



Harry S. Truman Home Project Profile

CUSTOMER: Harry S. Truman Home
APPLICATION: Historic Home
LOCATION: Independence, MO
CONTRACTOR: Advantage Fire Protection Systems

Historic Truman home gets secure fire protection system with no leaks

“ When I bid the job, I let them know we'd be using Viega ProPress®. ”

President Harry S. Truman's home in Independence, MO, is now a popular historic landmark. When the National Park Service decided that Truman's home needed a new fire protection system installed as part of their Centennial Initiative, they selected Advantage Fire Protection Systems of Blue Spring, MO, to do the job.

Rob Knox, President of Advantage Fire, realized the challenge they were facing when they accepted the bid to install the fire protection system in the historically important structure.

“I had a lot of concerns taking this project on,” Knox said. “There were a lot of tight locations we had to put pipes in.”

Advantage Fire is a general subcontractor that mainly focuses on commercial applications, although they have done a few residential projects like bed and breakfasts. They have worked on historic homes previously as well.

“I was familiar with Viega ProPress as far as plumbers using it on commercial jobs that we were on,” Knox said. “For the situation we were in, it was the best product we could use. The National Parks Service wanted the sprinkler system all done in copper. They needed something that wouldn't produce a flame. It was kind of a no-brainer. When I bid the job, I let them know we'd be using Viega ProPress.”

Working on a government project is a different experience than working on a project in the private sector. With a piece of property as historic as the Harry Truman Home, there are many requirements that have to be met even if someone is just visiting the construction site. No cell phones are allowed. To even obtain photographs of the work in progress, photographers had to be carefully monitored to prevent any picture-taking of artifacts inside. By the end of the project, though, the government employees were making bets as to whether or not the Advantage Fire workers could get into compact areas within the house.

President Truman's father-in-law built the house at 219 N. Delaware Street in Independence, MO, over a period of time stretching from 1867 to 1895. The home is part of the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site, which covers more than 11 square miles and encompasses both President Truman's



Truman Home
Photographer: Michael Hosking, NPS Photo

longtime home and the Truman family's farm home. President Truman lived in the house at 219 N. Delaware Street from 1919 when he married his wife to his death in 1972. Other than rented and official apartments and houses in Washington D.C., including his tenure as President in the White House, President Truman didn't own a house until he and his wife purchased this historic landmark in 1953.

With the Truman home being an old house, Knox and the crew from Advantage Fire had some tight corners they had to work in during the installation of the fire protection system.

"I was impressed with was some of the tight spots we were able to get into," Knox said. "I was amazed. Viega ProPress allowed us to do things we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise."

Viega ProPress is the original press pipe joining system. The only press pipe joining system to offer the genuine Smart Connect feature, Viega ProPress fittings allow installers to identify unpressed connections easily during pressure testing. This unique innovation, which you only find in Viega ProPress fittings, helps to keep the installation fast and efficient so installers don't need to waste time on leaks and callbacks.

Rob Knox and Advantage Fire knew they could not risk any damage to the intrinsic value of the Harry S. Truman house. So instead of testing the plumbing line with water, which would damage the interior, they used cinnamon. To find a missed connection, they simply had to follow the scent to the room that smelled most strongly of cinnamon. Viega's Smart Connect feature and Advantage Fire's creative thinking helped protect a historically valuable home against the possibility of water damage during pressure testing.

Viega ProPress is perfectly suitable for multiple different applications, including commercial, industrial and residential fire protection systems. Proven under fire, Viega ProPress fittings for fire protection system have exceeded all four severe sequential tests at UL labs in accordance with UL 852 for steel piping systems. The fittings were also tested to physical performance requirements of UL 213, which covers all fittings with rubber gaskets.

Viega ProPress fittings have been tested and certified by UL and FM to meet the requirements of NFPA 13, 13D and 13R fire sprinkler systems.



Viega ProPress systems are resistant to corrosion and scaling. Fire protection systems that utilize Viega ProPress fittings have no burn marks or rusting due to Viega press technology, which results in a professional appearance.

And if a repair to the system is necessary, installation of Viega ProPress fittings does not require complete drain down of the system. This eliminates the need to drain down the system, saving time and effort for the installers.

Knox said that the greatest challenge in the project was avoiding damage to the house and not taking chances with the historical value of the home. In the first water test, there were no leaks.

"I would like to start installing the Viega ProPress system at some of our other projects," Knox said. "I'm trying to get set up with Habitat for Humanity in Kansas City. It gives us the opportunity to show that any type of home warrants a fire protection system."