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National Fire Protection Association President and CEO Named Society of Fire Protection Engineers Person of the Year for 2009

NFPA president and CEO James M. Shannon

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA – October 19, 2009 – At its Annual Awards Luncheon, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) recognized James M. Shannon as SFPE Person of the Year for 2009. Shannon is the president and CEO with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The SFPE Person of the Year Award was created in 1973 to recognize significant achievement in fire protection. The award winner must come from beyond the membership of SFPE.

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“Shannon has shown great leadership in the development of coalitions and initiatives that are focused on protecting people, property and the environment from fire,” said SFPE Engineering Program Manager Chris Jelenewicz.

Shannon organized the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes, which is a national group committed to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing the threat of cigarette-ignited fires. As a result of their efforts 99.8% of the U.S population is now or soon will be better protected from cigarette fires.

He also established the Fire Sprinkler Initiative as a means to provide resources for the fire service and other sprinkler advocates who want to demonstrate the need for home fire sprinklers in their communities.

“These efforts, in addition to NFPA’s standards and education efforts have made significant contribution to improving fire safety throughout the world,” said Jelenewicz.

Past SFPE Persons of the Year include: Movie & Television Star Dick Van Dyke, University of Maryland’s Dr. John L. Bryan, Former FDNY Fire Chief Daniel A. Nigro and former Director/Under Secretary for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency R. David Paulison.

About Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Organized in 1950, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) is the professional organization that represents engineers engaged in fire protection worldwide. Through its membership of over 5,000 professionals and 65 international chapters, SFPE advances the science and practice of fire protection engineering while maintaining a high ethical standard. SFPE and its members serve to make the world a safer place by reducing the burden of unwanted fire through the application of science and technology.

More information about SFPE can be found at www.sfpe.org.

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