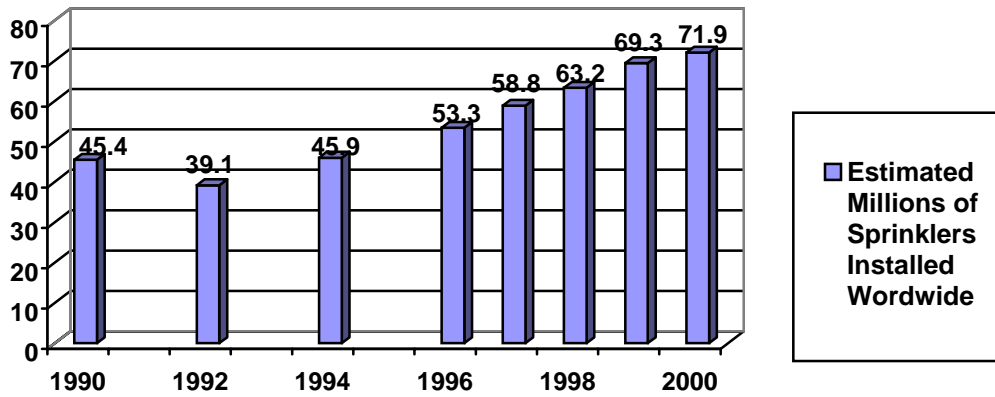


World Sprinkler Market Tops 70 Million

A recently completed survey of the world sprinkler market indicates that a record number of sprinklers were installed in the year 2000, topping 70 million for the first time in history. Although sprinkler usage in most parts of the world was flat compared to 1999, strong growth in Canada, China and Japan pushed the estimate to 71.9 million, up 4% over the prior year, and up 58% from 1990.

The survey was conducted by asking a selected group of knowledgeable individuals to provide their best estimate of sprinkler usage around the world, weighting the opinions based on the confidence level of the submitter.



The survey results are reported on the following page for 25 geographical areas. The total estimated sprinkler usage by continent:

	1996 Estimate	1999 Estimate	2000 Estimate
North America	32.65 (61%)	43.7 (63%)	45.2 (63%)
Asia and Pacific	11.7 (22%)	14.4 (21%)	14.9 (21%)
Europe and Mideast	6.4 (12%)	8.1 (12%)	8.4 (12%)
Central and South America	1.35 (3%)	1.6 (2%)	1.6 (2%)
Australia/NZ	0.78 (1%)	0.9 (1%)	1.2 (<2%)
Africa	0.45 (1%)	0.6 (1%)	0.6 (<1%)
	<hr/> 53.33	<hr/> 69.3	<hr/> 71.9

Estimated Number of Sprinklers Installed (millions) - Year 2000

Geographic Area	Number	Change from 1999
1. Canada	3.9	+1.4
2. Mexico	0.8	+0.1
3. United States	40.5	
.....		
4. Central America (inc. Carib.)	0.6	
5. South America	1.0	
.....		
6. United Kingdom	1.3	+0.1
7. Germany	1.4	
8. France	0.8	
9. Scandinavian Countries (Nor., Swe., Den, and Fin.)	0.7	+0.1
10. Italy	0.5	
11. Low Countries (Belg., Neth, and Lux.)	0.5	
12. Austria and Switzerland	0.4	
13. Spain and Portugal	0.6	+0.1
14. CIS (former Soviet Union)	0.5	
15. Israel	0.8	-0.2
16. Other European / Mid-East	0.9	+0.2
.....		
17. China (inc. Hong Kong)	7.0	+0.3
18. Japan	3.1	+0.4
19. Korea	1.7	-0.1
20. Singapore and Malaysia	0.9	-0.1
21. Taiwan	1.0	
22. Other Asian and Pacific	1.2	
.....		
23. Africa (inc. Egypt)	0.6	
.....		
24. Australia	1.0	+0.3
25. New Zealand	0.2	

Data is now being collected for the year 2001. Please use the colored insert to participate in this year's survey.

World Sprinkler News

New British Certification Scheme - The Joint Sprinkler Industry Liaison Panel formed by the Residential Sprinkler Association (RSA), the British Automatic Sprinkler Association (BASA) and the Association of Fire Protection Engineers (AFPE) is suggesting a reappraisal of third-party certification. This is a reaction to the draft third-party certification scheme for residential sprinkler installations developed by the Loss Prevention Certification Board. The RSA has developed its own third-party scheme for residential installers as part of the Warrington Fire Research Certification program known as FIRAS, and is proposed as the basis of the joint plan.

Chicago Sprinklers Below-Grade Nightclubs and Restaurants - The city of Chicago, Illinois, USA, has passed an ordinance requiring an automatic sprinkler system in every new and existing nightclub or restaurant with an occupancy of more than 100 persons and which is located in whole or part more than 4 ft (1.2 m) below grade.

Canada / China Code Cooperation - A memorandum of understanding between the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and China's Ministry of Construction has formed a building code subcommittee. Among other things, the subcommittee will work to increase Canadian exports to China through participation in the revision of China's construction code.

Swedish Study Fails to Decide Vent Issue - The Swedish fire-testing laboratory SP has concluded a project for the Swedish Fire Research Board with the opinion that it is not possible to determine if fire venting is appropriate for a building equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. They note that fire experience suggests venting of fire gases works more effectively with a larger fire size, but also note that there is no reported incident where venting led to loss of fire control by sprinklers, making it an academic problem. They further report no documented cases where fire venting led to safer evacuation from a sprinklered building.

Canadian Homebuilders Join Coalition - Two directors of the Canadian Association of Homebuilders are now participating as members of the steering committee for the Alberta Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, the first Canadian chapter of the Home Fire Sprinkler Association that has been actively promoting dwelling sprinklers in the United States since 1998. One of the representatives is from the national homebuilders group, while the other represents the Alberta chapter. The Ontario Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition is starting up in February 2001.

Mist Proposed for On-Board Tunnel Fire Suppression - Writing as a guest in the December 2001 issue of *BrandPosten*, the newsletter of the Swedish fire-testing laboratory SP, George Grant of Grant Fire Consultants Limited of Edinburgh, Scotland, cites recent tunnel fires:

Channel Tunnel –1996 (UK/France) - no fatalities
Mont Blanc Tunnel – 1999 (France/Italy) – 42 fatalities
Tauern, Austria – 1999 – 12 fatalities
Kaprun, Austria – 2000 – 155 fatalities
St. Gotthard – 2001 (Switzerland/Italy) – “dozens” of fatalities

He notes that the single notable omission of fire safety in all of these fires was fixed fire suppression equipment, and reports on research funded by Eurotunnel leading to the suggestion that on-board water mist systems be provided for freight carriers.

Vancouver Becoming Sprinklered - Ray Holdgate, Fire Chief of the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, reports that sprinklers have been installed in approximately 10,000 one- and two-family dwellings and over 42,000 multi-family dwellings in that city since 1990. In combination with 18,000 dwellings sprinklered prior to 1990, this results in a total of about 70,000 sprinklered dwellings in a city with a total population of 550,000.

NFPA Offers Free Older Adult Help Online in Spanish - The NFPA's Center for High-Risk Outreach is offering free online access to Los buenos recuerdos(tm) (the good memories): Un programa de prevención contra incendios y caídas para adultos mayores de la NFPA, a Spanish translation of Remembering When(tm): A fire and falls prevention program for older adults, developed by NFPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1999. The new Web site, www.losbuenosrecuerdos.org, provides implementation information and downloadable handouts, including lesson plans, presentation materials and trivia games, for public safety educators, members of the fire service, people who work with older adults and others using the program in Spanish-speaking communities worldwide.

Bushfire Strategy Developing in Australia - A recent research project titled Project Vesta involved lighting more than 100 experimental fires in dry summer conditions in Western Australia and showed that firefighters had far less time to retreat from a fire than was previously thought, particularly after a wind change. It also showed that a fire starting from a line more than 100 meters long would burn at its full potential spread rate immediately. Motivated by the disastrous New South Wales fires, a new coordinated national plan of fire research is getting under way.

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars, and Exhibitions of Interest

April 25-27, 2002 - NFSA Annual Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA (www.nfsa.org)

May 20-24, 2002 - NFPA World Fire Safety Congress & Expo, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA (www.nfpa.org)

May 21, 2002 - IFSA Board of Governors Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

June 16-18, 2002 - CASA Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association (www.casa-firesprinkler.org)

June 16-21, 2002 - 7th International Symposium on Fire Safety Science, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA, www.wpi.edu/+IAFSS or iafss2002@nfpa.org

June 19-21, 2002 - Fire Australia Exhibition and Conference, Brisbane, Australia, Fire Protection Association Australia, (events@fpaa.com.au)

July 9-10, 2002 - "Opportunities for Protection", 4th International Fire Sprinkler Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, International Fire Sprinkler Association (www.sprinklerworld.org)

September 17-18, 2002 - "Fire Protection Strategies for 21st Century Building and Fire Codes", Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Society of Fire Protection Engineers and the American Institute of Architects (education@sfpe.org)