



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FONTANA FIRE DISTRICT

July 31, 2009

SUBJECT: Recalled Fire Sprinkler Heads

Dear Addressee:

We are in the process of advising all the residents of the City of Fontana regarding their fire sprinkler system. Many of the fire sprinkler systems were installed with Central[®] brand "Omega" sprinkler heads that were later the subject of a recall.

This particular sprinkler was part of a nationwide recall back on October 14, 1998. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) together with the Central Sprinkler Company initiated the voluntary recall because the O-ring component around the sprinkler heads could degrade over time. It has come to our attention that some property owners did not take advantage of this recall effort and as a result, there have been recent occurrences of fires within the City where recalled sprinkler heads have failed to operate properly. A picture of the Omega sprinkler heads is attached.

Prior to August 2007, Central Sprinkler Company assisted with some of the retrofit cost. Unfortunately, that aspect of the recall is no longer being offered. The City of Fontana has no information available regarding which homes in the city may still be using the sprinkler head that were a subject of the recall. We are referring residents to go to <http://www.fontana.org> which provides information on how to determine if their fire sprinklers were part of the recall, or they may call the Omega Recall customer service information hotline at (800) 927-5291.

Once a home is occupied, it becomes the responsibility of the property owner to maintain their fire sprinkler system. The referred web site also provides information regarding what a fire sprinkler system is capable of doing and how to maintain a fire sprinkler system in good working order, so that it will activate when needed. We strongly recommend that each of you check your sprinkler system to confirm the type of sprinkler head that is installed. If you have the recalled Omega heads, PLEASE TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO REPLACE THE HEADS IMMEDIATELY. If you do not have a residential sprinkler system installed in your home you may disregard this advisement.

I want to assure the community that sprinklers DO save lives and are a vital part of home fire safety. I hope this information is helpful to the many homeowners, residents, and families that we are committed to protect within the City of Fontana.

Sincerely,

Terry Welsh, Fire Chief
Fontana Fire Protection District