



Fire Sprinkler Systems Prevent Costly Fires to Businesses Owners & Patrons

Orland Park, IL (November 22, 2010) — The devastating fire last week at Eva’s Bridal Shop and neighboring businesses in Oak Lawn is an unfortunate example of why today’s commercial building codes require fire sprinklers to prevent such events from occurring, says Tom Lia, Executive Director, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB).

The strip mall where the fire occurred, located at 95th Street and Cicero Avenue, was built prior to the Village of Oak Lawn adopting codes that required fire sprinkler systems in that type of structure. In buildings protected with fire sprinklers, only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate preventing the fire from spreading or extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives.

The fire made national news because hundreds of bridal gowns were destroyed. Future brides with weddings in the next few weeks must scramble to find and fit new dresses in time for their weddings.

“Fortunately, no one was hurt or injured in the fire, however, the same cannot be said for the building,” says Lia. “Fire sprinklers not only save lives in the event of a fire, but they also provide a level of protection to buildings that no other fire protection technology can offer.”

Fire sprinklers in commercial buildings also help municipalities reduce their ISO ratings because protected buildings require little or no reserve municipal water supply for fire protection purposes, whereas buildings without fire sprinklers require municipalities to increase their reserve water supply in order to meet the demand of thousands of gallons per minute from fire hoses.

“This incident is a good example of why people should be conscious of whether the buildings they live or do business in are protected with a fire sprinkler system,” says Tom Lia. “Hopefully, this event will help people become more conscious of fire sprinklers, so that they do not overlook the vital role fire sprinklers play in protecting lives and property.”

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Source: Northern IL Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

NIFSAB is a non-profit organization composed of fire officials, contractors, building officials, suppliers, architects, engineers, and manufacturers. NIFSAB is dedicated to educating and informing the public and elected and appointed officials of the vital role that fire sprinklers play in fire protection.

For more information visit www.firesprinklerassoc.org.