U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Stock of Spare Sprinklers

Learning objective: *The student shall be able to cite the number of spare sprinklers required based on the total number of sprinklers in a facility.*

While automatic sprinklers have an enviable record of reliability against accidental discharges, occasional physical damage and small fires may require that one or more sprinklers be replaced on short notice. Rather than shutting down a facility's fire protection and leaving an entire property unprotected, NFPA 13, *Installation of Automatic Sprinkler Systems*, addresses the problem by requiring a stock of spare sprinklers be kept on the premises for prompt replacement.

NFPA 13 requires that a supply of at least six spare sprinklers be maintained on the premises so that any sprinklers that have operated or been damaged in any way can be replaced promptly.

The sprinklers must correspond to the types and temperature ratings of the sprinklers in the property, so if there are standard spray uprights, quick response pendants and Early Suppression Fast Response (ESFR) like those pictured, a representative inventory of each must be provided.

The sprinklers should be kept in a cabinet located where the temperature to which they are subjected will at no time exceed 100 °F (38 °C). Where dry sprinklers of different lengths are installed, spare dry sprinklers are not required if there is a means of promptly returning the system to service.

The stock of spare sprinklers shall include all types and ratings and shall be as follows:

Facility Sprinkler Count	Minimum Number of Spare Sprinklers
Less than 300	6
300 to 1,000	12
More than 1,000	24

A special sprinkler wrench for each type of sprinkler must be provided and kept in the cabinet. A list of the sprinklers installed in the property must be posted in the sprinkler cabinet.

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