



Mixing Winter with your Sprinkler System

With winter weather approaching, it is important to prepare your sprinkler system for the cold temperatures. It is equally important to know what to do if your system becomes impaired due to frozen pipes.

Here are a few ideas to protect your system from freezing:

- Know your system: Is it wet or dry?
- Know your system: Do you have an antifreeze system?
- Ensure your heating system is functioning properly throughout your facility including utility areas
- With dry system, have you drained excess condensation from your system
- Ensure your dry system pipes slope towards your drum drip drains

Freezing temperatures could potentially cause pipes to burst. If this occurs, it is crucial to know how to shut down the water supply to your system. This includes location knowledge of the main control valve located on your riser as well as the control valves for each area of your facility.

Don't Forget Fire Watch

If your system becomes impaired remember to follow the required fire watch procedures outlined below:

- Notify ALL staff and occupants (if appropriate) immediately.
- Notify the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) of the Fire Watch condition. The AHJ for all healthcare occupancies in the state of Kansas is the Office of the State Fire Marshal and can be reached at (785) 296-3401. Schools, colleges, and correctional facilities are also required to notify OSFM of fire watch conditions. The aforementioned occupancies must also notify their local jurisdictions of the Fire Watch condition.
- Fire watch shall be maintained during entire period of facility occupancy.
- Person(s) assigned to the Fire Watch SHALL HAVE NO OTHER DUTIES.
- Informal Fire Watch plans include notification and communication procedures. Portable radios and cellular phones may be used to send an alarm to occupants and emergency response forces.
- Fire Watch shall include ALL AREAS of the facility. Special attention shall be paid to storage areas, janitor closets, attics, utility spaces, and other normally unoccupied areas.
- Fire Watch rounds shall be continuous. However, all areas are to be checked at least hourly.
- Healthcare facilities, schools, colleges, and detention facilities must send a log of the Fire Watch round at the end of each shift until the situation is corrected. This is preferably done via email to prevention@ks.gov.



Office of the State Fire Marshal