

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I retired as an Assistant Deputy Director with the California State Fire Marshal's Office. After my retirement, I participated on the State Fire Marshal's Advisory Committee and tasked with drafting regulations to establish a program that would ensure that those who install fire sprinkler systems were skilled and qualified to do so. The outcome of that effort is embodied in the State Fire Marshal's Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification Program. This program is entirely based upon training and education. Its purpose is simple. Those who install fire sprinkler systems must have the skills and knowledge necessary in order to install these comprehensive life safety systems. The failure of a fire sprinkler system during its time of need could be catastrophic. Training and education will simply reduce the likelihood of a system failure. But the question is then, why would state certification be required of those who inspect and/or test fire sprinkler systems in the City of Los Angeles? The answer is simple. Anyone who is responsible for ensuring that a life safety system will function properly during a catastrophic fire should know how to properly install the system. It is ludicrous to believe that a Reg 4 tester or inspector who lacks the skills and education to install the same system is credible with ensuring that a life safety system would be operable during its time of need. I trust that any decision-maker would want to ensure that those certified by the City as a Reg 4 tester and/or inspector would have the necessary skills and training to perform their responsibility properly. To do otherwise would subject the building occupant with an uncertain fate and could pose a liability upon the City. The State Fire Marshal's Fire Sprinkler Fitter Certification provides assurance that those who would be ultimately responsible for Reg 4 testing and inspections do so in a competent manner.