

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A SPARK
OF LIGHT ON A
Magnificent
TECH!

JOE FONTANA

Spending his work days extinguishing Charleston, South Carolina, Joe is our Technician of the month! Joe started with Unifour Fire in August of 2012, and has become knowledgeable in every field aspect of the company. From fire alarm service work to rebuilding back flows, he is a dedicated technician, with a strong will to be the problem solver.



How ironic is it that the 1801 patent for the invention of the fire hydrant was lost in a fire. Though the concept of bringing water to ground level from water mains for emergency use hasn't changed much, the ability to examine the hydrant has improved. The location of the hydrant determines the exact fire code regulations; however, most states require an updated report for water flow testing annually. During this water flow test, the pressure of

discharged water is measured to determine if the hydrant can properly pump enough water for the fire department apparatus.

Without examinations and maintenance every year, the vitally important tool needed to extinguish a fire may create a more dangerous situation.

Let Unifour know if a Fire Hydrant near you needs testing!

Lets Sprinkle Facts on This Situation...

Being that the apartment industry is growing tremendously each year, the record of reported apartment complex fires has risen in the past few years. Ninety-eight thousand fires were responded to by fire personnel alone in 2013. (per NFPA Fire Analysis Division) While setting the death toll at 325, fire protection is no laughing matter.

By NFPA 25 code, an apartment complex's sprinkler systems must be inspected yearly by a licensed technician. These inspections determine if the water flow pressure is equivalent to standards in making the system work properly. During an annual sprinkler inspection, it is also required that each sprinkler head be visually inspected from the floor level, which means each unit will need to be in-

spected. This unit inspection consists of a licensed technician visually examining every sprinkler head. These inspections are vital to the operation of the system. If a sprinkler head is broken, or becomes "loaded", with dust or paint it

water will then hit the deflector cap, which disperses the water to contain the fire. The rushing water from the sprinkler system will also trip the Fire Alarm, to warn tenants of the emergency. This process will also ensure that the Fire Department and other Emergency personnel will



effects the small bulb from reacting correctly to heat in the apartment unit. Once the small liquid filled bulb in the sprinkler head reaches a certain degree in a fire, the bulb will then burst. After the bulb is out of the way, the metal valve cap is released by the water pres-

respond to the property. Having the sprinkler system up to date is extremely important. Not only is it the law, *but it saves lives.*

DON'T FORGET...
Call Unifour Fire & Safety for any Inspections or Repairs your property may have.

An Alarming Tid-Bit of History:

Since 1658, Fire Alarms have improved to become the most effective way to warn those in danger. By 1852, a telegraphic key translated codes to a central station with the pull of the fire alarm handle. Then by the end of the 1800s, fire alarms became equipped with thermostats to indicate heat from a fire, on its own. With the technology of today, the fire alarm panel has many ways of detecting a fire. The smoke and heat detectors transfer signals to the panel, along with the pull stations located throughout the property. The NFPA 72 code states Fire Alarms shall be tested annually (at a minimum) to ensure that everything is operating correctly. Unifour Fire has an excellent Fire Alarm Department with technicians on standby to help with inspections and repairs.





HYDRO TEST YOUR MIND...

In case of a fire, do you know how to operate a Fire Extinguisher? To start, make sure you are aware of where these red cylinders are located; some are under kitchen sinks, while others are mounted in breezeways of your apartment complex. In case of a fire in your apartment, pull the pin located in the handle of the Fire Extinguisher. This allows the lever to no longer be in a locked state. Aim the nozzle of the Fire Extinguisher at the base of the fire, so that this process will fully eliminate the fire. Then squeeze the levers slowly; this will release the white powder substance toward the base of the fire. Once the Fire Extinguisher chemical starts to contain the fire, begin a sweeping method from side to side with the powder, to assure the fire is completely out and will not spread.

*Don't forget to always notify emergency response personnel, and the property manager in the occurrence of a fire.

Tips: So you're not left in the Dark...

Emergency Lights play a huge factor in the evacuation of a building in a dangerous situation. These lights and signs give enough light to guide civilians outside to safety, whether it be in a case of a fire or power outage. These illuminating signs are required by law in stair ways, aisles, ramps, and passageways all leading to exits. In the event that the apartment has failure of normal lighting, the emergency lights are required to continue glowing for at least an hour and a half. (NFPA 7.9.2.1) Along with these life saving tools, comes some maintenance to ensure that these signs will work in any needed situation. During these emergency light inspections it

is required by NFPA standards that the lights have a 30 second test monthly. The law also requires that they have a 90 minute Inspection annually to

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confirm that the lights will provide the needed safety precautions. These illuminating signs are made up of two bulbs and an important battery. The battery is required to operate the light in the case that the electrical connection no longer

operates. So before your property is left in the dark, make sure you are prepared with a way out of the building. Call Unifour Fire if any Emergency / Exit lights are in need of testing.



"Fire Department Connection" Cap Sale!!!



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Originally \$49.95

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* Email orders to- Melissat@unifourfire.com

* Minimum Order of 5 Sets

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