

Rob Sorensen

From: Daniel Shier <dans@iefireprotection.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2016 2:28 PM
To: Bryan St Clair; Rob Sorensen
Subject: "SRC4" Seminar, February 23, 2017

Hi Bryan.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak at the upcoming "SRC4" Seminar. To that end, please review, and if acceptable to you, forward the following information as needed...

Speaker BIO: Allow me to introduce myself. I have been in the fire protection sprinkler industry for more than 44 years, beginning in August of 1972. I began my career in Tacoma, Washington, moved to Portland, Oregon where I was raised, then migrated eastward to the Tri-Cities area for a short time to work on systems design at the ill-fated WPPSS #1 and #4 project before landing in Spokane in 1982. I have designed systems from Los Angeles, California to Fairbanks, Alaska, but my work has always been concentrated in the Pacific Northwest, with the last 34 focused here in the Spokane region.

I am the Lead Designer and former CEO of Inland Empire Fire Protection here in Spokane. I have held my NICET Level IV (Senior Engineering Technician) certificate in the field of water-based systems since the mid-1980's. I hold a Washington State Level III Certificate of Competency and an Alaska State Level IIC-DO Fire System Permit. I have been a member of the Washington State Building Codes Council's Technical Advisory Group on the International Fire Code (IFC-TAG) for the last two code cycles.

And, just as a small side note, I am proud to say that while not a current card carrying member of the Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee, I was (am?) one of the original members, a Charter Member if you will, even before it came to be known as the "SRC4."

TITLE: Background and Evolution of Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Devices for the Fire Protection Industry

ABSTRACT: The idea of backflow prevention in fire protection sprinkler systems began in the very early days of sprinkler system technology more than 100 years ago. In those days, check valves were included on risers for the purpose of facilitating fire department inlet connections without pumping in circles, but in so doing, assembled a way to keep sprinkler water out of the public water supply. Early on, the idea of heavy weighted detector check valves emerged followed in the early 1970's by the concepts of Cross Connection Control as we know it today. Not surprisingly, the idea of double checks, double check detectors and RP devices in the early 1970's met with resistance by the fire protection industry. Indeed the premier standard for fire sprinkler systems, NFPA #13, for many years outright discouraged their use, while at the same time recognizing their requirement by some water purveyors.

As the times have matured, and an understanding of the importance of cross connection control has evolved, the original question of backflow prevention, whether or not it would be required on any given system, has come around to which device is required by the water purveyor on any given project and why.

This discussion will attempt to cover the history of my experience in this field, and current issues that we in the fire protection industry face today.

Best regards,
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