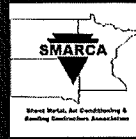
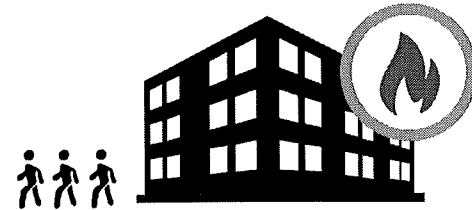


MAINTAINING FIRE AND SMOKE DAMPERS FOR MINNESOTANS' HEALTH AND SAFETY



What are fire and smoke dampers?

A key ventilation component in commercial and industrial buildings, fire and smoke dampers **prevent fire, heat or smoke from spreading** to different areas of a building through its heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. These safety systems are critical to containing harmful flames and smoke, **creating safe passageways for those caught in a fire.**



Fire and smoke dampers are regularly misunderstood as basic heating and cooling mechanisms. This confusion often causes building tenants and maintenance professionals to unintentionally tamper with the important life safety system.

Saving lives during emergency situations

Without a properly installed and regularly inspected fire and smoke damper, a building's HVAC ductwork can quickly **circulate harmful smoke and toxins**, putting building inhabitants at risk. According to the National Fire Protection Association, **most fire deaths are the result of smoke inhalation** rather than burns, with death certificates for fire-related incidents demonstrating a two-to-one ratio of smoke inhalation to burns.

Despite their critical importance to the health and safety of building occupants, fire and smoke dampers are regularly neglected and often directly disabled by unknowing contractors and maintenance personnel. A recent University of Maryland Study reviewed over 170,000 fire safety dampers and found that **53% of fire dampers in existing buildings needed repairs.**

HF4089/SF4057 will help prevent smoke inhalation deaths, protect first responders and limit property damage.

By ensuring properly installed **and** inspected fire and smoke dampers in commercial buildings across the state, we can avoid dangerous situations with preventive care that will keep more Minnesotans safe.

That is why **SMART Local 10** and **SMARCA** support **HF4089/SF4057**. This important legislation would allow experienced, International Certification Board-accredited building trades experts to regularly inspect and maintain this critical infrastructure that keeps people safe.

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HF4089/SF4057 would:

- Keep building occupants safe
- Keep first responders safe
- Ensure a skilled, trained workforce
- Limit property damage
- Protect nearby properties



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