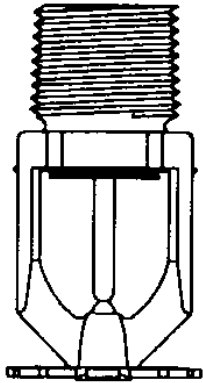


Your Residential Fire Sprinkler System Owner's Manual



#2320

Homeowner's Guide to Fire Sprinkler Maintenance

Your Residential Fire Sprinkler system provides early warning and suppression of a fire, allowing time for you and your family to escape. As with any mechanical system, periodic maintenance and testing is necessary to ensure proper performance of the system. The following are guidelines for periodic inspections and maintenance that should be performed on the sprinkler system.

How Fire Sprinklers Work:

- Sprinklers rarely leak. They are tested at 200 psi for 2 hours. Standard plumbing is only tested at 60 psi.
- Only the sprinkler head that is affected by the fire will activate.
- Sprinkler heads are activated by heat only. Smoke without heat will not cause a sprinkler to activate.
- Sprinklers cause less damage than the fire or the Fire Department would by controlling a fire in its early stages.
- Activate at 160° F.
- **All heads in a building do not automatically discharge. Discharge water only from the head(s) that is activated by heat.**
- Provide early fire warning (augments, but does not replace smoke detectors).
- Allow you to escape from the fire.
- Sprinklers have been in use since the late eighteen hundreds to protect lives and property. They are a proven technology.

System Components and locations

****Reference the diagram, next page:**

Shut-Off Valve:

The main water meter shut off outside of your house is the only valve that will shut off the water to your sprinkler system. The sprinkler system cannot be shut off independent of the house domestic service.

Riser:

Commonly found in the garage. However, it may be located in utility closets or wall cabinets.

Pressure Gauge:

Found on the Riser. It records the water pressure of the system. (Most homes show a pressure reading of 30 to 70 psi).

Inspectors Test / Drain Valve:

When open, this valve simulates the activation of one sprinkler head, sounding the exterior fire alarm bell. This valve also acts as a drain to evacuate water from the system in the event that system repairs are needed.

Water Flow Switch:

A red box located on the riser, monitoring water flow in the system. When water flows through the system, a paddle inside the flow switch operates sending a signal to the exterior fire alarm bell.

Fire Alarm Bell:

One bell is required on the exterior of the residence and should be located where it is easily audible from all sleeping areas. If you ever hear the bell ringing, **evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1.**

Spare Sprinkler Heads and a Wrench:

- A spare head box containing at least one spare sprinkler head (of each type installed in your home) and a wrench must be available in your home. The spare head box is typically near the riser or in close proximity.

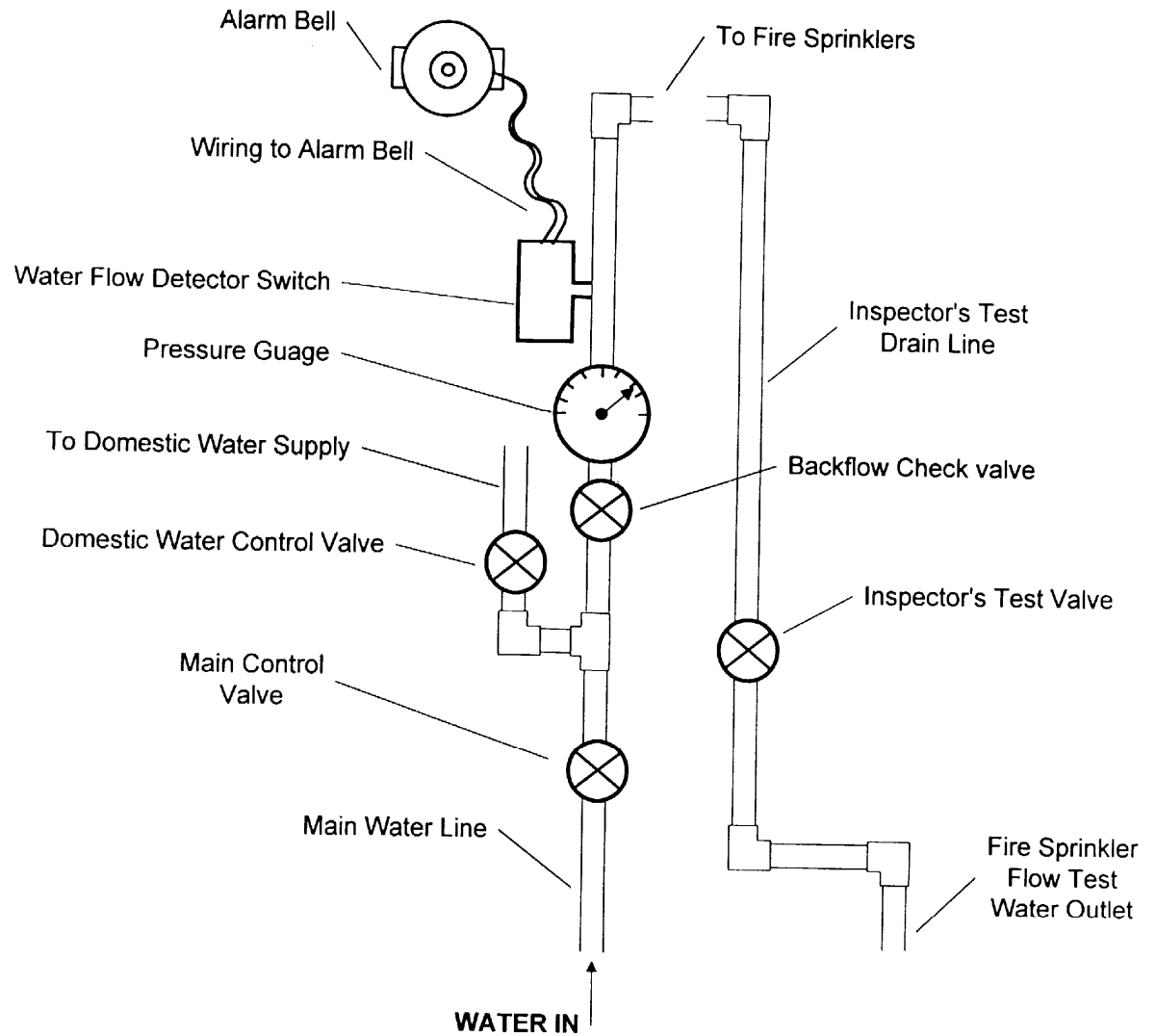
Recommended Practices:

- Test your system monthly: Open the Inspector test valve to flow water from the system and listen for the bell, then turn off the valve.
- Know your sprinkler system shut off valve location.
- Any alterations to your sprinkler system must be approved by the Fire Department.
- Contact the Fire Department if and when any activation of your sprinkler system occurs (except when testing the system).
- Do not do anything to your sprinkler system that would hinder its performance, such as painting or hanging objects from the sprinkler head.
- Do not turn off the sprinkler system in the event of a fire - let the Fire Department perform this task.

“We are here to assist you!”

The Petaluma Fire Department is here to assist you with the care of your home fire sprinkler system. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your home fire sprinkler system, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (707) 778-4389.

Remember: Fire Sprinklers ARE NOT a replacement for smoke detectors. Working smoke detectors in the home are critical to the occupants' safety!



**PETALUMA FIRE DEPARTMENT
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**WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS
SAVE LIVES!!!!!!**