

Northwest Arkansas Association of Fire Marshals

PO Box 485 • Lowell, AR 72745

January 30, 2020

Arkansas Legislative Council - Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Arkansas State Capitol
500 Woodlane St., Suite 320 & 350
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Member of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee,


We are writing in response to the subcommittee meeting that was held on January 13, 2020. We are specifically addressing the agenda item regarding the licensing requirement of automatic sprinkler system installers, i.e. pipe fitters. Our interest in this matter was addressed to you by three respected fire service leaders and an industry leader of automatic sprinkler systems.

Where an automatic sprinkler system is installed, it is tested by the local jurisdiction at a pressure of 200 pounds per square inch, this test lasts for two hours. If these systems are not installed correctly, they pose a true risk of injury, disability, or death to anyone who is working close to, or inspecting the system.

Our intention is to inform you that if this subcommittee's decision ultimately results in the removal of this licensure requirement, we each intend to instate a local licensure requirement. Given the number of jurisdictions represented by our organization that would instate local licensure, we believe it would create a significant, albeit necessary, burden on companies and individuals that install these systems. This burden would be completely necessary to ensure the continued competency of installers of automatic sprinkler systems, but it is completely preventable by allowing the state level licensure requirement to remain as it is.

Due to the lack of action on this item during the January meeting, we have a collective interest in closely following recommendations for augmentation to the motion and any subsequent proposals. We will send a delegation to future subcommittee meetings and provide our professional insight when necessary. Licensure of companies and individuals responsible for designing and installing life safety equipment, in present form, functions well and should never be compromised by short-sighted interests.

Sincerely,



William Hyde, President, Rogers
Blake Holte, Vice President, Springdale
Dustin Kindall, Secretary, Siloam Springs
Pete Melnicki, Lowell
Jamie Baggett, Lowell
Brad Arnold, Bentonville
Todd Pearce, Bentonville
Paul Higginbotham, Centerton
Gary Yarno, Benton County
Justin Cox, Washington County
Tyler McCartney, Washington County
Mark Ramsey, Tontitown

Jeremy Ashley, Fayetteville
Nathan Wood, Fayetteville
Lance Selph, Fayetteville
William Beeks, Fayetteville
Chaz Birdsong, Fayetteville
Roy Edwards, Johnson
Gary Bowman, Bella Vista
Jason Bowman, Bella Vista
Joseph Jerabeck, Rogers
Bill Rumsey, Rogers