

Install fire sprinklers to guard against tragedy

A very tragic fire claimed the lives of nine firefighters at a furniture store in Charleston, S.C., our country's greatest loss of firefighters since 9/11. This event is beginning to wane from national media attention, but we as a society would be remiss if we did not learn a valuable lesson from this event.

The furniture store that burned down did not have fire sprinklers. Many argue it was not required to, but Charleston fire Chief Rusty Thomas stated it best, saying fire sprinklers would have slowed — if not extinguished — the fire, and those heroic men would have survived.

Businesses need to take note because this scenario could easily happen in our state. Fire destroys businesses, lives and livelihoods here every week. Last week, a fire swept through the boardwalk in Atlantic City, destroying several stores. Businesses have been completely leveled in Scotch Plains, Magnolia and South River, and in strip mall fires in Winslow Township and Deptford, in just the past few months.

Fire sprinklers are the most effective device for saving lives and property, and make economical sense. They protect emergency responders, customers, employees, products and revenue. They drastically cut damages in the event of a fire, provide business owners with insurance savings and protect against risk, injury and business interruptions. Most importantly, to date, there has never been a multiple loss of life in a building with a fully installed and well-maintained fire sprinkler system.

I implore business owners to remember the fire in Charleston, and consider installing fire sprinklers to protect their business for themselves and their communities. Sprinklers are replaceable, but lives are not.

VINCENT FICHERA

Executive Director

New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Bridgewater



Sprinklers save lives, property

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Vincent Fichera

Bridgewater, July 2

The writer is executive director of the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.



Catastrophic fire points to need for sprinklers

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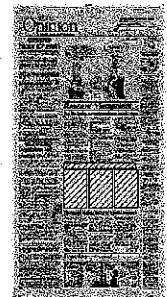
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VINCENT FICHERA
Executive Director
New Jersey Fire Sprinkler
Advisory Board

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Prevent tragedy, check the sprinklers

EDITOR:

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VINCENT FICHERA

Executive Director

New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board
Bridgewater



Fire sprinklers save lives

On June 18, a tragic fire claimed the lives of nine firefighters at a furniture store in Charleston, S.C. It's our country's greatest loss of firefighters since 9/11 ("Officials probe deadly S.C. fire," July 20). The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, are beginning to wane from national media attention, but we as a society would be remiss if we did not learn a valuable lesson from it.

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— VINCENT FICHERA,
Waldwick

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