

WHEN QUALITY MEANS SAFETY.



Good morning, my name is Kevin Arnberger, and I have been in the fire sprinkler trade for 35 years. The fire sprinkler industry is guided by the National Fire Protection Agency standards. These standards are the minimum requirements for installation practices, designing and calculating a sprinkler system, types and uses of construction materials, and inspection practices. The NFPA standards have been in practice and saving lives since the late 1800's. The State of Kansas has adopted these standards and requires contractors to follow and implement the codes. The same goes for other trades.

Over the years when performing remodel or service work, I have come across existing systems not installed correctly. Recently while doing remodel work in a Kansas hospital, we found an entire wing not physically connected to the sprinkler system. Sprinkler heads in a Kansas nursing home were not installed properly, and if a fire were to occur there would not be proper water coverage. Sprinkler systems are designed to allow people ample time to escape the building.

The State of Kansas allows anyone to install sprinkler systems. The same cannot be said for other trades. Plumbing and electrical contractors are required by the State to have licensed technicians complete and oversee their work. The license requires technicians to take a test and prove their abilities to know and follow the adopted codes. Fire sprinkler contractors should be held to the same level or higher because we are providing life safety systems.

Thank you for reading this testimony on HB2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Arnberger".

Kevin Arnberger