



February 14, 2012

Re: Gold Seal Master Builder Testimony to the 1309 International Residential Code Committee of Minnesota regarding the sprinkler requirement in the 2012 IRC adoption

Committee Members and other interested parties;

I have been asked by Uponor, a Minnesota manufacturer of PEX-a tubing and supplier of residential fire sprinkler products, to provide a statement of experience regarding Uponor's AquaSAFE[®] Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems. I submit this testimony in support of the requirement for fire sprinkler protection in new one- and two-family residential construction.

Gold Seal Master Builder has been building homes in Carstairs, Alberta since 1989. We offer residential fire sprinkler protection in all of the homes we build, and since 2008 have installed sprinkler systems in every home we've built. We've installed 28 Uponor AquaSAFE[®] systems over the last 4 years. Uponor has been easy to work with and provides my plumbing contractor with the tools and training they need to give me peace of mind. That's important to me because I live in this community and the people buying my homes are more than just clients, they are my neighbours. I have a history in the fire service, and providing a product that keeps my neighbours safe is something the entire Gold Seal family is proud of.

I hear many myths about residential fire sprinkler systems when my colleagues hear I install sprinklers in all of our homes. They ask me if I'm concerned about having another trade on site, which hasn't been an issue for us. In fact, when we install an Uponor system, the plumber I already use is able to install both the plumbing and fire sprinkler system. Another thing people always question me about is installing a sprinkler system in such a cold climate. We've learned how to deal with the cold in many areas of our lives, and have approached this methodically. With careful installation of insulation, we haven't had any issues with freezing sprinkler pipe. We've also installed systems with sidewall sprinklers allowing us to keep the sprinkler pipe out of the attic. Caring enough to provide the highest quality home with the ultimate in fire safety protection is a conscious decision and hallmark of Gold Seal Homes.

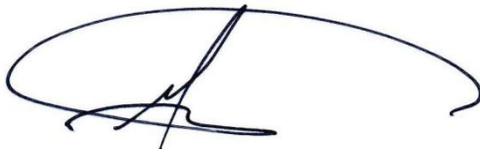
Of course there is a cost to including fire sprinkler protection, but our experience indicates that our clients invariably choose sprinkler protection. In fact, I've had clients tell me that's why they chose us as their builder. Typically, the increased cost of the home is only 1.5 percent, and with

the insurance discounts and other offsets, the homeowner quickly understands the value of the sprinkler system.

My experiences and dedication to providing fire sprinkler protection has been recognized lately by several organizations, including the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). You can see more comments from me regarding the importance of fire sprinklers, and my experiences as a builder at www.nfpa.org and on the Fire Sprinkler Initiative website at www.firesprinklerinitiative.org.

I thank you for the opportunity to share a brief snapshot of my experiences with residential fire sprinklers, and Uponor AquaSAFE® systems.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Pound', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Murray Pound
V.P. Operations
Gold Seal Master Builder