

Fire Sprinklers Can Prevent Death and Injury In High Rises

Fact Sheet

According to a report prepared by the Chicago High-Rise Safety Commission, the rate of fire deaths in Chicago's high-rise buildings is approximately 3.5 times greater than the national average. Automatic fire sprinkler systems offer the optimum level of fire safety in high-rise buildings because:

- Fire sprinklers control the fire immediately, help prevent flashover and often extinguish the fire before the fire department arrives on the scene.
- Fire poses a serious threat in high-rise buildings because it is difficult for fire fighters to reach the upper floors. The highest fire truck ladder in Chicago only extends eight floors. Above that, firefighters must use stairs, dragging fire hoses and other heavy equipment with them.
- Without fire sprinklers, it is difficult to rapidly and safely evacuate high-rise buildings. Occupants are often forced to descend crowded stairs. Dangers are intensified in the noise, smoke, darkness and confusion.
- With fire sprinklers Evacuation is unnecessary!
- Without fire sprinklers, chimney type stairwells and electrical/plumbing chases allow smoke to travel to floors far above the fire.
- Under the City of Chicago Municipal Code, high-rise buildings constructed after 1975 must either be compartmented or sprinklered. Compartmentation blocks or slows the spread of a fire, while sprinklers extinguished it.

For more information call 866-2NIFSAB.