



July 14, 2010

ATTN: Building Owners and Managers

Like many thousands of fire sprinkler systems, yours is protected with an antifreeze solution to help ensure against freezing of the water in the piping during extremely cold weather. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the organization that publishes the standards by which sprinkler systems are designed and installed, recently issued a safety alert for systems containing antifreeze. The full NFPA safety alert can be viewed at www.nfpa.org/antifreeze.

The NFPA is suggesting that all antifreeze be drained from sprinkler systems and replaced with water until research can be completed to clearly identify safe limits for antifreeze concentrations, possibly related to system operating pressures.

The alert was in response to a fire last year in which sprinkler activation and discharge of a combustible antifreeze solution are believed to have led to spray ignition and an explosion. An individual was killed in the explosion, and another seriously injured. Although reports of such antifreeze combustibility have been extremely rare, there have been at least two other incidents reported over the years, and some recent research has confirmed the potential for ignition of sprinkler spray containing high amounts of antifreeze. To date, all reported incidents and tests that have resulted in a spray ignition/explosion have involved antifreeze concentrations exceeding 50 percent. Conversely, there is test data available showing that solutions containing 50 percent or less antifreeze can be effective against fires and no spray ignition has taken place.

As a consequence, if your sprinkler system contains an antifreeze solution, we are recommending that you have your system tested. Based on the results of the test, we further recommend you take one of the following actions:

1. For owners with antifreeze solutions exceeding 50 percent:

We are recommending that you follow the NFPA advice to have your system temporarily drained and refilled with water. The piping should be protected by other means such as heating the space or with proper insulation techniques.

2. For owners with antifreeze solutions NOT exceeding 50 percent:

You will need to decide whether you wish to take action at this time to have your system temporarily drained and refilled with water.



If the system is drained and refilled with plain water, it obviously will be more vulnerable to cold weather. Therefore it is imperative that steps be taken prior to the onset of freezing weather to either restore a safe level of antifreeze solution to the piping, or make some other modifications to the system that will adequately protect it against freezing. In the coming months, additional research will investigate the antifreeze concentrations that can be used safely. Other technologies are also expected to be welcomed into use, such as listed heat-tape systems and dry-pipe systems.

If you would like us to test your system for antifreeze concentration, please sign below and return this form to our offices. Based on the test results further action and decisions as outlined above will be required. We shall be available for consultation and to further quote on the actions you desire.

Sincerely,
Sommer Roach, Service Representative
Mobile (512) 318-4650
Email sroach@centuryfp.com

Please sign below if you would like us to proceed to provide a quote for the work:

I HAVE REVIEWED THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND WOULD LIKE YOU TO PROVIDE ME WITH A QUOTE TO TEMPORARILY DRAIN ANTIFREEZE SOLUTION FROM MY FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND REPLACE IT WITH WATER. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN REQUESTING THIS WORK TO BE COMPLETED I WILL BE MAKING MY FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM MORE VULNERABLE TO FREEZING TEMPERATURES, AND AGREE TO TAKE ADDITONAL STEPS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF FREEZING WEATHER.

Signed : _____ DATE: _____

NAME & TITLE: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

CELL NUMBER: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____