



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CHANHASSEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

ATTENTION:

Possible Issues Found with Certain Types of FIRE SPRINKLER HEADS

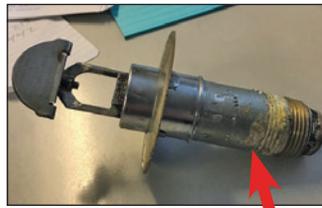
It has come to our attention that we may have a possible issue with certain types of Fire Sprinkler heads in our city. On April 30, 2019, Chanhassen Fire responded to a fire in a garage at a townhome that contained a required sidewall dry - pipe type sprinkler head. These heads are specially made to have a dry pipe to protect from freezing temperatures but be hooked into a wet sprinkler system. The fire investigation concluded that heat from the fire popped the bulb in the head but the water did not flow out of the sprinkler. At this time, the sprinkler head in question is still being evaluated to find out exactly why it did not operate. After doing some research, we have found the following information regarding these types of sprinkler heads.

- **Some manufacturers recommend that these dry sidewall type heads be evaluated, and possibly replaced, after 10 years. The head in question that did not operate in the fire was installed in 1994. It was still in use today in 2019.**
- **Underwriters Laboratory did a study and concluded that the sprinkler model (and many other) in question could possibly have problems with activating in a fire if they were past the 10 - year lifespan, citing corrosion around the seal as part of the issue.**
- **These heads are usually found in the following types of areas:**
 - Residential townhome and house garages
 - Balconies on residential apartments and senior living facilities
 - Under overhangs in exterior business fronts
 - Areas outside on any business or residential building
 - Coolers and other interior places in commercial buildings subject to cold temperatures

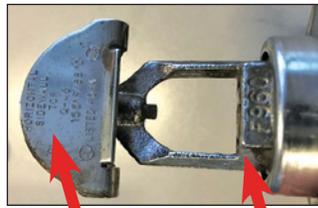
The Chanhassen Fire Department recommends that the responsible party for your building (owner, management, association) has a licensed sprinkler contractor check these types of heads immediately. There is a possibility that these heads may not properly activate in a fire.



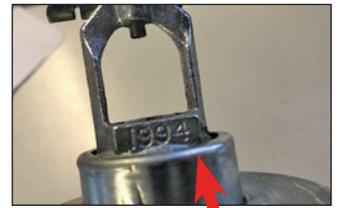
These types of heads are usually seen on the side of a wall, not overhead. Although there are also types of heads that can be placed overhead as well. These are usually installed in areas where temperatures are subject to freezing.



This is how the sprinkler head looks when removed from the wall. Note that the length of the head is much longer than the more traditional style of sprinkler head, allowing for the dry pipe at the end.



Information on the type of head, model number, listing, and manufacturer is on the top of the head.



The date of the manufacturer is on the other side of the sprinkler head.

If you have further questions please contact Fire Marshal Don Nutter at 952.227.1151 or dnutter@ci.chanhassen.mn.us