



AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS:

How to Keep Your System Up and Running

While it's true that fire sprinkler systems control an estimated 96% of all fires, they must be routinely maintained, tested, and inspected to remain effective. Hiring a licensed and insured fire sprinkler contractor to perform regular inspections and maintenance of your sprinkler system is the best way to make sure your system is performing properly.

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO ENSURE YOUR COMPANY'S SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ARE OPERATIONAL IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

- 1.** Inspect all control valves to ensure they are in the open position, accessible, properly locked, and free from leaks. Examine water and air pressure gages to make sure they are in good condition with pressures showing normal ranges.
- 2.** Inspect the condition of sprinkler heads for paint, dust, or obstruction.
- 3.** Make sure there is an adequate clearance of at least 18 inches from the height of storage to the sprinkler head.
- 4.** Make sure you have at least 6 spare heads that correspond to the type and temperature rate of the heads in use.
- 5.** Inspect fire department connections to verify caps are in place and no damage exists.
- 6.** Check low point drains on dry sprinkler systems to remove any water to prevent freezing.
- 7.** Maintain adequate heat within a dry sprinkler control valve room to prevent freezing.
- 8.** Always report damage to any part of a sprinkler system immediately.

Be sure to schedule regular inspections and testing of your sprinkler system with a licensed sprinkler contractor to include drain tests, sprinkler water flow alarms, valve tampers, and other related maintenance issues. All inspection, testing, and maintenance performed on your sprinkler systems should be documented in writing and kept for your reference. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides codes and standards for wet and dry commercial fire sprinkler systems, known as NFPA 25. These standards may also require a planned impairment of your system; in this case, your business should develop an impairment procedure for everyone to follow, whether the impairment is planned or unplanned. Visit nfpa.org for more information.

By following the steps above and working with a contractor for regular inspections, you can help minimize losses and protect your business in the event of a fire.

Please call your local, independent agent for more information.