

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 259: 1918
(DEFINITION OF THE TERMS “AUTOMATIC DOOR” AND
“AUTOMATIC WINDOW”)**

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Chicago in May 1918. Among the various topics discussed at this meeting was the Report of Committee on Nomenclature. A portion of this Committee’s Report addressed the terms “automatic door” and “automatic window”. The following is an excerpt of the Committee’s Report addressing these two terms:

*“**Automatic Door.**—The term "Automatic Door" indicates a door which closes automatically by means of **a device operated by heat.***

***Automatic Window.**—The term "Automatic Window" indicates a window which closes automatically by means of **a device operated by heat.**”*

In 1918, automatic-closing doors and windows were controlled by the activation of fusible links. Detectors activated by smoke had not yet been developed.

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Source: *“Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Chicago, Illinois, 1918.

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Richard C. Schulte