



UPCOMING MEETING

September 23rd 5:30pm-7:00pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

TOPIC: NFPA 99

Speaker: Niki Patel –Sherman Engineering

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT:

<https://baltimoreaspe.com/>

A link to the log in will be sent to all registrants on Monday September 21st and again the morning of September 23rd.

*Meeting will be free to all members.
Non-member fee is \$20*

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**Jeffrey W. Edwards, CPD ,GPD
President**

President’s Report

Hello to all and I hope everyone had a great summer even with still having to deal with the pandemic and local and government guidelines.

The Baltimore ASPE chapter’s 2020-2021 season begins this month. Because of still dealing with social distancing and COVID-19 restrictions, our chapter is planning for virtual meetings beginning this month thru December.

As November and December get closer, the officers will verify all local guidelines and will decide if we need to continue with virtual meetings beginning in 2021.

Last year we postponed our annual golf outing from April to this October. We have decided to cancel the golf outing in October and are hoping we can have our normal golf outing next April. Stay tuned.

Because of the pandemic, we will not be holding in-person AYP and WOA events through the rest of 2020. We are hoping 2021 will have less pandemic restrictions so we will reevaluate these events next year.

We have scheduled the majority of our monthly virtual meetings and presenters for this year. Please refer to our meeting list in the newsletter for additional information.

Please stay safe and hopefully we are close to getting back to what we use to call normal, if that is even possible anymore.

Best Regards,
Jeff Edwards, CPD, GPD
President-ASPE Baltimore Chapter

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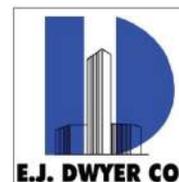


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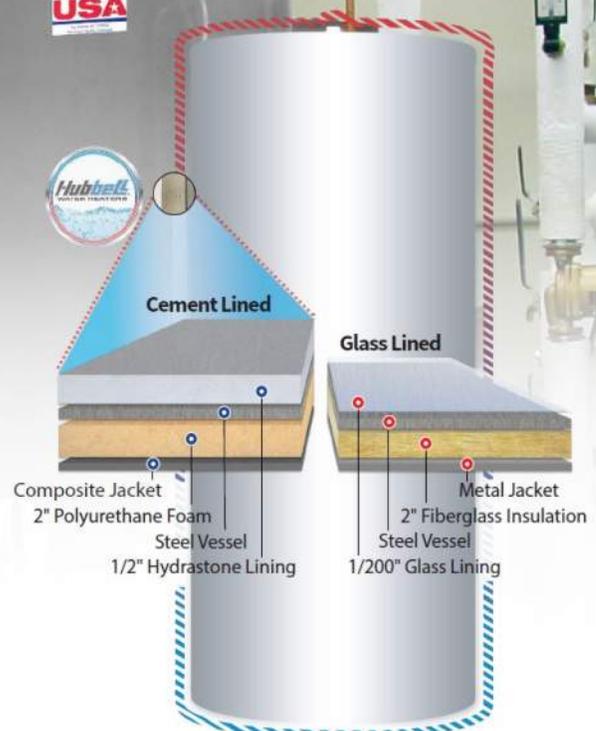
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Karen Schulte, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
WOA Liaison

WOA Report

When we ended the 2019-2020 ASPE season in May, I'm sure we all hoped that by the fall we would be able to see each other in person, but alas we must still be vigilante and continue to take the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe. The Baltimore, Philadelphia and DC Chapters of Woman of ASPE have embraced the age of Zoom and hosted a tri-chapter virtual trivia happy hour in early September to kick off the fall. With the I-95 corridor connecting our 3 chapters the virtual happy hour seemed a great way to bring us together without anyone having to sit in traffic!

Best Regards,
Karen Schulte, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C



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Nikita Patel, EIT, MBA
AYP Liaison



AYP Report

Hello and welcome back to our first ever socially distant technical season! These past few months since March have been different to say the least, but I'm glad to see ASPE Baltimore embracing these changes, while still making all of their helpful tools available to members. The AYP events might look a little different this year while we practice the recommended guidelines for holding large group events. Stay tuned for upcoming virtual events, and maybe some in-person events in 2021. In the meantime, I hope to see a few of you at the WOA event on 9/9!

I also hope you'll be able to join me in our September meeting for an interesting look at the evolution of NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code, some changes we have recently seen, and those we are expecting in the upcoming years.

Stay safe!

Niki

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Chuck Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Vice President—Technical

Technical Report

Welcome to the 2020-2021 ASPE Baltimore Chapter meeting season! I hoped that we'd be able to meet in person again, but we'll be trying something different for a few meetings this fall. Hopefully we can meet in person in the springtime. We have a few new options this season, which I'm sure will be successful. For our fall meetings this year, we will be offering teleconferences as our virtual meetings instead of a pre-recorded webinar. This allows for full participation, some chapter announcements and other activities. I'm sure many of you have joined Skype, Zoom, Teams, and other types of virtual meetings, so this should be old hat by now! Our September presentation will be offered by Sherman Engineering and presented by our own Niki Patel. She will discuss NFPA 99 and the evolution it has been through from inception until now. In addition to talking about the changes the code saw in its various editions, she will lead a discussion on the reasons behind certain changes and what they mean for the Engineers and Hospital staff that work together to make design decisions on new projects.

Niki has been our chapter AYP Liason for the last two years and is now also our Region 1 AYP Liason! She has quite a few ideas in mind for both the Region and our chapter. She has also recently celebrated her fourth anniversary at Sherman Engineering where she serves as a sales engineer. She primarily aids the Maryland and Delaware areas by offering medical gas and vacuum application selections and providing technical presentations for consultant engineers, owners, and the like.

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Best Regards,

Charles J. Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Vice President - Technical



Updating the Health Care Facilities Code

Safety protocols in case of fire are important considerations when placing a medical gas zone valve.

July 26, 2018

[John Gregory](#)



How do [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) 99 codes get developed code cycle to code cycle, and how do many of the codes make it through the process? The first stage of the process is the public input stage, which is when NFPA issues a public notice asking for revisions to particular codes. This notice can be found on NFPA's website at www.nfpa.org/doc99.

Once the public input stage closes, the Technical Committee will meet to review and discuss the public input submitted. The committee either accepts it as-is, recommends edits, tables it for further discussion, rejects it, or assigns a task group to write new verbiage or a new section to address it.

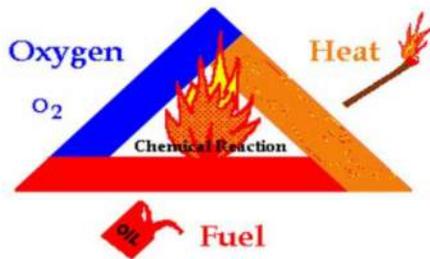
Once the process is complete, the committee votes on each item, and the results are posted for the public to review. This process repeats itself one more time before going to the final stages. As a Technical Committee member for the NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code, I am honored to collaborate with many individuals to create a code that many look to for guidance.

It is the time of year when this committee begins laying the groundwork to start the code review and revision process all over again. Leading into this process, the Correlating Committee will request the Technical Committee to review common questions it receives on a regular basis to see if there is anything technical members can do to provide clarity. Each member of the Technical Committee is required to join a task group they have interest in and extensive knowledge about. This time around, I joined the task group assigned to review zone valves.

At first glance, it did not look like it would be too difficult to review and move on. But as we held our first conference call to discuss the common questions posed to the NFPA 99 correlating committee, we found out quickly this would take a little longer to prepare something presentable for the NFPA 99 (PIP) August committee meeting.

Something as simple as where to place a medical gas zone valve is not as straightforward as one might think. For instance, you have to consider the safety protocols in case a fire is in the area. Who will shut off the zone valves associated with the room being impacted?

This article originally appeared in *Plumbing Engineer*, a TMB Publishing publication. For more articles like this, please visit www.phcpros.com.



The operating room is one of these areas that presents a unique situation because you have a fire triangle. The fire triangle consists of four factors that must be present at the same time in order to produce a fire:

- Enough oxygen to sustain combustion;
- Enough heat to raise the material to its ignition temperature;
- Some sort of fuel or combustion material; and
- The chemical, exothermic reaction that is fire.

The oxygen that would sustain combustion would result from the patient mask supplying higher levels of oxygen from the anesthesia machine. The heat to raise the material to ignition would come from the cauterizing knife the surgeon uses to make a cut on the patient. The fuel or combustion material can be the skin-cleaning agent that may contain flammable chemicals such as alcohol.

In this case, the zone valve has been placed outside of these types of rooms. It allows someone outside the fire zone to safely shut off the medical gases to the room. The anesthesia machine still has some oxygen flowing through it until it's depleted, so it may take a few moments for it to be completely reduced. Shutting off the zone valve is not necessarily just to protect that room but all the rooms around it. The thought is to contain the fire in this room. The surgical staff is trained on what to do in case of a fire if it were ever to occur.

Now we have to determine where this zone valve should be located outside of the room. The code states it is to be placed immediately outside of the room. During a normal operating day, you will notice there may be a patient bed or other equipment up and down the hallway. Needless to say, many obstacles can be in the hallway.

The other area receiving attention regarding placement of the zone valve is the Pre-Op/ PACU department. The code talks about Category 1 space now in lieu of critical care space. With this in mind, we discussed where this zone valve should be located, inside or outside the space.

These spaces can be quite large and cover a good distance from the exiting door to the farthest point in the space. The group discussed placing the zone valve at the nurse's station since it's at a midway point and is easily accessible but it still could be inside the fire zone, theoretically. For now, the group has left it outside the space and will continue to evaluate this decision.

The next item in placement of this zone valve is, can anything be in front of the zone valve? Some of us said no and some said it depends. As we continued to discuss the topic, we made our way into another code to determine what the life safety code provides some guidance regarding exit corridors and obstructions. We ended up tabling this part of the discussion to take a closer look at the life safety code.

As we work through the issues to determine the updates for the next code release in 2020, we look to those reading this article to submit your ideas for code changes and to provide substantiations to support your recommendation. This is your opportunity to be heard and your recommendations considered.

This article originally appeared in Plumbing Engineer, a TMB Publishing publication. For more articles like this, please visit www.phcpros.com.

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Christopher Imhof, PE, CPD
Education Committee Chair

Regulatory Services During a Pandemic

By Chris Imhof, PE, CPD

For the purposes of this article, the commentary on regulatory services is based on commercial and non-residential projects typically designed by architects and MEP design firms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on building design and engineering services. There have been orders and directives from the federal, state, and local governments that have closed work spaces for non-essential businesses and government agencies. While most MEP design and engineering tasks can be completed remotely through telework, regulatory agencies are bound by laws, codes, and procedures that may limit flexibility. These agencies have had to react quickly to the pandemic so that they could continue to operate and provide services to keep the public safe.

Most regulatory agencies are composed of three main functions: permits, plan review, and inspections. Each jurisdiction has their own way of conducting business. Depending on the jurisdiction, permits and plans were traditionally submitted either in-person, mail, or online using electronic systems. Due to the pandemic some jurisdictions have made changes to in-person submissions, such as limiting public areas of regulatory and government buildings, the creation of document drop-boxes, and the elimination of in-person submissions and consultations. Some jurisdictions already had online permit and plan review services, making them better prepared for the restrictions created by the pandemic. Switching from paper to online services is a complicated task that requires additional time and funding for new software and hardware, and for training of staff and users. Some jurisdictions may be limited to paper submissions due to code requirements for plans to have wet stamps and signatures. Converting to paperless submissions may require code changes. The table below is information regarding the operations of jurisdictions in the Baltimore-Washington Region. The data was collected from websites and conversations with building departments.

Jurisdiction	Permits		Plans	
	Before	Present (9/10)	Before	Present (9/10)
Baltimore City	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only
Washington DC	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Paper or electronic	Electronic Only
Baltimore County	In-person	Lobby still open for In-person	Paper	Paper
Howard County	In-person or Electronic	Public closed, online only	Paper	Paper
Anne Arundel	In-person or paper mail	Online or drop box outside	Paper	Mail or dropbox
Montgomery County	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only
PG County	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only
WSSC	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only	Electronic Only
Arlington County	In-person or Electronic	Electronic only	Paper or electronic	Electronic Only
Fairfax County	In-person or Electronic	Electronic only	Paper or electronic	Electronic Only
Loudon County	In-person or paper mail	Online, dropbox, or paper mail	Paper	Paper or electronic

Inspections have been the most difficult aspect of pandemic for regulatory services to deal with. Inspections have traditionally taken place in-person and on the project site. With new requirements to limit interaction and to social distance, jurisdictions have come up with a wide range of solutions, including;

- Conducting site inspections and surveys using live video chats, video, and pictures
- PPE for inspectors and tradespeople
- Limiting or suspending inspections with high risk occupants such as assisted living, daycare, and healthcare facilities
- Suspending inspections for occupied residences
- Not inspecting complaints unless there is a life safety issue

It is always good practice to consult with the AHJ early and often if you have questions regarding permits, plan review, or inspections. The pandemic and changes to work routines and procedures may cause unexpected delays. It is the design team's responsibility to work with the AHJ to have permits and plans approved as efficiently as possible.

My employer, WSSC Water, wants to remind customers that plumbing permits and plans can be submitted and reviewed prior to county building permit application. Engineers can apply for permits and submit plans for review. There are no fees for permit application and plan submission. WSSC Water only accepts electronic submissions for permits and plans.



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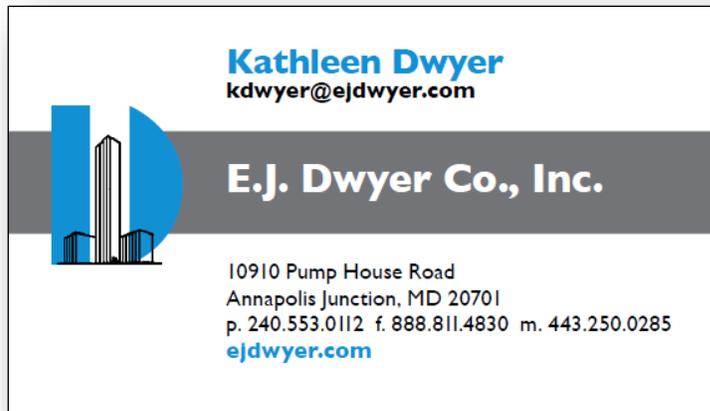
Welcome to 2020-2021 ASPE kickoff newsletter. We are all looking forward to a great year and many exciting topics. Crazy how much our lives have changed since last year.

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.

The Olive grove restaurant is still open for carry out and outside dining so they will be ready with their yummy crab cakes for us as soon as we get the go ahead from our governor.

Please let me know if I can help you in anyway. Let's work at getting our associates excited to attend our virtual meetings.

I look forward to seeing all of you on your computers soon!



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Brian Crisp, CPD
Vice President - Membership

Membership Report

Welcome everyone to another ASPE Calendar year! This one is shaping up to be an interesting one for the Baltimore Chapter (have you heard about this Corona thing going around?) I'm looking forward to the meetings this year, especially a second presentation from Mr. Isman regarding Standpipe System design. As a note, we have a couple of outgoing Board Members this year, so if you're interested in volunteering on the board in some capacity, please let us know :)

This section is where I would normally talk about a benefit of membership to our illustrious society, but I wanted to highlight something a little different this month. I wanted to talk about something that came up recently: membership tenure. As you're all aware, our members receive Awards recognizing their commitment to the chapter for every Ten (10) years they have been a member. If you let your membership lapse (for financial reasons or otherwise), as long as you renew within a year of when your membership expired, you can maintain your tenure. If you have any questions about this, feel free to reach out to me.

On that same note, we are still providing the Membership Tenure awards this year. Those of you who would have received them in person earlier this year will receive the award in the mail. We will continue this approach for as long as we're having digital meetings.

The secret must be out that Baltimore is recognized as an outstanding chapter. We've had several additions since May. Baltimore remains a growing chapter with 115 current members.

- Louis Elidas – Veteran Design & Construction
- Brian Ison – Veteran Design & Construction
- Ronnie Rice
- BJ Shrader – McWane Plumbing Group
- Wayne Smith
- Jeanne Tebera – Henry Adams

Please join me in welcoming them to our chapter, I would normally say something about having an adult beverage, but given our virtual status, I think a digital-cheers will do the trick.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, 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
Vice President, Membership
vpmember@baltimoreaspe.com



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LEED AP BD+C
Mechanical Project Engineer

1306 Concourse Drive, Suite 100
Linthicum, MD 21090
410.646.4500 tel > 410.646.4738 fax
kschulte@muellerassoc.com

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Jason J. Eagles
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o - 410.825.6616 ext 1309
c - 410.250.4790
f - 410.825.6618

1432 Front Avenue | jason@bayassociates.com
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2020-2021 ASPE Baltimore Chapter Meeting Schedule

Date: **September 23, 2020**

Speaker: Niki Patel -Sherman Engineering

Topic: NFPA 99

Date: **October 28th, 2020**

Speaker: Jay Otto -QuantumFlo

Topic: Booster Pumps

Date: **November 25th, 2020**

Speaker: Lauren Berenato –Jomar Valve

Topic: Valves 101

Date: **December 16th, 2020**

Speaker: James Wall –CISPI

Topic: Installation Standards of Cast Iron Piping

Date: **January 27th 2021**

Speaker: BJ Schrader/Laura Loziuk –McWane

Topic: Cast Iron and PVC Piping Value Engineering

Date: **February 24th, 2021**

Speaker: Ken Isman –UM

Topic: Fire Protection Standpipe System Design

Date: **March 24th, 2021**

Speaker: Jeff Henscheid –PVI

Topic: Water Heater Sizing, Construction & Efficiency

Date: **April 23, 2021**

Event: Annual Golf Outing

Date: **April 28th, 2021**

Speaker: TBD

Topic: Engineering Liability

Date: **May 26th, 2021**

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD



Monthly Sponsorship Opportunities

The Baltimore Chapter of ASPE continues to have successful meetings and is looking to continue improving throughout the year.

The Chapter has the following sponsorship opportunities for each month:

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 Jeff Edwards or Kathy Dwyer if interested

jedwards@muellerassoc.com

kdwyer@ejdwyer.com

NOTE: ONLY APPLICABLE WHEN WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR IN PERSON MEETING EVENTS