



NEWS RELEASE

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Fire sprinkler checks urged ahead of expected drop in temperatures

BRANSON, Mo – Branson Fire Rescue is reminding all Branson area businesses to prepare now for the expected drop in temperatures to reduce the chance of major fire sprinkler damage and malfunction.

If a fire sprinkler system is exposed to sub-freezing temperatures for two or three days in a row, sprinkler pipes and domestic water lines can expand and fracture. This can cause the vital sprinkler systems to malfunction or can even cause devastating water damage if the pipes burst.

Not only do you have to keep an eye on the sprinkler systems when the temperatures get low, but when it warms back up as well. Sprinkler systems are known to fracture as the temperatures rise as well when the pipe warms back up and expands.

“This is a problem we see every year. We get called out when a fire sprinkler system malfunctions or bursts. We’ve seen this create a lot of damage to local businesses. That is why we want to remind you to prepare now,” said Branson Fire Rescue Chief, Ted Martin.

To prevent sprinkler systems from malfunctioning in cold temperatures property owners are encouraged to:

- Double check that all fire sprinkler systems are working properly.
- Inspect all attic areas to ensure there are no exposed pipes.
- Keep all buildings heated to a minimum of between 45 to 50 degrees. This is especially important for Branson businesses and attractions who are closed or have reduced hours during the winter months.

For more fire safety tips go to the Branson Fire Rescue web page on the City’s website at www.BransonMo.gov/FIRE or for more information about fire sprinkler systems contact the Branson Fire Rescue at 417-243-2790.

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