

### **FM Global Raises Concerns for Large Drop Sprinkler Performance**

FM Global has suspended the use of large drop sprinklers in new projects until it can sort out some conflicting test results. While the action does not affect the FM approval of existing large drop sprinkler installations, the two manufacturers of large drop sprinklers have been told to cease placing the FM approval stamp on new production.

The action is the result of some disappointing fire tests conducted as part of the calibration of FM Global's new fire test facility in West Glocester, Rhode Island. An attempt to repeat the performance of full-scale testing conducted at the older fire test facility was unsuccessful.

The sprinklers remain UL listed at this time. However, Underwriters Laboratories has advised that they will be conducting their own full-scale testing in January of 2005. Since the large drop sprinklers were developed prior to the construction of UL's fire test building, UL previously relied upon FM fire test data, the same data that is now under review.

NFSA will provide additional information as the two product approval organizations release the results of their investigations.

### **Missing Sprig Guidance for Large Drops on 2-inch Pipe**

While on the subject of large drop sprinklers it should be pointed out that the conversion of exceptions to text in the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 resulted in a void with regard to guidance on sprigs-up for large drop sprinklers on 2-inch piping. Within Section 8.11.5.2.2, subsection (1) allows sprinklers to be directly connected to branch lines less than 2 inches in diameter, and subsection (3) requires a sprig-up to elevate the deflector at least 13 inches above the centerline of 2-1/2-inch piping. What about 2-inch branch lines?

The answer can be found in older editions of NFPA 13, which clearly required the sprig-ups only for branch lines larger than 2 inches in diameter.

### **Upcoming NFSA Technical Tuesday Online Seminar:**

**NFPA 13 Chapters 1-5 – Fundamentals and Hazard Classification**  
**Instructor: Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.**

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This seminar reviews the organization and content of the first five chapters of the sprinkler standard, beginning with the scope and purpose and including a discussion of how the standard can and can't be used. The significance of newer definitions is explained, as well as that of the Owner's Certificate. Hazard classification by both occupancy and commodity is addressed.

Information and registration for this seminar is available at [www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org).

**NOTE:** During the first half of 2005, NFSA is devoting its "Technical Tuesday" online seminar series to an in-depth review of the current (2002) edition of NFPA 13. This is your chance to learn from the experts who represent the fire sprinkler industry on the technical committees that write the sprinkler rules. Develop an appreciation for the way in which the material is organized in the 2002 edition while learning more about the background of the rules themselves.

The level of all seminar topics is considered intermediate. Because these seminars are being offered as a complete program on NFPA 13, a 30% discount is available when signing up for all ten seminars in the series.

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*In the promotion of the fire sprinkler concept, the National Fire Sprinkler Association represents all fire sprinkler industry interests including fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of fire sprinklers and related equipment and fire protection professionals. Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association provides publications, nationally accredited seminars, representation in codes and standards-making, market development, labor relations and other services to its membership. Headquartered in Patterson, New York, the National Fire Sprinkler Association has regional operations offices throughout the country.*