



City of McKinney News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McKinney Fire Department recommends winterizing your fire protection system

Don't freeze up! Winterize your fire sprinkler system

McKINNEY, Texas (Dec. 19, 2016) - As the weather gets colder, McKinney Fire Department (MFD) is warning of the risk of freezing pipes in fire protection sprinkler systems. When the water inside pipes freezes, it expands and pushes against the walls of the pipes with enough force to rupture them. If the pipes burst, severe water damage could occur when they thaw.

"It's easy to forget about wet pipe sprinkler systems in north Texas since we don't frequently experience extreme cold, but it is a very real risk if you don't take the time to maintain your system," said Chad Nester, Graduate Fire Protection Engineer. "Pay special attention to the north and west sides of your building as these are the sides that typically experience the strongest wind gusts and coldest temperatures."

Follow these simple instructions provided by MFD to prevent water damage, expensive repair costs and inadequate fire protection as the weather begins to turn.

- A thorough inspection is the first step to preventing sprinkler freeze-ups
- Keep cold air out. Be on the lookout for areas in your building that could let cold air in and increase your risk of freezing pipes. Broken windows, thin insulation, cracked walls, and exposed roof areas are a few examples.
- Be sure to keep windows, and doors closed when not in use for entering and exiting your building.
- Riser rooms and all other areas with sprinkler piping, are required to have a space or unit heater to prevent freezing. Inspect heaters to ensure proper working order and maintain a least 40 degrees at all times. All water-control valves should remain open.

If something does go wrong, contact a repair specialist. It is important to act fast if a problem occurs with your sprinkler system to prevent major damage to your facility.

Proactive thinking will cut down on costly damage as well as repairs, and it will help keep tenants and property safe all winter long.

###

About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest growing cities in America, McKinney has a current population of more than 162,000. The city was #1 on the list of Best Places to Live in America in 2014, published by *Money Magazine*. Established in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers award-winning schools, a vibrant historic downtown, diverse housing options, a robust

economy and a uniquely beautiful natural setting, with rolling hills and lush trees. Visit the city's website at www.mckinneytexas.org.

Media Contact:

Elizabeth C. Agan

Public Education & Information Coordinator

McKinney Fire Department eagan@mckinneytexas.org

972-547-2893 or 214-733-1158