

BUILD ILLINOIS

SPRINKLER FITTER

Sprinkler fitters are pipefitting specialists in fire protection. They install, repair, and maintain all types of fixed extinguishing systems. While most of this work deals directly with automatic sprinkler systems they also have the skills necessary to install and service a wide variety of other fire protection equipment such as standpipes, carbon dioxide systems, halon systems, foam systems and dry chemical systems.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Most work is at the ceiling level using ladders and lift platforms at heights ranging from 8-20 feet and in some cases up to 100 feet. The work is performed at varying degrees of height indoors between the roofs and ceilings of buildings or outside installing underground pipe work in a variety of weather conditions.

APTITUDE AND INTEREST

Work requires physical stamina with considerable climbing, bending and carrying heavy pieces of pipe while working in elements ranging from hot boiler rooms to unheated open buildings. Apprentices receive safety training to improve manual dexterity in handling the tools of the trade without injury and to reduce the risk of injuries from falls.

TRAINING

Training is essential to become a skilled sprinkler fitter. It can be acquired informally through "learning-by-working;" through company on-the-job training programs; by attending trade or vocational/technical schools; through unilaterally (management or labor) sponsored trainee programs; through registered labor-management apprenticeship programs, or a combination of the above. It is generally accepted that the more formalized training programs give more comprehensive skill training. Recommended high school courses include algebra, geometry, mechanical and architectural drawing, and shop.

