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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **Fire Dpt Urges Sprinkler Checks Ahead of Expected Drop in Temperatures**

*All businesses are encouraged to maintain minimum heat to prevent fire sprinkler systems from freezing*

BRANSON, Mo., 1/11/2024 – Branson Fire Rescue reminds all Branson area commercial properties to prepare now for the expected prolonged drop in temperatures to reduce the chance of major fire sprinkler damage and property damage that could come from the sub-freezing temperatures predicted from January 12-21.

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

Not only do you have to keep an eye on the fire sprinkler systems when the temperatures drop for two or three days, but when it warms back up as well, which can cause the water to expand and fracture pipes.

“This is a problem we see when high and low temperatures drop below freezing. We get called out when a fire sprinkler system fractures causing a water flow alarm. We’ve seen this create a lot of unnecessary water 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 confined space areas to ensure there are no exposed pipes.
- Keep all buildings heated to a minimum of 50 degrees or higher. 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](http://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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