



# MICHAEL J. SLIFKA, P.E.

Fire Investigation, Analysis & Fire Engineering Design

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## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS:

Illinois Institute of Technology---B.S in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering  
Registered Professional Fire Protection Engineer (FP 479) – California  
Diplomate in Fire Forensics/Fire Investigations, American College of Forensic Examiners (ACFE)

### EXPERIENCE:

- ❖ Consulting Fire Protection Engineer in Private Practice
- ❖ President, PFS Corporation
- ❖ Executive Vice President, PFS Corporation; President, PFS International, Ltd.
- ❖ Executive Vice President/President, RADCO/Avalon Associates- Consulting Engineer/Associate, RADCO/Avalon Associates
- ❖ Chief, Safety, Occupational Health and Fire Protection Division, Veterans Administration Director, Codes & Standards, The National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards
- ❖ Assistant Chief, Fire Protection Technology Transfer; Center for Fire Research, National Bureau of Standards
- ❖ Chief Staff Engineer for Life Safety, Building and Fire Test Codes, National Fire Protection Association
- ❖ Branch Chief, Fire Safety, Protection Engineering Applications, General Services Administration
- ❖ Consulting Fire Protection Engineer, Rolf Jensen and Associates, Inc.

- ❖ Corporate Fire Prevention Engineer, Republic Steel Corporation
- ❖ Special Fire Protection Hazards Engineer, Ohio Inspection Bureau

**AT PFS CORPORATION:**

As President, Mr. Slifka is the Chief Executive Officer for the day to day operations of a five office, international corporation employing over one hundred persons and responsible for:

1. Third Party testing programs focused on building components, products, and transportable structures (mobile, modular, and commercial coach buildings);
2. Third Party listing and certifying program for the above building related products or structures;
3. Third party inspection (IPIA) and design review (DAPIA) program for mobile (manufactured) homes built to the HUD Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards. PFS is the largest modular home third party quality assurance in the United States, serving over 85% of the modular home production.
4. Running a nationally accredited test laboratory for fire safety, electrical testing and structural testing.
5. Consulting as a forensic expert on fire safety, fire protection, electrical/fire safety issues throughout the United States.

Among other projects, Mr. Slifka provided fire protection engineering consultation for three new V.A. hospitals, the U.S. Air Force Guided Missile Assembly Facility in Newark, Ohio, and U.S. Navy Weapons Facility in Crane, Indiana.

**AT RADCO/AVALON ASSOCIATIES:**

As Executive Vice President of RADCO, Mr. Slifka was second in command of a staff of 45 technical, administrative, and support personnel responsible for:

1. Third party testing programs focused on building components, products, and transportable structures, (mobile, modular, and commercial coach buildings);
2. Third party listing and certifying program for the above building related products or structures;
3. Third party inspection (IPIA) and design review (DAPIA) program for mobile (manufactured) homes built to the HUD Federal Manufactured Home construction and Safety Standards (RADCO was the largest IPIA and DAPIA under the 12 year old HUD program); and
4. All personnel, fiscal and program management activities for RADCO.

As President of Avalon Associates (a RADCO subsidiary), Mr. Slifka directed a full time staff of four design professionals and coordinated their projects with the 45 member staff of RADCO on an “as needed” basis. Avalon Associates provided multi-discipline consulting to the building design field in the areas of:

1. Civil Engineering
2. Mechanical Engineering
3. Structural Engineering
4. Electrical Engineering
5. Fire Protection Engineering

Additionally, Mr. Slifka was the key consultant for either RADCO or Avalon on forensic engineering for civil liability suits related to fires or to questions of building design versus code compliance.

**AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION:**

As the Chief of the Safety, Occupational Health and Fire Protection Division for the Veterans Administration for 6 years, Mr. Slifka was responsible for the employee, patient and facility safety and fire protection for the world’s largest health care organization. This consisted of 172 hospital complexes, plus 215 related outpatient clinics, seven regional office buildings, 25 centralized, high piled rack storage warehouses, 85 national cemeteries, and Department of Veterans Benefits Computer Centers. This responsibility extended to over 228,000 employees and approximately 100 million square feet of hospital space housing over 1, 287,000 patients per year. Mr. Slifka managed a staff of 29 regional engineers, 172 facility engineers and 6 staff engineers, all responsible for facility inspections and related design questions and problems. Mr. Slifka created the regional and field engineering program, developed the reporting, control and management procedures, and developed the necessary procedural, regulatory and operational manuals for continued functioning of the program. He received a sizeable cash award plus administrative recognition for having saved the Veterans Administration \$250-\$300 million through the elimination of over design or correction of design errors in 52 Veterans Administration hospitals. Mr. Slifka was also responsible for, and chief of, the 37 fire departments for the Veterans Administration located throughout the United States. While at the Veterans Administration, Mr. Slifka continued to consult in fire protection on a part time basis.

**AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATES ON BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS, INC.(NCSBCS):**

As Director for Codes and Standards, Mr. Slifka administered the (\$5 million/year) Mobile Home Program under a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program provides 1700 monitoring visits per year to manufacturing facilities and primary inspection agencies (IPIA) and (DAPIA) on fire and life safety code issues. It also required

NCSBCS to act as the fiscal agent or HUD on collection and disbursement of fees (approximately \$9 million/year), issuance of labels, and collection of accurate industry wide data. The NCSBCS technical staff under Mr. Slifka's direction also reviewed design packages (drawings and specifications) of every corporation's model line manufactured in the country; trained, prepared handbooks, and provide comprehensive technical expertise where needed. More importantly, all design approval and inplant inspection agencies were certified initially by NCSBCS and reviewed for performance on an annual basis.

The staff, managed by Mr. Slifka, was made up of eight in-house engineers, eight field supervisory engineers, 120 field inspectors, and 20 fiscal and clerical personnel. For the program to function Mr. Slifka developed the administrative and management procedures needed to effectively direct this extensive effort.

Under the general supervision of the Executive Director, Mr. Slifka was also responsible for the coordination of the planning, development and administration of NCSBCS programs involving the creation of a model building code and related standards, and the coordination of these activities with other building codes and standards organizations. Included in these responsibilities were the requirements to carry out the provisions and conditions of any contractual agreements between NCSBCS, agencies of the federal and state governments, the model code groups and other parties in the building codes and standards field. Mr. Slifka maintained liaison with state and federal officials, model code groups, and the National Academy of Code Administration.

Additionally, Mr. Slifka developed the national reciprocity programs for Recreational Vehicles (RV) and Manufactured (Modular) Housing. For RV's, Mr. Slifka formed a liaison with the Recreational Vehicle Industries of America (RVIA) and the 14 states that provide state inspections of RV manufacturing plants. Mr. Slifka and staff developed the technical guidelines based on the NFPA/ANSI RV Standard for review of RV manufacturer designs and specifications and for the inplant inspection procedures. To further this effort, at the request of RVIA, Mr. Slifka became a member of the correlating committee for the NFPA/ANSI RV Standard in 1979.

Mr. Slifka also worked in conjunction with the other NCSBCS program directors to develop programs and coordinate the training of necessary personnel and advised the Executive director of the status of such programs.

While at NCSBCS, Mr. Slifka continued to consult in fire protection on a part-time basis.

**AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS:**

Mr. Slifka served as the Assistant Chief for Fire Protection Technology Transfer and as a Research Fire Protection Engineer for the Center for Fire Research, National Bureau of Standards. He was responsible for development of mathematical models and assessments of existing codes and criteria covering the fire safety requirements for building construction and use. He was also responsible for

developing practical applications for the technical outcome of fire protection research projects at the Bureau. He was leading participant in the multi-discipline group to develop decision analysis types of goal oriented fire safety systems, and to provide and apply these systems to building design problems. Mr. Slifka served as the fire protection engineering leader in that group; capable in both the input elements for fire protection and their use in an interrelated analytical system. He developed the application of fire protection principles, systems, and concepts to design applications suitable for use by a total building design team. The direct outcomes of this effort were the Fire safety Evaluation Systems (FSES) for Hospitals, for Board and Care facilities, and for Residential Occupancies that are used on a national basis to produce cost effective retrofit designs of existing hospitals and its 12 subcommittees. He also managed a \$375,000 research project of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on means of egress design.

**AT THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION:**

As Chief Staff Engineer for Life Safety Code for the National Fire Protection Association, Mr. Slifka oversaw the activities of the:

1. Committee on Safety to Life (Also non-voting Secretary on Committee on Safety to Life)
2. Committees on Building Construction
3. Committees on Fire Tests

He was responsible for the technical development and correlation, plus technical editing of 17 key National Fire Codes. He also acted as high-rise expert and spokesman on high-rise fire problems for the NFPA. He coordinated the publication and dissemination of emerging fire test data on the large series of full scale fire testing of the risk associated with high piled rack storage warehouses. (published and repeatedly updated in the NFPA 231 series of standards.)

**AT THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Slifka served as Chief of the Fire Protection Engineering Applications Branch of the General Services Administration (GSA) Accident and Fire Prevention Division. He was the Consulting Engineer on the fire prevention to the GSA Central Office, all GSA regional branches, and all services of GSA; and was a high-rise building and fire safety systems analysis expert. He was the fire safety design review engineer for the U.S. Postal Service until that function was removed from the GSA. He was responsible for the fire safety engineering design content of all federal buildings under construction. This included the 10 Critical Supply Depots located throughout the US. Each depot consisted of 20 plus high piled warehouses. He provided engineering design review and guidance to the Central Office and regional GSA design and construction staffs, and provided similar engineering guidance to GSA lease acquisition and repair and improvement activities. In performing the above, Mr. Slifka managed a staff of six in-house engineers and oversaw a staff of 40 regional engineers. From July 12, 1973 until October 12, 1973, He supervised, on an emergency basis, a staff of 13 and managed emergency salvage, fire prevention and safety activities at the St. Louis, Missouri, Military Personnel Record Center after its severe fire loss.

**AT ROLF JENSEN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.:**

As a Consulting Fire Protection Engineer for Rolf Jensen and Associates, Inc., Mr. Slifka was responsible for:

1. Design of building and manufacturing process fire protection systems, equipment and related hardware;
2. Performed fire safety analysis of ten Midwest post offices; developed fire safety retrofit designs for all ten;
3. Fire safety systems analysis and related systems design for high-rise buildings, government structures, institutional facilities, high piled rack storage warehouses and industrial facilities (work included detail probability analysis and cost/benefit studies of all design options).
4. Research work and case studies including cause and origin investigations for legal clients, plus related courtroom testimony;
5. Research and investigative work for clients' product development and product liability; and
6. Writing training manuals and conducting training sessions in fire protection for the Army Corps of engineers, U.S. Air Force and various private sector facility organizations.

**AT REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION:**

With Republic Steel Corporation, Mr. Slifka worked primarily as corporate liaison with district safety and fire prevention offices. He coordinated corporate safety programs with the district's needs. As Fire Prevention Engineer, he either assisted in, or was responsible for, fire protection engineering in the design of the following:

1. \$ 80 million Code Plant – Warren, Ohio
2. \$100 million Code Mill – Cleveland, Ohio
3. \$110 million Hot Mill – Cleveland, Ohio  
(Also responsible for writing related design specifications)

Mr. Slifka also conducted training sessions and wrote training manuals for corporate fire brigades and facility protection organizations. Mr. Slifka's further assignment was as Chief of the seven fire brigades/departments at:

1. Youngstown, Ohio
2. Warren, Ohio
3. Cleveland, Ohio
4. Canton, Ohio

5. Buffalo, New York
6. East Chicago, Illinois
7. Gadsden, Alabama

**AT THE OHIO INSPECTION BUREAU:**

As Special Fire Protection Hazards Engineer, Mr. Slifka was responsible for:

1. Developing insurance rates for a mix of industrial, warehouse, commercial, business and mercantile facilities;
2. Testing and analyzing underground water systems, pumps, fire protection systems and alarm systems.
3. Classifying occupancy hazards in of industrial, warehouse, commercial, business and mercantile facilities;
4. Reviewing architectural designs, construction materials and methods;
5. Advising insured property owners on recommended protection practices; and
6. Cause and origin investigations of fire damaged properties.

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

Registered Professional Fire Protection Engineer – California

Diplomate in Fire Forensics/Fire Investigations, American College of Forensic Examiners (ACFE)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Member, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
(Past and Present)

Member, Various NFPA Committees on: Safety to Life, Health Care Occupancies, Building Construction, Manufactured Housing and Recreational Vehicles, and National 1-2 Family Electrical Code

Member, Manufactured Housing Institute – MHI Consensus Committee for the Manufactured Housing Standard, MHI-IPIA Technical Advisory Committee, MHI-DAPIA Technical Advisory committee, MHI/HUD Technical Exchange Group, MHI-Technical Activities Committee.

Member, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and various ASTM committees

Member, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and various ANSI committees

Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Member, National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and various NIBS committees

Member, International Fire Code Institute

**PUBLICATIONS:**

“A Study of the Fire Problem in Residential High-Rise Buildings”, co-author, published in Chicago by Rolf Jensen and Associates/Greater North Michigan Avenue Association.

“Life Safety Code Handbook” of the NFPA, author of and assistant technical editor of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition; author of selected chapters for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions. [Also, since 1977, Mr. Slifka has been a key instructor for the NFPA on their Life Safety Code 4 day seminars presented at locations throughout the United States and overseas.]

“For Architects and Builders” column in the Fire Journal magazine of the NFPA (1974-1975).

“Building Inspectors Handbook” of the NFPA, author or co-author of six technical chapters.

“Fire Protection Handbook – 14<sup>th</sup> Edition” of the NFPA, author or co-author of 4 technical chapters.

“Fire Protection Handbook – 15<sup>th</sup> Edition” of the NFPA, author of four technical chapters.

“Fire Protection Handbook – 16<sup>th</sup> Edition” of the NFPA, author to two technical chapters.

“Building/Fire Code for Health Care Design” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Fire Protection Engineering Considerations for Engineered Wood Products” – PFS Research Foundation

**OTHER RECOGNITION:**

Mr. Slifka has appeared on the award winning McNeil-Lehrer News program as a recognized expert in fire safety, on shows dealing with the Las Vegas hotel fires, and on high rise safety.

Mr. Slifka appeared as principal spokesman for the NFPA PBS-developed special (at WGBH in Boston) on high rise safety.

