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NEXT MTG.

Date: April 21, 2026
 Topic: Fire Protection - changes to the 2025 edition of NFPA-13
 Speaker: Ken Isman, UMD Professor

MEETING FORMAT

5:30 - 6:30PM	Social
6:30 - 6:45PM	Dinner Buffet
6:45 - 6:50PM	Announcements
6:50 - 7:00PM	Tabletops
7:00 - 8:00PM	Presentation

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Golf Tournament - Individual	\$175	Full page newsletter ad	\$750
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For more information, contact: [Chuck Potter](#) or [Joe Niedzielski](#)

Schedule of Meetings

DATE	Topic	Speaker
SEPT 16	Engineering Ethics And Dispute Resolution	Rebecca Bowman
OCT 14	Med Gas Design 101 and NFPA-99 Code Changes	Niki Patel
NOV 18	Hot Water Recirculation Systems	Engineer Presentation - Chuck Swope (Mueller)
DEC 16	Everything We Do Wrong	Panel - moderator, code reviewer, Contractor, Sr. Engineer
JAN 27	Industry Night	Local UA5
FEB 17	Rainwater Harvesting	Engineer Presentation - Dejan Tadic (Setty)
MAR 10	Fire Protection and Firefighting Operations	E.J. Henninger / PM Group
APR 21	Fire Protection - changes to the 2025 edition of NFPA-13	Ken Isman (UMD)
MAY 19	Schematic Design	Engineer Presentation - Joe Niedzielski (2RW)

If you have a specific topic, speaker, or case study you would like to see included in our program, please let us know. Likewise, if you or your firm would be interested in presenting at one of our sessions, we encourage you to share your availability.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Dear ASPE DC Members,

As we head into April, it's hard to believe we're already nearing the end of another ASPE DC program year. Time flies when you're surrounded by a strong community of professionals who continue to show up, stay engaged, and support the mission of our chapter.

This month is a great opportunity to reflect on everything we've accomplished together—from technical sessions and networking events to the continued growth of our membership and Young Professionals group. None of it happens without the commitment of our volunteers, sponsors, and attendees who keep this chapter moving forward.

Before we officially wrap up the year in May, we have one more event on the calendar—our annual Rep Appreciation Night. This is always one of the highlights of the year and a chance for us to recognize the manufacturer representatives who play such a critical role in our industry. Their support, expertise, and partnership are a big part of what makes our chapter successful, and we look forward to celebrating them.

We're also kicking off our annual **Chapter Sponsorship Drive** for the upcoming 2026–2027 year. This program has become a key part of how we continue to grow and deliver value to our members. Sponsorships help us offset the cost of technical sessions, expand programming, and invest back into member engagement and education. If your company has supported us in the past—thank you. If not, we encourage you to consider getting involved. Your support truly makes a difference in what we're able to offer as a chapter.

If your firm is looking to **elevate its presence** in the DC engineering community while giving back, we encourage you to become a Sponsor.

As always, thank you for your continued support of ASPE DC. Let's finish the year strong!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

April 16 - Affiliate Appreciation Night (invite only)

Sept 17 - ASPE DC Chapter 36th Annual Golf Tournament

Remember that your Chapter thrives with your involvement in our events, activities, and meetings

As always, if anyone has any suggestions regarding ways to make our chapter better, or if there are any questions, please reach out to us via email: president@aspedc.org. Please try to spread the word to your friends and coworkers in the industry who may be interested in joining our chapter.

Cheers!

Chuck Potter, CPD, GPD, LEED Green Associate
Department Head/Senior Plumbing Engineer
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President - ASPE DC Chapter





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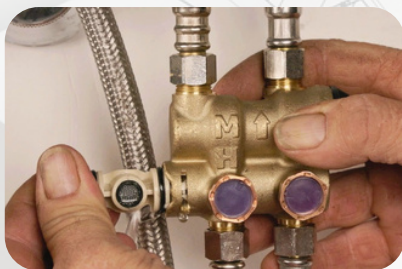


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VICE PRESIDENT- TECHNICAL REPORT

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's virtual technical meeting on fire protection design and its relationship with real-world firefighting operations. Despite the shift to a virtual format, attendance remained strong, and feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Several attendees noted that hearing directly from a firefighter's perspective provided valuable insight into how fire protection systems are used in practice and reinforced the importance of designing with the end user in mind.

Tuesday April 21st | Fire Protection – NFPA 13 Changes

Building on this momentum, we are pleased to continue our focus on fire protection topics with an upcoming session examining the major changes introduced in the most recent edition of NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems. The DC Chapter is excited to once again welcome Ken Isman, who will guide us through these updates and share his professional insight into their practical implications.

Mr. Isman brings exceptional experience to this discussion. He has served as an engineer with the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Connecticut, and has represented the fire sprinkler industry on more than a dozen NFPA technical committees. His background also includes authorship and editorial contributions to numerous publications and handbooks for the NFSA, NFPA, and SFPE.

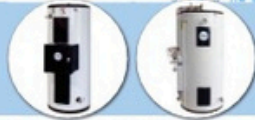
With such extensive knowledge and firsthand involvement in code development, this presentation promises to be both informative and engaging. We encourage all members to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to deepen their understanding of the latest NFPA 13 revisions. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next technical meeting.

Tyler Simms, CPD, EIT
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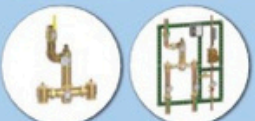
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VICE PRESIDENT- MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Spring is a great reminder that growth is happening all around us—and the same is true for our ASPE DC community. Between new members joining, familiar faces showing up, and strong participation at our events, it's exciting to see the momentum continue to build.

One of the highlights from last month was our **AYP Topgolf event**, and what a great afternoon it was! A huge thank you to **Dana Kansa** for all the time and effort she put into organizing such a fun and successful event—we know these things don't come together without a lot of behind-the-scenes work. And thank you to everyone who gave up part of their weekend to join us. It was great to see so many young professionals connecting, networking, and just enjoying time together.

Events like AYP are more than just a good time—they play an important role in supporting the future of our industry. They give emerging professionals a chance to build relationships, grow their confidence, and feel connected to a larger community. As members, being part of that experience helps ensure we continue building a strong pipeline of future leaders.

Our next opportunity to connect is our **April Chapter Meeting** on April 21st at Pinstripes, featuring **Ken Isman (UMD)** presenting on **Fire Protection**. As always, our meetings offer a great mix of learning, networking, and a chance to stay connected with what's happening across our industry.

Membership in ASPE continues to provide real value—technical resources, continuing education, leadership opportunities, and a strong network of peers who support one another. But what really makes this chapter special is the people who show up, stay engaged, and bring others along with them.

So as we head into April, we encourage you to *invite a friend, coworker, or emerging professional* to join you at a meeting or event. It's one of the easiest ways to grow our chapter—and the more, the merrier.

We look forward to seeing you soon (and hopefully meeting a few new faces along the way)!

Michelle Stilley
VP Membership - ASPE DC Chapter





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VICE PRESIDENT- LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Hey Everyone,

For this month's legislative section, this article will continue last month's article, which explored NFPA 13's allowance for omitting sprinklers above ceilings. Last month, we looked at the first requirement for omitting sprinklers, which required us to have an open area around the cloud ceilings equal to or less than 20% of the compartment's ceiling area. Section 9.2.7.1 lists the following:

Sprinklers shall be permitted to be omitted above cloud ceilings where all of the following apply:

- The combined total area of the openings around the cloud are less than or equal to 20 percent of the area of the ceiling, construction feature, or plane used to determine the boundaries of the compartment.
- The width of the gap and the maximum sprinkler protection area are in accordance with [Table 9.2.7.1](#).
- The requirements of [9.2.7.2](#) are met.
- Spaces above cloud ceilings contain either noncombustible or limited-combustible construction with minimal combustible loading.

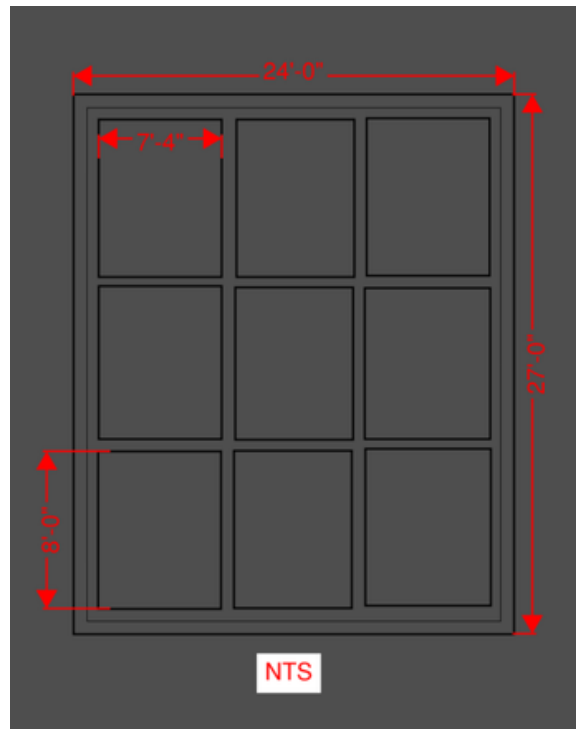
Table 9.2.7.1 Maximum Sprinkler Protection Area Based on Ceiling Cloud Width and Opening Width			
Ceiling Cloud – Minimum Width Dimension (ft)	Maximum Area (ft ²) – Opening Width ≤0.5 in./ft of Ceiling Height	Maximum Area (ft ²) – Opening Width ≤0.75 in./ft of Ceiling Height	Maximum Area (ft ²) – Opening Width ≤1 in./ft of Ceiling Height
2–<2.5	175	70	NP
2.5–4	225	120	70
>4	225	150	150

Ameen Osman
VP Legislative - ASPE DC Chapter



VICE PRESIDENT- LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This month, we will look at the 2nd requirement of 9.2.7.1 and apply it to last month's example.



The second requirement in 9.2.7.1 requires us to limit the distance between cloud ceiling panels and the distance between the edge of the cloud and the walls, using the provided table. Before we can use the table, we need to understand how these distances are established for each panel. Research was carried out by the "Fire Protection Research Foundation" to determine exactly that. The results led to the establishment of a rule for permissible gap sizes in cloud ceilings of noncombustible construction, level, and coplanar in installation. Permissible or maximum gap sizes established allow for the omission of sprinklers in the structural ceiling.

The 2 - part rule states:

- The gap between a wall and any cloud is less than or equal to 1 in. of gap per foot of ceiling height.
- The gap between any two adjacent clouds is less than or equal to 1.25 in. of gap per foot of ceiling height. (Floyd & Dinaburg, 2013, p. 38)

Ameen Osman
VP Legislative - ASPE DC Chapter



VICE PRESIDENT- LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Which means that our maximum allowable distance between a wall or cloud will equal one inch" in horizontal distance per foot of vertical elevation. In the example below, we have a ceiling suspended 10 ft above the ground, which allows a maximum of 10 inches between a wall and/or the ceiling.



Front View

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind - Bernard M. Baruch

Thanks for reading this section of the ASPE DC Chapter Newsletter. We will continue this series in next month's edition by finishing the 2nd criterion and exploring the remaining criterion for omitting sprinklers above cloud ceilings.

Ameen Osman
VP Legislative - ASPE DC Chapter





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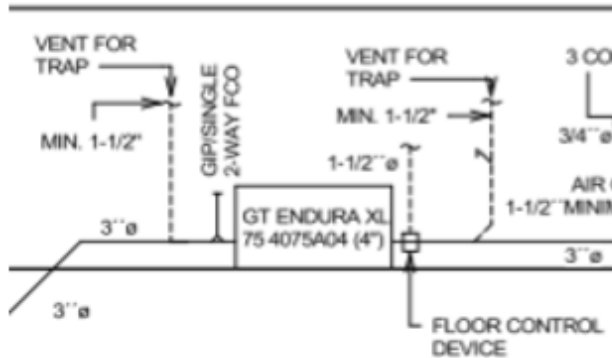
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PLUMBING PLANS REVIEWER'S CORNER

By
David Bailey

March's review involved a combi-oven/steamer requiring two water connections, one for untreated domestic water, and one treated for water to address the hardness level, and an indirect waste discharge capable of hovering around 180°F after follow-up research. Since the revised drawing submission failed to submit a spec sheet on the proposed water treatment device, a lead-free ASSE 1013 testable BFP assembly shall be required for the treated water supply branch. The untreated domestic water branch requires at a minimum a lead free ASSE 1024 non-testable BFP device. The plastic material proposed for the indirect waste is CPVC pending approval once a spec sheet has been received. The means in addressing the installed PVC receptor and its drain piping below slab has yet to be presented.

This month's review involves a Code Waiver request. The originally reviewed and approved drawing set shows the make and model of a 75-gpm capacity flow-based grease interceptor (VBGI) and a grease waste calculation table (see below). The applicant had submitted a dishwasher spec sheet during the review period indicating that rack dishwashing time cycle of 90 seconds and water usage of 1.09 gallons per cycle. The Code Waiver request indicated substituting the approved FBGI with the same make but different model (50 GPM capacity, 3950A03, 3" inlet/outlet connections). Was the waiver approved, disapproved, or simply archived for the Commission's records?



MOP SINK	2"	20 GPM
(3) COMP. SINK	3/4"	12 GPM
	3/4"	6 GPM
	3/4"	6 GPM
DISH WASHER	2"	7 GPM
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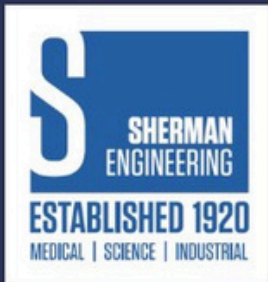
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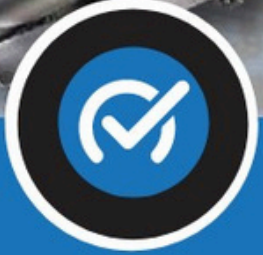


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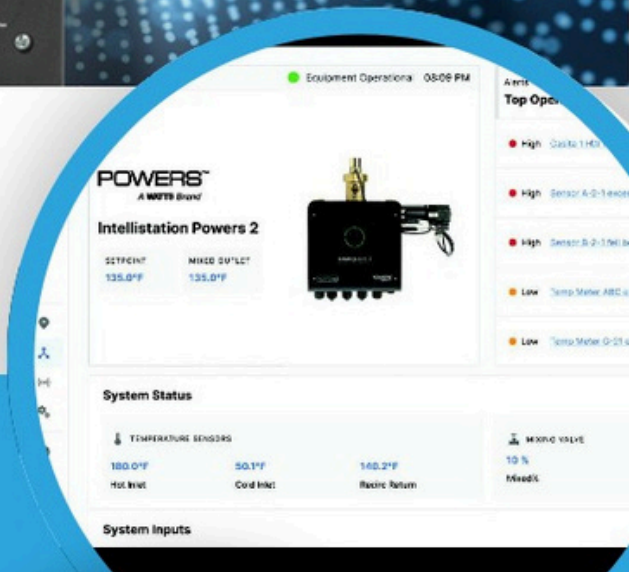


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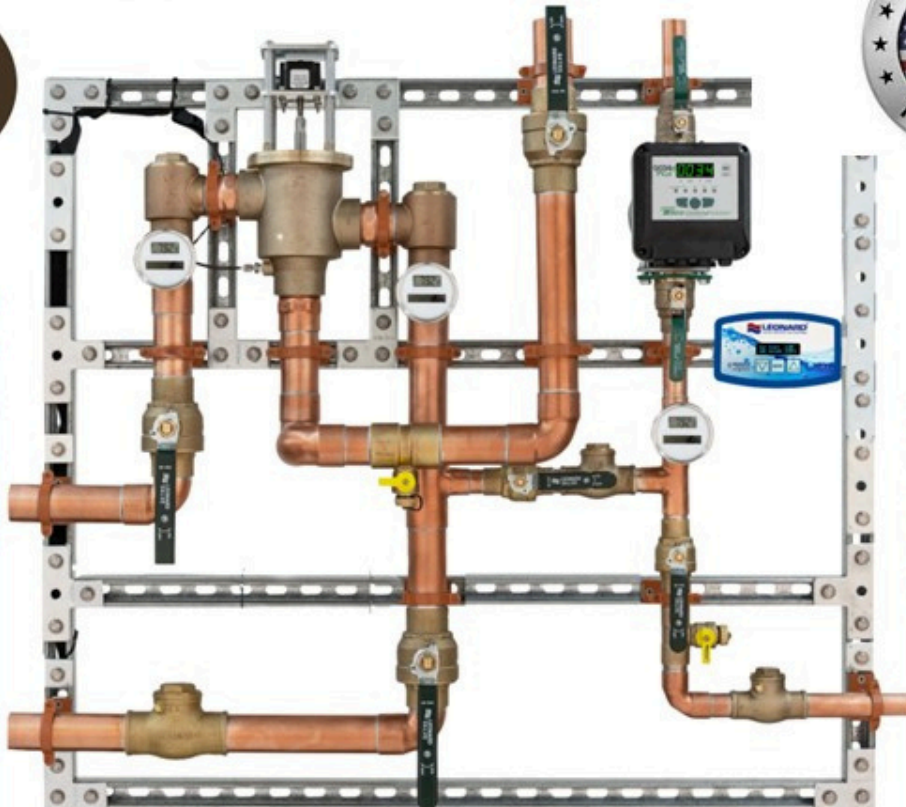
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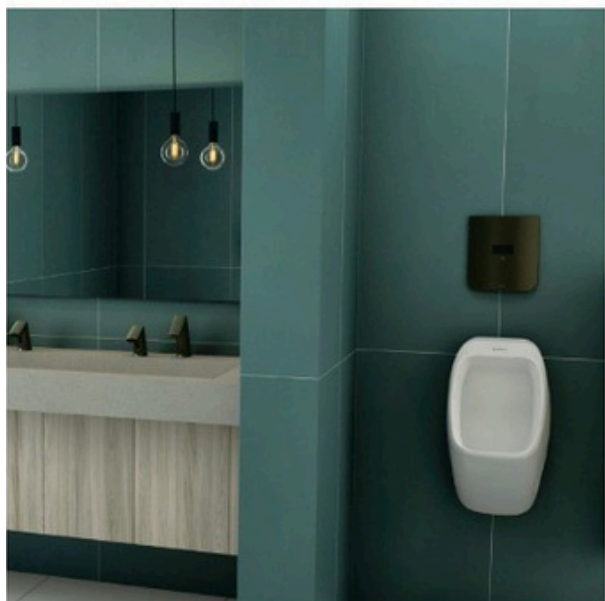
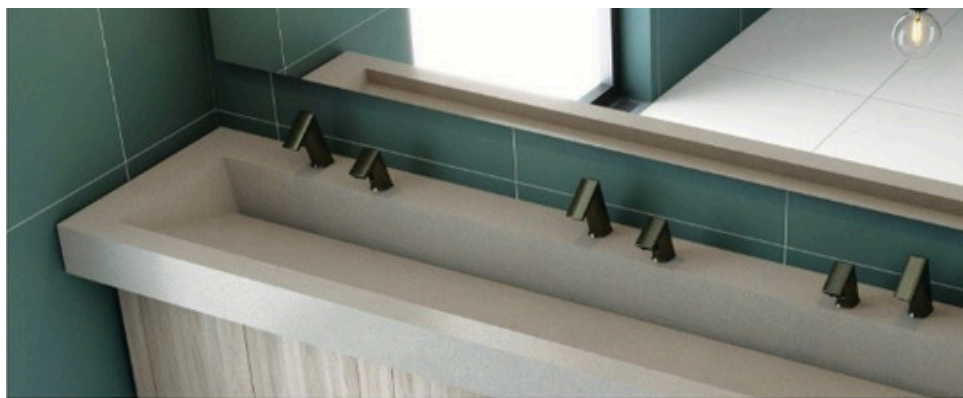
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