

December 4, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kathleen Donofrio, Public Education Coordinator at 708.349.0074 x 2730

Prevention of Frozen Fire Sprinkler Pipes

Frozen fire sprinkler system pipes usually occur when insufficient heat is provided to a building by turning down, or the complete shut down of the building's heating system, cold air coming through cracks in walls or broken windows and doors, insufficient insulation material in ceilings and walls, and other physical deficiencies.

The following preventative measures should be considered prior to and during cold weather:

- Have employees keep alert for and report existing or potential cold weather problems.
- Check fire protection systems more frequently during cold weather.
- Remove some ceiling tiles to allow heat into sprinkler piping space.
- Extend/upgrade building heating system to increase heat to problem areas.
- Keep doors, windows, and vents closed when not in use or when resulting drafts will allow subfreezing air to contact sprinkler piping.
- Provide heating of adequate capacity to maintain a temperature no less than 50 degrees during cold weather. Particular attention should be paid to piping in attics, entry ways, stairways, under floors and above ceilings where low temperatures may occur.
- For dry pipe systems, ensure that sufficient air pressure is maintained by the system's air compressor. Keep the heat in the fire sprinkler riser room at a minimum of 50 degrees.

If you have frozen sprinkler pipes:

- Do not attempt to make repairs yourself, obtain the services of trained/licensed personnel.
- Do not use torches or other open flame devices to thaw pipes or other equipment.
- Do not use temporary heating equipment, such as un-vented portable fuel burning heaters, as they pose both fire and carbon monoxide dangers.

For more information contact the Orland Fire Protection District's Fire Prevention Bureau, at (708) 349-0074.

#####