

Career Profile: Fire Sprinkler Systems Fitter



Fire Sprinkler Systems Fitters install and repair fire protection sprinkler systems, usually in industrial and commercial buildings such as factories, hospitals, office buildings, hotels, apartment buildings and airports. They must understand the variety of water, foam, carbon dioxide and dry chemical sprinkler and fire protection systems developed by different manufacturers, and interpret protection system designs for on-site installation, operation and maintenance.

Also known as: Fire Protection Systems Technician, Sprinkler Fitter

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Fabricating, installing, testing, maintaining, inspecting and repairing sprinkler systems in industrial operations, department stores, office buildings, hotels, schools, hospitals and residences
- ▶ Installing wet and dry pipe sprinkler systems, carbon dioxide, chemical and foam extinguishing systems, standpipe and hose systems and fire pump systems
- ▶ Read and interpret engineer's drawings and specifications to determine layout requirements
- ▶ Arrange piping to provide fire protection and select the type and size of pipe required
- ▶ Install clamps, brackets and hangers to support the piping system and sprinkler and fire protection equipment
- ▶ Join and connect pipes and piping sections to related piping systems, tanks, mains, pumps, compressors and control equipment using various pipe joining methods
- ▶ Inspect, test, maintain and repair piping, fixtures and controls including hydrant, pump and sprinkler head connections
- ▶ Work safely on roofs and adhere to Work, Health and Safety requirements

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy practical work and enjoy working with my hands
- ▶ I have a mechanical aptitude
- ▶ I enjoy Maths, Science, English and the manual subjects such as Metal Work and Design and Technology
- ▶ I am responsible and have a mature attitude towards work and safety

Working conditions and hours

You will spend most of your day travelling between construction sites. You may work alone or in a team, depending on the size of the project. You may work on new buildings under construction or existing buildings and may be expected to work at heights to install, test and repair sprinkler systems and parts. You will generally work full time (generally 44 hours per week) and/or on a contract basis.

How do I become a Fire Sprinkler Systems Fitter?

To become a Fire Sprinkler Systems Fitter, you will need a white card to work on a construction site in Western Australia and you will need to complete a trade qualification. If you're still at school or you are post-secondary schooling and don't have any experience in the industry, enrol in the Certificate II in Plumbing. Otherwise, to become a tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete a Certificate III in Fire Protection as an apprenticeship, which takes up to 48 months to complete.

Future pathways and opportunities

Future career development may involve working as a sub-contractor or starting your own business. With further training and study your future could lead you to become a Fire Services Supervisor or Fire Systems Designer.

Average Pay

Between

\$43,000 - \$100,000 per year,
depending on your qualifications, experience.

(Source: Pay Scale)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Good literacy skills to be able to understand and interpret technical drawings, blueprints and plans
- ▶ Have a careful and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Enjoy practical work and can meet the physical demands of the job role
- ▶ Have an awareness of safety issues, especially for working with electricity, hazardous gases and chemicals, and at heights
- ▶ Can work as part of a team and with other tradespeople
- ▶ Keep up to date with changing technology



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au

- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au