Session 1A: Evaluating Fire Protection for Mini-Load Automatic Storage and Retrieval Systems

Mini-load automatic storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) are becoming very prevalent in warehouse occupancies as they allow for rapid product selection in a condensed storage arrangement. However, most ASRS arrangements include either plastic trays or open-top plastic containers. A research program was conducted at FM Global to determine if mini-load type ASRS arrangements could be treated the equivalent of open-frame racks for the ceiling-level sprinkler protection design purposes. This session will discuss the research program test methodology as well as its conclusions.

Bonus Session: NFPA 13 Chapter 21 – What is it & How Can You Benefit From It?

In 2013 a new chapter (Chapter 21) was added to NFPA 13 entitled Alternative Sprinkler System Designs for Chapters 12 Through 20. This session will discuss why this new chapter was added, how it may offer alternative designs for you, as well as some of the rules that you need to be aware of before applying it.

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Wes Baker is a Senior Technical Specialist in the Engineering Standards division at FM Global. He is a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and an NFPA member serving on both the NFPA 13 Installation and NFPA 13 Discharge committees. He has been with FM Global for almost 30 years and is currently responsible for data sheets related to the protection of storage, as well as the installation guidelines for sprinklers that are used for storage protection.

Mr. Baker was named the 2011 William M. Carey award recipient by the Fire Protection Research Foundation, an affiliate of the NFPA, for his technical paper, “Storage Sprinkler Design Criteria” – the concept behind the recent release of FM Global's Operating Standard / Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet 8-9, Storage of Class 1, 2, 3, 4 and Plastic Commodities. The William M. Carey Award is presented to the individual / paper voted most outstanding in the fire suppression category.

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