



## IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter



### **Case Study Of A Fatal Cruise Ship Fire Illustrating The Burn Patterns And Fire Safety Concerns**

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**Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Dinner: 5:30 – 6:45 pm**

Socialize with your colleagues and tonight's speaker at:

El Torito Mexican Restaurant, 2950 Lakeside Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95054

(408-727-4426) -- just two blocks north of the meeting site. No RSVP required.

**Presentation: 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Topic: Cruise Ship Fire**

This presentation is a case study of a fatal cruise ship fire illustrating the burn patterns, fire detection system, and fire suppression system upon a large cruise ship. Burn patterns will be used to show how to determine the fire's area of origin and the possible causes of the fire. In the early morning hours of a spring day, a large cruise ship caught fire while sailing near the Bahamas. The cruise ship departed from Fort Lauderdale for a cruise to the eastern Mediterranean with over 500 passengers and a crew but was detained at Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, by the fire. The fire occurred near the laundry facilities of the ship causing the death of a crew member and the evacuation of passengers in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island. Subsequently, the ship proceeded to the eastern Mediterranean Island of Malta for dry dock repairs. Initial fire investigators determined that the fire started in the ship's laundry facilities due to an electrical malfunction. Consequentially, this engineer was contacted by a private investigator and retained to provide technical assistance to a team which was formed to investigate the fire on behalf of the suspect electrical equipment manufacturer.

# Meeting Notice

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## **Speaker and Company:**

Thomas P. Shefchick, PE has an extensive background which includes:

B.S. Electrical Engineering, Rutgers University -1969

Field Service Engineer-Westinghouse Electric Corporation 1969-1979

Fellow & Past President-National Academy of Forensic Engineers

Fellow & Past Chairman of the Engineering Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences

Past President Santa Clara County NSPE Chapter

Senior Member IEEE & Director at Large IEEE-PSES

Investigation of fires, electrical damage and electrical injury since 1981, further information can be found at [www.shefchick.com](http://www.shefchick.com)

**Meeting Site:** Applied Materials, Bowers Café, 3090 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054  
(map: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/scv/pses/directs.html>)