

FIRE SPRINKLER TIMES

Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board • Fall 2003 Edition



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Fire Official NFPA 13R And 13D Code Seminar A Success



Fire officials watched as Alsip firefighters extinguished a fire after flashover occurred during a demonstration. Fires were started in two furnished 20 X 20 foot rooms, one protected with a quick response fire sprinkler system, the other unprotected.

Thirty-nine Chicago area fire officials attended the Codes and Standards Mini-Seminar to learn how NFPA 13R and 13D correlate to building codes. Tom Lia, NIFSAB Executive Director, presented updates and information about residential fire sprinklers. Jim Schifiliti, Fire Safety Consultants, presented the technical code aspects of NFPA 13D.

Following the presentations, another 20 members of the fire service, along with elected officials and media, joined the fire officials to see firsthand two fire sprinkler demonstrations.

Dave Danley, NIFSAB Fire Safety Consultant, used the fire sprinkler demonstration trailer to show how a fire sprinkler activates.

Tom Lia offered a side-by-side presentation with two 20 x 20 foot rooms. Both rooms were similarly furnished, but only one room was protected with a residential quick response fire sprinkler.

A video crew from CLTV taped the demonstrations. They also taped Todd Fanfara, president, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, delivering a message about the life-saving benefits of residential fire sprinklers. The 15-second message will run on CLTV during October.

The seminar was sponsored by the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association with support from NIFSAB, Local 281 and the Alsip Fire Department under Chief Chuck Geraci and Deputy Chief Joe Schmitt. ■

Mt. Prospect And LaGrange Park Pass Single-Family Fire Sprinkler Ordinance

In an effort to increase fire safety and protect their citizens and firefighters, the Mt. Prospect and LaGrange Park village boards passed an ordinance requiring installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new construction homes.

In both villages, the ordinance requires all new single-family homes and townhouses to have home fire sprinklers installed according to NFPA 13D.

The Mt. Prospect ordinance passed in July under the direction of Fire Chief Michael Figolah and Fire Marshal Paul Valentine. The LaGrange Park ordinance passed under the direction of Fire

Chief Dean J. Maggos.

According to Figolah, the timing was right to pass this ordinance.

"One of our elected officials brought the idea to us after recently visiting a friend in Park Ridge who lived in a condo that had fire sprinklers," Figolah said. "Ironically, we were already preparing background information. Plus, we had three separate builders that elected to include sprinklers in the townhouses they were building."

Mt. Prospect has an extremely supportive

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NIFSAB Updates

by Tom Lia, NIFSAB Executive Director

Contact Tom at 866-264-3722 or e-mail: sprinktoml@aol.com

Orland Park's Loss – Fire Chiefs Association's Gain

Well it finally happened!

My former boss, Bob Buhs, left the Orland Fire District.

However, Orland's loss is the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association's (IFCA) gain with Bob slated to continue the great work of retiring Executive Director Jerry Burke.

I would like to personally wish Jerry Burke the best of luck, and my sincere appreciation for all the consideration that he has given to the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board as well as to me during my fire service career.

If Bob's work ethic and accomplishments in Orland Park are any indication of what he can do in the future, then the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association best watch out!

In my fire service career, there was always a key person who I looked up to and from whom I learned a great deal. Captain Jim Berger was one of those true mentors in my initial firefighter training and career development when I first started as a Paramedic On Call in Oak Forest.

When I went full time in Chicago Ridge, my old partner – now Chief Randy Grossi – taught me patience. And, as I started to take certification and college classes for my Associate's degree, Chief Tom Moran of Oak Lawn Fire Department and Chief Tom Freeman of Lisle-Woodridge fire protection

district put that fire prevention "bug" into my head as class instructors.

Bob Buhs was that energetic, aggressive and proactive chief that I switched a fire department for so that I could work under his tutelage. With Bob's leadership, the department made many improvements as it struggled to keep up with the explosive growth.

However, closer to my heart, Bob encouraged Fire Prevention Bureau improvements in codes and public education efforts. For example, Orland was the leader on school sprinklers issues and carbon monoxide response protocols. And, the district did not back down concerning the right of a fire district to adopt and enforce it's own fire codes, taking the issue to the Illinois State Supreme Court in the "Orland Versus Intra State Piping" case.

If an issue needed to be addressed, the Orland Fire District did so. Moreover, if a battle had to be fought, the fire district did not shy away. I see this trait today in many of the chiefs who fought those initial battles for the 13D codes.

Chief Leahy of Clarendon Hills worked on one of those challenges to educate his community's elected trustees on passing

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Danley's Desk

By Dave Danley
NIFSAB Fire Safety Consultant
Serving Lake and McHenry Counties

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Lake County Chiefs And Fire Inspectors Spectacular

Fire departments from Lake County joined in a day of exhibits and technical evolutions at the Gurnee Mills Shopping Center. The event highlighted the fire service as well as the capabilities of local public service agencies.

NIFSAB assisted with live fire sprinkler demonstrations. The Lake County Fire Chiefs Sprinkler Trailer was used to demonstrate how quickly residential fire sprinkler systems extinguish a fire.

In addition, a side-by-side comparison demonstrated fire control with and without fire sprinklers. Two model living rooms with similar furniture were constructed. The rooms were set on fire simultaneously and allowed to burn for a full five minutes.

Although both rooms were nearly identical, one room had a single residential quick response fire sprinkler installed in the center of the ceiling. In both rooms the fire quickly spread from the waste can to the sofa in about 90 seconds.

Suddenly, the fire activated the quick response sprinkler. In less than 30 seconds, the protected room's fire was extinguished while the unprotected room burned for an additional three and a half minutes, consuming the sofa, wastebasket, a chair, curtains and part of the carpeting.

The audience of over 300 visitors witnessed the spectacular safety effects of fire sprinkler systems. Following the demonstration, many visitors asked for pricing information while commenting on how quickly the fire spread. None of those visitors expected to see such a rapid fire growth and loss of room contents.

A special thanks goes to Century Automatic Sprinklers Co., Inc. and Ryan Syreini for their help in making the event successful. ■

NFSA Midwest Notes

By Dan Gengler, NFSA Midwest Regional Manager (IL, WI)

Contact Dan at 262-245-5255 or e-mail: DanNFSA@aol.com • www.nfsawi.org

Illinois Fire Sprinkler Contractor License Law

"Frustration" continues to be the word describing our quest to get the contractor-licensing act off the ground. A change in the Office of the State Fire Marshal will only delay the "Administrative Rule Package" even further.

Budget constraints and vacancies in key positions greet the new State Fire Marshal, Peter Vina. This being said, we have appealed directly to the governor for movement of the Administrative Rule package. The final version, needing only an open

hearing and confirmation vote by the State Senate, will spell out the specifics of the statute.

To understand more about license criteria, review Section 15 of the act that is available on the NIFSAB site: www.firesprinklerassoc.org. On the Home Page, scroll to Illinois Adopts Contractor License Bill, then click and the bill will be displayed.

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Fire Sprinklers at Work: SUCCESSFUL ACTIVATIONS

JUNE 2003:

Apartment, Chicago

Alliance Fire Protection

The Chicago Fire Department responded to a call at the Elois McCoy Apartments, 4650 W. Van Buren. When firefighters arrived at the scene, they discovered a single sprinkler extinguished a fire in the kitchen. The occupant was able to move back into the apartment the same night. This was the fifth fire in the building.

JULY 2003:

Creative Printing

Des Plaines, Rosemont Journal

July 9, 2003

Fire officials believe lightning caused a power surge, which caused some electrical equipment beneath a printing press to catch fire at Creative Printing. The fire sprinkler system prevented the fire from spreading beyond the press. "The sprinklers contained the fire until we could arrive to extinguish it," said Chief Farinella.

"The sprinklers did a wonderful job," said Frank LaMontagna, one of the business partners, "It was amazing what these sprinklers can do. We had all 165 employees show up to work."

Tom Farinella, Fire Chief, Des Plaines Fire Department

Berg Manufacturing

Wheeling, Fire Dept. Report,

July 22, 2003

Responding to an early morning alarm, firefighters found light smoke from several entrance doors in the warehouse area of Berg Manufacturing. The 48,000 sq. ft building was overstocked with cardboard boxes filled with plastic pellets used in injection molding. The fire was against the outside wall. Fire sprinklers activated and minimal flames were visible.

After firefighters removed unburned boxes of material from the scene, a fire department investigation determined that the fire was caused by discarded smoking materials. One entire box was destroyed; six other boxes received fire damage.

"Even though the fire load exceeded the design capabilities of the fire sprinkler system, the fire was contained with only two sprinklers," Chief Keith MacIsaac said. Production resumed in the factory later in the day.

"Goes to show how even when things are not the way they are supposed to be, fire sprinklers make a difference," Chief MacIsaac added. "Without fire sprinklers, the fire loss would have been substantial."

Keith MacIsaac, Fire Chief, Wheeling Fire Department

Warehouse

Mt. Prospect, Fire Dept. Release,

July 29, 2003

A single fire sprinkler activated and controlled a fire until the fire department arrived in the vicinity of a forklift recharge operation in a warehouse. At 7:17 p.m., the fire department responded and did not find visible smoke until firefighters entered the building. They used hoses to extinguish the fire.

"This fire very easily could have spread throughout the facility had it not been for the sprinkler system and the prompt response of the fire department," said Fire Marshal Paul Valentine. "Had the property not had an automatic sprinkler and fire alarm system, the loss could have been catastrophic."

Damage was estimated at about \$5,000. The business was able to reopen the same day shortly following the incident.

Michael Figolah, Fire Chief, Mt. Prospect Fire Department

AUGUST 2003:

Golden Gate Restaurant

Palatine, Daily Herald,

August 25, 2003

When firefighters responded to an alarm at 1:19 a.m., the sprinkler system was way ahead of them. A single sprinkler had extinguished a blaze that started in the electric room. Damages were estimated at \$2,000.

Hank Clemmensen, Fire Chief, Palatine Rural Fire Protection District

SEPTEMBER 2003:

TGI Friday's

Hoffman Estates, Fire Dept. Report,

September 10, 2003

At 11:22 p.m., the fire department responded to an alarm at TGI Fridays and found smoke showing with occupants evacuating the structure. Investigation revealed a fire in the exterior wall and above the suspended ceiling. The fire was extinguished using firefighter hoses and the building's sprinkler system. The damage was contained to the fire room, exterior walls and the roof area.

James Eaves, Fire Chief, Hoffman Estates Fire Department

Scot Neil, Fire Inspector, Hoffman Estates

Westlake Community Hospital

Melrose Park, WBBM-TV Newsbreak,

September 15, 2003

At approximately 7:20 a.m., the fire department responded to a call at Westlake Community Hospital. Firefighters laid out one line to a small fire in a room in the radiology department. A single sprinkler activated and extinguished the fire.

Jim Cernauske, Fire Chief, Melrose Park Fire Department

Send your "Successful Activation" stories to: Tom Lia, NIFSAB, 62 Orland Square Drive, Suite 203, Orland Park, IL 60462; or fax them to: 708-403-4771.

How To Build A Sprinkler Demonstration

By: Lt. Bill Tauchen, Villa Park Fire Department

In an effort to best utilize the lumber, we decided that the overall size of the mockup would be 8' deep by 16' wide, each room being approximately 8' x 8'. A platform was built using 2x4 studs spaced 24" on center. Four sheets of plywood served as the floor.

The rear wall was built using 2x4 studs spaced 24 inches on center. Each sidewall and the dividing wall was built and secured to the floor and rear wall. The ceiling joists were set 24 inches on center and secured in place.

All interior surfaces were dry walled with 3/8-inch sheetrock with joints taped and nail heads covered. The entire mockup (inside and outside) was painted. The fronts of each room were painted to depict the sprinkled and the non-sprinkled room.

We collected the furniture on garbage day. Other accessories were purchased at the local thrift shop or donated. We were able to furnish each room with similar fire loads. It is important to include items that people can identify with such as books, toys, lamps, televisions and other household items.

In conjunction with the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, a sprinkler contractor was hired to install a single residential quick response sprinkler in one room. A single 1" connection was installed and fed by tapping off of our fire station standpipe.

In order to retain as much heat as possible in each room, we built a header across the front opening of each room that extended 12" down from the ceiling. On the morning of the demonstration, 1/8" Plexiglas was hung over each opening. This allowed us to show the mushroom effect of the fire as it builds. It also provides a very dramatic conclusion as the Plexiglas fails and the fire leaps out.

The project took approximately 32 hours for construction and set-up. The overall cost for materials was:

Lumber, drywall, paint, nails, etc.	\$490.00
Plexiglas	\$240.00

Is Your Fire Prevention Week Campaign Fully Sprinklered?

For more than 80 years, fire departments across North America have set aside the month of October to focus attention on public fire safety education.

The official commemoration is National Fire Prevention Week, always held the Sunday through Saturday in which October 9 falls in recognition of the Great Chicago Fire.

Many fire departments utilize the entire month of October to maximize community outreach. Often, Fire Prevention Week is taught in schools during this time, and most fire departments host educational events such as fire safety demonstrations, fire station open houses and classroom instruction visits.

The campaign is a great way to get public safety messages out as well as an opportunity for the community to get to its fire district personnel. However, think outside the box this year and don't let fire sprinklers take a backseat in the drive to education the public during Fire Prevention Week activities.

Never in the history of the campaign have fire sprinklers been featured in annual themes, which have otherwise tended to focus on individual actions that children can take to increase their home's safety.



More than 300 visitors checked out a demonstration comparing two rooms after a fire at the Gurnee Mills Shopping Center. One room had an automatic fire sprinkler, the other did not. The event was sponsored by fire departments from Lake County.

That latter idea makes great sense from a classroom outreach perspective, but it doesn't mean a fire department can't incorporate fire sprinklers into their local events and messages. Although it is important to reinforce the key messages, there is room to do more.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2003 is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!"

This message provides lots of leeway to incorporate both residential and commercial fire sprinkler messages. As fire safety education efforts get underway in October, consider how your fire district can raise the safety bar and increase the potential to educate consumers about the life-saving benefits of automatic fire sprinklers.

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Mt. Prospect and LaGrange Park *continued from page 1*

board when it comes to fire safety, Figolah added. The village already requires sprinkler installation in all new commercial and industrial buildings.

Maggos also praised the LaGrange Park Village Board for passing the life-saving ordinance.

"By passing this code, the Village Board has illustrated how proactive and serious it is about the safety of residents, firefighters and community," Maggos said.

"Everyone appeared to go into the code development process with an open mind," Maggos added. "Very productive discussions took place on major issues. Future lives and property will be saved because of the coura-

geous steps taken by our board."

All three fire officials agreed that ordinances requiring residential fire sprinklers are the wave of the future because sprinklers help save lives, reduce fire-related property damage and protect firefighters who respond to house fires.

Mt. Prospect and LaGrange Park increase the total to 12 Northern Illinois municipalities that require residential fire sprinklers including: Barrington, Clarendon Hills, Glen Ellyn, Hoffman Estates, Lake Barrington, Long Grove, Park Ridge, Round Lake Beach, West Dundee and Wheeling. Several other communities are also progressing toward this goal. ■

Blue Island Takes Fire Sprinkler Message To The Streets

People who spot the new fire prevention van in Blue Island can learn a simple message: "Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers together save lives!"

On the side of the van are symbols of a fire sprinkler and smoke alarm. Between the two images is the message "Don't stay home without them!"

"We are trying to lay the foundation," said Bob Copp, Fire Prevention Officer, Blue Island Fire Department. "We want to catch people's attention. We do have people ask about the message because they didn't know you could have fire sprinklers in homes."

Copp said the message is important because they are trying to upgrade their fire safety codes by reducing the minimum square foot requirements for fire sprinklers in new construction.

"We've had successful activations in some business and commercial buildings," Copp



According to Bob Copp, Blue Island Fire Department Fire Prevention Officer, people do ask him about the message because they didn't know fire sprinklers could be installed in homes.

said. "It would be nice to see more homes with the same life-saving protection." David Haywood is chief of Blue Island Fire Department. ■

Orland Park's Loss *continued from page 2*

an ordinance. Then, he had to defend it from Home Builder Association attempts to have it rescinded (even though only one of their builders was an Association member).

Fire Marshal Hank Clemenson and Chief Corvette of Hoffman Estates made the initial efforts in their community to pass a limited area ordinance under great pressure to drop the original proposal. One year later, Fire Marshal Pat Fortunato and Chief Eaves worked with the local government to pass the full version of 13D in their large tract developments.

Chief Dubowski of Park Ridge, Chief McManaman of West Dundee, Chief Nixon of Streamwood, Fire Marshal Chris Clark and Chief Raffensberger of Glen Ellyn, and Fire Marshal Bill Swift of Round Lake Fire Protection District all knew what they wanted, too. They knew it was right for their town's citizens as well as for their firefighters. In addition, they worked out their successful strategy.

One of the most challenging accomplishments was the effort that Chief Macisaac had in Wheeling. He, too, worked to educate

his trustees and mayor about passing a 13D ordinance that included manufactured homes.

Special interest people challenged the issue since it had not been in place very long. Although the situation was difficult, the Chief persevered to overcome those special interest challenges and re-sell his ordinance.

Chief Maisaac, as well as all the other chiefs mentioned here, knew what they believed was right and demonstrated the spirit to fight for their fire safety principles.

The only way the fire service is going to change for the better with their fire prevention code efforts is by following the FEMA America Burning Challenge. They must continue to seek acceptance for what they believe in for the betterment of the citizens that they serve, and for the protection of the police and firefighters who respond to fires, flashovers and back drafts that result from fire emergencies beyond their control.

Congratulations to all the chiefs for their lifetime accomplishments, and good luck to Bob at the IFCA who will carry on the fire safety cause in both word and spirit! ■

Mokena Fire Protection District Features Sprinklers

Chief Ted Golden is stepping up his department's efforts in the Mokena Fire Protection District to raise awareness of home fire sprinklers – and not just among the 17,000 residents that his district serves.

An internal survey of his own district's personnel indicated that their knowledge base about residential systems wasn't as solid as the Chief would like it to be.

"When it comes to residential, we haven't done a great job of educating (our personnel) on how sprinklers work," Golden said. "If they don't have a clear understanding, how can the public, or even builders, understand sprinklers?"

In addition to stepping up staff knowledge, the Chief is making public awareness of residential sprinkler systems a community priority. Sprinklers will be front and center this October as the department's Fire Safety Month activities get underway.

In the past, the department has included live fire demonstrations to help the public appreciate fire's rapid expansion as well as the importance of having working smoke alarms. This year, the Mokena Fire Protection District will add fire sprinkler demonstrations to the mix.

For the first time, residents will learn about a complete system of home safety and be able to watch sprinklers quickly extinguish demonstration fires. Seeing is truly believing – and nothing helps the public understand the life-saving technology of sprinklers like a live burn and extinguishment.

It's time to do more, Golden said as he pointed to a long history of a national fire sprinkler mandates that never quite come to pass.

"America Burning" (a report prepared by the U.S. Fire Administration in 1973) stated that residential sprinkler systems should be promoted. "America Burning: Revisited" reiterated it again by stating, "We've been saying it on a national level since 1973, but it hasn't caught on."

The need for public awareness is great, agreed Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chair Gary Keith.

"Our best estimate is that less than four percent of homes in America are equipped with automatic home fire sprinklers," he said. "It's important to be systematic about the delivery of sprinkler messages, and utilizing Fire Prevention Week as an outlet to reach the public just makes sense."

"We're going to take on a very active promotional campaign," added Chief Golden. "We've got some houses being built in excess of our current minimum 5,000 square foot minimum and they aren't protected by sprinklers. Makes you wonder what the logic is!" ■

New Bears Stadium Ad: Advertising Update

The Bears Have a New Defensive Line

Fire Sprinklers Installed by Sprinkler Fitters Local 281 Protect Soldier Field

Fire sprinklers are the best defense against fire. That's why the new Soldier Field is protected throughout with fire sprinklers, professionally installed by members of Sprinkler Fitters Local 281. Whether it's a stadium, office building or home, fire sprinklers save lives and property.

National Fire Sprinkler Association
Northern Illinois Chapter
www.fire sprinklerassoc.org
866-264-3722

CHICAGO
Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
www.sprinklerfitterschicago.org
708-593-1800

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Chicago Fire Sprinkler Association

NIFSAB and Local 281 teamed up with a full-page ad promoting the fact that the new Bears Stadium is protected with a fire sprinkler system installed by Local #281 contractors. It will appear in the 2003 NFL Gameday Magazine, Chicago Bears Edition. In order to highlight the efforts of the building and construction community, the Bears are planning a special feature about Soldier Field in each Gameday Magazine. The magazine will be distributed at all Bears regular season home games.

Tune in to WBBM NewsRadio during the 6 p.m. "World News Round Up" for a NIFSAB fire sprinkler message featuring Chief Jim

Spiegel, Countryside Fire Protection District, and Chief Dan Hermes, Pleasantview Fire Protection District. NIFSAB is recognized as the sponsor before and after the national news. NIFSAB's 60-second message runs in the first time slot after the national news.

CLTV/WGN Schedule: NIFSAB is promoting residential fire sprinklers with a TV campaign on CLTV and WGN. The 30-second spot runs on CLTV September 29th through the end of the year. The spots will run on WGN during the weeks of October 6th and 19th. ■

New Standpipe System Enhances Orland Training Program



Retired Chief Bob Buhs, Orland Fire Protection District, Acting Chief Dan Wysocki and Jack Nance, Local 281 Training Instructor, check out the standpipe outside the Arthur Granat Sr. Training Facility in Orland Park.

A standpipe system installed in the Arthur Granat Sr. Training Facility, Orland Fire Protection District, will help firefighters better train for fires in buildings with standpipes.

Retired Orland Fire Chief Bob Buhs visited the training facility while apprentices from Sprinkler Fitters Local 281 installed the system.

Tom Collins, Business Manager, Local 281, donated the labor, A&A Sprinkler donated the system design and K&S Automatic Sprinkler donated the pipe and fittings.

"This system will enhance the training program and allow instructors to provide a more realistic approach to fighting fires in buildings with standpipes," Buhs said. "We always faked the system before. Now our firefighters can practice more efficiently without bugs, and train on a more routine schedule." ■

NFSA Midwest Notes

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Chicago Nightclub Ordinance

Meetings continue with Chicago Building Committee aldermen regarding the city's proposed nightclub new & retrofit fire sprinkler ordinance. City of Chicago 14th Ward Alderman Edward Burke introduced an ordinance on June 4, 2003 calling for all nightclubs having patron capacities over 50 to be retrofit with automatic fire sprinkler protection by July 1, 2005. Plans for the installation schedule would be required to be submitted by July 1, 2004. ■

Prospect Heights Family First In Community With Home Fire Sprinklers

When John and Maria Redmond decided to build a new home, John knew he wanted to protect his family and his home with a residential fire sprinkler system. So he contacted Tom Lia at NIFSAB for more information.

"I gave John the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition education video and brochures and the NIFSAB contractor directory as a resource to get estimates," Lia said. "Then I let Tim Jones, the fire marshal at the Prospect Heights Fire Department know he had a resident building a new home in the community interested in a home fire sprinkler system."

Maria was a little hesitant at first. "I didn't know you could put a sprinkler system in a home," she said. "I was worried that the whole system would go off, or the sprinklers would stick way out of the ceiling. I learned a lot watching the video, that each sprinkler activates on its own from the fire and that the sprinklers can be flush in the ceiling."

Deputy Chief Jones said he was excited about the news because it was the first residential system in their district and because the house has a well system.



The Redmond home is the first in Prospect Heights with a residential fire sprinkler system. Don Gould, Jr., Fire Chief, Prospect Heights Fire Department.

"When we talk about residential sprinklers in our district, some people have a concern about the water supply from a well," Jones said. "Now we can show that it's not a problem. The Redmond home has a tank and pump in the basement," he added.

Most important, both John and Maria are glad that their three children who are 9, 13 and 16 years old, live in a home with fire sprinkler protection. ■

Mt. Prospect Fire Station Has New Sprinkler System

Thanks to State Sen. Dave Sullivan's request for a grant, Mt. Prospect's 40-year old fire station was upgraded, including the installation of a fire sprinkler system.

Built in 1964, fire sprinklers were not required by code to be installed in the station. The new upgrades include adding facilities for female firefighters, a new heating and air conditioning system, new carpet and replacement of the firefighters' workstations and sleeping quarters.

Chief Michael Figolah said they wanted to retrofit the station with a fire sprinkler system to set an example, even though the



system was not required by code.

"We know the benefits of fire sprinklers. We have people sleeping in that building. We needed to protect our firefighters," Figolah said.

Figolah said the biggest challenge was designing the system for the police department's shooting range in the basement. "We ended up going with a low-profile sprinkler to make sure none of the sprinklers could get hit." ■

Fire Prevention Week

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It's easy to add fire sprinkler messages to your annual Fire Prevention Week and Fire Safety Month campaigns. Access these web sites for useful sprinkler facts and other information: www.homefiresprinkler.org; www.nfpa.org; and www.firesprinklerassoc.org.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Tailor your messages to include fire sprinklers.

- When you explain the importance of a safe escape from fire, be sure to include the role of fire sprinklers in protecting occupants by giving them extra time to get out.
- Help your audience understand that smoke alarms detect a fire, while sprinklers detect and extinguish or suppress a fire.
- Talk about a total fire safety system: early warning (smoke alarms); suppression (fire sprinklers); and safe escape (emergency plan and practice drills).

Dismiss the myths!

Add a true/false quiz to your public awareness materials and see how many people know the truth about fire sprinklers. Be sure to give the right answers at the end to truly dismiss those stubborn myths!

Provide hands-on instruction.

In addition to typical classroom fire prevention visits, ask high schools to invite you to give students in science and physics classes a brief presentation on how fire sprinkler systems work. Bring samples of different types of sprinklers and pipe pieces so students can see how the technology works in both commercial and residential properties.

Inquiring minds want to know!

Ask your local newspaper to run a sprinkler fact-of-the-week throughout October briefly explaining how sprinklers work and why they save lives and property.

Accentuate the positive!

Create a poster board display in the fire station to showcase local sprinkler activation success stories in homes and commercial properties. Use photographs and news articles to compare those successes against fires in non-sprinklered buildings.

Get up close and personal.

Set up live fire demonstrations with sprinklers, or arrange for a sprinkler demonstration trailer to come to your community.

Put sprinklered homes on parade.

Ask homeowners in your community to open their sprinklered homes for a "Sprinklered Home Open House" during October. ■



Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

www.firesprinklerassoc.org

62 Orland Square Drive, Suite 203
Orland Park, IL 60462

Standard
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Permit #77

For more information about fire sprinklers, contact Tom Lia, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, 866-264-3722

You can also contact Tom via e-mail: sprinktoml@aol.com



Home Fire Sprinkler Quiz *Use this quiz as part of your community education programs.*

- Smoke alarms are essential early warning devices. Adding an automatic home sprinkler system takes fire protection a step further because sprinklers fight fire in its early stages before it spreads out of control.
A. True
B. False
- Home fire sprinkler systems:
A. help save lives
B. reduce injuries
C. save millions of dollars in property loss
D. all of the above
- Sprinklers and alarms used together cut the risk of death in a home fire by:
A. 15%
B. 50%
C. 62%
D. 82%
- Nationally, on average, home fire sprinkler systems add what percentage of the total building cost when installed during new construction?
A. 1% to 1.5%
B. 5%
C. 7% to 8.5%
D. 10%
- Smoke can activate a home fire sprinkler system.
A. True
B. False
- Compared to the amount of water released by fire fighter hoses, home sprinkler systems use:
A. the same amount of water
B. considerably less water
C. more water
- Over ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.
A. True
B. False
- The odds of accidental sprinkler discharge due to manufacturing defects are 1 in 16 million.
A. True
B. False
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.
A. True
B. False
- How does your fire department benefit when residential fire sprinkler systems are installed in your community?

Quiz Answer Key: 1:A / 2:D / 3:D / 4:A / 5:B / 6:B / 7:A / 8:A / 9:A