



FIRE Sprinklers

Who can ever forget the recent tragedy when a smoky fire took the lives of three young students and injured scores of others in the freshman dormitory at Seton Hall University? If the building had a sprinkler system, could this horrible loss have been averted? Maybe so, maybe not, however statistics seem to support the overwhelming value of sprinkler systems in general.

Although automatic fire sprinklers have been in use in the United States since 1874, there still exists many misconceptions concerning their effectiveness and value. Simply stated, "Sprinklers provide a high level of life and property safety". **There has never been any multiple loss of life in a fully sprinkled building.** Property losses are 85% less in buildings with fire sprinklers compared to those without sprinklers. The combination of automatic sprinklers and early warning systems in all buildings could reduce overall injuries, loss of life and property damage by at least 50%.

Given these impressive numbers there are those who hesitate to endorse the use of these systems. Some worry about accidental activation of systems, or believe extensive water damage will result in cases where only a small fire has occurred.

The truth of the matter is that only one in 16 million sprinkler systems trip for no reason or because of a manufacturing defect. Water damage from a sprinkler system has been proven to be much less severe than the damage caused by water from fire-fighting hose lines or smoke and fire damage if the fire goes unabated. Water damage is typically limited since heads are individually activated by fire. 90% of all fires are controlled with six or fewer heads. 82% of those fires were controlled by two or fewer sprinklers.

The costs for installing fire sprinkler systems in typical buildings 6 to 8 stories are relatively modest for most new construction projects. The costs are slightly higher when retrofitting sprinklers within existing buildings.

Sprinklers have proven so valuable in commercial applications that there is a rising trend to protect individual homes. In residential settings on new construction systems typically cost about 1% of the total building cost. (Similar to the cost of new carpet).

If you know the answer to the following question you could

WIN Dinner for 2

Which president brought running water and indoor plumbing to the White House and in what year?

Call or send in the correct answer and win dinner for two. If more than one correct entry is received, a winner will be selected at random.

Enter as often as you like.

Congratulations to our last winners, Alberta (the former Mayor of Milford) & Dick Jagoe of Tomlinson, Hawley & Patterson (THP) who, through a great deal of perseverance submitted the only correct answer to our contest. "Leave it to Beaver" was the first TV show/series to show a toilet on-air.

New & Improved WEBSITE



Thanks to the interest and activity at our former website, we are in the process of redesigning and upgrading the Mulvaney Mechanical site to provide a new look and a wider range of information. We will be posting a full company profile of services available including introductions to our key staff, current projects underway and other related mechanical & real estate endeavors.

Our new site will also provide a wealth of information and e-tools/links to make your job easier. We sincerely hope our new site will become a favorite spot for you to visit & visit often! Don't forget the address. www.mulvaneymechanical.com



WE ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF OUR NEW OFFICE AND SHOP IN DANBURY. PLEASE BE PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT OUR IMPENDING RELOCATION WILL NOT TAKE ATTENTION FROM OUR IMPORTANT WORK IN THE FIELD.

So that explains it!

"The Salary Theorem" states that "Engineers and scientists can never earn as much as business executives and sales people". This Theorem can now be supported by the mathematical equation based upon the following two postulates:

- 1- Knowledge is Power.
- 2- Time is Money.

As every engineer knows: **Power = Work/Time**
Since: **Knowledge = Power & Time = Money**
then: **Knowledge = Work/Money**

Solving for Money, we get:

$$\text{Money} = \text{Work}/\text{Knowledge}.$$

Thus, as Knowledge approaches zero, Money approaches infinity, regardless of the amount of work done.

Conclusion: The less you know, the more you make!



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