



COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT		
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD		
STANDARD TITLE:	405.010 FLOW SWITCH. PRESSURE SWITCH	
STANDARD NUMBER: 405.010	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 26, 2022	REVISION DATE: October 26, 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Coalinga Fire Department's (CFD or Department) requirements regarding related to the use of paddle type flow switches in lieu of pressure switches for fire sprinkler systems.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all fire sprinkler systems within the Department's jurisdiction. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary systems.

OPERATIONAL POLICY

Pressure sensing waterflow switches are not permitted for indicating water flow on wet pipe fire sprinkler systems.

Alarm check valves with mechanical water motor gongs, vane or paddle type flow switches with electric bells, and similar configurations must be used for all local fire sprinkler system waterflow alarms. Sprinkler system monitoring must be accomplished by a vane or paddle type flow.

Because the use of vane or paddle type flow switches in dry pipe, pre-action, and deluge systems is specifically prohibited by the currently adopted referenced standard for fire sprinkler installations, a compatible pressure switch must be used. When a pressure switch is used on these types of systems, alarm trip valves ahead of these switches must be locked open.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE

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PROCESS

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INFORMATION

Local experience with pressure switches on wet pipe systems have been found to be unreliable because of the irregular conditions:

These switches have been shown to be subject to significant corrosion, negatively influenced by the presence of sediment in water, and prone to mechanical failure.

A pressure switch may become inoperable because inexperienced personnel have neglected to open a small, quarter turn valve in the alarm valve assembly.

This latter risk has been accepted for dry, deluge, and pre-action systems as the paddles on water flow switches are not designed to accept the water hammer effect of a quick-opening valve and a pressure switch is the only available alternative.

DEFINITIONS

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CROSS REFERENCES

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