

## Fire on the Web

Take a minute to check out [www.fire.nist.gov/fire/sprink/](http://www.fire.nist.gov/fire/sprink/), the National Institute of Standards and Testing web site. It shows a very dramatic film that compares how fire spreads in two living rooms, one with a sprinkler system and one without. The room without a sprinkler system becomes an inferno 195 seconds after ignition of a simulated cigarette, with temperatures exceeding 1100° F. If your buildings are of traditional frame construction, this means you have about three minutes to evacuate the building and put out the fire before the building becomes a total loss. Some states now mandate the installation of sprinkler systems in new building construction. Even if your state does not, a sprinkler system is a wise investment, particularly in critical buildings like your dining hall or conference center.

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).