



The Gulf States Leader

The Newsletter of the Gulf States Region

March 2020

The GSR Conference is Canceled

GSR Leadership regrets to announce that the 2020 GSR Conference has been canceled. See page 3. We will get back to regular events soon. The Birmingham Chapter is still willing to host us in 2021.



The Gulf States Region CSI includes Alabama • Arkansas • Florida Panhandle • Louisiana • Mississippi • Tennessee

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Retirement: I am retiring as Editor of the GSR Leader at the end of this fiscal year having served 6 years in this position. It is time for another capable Gulf States member to step forward and take on this position. I hope The GSR Leader has been a source of useful and factual information for you during my time as Editor. Please contact Cindi Brooks or any other GSR officer and offer your talent to fill this position.

John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, CDT, AIA

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The Construction Specifications Institute is a national non-profit technical organization dedicated to the improvement of specifications and building practices in the construction industry through service, education, and research. Founded in 1948, CSI provides a forum for architects, engineers, designers, specification writers, contractors, manufacturer's representatives, suppliers, and all others in the construction industry. Membership is open to all who are involved in the built environment.

Submissions to the GSR Leader

GSR members are welcome to submit articles of interest for publication in the GSR LEADER. Please forward articles to: John Dunaway, CSI, CCS, AIA

john@ccdarchitects.com

Region Email Blasts

All region wide e-mail blasts are to be distributed by the Region Electronics Communications Chair, Randall Lewis, CSI, AIA. Please limit Gulf States e-mail blasts to events of Region-wide interest such as Product Shows, Chapter Anniversaries, and seminars offering 4 CEUs or greater.

Forward to: rlewis@jhharchitects.com

Deadline for Submissions

Do you have something to submit to the GSR Leader?

Articles, reports, and photographs of interest to GSR members are due no later than April 15, 2020 to be included in the May 2020 Gulf States Region Newsletter.

Map of the Gulf States Region

Alabama • Arkansas • Florida Panhandle
• Louisiana • Mississippi • Tennessee



Chapters of the GSR

Little Rock
Shreveport
Baton Rouge
Acadiana
New Orleans
Gulf Coast
Mississippi
Mobile Bay
Montgomery
Birmingham
Huntsville
Chattanooga
Knoxville
Nashville
Memphis
Pensacola

GSR Planning Retreat

The GSR Planning Retreat was conducted on Saturday, March 14 to plan the coming fiscal year and discuss the Gulf States Region Conference and its programs. With Jackson being the most centrally located city in the GSR the Mississippi Chapter often hosts this event.

Charlene and I have been hosting the GSR Social event for many



years and find it to be a way for GSR leaders and committee chairs to get to know each other better and discuss business casually before the retreat meeting on Saturday. We loved having old GSR friends in our home and of course making new friends. Charlene made her own special version of Gumbo Yaya, we had a few adult

beverages, sat outside on the back porch, and all enjoyed the conversations and camaraderie.

The GSR Leadership decided to go ahead with our face to face meeting of GSR officers and committee chairs in spite of the difficulties of these times. However, we did use extreme caution keeping by our hands clean and following other CDC recommendations. Thanks to all



who attended the social and the meeting on the following day. And thanks for taking all those extra precautions. On Saturday work got done as usual but again with as much caution as we could use. We met at the Holiday Inn in Pearl, Mississippi and met in a suite which helped

us remain away from other hotel guests. We had lunch catered in the meeting room too. We have remained in touch since the retreat and so far none of the attendees has reported any illness.

I regret that after we did all this it was still necessary to cancel the conference, but planning is never wasted.

John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, CDT, AIA
Editor - GSR Leader

GSR REGION CONFERENCE CANCELED

Suzan Jordan, GSR President, has been in conversations with the Birmingham Chapter regarding the Gulf States Region Conference scheduled for June 4-5, 2020. After serious deliberation Suzan and the Birmingham Chapter have decided to cancel this year's conference.

I'm sure, like me, you are saddened by this decision. But with the uncertainty of today's environment I think our GSR leaders have made the best decision. We don't know what will happen between now and June so I'm glad the GSR Leadership has taken the initiative to help keep us all safe from harm. Birmingham has agreed to host the conference next year but it's way too early to establish a date. You can be assured that Birmingham and the GSR Leadership will provide plenty of notice and I bet it will be a conference to remember. We will all have Coronavirus war stories to tell by then.

Be looking for updates via the web and email blasts, and for the next issue of the GSR Leader coming in mid-May. The Gulf States Region leaders will continue to make prudent decisions to help us work through these difficult and trying times.

Stay Gulf States Proud and CSI Strong. CSI is known for working together to solve problems so I'm sure we will all work together to get through this. The GSR Leadership will continue to keep you informed and updated.

John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, CDT, AIA
Editor - GSR Leader

Thanks to the GSR for allowing me the opportunity to be your editor for the last 6 years. It has been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Maybe someone else will now take up the challenge and take us into a new era of communications. I'm old and old fashioned when it comes to a newsletter. There are new ways of communicating to explore and we need a fresh new person to do that. I hope that someone out there will step up to this challenge, but if not, this will be your next to last GSR Leader as I'm am retiring at the end of my 3rd term as your editor on June 30, 2020. Be looking for one more edition from me in May and maybe the announcement of your next GSR Editor.

John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, CDT, AIA

FROM THE INSTITUTE BOARD

The Dynamic Chapter Program continues to grow to help support our members in building dynamic chapter programming. There is a DCP community online and I highly encourage you to join it today.

<https://www.csiresources.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=3f10c49c-423d-42dc-9e0c-0042cb12b5d3>

Digital Credentials were live as of July 2019. If you have a social media presence start using your digital credentials today!

<https://www.csiresources.org/certification/certification-digital-badges>

CSI is a AIA CEU provider. Please realize this is an AIA administered program. That said, any issues that arise going forward, please contact AIA first, not CSI. More information can be found at: <https://www.aia.org/pages/3276-continuing-education-provider-toolkit>

The CSI Resources website continues to evolve with our communities and we have now added a learning library. Please visit and use your CSI Library!

<https://www.csiresources.org/learning/overview>

Looking for CSI Swag? Shop CSI at:

<https://shop.csinet.org/>

<https://www.csiresources.org/learning/overview>

The volunteer portal has been refreshed and updated. If you would like to join a committee, please visit the following link:

<https://www.csiresources.org/volunteeropportunities/opportunities-list-public>

Construct will be September 30 to October 2 at the Gaylord National Resort, Grapevine, Texas. Please save the date!

Our next Board meeting will be in late June in 2020. So, if there are any items you would like to be discussed by the Board, please contact me.

If you have anything else you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. wsundquist@wgpaver.com

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It's an honor to serve you and I thank you for your support of CSI!

**William Sundquist, CSI
Institute Director from Gulf States Region
FY' 2018 to 2021**



What I Learned in CSI

Computer Room Fire Suppression Systems

Most of us use GPS mapping systems, cloud data storage, Siri, Google, or Alexa, but how many of us think about the computer data centers that make these systems possible? Busy making our life easier, these centers contain computers and storage devices worth millions of dollars. Clean agent fire suppression systems, or other fire prevention systems, protect the data centers from fire so that repair or replacement of the computer systems is possible.

In the past, fire suppression systems used an ozone depleting gas called Halon 1301 which, in 1994, was discontinued and replaced by environmentally friendly clean agent gases. These new gases are non-conductive, non-corrosive, and leave no residue; which can prevent costly downtime in data centers. Some common gases are Inergen, ECARO FE-25, Fike's FM 200, and 3M's Novec 1230; however, many still refer to the new suppression systems as Halon.

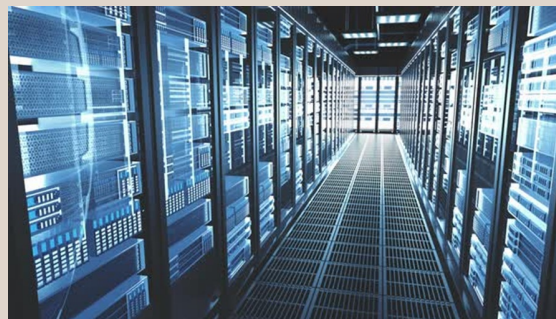
Clean agent gases work by saturating the room, breaking the chemical reaction fire needs, and extinguishing the fire. The saturation level required to extinguish a fire requires a sealed room to prevent escape of the fire suppression gas. All network cables, electrical conduit, HVAC ductwork, and other room penetrations are sealed airtight with caulk, duct dampers, or other approved methods. Entry doors into the facility are also equipped with door gaskets to contain the clean agent gas. After all penetrations and doors are sealed, a blower door test is performed to verify the air-tightness of the room. If the data center room is large enough, a one- or two-way vent, specifically designed for the gas, will be installed to alleviate the pressure generated by the gas discharge. Damage of walls or the room may result if an improperly designed vent is installed.

The volume of the computer room dictates the size of the gas cylinders and/or the required distribution piping. Small data rooms can be protected by a 50 lb. gas cylinder, in a corner, with one nozzle. Larger and more complicated data centers require several 300 lb. or 500 lb. gas cylinders. This distribution piping system includes multiple nozzles in the room and below the raised access floor. Refilling multiple gas cylinders can be expensive. Most suppression systems require many heat detectors and/or smoke detectors to report a fire

before the gas discharges. There is usually a short time delay, of 5 to 10 seconds, before the gas discharges so personnel can exit the area. Some data center fire suppression systems are equipped with an abort switch to prevent accidental discharge.

The photos below illustrate noteworthy features of a data center fire suppression system.

Gary Bergeron, CSI, CCS
GSR Technical Chair



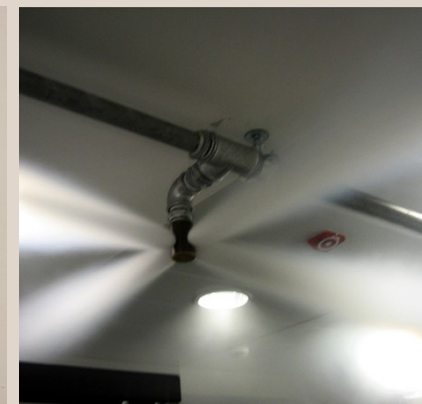
Computer Data Center



Clean agent gas cylinders



Clean agent manual release
and abort switch



Clean Agent Discharge

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