*What Is Claimed Is:*

1. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler; and

a spacing member disposed between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the spacing member defining at least one aperture to provide communication between the chamber and an environment external to the sprinkler body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment.

2. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler;

a spacing member disposed between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the spacing member defining at least one aperture to provide communication between the chamber and an environment external to the sprinkler body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment; and

an escutcheon disposed about the annular wall, the escutcheon including a proximal end face and a distal end face, the escutcheon tapering in the proximal to distal direction toward the axis such that the distal end face of the escutcheon is located proximally of the spacing member.

3. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the spacing member comprises a ring member having a plurality of radially spaced apart posts to define the at least one aperture.

4. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the cover plate assembly comprises at least two overlapping plate members.

5. The sprinkler of claim 3, wherein the at least two overlapping plate members define a substantially circular assembly.

6. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the internal component comprises a deflector assembly including at least one pair of arms and a deflector plate engaged with the at least one pair of arms, the deflector plate including a plurality of open ended slots, the plurality of slots having a first group of slots and at least a second group of slots, the first group of slots having slot width and slot lengths that vary from the second group of slot widths and lengths.

7. The sprinkler of claim 6, wherein the deflector plate is configured for any one of standard coverage, extended overage or residential coverage.

8. The sprinkler of claim 6, wherein the at least one pair of arms comprises two pair of arms.

9. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the internal components comprise a closure assembly and a trigger assembly, the trigger assembly including a lever assembly engaged with the sprinkler body and the cover plate assembly to support the closure assembly in a sealed position.

10. The sprinkler of claim 9, wherein the lever assembly includes a pair of lever members with a plug disposed between the lever members.

11. The sprinkler of claim 9, wherein the lever assembly consists of a single lever member.

12. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, where the sprinkler is configured for installation as a sidewall sprinkler.

13. The sprinkler of claim 12, wherein the internal component includes a deflector assembly, the deflector assembly having a deflector that includes a hood portion.

14. The sprinkler of claim 13, wherein the deflector plate is configured for any one of standard coverage, extended overage or residential coverage.

15. The sprinkler of claim 13, wherein the deflector plate includes a plurality of open ended slots, the plurality of slots having a first group of slots and at least a second group of slots, the first group of slots having slot width and slot lengths that vary from the second group of slot widths and lengths.

16. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler; and

means providing a plurality of apertures radially disposed about the longitudinal axis between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the apertures being configured to provide communication between the chamber and an environment external to the body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment.

17. The sprinkler of claim 16, wherein the means comprises the distal portion of the sprinkler body defining the plurality of apertures.

18. The sprinkler of claim 16, wherein the means comprises a lip portion of the cover plate assembly, the lip portion defining the plurality of apertures.

19. The sprinkler of claim 16, wherein the means comprises a ring member having a plurality of radially spaced posts engaged with the cover plate assembly so as to define the plurality of apertures.

20. The sprinkler of claim 16, wherein the internal component include a closure assembly to seal the outlet of the passageway, a deflector assembly engaged with the closure assembly, and a trigger assembly engaged with the body and the cover plate assembly to support the closure assembly in the seal position.

*What Is Claimed Is:*

1. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler; and

a spacing member disposed between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the spacing member defining at least one aperture to provide communication between the chamber and an environment external to the sprinkler body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment; and wherein the spacing member comprises a ring member having a plurality of radially spaced apart posts to define the at least one aperture.

2. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler;

a spacing member disposed between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the spacing member defining at least one aperture to provide communication

between the chamber and an environment external to the sprinkler body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment; and

wherein the spacing member comprises a ring member having a plurality of radially spaced apart posts to define the at least one aperture;

an escutcheon disposed about the annular wall, the escutcheon including a proximal end face and a distal end face, the escutcheon tapering in the proximal to distal direction toward the axis such that the distal end face of the escutcheon is located proximally of the spacing member.

3. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the cover plate assembly comprises at least two overlapping plate members.

4. The sprinkler of claims 1 and 2, wherein the at least two overlapping plate members define a substantially circular assembly.

5. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the internal component comprises a deflector assembly including at least one pair of arms and a deflector plate engaged with the at least one pair of arms, the deflector plate including a plurality of open ended slots, the plurality of slots having a first group of slots and at least a second group of slots, the first group of slots having slot width and slot lengths that vary from the second group of slot widths and lengths.

6. The sprinkler of claim 5, wherein the deflector plate is configured for any one of standard coverage, extended overage or residential coverage.

7. The sprinkler of claim 5, wherein the at least one pair of arms comprises two pair of arms.

8. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the internal components comprise a closure assembly and a trigger assembly, the trigger assembly including a lever assembly engaged with the sprinkler body and the cover plate assembly to support the closure assembly in a sealed position.

9. The sprinkler of claim 8, wherein the lever assembly includes a pair of lever members with a plug disposed between the lever members.

10. The sprinkler of claim 8, wherein the lever assembly consists of a single lever member.

11. The sprinkler of any one of claims 1 and 2, where the sprinkler is configured for installation as a sidewall sprinkler.

12. The sprinkler of claim 11, wherein the internal component includes a deflector assembly, the deflector assembly having a deflector that includes a hood portion.

13. The sprinkler of claim 12, wherein the deflector plate is configured for any one of standard coverage, extended overage or residential coverage.

14. The sprinkler of claim 12, wherein the deflector plate includes a plurality of open ended slots, the plurality of slots having a first group of slots and at least a second group of slots, the first group of slots having slot width and slot lengths that vary from the second group of slot widths and lengths.

15. 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 having an inlet and an outlet spaced apart 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 to house an internal component of the sprinkler;

a cover plate assembly having a thermally responsive surface exposed to the chamber to actuate the sprinkler; and

means providing a plurality of apertures radially disposed about the longitudinal axis between the annular wall and the cover plate assembly, the apertures being configured to provide communication between the chamber and an environment external to the body such that the surface of the cover plate assembly is exposed to the external environment.

16. The sprinkler of claim 15, wherein the means comprises the distal portion of the sprinkler body defining the plurality of apertures.

17. The sprinkler of claim 15, wherein the means comprises a lip portion of the cover plate assembly, the lip portion defining the plurality of apertures.

18. The sprinkler of claim 15, wherein the means comprises a ring member having a plurality of radially spaced posts engaged with the cover plate assembly so as to define the plurality of apertures.

19. The sprinkler of claim 15, wherein the internal component include a closure assembly to seal the outlet of the passageway, a deflector assembly engaged with the closure assembly, and a trigger assembly engaged with the body and the cover plate assembly to support the closure assembly in the seal position.