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- **Daly, Brian Ernest**
Reddish, Stockport, SK5 6XS (GB)
- **Flynn, Declan Joseph**
Cheadle Heath, Stockport SK3 0JF (GB)

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(74) Representative: **Ajello, Michael John**
Urquhart-Dykes & Lord,
Northern Assurance Buildings,
Albert Square
Manchester M2 4DN (GB)

(71) Applicant: **Grinnell Manufacturing (UK) Limited**
Stockport, SK4 2JW (GB)

(72) Inventors:

- **Rathmill, Keith**
Crewe, Cheshire CW4 (GB)

(54) **A tubular member and method of supporting same**

(57) A method of supporting an elongate frangible bulb typically of the kind used in a thermally responsive triggering device such as a fire extinguishing sprinkler, the method comprising the step of coating, wrapping or encapsulating one or both end regions of the bulb in a material which provides a compliant interface between the bulb and its supporting structure. The bulb may be seated in a material which conforms to the outer surface thereof and is subsequently cured to provide a rigid support, or alternatively it may be wrapped in one or more layers of a compliant tape or still further it may be dipped into a liquid material which dries to provide the compliant interface.

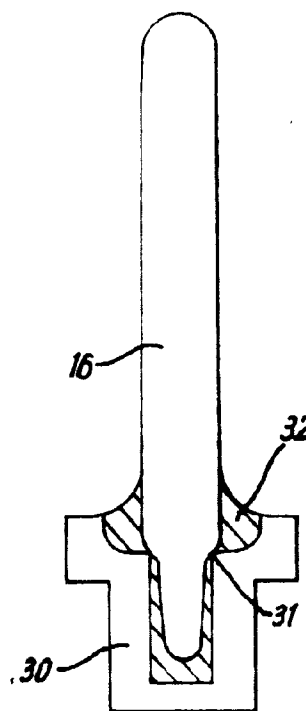


FIG. 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 0258

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	FR 2 626 649 A (G.P.M.S. G.I.E.) 4 August 1989 * page 2, line 31 - page 3, line 22; figure *	1,2,11, 12	A62C37/14
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A	US 5 010 959 A (LOSTOSKI) 30 April 1991	1,2,11, 12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A62C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 September 1998	Examiner Triantaphillou, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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