

**SOUTHERN OREGON CHAPTER AIA**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**October 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm in Room 340 of the Medford City Hall. Members Gene Abell, Bruce Richey, Allen Crutcher, Steve Ennis, Ronald Grimes, Joanne Krippaehne, Stephen Miller, James Roemer, Robert Seibert, David Straus, David Wilkerson and Ted Mularz were present. Guests included Karl Krauskopf, Josh Sizemore, Victoria Suppo, Jeff Hatfield, Brian Westerhout and David Evans.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

**PROGRAM: RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS**

*Presented by Dan Patterson, Medford Fire Marshal*

Patterson is trying to start an initiative that would require fire sprinklers in every building and home. When installed in new construction and tied to a regular system costs would be: \$ .75/SF flat ceiling; \$ .95/SF vaulted ceiling; or 1 to 1 % of the total building cost.

There are 3,000 to 4,000 deaths in residential fires each year. The fire department recognizes the "Life Saver" house designation. A fire sprinkler system would include hard-wired smoke detectors that are interconnected. This could be promoted as a seller/buyer benefit (marketing).

Provide education, create a demand, answer questions, website information.

Fire facts:

Fires can double in size every minute.

In 2003 there were 14000 injuries, 402000 home fires, and 3172 deaths.

Six bill loss.

Four out of five deaths occur in homes. The primary victims are children and the elderly.

Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths.

Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires.

In Medford between the years 2000 and 2004 there were 249 structural fires, nine deaths, thirty-one injuries, \$4,400,400 in residential property loss and six firefighters were injured.

The Fire Code allows inspection of commercial structures and residential apartments of three or more units. Exempt are one and two family dwellings, foster care with less than five, and apartments.

Carbon monoxide is the cause of most fire deaths. Hydrogen cyanide released from artificial objects is also deadly.

In 2/3 of residential fires, the smoke detectors are missing.

Flashover fires triple the number of victims.

Described furnishings and fuel loads.

Skin damage as burns can occur at 130° F.

#### Personnel and Economics

A serious residential fire without sprinklers:

- 15.5 people

- 60.1 man hours

- Mutual aid other responses

- Overtime crews

- Overtime investigation

A serious residential fire with sprinklers:

- 3 people

- 6 man hours

- No overtime

- Limited investigation

#### How Residential Sprinklers Work

- 135° F will cause sprinkler head to drop

- 165° F sets off sprinklers

- Part of the potable water system

- Only activates sprinklers affected by fire

- Covers a 15' diameter area

Different types of fire sprinkler systems were described. Gave payback figures for a \$400,000 dollar home – about \$3.00/month. Water damage is minimal.

Gave case studies of municipalities showing reduced loss of life and property.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by Bruce Richey, AIA, Chapter Secretary.