

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

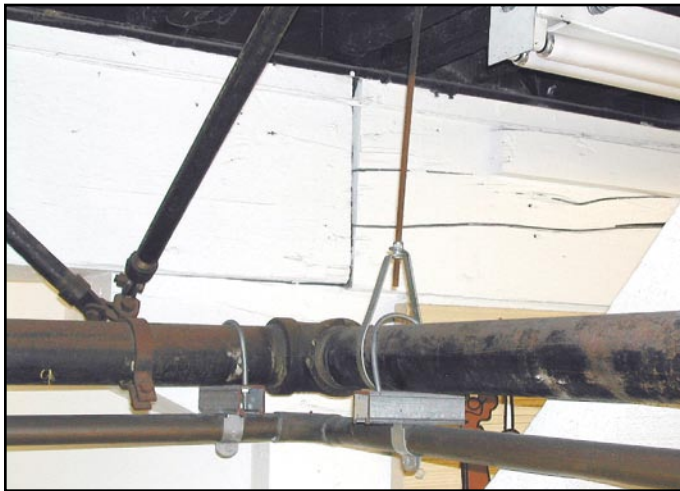
# Coffee Break Training

## Topic: Sprinkler Pipe Hanger Rules

**Learning objective:** The student shall be able to identify some violations of sprinkler pipe hanger rules.

The photograph below illustrates a copper potable water line hung with a U-bolt and strap beneath an automatic sprinkler cross main. This practice is prohibited by NFPA 13, *Installation of Sprinkler Systems*.

Sprinkler hangers are engineered to hold the water-filled pipe plus a safety margin. They are not engineered to include other attachments such as this water line, mechanical equipment, signs, banners, decorations, or other objects.



Because they often are exposed and a convenient size, sprinkler pipes get used for storage racks, clothes hangers, electrical conduit supports, telecommunication or power cable hangers, or tool brackets. Not only do these loads put additional stress on the hangers, but they may create obstructions to sprinkler discharge.

Fire inspectors should work with property owners to explain the problems of these excess loads, and to find alternate display or storage locations when necessary.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 13, *Installation of Sprinkler Systems*.