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Cover photo courtesy of SFPE. See their article on page 16 and catch all the featured articles beginning on page 12. Other interesting and valuable reading continues right on through to the back cover!

Happy Thanksgiving
from all of us at FPC magazine!

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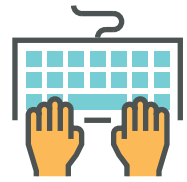
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Housing's Deep Freeze: Existing Home Sales at 25-Year Lows

An article by Peter C. Earle, October 6, 2025, on www.thedailyeconomy.org, entitled *Housing's Deep Freeze: Existing Home Sales at 25-Year Lows*, said: Buyers are sidelined by high prices, while owners cling to historically cheap loans and high equity. The freeze is reshaping labor markets and family formation.

The article went on to say: The American housing market is no stranger to boom and bust cycles, but the current slowdown in existing home sales is remarkable both for its scale and its stubbornness. With sales in 2025 on track to reach their lowest levels in more than 25 years, the market appears to be in a deep freeze. That stark reality, highlighted recently by analyst Meredith Whitney, has often been treated as a secondary detail in coverage of the economy. Yet the depth of this freeze – and the reasons behind it – are central to understanding broader economic conditions.

The article concluded with: Whitney's phrasing is blunt: the market is "gummed up." Unlike past downturns, when collapsing demand or financial crises abruptly cut off activity, today's deep freeze is rooted in a peculiar mix of policy choices, pan-

democratic aftereffects, and household-level psychology. The forces of supply and demand still operate, but they are being distorted in ways that have left buyers sidelined and sellers locked in place.

The key question is whether the impasse is temporary or persistent; frictional, or structural. A sharp drop in interest rates could unfreeze activity, but with inflation still elevated, such a shift seems unlikely in the near term. A major correction in prices could restore balance, but supply shortages make that outcome somewhat doubtful. The likeliest scenario is a market that muddles through: sluggish sales, elevated prices, and a large contingent of unsatisfied would-be market participants.

Whitney's observation – that the reliance of older Americans on home equity loans may be a buried lead – underscores the complexity of the moment. The housing market is not simply a casualty of higher rates; it is the product of a confluence of pandemic-era choices, policy dynamics, and demographic realities. With sales at their lowest point in a quarter century, the U.S. housing market is locked in a deep freeze, and understanding how – and when – it might thaw will be essential for prospective home buyers and sellers, investors, and policy-makers alike.

We at *FPC* pray that home building
will boom again soon. And that all buildings
will have fire sprinkler systems!

*Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;
By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*
— Proverbs 24:3-4 (New King James Version)

FPC magazine, Fire Protection Contractor
ISSN: 1043-2485

Volume 48, No. 11
Since 1978

EDITOR & PUBLISHER *Brant R. Brumbeloe* | **ASSOCIATE EDITOR & PRODUCTION MANAGER** *Tami L. Collins*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR & OFFICE MANAGER *Leigh Petersen* | **ASSOCIATE EDITOR & OFFICE ASSISTANT** *En Brumbeloe*
FOUNDER *Haden B. Brumbeloe, P.E., F.P.E.*

FPC/Fire Protection Contractor is published for the benefit of fire protection contractors, engineers, designers, sprinkler fitters, apprentices, fabricators, manufacturers, and distributors of fire protection products used in automatic fire sprinkler systems.

Circulation: Last month, October 2025, our circulation was 1,756 copies and 60 digital subscriptions. We have subscribers throughout the United States and Canada and several foreign countries and territories.

Readership: Fire sprinkler contractors and systems designers make up most of our circulation. Readers include architects, engineers, fabricators, manufacturers, suppliers, unions, fitters, universities, libraries, etc., totaling over 40 categories.

Subscription Rates: In the U.S.: 3 years/\$171, 2 years/\$124, 1 year/\$68. Mexico and other countries, \$145 per year (payable in U.S. dollars), First Class International. Canadian rates are (USD): 3 years/\$272, 2 years/\$192, 1 year/\$102 (5% GST included). Digital rates: \$55 per year.

Advertising deadlines for display ads is the first of each month for insertion in the following month's issue.

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Submittals: All letters, articles, and photographs are welcome and should be directed to Editor's attention. Material will not be returned unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Disclaimer: The information contained herein is correct to the best of our knowledge. *FPC* will not knowingly publish false information, but individual authors and letter writers are responsible for the facts they represent. Recommendations and suggestions are made without guarantee as to result since conditions of use are beyond our control. The contents are intended only as a source of information.

FPC/Fire Protection Contractor is published monthly in Auburn, California; Phone: (530) 823-0706, Website: www.fpcmag.com, E-mail: info@fpcmag.com by Haden B. Brumbeloe & Associates, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Auburn, California and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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Letters to the Editor

Thank You!

It was an honor to receive the 2025 IAFC/ICC “Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award.” And it is an honor to see the photos on the cover of *FPC*. Wow!

Thank you for the wonderful coverage and for sending extra copies of the magazine.

— Peg Paul
 Peg Paul & Associates Ltd.
 Frankfort, IL



“In spite of intermittent attempts to cut it down, it undoubtedly will grow forever”

“Educational Opportunities in the Sprinkler Industry”
 “In spite of intermittent attempts to cut it down,
 it undoubtedly will grow forever.”
 — Reprinted from *FPC* May 1981

Why Letters matter...

FPC's Letters page is sometimes the most important section in the magazine. It often reveals what is going on in the fire sprinkler industry. Some big stories have started on the Letters page.

If you think an issue is important, speak out. If you are angry about something in the fire sprinkler industry, let us know. If you want people, groups, or associations to take a specific action, let us know that, too.

Maybe you want to: Suggest an idea to others; Influence public opinion; Educate the general public; Publicize the work of your group and attract volunteers or program participants.

Letters to the editor are a great way to communicate – write us today: info@fpcmag.com.

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National

How Field Technology Is Transforming Construction

Jobsites: ABC Unveils 5TH Annual Tech Report

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) released its fifth annual construction technology report, the *ABC Field Tech Report*, which highlights the tools and innovations shaping project sites, showcasing the possibilities and opportunities when technology transforms construction in the field.

“ABC’s fifth annual construction technology report turns the spotlight to the jobsite, where field technology is driving the next stage of progress,” said Matt Abeles, ABC Vice President of Construction Technology and Innovation. “The swift advancement of this particular technology represents a new era for our industry. These leading solutions and companies display a focus on empowering the people who build our infrastructure with field tech like drones, robotics, laser scanning, and jobsite security. Field technology is redefining how contractors plan, monitor, and execute their work while protecting their people and adding value to communities.”

“In this report, we see how field technology can close the gap between off-site strategies and jobsite activity,” said Patrick Irwin, Chair of ABC’s Construction Technology and Innovation Committee and Chief Operating Officer at Leonard S. Fiore Inc., Altoona, Pennsylvania. “The companies that invest in connected systems will be better positioned to deliver safer projects, stronger margins, and long-term competitiveness. Our industry faces no shortage of challenges – from workforce shortages to economic uncertainty. Yet, our industry remains resilient, and a key component of this resiliency is technology and innovation, which continues to play a critical role in

shaping the present and future of construction.”

The *ABC Field Tech Report* includes an executive summary of the field tools and innovations from ABC strategic partner Milwaukee Tool and insights from Tech Alliance members and Dodge Construction Network.

The report, published by the ABC National Construction Technology and Innovation Committee, was made possible by ABC’s 2025-2026 Tech Alliance members – Arcoro, Autodesk Inc., BuildOps, Datagrid, Document Crunch, Egnyte, Kojo, KPA, Sage, Sentriforce, Smartapp, SmartBuild, SubHQ, Stack, and Trimble – and ABC strategic partner Milwaukee Tool.

ABC creates the conditions for construction companies to innovate, differentiate, and attract and educate top talent to win and deliver work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which they work. ABC continues to invest in helping its members select high-quality construction technology through its Tech Alliance and Tech Marketplace.

To read the digital report and watch a video with highlights of the report visit: www.abc.org/techreport.

California

LA City Council Seeks New Requirement for High-Rises to Install Fire Sprinklers

An October 3, 2025, article from City News Service on www.dailynews.com said the Los Angeles City Council called on staff to develop new regulations that would require all residential high-rise buildings to install fire sprinkler suppression systems.

In a 10-0 vote, the City Council instructed various departments to draft such a policy and recommendations to ensure any existing tenancies be main-

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tained throughout an installation process either on-site or off-site in comparable units – unless tenants voluntarily accept relocation assistance.

Council members Hugo Soto-Martinez and John Lee, seconded by Eunisses Hernandez and Imelda Padilla, introduced the motion in December 2024.

“The core mission of the City of Los Angeles is to ensure a safe living environment for all of its residents,” the motion reads. “Throughout the years the City has adopted policies to help strengthen building and fire codes that ensure when a tragic event happens that risk is minimized for everyone.”

City officials reported 53 residential high-rise buildings in Los Angeles that do not have sprinkler systems for fire suppression.

“It is critical that we begin the process of ensuring the safety for the residents of these properties. It must include a process that does not require any tenant to be permanently displaced out of their unit and any passed through costs needs to be calculated in a way that minimizes the impact on the current occupant,” the motion reads.

Such work has been mandated before through the Non-ductile Concrete Retrofit program and Sprinkler Retrofit

program of commercial high-rise buildings, prompted by the First Interstate Bank Building fire in 1988.

Council members said the City can look to implement requirements that were made in those programs.

City Council members Adrin Nazarian, Traci Park, Curren Price, Nithya Raman, and Hugo Soto-Martinez were absent during the vote.

Iowa

Knoxville Fire Department Fire Prevention Week Open House

An item by Clayton Sampson posted October 4, 2025, on www.kniakrls.com, highlighted the Knoxville Fire Department Fire Prevention Week Open House that was held on October 8.

The event, which took place during Fire Safety Week, was from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the fire station and included a chili dinner, fire prevention trailer, kids inflatables, equipment and vehicles on display, and at 6:30 there was a **live fire demonstration to show the importance of home fire sprinklers.**

Knoxville Firefighter and Paramedic Brandon Glenn encouraged the community to come out to the event: “We want everyone to come out. It’s an exciting event, this is your community and we know we have the support of everyone here in Knoxville so come on out and see the fire department that you’re supporting.”

Vermont

Fire Sprinkler Demo

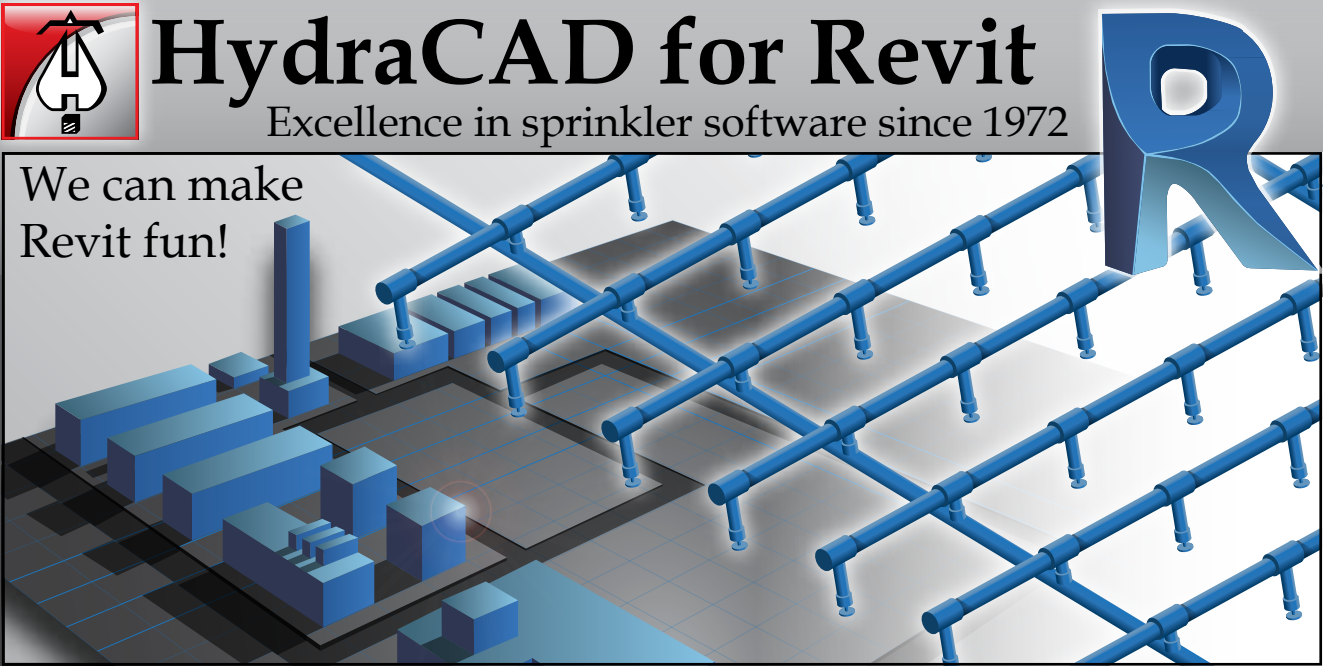
An item posted October 6, 2025, on www.mynbc5.com, Burlington, Vermont, noted this year’s fire safety push: The hidden dangers of lithium-ion batteries.


“These little devices can be very dangerous if they’re damaged,” said Burlington Fire Marshal Matthew Stone. “We usually see them in e-bikes, skateboards, and many other battery-powered devices.”

The city’s fire department teamed up with the National Fire Protection Association to launch a “Charge into Fire Safety” campaign.

Firefighters set up interactive displays to demonstrate the risks of lithium-ion batteries, commonly found in phones, power tools, and e-bikes.

Attendees also had the chance to see




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sprinkler systems in action and practice using a fire extinguisher.

“These little devices are very dangerous if they get damaged,” explained Fire Marshal Stone, holding up a sample of an 1850 battery.

United Kingdom

The FPA Launches Its 2025 Fire Safety Policy Manifesto

The Fire Protection Association (FPA), the UK’s leading fire safety organization, has launched its latest policy manifesto highlighting five key areas of fire safety to government and industry.

Following on from its successful campaign last year, the FPA’s 2025 manifesto calls attention to the work that is still needed in areas such as remediation, competency, and construction product regulation.

For decades, the FPA has worked to reduce risks and improve fire safety in UK buildings, sharing fire safety guidance and information with government, industry, insurers, our members, and the wider public. The 2025 policy manifesto

is designed to help further those aims.

The five policies listed in this year’s manifesto are:

1. Prosecute those who have failed to remediate unsafe buildings. Take action against those who have put others’ lives at risk by not discharging their duties.

2. Regulate the ongoing competency of fire risk assessors. In addition to all fire risk assessors being appropriately qualified and certified under a suitable UKAS accredited scheme, regulate their ongoing professional development to maintain competence.

3. **Mandate sprinkler protection in schools.** Require the installation of sprinkler systems in all new and majorly refurbished schools.

4. Accelerate construction product safety reforms and establish the new regulator. Address the compliance of safety-critical construction products and systems by accelerating construction product safety reforms and establishing the new regulator.

5. Support the safe transition to net zero. Develop policies and guidance supporting the transition to net zero, focusing on new energy technologies and low-carbon construction techniques that

could detrimentally impact fire safety and property resilience.

Speaking on the launch of the manifesto at the 2025 Labour Party Conference, FPA Chief Executive Dr. Gavin Dunn said, “The FPA’s objective is to protect people, property, and the UK environment whilst enabling innovation in the construction and property sectors, without compromising fire safety. The policy positions we will be actively pursuing throughout 2025 are designed to help achieve this.

“The success of this mission relies on collaboration with government, regulators, and industry, and the FPA stands ready to collaborate with all stakeholders to advance the pragmatic and achievable policies.”

Importantly, these five initiatives can be implemented using existing powers and would drive the transformative change which the FPA considers essential. By prioritizing fire safety in these ways, the FPA believes it can protect lives, and enhance economic value.

For more information visit: www.thefpa.co.uk.



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VIP Treatment for Sprinkler Fitting Apprentices

By D'Arcy Montalvo

The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) first introduced its Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) in 2023. Developed by contractors for contractors, AFSA's VIP delivers flexible, high-quality training to sprinkler fitter apprentices. It allows contractors to outsource apprenticeship instruction to a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who are well-versed in the curriculum and have varied backgrounds and experiences.

Cultivate a destination workplace or become an employer of choice. AFSA's VIP provides guided related technical instruction (RTI) with established start and completion dates. This promotes timely progression and advancement towards becoming a journeyman and demonstrates an employer's investment in their employees/team.

"Through AFSA's guided VIP, employers achieve higher retention and completion rates," says AFSA's Vice President of Education Services, Leslie Clounts, "and apprentices receive well-rounded support from their employer, multiple instructors, and AFSA staff."

With AFSA's partnership with the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), the curriculum texts – the *Sprinkler Fitting* series – have been updated and are now in their 4th edition. This version correlates with NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, 2019 and 2022 editions. Levels 1-4 are each provided with 10 months of instructional education content to pair with the on-the-job learning (OJL) conducted by the employer. The education content includes the *Sprinkler Fitting* textbooks, two live monthly webinars, performance tasks to reinforce the modules, self-study components, and assessments.

Field Superintendent Mark Clary oversees the VIP apprentices for Trio Fire Systems in Duncanville, Texas. "We spent years trying to find something like this," he says. "We're AFSA members, and when this came up, it fit us like a glove."

Clary appreciates how the program gives him visibility into apprentices' progress through regular e-mail updates. "AFSA's VIP team understands we get busy in this business," he explained.

Trio Fire started VIP, hoping to improve their team and overall job site performance. "We had the hands-on training part down, but we needed the book knowledge to back it up," Clary explains. "This program bridges that gap."

Trio Fire Apprentice Hunter Flaishans appreciates the VIP program's flexibility and the quality of instructors. "They're very knowledgeable and always willing to help. If you miss a session or want to go back and review, you can. Then you apply what you learned directly in the field."

The unique perspective of each instructor adds value and context to each VIP apprentice's learning experience. Students

rave about VIP instructors like Norman A. Himes. "Norman is a great instructor! He's able to teach the lesson material in a consistently clear manner. He's one of my absolute favorite instructors. Clear, motivating, and full of wisdom from the field; not to mention, hilariously unforgettable."

Himes is grateful for his impact. "I hope that I have had a similar impression on all of the students, fellow instructors, and fantastic support staff that I have been privileged to work with since the VIP program began," he states. "I know how important an apprenticeship program is for the future of our trade, and I am very proud to be able to share the curriculum and many of my on-the-job experiences with each class, hoping to keep them as excited about this career choice as I am."

Instructor Scott Pugsley, SET, FPET, has also received accolades. "Scott's a great instructor who keeps me interested and intrigued in what we are learning. He keeps me on my toes yet is educationally entertaining. My favorite teacher so far," comments one student.

"Keeping things engaging and practical is always the goal," Pugsley says. "I give huge credit to the entire VIP team for making this entire program an awesome experience!"

VIP can be incorporated into any registered apprenticeship program, as it follows AFSA's *National Guideline Standards*, which are already registered with the Department of Labor. It can also be started while a registered program is being approved.

"The program is growing and evolving to bring great education to our apprentices. We are excited to have about 200 currently enrolled across the country," says AFSA's Director of Program Development and Special Projects Victoria B. Valentine, P.E., FSFPE, who oversees the program. "I am so proud of the students' progress through the levels who will grow into our industry's future fitters and leaders."

Each of the four levels will have new classes beginning in the first quarter of 2026:

- VIP Level 1 – Begins Feb. 19 (registration opens Nov. 21)
- VIP Level 2 – Begins Jan. 14 (registration now open)
- VIP Level 3 – Begins Mar. 5 (registration opens Dec. 5)
- VIP Level 4 – Begins Feb. 4 (registration opens Nov. 6)

Don't delay; register today and get your apprentices on the path to success. For dates and more details, and to register, visit: www.firesprinkler.org/vip, or call AFSA at (214) 349-5965 and ask for anyone on the VIP team.

About the Author:

D'Arcy Montalvo is Public Relations Manager for the American Fire Sprinkler Association and is the Editor of its publication, *Sprinkler Age*.

Build Confidence with AFSA ITM Training

From AFSA

The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) is a well-known training hub within the industry. Expert instructors with various industry backgrounds and the hands-on AFSA Playground, comprised of the valve lab, spray room, and pump room, allow AFSA to provide attendees with knowledge and training that goes beyond the basics.

Joshua McDonald, P.E., MSET, CFPS, CWBSP, WBITM, AFSA's Director of Training and Operations, describes AFSA's unparalleled training approach. "It's a combination of our expertise and the lab. We build time into our programs for students to learn the material and build confidence, rather than just reviewing slides in a classroom. The unique experience of our instructors sitting on NFPA committees, staying up to date with *Standards*, and utilizing their practical knowledge provides an applicable perspective to students."

AFSA's Playground is built with a roster of industry manufacturers' equipment, and it's all live and functioning. The lab features 22 sprinkler system risers where interactive exercises on wet, dry, preaction, and deluge systems and their appurtenances are conducted. A variety of sprinklers are installed, and participants can observe spray patterns and see the impact of obstructions on spray patterns. An electric-driven horizontal split-case pump and an electric-driven vertical in-line residential skid-mounted pump are supplied by an electric-motor-driven vertical turbine pump. Participants can view the components of a fire pump assembly and partake in interactive exercises, including flow and no-flow testing.

NFPA 25 Essentials Workshop

NFPA 25 Essentials participants will use their knowledge of *Codes* and *Standards* to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of an ITM technician, Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), owner, or a designated representative. Classes include hands-on demonstrations, activities of the wet and dry systems, and fire pump testing. Upon completion, participants will be able to explain *Codes*, *Standards*, roles, and responsibilities that are involved in the inspection, testing, and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems.

Last April, Aaron Caughey with Security Fire Sprinkler participated in the NFPA 25 Essentials course and said, "The class discussions and interactions were great. Felt like more of a group discussion rather than fact dumping. I enjoyed that. I could tell he [the instructor] was trying to make sure everyone was getting the information and topics covered they hoped for when signing up. I did."

NFPA 25 Advanced Systems Workshop

The NFPA 25 Advanced Systems Workshop is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of fire protection professionals, technicians, and individuals who are responsible for the comprehensive maintenance and compliance of fire sprinkler systems. The course explores intermediate-level skills and advanced topics, providing participants with a deeper under-

standing of ITM procedures. Participants will develop skills in water flow tests and standpipe analyses. In addition, students will also learn about requirements, component differentiation, sequence of operations, and specific considerations for deluge and preaction systems.

Trey Hicks with VSC Fire & Security attended a recent NFPA 25 Advanced Systems training and described how, "anyone could benefit from this [course], it doesn't matter how much experience you have. [It's] great hands-on experience, and there are so many valves to look at ... you can understand how to properly trip systems and maintain things the correct way. The instructors did a great job of answering questions that would be involved with your NICET test."

NFPA 25 Fire Pump Workshop

The Fire Pump Workshop is designed to provide ITM technicians, AHJs, and facility managers with the comprehensive knowledge and skills related to fire pump installations and necessary ITM procedures. Participants will understand the key differences between diesel and electric-driven fire pumps, learn ITM requirements for water storage tanks, and engage in hands-on no-flow and full-flow fire pump tests. These activities will aid participants in solidifying their understanding of stationary fire pumps for fire protection.

Dane Bullard with Fire Protection Services, LLC, attended the NFPA 25 Fire Pump Workshop in July and said, "The class was very informative and covered more than just fire pumps. I've been in this industry for 38 years and walked away knowing more than I did before the class."

ITM Inspector Development Program

AFSA's ITM Inspector Development Program utilizes a blended-learning format with on-demand lessons, webinars, and in-person training. This program is for those looking to grow their fire sprinkler business or for opportunities to advance their career. The training course is combined with a robustly structured on-the-job training (OJT) and mentoring program, with the goal that candidates pass the NICET Level II water-based inspection certification exam in less than two years. The NICET Level I & II Exam Passage Rate is 30%; AFSA ITM Program graduates achieve a 93% pass rate on NICET Level I & II exams.

Training You Can Trust

AFSA stands at the forefront of fire sprinkler training by offering a unique combination of real-world expertise, practical skills, and lab-based experience. Hands-on training at AFSA not only reinforces technical concepts but also builds the confidence and problem-solving skills professionals need to excel in the field.

For more information about AFSA programs or to sign up for a class visit: www.firesprinkler.org/training. For more information about the lab or to rent it visit: www.firesprinkler.org/lab.

Skilled Trades Continues Strong Comeback, BUT Careers in Critical Fire Safety Lack Visibility



Classic Fire + Life Safety follow-up survey highlights opportunity to raise awareness of fire sprinkler fitters and fire alarm technicians

A follow-up Leger survey commissioned by Classic Fire + Life Safety finds Canadians believe there are more options today in skilled trades opportunities, but many remain unfamiliar with certain essential fire protection roles, such as sprinkler fitters and fire alarm technicians.

The *Measuring Up The Trades* study, conducted this summer, builds on the company's inaugural 2024 survey and takes a deeper look at Canadians' knowledge and perceptions of skilled trades, and specifically fire protection.

While most Canadians view fire alarm technicians and sprinkler fitters positively, only three in 10 (30%) are familiar with fire alarm technicians as a career option, and just over one in five (22%) are familiar with sprinkler fitters. Even more troubling, the national survey reveals that only 11% of respondents say they would know where to start if pursuing a career in either field.

"We want to help Canadians become familiar with the Fire Protection industry and the careers available at Classic Fire + Life Safety," says Lucy Machado, recently appointed VP of Human Resources. "This survey highlights some of the very real challenges we face, but we remain committed to raising awareness and working to ensure fire protection careers are recognized as a valued skilled trade with high pay, job security, and pride in the work we do to protect Canadians."

Now in its second year, the national survey revealed signs of progress for skilled trades as a whole. When asked why they

did not consider a career in a skilled trade, fewer respondents cited a lack of encouragement from parents and teachers (13% in 2025 vs 16% in 2024). When asked why they considered a career in skilled trades, more respondents indicated an appreciation for job security (38% vs 29%), and overall, more Canadians have strongly considered a career in the skilled trades (18% in 2025 compared to 15% in 2024).

"We hear a lot about in-demand skilled trades across Canada – cooks, hairstylist, welders, industrial electricians, carpenters, plumbers – but rarely see our industry listed," said Stanley Owah, Talent Acquisition Specialist at Classic Fire + Life Safety. "Raising awareness is not only key to our success as a business, it's key to our end goal of protecting lives and property."

The company is increasing outreach efforts, strengthening ties with secondary and post-secondary institutions, and working with governments and not-for-profit organizations to raise awareness for fire safety careers. Classic Fire + Life Safety has participated in several career fairs at schools including **Seneca College** and **Fan-shawe College** and runs internship, co-op programs, and training partnerships with several partners.

"The annual survey is important for our business," says Mike Farren, CEO of Classic. "Staying on top of perceptions and trends in the skilled trades helps us to better promote the industry, highlight the benefits of a career in fire safety, and attract new talent to join our teams across Canada."





More than half (52%) say they think more highly of the trades now that they did a few years ago. While 76% of respondents believe there are more skilled trade opportunities than before, this is a slight decrease from 80% in 2024. Similar to the 78% surveyed in 2024, 76% of Canadians would encourage their children or others to consider a career in the trades.



When asked about benefits of a career in skilled trades, 50% cited the appeal of hands-on work, 48% said trades offer strong earning potential, 38% pointed to job security, and 26% said trades provide good opportunities to start a small business. Job security and hands-on-work saw an increase of 9-percentage points, and 6-percentage points respectively, compared to 2024.

Classic Fire + Life Safety, the funder of the study, plans to commission this research on a regular basis to help both the company and the industry address the workforce shortages needed to meet rising demand. By collaborating with industry partners and trades education programs, the company aims to encourage more individuals to pursue careers in the skilled trades.

The 2025 edition of *Measuring Up the Trades*, an annual study by Classic Fire + Life Safety conducted by Leger, is now online. See the full study at: <https://classicfls.com/measureup>.

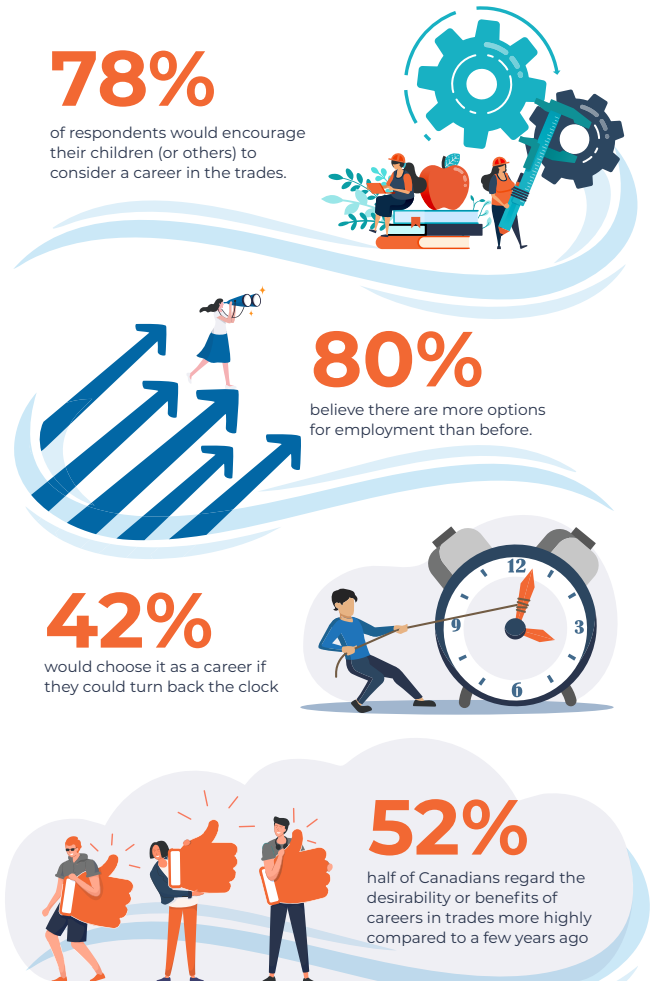
To see the complete findings of the study visit: <https://classicfls.com/measureup>.

Methodology: Commissioned by Classic Fire + Life Safety, the Leger survey was conducted online between August 8-11, 2025, with a sample size of 1,508 Canadians, 18 years or older, using Leger's online panel. Leger's online panel has approximately 400,000 members nationally and has a retention rate of 90%. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20.

About Classic Fire + Life Safety:

Classic Fire + Life Safety is a total fire and life safety company servicing the needs of organizations and institutions large and small, private, and public. Under the umbrella of Classic Fire + Life Safety, the group of companies is now staffed by more than 700 professionals who, together, are committed to helping organizations enjoy a safe environment where they can grow and offer their products and services to their customers and partners. Classic Fire + Life Safety owns and operates Apex, a fire sprinkler fabrication and supply company, Northern Sprinkler Design, a fire sprinkler design and engineering services company, and Edge Fire Protection, a full-service fire protection contractor serving customers throughout Southern and Atlantic United States.

A wave of support for the skilled trades is upon us.



The Measuring Up the Trades annual study, commissioned by Classic Fire + Life Safety, is based on a national omnibus survey deployed by Leger between the September 27 to 29, 2024, with a sample size of 1,626 Canadians, 18 years or older. A similar probabilistic survey would have a margin of error no greater than +2.5% (19 times out of 20).



Oklahoma State University

CEAT Professional Development

Fire Protection & Loss Control Program

From SFPE

Oklahoma State University has been a leader in fire protection and safety education since 1937. While OSU is recognized worldwide for its academic and research programs, the University's land-grant mission includes a third pillar: outreach. This commitment to continuing education and workforce training is carried out through Professional Development, a department within the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology. Founded in 1925, Professional Development has been advancing OSU's extension mission for a century.

Hands-on learning is the foundation of our approach. The difference between a fire protection engineering program and a fire protection engineering technology program is the emphasis: engineering theory versus applied engineering. In OSU's Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology undergraduate program, every classroom hour is matched with an hour in the laboratory. This same philosophy carries into our professional development courses, where classroom concepts are immediately reinforced with practical application.

Working professionals from across the country and abroad come to OSU for in-person training because it connects three critical questions:

- 1) *What needs to be done?*
- 2) *Why does it matter?*
- 3) *How is it accomplished?*

While online programs provide flexibility and access, in-person training remains vital for addressing the conditions encountered in the field.

To support the hands-on learning approach, OSU opened its current laboratory facility in 2003. The laboratory has been regularly updated to reflect the real-world environments our learners face.

The **Fire Sprinkler Riser Laboratory** features 28 risers, including dry, wet, preaction, and deluge systems. Two are dedicated to research projects, while the rest are available for training. Learners work with equipment from multiple manufacturers and generations, ranging from 1974 to today. When a component fails during training, it becomes an opportunity

to understand the cause and practice solutions.

The **Fire Alarm Laboratory** houses four working systems for demonstrations and testing. Fourteen individual workstations allow learners to install components, program units, and conduct tests on Class B wiring systems.

The **Fire Pump and Fluid Dynamics Laboratory** includes three listed fire pumps: electric-drive horizontal split-case, diesel-drive horizontal split-case, and electric-drive vertical-shaft turbine connected to a 10,000-gallon storage tank. Plans are underway to add a fourth pump. The variety

of equipment, both new and decades old, ensures learners obtain skills to troubleshoot performance issues across a range of scenarios using both modern and legacy testing tools.

The **Test Bay** provides live demonstrations of sprinkler operation, fire dynamics, and suppression, including residential sprinkler response, flash fires, and dust explosions.

For hydrant flow testing, the program relies on the OSU campus water system. Learners conduct tests on active streets, where they gain experience with equipment, erosion control, and safety practices that carry directly into their professional work.

Of course, even the best facilities depend on skilled instructors. The Fire Protection and Loss Control Program benefits from a diverse cadre of experts. Faculty members contribute academic and research expertise, while fire protection engineers, contractors, and fire service veterans bring years of applied field experience. Together, they provide the perspectives necessary for learners to leave with the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills to deliver effective fire protection solutions.

The combination of classroom instruction, applied training, modern facilities, and experienced instructors has made OSU a global destination for fire protection and loss control education. Since 1937, our mission has been the same: to prepare the workforce to protect people, property, and communities with excellence in fire protection.

To learn more about course offerings and CEAT Professional Development visit: www.ceatpd.okstate.edu.

Schools

AFSA/EKU Sign MOU

*Partnership Provides a Pathway
to Education Advancement*

The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) to secure participation in the EKU Advantage program, which provides a pathway to educational advancement for AFSA members.

The EKU Advantage program applies to online or in-person classes and includes the following benefits for AFSA members:

- A 25% flat-rate tuition discount on all EKU degree programs.
- A 20% discount on EKU's Workforce Development and EKU OSHA Training Institute Education Center courses.
- Free books under the EKU BookSmart program.
- Enhanced customer service assistance to employees and contractors to expedite and prioritize the admissions process, class registration, financial aid, and scholarship applications.
- Dedicated academic advisors provide individualized attention to move students quickly towards degree completion.

"Our industry needs more people at every level, to meet the needs of the fire and life safety market in new construction and the management of existing fire protection systems and facilities," says AFSA President Bob Caputo, CFPS. "Partnering with those technical schools and universities that provide training and educational opportunities for those considering a career in our industry is critical to success across the board. We look forward to working with EKU in support of the excellent fire and life safety tracks offered, and we are proud to be included in the tuition benefit program opportunity."

"EKU is proud to partner with AFSA to provide its members with a clear pathway to educational advancement," says Shari VanHoose, Associate Director, Workforce Development and Community Engagement, EKU. "As one of only a handful of institutions in the nation to offer a comprehensive Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology degree, EKU is uniquely positioned to support the professional growth of AFSA members. We are happy to offer AFSA members discounted tuition through this partnership, making higher education more accessible while advancing excellence in the fire protection industry."

For more information contact: membership@firesprinkler.org, (214) 349-5965.

About AFSA: Established in 1981, the American Fire Sprinkler Association is an international Association representing fire sprinkler contractors. AFSA is dedicated to the educational and professional advancement of the automatic fire sprinkler industry. Visit: www.firesprinkler.org.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX



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The internal auxiliary drain of the Model 5500 features motorized supply and drain valves that automatically drain the collection assembly per NFPA standards when maintenance is needed. The heater features a thermostat that operates only when needed, reducing energy use while maintaining a temperature safely above freezing reducing the risk of system freeze-ups. Upgrade your system's auxiliary drains and streamline maintenance while preventing expensive system freeze-ups.

Tight Deadlines: Three Fast Installation Solutions for Campus Fire Protection Projects

By Jennifer Block

Fire protection contractors working on campus projects face an unforgiving timeline in the form of the brief windows when students vacate buildings between semesters. Missing that window means installation work must compete with occupied classrooms, active residence halls, and disrupted academic schedules.

Campus projects compress multiple years of deferred maintenance and upgrades into those limited weeks. HVAC system replacements, technology infrastructure updates, and building renovations all converge during months when buildings stand empty. Fire protection contractors compete with other trades for the same ceiling spaces and mechanical rooms, with each project requiring sequential access to complete work. These

constraints demand faster installation methods and risk reduction, which contractors can address using three technology solutions: flexible sprinkler drops with made-on-heads, modular pre-engineered assemblies, and grooved pipe-joining components.

Solution 1: Navigate Congested Ceilings with Flexible Sprinkler Drops

Dormitory renovations and classroom conversions pack ceiling spaces with existing HVAC ducts, electrical conduits, and data cables. In these congested environments, traditional rigid piping demands precision to route around existing systems. Depending on the stage of construction, crews may make multiple visits to complete the final work of hard piped sprinkler installations, with each visit consuming hours from the compressed schedule.

Flexible sprinkler fittings replace rigid pipe connections between branch lines and sprinkler heads. The braided hose bends and twists as needed within ceiling spaces, allowing contractors to adjust positioning without re-measuring pipe lengths and angle requirements each time there's a change in the ceiling space. These fittings also help with seismic activity by reducing stress and allowing for ceiling movement by limiting the transferring of force to the branch lines.

Flexible hoses simplify installation steps and improve installation speed while streamlining future renovations through easy reconfiguration. However, for contractors seeking additional efficiency, one-piece sprinkler assemblies such as Victaulic's VicFlex Standard Coverage Sprinkler Series VS2 or AH2 with made-on-heads arrive as complete units with flexible hose and sprinkler heads already connected. Utilizing either of those products with an integrated coupling connection further improves installation efficiency. The advanced technology consolidates sprinkler head procurement and installation steps while providing the greatest reduction in potential leak points compared to traditional hard pipe systems.



One-piece flexible sprinkler assemblies with made-on-heads arrive as complete units with braided hose and sprinkler head already connected, eliminating the time-intensive measuring, cutting, and fitting of traditional rigid pipe connections while reducing potential leak points.

Image courtesy of Victaulic.

Solution 2: Reduce Labor and Space Requirements With Modular Pre-Assembled Components

Campus mechanical rooms serve multiple building systems simultaneously, including fire protection equipment, HVAC components, electrical panels, and plumbing infrastructure. Additionally, code regulations may limit where contractors can place valves, control assemblies, and other components. For

instance, the *Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)* imposes strict clearance requirements in stairwells and corridors. These constraints force fire protection contractors to configure valve assemblies within tight footprints while maintaining access for other trades.

Often, contractors will assemble floor controls or shotgun risers on-site, handling a number of individual components, including control valves, check valves, flow switches, and gauges. Additionally, installers will need to measure spacing between components, cut and prepare connecting pipes, and verify alignment – a process that can consume days on larger projects when compared to utilizing a manifold check assembly with a flexible drain hose connection.

To streamline the installation process, pre-assembled floor control assemblies arrive as complete units. Victaulic's Series UMC Universal Manifold Check Assembly consolidates control valves, check valves, flow switches, adjustable relief valves, flexible drain hoses, gauges, and test and drain connections into a single integrated unit. The compact footprint addresses the spatial constraints common in campus installations. Stairwell landings, hallways, and alcoves where *ADA* clearance requirements limit available space can accommodate these assemblies. Contractors install the entire assembly as one piece, reducing field connections and eliminating the time spent configuring individual components.

The assembly's built-in adjustable relief valves provide another time saving advantage. Traditional installations require contractors to drain systems after hydrostatic testing to install relief valves, then refill and restart the system. Adjustable relief valves eliminate the drainage step entirely, saving time when project schedules depend on multiple departments working in sequence.

Solution 3: Speed Up Pipe Preparation with Grooved Joints

Traditional threaded pipe connections performed in the field, using specialized equipment, cutting oils, and skilled labor, not only take the additional time required for threading itself but the process can create logistical complications. Threading oils can stain finished surfaces, and metal shavings from the cutting process require additional cleanup. Quite often, contractors must stage threaded pipe preparation in remote locations away from finished classrooms, corridors, and residence hall spaces to avoid cleanup complications. Each trip transporting completed sections from remote staging areas back to installation points consumes time from compressed schedules.

Grooved pipe systems eliminate these preparation and staging challenges. Pipe grooving can occur off-site or on-site with portable tools. Without the messy concerns of threading, contractors can stage grooved pipe preparation closer to actual installation points, reducing material handling time and accelerating overall project timelines.

Grooved couplings and fittings are available in a wide range of sizes to accommodate different project requirements. For small-diameter piping layouts, FireLock™ IGS™ Installation-Ready™ couplings address a niche application where many manufacturers focus primarily on larger sizes. The couplings are optimized for 1" pipe commonly found on branch lines, which distribute water from main pipes to individual sprinklers and require precision positioning.



Pre-engineered floor control assemblies arrive with all components integrated, eliminating the time-intensive field assembly of individual valves, switches, and connections that traditional installations require.

Image courtesy of Victaulic.

The combination of easier preparation and faster installation delivers measurable time savings across large projects. Single-bolt technology requires only one connection point instead of multiple bolts. Installers avoid the repeated tightening motions that threaded connections demand. Over the course of installing dozens or hundreds of connections, eliminating repetitive physical strain reduces fatigue and injury risk that can slow crew productivity throughout projects.

Maximize Installation Efficiency

Installation speed influences both design decisions and construction execution. By evaluating factors such as ceiling congestion, mechanical room constraints, and pipe preparation requirements, fire protection contractors can better specify solutions that address project-specific bottlenecks before submitting material orders and finalizing construction schedules.

Campus fire protection work will always face tight windows for installation while facilities are briefly vacated between academic programs. Contractors who deploy installation methods matched to these constraints gain competitive advantages in bidding, scheduling and execution while delivering reliable systems on time.

About the Author:

Jennifer Block, LEED, an Engineering Business Development Specialist at Victaulic Fire Protection, has dedicated over eight years to working with construction teams to improve fire protection in educational facilities. She holds a degree in architectural engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and specializes in helping contractors and engineers implement installation strategies that meet tight academic calendar deadlines.

For more information contact: Victaulic Fire Protection, 4901 Kessler'sville Road, Easton, PA 18040; (610) 559-3300, www.victaulic.com.

AFSA Scholarships Open Doors to Success

By Xavier Fraire, Intern, AFSA

The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) prioritizes training and education through its scholarship programs. Whether you're inside or outside of the fire sprinkler industry, AFSA offers educational opportunities for everyone. With a variety of scholarships, you're guaranteed to be one step closer on the path to success.

Bill Phair Design School

AFSA created the Bill Phair Design School Scholarship Program for AFSA Contractor members in categories 1-3 to aid in training fire sprinkler layout technicians for the design departments. A limited number of scholarships have been allocated for the program and will assist students in attending the beginning and intermediate design schools taught by AFSA. The value of the scholarship is \$4,500.

Eligible contractor members and the designer can complete the application together. Scholarship funds are payable to the designer's employer, and the designer must enroll in the school within the calendar year. Scholarship recipients are ranked according to demonstrated need.

Scholarship entries are only accepted through the AFSA Design School Scholarship website. Applicants must submit a completed entry form with all required information, which will be verified. Applications are reviewed each quarter. The deadline for the 2025 contest was October 31, 2025. The indi-

viduals approved for a scholarship will be able to use the funds towards a school in the following year. For more information visit: www.firesprinkler.org/designscholarship.

High School Scholarship

AFSA is delighted to provide scholarships to five U.S. high school students through AFSA's online scholarship program. This program was created to educate those outside of the industry about the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinklers. Winners are chosen at random by a computer draw. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents. In addition, applicants must be enrolled as a high school senior and have plans to attend an accredited college, university, or trade school in the U.S. Home-schooled high school seniors are also eligible to apply.

To enter the scholarship contest, applicants must fill out an online entry form, take a quick eight-question quiz, and submit their form. Applicants can only submit their forms once, as multiple entries will be disqualified. The contest runs from September 1 through December 31 of 2025. For more information visit: www.afsascholarship.org/high-school-scholarships.

Second Chance Scholarship

AFSA also sponsors a Second Chance Scholarship, intended for college and trade school students. This program was created to educate those outside of the industry about the life- and property-saving benefits of fire sprinklers. Five winners receive a \$1,000 AFSA scholarship to use for tuition or books.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents. They must also have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. The applicants must plan to attend an accredited college, university, or trade school in the U.S. To use the scholarship, students must start college or a trade school in the Fall of 2025 or Spring of 2026.

To enter the scholarship contest, applicants must fill out an online entry form, take a quick eight-question quiz, and submit their form. Applicants can only submit their forms once, as multiple entries will be disqualified. The contest runs from January 1 through August 31, 2026. For more information visit: www.afsascholarship.org/secondchance.

Apply For A Scholarship Today!

Whether you're pursuing higher education or starting your professional career, AFSA is delighted to aid you in your journey. To gain additional insight about the scholarships that AFSA provides visit: www.afsascholarship.org.

Bill Phair Design School Scholarship

Are you an AFSA Contractor member in categories 1-3? Train your fire sprinkler layout technicians with a \$4,500 scholarship toward AFSA's Design School.
www.firesprinkler.org/designscholarship

High School Scholarship

High school seniors – win a scholarship while learning about fire safety! Five winners will be randomly selected to receive funding for college or trade school.

Contest runs September 1 – December 31, 2025

Second Chance Scholarship

Already graduated high school? Planning to attend college or trade school? Apply for AFSA's Second Chance Scholarship and win \$1,000 toward tuition or books.

Contest runs January 1 – August 31, 2026



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Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors Outperform
98% Purity Nitrogen in Mil Loss Testing.

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- More Effective
- Easier Install

Test Results



Read the White Paper



generalairproducts.com

Lithium-Ion Protection Through Fire Sprinkler Systems with F-500 Additive

By Hal Burton

A few years ago we were approached with questions from a large developer asking about the new requirements for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and the storage of Lithium-ion batteries in warehousing, retail, and multi-family buildings. They were concerned with their liabilities and vulnerabilities and asked us how we could resolve some of these violent Vapor and Thermal Runaway problems.

Since that time, we have researched many different ideas on how best to suppress these types of fires, only to find that our traditional methods of Mist, Large Drop, ESFR, and Standard fire sprinkler systems may not be the answer. In our research, we reviewed NFPA 18A, 855, 68, 69, and NFPA 88A, and discovered a new technology to fight these and other types of fires and vapors – that technology is Encapsulation.

We are all familiar with the Fire Triangle of Fuel, Oxygen, and Heat, which has been the go-to for years. However, we are in the 21st century with the introduction of new and exciting products, many of which create a fourth element of Chemical Reaction to the Fire Triangle. This chemical reaction is the main problem we face with Lithium-ion and other metals and free flowing chemicals.

Our research introduced us to F-500, an Encapsulator Agent, that offers a proven solution when used as an additive in fixed systems. Unlike water alone, F-500 rapidly cools the fuel surface, encapsulates hydrocarbons, and interrupts the chain reactions that sustain combustion. By reducing vapor release and neutralizing flammable gases, it helps stop the conditions that drive thermal runaway. In practice, this means sprinkler systems using F-500 are able to achieve faster knockdown, reduction of carcinogenic vapors, reduce the risk of reignition, and limit damage more effectively. Among these critical issues, F-500 is environmentally friendly, and can also be used as a surfactant to wash down fuel and other hazardous liquids. This is critical, especially in my State of California.

F-500 is NOT a foam, nor does it contain bubbles, PFOA, or PFAS. This encapsulator agent meets and/or exceeds those requirements of NFPA 18A Chapter 7, which defines what an encapsulator agent is.

For fixed fire protection systems, a 3% mix of F-500 can

easily be retrofitted into an existing fire sprinkler system or designed into new systems without modifications of design densities or occupancy changes. Side-by-side testing results of a standard water based system vs one that has F-500 added shows a significant time reduction to extinguishment using the F-500.

Modern proportioning technologies address these issues by offering compact, automatic, and

user-friendly solutions. Proportioners such as piston or gear pump units operate on water flow alone, accurately dosing the additive across a wide range of flows and pressures without the need for electricity, pressure balancing, or calibration. Installed between the water supply and discharge points, these systems allow F-500 to be integrated directly into sprinkler systems without major redesigns. A five minute check with a crescent wrench during your annual inspections meets the manufacture requirements and will comply with NFPA 25.

Because F-500 is a great foam replacement without being a foam, it eliminates costly disposal while avoiding environmental impacts and harmful cancer-causing carcinogens, a crucial point as the industry shifts away from fluorinated foams such as AFFF.

Our testing thus far has not been favorable to CPVC systems list of compatibles; the solution we have found is to use steel piping in areas of underground parking, tuck under garages, BESS exterior or interior, and other applications.

With fire departments and other industry leaders using F-500, the fire sprinkler industry is the next step to providing a reliable, scalable, and environmentally responsible way to mitigate one of the fastest-growing fire risks in today's industries.

Sources: https://hct-world.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CH_F5_AM_L_Chronology-of-Lithium-ion-Battery-Fire-Testing-1.pdf
<https://www.youtube.com/@hazardcontroltechnologies/videos>

About the Author:

Hal Burton, ICC Certifications, NFPA CWPBSP, is Owner of Peak Fire Life Safety Engineering and Systems Tech Inc. Fire Protection in northern and southern California. He may be reached at: (916) 332-1266, hburton@systemstehinc.net.

For more information visit: www.PeakFireLifeSafety.com, www.hct-world.com.

“This chemical reaction is the main problem we face with Lithium-ion and other metals and free flowing chemicals.”

OTHER VOICES is FPC's opinion piece section; FPC welcomes all voices, viewpoints, and opinions on matters concerning fire sprinkler contracting and the fire sprinkler industry!

Career Day Event

By Jeannene Meisman

Career day activities include: build a sprinkler, build a riser, and VR Goggles of a side-by-side burn. We had fire pump runs and wet sprinkler demonstrations and speakers and goody bags.

**Monday, October 20, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the
Burns Science & Technology Charter School, Oak Hill, Florida**

I wanted to share the remarkable story of Burns Science and Technology Charter School in Oak Hill, Florida – a school that truly exemplifies resilience, innovation, and community spirit. This school was literally saved by the local community (<https://www.burnsscitech.org>).

A Story Rooted in Community Determination

Burns Sci Tech was born out of adversity in 2008 when Oak Hill faced economic decline and the closure of its local school. Refusing to let their educational opportunities vanish, the community rallied together. With the help of local leaders, volunteers, and generous donors, they saved the school building from demolition and laid the foundation for a new kind of learning environment. By 2010, their efforts culminated in the approval of a charter school, and in 2011, Burns Sci Tech officially opened its doors to 260 students!

Academic Excellence and Recognition

Today, Burns Sci Tech serves nearly 1,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade, offering a tuition-free, non-profit education focused on EiSTEAM (Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and project-based learning. Their commitment to academic rigor and innovation has earned them several prestigious accolades, including: • AdvancED STEM Certification, a mark of excellence in STEM education. • Five Star School Award, recognizing exemplary community involvement across business partnerships, volunteerism, and student service. • English Language Arts proficiency reached 72% – a full 20 points above the district average. • Math scores soared to 72%, outpacing the district by 22 points. • Biology proficiency hit an astounding 94%, showcasing deep scientific understanding. • U.S. History proficiency stood strong at 88%, far exceeding state and district benchmarks. • 91% of high school students earned acceleration points through AP courses, dual enrollment, and industry certifications

What Makes Burns Sci Tech Special

Beyond academics, the school fosters a culture of curiosity, confidence, and character. With a growing student body and a waitlist of over 400 students, Burns Sci-Tech is clearly a school that families trust and value. In short, Burns Sci-Tech is not just preparing students to succeed in school, it's preparing them to thrive in life. Their continued success and commitment to excellence make them truly deserving of recognition and support.

Career Day Presentation

This is the first school that I have been asked to do a presentation to. A member of the Florida State Fire Marshal's office called me and told me that he is a fan of what we do, and asked me if I would come to his daughter's school and speak about careers in Fire Protection.

I have been praying for an opportunity to do an event like this. I hope to put together a "Road Show" that I can present several times a year to promote careers in our wonderful industry. My goal is to highlight ALL of the opportunities available within our community, from IT to Fitter, from ITM to Engineering. I want to appeal to the students who have an interest in being a Business Owner or who want to crush it as a Sales Representative!

I also want to introduce them to manufacturing and distribution and all of our specialties like fire alarms, fire sprinklers, fire pumps, fire extinguishers, hood systems. And hey, if accounting, human resources, or marketing is their vibe – we've got that too!

I am surrounded by so many wonderful and inspiring people who helped that include: support from the NFPA, AFSA, and NFSA; VR Goggles from FFSA and Lorrell Bush; Glenn Painter put together 20 build-a-sprinkler kits for a hands-on activity; Jeremy Deen brought his wonderful wet sprinkler demonstration; we used the fire pump at the school for a pump demonstration; I put together a goody bag for each student; and, we had multiple speakers.

Careers Highlighted:

Designer (sprinkler, fire alarm), Engineer (fire protection), Sales (contract, deficiency, ITM), Fire Protection Contractor (Business owner), Fitter (sprinkler), Fire Alarm Installer, ITM inspector (sprinkler, fire alarm), Kitchen Hood Systems installation/inspection, Fire Extinguisher Technician, Distribution (your role in our industry and opportunities), Manufacturer (your role in our industry and opportunities), Fire Pump (sales, service), Business Administration (Human Resources, Accounting, Payroll, A/P, Collections), Marketing, and IT & Tech Services opportunities in fire protection businesses.

About the Author:

Jeannene Meisman is a Business Development Associate with Summit Consulting. She can be reached at: (727) 642-7700, JMeisman@SummitFireConsulting.com.

Cold Storage Fire Protection: Key Questions for Effective Design

By Shaun Kramer, CET

Cold storage fire protection presents unique challenges that must be addressed early in the design process. Asking the right questions before selecting a sprinkler system and sprinkler type is critical to ensuring proper performance.

1. How is the freezer being constructed?

If the construction is “box-in-a-box,” the freezer deck does not extend to the full building height. This creates a heated space above the freezer that, if maintained at or above 40°F, allows for a wet pipe sprinkler system in the building.

The preferred method of protecting this type of freezer is to drop down from the wet pipe system to just above the freezer ceiling and install Viking dry sprinklers that penetrate the ceiling and extend into the freezer, providing ceiling-only protection. Depending on ceiling and storage heights, options include Viking ELO 11.2 K-factor dry sprinklers or, for higher ceilings, Viking ESFR dry sprinklers such as the VK512 K25.2 ESFR, which can protect ceilings up to 50’.

A flexible sprinkler hose connection is a common way to supply Viking dry sprinklers. This approach maintains the integrity of the ceiling penetration during maintenance above the freezer, allowing the connection to flex with the ceiling. However, additional support is required to ensure stability, similar to a hard-piped connection. Viking’s Cold Storage Bracket provides this stability.

If, instead, the freezer walls extend to the building deck – making the building itself the freezer – there is no heated space above, and a wet pipe system is not feasible. In this case, the system of choice is typically a Viking Double Interlock Preaction System, available in two versions: Electric/Pneumatic Release or Electric/Pneumatic Release.

2. How does the system operate?

Both Double Interlock Preaction System types require two events before water enters the piping: detection activation and loss of air pressure from an operating sprinkler. This feature prevents accidental water discharge into the piping network, reducing the risk of trapped water freezing and creating ice plugs.

For many freezer applications of this type, the most common sprinkler selected is the Viking VK598 K25.2 Upright Sprinkler. When installed on a Double Interlock Preaction System, the VK598 can protect ceilings up to 45’ with up to Class III commodities.

3. What detection and air supply are required?

Proper detection and air supply are critical for preaction systems. Linear wire heat detection or air sampling detection are often used in these environments. For the air supply, NFPA 13 outlines methods to pipe it correctly. A common choice is General Air’s Dry Air Pac, which continuously delivers dry air through dual desiccant towers to remove moisture before entering the piping, thereby minimizing the risk of ice plugs.

“Determining commodity classification requires evaluating not just the product, but also its packaging and pallet type. Often, packaging and pallet materials drive the classification.”

4. What are the freezer and storage heights?

Ceiling and storage heights help determine which sprinklers are suitable. As a general rule, the higher the ceiling and storage, the larger the K-factor required. Designers must also verify that the selected sprinkler is listed for the intended ceiling height, storage height, commodity classification, and storage arrangement.

5. What is the commodity classification?

Determining commodity classification requires evaluating not just the product, but also its packaging and pallet type. Often, packaging and pallet materials drive the classification. For instance, the same product might qualify as Class I in non-plastic packaging but as Class III when stored in plastic trays. Pallet construction also matters: wood, listed plastic, or non-listed plastic pallets all influence classification differently. If plastic pallets are used, it is also necessary to determine whether they are reinforced or non-reinforced, as this may increase the commodity class.

6. What is the storage arrangement?

Cold storage applications most commonly involve rack storage, but details matter. Designers must identify whether racks are single, double, or multiple-row, or if they are push-back, flow-through, drive-through, or automated systems such as ASRS (Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems). Each

arrangement has different implications for sprinkler selection and system design.

7. Which Standards apply?

Freezers in the United States are typically protected under either NFPA 13 or FM Global's FMDS 8-9, though local codes or insurance requirements may impose stricter criteria. International projects may also require adherence to other *Standards*.

Conclusion

Designing fire protection for cold storage facilities requires careful evaluation of construction type, system type, sprinkler selection, commodity classification, storage arrangement, and applicable standards. By asking the right questions and addressing these variables early, you can ensure that your cold storage project receives the best-suited protection.

About the Author:

Shaun Kramer, CET, is the Senior Director – Technical Services & Training at the Viking Group, Inc.

For more information contact: Viking Group, Inc., 5150 Beltway Drive SE, Caledonia, MI 49316; 800-968-9501, (269) 945-9501, techsvcs@vikingcorp.com, www.vikinggroupinc.com.



Good Questions:

1. How is the freezer being constructed?
2. How does the system operate?
3. What detection and air supply are required?
4. What are the freezer and storage heights?
5. What is the commodity classification?
6. What is the storage arrangement?
7. Which Standards apply?

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Viking's New UL Listed Data Center Upgradeable System

*Providing a Flexible, Trustworthy
Solution with Clear Upgrade Path*

Viking Group, Inc., a Michigan-based manufacturer and distributor of fire protection solutions, is pleased to announce the new UL Listed Data Center Upgradeable System, which offers an adaptable solution for modern infrastructure applications. The system is engineered to install as a dry system and be upgraded to a preaction system with minimal effort. Designed to meet the growing demand for dependable fire protection in data centers, this solution provides a clear upgrade path that meets these stringent requirements.

"This solution is really innovative because contractors and building owners are now met with a practical, forward-thinking way to adapt infrastructure," notes Martin Workman, Sr. Vice President – Product Experience, at Viking Group, Inc. "Data centers are moving into existing spaces fast, and fire protection needs an adaptable and dependable solution that can keep up. Viking can meet that demand with the Data Center Upgradeable System."



Offering practicality and convenience, the system is initially classified as a dry pipe system with an identifying placard in the dry release trim. As a dry system, customers do not require a release control panel, detection, or other additional products/costs associated with installing a preaction system prior to the need for one.

When the upgrade to a preaction system occurs, the dry release trim with identifying placard is removed and replaced with the chosen preaction system release. This innovation provides contractors and building owners with a practical, forward-thinking way to adapt infrastructure such as data centers move into existing spaces.

The UL Listed system, which is offered as a standalone riser or a kitted solution, features sizes ranging in availability from 1½", 2", 3", 4", 6", and 8".

For more information visit: www.vikinggroupinc.com. □



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— Bob Parsons, Go Daddy Software, Inc.

Thanksgiving with Purpose: **Gratitude, Governance, and Grace**

In 1789, President George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation, inviting Americans to pause and give thanks to Almighty God for His providence and protection:

"...that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks - for His kind care and protection of the people of this country..."

— George Washington

Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 3, 1789

Source: Founders Online, National Archives

As contractors and protectors, we understand the weight of stewardship. We don't just install systems - we safeguard lives, preserve property, and uphold a legacy of service. This Thanksgiving, we reflect on **the deeper calling behind our work.**

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

— ***Colossians 3:23 (ESV)***

Whether you're bidding jobs, mentoring apprentices, or leading teams, your work matters. It's a reflection of faith in action — quiet, consistent, and often unseen. And for that, we give thanks.

From all of us at FPC magazine, may your Thanksgiving be filled with peace, purpose, and the kind of clarity that only comes from knowing
why you do what you do.



VIKING SUPPLYNET, an industry-leading distributor of fire protection products, is proud to announce its newest facility is open for business in the Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan area. This expansion reflects the company's ongoing investment in the region where the Viking legacy first began.

Viking's history dates back to the 1890s, when Emil Tyden opened a railroad seal and lock manufacturing plant. After a devastating fire destroyed the facility, Tyden turned his focus to developing fire protection and life safety products, determined to safeguard people and property. For more than a century, Viking has carried forward that mission – protecting lives and investments while growing operations across the U.S. and abroad with fabrication, global distribution, and industry-leading service.

"In many ways, this expansion feels like a homecoming," said Justin Moss, Vice President - Operations at Viking Group. "We're proud to grow right here in the community where Viking's story began, and to continue building on our history of innovation, service, and protecting what matters most."

The new distribution branch is located on the campus of Viking Group, Inc.'s headquarters, just over four miles from Gerald R. Ford International Airport and within close reach of downtown Grand Rapids attractions such as Van Andel

Arena, the Amway Grand Plaza, and a wide variety of restaurants and entertainment venues. Conveniently situated near M-37 "The Beltline," M-6, and U.S. 131, the location offers easy access for customers across the region.

To contact the new Caledonia branch call: (616) 327-6200, or e-mail: grandrapids@supplynet.com.

For more information on Viking's complete line of fire protection products and services visit: www.supplynet.com.

About Viking: Viking is a global leader in the manufacture and distribution of innovative fire protection and life safety systems. For more than 100 years the company's products and services have protected lives and property worldwide from the devastating effects of fire.

BARTKOWSKI STRATEGIC CONTRACTING, a leading provider of specialty contracting and building life-safety services, is thrilled to announce its acquisition of **C&E FIRE PROTECTION**, a trusted name in commercial and residential fire sprinkler systems based in Woodridge, Illinois.

This strategic acquisition positions Bartkowski to offer an even more robust portfolio of life-safety solutions to its growing client base. From firestop and perimeter containment to air and water barriers – and now NICET-certified design, installation, and inspection of fire sprinkler systems – Bartkowski becomes a true one-stop-shop for life-safety excellence.

"This is more than an acquisition, it's an evolution," said Lauren Sustek, President of Bartkowski. "C&E Fire Protection has built an outstanding reputation for reliability, integrity, and responsiveness over the last two decades. Together, we are raising the bar for what life-safety service can look like."

C&E Fire Protection will maintain its exceptional team, 24/7 emergency response capabilities, and regional footprint across Illinois. Clients can expect the same trusted service, now backed by the resources, safety culture, and infrastructure of Bartkowski.

With this integration, Bartkowski now delivers full-spectrum life safety coverage, from passive protection and fire-

stopping to active fire sprinkler systems, under one coordinated team. Clients gain faster response times, streamlined project coordination, and bundled service offerings that reduce risk and cost.

"We're excited to bring new services, new energy, and new value to our clients," added Lauren. "This move allows us to better protect the people and places that matter most, and that's a mission we take personally."

For more information visit: www.bartlsc.com, www.cefireprotection.com.

THE RIVERSIDE COMPANY, a global investment firm focused on the smaller end of the middle market, has invested in **ACCURATE FIRE EQUIPMENT** (Accurate), a provider of repeating and non-repeating fire and life safety (FLS) services for fire extinguisher and fire suppression systems as an add-on to Riverside's Relay Fire and Safety (Relay) platform. Relay provides life and safety system solutions for people and commercial properties throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

Accurate is headquartered in Franklin Square, New York, and provides fire suppression and fire extinguisher service, inspections, monitoring, installations and related product sales to commercial customers in the New York metropolitan area.

"Accurate strengthens Relay's presence in the New York City metro area, Relay's largest target market, and builds on our previous acquisition in the region," said Riverside Managing Partner Loren Schlachet. "The combination of Accurate and Relay will open up multiple new growth opportunities for the Relay platform."

The combined business will drive growth by cross-selling services across the total customer base, investing in sales and marketing initiatives, and enhancing technician training. Relay is committed to delivering high-quality customer service through its 'single-point-of-management' compliance services for all fire and life safety inspection, repair and installations in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

This investment is another example of Riverside's expertise in the Business Services sector. Riverside has invested in more than 390 platform and add-on companies in the business services sector since 1988 as part of its private equity and flexible capital strategies.

"We're pleased to welcome Accurate to the Relay team," added Riverside Partner John McKernan. "We'll continue to pursue similar customer-focused fire protection companies with strong technicians and specializations in inspection, repair, maintenance and monitoring of fire and life safety equipment."

About The Riverside Company: The Riverside Company is a global investment firm focused on being one of the leading private equity and flexible capital options for business owners and portfolio company employees at the smaller end of the middle market by seeking to fuel transformative growth and create lasting value. Since its founding in 1988, Riverside has made more than 1,080 investments. The firm's international private equity and flexible capital portfolios include more than 140 companies.

For more information visit: www.riversidecompany.com.

VIKING GROUP, INC., a Michigan-based manufacturer and distributor of fire protection solutions, recently partnered with the Caledonia Fire Department and Total Fire Protection to provide critical upgrades at the Department's station, which previously had no sprinkler system protecting either the living quarters or the apparatus bay.

The Department applied for a grant to fund the installation of the fire sprinkler system, but the funding fell short of covering the entire expense.

"We were more than happy to donate our products to the Department," notes Jeremy Morton, CEO of Viking. "As soon as we found out that the building was undergoing the installation of fire protection, we wanted to step in and help in any way we could. If the Department is protected, that means the rest of the community is protected, too."

Sprinklers are now being installed to protect both the bunking and living areas, where firefighters spend extended time, and the garage where apparatus and equipment are housed. Safeguarding the garage is especially important;

while the vehicles are not electric, they carry significant electronic equipment that remains on charge to stay ready for emergencies.

This critical community project highlights the importance of grant programs that support fire departments and other first responders. It also underscores the role of local businesses in bridging funding gaps when community safety is at stake. By stepping in to help, Viking Group, Inc. and its partners demonstrate a shared commitment to supporting those who dedicate their lives to protecting others, and to keeping local communities safe.

Viking is a global leader in the manufacture and distribution of innovative fire protection and life safety systems. For more than 100 years the company's products and services have protected lives and property worldwide from the devastating effects of fire.

For more information visit: www.vikinggroupinc.com.

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Stephanie Hovey

Stephanie Hovey has been promoted to Vice President of Inspection Operations at Telgian Fire Safety (TFS), from her previous role as Senior Manager of Client and Vendor Operations. In this new position, Hovey oversees the inspection, testing, and maintenance of critical fire and life safety systems. These essential services ensure that systems are ready to perform when needed most, safeguarding lives and property. With more than 15 years of experience in customer experience, operations management, and facilitation, Hovey brings deep expertise and a strong focus on customer protection to her leadership role.

Valerie Olivas has been promoted to Vice President of Repair Operations at Telgian Fire Safety (TFS). In this role, she will manage all repair operations for fire and life safety systems nationwide, ensuring that customer facilities remain compliant, operational, and protected. Since joining Telgian in 2007, Olivas has excelled in a variety of roles, gaining a comprehensive understanding of operational and logistical challenges in the fire and life safety industry.

“These promotions recognize not only Stephanie and Valerie’s outstanding contributions, but also their leadership, vision, and commitment to protecting our customers,” said Dan Vandergriff, President of Telgian Fire Safety. “Their



Valerie Olivas

expertise and dedication are invaluable as we continue to raise the bar in fire protection and life safety services across the country.”

About Telgian Fire Safety: Since 1985, Telgian Fire Safety has served as a trusted partner to clients across the globe, delivering innovative solutions that keep facilities safe, compliant, and on budget. TFS provides testing, inspection, and repair of Fire and Life Safety Systems, including Fire Sprinkler Systems, Fire Alarm Systems, Fire Extinguishers, Kitchen Hood Suppression Systems, Backflow Systems, Emergency/Exit Lights, Special Hazards, Clean Agent Systems, and Fire Alarm Monitoring.

The company specializes in servicing multi-location properties and large single-campus facilities, currently managing approximately 50,000 locations annually across the U.S. and abroad. Through a centralized approach, Telgian offers clients a standardized process to manage their Fire and Life Safety programs, including Inventory Tracking, Capital Replacement Programs, Budgeting, and Forecasting.

For more information visit: www.telgian.com.

Antti Hurme (Director at Marihoff) and **Kemal Sarp Arsava** (Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology) were elected to two of the International Water Mist Association’s committees.

Antti Hurme is now a member of the IWMA Board of Directors. Antti said,

“I am honored to have been elected to the Board of Directors of the IWMA. I look forward to contributing to raising awareness of water mist technology as a sustainable, reliable, and effective fire protection solution. Together with my fellow Board Members, I am committed to supporting the Association’s mission and promoting best practices across the industry.” Antti follows in Markku Vuorisalo’s footsteps, who will soon retire.

Kemal Sarp Arsava is committed to doing his bit for the Association. He said, “I would like to thank all IWMA members for their support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as the new Chair of the Scientific Council. As the Council, we will continue to address the challenges related to water mist suppression systems in a scientific, objective, and unbiased manner. We are enthusiastic to develop educational resources for both aspiring and practicing Fire Protection Engineers, while actively engaging in joint industry research projects on water mist suppression systems.”

The 25th International Water Mist Conference will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, on October 7-8, 2026, at the Grand Hotel International

The Association will be at: VdS BrandschutzTage 2025, Cologne, Germany, December 3-4, 2025; Fire Sprinkler International, Paris, France, April 22-23, 2026; Interschutz 2026, Hanover, Germany, June 1-6, 2026.

For more information visit: www.iwma.net.

Tracey Bellamy, P.E., CFPS, CWB-SP, is the instructor for “Residential Fire Sprinklers: Homes to High Rise,” a live, virtual classroom, online training from Fire Smarts, on November 12, 2025.

Tracey has 37 years’ experience in fire protection engineering and is Chief Engineering Officer at Telgian Engineering & Consulting. He has extensive experience with fire suppression system design, fire hazard analysis, and fire protection system inspection and testing. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in 49 U.S. states, and is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) as well as

a Certified Water Based System Professional. He serves on several NFPA technical and correlating committees including NFPA 1, 11, 13, 15, 25, 30, 30B, 101 and 5000 (*Building Code*) and is a member of NFPA Standards Council.

For more information contact: Fire Smarts, LLC, 70 S. Val Vista Dr. A3-181, Gilbert, AZ 85296; 888-365-5355, <https://training.firesmarts.com>.

Ralph E. Bless, Jr., P.E., CFPS, SET, will be the instructor for the “Fire Protection Requirements for Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems” course, live online on December 10, 2025.

Ralph has 40 years experience in fire protection including a broad range of water-based and special hazard system design, code consulting, and fire protection engineering services.

He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in six states, a Certified Fire Protection Specialist, Level IV NICET Senior Fire Sprinkler Layout Technician, and holds three additional NICET certifications, as well as 10 state licenses.

Ralph serves on six NFPA committees including the NFPA 1 *Fire Code*, NFPA 15 covering water spray systems, and NFPA 915 covering remote inspections. He Chairs the technical committee for NFPA 232 covering record storage and serves on the NFPA 13 Installation Technical Committee and Correlating Committee.

This course explores the current state of fire protection for Automatic Storage

and Retrieval Systems (ASRS). A review of several notable fires will be presented to illustrate the importance of such protection. Participants will learn about the provisions in NFPA 13 *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems* and much more.

For more information contact: Fire Smarts, LLC, 70 S. Val Vista Dr. A3-181, Gilbert, AZ 85296; 888-365-5355, <https://training.firesmarts.com>.



Eric Mampel has been promoted to Vice President of Operations of Fayette Pipe Co. Mampel brings more than 20 years of experience in tube and pipe manufacturing, along with a strong record of leadership, technical expertise, and hands-on industry knowledge.

Since joining the company in 2020 as Operations Manager, Mampel has helped

drive process improvements, boost efficiency, and oversee key projects that strengthened both production and facilities. His leadership has been central to maintaining consistent quality while building a strong culture of teamwork and innovation.

Before coming to Fayette Pipe, Mampel held leadership roles at FD Machinery, Atlas Steel, TAPCO Tube Co., and Welded Tubes Inc. His background in operations, engineering, and sales gives him a broad perspective on customer needs and the challenges facing the industry.

“We’re proud to recognize Eric’s dedication with this promotion,” said Chris Gearing, Vice President. “His experience and leadership will help us continue delivering the high-quality products and service our customers expect from Fayette Pipe.”

Fayette Pipe, headquartered in Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania, is a division of Specialty Conduit and Manufacturing. It is a veteran-founded and family-operated business producing American-made ERW black steel pipe, Schedule 7 EZ-Flow Fire Protection Pipe, and nipples under its Fayette Nipple subsidiary. Leveraging over 20 years of experience from its parent company in threading, elbow, nipple, and coupling production, Fayette Pipe delivers comprehensive value-added services to provide complete solutions for its customers.

For more information visit: www.fayettepipe.com.



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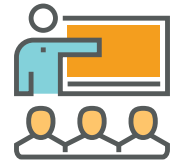
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NFSA's Tech Tuesday webinars help you stay up to date on the latest advancements in fire protection, with real-world applications from industry experts. Plus, explore our new MEME (Members Educating Members through Education) webinars, where NFSA members share their knowledge and experience.

These webinars are free for NFSA members, while non-members can attend for a fee. Each session is worth one CEU, helping you stay informed and advance your expertise.

MEME: Fueling Growth: Introducing SAM Council's Grant Program will be held Wednesday, **November 5, 2025**, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 1 CEU.

Tech Tuesday: Field Inspections is Tuesday, **November 18, 2025**, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 1 CEU.

MEME: Remote Monitoring of Fire Pump Systems, Wednesday, **December 3, 2025**, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 1 CEU.

Tech Tuesday: Special Designs, Tuesday, **December 16, 2025**, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 1 CEU.

For more information contact: National Fire Sprinkler Association, 514 Progress Drive, Suite A, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090; 800-683-NFSA (6372), www.nfsa.org.

Residential Fire Sprinklers: Homes to High Rise

November 12, 2025 – Live Virtual Classroom Online Training

Fire Smarts is offering the course "Residential Fire Sprinklers: Homes to High Rise" on November 12, 2025, as a live, online, eight-hour training.

If you are a Washington State resident you may register at no charge through the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office. Students not in Washington State may register online through Fire Smarts with the applicable registration fee.

Course Description: The protection of residential occupancies is unique with its distinct requirements for the use and location of sprinklers. Systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13D and 13R

are strictly life safety in their purpose while those installed in dwelling units as allowed by NFPA 13 are a part of a larger protection scenario. This course examines the requirements for each document and the desired protection objectives.

The instructor is Tracey Bellamy, P.E., CFPS, CWBSP. Tracey has 37 years' experience in fire protection engineering and is Chief Engineering Officer at Telgian Engineering & Consulting. He has extensive experience with fire suppression system design, fire hazard analysis, and fire protection system inspection and testing. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in 49 U.S. states, and is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) as well as a Certified Water Based System Professional. He serves on several NFPA technical and correlating committees including NFPA 1, 11, 13, 15, 25, 30, 30B, 101, and 5000 (*Building Code*) and is a member of NFPA Standards Council.

For CEUs and additional information visit: <https://training.firesmarts.com>.

Fire Smarts is a nationally recognized provider of fire protection education and training services. With specialized expertise in the NFPA Standards the company's internationally recognized instructors create and deliver custom fire protection training solutions.

Fire Smarts is a Preferred Provider with the International Code Council (ICC) and Recognized Training Provider with NICET to deliver approved training programs and issue Certificates that can be used for both Continuing Education Units (CEU) for ICC Certifications as well as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for NICET Certifications.

For more information contact: Fire Smarts, LLC, 70 S. Val Vista Dr. A3-181, Gilbert, AZ 85296; 888-365-5355, <https://training.firesmarts.com>.

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an afternoon of fun on Thursday, November 13, at TopGolf, 1700 Freedom Way, Roseville, California, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. (note the start time of 3:00 p.m. for two hours play time then reception/awards & raffle starting at 5:00 p.m.).

This event will be supporting the FireFighters Burn Institute.

You don't have to be a golf player to enjoy this facility. There will be contests such as Hole in One with a prize of \$10,000, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Drive. Come enjoy great company for play, food, drink, and a raffle while contributing to such a great organization as FFBI.

Contractors will have five players in their own bay with one industry representative (sponsor) who will join their bay to complete the limited number of six players per bay and help host their time of play. As a sponsor, you will enjoy hosting your own bay, contest bay, or food/reception.

Anyone can join – contractors, fitters, designers, office staff, associates, family, and friends. Remember, it's a fundraiser for a great cause so the more the merrier! We have to limit the groups of five registration per contracting company to two bays, as total available bays are limited.

There will be heavy appetizers, a raffle, and an award ceremony following play.

For more on this event and to view sponsorships visit: www.sacvalleyafsa.org/event-6304866.

NFPA-25 2023

Updates-Proper

Application and Use

November 17-19, 2025 – Norcross, GA

The Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association's ACE Training & Testing will take place at SPP Pumps on Monday, November 17, through Wednesday, November 19, for training, with Thursday, November 20, for the test (the test must be registered for separately and is not included with the class registration fee).

This will include 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., eight contact hours each day Monday – Wednesday. Snacks will be provided. We will break for lunch but it will not be provided.

The test will take place at a different location.

For more information contact: Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, 1525 Broadmoor Blvd., Buford, GA 30518; www.georgiafiresprinkler.org.

Washington State Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition

"Best Practices Forum"

December 11, 2025

The "Best Practices Forum" hosted by the Washington State Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition will be held 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. on December 11.

All fire sprinkler contractors, home builders, fire, and building officials are invited to join the open discussion. The forum focuses on problem-solving common barriers as we work for more efficient, cost-effective installation of residential fire sprinkler systems.

ICC CEUs 0.2 are available for participation.

For more information contact: Suzanne Mayr, Northwest Regional Manager, National Fire Sprinkler Association, mayr@nfsa.org. □

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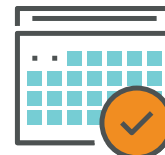
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November 2025

WATER-BASED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM DESIGN

Stanton Campus in Newark, DE
Delaware Technical Community College
Dr. Kristen Doughty, (302) 453-3096,
or Nick Vavala at (302) 292-3889

November 3-4, 2025

INSPECTION, TESTING, & MAINTENANCE OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
<https://ceat.okstate.edu/fcem/fpset>

November 5-7, 2025

FIRE PUMP APPLICATIONS, INSPECTION, & TESTING (2.5 DAY)

Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
<https://ceat.okstate.edu/fcem/fpset/>

November 5-7, 2025

DESIGN-BUILD CONFERENCE & EXPO
MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV
www.dbia.org/design-build-conference-expo

November 11-13, 2025

SFPE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS
SYMPOSIUM: EUROPEAN LITHIUM-ION
BATTERY FIRE SAFETY CHALLENGES
Lisbon, Portugal
www.sfpe.org

November 14, 2025

NORCAL-NV SFPE GOLF EVENT
For Scholarships
Tilden Park G.C., Berkeley, CA
(925) 997-3247
patrick.kogoma@ffic.com
www.ncnsfpe.org

November 17, 2025

NFPA-25 2023 UPDATES
PROPER APPLICATION AND USE
SPP Pumps, Norcross, GA
www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

November 21, 2025

GARY WENNES MEMORIAL GOLF
For Arizona Burn Foundation
Biltmore Golf Club, Phoenix, AZ
Matthew Virtue, Cell (602) 376-4818
matthew.virtue@victaulic.com
Danny Garcia, dgarcia1@winsupply.com
www.AZfiresprinkler.org

November 27, 2025

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

December 9, 2025

GFSA CHRISTMAS GATHERING
For Toys for Tots
Punchbowl Social, Atlanta, GA
mindy@allsouthsprinkler.com
www.georgiafiresprinkler.org

2026

Happy New Year!

March 6, 2026*

SAC VALLEY FIRE
SPRINKLER TRADE SHOW
Thunder Valley, Lincoln, CA
www.sacvalleyafsa.org

March 10, 2026

IFPA/SFPE ANNUAL PRODUCT SHOW
Medinah Banquets, Addison, IL
Danielle Sandfox, (847) 524-8250
danielle@foxsprinkler.com
Dave Cobian, (847) 623-9059
dave@centurysprinkler.com

April 15-17, 2026

FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE ON
PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN
Singapore
SFPE, www.sfpe.org

April 28-May 1, 2026

NFSA ANNUAL SEMINARS &
BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
The Westin Seattle
www.nfsa.org

May 10-16, 2026

HOME FIRE SPRINKLER WEEK
Nationwide Events
www.homefiresprinkler.org



May 14, 2026

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIRE PROT. EXPO
Thornton, CO
www.cofireprotection.org

June 7-9, 2026

CASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Toronto Marriott City Centre
CASA, www.casa-firesprinkler.org

June 22-24, 2026*

NFPA CONFERENCE & EXPO
Technical Meeting June 25- 26
Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
www.nfpa.org

October 7-8, 2026

**25TH INTERNATIONAL
WATER MIST CONFERENCE**
Prague, Czech Republic
www.iwma.net

September 25-29, 2026*

**AFSA45 CONVENTION, EXHIBITION
& APPRENTICE COMPETITION**
San Antonio, TX
www.firesprinkler.org

October 6-8, 2026

SFPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO
Atlanta, Georgia
www.sfpe.org

Also Visit:

Check online for current Dates and Courses:

Academy of Fire Sprinkler Technology
www.firesprinkleracademy.com

American Fire Sprinkler Association
www.firesprinkler.org

American Subcontractors Association
www.asaonline.com

BlazeMaster[®], www.blazemastertraining.com

Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association
www.casa-firesprinkler.org

Fire Smarts, www.firesmarts.com

Nov. 12: Res. Fire Spklers: Homes to High-Rise

Nov. 19: Intro to Spec. Haz. Fire Suppression

Dec. 10: FP Auto. Storage and Retrieval Systems

Dec. 10: Equivalent Means and Methods with an
Emphasis on Full-Scale Fire Tests

*FPC plans to attend

Fire Tech Productions, www.firetech.com

Nov. 11: Fire Pump Maintenance, Atlanta, GA

Dec. 1: Inspect/Test. Fire Spk. Systems, Atlanta, GA

Dec. 3: Inspect/Test. of Fire Pumps, Atlanta, GA

Fire Pump Academy, www.firepumpacademy.net

Florida Fire Sprinkler Assoc., www.fsa.nfsa.org
FMI, www.fminet.com

National Fire Protection Assoc., www.nfpa.org

National Fire Sprinkler Assoc., www.nfsa.org

Oklahoma Fire Sprinkler Assoc., www.ofsa.info

Seneca Polytechnic, www.senecapolytechnic.ca

2027 Meeting Dates:

AFSA, www.firesprinkler.org
TBD 2027, TBD*

SFPE, www.sfpe.org
October 12-14, 2027 in Minneapolis, MN

CASA, www.casa-firesprinkler.org
TBD 2027, TBD*

NFSA, www.nfsa.org
Annual Seminar and North
American Fire Sprinkler Expo
TBD 2027, TBD*

NFPA, www.nfpa.org
TBD 2027, TBD*



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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Fire Protection Contractor
 2. Publication Number: 0005-061
 3. Filing Date: 10/01/2025
 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$68.00
 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): PO Box 370 Auburn CA 95604
 Contact Person: Brant Brumbeloe
 Telephone (include area code): (530) 823-0700
 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): PO Box 320 Auburn CA 95604
 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Haden B Brumbeloe & Associates Inc PO Box 370 Auburn CA 95604
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Brant R Brumbeloe PO Box 370 Auburn CA 95604
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Brant R Brumbeloe PO Box 370 Auburn CA 95604
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 Full Name: Brant R Brumbeloe, Complete Mailing Address: PO Box 370 Auburn CA 95604
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 12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
 PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: Fire Protection Contractor
 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 11/24/2010

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	900	857
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(2)	Mailed in-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	-	-
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mail including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	-	-
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	44	45
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		944	902
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(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	139	120
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	566	798
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		705	918
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1700	1700
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		12	12
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1712	1712
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		58	54

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b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1003	60
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1759	1760
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	58	57

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 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/9/25 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
 Brant R Brumbeloe Editor
 Date: 10/01/2025

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Wanted – Fire Sprinkler Designers. 5 plus years of experience. Hydratec or similar experience required. Remote work available. Excellent pay, benefits, paid holidays, vacation, etc. Send inquiries to: info@fpcmag.com, or FPC, PO Box 370, Auburn, CA 95604, and include **Attn: Box#Des02.22**.

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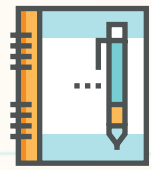
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Charlie Ritchie, President, Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum, (845) 612-1950, ceritchie1@aol.com, www.americasfireboat.org.



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Call for Papers

Fire Sprinkler International 2026

April 22-23, 2026 – Paris Marriott Rive Gauche

www.firesprinklerinternational.com

Hosted by the European Fire Sprinkler Network, Fire Sprinkler International 2026 is the premier event in the sprinkler calendar and the largest conference in Europe dedicated to sprinkler and water mist technology. 460 delegates from around the world came to Salzburg this year and they are expecting a strong attendance next year in Paris. There will be a supporting exhibition, and a social event on April 22.

They are now calling for abstracts for papers to be presented at the conference. Abstracts should be submitted to brinson@eurosprinkler.org by December 12, 2025.

For more information visit: www.firesprinklerinternational.com.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

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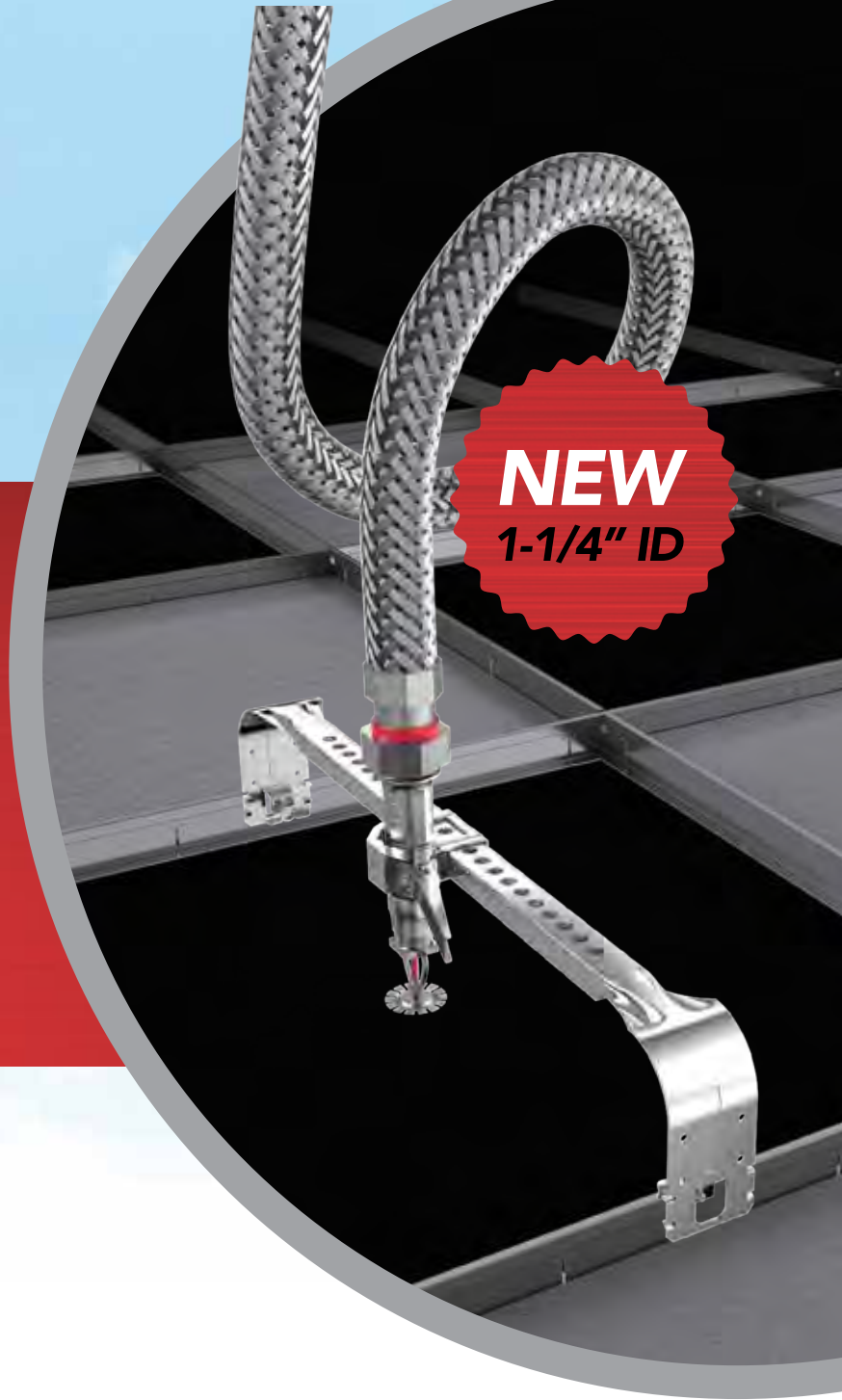
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