

Loss Control



FARMERS

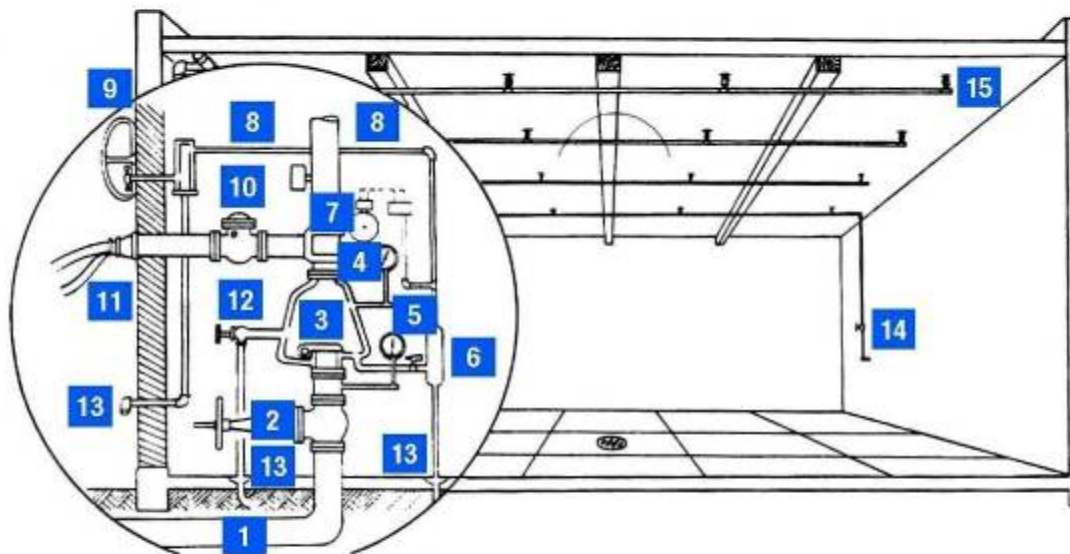
Information Bulletin

NUMBER 3

Automatic Water-Based Sprinkler System

Sprinklers with proper installation and maintenance provide protection against loss of life and property. They are effective for life safety because they give warning of fire existence and at the same time, prevent fires from reaching destructive proportions. Sprinklers have repeatedly meant the difference between a minor interruption of business and prolonged or permanent production shutdown.

The following are the basic components to consider in your self-inspection program. Refer to the diagram below. Additional data and training should be requested from your sprinkler contractor.



1. Underground from city main (supply)
2. System shutoff, indicating valve, OUTSIDE SCREW AND YOKE (electric supervision preferred)
3. Alarm CHECK (or DRY) VALVE
4. PRESSURE GAUGES (water or air and water)
5. SHUTOFF VALVE
6. RETARD CHAMBER (air accelerator or exhaustor, on dry system, from air above priming water)
7. RISER
8. Electric flow ALARMS (and/or connection to central station, fire department or proprietary facilities)
9. WATER MOTOR GONG (local)
10. CHECK VALVE (from fire department)
11. FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION
12. Main DRAIN
13. DRAINS (outside or to other safe locations)
14. INSPECTOR'S TEST VALVE and top line drain
15. SPRINKLER HEADS

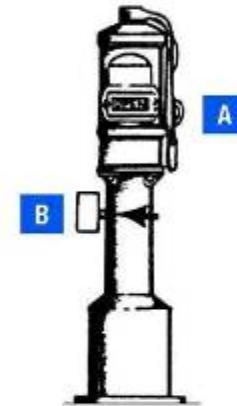
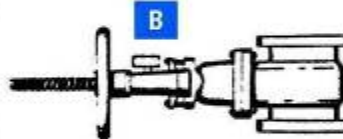
FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION (11)



Must be checked for cover caps in place to make sure that there is no trash inside the opening to prevent water flow. A coating of reflective paint will allow better night visibility. Keep shrubs trimmed low and obstructions away from the connection.

The POST-INDICATOR VALVE (not shown in diagram) should read in the "open" position, assuring water flow from underground into your system. Padlock the wrench in place at (A) with a breakaway lock to prevent tampering.

The OUTSIDE SCREW & YOKE (2), another indicating valve, shows the open position when the stem protrudes fully beyond the shutoff wheel. This valve allows water into the system and should be chained and secured with a breakaway padlock if outdoors. Keep the stem clean and lightly oiled.

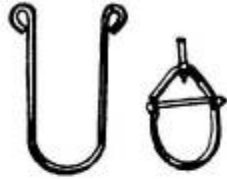


Electrical monitors on both valves (B) should transmit an alarm to a central station or fire department.



On your weekly inspection of the entire system, look for clean, unobstructed and positioned heads (15) with no obvious damage. If subject to being struck by materials or equipment, protect heads with cages. Replace any coated, corroded or damaged heads with new ones of proper temperature ratings from your always available extra supply.

Each week inspect all control valves for positioning, leaks or malfunction and check gauges for adequate water or air/water pressure. Marking of parts by name permits easy identification and reference.



Repair or replace any loose, damaged or missing piping support hangers. Make certain the piping is not used for hanging clothes or supporting any other objects.

Do not allow stock or storage to come closer than within 18" of sprinklers or otherwise interfere with their effective distribution of water. Twice this clearance is required in high-hazard areas, such as tire or lumber storage.

Be sure that key personnel are trained in how to actuate and operate the system. Place your system under an inspection and maintenance service contract by a qualified service company.

Review any changes in structure, partitions or operations processes with your sprinkler contractor in advance. **DO NOT ALLOW ALTERATIONS BY OTHER THAN AN AUTHORIZED SPRINKLER INSTALLER.**

The installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system is a wise investment. You will reap many rewards with a minimum of time spent on inspection and maintenance.

This bulletin is intended only as a reminder and is offered solely as a guide to assist management in its responsibility of providing a safer working environment. This bulletin is not intended to cover all possible hazardous conditions or unsafe acts that may exist. Other unsafe acts or hazardous conditions should also be noted and corrective action taken.