Baptist church group, the Salvation Army and the National Guard are performing miraculous feats everyday.*

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ASPE NEWS

American Society of Plumbing Engineers-Eastern Michigan Chapter

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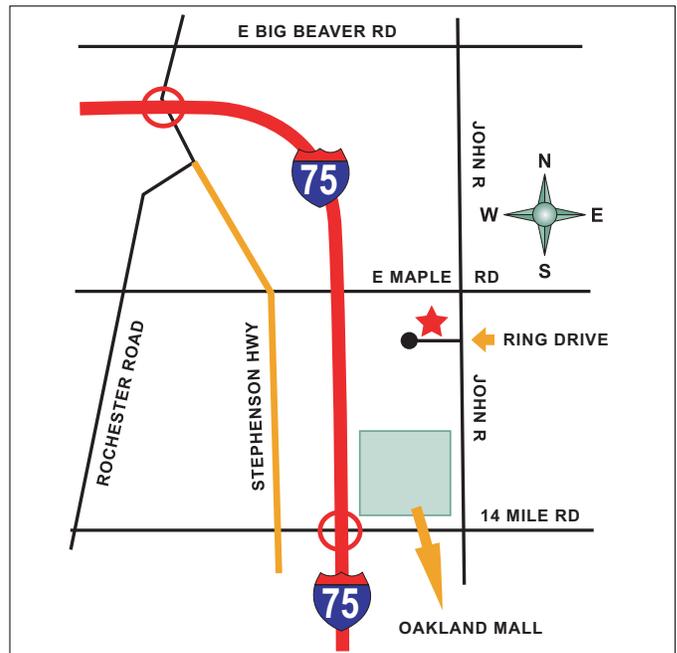
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