

# ASPE TechSymposium 2021



**Jim McHugh**

*Jim McHugh and his family have been involved in the fire sprinkler industry since the founding of AGF and the introduction of the AGF TESTANDRAIN® valve. Currently serving as President of AGF Manufacturing Inc., Jim is responsible for the development, introduction, and manufacture of specialized valves and unique products specifically designed for the fire sprinkler industry. He is a member of NFSA, NFPA, SFPE, ASPE, and AFSA. Jim also serves on the Membership Committee for NFSA and the Manufacturers/Suppliers Council for AFSA. Jim is a strong proponent of domestic manufacturing, and he looks forward to serving the fire sprinkler industry and continuing the tradition of service started by his father, George McHugh III.*

## Automatic Auxiliary Drains: New Innovations in Freeze Protection

NFPA requires auxiliary drains (also called low-point drains or drum drips) for each section of trapped pipe in dry or preaction fire-protection systems. Auxiliary drains that collect water need to be emptied to prevent freezing and must be accessible. These drains are often field-assembled and inaccessible or otherwise improperly maintained, which causes false system trips that create unnecessary liability and cost thousands in repair and damage. This session will explore automatic, heated auxiliary drains that solve this problem by maintaining and draining themselves. The heated cabinet ensures that they will not freeze while collecting greater volumes of water. Automated draining processes ensure that the drains are always properly maintained, even if they go forgotten.