



# Northampton Fire Department

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**December 12, 2011**

Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards  
One Ashburton Place,  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1301  
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Residential Sprinklers, Presented by Chief Kevin Gallagher

Gentlemen:

Although litigation prevents me from being present at the December 13, 2011 public hearing pertaining to residential sprinklers, I felt compelled to comment and share my experience as both a fire service professional and homeowner. As a Fire Chief within Massachusetts for more than 24 years, I have witnessed the tragic loss of life from fire. The vast majority of these deaths occurred within residential dwellings and sadly most could have been prevented by the presence of a residential sprinkler system.

Considering the enhanced life safety offered by sprinkler protection, I was determined to embrace this technology within my own life. Therefore, I installed a residential sprinkler system in my own home as both an example to others and as a reflection of my belief that sprinklers save lives.

My residence is in a rural area served by an exceptional fire service agency with a station less than two miles from my home. Despite the proximity of the emergency response resources, only the presence of a residential sprinkler system could immediately contain a fire and allow my family to escape before fire and products of combustion produce an untenable atmosphere. In the absence of a municipal water supply, I utilized the NFPA criteria to develop a static supply and pump to pressurize this system.

***"Professionalism through Courage and Dedication"***

The presence of sprinklers provides three distinct benefits:

1. Protects my family and provides enhanced life safety;
2. Provides a concrete example of my advocacy and belief that sprinklers are essential tools to reduce fire death;
3. Provides a reduction in insurance costs through a discount in my homeowners insurance. Ultimately, this system will more than pay for itself based on this discount alone.

More importantly sprinklers provide me with the peace of mind that I have provided an affordable level of protection to my family. Please contact me with any questions pertaining to this matter at 413-587-1039.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BDuggan", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Brian Duggan  
Fire Chief

CC: Chief Paul Zibkowski  
Chief Kevin Gallagher