

# ASK JOE HETZEL

**DASMA Technical Director**

## Drop Tests and Selling Springs

*When we do a rolling steel fire door drop test, can it be done by one person, or do two have to be present?*

**Joe:** NFPA 80 does not require more than one person to inspect and test the door. But depending on the door size, type of closing system, and site conditions, two trained door systems personnel may make the job easier.

The drop test form does require a witness to the test. That person can be an authorized representative of the customer or the authority having jurisdiction.

*A homeowner wanted to purchase a torsion spring from me. He plans to replace the spring on a door by himself. As a dealer, what kind of liability do I assume if I sell such a part?*

**Joe:** Homeowners have occasionally contacted DASMA and asked us to recommend a spring. We always have them contact the door manufacturer to discuss the matter.

To answer your question, Naomi Angel, DASMA legal counsel, says, "Dealers do not know if the homeowner possesses the proper knowledge, skill, and tools to safely and properly install a torsion spring. If you sell components that will be under tension, tell the homeowner that spring systems are dangerous and should be repaired and/or replaced only by trained professionals. Then have the homeowner sign a release acknowledging receipt of that information." ■



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