

The pending weather for next week has drawn a great deal of attention when it comes to concerns of frozen sprinkler pipes in residential occupancies, some of which are may be valid. That said, the Village Fire Department has determined, as a precaution, the homeowners who do not have foam insulated houses, may drain their sprinkler system to prevent freezing. The following information must be passed along to the caller email be email or over the phone to aid on what to do.

- The preferred method to drain the sprinkler system is turn off the water at the water meter. This may require a special key; however, most houses have a valve outside the meter box located between the house and the meter box that will turn off the water. This method will not only protect the sprinkler pipe from freezing but also protect the household or domestic piping as well. After the water is turned off the drain valve for sprinkler system must be opened to drain the sprinkler system. An outside faucet should also be opened to drain the domestic water lines. Some houses may have two-meter boxes one for domestic/fire sprinklers and one for irrigation. Its recommended that the irrigation system also be turned off.
- Prior to draining the system, **you must** contact the fire department at [713-468-7941](tel:713-468-7941) or by email to Kattner@villagefire.org and dispatch@villagefire.org when doing so. Every house that has a fire sprinkler system is so noted in our CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system as means to inform responding fire apparatus of the location of the system riser and the fact the system is present. Therefore, it is imperative the sprinkler company, home builder and/or the homeowner keep the fire department informed of the condition of the fire sprinkler system.
- If the sprinkler system is monitored by an alarm company, we ask that they also be informed that the sprinkler system is about to be turned off and drained so they will not dispatch the fire department when the flow switch is engaged. You may also hear a bell or horn outside if the flow switch is engaged. You should not be concerned as the bell or horn will stop once the system is drained.
- At the conclusion of the freeze event, the homeowner shall place the sprinkler system back in service and notify the fire department that the system is active so that the CAD can updated.
- Prior to turning the sprinkler system on and if the fire sprinkler system is monitored by an alarm company please notify the alarm company that they are about fill the sprinkler system because this action will cause an alarm and for them to not send the fire department. You may also hear a bell or horn outside when the flow switch is engaged due to water passing by the switch. You should not be concerned as the bell or horn will stop once the system is filled.
- When filling the system up, the system valve(s) should be opened slowly so as not to cause damage to the sprinkler and domestic pipes.

Thank you,

Village Fire Department