



LOSS CONTROL GUIDE

SPRINKLER SYSTEM IMPAIRMENT PROGRAM

SCOPE

1. The purpose of a Sprinkler System Impairment Program is to minimize the increased risk during the time of impairment and to limit the duration of the impairment.
2. The leading cause of sprinkler system failure is because the water was shut off.

IMPAIRMENT COORDINATOR

1. A responsible person should be appointed as the impairment coordinator.
2. That individual should develop a Sprinkler System Impairment Program compatible with the procedures outlined in this guide.
3. In addition, the Coordinator should be knowledgeable in the operation, controls, and testing and maintenance procedures of the sprinkler system(s).

IMPAIRED EQUIPMENT

1. In addition to sprinkler systems, impairment procedures should be adopted for the following equipment:
 - a. Standpipe and hose systems
 - b. Underground mains
 - c. Fire pumps
 - d. Water storage tanks
 - e. Water spray fixed systems
 - f. Fire service control valves

IMPAIRMENT PROGRAMS

1. Preplanned Impairment Program
 - a. Authorization must be granted by the Impairment Coordinator.
 - b. Determine the extent and duration of the impairment.
 - c. Notify the fire department, the insurance carrier, and any other appropriate authority, including the alarm company, building owner, area supervisors, etc.
 - d. A tag, indicating that the system is out of service, should be placed at the fire department connection and control valve of each impaired system.
 - e. Employ additional fire protection measures relative to the hazard of the affected area. This could include, but not be limited to the following:
 - (1) Watchman service
 - (2) Concentration of additional fire extinguishers
 - (3) Relocation or restriction of hazardous operations
 - (4) Thorough housekeeping procedures
 - (5) Prohibition of smoking

2. Emergency Impairment Program
 - a. Emergency impairments include the following situations:
 1. Sprinkler system leakage
 2. Interruption of water supply
 3. Frozen or ruptured piping
 4. Equipment failure
 - b. First, appropriate emergency action must be taken to minimize damage.
 - c. Follow steps a.-e. under Preplanned Impairment Programs.

SYSTEM RESTORATION

1. Impairment Coordinator should verify that the following procedures have been implemented:
 - a. Any necessary inspections or tests have been conducted to confirm that the impaired system(s) are operational.
 - b. The fire department, insurance carrier, and all other appropriate authorities have been advised that protection has been restored.
 - c. The impairment tag has been removed.