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Fire Protection Engineers Work to Make Air Transportation Safer from Fire

New Issue of Fire Protection Engineering Magazine F ocuses on Fire Safety in Air Transportation

BETHESDA, MARYLAND – March 1, 2013 – The first quarter, 2013 issue of Fire Protection Engineering magazine highlights fire safety challenges involving air transportation. “Fire safety in air transportation has been in the news lately due to fires involving lithium-ion batteries on the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner,” says SFPE Technical Director Morgan Hurley. “However, lithium-ion fire hazards are but one of the many fire safety challenges in aircraft, airports and hangars that fire protection engineers address every day.”

The complete issue is available free-of-charge at http://magazine.sfpe.org/. The first quarter issue contains the following articles:

Research-Derived Aircraft Fire Safety Improvements During the Last Decade -- Federal Aviation Administration research engineer Constantine Sarkos reviews research undertaken over the last decade into how to improve aircraft and airliner fire safety. This article summarizes major improvements for each research effort, focusing on lithium battery fire hazards, thermal acoustic insulation, the prevention of fuel tank explosions, and composite materials safety.

Fire Safety Issues in Airport Terminal Design -- Authors Barbara Lane, William Ward, and John Noone, all of whom work for the engineering consulting firm Arup, describe how they approached a fire safety design for Dublin Airport’s Terminal 2. They emphasize the importance of identifying and addressing crucial items early in the design process.

Challenges of Aircraft Hangar Fire Protection -- Michael Aaron, who works for specialty fire safety consulting firm Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc., addresses the unique fire safety challenges posed by aircraft hangars. Hangar fires are low-frequency, but high-consequence events, so hangars require a large amount of protection and redundancy. This article provides an overview of design choices and sheds insight on overcoming common sources of confusion.

Advancing the Science and Practice of Fire Protection Engineering Internationally
Fire Protection of Historic Piers -- Independent fire safety consultant John Ivison addresses fire safety challenges unique to historic piers such as water supply, difficulty in achieving firefighting access, and the potential for uncertain management and pier deterioration over time. The author provides solutions to common challenges found with both recreational and industrial piers, and gives guidance for undertaking renovation projects.

What is a Fire Protection Engineer?
According to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, a fire protection engineer applies science and engineering principles to protect people, homes, workplaces, the economy and the environment from the devastating effects of fires. Fire protection engineers analyze how buildings are used, how fires start and grow, and how fires affect people and property. They use the latest technologies to design systems to control fires, alert people to danger, and provide means for escape. Fire protection engineers also work closely with other professionals, including engineers of other disciplines, architects, state and local building officials, and local fire departments to build fire safe communities. Fire protection engineers are in high demand. The number of available jobs far exceeds the supply.

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 global 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.

To find out more about SFPE go to www.sfpe.org.

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