



Newsletter

Western Michigan Chapter

September 2023

WESTERN MICHIGAN

This months meeting info:

Grand Rapids Meeting:

Kalamazoo Meeting:

Dates:

September 13th & 14th

Location:

**Canopy by Hilton - Grand Rapids Downtown
131 Ionia Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Location:

**Park Club of Kalamazoo
219 W. South Street
Kalamazoo , MI 49007**

Speaker:

Tyler Ismert

Schier Products

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Subject:

Grease Interceptor Sizing

Cost:

\$30 per person

Cost:

\$30 per person

Important Information:

New Meeting Location!

The Grand Rapids meeting will now be at lunch. Please join us at the Canopy by Hilton in downtown Grand Rapids for this months meeting. The presentation will begin at noon sharp. See you there!



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Chapter President—Brian Peceny

Welcome to a new year of ASPE. First, let me introduce myself to our membership. I'm an engineer who has worked at Progressive AE for many years (hard to count that high). I've done HVAC, plumbing and fire protection over that span. I've been a member of ASPE since I believe 1990. Maybe I'm like a lot of you, I've enjoyed attending ASPE meetings over the years but have avoided joining the board which in turn had responsibilities. Well, this year I'm president. Not sure if deserved, but I'm honored to do my part.

The ASPE-WM board's main goal for this year was to increase participation in our monthly meetings. We believe Nick, VP Technical, has put together a wonderful list of meetings and speakers. It's a hard job that he has performed flawlessly. But we've had good speakers and topics in the past, with only modest participation at the meetings. Therefore, we are trying something new this year. We are moving our meeting to noon time, and back downtown for the Grand Rapids meeting. There are no changes to the Kalamazoo meeting.

We understand that the change is not preferred by all, but also recognize that we had to try something new. We are hopeful the noon-time meeting will work better for the majority of our Grand Rapids area members.

So, come join us. Give the noon meetings a try and let us know your thoughts. For December we are looking at an evening meeting to better suit the Christmas season. For all other months look to pencil, pen, crayon, electronically schedule the third Wednesday for Grand Rapids and third Thursday for Kalamazoo to join your fellow plumbing engineers/designers/associates at our monthly meeting.

One final reminder, we want you to be an ASPE member, but the lunch meetings are not members only. Invite your coworkers. We'd love to see some new faces.

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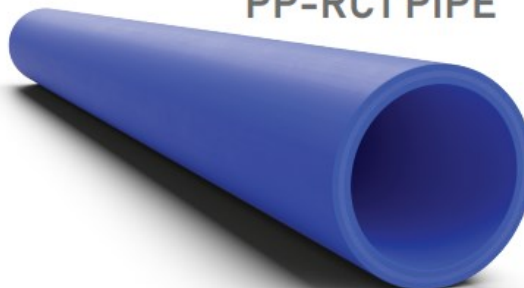
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VP Technical—Nick Von Myhr

The Western Michigan ASPE Chapter is excited to be kicking off another great year of learning opportunities for the community. New to this year, you will be able to view our entire speaker and topic schedule on our website, as well as register for those events in advance. Click [here](#) to view our presentation schedule.

To start off our list of great speakers this year, I am pleased to introduce Tyler Ismert with Schier products. Tyler will be diving into updated methods for sizing commercial grease interceptors and showcasing the benefits of using Schier products. If you are involved with designing restaurants or any type of commercial kitchens this meeting will benefit you.

I hope to see you there!

VP Membership—John Cassady

Welcome back to a new ASPE season! We are currently at 88 members in the West Michigan chapter.

All new members moving forward will receive a voucher for a free meeting, redeemable at checkout when registering for an event.

For those of you who have a membership expiring by the end of September, you should have received an email reminder from the national society already. I will send out follow-up reminders to you all as well.

When you are renewing your membership, please be sure to select West Michigan as your “home chapter”. Any “at large” members may miss out on communication from the chapter.

You can also update your chapter affiliation by logging in to [ASPE.org](https://www.aspe.org) and following My Account > My Profile and editing your information.

If you have a coworker interested in joining our chapter, please have them reach out to me with questions about membership.

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VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo

This month we are going over the basics of Firefighter Air Replenishment System (FARS). This system is part of the 2015 International Fire Code and is a valuable resource for architects, engineers, building owners, and fire safety professionals who are involved in the design, installation, and maintenance of FARS systems in buildings.

So, what is FARS?

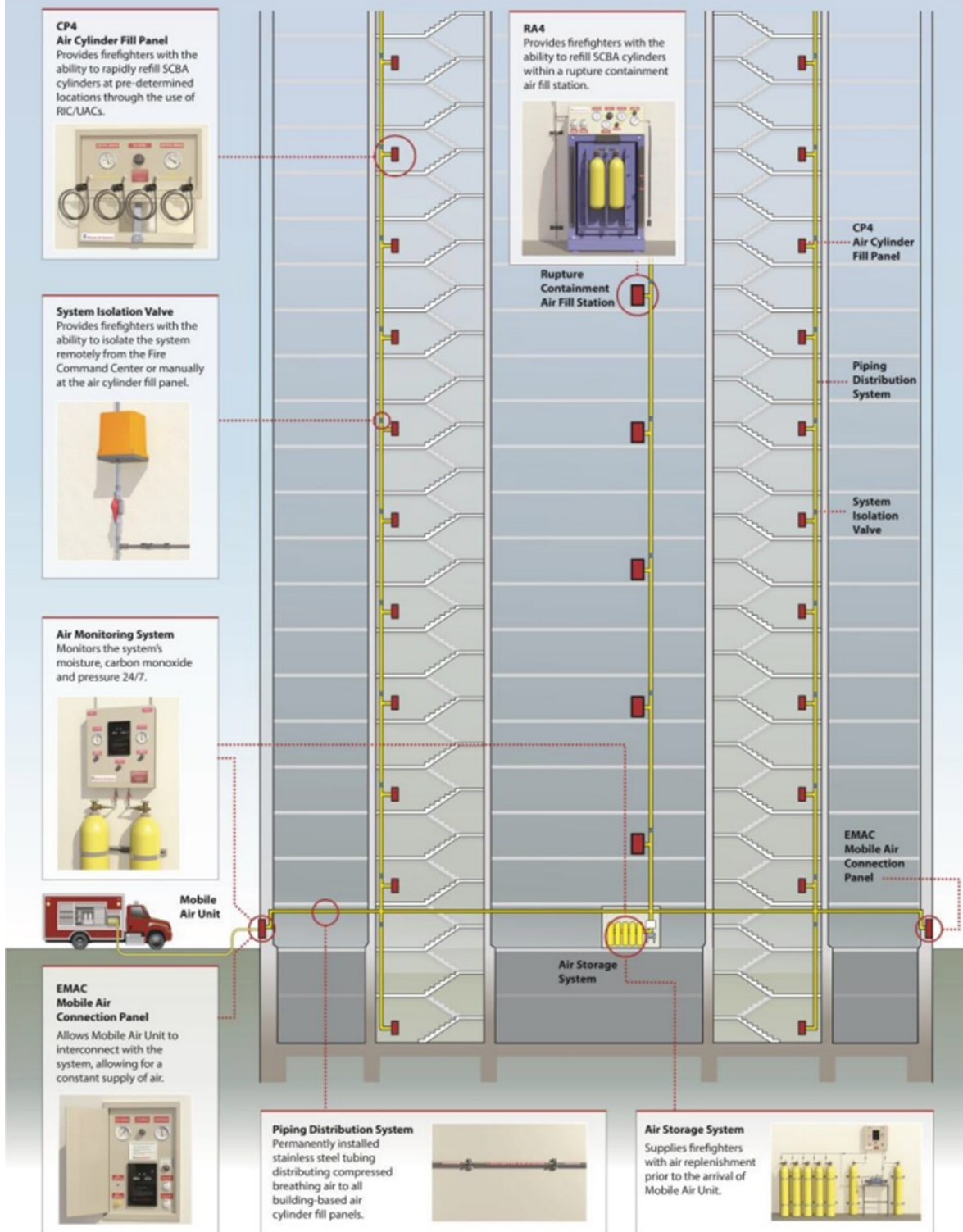
A Firefighter Air Replenishment System (FARS) is a specialized system that provides a continuous supply of fresh air to firefighters working in high-rise buildings. It is a permanently installed arrangement of piping valves, fittings, and equipment to facilitate the replenishment of breathing air in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for firefighters engaged in emergency operations. In a traditional firefighting operation, firefighters must carry their air supply with them in the form of SCBA tanks. However, the limited duration of these SCBA tanks can pose challenges to firefighters working on long-term rescue and firefighting operations. In order to solve this problem, some AHJs require that buildings are equipped with FARS to provide continuous supply of fresh air through a series of outlets placed throughout a building. By simply connecting their SCBA to the outlets, firefighters can easily replenish their air supply. This allows firefighters to work for extended periods without needing to return to the ground for a fresh air tank, making work more efficient and safer in high-rise buildings, underground structures, tunnels, large warehouses, maritime vessels, etc.

FARS is a modular system with seven key components:

- Exterior Mobile Air Connection (EMAC) to supply a continuous amount of air from responding air unit
- Interior air fill panels
- Interconnected tubing
- Air monitoring system to ensure air quality meets NFPA requirements
- Interior air fill stations
- Air storage system with a series of cylinders, booster pumps, or other components
- Control/isolation valves

...continued on page 8.

FIREFIGHTER AIR REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM (FARS)



Source: Rescueair.com

...continued on page 9.

VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo (continued)

Code requirements for installation, inspection, testing & maintenance

In 2006, The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) included IAPMO IGC 220-2005, “Breathing Air Replacement Systems” to their Uniform Plumbing Code as a supplement to Appendix F. FARS has also been included in the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) in Appendix L, as recommended by the International Code Council (ICC) Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) and the International Associate of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire and Life Safety Section. The inclusion of FARS in the codes is also intended to standardize the criteria for installation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of FARS.

To ensure that FARS systems remain in proper working order and are ready in the event of an emergency, the following inspections, testing, and maintenance must be performed:

- Inspections: at least once a year to ensure that all components are in proper working order. The inspection should include a visual inspection of all system components, a check of the air supply, and a review of the system documentation.
- Testing: system must be tested periodically to ensure that they are capable of providing the required air flow and pressure. The testing frequency will depend on the size and complexity of the system, but it typically ranges from once a year to once every five years. The testing should include a flow test, a pressure test, and a review of the test results.
- Maintenance: FARS systems must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the requirements of the IFC. This may include periodic cleaning and disinfecting of the system components, as well as the replacement of worn or damaged parts.

In addition to these requirements, FARS systems should be inspected and tested following any significant modifications or changes to the building or the system. The inspections, testing, and maintenance of FARS systems should be conducted by qualified personnel.

Overall, a FARS system is a complex and specialized system that requires careful design, installation, and maintenance to ensure that it functions properly when it is needed most.

For more detailed information, check the following references:

- 2015 International Fire Code, Appendix L
- NFPA Research Foundation Technical Notes – An Analysis of Firefighter Breathing Air Replenishment Systems by Simin Gu, MS and Prabodh Panindre, PhD; Department of Mechanical Engineering, New York University, Brooklyn, NY, USA. April 2021
- www.rescueair.com



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2023-2024 ASPE Western Michigan Meetings

September 13th & 14th
Tyler Ismert
Schier Products
Grease Interceptor Sizing

December 14th (Christmas Party)
Cody Mack
Caleffi North America
Mixing And Balancing In Domestic
Hot Water Systems

March 13th & 14th
TBD

October 11th & 12th
Josh Pedraja
Patton's Medical
Medical Gas 101

January 10th & 11th
Thad Kuzma and Joe Hancock
Flow-Tech Systems
Legionella Filtration

April 3rd & 4th
Marco DeAngelo
Arkema Inc.
Codes And Standards In The
Plenum With Corrosive Waste
Drainage

November 8th & 9th
Dawn Cole
Quality Water & Air Inc.
Siphonic Storm Drainage Systems

February 7th & 8th
Bob Taylor
McWane Plumbing Group
The History Of Cast Iron

TBD
ASPE Annual Golf Outing

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Please send a copy of your ads and/or business cards to Jonathan Burke:

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Thank you for supporting your local ASPE chapter.