

How Safe Are You If There's A Fire In Your High-Rise Building?



The City of Chicago has recently begun to enforce its ordinance requiring residential high-rises to comply with the City's Life Safety Evaluations (LSE) to improve the life safety of occupants. The original deadline to comply with the ordinance by January 1st, 2012, was recently extended until January 1, 2015.

Many high-rises have not yet submitted their report for the LSE, while a large number of those that have submitted their reports but failed the LSE have not yet made the necessary safety improvements.

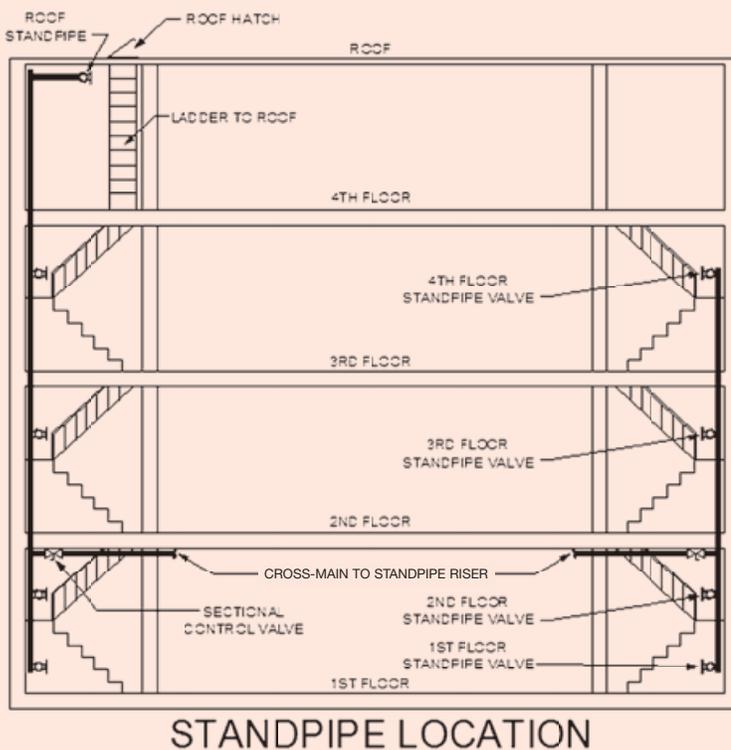
In fact, the Illinois State Fire Marshal cited the owners of the high-rise buildings at 3130 N. Lake

Shore Drive, where 32-year-old Shantel McCoy died on January 8th, with 19 violations. The building did not have a fire sprinkler system or an automatic elevator recall system.

The high-rise at 260 East Chestnut passed the LSE with an understanding that additional safety

improvements needed to be made before the City's deadline, but in December 2009 one individual was killed in a fatal fire. Another fatal fire claimed a life at the Park Tower high-rise in April 2010.

To comply with the City's LSE, all buildings will be required to have one- or two-way communication systems and doors/corridors that are fire-rated for one hour. But to fully comply, additional measures may need to be taken, many of which are intrusive to occupants. By installing



Why High-Rise Buildings Are Ready for Fire Sprinkler Systems

All of Chicago's high-rise buildings that do not have fire sprinklers already have the infrastructure in place. When retrofitting a high-rise building, the fire sprinkler system is connected to the standpipe system. All high-rise buildings are equipped with a fire standpipe system and water supply fire pump, which is located in the basement levels. The standpipe, usually found in the building stairwell, provides the water for firefighters' hoses on each floor and for the fire sprinkler retrofit.

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fire sprinklers, however, building managers/owners and condo associations can bypass those additional measures entirely. And the process can be done fairly cost-effectively since retrofitting a high-rise with fire sprinklers can be completed by using the building's existing structure, utilizing the standpipe and/or fire pump along with the municipal water supply. Fire sprinkler installations in individual living units usually can be scheduled around occupant's work schedules so there is minimal disruption with daily living.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, automatic fire sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut your risk of dying in a fire by at least 82% when compared to having neither. Since fire sprinklers are heat-activated, only the fire sprinkler closest to the fire activates, preventing deadly heat, smoke and gases from spreading to areas outside of the fire's area of origin.

The question becomes: **Do you want to risk your life in a building that does just enough to pass the City's LSE without having to install fire sprinklers, or do you want the peace of mind that comes with the 24/7 protection of fire sprinklers?**

Tell your building manager/owner or condo association that you want to live in a building protected with fire sprinklers.

To see the status of your high-rise building's compliance with the City of Chicago Life Safety Evaluations, please visit the City's website at <http://data.cityofchicago.org/Buildings/Life-Safety-Evaluations/qqqh-hgyw>.

For additional information about high-rise fire safety and compliance, please visit www.HighRiseLifeSafety.com.



**A HIGH-RISE WITH
FIRE SPRINKLERS
IS THE ONLY
PLACE TO LIVE**

If you are looking at a high-rise apartment or condo in Chicago, take a close look. Make sure it is protected by a fire sprinkler system.

Why?

Because fire sprinklers will save your life if there's a fire.

Sprinklers are the single most effective way to protect you in a fire. They control deadly heat, smoke and flames, and they protect your property. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire activates, not the entire system.

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of high-rise buildings in Chicago that are NOT protected with fire sprinklers, many have not complied with the city fire safety codes.

Imagine being in a high-rise that catches fire, but doesn't have fire sprinklers to automatically put it out..... Would firefighters be able to reach the upper floors? Would you be able to survive?

When you are ready to make a move, take a close look and choose the high-rise that makes sense—one protected by a fire sprinkler system.



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For additional resources, please visit the N.I. Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board at www.HighRiseLifeSafety.com.

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