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Here they are—a new year and the third issue of ASPE’s magazine, *Plumbing Systems & Design*. I hope you agree that *PSD* continues to improve with each issue. That’s an important goal of the ASPE and *PSD* staff. More importantly, I hope you agree that the magazine is meeting its primary goal—to be the magazine both by and for plumbing engineers, designers, specifiers, and other plumbing professionals.

*PSD* wants to meet the technical needs of the plumbing professional, but in an enjoyable and relaxing style. Look for a bit of humor (like the ASPE cartoon and a “fun” ASPE logo) in each issue. The fun logo is the ASPE logo used in conjunction with some seasonal image (like an ASPE-logo Santa Claus for a December issue—and no, that’s not what it was). Have you found the fun logo in the last issue of the magazine? This issue? (Hint: You’ll find it somewhere in the first four pages of the magazine, but don’t expect it always to be in the same place.)

One thing ASPE will *not* do is follow other plumbing engineering publications, especially those that devote each issue to a specific subject. That approach is great for advertisers but not always so great for readers. And it is the reader that *PSD* is most interested in. So, to remain flexible, we will run feature articles based on what the editors and technical resource people deem subjects of interest to the plumbing professional.

**Features in This Issue**

It seems engineering-intuitive that the more details the better. But in “What a Sprinkler Contractor Looks for in Bid Documents,” Brian Conway quickly establishes that more engineering details can translate into bigger engineering fees—something counterintuitive to builders and developers. On the other hand, too little information can result in higher costs. It’s almost like Goldilocks and the three bears. Brian provides a

checklist of bid document basics that will help the engineer get it “just right” the first time.

Just when you thought it was simple—that plumbing pipe should run in a horizontal mode—along comes Steven Skattebo’s “Vertical Plumbing for a Hospital Addition.” Okay, so vertical piping isn’t exactly new. Think of vent stacks and drain lines. But what do you do when a facility is ceiling challenged? How do you run sprinkler lines, heating pipes, pneumatic tubes, power conduits, light fixtures, and ductwork when the slab-to-slab height is too restrictive? Does the cost become prohibitive? To find out, turn to page 8.

**Subject Departments**

The *PSD* columns continue to develop and grow. In this installment of “Lessons Learned,” Joe Scott explains why bigger is not always better. Those of you planning a trip overseas need to be prepared for siphonic roof drains; see Larry Galowin’s column in “Scene from Afar.” If you aren’t sure exactly what “*MIC* Is Not the Name of a Crocodile Hunter” refers to in “Inside the Industry,” think Mick (aka Crocodile) Dundee of movie fame.

“Code Update” looks behind the scenes of plumbing codes and standards to gather information from the horse’s mouth, so to speak. Ray Moore posits a question to representatives of the two major code standards organizations. As expected, their views often diverge, and Ray attempts to sort it all out in a brief commentary. This issue’s question is on minimum plumbing fixture requirements. An equally intriguing column, especially for plumbing engineers who don’t often deal directly with the topic, is “Hydronics for Plumbing Engineers.” Roy Ahlgren of ITT Industries writes in a succinct and direct style that helps bridge the gap in understanding this technical area. This issue it’s all about tanks, and we don’t mean the fighting kind.



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## From the Publisher *continued from page 4*

### Continuing Education

Be sure to check out the continuing education feature in this and every issue of *PSD*. You'll find an excerpt from an ASPE technical manual or book. The article can be read in about an hour. Then you complete the examination questions and send the form to ASPE. For the right number of correct answers (you are usually allowed one wrong; after all,

this is an open-book test), ASPE will issue you 0.1 Continuing Education Unit. Nothing could be simpler, right?

### Silence Is Not Golden

A special thanks to everyone who has taken the time to write, fax, or e-mail a quick note to tell the ASPE and *PSD* staff exactly what they think of the magazine. Thank goodness the feedback has all been positive,

to date. I can't stress enough how much we want to hear from you—good, bad, or indifferent. In this instance, silence is not golden. Send notes to Stanley Wolfson, ASPE, 8614 W. Catalpa Avenue, Suite 1007, Chicago, IL 60656, or fax 773/695-9007. Easier yet, send an e-mail to [aspeexdir@aspe.org](mailto:aspeexdir@aspe.org). ■

—Stanley Wolfson