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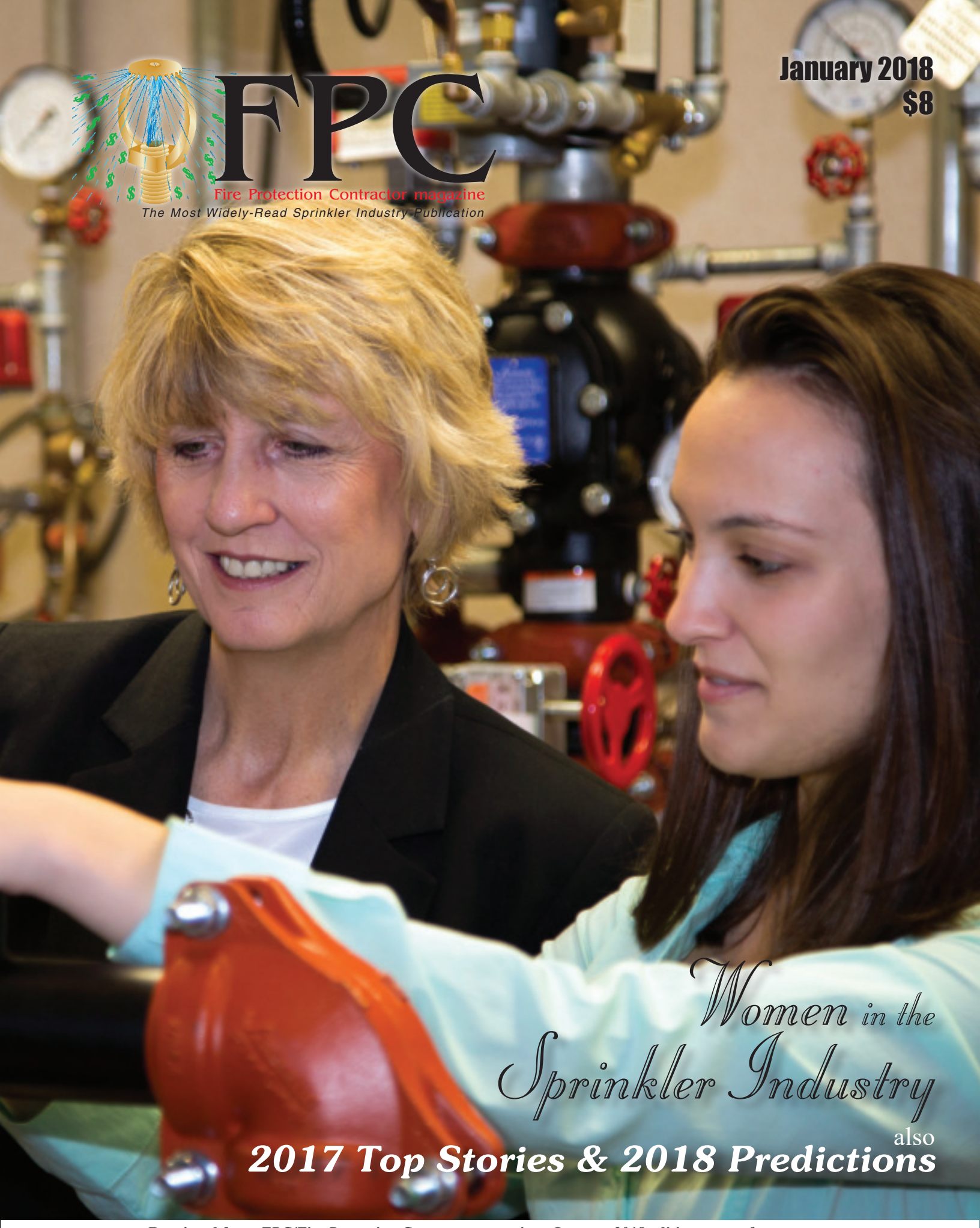

Women in the Sprinkler Industry

also

2017 Top Stories & 2018 Predictions

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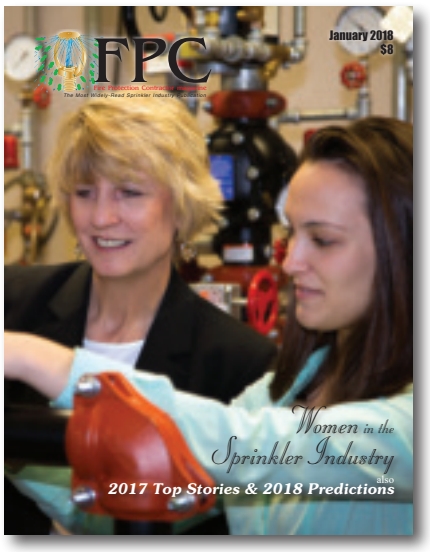
In this Edition

January

Women in the Sprinkler Industry

Top Stories and Predictions

~ On the Cover ~



On the Cover: Susan Schierwagen and Katie Yovanovich courtesy of Victaulic Company.
FPC *has covered women in the sprinkler industry many times over the course of our history. This year we showcase many new faces with great stories in diverse areas of the industry. Women in the sprinkler industry starts on page 16.*

COLUMNS

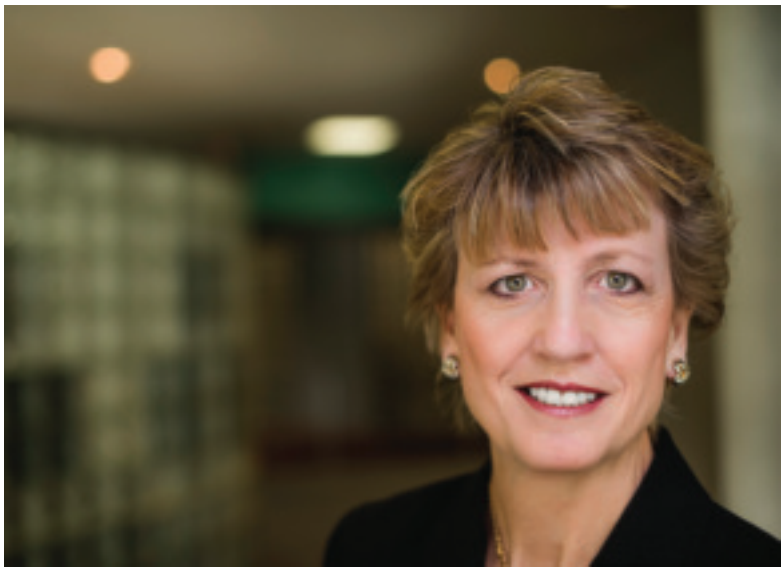
NEWS

DEPARTMENTS

Susan Schierwagen

Vice President of Product Development – Fire Protection, Victaulic

As the Vice President of Product Development – Fire Protection for Victaulic, it was the company's commitment, passion, and focus on innovation that attracted me to this organization. I'm tasked with developing and introducing innovative solutions to an ever-evolving industry focused on life-safety. In this role, I collaborate with our global business leaders, but, most importantly, our customers, to identify new or emerging opportunities. Interacting with customers adds incredible depth and insights in understanding what their needs are and what product features drive their success. From these insights, I'm able to help the diverse team at Victaulic develop products that increase overall system durability, optimize construction productivity, and reduce risk.



Recently, I helped pioneer Victaulic's groundbreaking new fire protection solution for small-diameter hard pipe systems, the FireLock™ Innovative Groove System (IGS) — creating a game-changing shift from traditional threading solutions for small diameter pipe to grooved joining technologies.

I also enjoy the opportunity of going to job sites, whether it's a remote mine shaft miles underground or 40 feet up on a lift in a warehouse, every experience helps me to better understand how Victaulic products can improve the fitter's job. For example, we're currently working on a project in the Hudson Yards of New York City — the largest development in New York City since Rockefeller Center, and one of the most complex construction projects in New York City. This "new skyline" of New York is being built on a platform above an active train yard, called Hudson Yards.

Traditional methods of joining pipe such as welding would have been costly and added excess time to the project. The contractor was challenged with a tight project schedule and needed a durable, effective solution to join pipe faster, while being able to withstand the uniquely high temperatures generated from the rail systems. By listening, engaging, and understanding our customer's challenges, I was able to work with material engineering, product technology, and process technology to develop a ceramic-coated coupling solution to mechanically join pipe that would have otherwise been welded for the fire suppression system.

I was fortunate to be at the forefront of this innovation and worked collaboratively to lead the engineering effort to provide this new solution for the Hudson Yards project. You know you have a good solution when you visit customers on the jobsite and see their reaction to new technology. All of a sudden it just clicks. And you hear them say… I can't believe you've just made my job so much easier, faster, and safer. That's what drives me to give my best every day.

Growing up, I was fortunate to have a lot of exposure to the construction industry through my dad who was in the electrical contracting business. As a young girl, he took me to job sites where I saw projects develop from blueprints to finished buildings. I credit my success to early exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), so it's natural for me to pay it forward in the same way. I continuously encourage young people to gain exposure in the engineering industry and not be intimidated by a challenge. For women who are looking to enter into engineering, my advice is to take risks and always speak up. Use your voice, take a seat at the table, and don't be apprehensive to jump in and become part of the solution. If you're an innovator or problem-solver and you're able to effectively communicate your ideas and plans, you will be an asset to both your company and the industry. Everyone brings a unique perspective and yours might just be the one that is needed to make the team successful.

Throughout my career, I have served in a variety of leadership positions. In 2014, I was honored with a Women of Influence Award from Lehigh Valley Business. I also serve on the Industry Board for National Systems Contracting Association, the Board for McGraw-Hill Building Product Manufacturers, the Board of Directors for Syracuse University Sales and Marketing Program, and the Women's Leadership Council, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. I am a member of the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Strategic Account Management Association, and the Society of Women Engineers. Additionally, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Da Vinci Science Center as well as the Executive Advisory Council for The Da Vinci Science Center's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Network, which is an initiative that supports current female professionals in the STEM fields — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — and encourages female students to pursue STEM careers.

For more information visit: www.victaulic.com.

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