



Sprinklermatic University features a state-of-the-art onsite wet lab.

## Leading and Learning Through Education

Having celebrated its 30-year anniversary in 2017, the Sprinklermatic team knows that change is the key to success. Born from the field, George “Gene” Collier left behind the message that the future leaders of Sprinklermatic were to lead, inspire and educate if they were to not only survive but thrive in this ever-changing industry. That was made clear by how often he had his nose in any one of the code books. Robin Collier and Timothy O’Brien took that message very seriously as they developed the concept and now reality

of Sprinklermatic University, a training and education facility that is open to anyone who is spreading the word about fire protection, life safety or leadership in construction.

### Sprinklermatic University

Having grown up around tradesmen, estimators and fire-protection leaders, one might assume that Collier would have had a great advantage in his training and education in the business. However, this was not the case, as many can likely relate to the feeling that no one really wanted to ‘teach’ the younger generation. Sprinklermatic University was specifically created to break that mold. The facility, although built under the Sprinklermatic brand, is simply a place where men and women can learn, ask questions and be taught. It is a place where the curious can thrive. The facility is designed for tradesmen, vendors, property managers, engineers and first responders to come together in a safe environment and call on each other, challenge each other and lean on

one other to teach, learn and collaborate.

Sprinklermatic University is a private learning facility located in Davie, Fla. It is used for hands-on orientation, training and education for the fire-sprinkler industry and firefighters with the purpose of giving a general overview and introduction to fire sprinklers and fire-protection systems. The university is unique in that it is the only facility that affords students the ability to operate real equipment and actually flow water in a learning environment to practice their craft. It is an approved training provider with the Florida State Fire College and the Florida Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). The facility provides continuing education to firefighters, property managers, NICET and other professional licenses and certifications. Sprinklermatic University is an established fire-protection systems laboratory specifically designed for training purposes, uniting the fire-sprinkler industry and fire service personnel in the community.



Attendees learn in a classroom setting.

PHOTOS: SPRINKLERMATIC MEDIA

## Curriculum Overview

Sprinklermatic University's Fire Protection Systems Program curriculum is designed to give students a general overview of fire sprinklers and fire-protection systems. It provides a breakdown of the NFPA standards and other legislature that govern fire-protection systems. Educational objectives are listed and will be met by students at the completion of the program. There are currently five courses that have been approved by the Florida State Fire College & the Dept. of Business Professional Regulation. Each course provides three CEUs to firefighters, fire inspectors, fire instructors and community association managers.

The facility contains a 500 gpm diesel fire pump fed by two 1,000-gallon holding tanks. The test header is piped back to the holding tank, and the water is recirculated. The test header has pitotless nozzles and a nozzle to take a pitot reading. The fire pump RPMs (speed) can be adjusted to illustrate several pump curves for training. The pump is complete with a controller, including a jockey pump and jockey pump controller. Utilizing the jockey pump and air compressor allows full trip tests of the valves and the ability to reset the valves in order to place the system back in service. The valves have detection that is able to be tripped with a switch, announce the panel, and send into alarm and release.

This facility is the backdrop for the 10 incredible superintendents who provide service-based leadership to the team of foremen, fitters and apprentices that make up Sprinklermatic's family-first team. These leaders can be found having an impromptu course on fire pumps, PRVS or any other topic on any given Saturday when the request comes to train internally. These men meet the challenge to inspire and educate daily in fire protection, all while leading by example at work and at home.

Sprinklermatic University hosted the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Young Professionals' Leadership Group event on Workplace Culture, where next-generation industry leaders



Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Captain Bill Gustin walks firefighters through a variety of risers at the onsite wet lab.

discussed technology, diversity and the future of construction. The feedback was incredible and created multiple requests to use the facility for events to learn more about life safety and future building integration.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue has hosted multiple courses at Sprinklermatic University for recruits as well as officer development training in lieu of building its own facility. Captain Bill Gustin, recognized internationally for his efforts to train and educate firefighters, refers to the facility as "state of the art." He was ecstatic when Sprinklermatic offered a course in Spanish, and Miami-Dade Fire Rescue partnered with Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue to host several officers from South America at its annual conference. In association with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Saudi Aramco Oil Co., Miami-Dade Fire Rescue conducts

resident fellowship training programs for Saudi Arabian firefighters. A highlight of its training was a visit to Sprinklermatic University in June to receive training on the components and function of fire-suppression systems and fire department operations with fire pumps, sprinkler and standpipe systems. The training was well received by the Saudi firefighters and will be in the curriculum for future classes.

Sprinklermatic University is accredited through both the Florida State Fire College and DBPR to provide continuing education credits. The company is excited to offer Sprinklermatic University to its clients, vendors, fire departments, associations and even the competition for their use. Sprinklermatic's mission is to educate the community on life safety, provide a platform for service-based leadership and inspire others to do the same. ♦



A dedicated team of talented superintendents provides service-based leadership.