



**Mechanical
Contractors
Association**

P.I.P.E.

**UA Local
525
Plumbing,
Pipefitting
&
Refrigeratio
n**

**UA Local
669,
Sprinkler
Fitters**

**Plumbing
Heating
Cooling
Contractors
of Nevada**

Contact: Bob Benedict
702-252-0166

bobbenedict@phccnv.com

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Las Vegas, NV – The key associations and unions representing the plumbing industry in Nevada today have formed the Residential Sprinkler Coalition (RSC) to persuade the local jurisdictions to adopt the new requirement in the International Residential Code (IRC) that requires all single family residences built after January 1, 2011 to have fire sprinklers.

Joining together are the Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA); Plumbing Industry Promotion & Education (P.I.P.E.); UA Local 525 Plumbing, Pipefitting & Refrigeration; UA Local 669 Sprinkler Fitters; and the Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors of Nevada (PHCC-NV). The groups first goal will be to persuade the local building officials in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Clark County, Pahrump, Boulder City and Mesquite to adopt the requirement. If that fails, the RSC plans to take their battle to the city/county managers and the city councils/county commission.

“This is about life safety, preventing property loss, water conservation and cost,” said RSC spokesman Bob Benedict, executive director of PHCC-NV.

“The RSC supports the decision of the IRC to require fire sprinklers in all single family residences beginning January 1, 2011 for the following reasons:

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Residential Sprinkler Coalition

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- Life Safety – first and foremost, sprinklers save lives. In 2007, 2,865 people died in home structure fires. The risk of dying decreases by about 80 percent when sprinklers are present.
- Sprinklers save loss of property. Sprinklers reduce the average property loss by 71 percent per fire.
- Sprinklers save water, a critical plus here in Nevada. Ninety percent of the time, fires are contained by one sprinkler head. Fire hoses, on average, use more than 8 ½ times the water that sprinklers do to contain a fire. The average sprinkler head uses 341 gallons to control a fire; firefighters use an average of 2,935 gallons.
- Cost:
 - § The cost of sprinklers in a house is about the same as a carpet upgrade or between \$1.30 and \$1.60 a foot, depending on who you ask.
 - § Property loss is significantly reduced in home fires
 - § Homeowners insurance premiums are reduced
 - § Sprinklers can help qualify a home for a tax rebate
 - § They help support local fire service efforts
 - § Through the use of credits and trade-offs, builders and developers achieve reduced construction costs while providing higher value homes for their customers. These can include greater fire hydrant spacing and reduced requirements for fire ratings in construction.

Other facts:

- Insurance premiums are reduced on average of 7% for homeowners.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate (90 percent); on a rare occasion 2 will activate (the other 10 percent), but the amount of water is still significantly reduced.
- The likelihood of an accidental discharge for a sprinkler is extremely rare.
- New home sprinkler heads are unobtrusive, can be mounted flush with ceilings or walls and can be concealed behind decorative covers.