

LETTER: Tragedy could be prevented

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To the editor:

A fire on the 100 block of West End Avenue in Merchantville was immediately extinguished by responding firefighters, but not before claiming the life of an elderly woman on Oct. 24. No firefighters were injured and an investigation into the cause of the fire continues.

This terrible tragedy may have been prevented. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers control and typically extinguish a fire before the fire department even arrives on the scene. More importantly, the presence of fire sprinklers mitigates the risk to individuals affected by the blaze, including firefighters who battle the fire.

Fire sprinklers are the only proactive form of fire protection, providing firefighters the time they need to do their jobs effectively and as safely as possible while helping to avoid potential injuries and devastating tragedies like this one.

David Kurasz

New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board