



ALERT -NFPA Issues Safety Alert for Antifreeze Systems in Residential Sprinklers

The National Fire Protection Association has released a Safety Alert regarding Antifreeze Systems that are currently protecting Residential Dwelling Units, and is recommending that all such antifreeze systems be drained down and replaced with water until ongoing fire research can determine and confirm safe antifreeze concentration levels. To view the NFPA Safety Alert please visit the following link: <http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=48040>

The issue stems from a known fire situation that occurred in California in 2009. An antifreeze system with a high concentration of antifreeze activated in a fire scenario, and it's believed the high concentration of antifreeze helped contribute to the resulting explosion which took place in the dwelling unit.

Currently the NFPA Technical Committee's are looking at all of the available information and current fire research regarding antifreeze systems, and they are trying to determine if a Tentative Interim Amendments (TIA) should be issued regarding the topic.

The limited fire research that has currently taken place has shown that levels above a 50% concentration with high operating pressures may result in an explosion in the event of a fire scenario. Please take note that the NFPA Fire Research Program is currently conducting further and more in depth fire research of antifreeze systems using more variables and variances (K Factors, Operating Pressures) to try and determine what concentration levels of antifreeze systems are acceptable. At the current schedule the NFPA Fire Research Program is hoping to have this "high priority" fire research to be completed by the end of July 2010.

The Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association cautions all Sprinkler Contractors and Building Owners who do follow the NFPA recommendation to drain down their antifreeze system and replace it with water, to revisit the issue in the fall of 2010 prior to the colder seasonal weather. At that time it is recommended that that Building Owner and Sprinkler Contractor check to see what new recommendations the NFPA has made regarding Antifreeze Systems in order to prevent any possible freeze ups in the future.

For more information please feel free to call me directly at the C.A.S.A Office or on my cell phone at 416-938-9170.

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