

## Regulatory oversight for the Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer Trade

On February 2, 2017, the 427A Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer Trade (SFPI) will be reclassified as a compulsory trade in Ontario. The Ontario College of Trades (College) in conjunction with the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM), the Canadian Fire Alarm Association (CFAA) and the 427A SFPI Trade Board (SFPI TB) have developed an understanding and interpretation specific to Fire Protection Systems; identify the distinction between Fire Suppression Systems and a Fire Alarm System. The purpose of this communiqué is to advise the fire service and other stakeholders that a distinction has been made between these two groups of systems.

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, the College held an open discussion with the OFMEM, the CFAA and the SFPI TB, for the benefit of providing clarification concerning the inspection, testing, maintenance and repair of Fire Suppression Systems and Fire Alarm Systems.

It is understood by all parties (College, SFPI TB, CFAA and OFMEM) that Fire Protection Systems can encompass various types of systems relating to fire protection, including **Automatic Sprinkler Systems, Special Fire Suppression Systems, on-site Fire Protection Water Supply Systems, Hose and Standpipe Systems, and Fire Alarm Systems.**

For the purpose of inspecting, testing, maintaining and repairing components of a Fire Protection System, the following statements shall be adhered to by all;

- Persons inspecting, testing and maintaining components of a system specific to a **Fire Alarm System** shall comply with CAN/ULC-S536-04, "Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems" as referenced by the Ontario Fire Code ([O. Reg. 213/07](#)) and qualification requirements in accordance with Division C, Section 1.2 of the Ontario Fire Code;
- Persons inspecting, testing, maintaining and repairing components of a system specific to an **Automatic Sprinkler System, Special Fire Suppression System, on-site Fire Protection Water Supply System and Hose and Standpipe System** shall comply with both Part 6 of Div. B of the Ontario Fire Code ([O. Reg. 213/07](#)) and section 41 of [O. Reg 275/11](#), and
- With respect to inspecting, testing and maintaining components that are both, part of a **Fire Alarm System** and part of a **Fire Suppression System**, the purpose of the particular activity being conducted shall dictate who is permitted to complete the work as per the statements above.