

ASPE Report

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Monthly News from the American Society of Plumbing Engineers



From the President's Pen

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2018-2020 ASPE President

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ASPE — Value!

For me, it is not hard to be an optimist or to find the beauty in people. The reason is that I love people and want the best, or the greater good. I have viewed ASPE as the greater good for society as a whole for nearly 20 years. It has helped me and many of my peers hone a craft in plumbing design. Plumbing is an engineering science—you might say it is one of the most valued engineering fields to humankind. This is not stated without recognition of plumbing as a subpart of mechanical engineering; this is stated as a fact of comfort and human safety through system design. For most, I suspect we could likely struggle through without power, heating, or cooling, but running water and sanitation are tough systems to live without.

Now we are faced with some very concerning times and widespread conversations about water and building health/public health. Designers, engineers, and building owners should approach these times with the appropriate measures to maintain the health of people in our buildings. Employers and business owners should also recognize the risks to public health. We should recognize the need for resources to gain knowledge of these systems to provide insight to design approaches. How do we meet the needs to design and operate these plumbing systems?

As people continue to not occupy or operate buildings, what are the implications to the buildings' health? Owners are faced with more and more questions about these systems. What is the chlorine level in the building? What is the chlorine at the system utility? What bacteria are in the systems? What measures should be taken? How do buildings need to be flushed? How can you safely flush a building? How do you chlorinate a building? What is the testing procedure? What is in the sewer system? What procedures should be followed? How should the building be protected? What is happening on the utility side? What can the system handle without damaging materials? Whose responsibility is it to define all of these answers? This list of questions could continue until the end of this magazine.

These questions all point to one matter: if you are an engineer or designer or building owner, you need knowledge and the resources to obtain that knowledge. I invite you to ASPE! Engineers, designers, owners, and facility employees should join our online community, ASPE Connect, to tap into the resources of hundreds of years of experience (connect.aspe.org). We also have a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness Resources page at aspe.org/coronavirus-covid-19-preparedness-resources. All questions have circumstances. However, at the end of the day it is the science that keeps the public safe. Knowledge is how you find solutions to your questions.

As employers, one great way to reduce your errors or liabilities is making sure your employees have access to the best information. Through ASPE you have some of the industry's best resources. You have publications, committee access, membership access, and an extensive network of manufacturers and code professionals. If you go to ASPE Connect, you can sign up for free as a nonmember to see the information available and the resources of our plumbing community.

Engineers and designers, I implore you also to keep educating yourself and understanding system needs and codes. ASPE brings these resources to your fingertips. Ask these code questions to the Legislative Committee. Ask your design questions to the Technical & Research Committee. This is a benefit to you.

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On another topic, registration is open for the 2020 Convention & Expo in New Orleans. Check out the website at expo.aspe.org and know that some of the best resources will be available to you. It's professional development at its best! The Expo is the largest plumbing tradeshow in the country. Do you need a faucet that has an auto cycle? Find out what is available at the ASPE Expo.

As a product manufacturer or representative, you also need to educate yourself and others on your products. You need to understand the environments in which your products are operating. You need access to knowledge to understand how each of these items affects your products.

Access to knowledge is the defining point. This includes us all: employers, code enforcers, engineers, designers, government officials, facility owners, contractors, and industry partners. ASPE has worked hard to provide tools to provide information, resources, certifications, and some of the best communication available on plumbing systems. Let's make a life choice to fully understand the issues, how the plumbing systems are affected, the implications of design, and how to best serve our clients and the public.

Back to the main point: as an engineer you need to understand your plumbing systems. What are your factors? What information or science applies? What are the solutions to these various issues? What are your resources?

Yes, as stated, I am an optimist. However, I am realistic enough to realize that my decisions affect human health through building health. Plumbing is a science, and water and sewer safety is a factor in building health.

In closing, please continue to support each other and continue to stay healthy. Thank you for being the brilliant, bright, amazing stewards of this Society. Please reach out at any time.

ASPE Advocates for a Secure Water Future

ASPE has joined 200+ organizations in endorsing four principles from the U.S. Water Alliance that will help secure access to clean and sustainable water for all as the U.S. plans for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The four principles knit together enduring water issues that are critical at this time—who has access to it, who manages it, how it is paid for, and how all communities are kept safe and healthy—and offer guidance on how to ensure that everyone can count on reliable and safe water service, now and for future generations. Visit bit.ly/2VwFry8 for more information.

ASPE Member Receives Prestigious WQA Award

The Water Quality Association Hall of Fame award is the highest honor bestowed upon a WQA member for their lifetime dedication and service to the water quality improvement industry and the association. For 2020, the Hall of Fame award was bestowed on ASPE member Peter S. Cartwright, PE, MWS, of Cartwright Consulting in Minneapolis, an engineering consulting company he founded in 1980. He is a previous recipient of both the WQA Award of Merit (2001) and Lifetime Member Award (2011). Congratulations Peter!

WEBINAR

Importance of Effective Handwashing and Its Impact on Global Health

Did you miss the live webinar last month? It's available for viewing on demand at ASPE Education.

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Tables App for Mac and Windows Is Now Available

ASPE's popular Plumbing Engineering & Design Tables App offers in one convenient place all of the equations, pipe sizing data, and background information that plumbing system designers need to successfully complete design and installation projects on a daily basis. It now is available for download in both Mac and Windows desktop versions at aspe.org/product/aspe-tables-app.

ICC-ES Renews as an ASPE Affiliate Sponsor

A subsidiary of the International Code Council, ICC-ES is the industry leader in performing technical evaluations for code compliance and is the most widely accepted and trusted brand for building product evaluation. To learn more about our program, visit bit.ly/ASPEAffiliates.

New ASPE Members

Atlanta Chapter

Jonathan Blake Jackson

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Fuga Sato

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WEBINAR

Guidelines for Best Practices for Water Quality Post COVID-19

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New Online Education!

Introduction to Plumbing Products

ASPE has partnered with the American Supply Association to offer the following professional development courses:

- Fixtures and Faucets (2.75 hours)
- Introduction to Copper Tube, Plastic Pipe, and Fittings (4 hours)
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