

Chubb insurance offers tools, tips to prevent fires

Training center allows hands-on classes in fire prevention and loss control.

By CHAD HEMENWAY
Staff Writer

WARREN — A rare opportunity to learn about fire protection and property loss prevention, an offer once open to a few, is now available to a larger group of professionals.

The Chubb Group of Insurance Companies has started to offer courses and training to building inspectors, facilities managers, sprinkler system installers and contractors as well as insurance customers, agents and brokers and local fire officials.

The courses are taught by experts in their fields and held in Chubb's state-of-the-art Loss Control Training Center on the campus of the company's world headquarters in Warren.

On Thursday, Chubb held an open house at the Loss Control Training Center. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the center, one of a handful of its kind in the country and the only one in New Jersey.

"This is really a unique facility," said Sam K. Lee, vice president of risk management services for Chubb subsidiary Chubb Services Corporation.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY JOHNSON

Thomas W. LaCorte, senior fire protection specialist for the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, demonstrates different sprinklers during an open house Thursday at Chubb's Loss Control Training Center in Warren.

"We can actually set a fire off in a controlled setting and show you how things work — show you the components — so you understand how they work," he said. "Usually when the sprinklers go off, everyone is already out of the building."

Fully stocked with seven sprinkler systems, two fire pumps, portable fire extinguishers, smoke and fire detectors, control boards and a glass-enclosed fire chamber, the Loss Control Training Center offers hands-on classes.

"It's great to be in a business whose goal it is to prevent terrible things from happening," said Victor Sordillo, vice

president of loss control services for Chubb subsidiary Chubb & Son. "Now that we are expanding to offer training to more people, everyone wins.

"Facilities and risk managers will be better educated, municipal officials will be able to spot a problem and we all are safer. Additionally, our property is protected." Sordillo said the insurance rate for a building equipped with a proper sprinkler system is about a tenth of the cost for a building without adequate protection from fire.

"Sprinkler systems have done a great job protecting our lives and property, but they only do so if they are



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY JOHNSON

Sprinkler heads sit on display at Chubb Group of Insurance Companies' Loss Control Training Center in Warren.

the right fit for the building they are in and they are maintained,” said Thomas W. LaCorte, senior fire protection specialist for Chubb. He also is a member of the Loss Control Services Unit.

LaCorte played host at the demonstrations Thursday to show those in attendance what is offered in the courses. He first explained a few of the many types of sprinkler heads before everyone got to see them in action

controlling a fire inside the glass chamber as the heat set off numerous alarms. Another demonstration showed the importance of periodically testing water valves and electronic water sensors.

The Loss Control Training Center offers half-day, full-day and two-day seminars. Subjects include wet, dry and pre-action sprinkler systems, warehouse fire protection, fire pumps and fire detection. Seminars cover the latest codes, standards, regulations and maintenance.

For program dates and registration information: Contact Sam Lee at (908) 903-7172; E-mail loss-control-service@chubb.com

For information on Chubb's Loss Control Training Program, visit www.chubb.com/business/cci/chubb3285.html



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