

Sprinkler Head Protection During Construction

TRADE: FIRE PROTECTION & SPRINKLER

LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES

USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Before work starts, use this Sprinkler Head Protection During Construction talk to cover accidental activation and damaged fire protection. Point out the equipment, work zone and controls the crew will rely on today. Fire prevention depends on controlling fuel, ignition and the route a fire can take through a building or work area. Temporary conditions create unusual combinations of combustibles, charging equipment, hot work and impaired fire protection.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

During Sprinkler Head Protection During Construction, a ladder, lift, tool or piece of material comes close enough to contact an active sprinkler head. The head has not been struck yet. How should the work area and protection be reset before the task continues?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Identify fuel/combustibles and ignition sources and verify required separation/storage.
- Confirm extinguishers, alarms, fire watch and any impaired-system plan are in place.
- Inspect charging/fueling/hot equipment for damage, leaks or abnormal heating.
- Keep ignition sources separated from combustible materials and maintain clear access to fire extinguishers and exits.
- Maintain temporary fire-protection systems and do not block, cover or disable devices without authorization.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Keep ignition sources separated from combustible materials and maintain clear access to fire extinguishers and exits.
- Inspect fuel, heating or hot equipment before use and correct leaks or damaged components.
- Maintain temporary fire-protection systems and do not block, cover or disable devices without authorization.
- Store flammable materials using the site-approved method and keep waste from accumulating.
- If the setup changes or the control for accidental activation and damaged fire protection is not working, stop the job and fix it before continuing.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. Are the sprinkler heads in this work area active, and what approved protection keeps ladders, tools, material and lifts from striking them?
2. Could paint, dust, temporary coverings or stored material interfere with a sprinkler head or its discharge pattern?
3. If a head is struck, bent, contaminated or accidentally activated, who is notified and how is the area protected while the system is addressed?

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Letting temporary combustibles accumulate near ignition sources.
- Impairing alarms/sprinklers or other protection without an approved temporary plan.
- Ignoring heat, odor, swelling, smoke or other early warning from batteries/equipment.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- Required extinguishers, alarms, fire watch or protection systems are unavailable or impaired without an approved plan.
- Fuel/combustible storage or ignition sources cannot be separated as planned.
- Smoke, unusual heating, damaged battery/equipment or another sign of fire risk appears.

4. What nearby finished work, occupants, electrical equipment or materials could be damaged if a head releases water unexpectedly?
5. How should the work area and protection be reset before the task continues?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Show the closest extinguisher, combustible controls and any impaired alarm/sprinkler condition.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Sprinkler Head Protection During Construction

Project / Job:		Date:	
Talk leader:		Location:	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

☐ Crew can point to the main hazard.	☐ Critical control is in place and usable.
☐ The responsible person/check is clear.	☐ Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.