

Residential Fire Sprinklers anyone?

U.S. model building codes now require fire sprinklers as a standard feature in new homes. On September 21, 2008, the International Code Council (ICC) overwhelmingly passed two proposals to modify the International Residential Code (IRC), requiring fire sprinklers in all new homes at their final action hearing in Minneapolis, MN. It is the official position of the U.S. Fire Administration that all Americans should be protected against death, injury, and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers. Schools, office buildings, factories, and other commercial buildings have benefited from fire protection sprinkler systems for over a century. To protect investments in buildings and machinery, the textile mills in New England began using sprinkler systems over 100 years ago following a series of devastating fires which claimed many lives and destroyed entire businesses. But what about our homes? Although we protect our businesses from fire, what actions do we take to protect our families, our homes, and our possessions from fire? Millions of Americans have installed smoke alarms in their homes in the past few years, but a smoke alarm can only alert the occupants to a fire in the house ... it cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Residential sprinkler systems can!

When the federal government incorporates a national code requirement it is normally forced upon lower jurisdictions to ensure compliance. When model code requirements are set in place, states, counties, cities, and towns across the country adopt or reject aspects of the code, to serve their own best interests. Those towns with robust building departments can pick and choose who they align themselves with. However, those with little on staff technical expertise rely on model codes such as IRC or BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators). Currently many states, including Connecticut, are in the process of adopting code requirements for new homes to include fire sprinkler systems. The Connecticut Committee on Public Safety and health is considering house bill #6204 introduced by representative Graziani of 57th District. Representative Graziani's bill proposes an act to delay the revision of the state building code. There are equal numbers of supporters and opponents for requiring fire sprinklers in new homes. Those pressing for the new code cite impressive success stories such as is the case in Scottsdale, Arizona where fire sprinklers have been required in residential homes for many years. Since the code adoption in Scottsdale, there has not been a fatality due to a residential fire incident. Those aligned with the opposition cite high costs and increased building delays as their primary objection.

Whatever your own opinion, pro or con, like it or not, residential fire sprinkler systems will become a more frequent sight in new homes. The eventuality is that sprinklers will become part of mandated building codes across Connecticut.



Celebrating the Working Man



Many of you recognize Mike Rowe from the Discovery Channel's hit show "Dirty Jobs," but that's only part of the story. The real story began many years ago when a no talent singer bluffed his way onto the Baltimore Opera. From there, Mike worked on many jobs from being a sales

announcer on QVC, a local San Francisco TV host to doing voice over narration work. What makes Mike unique is his strong view on the American working man; the typical tradesman that keeps our society going. He has developed a deep respect and admiration for those who work as Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters, and all the other hard, dirty and demanding jobs that have gone unappreciated for a couple of decades.

Mike Rowe has taken his passion and respect for the working man one step further with his announcement of "Mike Rowe Works" on Labor Day 2008. In essence his new website is a venue and forum for the forgotten and down trodden working man. He sees this effort as a tool for the Average Joe worker to gain information, network with others while it fosters new respect for all workers.

During most of the 19th the 20th centuries, the American worker was looked upon as a professional who deserved our admiration and respect. There was a universal acceptance that being part of the working population was something to be proud of, admired and celebrated. Most workers made a good wage and occupied a position of pride. It was normal for most trades people, even the semi-skilled, to buy their own home, purchase a new car every 3 years and take a nice vacation each summer. They were considered the backbone of our country, without which the United States would stagnate and fail. Today that view is much different. It has been in decline for the past 20 years or so.

The late 1980's and 1990's marked a shift in our society. There was an undeclared war on those who worked for a living. Hard work was demonized and management was the only way to succeed. No longer could the barber, the baker, the plumber, or most any other tradesman afford a home and a late model car. Outsourcing, low cost country sourcing and the advent of the "do it yourself" generation contributed to this downfall. We now live in an America that no longer has the ability or expertise to build a TV set or the energy to cut their own lawn, or clean their own home. The working tradesman made up the largest segment of the middle class. Today there is little left but the upper class and the working poor.

We applaud Mike Rowe for his initiative and dedication to bringing back the value and respect for the working public. We hope it's not too late to return to a time where hard work was respected and rewarded and outsourcing is used more sparingly.

SWINE FLU STUFF

There is often a strong correlation between poor plumbing practice and disease outbreak, as is again suggested by the outbreak of swine flu.

This latest outbreak of Swine Flu A (H1N1) is reported to have its origins in one of the largest pig farms in the world, in Vera Cruz, Mexico. A newspaper from the region has reported that fecal matter contaminating the runoff water from local pig farms was suspected of being the starting point of this strain of flu. Water sanitation is not known as one of Mexico's strong points, but is it responsible for the current Swine Flu pandemic? In its present state the Swine Flu is transmitted as is any other routine flu bug; with person to person contact. No one doubts that going back to the ground zero origin of this strain of flu you find animal to human contamination via contaminated water.

There's so much negative out there about plumbers: butt crack jokes, we charge too much or the ever-present "it's easy, anyone can do it". It's time to give plumbers the credit they deserve.



Early in the 20th century, American plumbers began to adopt a slogan as both a point of professional pride and a public reminder of the important role they play: "The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation." And for a time, when plumbers were rebuilding and revitalizing the country's infrastructure as part of the Works Progress Administration, that fact seemed plainly evident to most Americans. The downfall was, perhaps, that things got working so well, and the public was protected so efficiently, people forgot how it got and remained that way. One need only look outside our borders, however, to rediscover the vital importance of plumbers. In a country like the United States, where safe plumbing practices are governed by codes and standards and implemented by licensed, highly skilled personnel, it's much easier to take these things for granted. But in a developing nation like India, where waterborne disease continues to threaten the public, the effects are much more readily apparent. Many emerging nations have learned a lesson that we in the U.S. have long forgotten. That is, "the plumber is the nation's health worker. His skill level—or lack thereof—can have serious implications to the society at large."

PIG FACTS

- Pigs are very intelligent and learn very quickly.
- Pigs have an excellent sense of smell.
- Pigs can not sweat because they have no sweat glands.
- Heart valves from pigs are used to replace human heart valves.
- A pig can run a 7 minute mile.
- Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world.
- When a sow gives birth, it is called farrowing.



"The biggest cause of trouble in the world today is that the stupid people are so sure about things and the intelligent folks are so full of doubts." Bertrand Russell

A LIFETIME SUPPLY OF FREE BEER

Now that we have gained your undivided attention... we have a very special 11th Anniversary Contest. We are giving away a very special



GARMIN NAVIGATOR

"Where all roads lead to Mulvaney Mechanical"

If you can tell us the topic of the main article that appeared in the 1st edition commencement of the **MULVANEY PIPELINE**, published back in May 1998, you could win a premium GARMIN NAVIGATOR. If more than one correct answer is received, a winner will be selected at random. If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter. Please mail to janette@mulvaneyinc.com

The answer to the picture contest from last time is: a temporary horseshoe(s) used for horses when on soft or boggy terrain. It is literally, a snowshoe for horses. Wayne Emmett at Pen West Pharmaceuticals, H. Ray Jones at Barden Corp. and Bill Sapienza submitted correct answers.

Health and Wellbeing Tidbits

- Guns in the US kill more people in a single week than during an entire year throughout all of Europe.
- Sick Building Syndrome appears on many death certificates as Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis, an inflammatory lung disorder.
- Installation of U.S. railroads caused 110,456 deaths.
- The 1918 Pandemic Flu outbreak resulted in a 2% mortality rate.
- Camel's milk has 10 times more iron than cow's milk does.
- Tobacco and diet are the top two causes of worldwide cancers.
- About 1,100 people in the U.S. die each month while jogging. Moral is... Don't run unless your being chased.
- Chance of getting a cold within a week after taking a 2 hour flight - 20%.
- 85 percent of people killed in highway work zones are drivers or their passengers.
- The Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed at least 13,200 homes but caused only 6 recorded fatalities.
- 66% of hypothermia-related deaths in the U.S. occur to males.
- Human tapeworms can grow to be 75 feet long. Ewww!
- Odds you will fracture your skull this year: 1 in 100.
- 1 in every 5 people in the US is a smoker, down from 2 in every 5 in 1965
- 50% of Americans visit a dentist at least once a year.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Jun 2 - 4, 2009	Commercial Construction Show Phoenix, AZ
Jun 15 -17, 2009	Neocon World Trade Fair Chicago, IL
Jun 16 -17, 2009	Buildings New York Show New York, NY
Jun 16 -19, 2009	Construct 2009 Indianapolis, IN
JUN 21, 2009	Antique & Classic Car Show Shelton History Center, Shelton CT
Nov 11-13, 2009	Green Building Expo Phoenix, AZ

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