



COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT		
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD		
STANDARD TITLE:	405.034 DEFICIENT (LOADED) FIRE SPRINKLER HEADS	
STANDARD NUMBER: 405.034	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 26, 2022	REVISION DATE: October 26, 2022

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide guidance to contractors and fire sprinkler system owners regarding deficient (loaded) fire sprinkler heads and approved cleaning techniques.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all fire sprinkler systems within the Fresno Fire Department's (FFD or Department) jurisdiction, including all contract service areas.

OPERATIONAL POLICY

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OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined the following:

1. Where fire sprinkler heads are determined to be deficient (i.e., loaded) as noted in the currently adopted version of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 25, the fire sprinkler heads are not required to be replaced, but rather cleaned in accordance with the explanatory material found in the currently adopted version of NFPA, Standard 25.

To quote the annex materials in the currently adopted version of NFPA, Standard 25:

"In lieu of replacing sprinklers that are loaded with a coating of dust, it is permitted to clean sprinklers with compressed air or by a vacuum, provided that the equipment does not touch the sprinkler."

Unacceptable loading requiring fire sprinkler head replacement includes any of the other items noted in the currently adopted version of National Fire Protection Association, Standard 25, and includes material that accumulates on, or is attached to,



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a fire sprinkler head or sensing element that affects the operation or spray distribution of the fire sprinkler head.

Loaded, bulb type fire sprinkler heads must only be cleaned by a qualified person, using compressed air or by vacuum, and the equipment must not touch the fire sprinkler head. If the fire sprinkler head is unable to be cleaned by this method, then the fire sprinkler head must be replaced (with a permit).

Alternately, where a loaded fire sprinkler head has a metallic sensing element, and the system has been drained, it is permissible for a qualified person to use other means to clean the fire sprinkler head, including the use of a tool or implement which will not damage the sensing element. These tools may include feather dusters or other tools of similar construction.

It is the responsibility of the qualified person completing the cleaning to use due care when performing this operation and to use a tool meeting the intent of this policy.

2. Fire sprinkler heads that are damaged for failure to adhere to these requirements must be replaced after first obtaining a permit from the Department.

PROCESS

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INFORMATION

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DEFINITIONS

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CROSS REFERENCES

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
Standard 25, currently adopted version