



NEWS RELEASE

AMCA International

Air Movement and Control Association International, Inc.
The International Authority on Air System Components Since 1917

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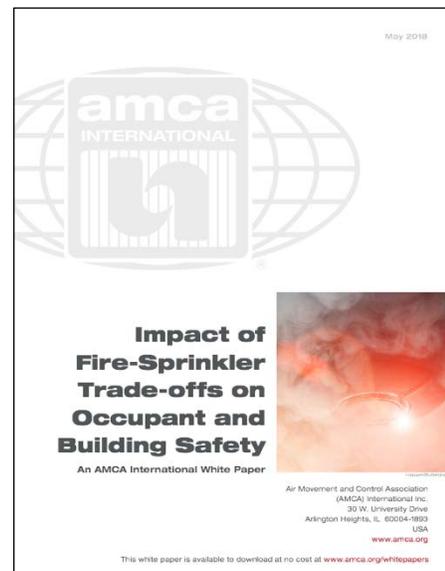
New AMCA White Paper Examines Impact of Fire-Sprinkler Trade-offs

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL, June 21, 2018—An overreliance on automatic fire sprinklers at the expense of passive fire-safety features, such as fire, smoke, and combination fire/smoke dampers, is thought to be the cause of a measurable decrease in building fire-safety scores since the adoption of the International Codes (I-Codes) in 2000, a new white paper from Air Movement and Control Association (AMCA) International Inc. says.

Summarizing research commissioned by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research and Education Foundation, the white paper, “Impact of Fire-Sprinkler Trade-offs on Occupant and Building Safety,” notes the aggregate building-safety metrics of fire safety, means of egress, and general safety have declined since the I-Codes were adopted. This is believed to indicate a shift in structural trade-offs—in particular, passive building features being traded off for active ones, most notably automatic sprinklers. Most of these trade-offs are put forward based on descriptive explanations lacking scientific quantitative analysis, researchers found.

The use of redundant layers of safety—both active and passive features, in the event an individual system fails to function as designed—is a well-established practice within the safety community and one championed by the NASFM and AMCA.

AMCA white papers are available to download at no cost at www.amca.org/whitepapers.



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About AMCA International

Air Movement and Control Association (AMCA) International Inc. is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers of fans, dampers, louvers, air curtains, and other air-system components for commercial HVAC, industrial-process, and power-generation applications. With programs such as certified ratings, laboratory accreditation, verification of compliance, and international-standards development, its mission is to advance the health, growth, and integrity of the air-movement-and-control industry consistent with the interests of the public. For more information about AMCA, visit www.amca.org.