

Fire Sprinkler Tips For Summer

Hot weather, breaking rainstorms, that means summer is here! What can you do to get ready? This article is meant to provide some guidance to prepare for the upcoming season.

Tip #1, When Outdoors- Keep equipment a safe distance from things that can burn.

This one seems obvious, but every summer a fire starts from not paying attention to where things are placed. At home or on vacation this could mean placing your grill or tiki torches at least 3 ft away from anything that can burn, including people, pets, nearby structures, overhanging branches, etc.

When it comes to your fire suppression system, it is important to ensure that heat generating devices are kept as far away as possible to prevent accidental activation. Fire sprinkler heads are automatically triggered by a buildup of heat, but not just any heat source will trigger the system. The sprinkler heads must detect a high temperature – usually between 135° - 165°F to discharge. So don't place your outdoor firepit or bonfire too close to an outdoor sprinkler head, (for example on a porch overhang) it could cause the sprinkler to activate.

Tip #2, When Indoors- Are hot temperatures going to be a problem?

Hot weather itself does not appear to have a direct effect on dry or wet fire sprinkler systems the way cold weather does. Dry sprinkler systems are designed to protect areas that are subject to freezing temperatures, where a wet pipe system would be at risk of freezing. Wet pipe systems are the most common and reliable type of sprinkler system. In this system, the sprinkler piping is constantly filled with water. Even if it were to get very hot where your sprinkler pipes are located, it is unlikely to cause any problems such as evaporation of the water in the system.

No matter what season, make sure to maintain at least a foot and a half of open space below every sprinkler head to prevent the spray of water from being blocked in the event of a fire.

Tip #3, After A Storm- Do a visual inspection; if you see any leaks or puddles that shouldn't be there, call Burke Fire right away.

If a storm has knocked out your power and you're receiving an alarm, your system may have tripped and needs to be reset. Do not wait, call us and call your alarm company to let them know what's happened. You don't want the Fire Department coming out for no reason! One more thing... The change in temperature can take a toll on metal and plastic pipes, so it's important to check for any leaks or drips. Left unchecked, a small leak can turn into something much worse and more expensive to repair.

Tip #4, Schedule your annual fire sprinkler inspection.

Call the pros! Our trained Technicians will inspect your whole system, checking over everything for any signs of damage. We'll provide you with an inspection report and if there are any deficiencies, we'll let you know what they are and what needs to be done to fix them. Our customers have the confidence that if their sprinkler system is ever activated, it will perform as designed.