What Is Claimed Is:

1. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body defining an internal passageway having an inlet and an outlet extending along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet and in communication with the passageway, a portion of the annular wall further defining a distal opening in communication with the chamber;

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position;

a closure assembly including a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly engaged with an inner surface of the annular wall to support the deflector assembly in the first position; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly being engaged with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes the portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening.

2. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the lip portion comprises a continuous piece of material about the first plate member.

3. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the thermally rated plate assembly is substantially circular in shape.

4. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein thermally rated plate assembly comprises a second plate member engaged with the first plate member by a thermally sensitive material.

5. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member defines a greater surface area than the second plate member.

6. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member defines a first center point and the second plate member defines a second center point, the first and second center points being substantially coaxially aligned along a line parallel to the longitudinal axis.

7. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member defines a first center point and the second plate member defines a second center point, the first and second center points being substantially coaxially aligned along a line skewed relative to the longitudinal axis.

8. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member defines a substantially circular perimeter and the second plate member defines a substantially circular perimeter smaller than the first plate member, the perimeter of the second plate member being eccentric to the perimeter of the first plate member.

9. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member includes a depression and the second plate member includes a projection engaged with the depression by the thermally sensitive material.

10. The sprinkler of claim 4, wherein the first plate member and the second plate member define a substantially planar surface perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the planar surface defining at least one plate assembly opening, a portion of the lever assembly occupying the at least one plate assembly opening.

11. The sprinkler of claim 10, wherein the first plate member includes at least one slot and the second plate member includes at least one slot, the at least one slot of the first plate member and the at least one slot of the second plate member overlapping to define the at least one plate assembly opening.

12. The sprinkler of claim 11, wherein at least one of the slots of the first and second plate members is open ended.

13. The sprinkler of claim 12, wherein the open end of the slot defines an opening along the edge of the at least one plate member.

14. The sprinkler of claim 11, wherein the at least one slot of the first plate member and the at least one slot of the second plate member are both open ended, the overlap of the at least one slots of the first and second plate member defining the at least one plate assembly opening as a closed form slot.

15. The sprinkler of claim 11, wherein the at least one slot of the first plate member and the at least one slot of the second plate member define different slot lengths.

16. The sprinkler of claim 10, wherein the at least one plate assembly opening defines a surface area, the portion of the lever assembly occupying thirty percent to about fifty percent of the at least one plate assembly opening.

17. The sprinkler of claim 10, wherein the at least one plate assembly opening intersects the longitudinal axis.

18. The sprinkler of claim 10, wherein the at least one plate assembly opening comprises two openings disposed about the longitudinal axis, a portion of the lever assembly occupying the two openings.

19. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the lever assembly comprises:

a bridge element disposed about a portion of the closure element; and

a first lever and a second lever disposed about the longitudinal axis, each lever having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being engaged between the bridge element and the inner surface of the annular wall and the second portion being disposed in an opening in the plate assembly.

20. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the first and second portions define an obtuse included angle therebetween.

21. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the first portion of the lever defines an included angle with the longitudinal axis of about sixty-eight degrees.

22. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the bridge element defines an elongated channel, the portion of each lever being disposed in the channel such that the first and second levers are diametrically opposed about the chamber.

23. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the second portion of the first lever is disposed in one opening in the plate assembly, and the second portion of the second lever is disposed in another opening in the plate assembly.

24. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the second portion of the first lever and the second portion of the second lever are disposed in the same opening in the plate assembly.

25. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the lever assembly further comprises a retaining member disposed between the first and second levers, the retaining member engaging the bridge element.

26. The sprinkler of claim 19, wherein the lever assembly further comprises a plug disposed between the second portion of the first lever and the second portion of the second lever.

27. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the closure assembly further includes a biasing element between the outlet and the closure element to bias the closure element distally.

28. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the deflector assembly includes a pair of telescoping arms to locate the deflector plate in the first and second positions, the annular wall having a portion including two openings along the distal edge disposed about the proximal portion of the body, each of the pair of arms engaged with one of the two openings.

29. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein the portion of the wall including the two openings defines a surface substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis, an escutcheon engaged with the orthogonal surface to surround the two openings and the proximal portion of the body.

30. The sprinkler of claim 1, further comprising an escutcheon having an inner surface including a first portion substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis to define a through hole, a second portion of the inner surface being substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis to define a chamber in communication with the through hole, the body being engaged with the through hole, the annular wall being disposed within the chamber of the escutcheon to define an annular channel therebetween, the annular channel having a maximum width of about 0.065 inches.

31. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein each of the passageway and the chamber defines a diameter, the diameter of the chamber being larger than the diameter of the passageway.

32. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the inlet, the outlet, and the passageway define a K factor of at least 3.

33. The sprinkler of claim 32, wherein the K-factor is about 5.6.

34. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the portion of the annular wall forming the distal opening defines a first wall thickness, and another portion of the annular wall defines a second wall thickness greater than the first wall thickness.

35. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the annular wall further defines an annular shelf formed about the chamber, the lever assembly disposed about the shelf.

36. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the deflector plate is substantially circular.

37. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the deflector is a sidewall deflector.

38. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body defining an internal passageway having an inlet and an outlet extending along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet and in communication with the passageway, a first portion of the annular wall further defining a distal opening in communication with the chamber and a second portion of the annular wall defining a shelf along the inner surface proximal of the distal opening;

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position; and

a closure assembly including a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly having a first end and a second end, the first end of the lever assembly being engaged with the annular shelf;

a bridge element to support the deflector in the first position, the bridge element having a first end and a second end, the first end engaged with the annular wall and the second end of the bridge element being engaged with the first end of the lever assembly; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly defining at least one opening, the second end of the lever disposed therein, the second end of the being engaged with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes the portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening.

39. The sprinkler of claim 38, wherein the at least one opening in the plate assembly intersects the longitudinal axis.

40. A sprinkler comprising:

a body extending along a longitudinal axis having a proximal portion and an enlarged distal portion, the distal portion including an annular wall having a proximal edge and a distal edge with an outer and an inner surface extending therebetween to define a chamber for housing a deflector assembly, a portion of the distal edge forming an opening in communication with the chamber ;

a housing having an inner surface defining a receptacle with a central through hole, the body extending through the through hole such that the enlarged distal portion is seated within the receptacle; and

a cover plate having a lip portion, the cover plate disposed beneath the body so as to substantially cover the distal opening,

wherein the lip portion overlaps a portion of the distal edge forming the opening and a portion of the inner surface of the housing engages the proximal edge of the annular wall so as to substantially enclose the chamber.

41. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion defining an opening and a distal portion defining an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet defining a first diameter, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet;

a deflector assembly including a deflector plate distal of the outlet disposed within the chamber; and

a closure assembly including:

a closure element,

a bridge engaged with the closure element,

a thermally responsive plate assembly; and

at least one lever member having a first end engaged with the plate assembly and second end engage with the distal portion of the body so as to engage the bridge assembly such that the closure element is disposed adjacent the outlet of the body to maintain a static fluid pressure up to about 500 pounds per square inch (psi).

42. The sprinkler of claim 41, wherein the chamber defines a second diameter larger than the first.

43. The sprinkler of claim 41, wherein the closure element includes a biasing element to bias the closure element distally.

44. The sprinkler of claim 41, wherein the plate assembly comprise at least two overlapping plate members. defining a substantially circular assembly.

45. The sprinkler of claim 45, wherein the at least two overlapping plate members define a substantially circular assembly.

46. The sprinkler of claim 45, wherein each of the at least two overlapping plate members include an opening, wherein further a portion of each of the openings are axially aligned.

47. The sprinkler of claim 45, wherein a first of the at least two plate members includes a first slot and a second elongate slot, a second of the at least two plate members overlapping the includes a single slot so as to cover the first slot of the first plate member and partially cover the second elongate slot.

48. The sprinkler of claim 45, wherein a first plate member includes an open ended slot elongated in a first direction and the second plate member includes an open ended slot, the second plate overlapping the first plate member such that the open ended slot overlaps opens and extends in a direction opposite to the slot of the first plate member so as to define a closed formed opening in the assembly.

49. The sprinkler of claim 45, wherein one of the at least two plate members are substantially circular, the at least two plate members being eccentric to one another.

50. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein 41 the plate assembly comprises a first plate member and a second plate member, the first plate member defining a larger surface area than the second plate member.

51. A sprinkler comprising:

a sprinkler body, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening;

a thermally rated trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly; and

means for preventing access to the chamber.

52. The sprinkler of claim 51, wherein the means comprises a cover plate assembly disposed about the distal portion so to substantially enclose the chamber.

53. The sprinkler of claim 52, wherein the cover plate assembly includes at least two plate members held together by a thermally sensitive material.

54. The sprinkler of claim 53, wherein the at least two plates together form a substantially planar surface having at least one opening, the lever assembly engaged with the plate assembly so as to substantially occupy the at least one opening.

55. The sprinkler of claim 54, wherein the lever assembly comprises a pair of levers, each lever having one end engaged with a surface of the chamber and an opposite end engaged in the at least opening.

56. The sprinkler of claim 55, wherein the opposite ends of each lever are engaged in separate openings in the plate assembly.

57. A sprinkler comprising:

a sprinkler body disposed in the conduit, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening; and

a thermally rated trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly; and

a cover plate assembly disposed about the distal opening so as to substantially enclose the chamber , the cover plate assembly engaged with the lever assembly to define a surface substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the surface defining a surface profile including a gap in communication with the chamber having a maximum gap width no greater than 0.005 inches (0.127 millimeters).

58. The sprinkler of claim 57, wherein the surface profile is substantially contiguous over the distal opening.

59. The sprinkler of claim 57, wherein the gap is defined by the space between a portion of the plate assembly and the lever assembly.

60. The sprinkler of claim 57, further comprising an escutcheon having an outer surface and an inner surface defining a conduit along a longitudinal axis, the sprinkler body disposed within the conduit.

61. The sprinkler of claim 60, wherein the distal portion of the includes an annular wall to define the chamber and the escutcheon includes an inner surface defining an enlarged recess in communication with the conduit to house the annular wall, the annular wall and the inner surface of the escutcheon defining an annular space having a maximum width of about 0.065 inches (1.651 millimeters).

62. The sprinkler of claim 57, wherein the distal portion of the includes an annular wall to define the chamber and the plate assembly includes a lip circumscribing the annular wall.

63. The sprinkler of claim 62, wherein the annular wall defines a circumferential surface, the circumferential surface having at least one discontinuity to define a tool engaging surface.

64. A sprinkler comprising:

a sprinkler body disposed in the conduit, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening; and

a thermally rated trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly; and

a cover plate assembly disposed about the distal opening so as to substantially enclose the chamber , the cover plate assembly engaged with the lever assembly to define a surface substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the surface defining a surface area, the surface area including at least one opening defining an open area, the ratio of open area to surface area being about 0.015:1.

65. Any one of the above claimed sprinklers, further comprising a ring member disposed between the distal edge of the sprinkler body and the lip portion.

66. A sprinkler comprising:

a sprinkler body, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion

including chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening;

a thermally rated trigger assembly including

a lever assembly;

a cover plate assembly to conceal the distal opening; and

a ring member disposed between the distal portion and the cover plate assembly seal off access to the chamber.

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position; and

a closure assembly including:

a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly having a first end and a second end, the first end of the lever assembly being engaged with the annular shelf;

a bridge element to support the deflector in the first position, the bridge element having a first end and a second end, the first end engaged with the annular wall and the second end of the bridge element being engaged with the first end of the lever assembly; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly defining at least one opening, the second end of the lever disposed therein, the second end of the being engaged

with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes the portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening.

67. A sprinkler comprising:

an escutcheon;

a sprinkler body disposed in the esscutcheon, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the inlet and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an inner surface to define a chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening;

a thermally rated trigger assembly including

a lever assembly;

a cover plate assembly to conceal the distal opening, the cover plate assembly defining a thermal rating for the sprinkler ranging from about 140 °F to about 212 °F; and

a ring member disposed between the distal portion and the cover plate assembly seal off access to the chamber.

68. The sprinkler of claim 66, wherein a proximal portion of the inner surface defines a first diameter of the chamber and a distal portion of the inner surface defines a second diameter of the chamber less than the first diameter.

69. The sprinkler of claim 66, wherein the first diameter of the chamber ranges from about 1.162 inches to about 1.172 inches, and the second diameter of the chamber ranges from about 1.0 inches to about 1.1 inches.

70. The sprinkler of claim 67, wherein the distal portion of the inner surface comprises a shelf for supporting the lever assembly.

71. The sprinkler of claim 66, further comprising a dust cover disposed about the proximal portion of the body.

72. The sprinkler of claim 66, wherein the cover plate assembly comprise a first plate member and a second plate member, the second plate member being soldered to the first plate member by a thermally sensitive material disposed therebetween.

73. The sprinkler of claim 71, wherein the second plate member defines a solder area and includes a projection spacing the second plate member from the first plate member, the solder area being about 0.45 inches square and the projection having a height of ranging between about 0.0010 to about 0.0015 inches.

74. The sprinkler of claim 71, wherein the cover plate assembly includes means for satisfying a corrosions test performed in accordance with UL 199 (2005), the first and second plate member separate at the operational temperature of the plate assembly, when subjected to a load of less than six pounds of force.

75. The sprinkler of claim 74, wherein the means comprise a first coating and a second coating applied to the cover plate assembly, the first coating being a pretreatment type, acid catalyzed vinyl washcoat and the second coat being a corrosion inhibiting epoxy polyamide coating.

76. The sprinkler of claim 71, wherein the trigger assembly further includes a bridge and a plug having a recess and a set screw disposed in the recess,, the set screw being engaged with the bridge so as to support a closure assembly to seal the outlet.

77. The sprinkler of claim 66, further comprising a deflector assembly and a closure assembly disposed in the chamber, the closure assembly comprising a button for sealing the outlet.

78. The sprinkler of claim of claim 77, wherein the deflector is a deflector having a hood portion so as to be a sidewall deflector, and the button has a first conical portion and a second flanged portion, the first conical portion being threaded with the second flanged portion.

79. The sprinkler of claim 78, wherein the deflector includes a bent peripheral portion, the bent peripheral portion including a plurality of slots of varying length and width, the plurality of slots including at least one pair of slots with constant slot width and a second pair with varying slot width.

80. The sprinkler of claim 79, wherein the slot width of the second slot pair widens as it approaches the peripheral edge.

81. The sprinkler of claim 77, wherein the deflector is configured for pendent installation standard coverage, the deflector having a bent peripheral portion.

What is claimed is:

1. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body defining an internal passageway having an inlet and an outlet extending along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet and in communication with the passageway, a portion of the annular wall further defining a distal opening in communication with the chamber;

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position;

a closure assembly including a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly engaged with an inner surface of the annular wall to support the deflector assembly in the first position; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly being engaged with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes an outer portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening.

2. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein said thermally rated plate assembly comprises a second plate member engaged with the first plate member by a thermally sensitive material; the first plate member defines a first center point and the second plate member defines a second center point, the first and second center points being substantially coaxially aligned along a line skewed relative to the longitudinal axis.

3. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein said thermally rated plate assembly comprises a second plate member engaged with the first plate member by a thermally sensitive material; the first plate member and the second plate member define a substantially planar surface perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the planar surface defining at least one plate assembly opening, a portion of the lever assembly occupying the at least one plate assembly opening.

4. The sprinkler of claim 3, wherein the first plate member includes at least one slot and the second plate member includes at least one slot, the at least one slot of the first plate member and the at least one slot of the second plate member overlapping to define the at least one plate assembly opening.

5. The sprinkler of claim 3, wherein the at least one plate assembly opening defines a surface area, the portion of the lever assembly occupying thirty percent to about fifty percent of the at least one plate assembly opening.

6. The sprinkler of claim 3, wherein the at least one plate assembly opening comprises two openings disposed about the longitudinal axis, a portion of the lever assembly occupying the two openings.

7. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the deflector assembly further includes a pair of telescoping arms to locate the deflector plate in the first and second positions, the annular wall having a portion including two openings along the distal edge disposed about the proximal portion of the body, each of the pair of arms engaged with one of the two openings.

8. The sprinkler of claim 1, further comprising an escutcheon having an inner surface including a first portion substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis to define a through hole, a second portion of the inner surface being substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis to define a chamber in communication with the through hole, the body being engaged with the through hole, the annular wall being disposed within the chamber of the escutcheon to define an annular channel therebetween, the annular channel having a maximum width of about 0.065 inches.

9. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the portion of the annular wall forming the distal opening defines a first wall thickness, and another portion of the annular wall defines a second wall thickness greater than the first wall thickness.

10. The sprinkler of claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the annular wall further defines an annular shelf formed about the chamber, the lever assembly disposed about the shelf.

11. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body defining an internal passageway having an inlet and an outlet extending along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber

distal of the outlet and in communication with the passageway, a portion of the annular wall further defining a distal opening in communication with the chamber;

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position;

a closure assembly including a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly engaged with an inner surface of the annular wall to support the deflector assembly in the first position;

a first lever and a second lever disposed about the longitudinal axis, each lever having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being engaged between the bridge element and the inner surface of the annular wall and the second portion being disposed in an opening in the plate assembly;

a bridge element disposed about a portion of the closure element; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly being engaged with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes the portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening;

wherein the lever assembly further comprises a retaining member disposed between the first and second levers, the retaining member engaging the bridge element.

12. The sprinkler of claim **11**, wherein the first and second portions define an obtuse included angle therebetween.

13. The sprinkler of claim **11**, wherein the second portion of the first lever is disposed in one opening in the plate assembly, and the second portion of the second lever is disposed in another opening in the plate assembly.

14. The sprinkler of claim **11**, wherein the second portion of the first lever and the second portion of the second lever are disposed in the same opening in the plate assembly.

15. The sprinkler of claim **11**, wherein the lever assembly further comprises a plug disposed between the second portion of the first lever and the second portion of the second lever.

16. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the body defining an internal passageway having an inlet and an outlet extending along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet and in communication with the passageway, a first portion of the annular wall further defining a distal opening in communication with the chamber and a second portion of the annular wall defining a shelf along the inner surface proximal of the distal opening;

a deflector assembly coupled to the body, the deflector assembly including a deflector plate disposed within the chamber, the deflector plate having a first position distal of the outlet and a second position distal of the first position; and

a closure assembly including a closure element engaged with the deflector plate such that when the deflector plate is in the first position the closure element is disposed within the outlet of the passageway; and

a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly having a first end and a second end, the first end of the lever assembly being engaged with the annular shelf;

a bridge element to support the deflector in the first position, the bridge element having a first end and a second end, the first end engaged with the annular wall and the second end of the bridge element being engaged with the first end of the lever assembly; and

a thermally rated plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member, the plate assembly defining at least one opening, the second end of the lever disposed therein, the second end of the lever being engaged with the lever assembly such that the lip portion substantially circumscribes an outer portion of the annular wall defining the distal opening.

17. A sprinkler comprising:

a body extending along a longitudinal axis having a proximal portion and an enlarged distal portion, the distal portion including an annular wall having a proximal edge and a distal edge with an outer and an inner surface extending therebetween to define a chamber for housing a deflector assembly, a portion of the distal edge forming an opening in communication with the chamber;

a housing having an inner surface defining a receptacle with a central through hole, the body extending through the through hole such that the enlarged distal portion is seated within the receptacle; and

a cover plate having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member and a second plate member engaged with and overlapped by the first plate member so that the second plate is located entirely within the frame defined by the lip portion, the cover plate disposed beneath the body so as to substantially cover the distal opening,

wherein the lip portion overlaps a portion of the distal edge forming the opening and a portion of the inner surface of the housing engages the proximal edge of the annular wall so as to substantially enclose the chamber.

18. A sprinkler comprising:

a body having a proximal portion defining an opening and a distal portion defining an outlet disposed along a longitudinal axis, the body defining an internal passageway between the proximal opening and the outlet defining a first diameter, the distal portion including an annular wall having an outer surface and an inner surface to further define a chamber distal of the outlet;

a deflector assembly including a deflector plate distal of the outlet disposed within the chamber: and

a closure assembly including: a closure element, a trigger assembly including:

a lever assembly engaged with the inner surface of the annular wall to support the deflector assembly including at least one lever with a surface angled with respect to the longitudinal axis, the at least one lever having a width with respect to the longitudinal axis;

a bridge-element disposed about a portion of the closure element, the bridge element having an outer edge engaging the surface of the at least one lever to provide a point of contact between the bridge element and the at least one lever for load transfer, the bridge having a width with respect to the longitudinal axis greater than the at least one lever width;

a thermally responsive plate assembly; and

at least one lever member having a first end engaged with the plate assembly and second end engage with the distal portion of the body so as to engage the bridge assembly such that the closure element is disposed adjacent the outlet of the body to maintain a static fluid pressure up to about 500 pounds per square inch (psi).

19. A sprinkler comprising:

a sprinkler body, the sprinkler body having a proximal portion including an proximal opening and a distal portion including an outlet, the body defining an internal passageway between the proximal opening and the outlet along a longitudinal axis, the distal portion including chamber and a deflector assembly disposed within the chamber, the chamber defining a distal opening;

a thermally rated trigger assembly including: a lever assembly; and means for preventing access to the chamber, the means including:

a plate assembly having at least a first plate member including a lip portion framing the first plate member and a second plate member engaged with and overlapped by the first plate member, so that the second plate is located entirely within the frame provided by the lip portion.

20. The sprinkler of claim **19**, wherein the plate assembly being disposed about the distal portion so to substantially enclose the chamber, the cover plate assembly including the first and second plates held together by a thermally sensitive material, the first and second plate members together forming a substantially planar surface having at least one opening, the lever assembly engaged with the plate assembly so as to substantially occupy the at least one opening.

21. The sprinkler of claim **1** or **19**, further comprising a ring member disposed between the distal portion and the plate assembly to seal off access to the chamber.

22. The sprinkler of claim **1**, wherein the lever assembly comprises:

a bridge element disposed about a portion of the closure element; and

a first lever and a second lever disposed about the longitudinal axis, each lever having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being engaged between the bridge element and the inner surface of the annular wall and the second portion being disposed in an opening in the plate assembly.

23. The sprinkler of claim **22**, wherein the bridge element defines an elongated channel, the portion of each lever being disposed in the channel such that the first and second levers are diametrically opposed about the chamber.

24. The sprinkler of claim **1**, wherein the inlet, the outlet, and the passageway define a K factor of at least 3.

25. The sprinkler of claim **24**, wherein the K-factor is about 5.6.

26. The sprinkler of claim 18, wherein the chamber defines a second diameter larger than the first.

27. The sprinkler of claim 18, wherein the closure element includes a biasing element to bias the closure element distally.

28. The sprinkler of claim 18, wherein the plate assembly comprise at least two overlapping plate members, defining a substantially circular assembly.

29. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein the at least two overlapping plate members define a substantially circular assembly.

30. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein each of the at least two overlapping plate members include an opening, wherein further a portion of each of the openings are axially aligned.

31. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein a first of the at least two plate members includes a first slot and a second elongate slot, a second of the at least two plate members overlapping the includes a single slot so as to cover the first slot of the first plate member and partially cover the second elongate slot.

32. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein a first plate member includes an open ended slot elongated in a first direction and the second plate member includes an open ended slot, the second plate overlapping the first plate member such that the open ended slot overlaps opens and extends in a direction opposite to the slot of the first plate member so as to define a closed formed opening in the assembly.

33. The sprinkler of claim 28, wherein one of the at least two plate members are substantially circular, the at least two plate members being eccentric to one another.

34. The sprinkler of claim 18, wherein the plate assembly comprises a first plate member and a second plate member, the first plate member defining a larger surface area than the second plate member.