



Newsletter

Western Michigan Chapter

September 2024

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:

**Tony DeDionisio
American Gas Safety**

Time:

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

Time:

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

Subject:

Gas Safety Design

Cost:

\$30 per person

Cost:

\$30 per person



Chapter President—Brian Peceny

Welcome back. I trust all had a great summer. This September we kick off another year of ASPE West Michigan meetings and events. Once again, we will be meeting for lunch in downtown GR on Wednesdays and downtown Thursdays in Kalamazoo. Due to some scheduling conflicts, the actual date for each meeting may vary each month, so pay attention to our newsletter and notices.

I'd like to make a special, first of the year, to encourage non-ASPE members to consider joining this year. Our membership has been fairly steady over the last few years, but we would like to see it increase. In fact, it would be pretty cool if we could reach 100 local members.

You'll hear about this again next month, but I'd like to make a plug for ASPE's 2024 Convention and Expo. The convention is October 18-23, with the Expo happening October 21-22. Check out the website for more information.

https://expo.aspe.org/digmar-attendee/?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=Attendee+Search+V2&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwz7C2BhDkARIsAA_SZKbls8ajbEGJMHXQWPOetscnqq817NIQkgq9PBp12OqFI7PzyHicqcsaAuA2EALw_wcB

See you at the meeting.



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The legal limit for nitrates in Michigan is **10 milligrams per liter**. If your water tests above this limit the water needs to be treated or in some cases a new well is required.

Until the problem is fixed you can use another source of water such as bottled water for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula. Boiling water will increase the amount of nitrate in the water that's left.

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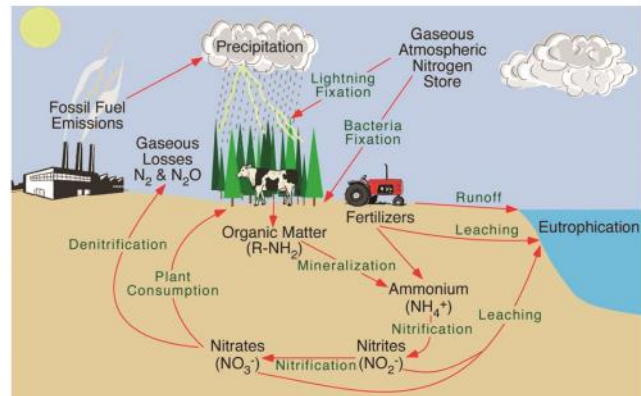
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VP Technical—Nick Von Myhr

Hello all you knowledge passionate industry leading engineers!

The Western Michigan ASPE Chapter is excited to be kicking off another great year of learning opportunities for the engineering community. Like last year, you are now able to view our entire speaker and topic schedule on our website, as well as register for those events in advance.

Click the link below to view our presentation schedule.

[Western Michigan ASPE - Meeting/Event Information \(aspewestmichigan.com\)](http://aspewestmichigan.com)

To start this year off, I am pleased to introduce Tony DeDionisio with American Gas Safety. Tony is a Technical Sales Engineer at American Gas Safety, where he works on the application and design of controls products that prevent hazardous gas leaks and combustible gas explosions in buildings. Tony will be covering gas safety design in all applications, with a focus on Science Lab Safety systems. If you are involved with designing natural gas systems or just interested in understanding more about them, then this meeting is for you.

I hope to see you there!



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VP Membership—John Cassady

We are currently at 83 members in the West Michigan chapter.

If you know anyone interested in joining our chapter, please have them reach out. All new members 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 April, 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, following My Account > My Profile, and editing your information.

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



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VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo

Fire sprinklers are critical components in fire protection systems, designed to contain and extinguish fires rapidly to prevent catastrophic damage and loss of life. Among the different types of fire sprinklers available – standard, residential, and quick response – each serves a unique purpose and is engineered to meet specific safety standards. In this article, we will explore the differences among these sprinkler types, emphasizing their response times, design differences, and appropriate applications.

Quick response (QR) sprinklers are engineered to activate faster than standard response sprinklers. By deploying water earlier during a fire, QR sprinklers enhance safety by prioritizing the escape of occupants over property protection. Despite all sprinklers having fixed activation temperatures, QR sprinklers achieve quicker activation through a design that responds more rapidly to heat. Confusion often arises when all fast-acting sprinklers are classified as QR.

So how does one type of sprinkler activate faster than another without a different activation temperature? Does this mean that sprinklers designed for early activation used in residential settings or certain storage applications are also categorized as “quick-response” sprinklers?

To answer these questions, let’s take a look at the basics of fire sprinklers:

- Sprinkler systems classified as quick-response, residential, and early suppression fast response (ESFR) all utilize “fast response” elements, thus falling under the category of “fast-response sprinklers”.
- Fast-response elements are generally composed of a fusible link or bulb that reacts quicker to temperature changes.
- Although nearly identical, the primary difference between quick-response and standard-response (SR) sprinklers is the presence of the fast-response element in QR sprinklers.
- While residential sprinklers also use fast-response technology, they are different from QR and SR sprinklers, primarily due to differences in the design of the sprinkler deflector.

The development of fast-response elements in the 1960s was driven by the need to enhance life safety in residential settings. These elements, featuring smaller, thinner bulb more sensitive to temperature changes, enable quicker activation without altering the sprinkler’s set activation temperature. This innovation allows earlier fire control and improved life safety with reduced water use, a significant consideration in residential environments.

Continued on page13 ...

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VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo (cont.)

A key metric in evaluating sprinkler effectiveness is the Response Time Index (RTI). This index measures how quickly a sprinkler activates upon exposure to heat. The shorter this time, the lower the RTI. Fast response sprinklers, including QR, residential, and early-suppression fast-response (ESFR) models, typically have RTIs of 50 or less, indicating a rapid response to fire conditions, while standard response sprinklers have RTIs of 80 or more.

Despite their shared classification under the “fast response” umbrella, QR, residential, and standard response sprinklers have distinct physical features, particularly in their deflectors, which influence their spray patterns and functionalities:

- **Standard Response Sprinklers:** Employ a deflector that distributes water in a pattern effective for controlling fires over a wide area.
- **Quick Response Sprinklers:** Similar in design to standard response models but incorporate a fast-response element for quicker activation.
- **Residential Sprinklers:** Feature unique deflectors that focus on producing smaller, more concentrated droplets for rapid cooling and protection of living spaces.

The deployment of different sprinkler types is governed by stringent standards and testing protocols established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). For instance, NFPA 13 encourages the use of QR sprinklers in environments where rapid fire suppression is critical, due to their ability to activate faster than standard sprinklers.

Understanding the nuances between standard, quick response, and residential sprinklers is crucial for designing effective fire protection systems tailored to specific environments. By choosing appropriate sprinkler type, engineers and designers can optimize the balance between protecting life and property, ensuring a prompt and effective response in the event of a fire.

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2024-2025 ASPE Western Michigan Meetings

September 4th & 5th
 Tony DeDionisio
 American Gas Safety
 Gas Safety Design

December 12th (Christmas Party)
 Charlie Watson
 Dave Watson and Associates
 Cross Connection Control

March 13th & 14th
 TBD

October 9th & 10th
 Tyler Oatmen
 Associated Heating Sales
 Commercial Lift Station Design

January 8th & 9th
 Kenyatta Ribeiro
 Oasis International
 Clean Drinking Water Solutions

April 3rd & 4th
 Nick Turner
 Voidform Systems

November 20th & 21st
 Jonny Pingry
 Guardian Equipment
 Emergency Eyewash & Safety Showers

February 12th & 13th
 Brent
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 Schier Oil Separators

May 19th
 ASPE Annual Golf Outing

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Western Michigan Chapter

Help promote your business and support your local ASPE chapter by advertising in the 2024/2025 Western Michigan ASPE Society Newsletter which reaches local plumbing and mechanical engineers as well as local wholesale members. Choose the advertising level that best suits your needs. This increase in publicity for your company will be an asset for all parties involved.

Business card: \$150

Manufacturer Ads:

1/8 Page \$260

1/4 Page \$475

Full Page \$880

Included with your fee:

(9) issues of the newsletter

(9) inserts of the Business Card Ad in the newsletter

ASPE will once again be allowing you to rotate your advertisement throughout the year! If you wish to change your ad during the 2024/2025 session, email the new ad to me, and it will be changed in the following newsletter.

Advertising space can be purchased on the West Michigan ASPE website:

[Click here to purchase advertising space in the 2024/2025 newsletter](#)

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

Phone: (616) 217-1399

Email: jmburke@burkeagency.com

Thank you for supporting your local ASPE chapter.