

May 4th, International Firefighters Day:

A Salute to Our First Responders

Raynor Garage Doors' Notable Role in Supporting the San Francisco Firefighters



May 4th is International Firefighters Day. According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), the US has almost thirty-thousand fire departments and 1,115,000 working firefighters.

“Firefighter services are the infantry in every community when disaster strikes,” said Denis Onieal, acting U.S. Fire Administrator. “There is no force that can provide a community with rescue, mitigation, and recovery services like the fire and emergency services community.”

We at [BSD SpecLink](#) salute these brave men and women for the sacrifices and service throughout the history of our country. From Benjamin Franklin’s [first American volunteer fire company](#) in 1736 to 2020’s critical first responders who were suddenly “[pumping more oxygen than water](#),” these brave heroes deserve our greatest respect.

When we discovered that the city of San Francisco selected one of our partners, Raynor Garage Doors, to replace the fire house doors on some of the busiest fire stations in California, we knew that today would be the perfect day to salute their role in the protection of fire houses and more importantly, the firefighters themselves.

Raynor’s experience with fire house garage doors is well-respected in industry circles along with their generosity and respect for product research and historical details. In Raynor’s hometown of Dixon, Illinois, not only did they [replace the original century-old doors](#), they “were honored to donate the fire doors to the city as a proud and active member of the community,” according to Raynor Garage Doors Chairman and CEO, Ray Neisewander, III.

One of the guiding principles in municipal building design is that the interior of the facility belongs to the organization while the exterior belongs to the community. “An architect alone cannot design a safe fire station. It takes the involvement and combined effort of the contractors, the community, and the emergency response personnel to design a safe, healthy, and functional facility,” according to [Considering Health and Safety in Fire Station Design](#).

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Ray Neisewander, III
Chairman and CEO
Raynor Garage Doors



In order to work on the construction of a fire station, FEMA's [U.S. Fire Administration](#) necessitates that all contractors have “a demonstrated record in fire station design and construction and knowledge of safe/functional design elements.”

Clearly, Raynor checked all the boxes and passed the vetting system “with flying colors.”

When Raynor won this opportunity, their leadership knew the responsibility. Part of the [Firefighter's Prayer](#) includes the importance of “being alert to hear,” “the strength to save,” and to extinguish fires “quickly and efficiently.” Raynor saw these garage doors as much more than a product replacement.

Kevin Lewis, Vice President of National Garage Doors and one of Raynor's Premier Authorized Product Dealer was Project Manager on this project. “Not only were we suddenly responsible for one of the most noticeable pieces on these landmark firehouses, we had to consider the aesthetics both inside and outside, the safety of the firefighters inside the firehouses, the reduction of city noises so that the fire fighters could rest, the speed and the reliability of the door itself, and the integrated storm shelter designs now required for many public buildings.”

Lewis said, “At that point, we knew we owed it to all firefighters to do this job perfectly.”

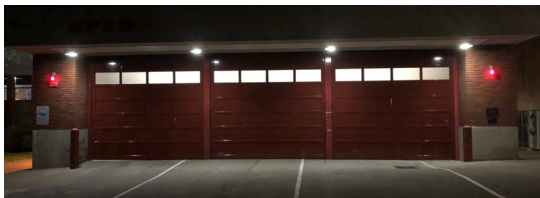
And they did just that. As part of the \$400 million [Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond](#), Raynor had a critical role in the day-to-day delivery of fire service effectiveness. Most importantly, that “day-to-day effectiveness” included the readiness for a large-scale disaster.

Raynor brought in their engineering team to overcome the idiosyncrasies of older buildings while dealing with existing water, steam, and sewer pipes in the way of the standard locations for the lift doors. In addition, not one fire station was the same. “We had to get creative coming up with track designs in order to miss the various obstacles in these unique buildings,” Lewis remembers, “These buildings were between 50-100 years old. In some cases, the side room for the track was almost non-existent.”

And yet, every single old door was replaced and every new door installed in its entirety within 24 hours. “I was so proud of the team for many reasons, but probably the most impressive stat is that we did not have one night when a fire house had a door down in over five weeks of installation. That was a real feat. Of the 24 doors we sent out, 100% were installed immediately and with zero incidents. This job remains a total success.”

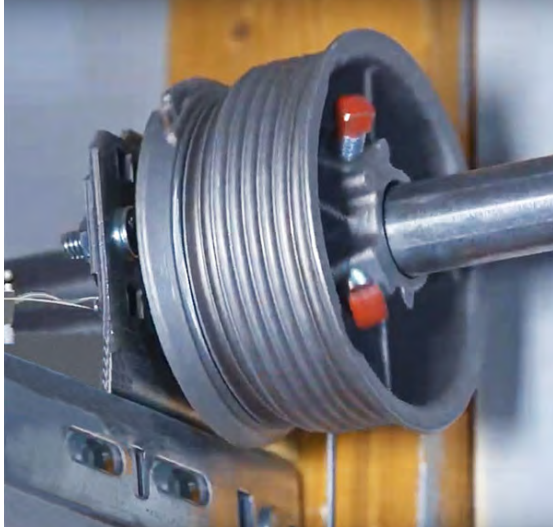
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TruBalance™ drum system

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Zdenek “Z” Kalabza
Architectural Sales Manager
Raynor Garage Doors

“Even something as seemingly simple as the colors were important in the design. As part of the firefighters history, red represents the fire and blue symbolizes water. So, we took time to use the best impact, chemical, corrosion, and weather resistant Armorbrite paints.

San Francisco Fire Department responds to an average of **73,000 calls** annually; that's 200 calls a day, with 400 openings and 400 closures for these doors across the city, *per day*. Raynor's proprietary TruBalance™ drum system reduces motion errors and imbalances up to 87% more effectively than with standard drums. In addition to providing a stable balance, the alleviation of the typical equipment strain means longer motor life, with savings in repair and replacement cost, and most importantly, solidifying an invaluable peace of mind.

After the installation of the last fire house door, San Francisco's Public Works Project Manager Sherry Katz praised Raynor's “professionalism throughout the project” and the exceptional job in the process. When the “very happy clients” are both firefighters and citizens of San Francisco, you know you are doing something right.

Zdenek “Z” Kalabza, Raynor's Architectural Sales Manager, concludes that this same level of professionalism applies to Raynor's relationship with BSD SpecLink. “SpecLink is the perfect partnership in that it puts us immediately in front of potential clients like this. We can now team up with many of the top architecture firms in the United States and help them find solutions to their unique projects and similar application challenges. Everyone benefits and we are all truly proud of what we can do together.”

About Raynor Garage Doors

Since 1944, **Raynor Garage Doors** has been an industry leader as a family-owned garage door manufacturing company located in Dixon, IL. With over 800 distributors in the United States, 190 in Canada, and 60 distributors in 50 countries on 5 continents, Raynor proudly manufactures a full line of residential garage doors and commercial doors, industrial, agricultural, and loading dock doors.

About BSD SpecLink Manufacturer Services

BSD SpecLink is changing the way design professionals create and collaborate on commercial construction projects through an easy to use, web-based platform. A team of experts made of architects, engineers, and specification writers manage both US and Canadian content to allow architects to write specifications 70% faster. BSD partners with manufacturers to list them directly in the specifications and provide detailed content information. BSD's SpecLive solution provides access to project data as specifications are created in real-time. Learn more about how BSD SpecLink Manufacturer Services helps BPMs to get specified and stay specified.

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✉ info@bsdspeclink.com

☎ 1.888.273.7638

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