

**Frankfort Fire Protection District**  
333 W. Nebraska Street  
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

815 469-1700

April 18, 2003

Mr. Tom Lia  
Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board  
62 Orland Square Drive Suite 203  
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

Dear Tom;

At 0437 hours on April 18, 2003, the Frankfort Fire District responded to a "Full Fire Alarm" at a local manufacturing facility. Upon arrival the occupants met the first in engine and advised them, there is smoke in a building 12D, a 2000,000 square foot warehouse.

After spotting the vehicles, the first in engine stretched a skid load in the dock doors, and due to the heavy smoke, utilized our thermo-camera to find the fire.

What the suppression crews found when they reached the fire, was a fork truck with a smoldering pallet of Styrofoam plates that had ignited from static electricity charge. The crew used the attack line to complete suppression and overhaul.

When the fork truck driver saw the fire, he stopped the truck and pulled the alarm. Luckily, when he stopped the truck it was under a sprinkler head, which activated, held the fire in check until the crew reached the fire.

As you are aware, a fire sprinkler system will not stop fires from occurring, but will suppress the fire or hold the fire in check while the occupants are able to escape safely. And that's what happened in Frankfort. Also, no civilian or firefighters were injured in this sprinkled building.

Sincerely,

Larry Rauch  
Assistant Chief