



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warning about Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems

Baton Rouge, LA – State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning issues a warning to business owners to quickly inspect their automatic fire sprinkler systems in an abundance of caution, whereas, lack of heating or antifreeze loops not maintained per the state fire code can cause the water to freeze and burst.

Commercial fire sprinklers are vital in saving lives and protecting property in commercial buildings. They have historically been the reason people are alive, buildings are saved and economic development enhanced. Fire Marshal Browning, recommends that in areas of the state experiencing freezing temperatures that business owners and operators conduct the following:

- Ensure that sprinkler pipes in attic spaces, garages, overhangs or any locations outside heated spaces are either insulated and or dry-pipe or anti-freeze loops are properly operating per NFPA 13 to include annual testing and certification by a licensed OSFM sprinkler contractor.
- If you notice leaking, bursting or damaged sprinkler pipe notify your contractor ASAP. You should also stay alert for any alarms from your system to include water flow and tamper warnings.
- If your systems becomes inoperable you should notify your contractor and begin “Fire Watch Protocol”.
- The OSFM requires fire watch to be performed anytime a building is occupied and fire protection systems are out of service. You can find the official “Fire Watch Protocol” on the OSFM web site or follow this link: http://lasfm.org/fi-fd_firewatch.htm
- Failure to repair or maintain required fire protection systems could subject violators to criminal or civil penalties.

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