



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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Fire Sprinkler System Standards

August 10, 2007

In an effort to prevent the winter freezing of fire sprinkler systems, they are designed as dry/air filled systems, or chemical antifreeze filled systems. The typical product used as an antifreeze agent is "Propylene Glycol". Ethylene glycol has been used in the past, and nothing physically prevents a private party from using this product, except Fire codes.

The environmental concern is the safe handling and disposal of the antifreeze product. During a fire event, this material is discharged onto the fire, or ground, and is washed into the storm system with the other fire waters. This is not environmentally desired, but it is the least of two evils.

Salem's standard for Propylene based Antifreeze Loop Sprinkler systems is for the chemical to be:

1. Placed into containers for recycling/reuse (first choice) or
2. In small volumes (5 gallons or less of concentrated product) it is allowed to be drained into the sanitary sewer. In no case is it allowed into the street, parking lot, or storm drain system.

For Ethylene based product, the material is required to be recycled or sent to an approved disposal facility.

The approval to discharge the material into the sanitary sewer system will **ONLY** be allowed with prior notification to the Salem Public Works Dispatcher 503-588-6333, with the chemical name, quantity, date of discharge, and location or address.