



# QUICK RESPONSE

*Saving life and property through effective licensing, plan review,  
and inspection of fire protection systems.*

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## Frequently asked questions about Minnesota Fire Sprinkler licensing

**1. Does the state of Minnesota require licensing for fire protection related work?** Yes, licensure is required for the following:

- **Fire Protection Contractor:** a person who contracts to sell, design, install, modify, alter or inspect a fire protection system or its parts or related equipment.
- **Designer Contractor:** a person who contracts to design a fire protection system or its parts or related equipment.
- **Limited Contractor:** A person who may, without insurance or bond, perform fire protection-related work on premises or that part of premises actually occupied by the contractor and owned by the contractor or leased by the contractor for a period of at least one year.

**2. Does the state of Minnesota require certification of employees?** Yes, certification is required for the following:

- **Fire Protection Managing Employee:** a person who is employed by a contractor who supervises the performance of all fire protection-related work by the contractor.
- **Journeyman Sprinkler Fitter:** a person who is licensed as competent to engage in installing, connecting, altering, repairing or adding to a fire protection system for and under the supervision of a fire protection contractor.
- **Limited Journeyman Sprinkler Fitter:** Journeyman sprinkler fitters with limited certificates are limited to working on premises or that part of the premises actually occupied by the journeyman's employer and owned by the employer or leased by the employer for a period of at least one year. A journeyman with a limited certificate is limited to working in areas of competence, as certified and documented by the journeyman's employer. A journeyman with a limited certificate may not perform fire protection-related work unless the journeyman is under the supervision of the employer's managing employee.

**3. What qualifies as fire protection related work?** Fire protection related work, when applied to a licensed fire protection contractor, means the sale, design, installation, modification, or inspection of a fire protection system, its parts, or related equipment, or the offer to do so. Fire protection related work, when applied to a journeyman sprinkler fitter or an apprentice sprinkler fitter, means the installation, connection, alteration, repair, or addition to a fire protection system.

**4. How many Certified Journeyman Sprinkler Fitters are required to be on a job site?**

At least one Certified Journeyman Sprinkler Fitter is required on site when installing sprinkler components such as sprinkler heads, valves, pipe, or hangers. When a Certified Journeyman Sprinkler Fitter is not on site, personnel may perform duties preparing system components for installation (material handling, cutting and threading of pipe, patching holes and openings, etc.) but are not allowed to place components, pipe, or hangers into their final resting place.

**5. Is there any fire protection related work that does not require a license?** Yes, the following work does not require a license:

- Selling fire protection system parts or related equipment to a licensed contractor.
- Installing or servicing a special agent fire suppression system that is not connected to a potable water source.
- Acting in an official capacity as a building official, fire official or insurance inspector.
- Performing activities authorized by the alarm and communication contractor license or electrical contractor license.
- Performing scheduled activities to keep a fire suppression system operable or to make emergency repairs to correct an impairment of a fire protection system until such time as a licensed fire protection contractor can do permanent repairs.
- Residential installations by the owner-occupant of a one- or two-family dwelling.

**6. Are the fire protection licensing statutes and rules available on the internet?** Yes, links to fire protection licensing statutes and rules can be found at [www.fire.state.mn.us/firesprink.html](http://www.fire.state.mn.us/firesprink.html).

*Quick Response* is presented monthly by the  
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[www.fire.state.mn.us](http://www.fire.state.mn.us)