



# FIRE PROTECTION NEWS

City of Madison Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division  
Volume 3 – Issue 1

## Meet Jerry McMullen



Jerry has worked with the Madison Fire Department since April 2003. He is the new construction inspector for the East Side of Madison, area inspector for the Near East Side (including fraternities and sororities), and primary point of contact for high piled combustible storage plan review.

Jerry is currently an Assistant Chief with Deerfield Fire Department, and Station Lieutenant for Deer-Grove EMS. Jerry also holds a Commercial Building Inspector license, is a certified Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Officer I, and licensed EMT.

Jerry has lived in Deerfield since 2000 with his wife, Denise.

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## A Note From the Engineer

By Bill Sullivan, Fire Protection Engineer



### Knox FDC Caps

The Madison Fire Department is now allowing owners to install Knox Fire Department Connection (FDC) caps. These optional Knox caps are designed to prevent tampering with the FDC inlets by the general public, who routinely use the inlets as trash receptacles.



In addition, the caps may assist with maintenance concerns associated with frequently broken or stolen FDC caps and plugs.

MFD is asking that owners or sprinkler contractors contact MFD with the address where the caps will be installed.

## Kitchen Hoods – Understanding the Plan Review Process



February 4 – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – 4011 Morgan Way, Fire Station #11

The Madison Fire Department will hold an informational session on the kitchen hood work permit process. Join us as we identify the various submittal requirements and expectations, and provide suggestions to prevent delays in work permit approvals. This information is intended for kitchen hood installers, design professionals, and other interested groups. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Call Ann at (608) 261-9690 to register.

### Address

Madison Fire Department  
325 W. Johnson Street  
Madison, WI 53703-2295  
[www.madisonfire.org](http://www.madisonfire.org)

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Contact

Bill Sullivan (608) 261-9658  
Fire Administration (608) 266-4420  
Inspection Scheduling (608) 266-4484  
Fax (608) 267-1153

## **Sprinkler Douses Fire at The Jefferson**

*By Bernadette Galvez, Public Information Officer*

An accidental fire caused by improperly discarded smoking materials occurred at The Jefferson, an independent living facility located at 9401 Old Sauk Road.

City of Madison fire crews were dispatched on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 8:16 AM for a report of a structure fire. When firefighters arrived, they found no one had evacuated the building.

They investigated the location of the fire and found the fire occurred on an outside patio at one of the units. The sprinkler system quickly doused the fire and prevented it from spreading to the interior of the building, prior to the arrival of fire department personnel. Fire damaged a patio and siding, with damage estimated at about \$3,000.



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### **Sprinkler System Limits Fire Damage at Madison Newspapers**

*By Eric Dahl, Public Information Officer*

Four sprinkler heads were all that was needed to extinguish an early morning fire at Madison Newspapers on January 16, 2009. The automatic fire sprinkler system activated when a compressor caught fire in a mechanical room at this facility.

Employees were evacuating the building when firefighters arrived on scene at 1901 Fish Hatchery Road. The first fire crew entered the building with a hose line and found a mechanical room filled with smoke. They heard the sounds of equipment operating and water running in the room.

Firefighters observed the smoke, noting that it was cool and not increasing in volume. This indicated that the fire was under control or extinguished. The crew entered the room to confirm that the fire was out and turned off

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the flow of water. Electricity was also turned off as a precaution.

Fire crews were dispatched to this fire at 2:45 AM and all units had cleared the scene by 5:30 AM. Nobody was injured at this fire scene.

The fire caused approximately \$52,000 damage to the building and equipment. Investigators have not pinpointed a cause, but they believe the fire was unintentional.

Fire sprinklers are designed to automatically activate in the area of a fire and immediately apply water directly on the flames. This significantly reduces the amount of damage caused by the flames, heat, and smoke that a fire produces. Water damage in a sprinkler-protected building is also much less than in an unprotected building. A typical fire sprinkler head flows about 20 gallons of water per minute. In comparison, a fire hose flows between 150 and 500 gallons of water per minute.

If you wish to receive future issues of *Fire Protection News* electronically (or require any other changes to the mailing list), please contact Ann Blackdeer at [ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 261-9690. Please include your name, company, and e-mail address.