



**Automatic Fire Alarm Association, Inc.**

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April 22, 2009

Dear Fire Protection Industry Professional,

I'd like to propose a change of thinking for the fire protection industry. Rather than promoting one technology over the other, we should be promoting a unified voice to improve life safety. We all know that fire sprinklers and smoke detectors provide life safety in different ways. As fire protection professionals, our common goal is to save lives.

On the residential front, the residential fire sprinkler initiative is meeting resistance in several areas. We should not forget, however, the value of smoke alarms in homes. Sending a message that both should be installed sends a clear message that both are needed to improve life safety in homes. An Annex note in NFPA 13 even refers to this, stating that fire sprinklers are best used in conjunction with smoke alarms. We need to send the right message so homeowners are not confused about what they should have installed in their homes. They should have both sprinklers and smoke alarms.

For commercial occupancies, there are too many trade-offs in the codes that allow fire alarm equipment to be eliminated if fire sprinklers are installed. Some are valid. Some are not. For example, the smoke detector installed to protect fire alarm control equipment. In this case, simply having a sprinkler system in the building in no way provides the same level of protection for the equipment that a smoke detector will provide. The purpose is to allow the control to perform its function prior to being disabled by a fire. The sprinkler system may not do this due to signaling delays.

The entire fire protection industry can benefit in our goal of reducing fire deaths and injuries by working more closely together toward this common goal rather than working against one another. I propose that all segments of the fire protection industry work together to promote life safety and say "Fire Sprinklers and Smoke Detectors Save Lives".

AFAA has promoted a balanced approach to fire protection for years. The Automatic Fire Alarm Association wants to help fight the challenges that are arising around the country to not allow local AHJ's to require residential fire sprinklers. If the fire alarm and fire sprinkler industries work together, we will have a stronger voice to fight these challenges. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Hammerberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas P. Hammerberg, SET, CFPS  
President/Executive Director