The Fire Sprinkler Tax Incentive You've Probably Never Heard of
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If dog is man's best friend, the federal tax cut is a growing business' fairy godmother. In the Small Business Section (179, Expensing) of the Federal Tax Code, small businesses that qualify have been able to write off expenses for equipment and utilities, such as computers or trucks, up to a $500,000. These expenses are often how companies stay afloat while continuing to provide high-quality services and decent wages in a competitive market. In December of 2017, the National Fire Sprinklers Association (NFSA) lobbied and succeeded in adding fire protection to the list of deductible expenses. Unbeknownst to many, this provision was passed and enacted in December of 2017.

In the years leading to this change in code, fire sprinkler systems in commercial buildings and residential structures underwent decades of neglect and depreciation. The incentives were created following a the well of support by NFSA and other activists, such as the Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Common Voices, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Fire Protection Association, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors.

When making fire protection an eligible expenditure under section 179 of the tax code, Congress additionally increased the pricing cap of how much can be dedicated in a year to 1 million dollars.

This provision applies only to commercial structures, not residential, and befits only qualified properties using the specific tax exemption. Still, for those that DO fit the bill, these incentives provide an opportunity for small businesses to find fiscal benefits while ensuring their location's are safe and up to code.