

February 2nd, 2025 I manage a very large estate in Lake Tahoe. We have a large residence along with numerous guest homes and other outbuildings. Due to the ever-changing insurance industry and the desire to protect our property, we made the decision to explore fire suppression systems that would independently provide a high level of protection in the event of a wildland / forest fire.

The process began by obtaining quotes from more than one company and learning the capabilities of each system. I personally met with representatives of each of the companies and together we walked the property and explored options for each building needing protection. Things of concern to me were how much the fire suppression system would stand out and change the overall character of the building and how well I could depend on the system operating if someone was not present on the property.

After speaking with the representatives and doing independent research, I chose to go with a company called Waveguard. I found their system to be superior to other systems in several arenas. Their system is absolutely “turn key”. It uses proprietary fire sensors that can detect flames and turn on the system automatically. Their system uses a mixture of water and fire retardant that are not harmful to the buildings, vegetation or animals. Another key component of Waveguard is that I did not have to hire any outside workers or contractors to complete the installation. This included trenching, plumbing, electrical and concrete. The crew that came were very knowledgeable and did a great job with the installation and were very respectful of our property.

The system itself is straightforward, and I was impressed how most of the plumbing and pipes were hidden so as not to distract from the appearance of the buildings. The system is completely independent of outside utility companies, meaning if I lose power or water, the systems still will operate. Having some background in electronics, I was especially impressed with the level of engineering and sophistication that went into the design and operation of the system.

Along with the system came assurance of full company support to maintain and repair the system. I have had several conversations with the owner Randy Lang and numerous conversations with my representative Leon Wittman. These are good people who have always been prompt in responding to any of my questions or concerns.

A few years ago, we experienced probably the largest, devastating fire in and around Lake Tahoe. At that time, we did not have our system in place, and I am here to say there were several days of lost sleep, not knowing if our beautiful property would survive.

The one thing I can say overall after we had the system installed is that there is now an overwhelming sense of calm and peace of mind, knowing I will not have to face the next fire in absolute fear. To me, that is something that I can't put a price on and consider extremely worthwhile.

Tim Minister

Tranquility Estate