



SAFETY ALERT

DANGER !!

PRESSURIZED (CHARGED) FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM CYLINDERS ARE EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS AND IF NOT HANDLED PROPERLY ARE CAPABLE OF VIOLENT DISCHARGE.

THIS CAN RESULT IN SEVERE PERSONAL INJURY, LOSS OF LIFE, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

The Fire Suppression Systems Association has received reports of several incidents involving charged fire suppression system cylinders that accidentally discharged in an uncontrolled manner when the cylinders were being removed from service or during handling.

IN ALL OF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED TO FSSA THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENTS WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMPROPER HANDLING OF THE CYLINDERS BY UNTRAINED AND UNQUALIFIED PERSONNEL. IN ALL CASES, ACTUATING DEVICES HAD NOT BEEN REMOVED FROM THE VALVES AND ANTI-RECOIL DEVICES AND PROTECTION CAPS WERE NOT INSTALLED PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF THE CYLINDERS FROM SERVICE.

These unsafe practices pose a threat to life and property. In the interest of public safety FSSA recommends that the following guidelines be followed:

- **IMPORTANT:** If any work is to be performed on the fire suppression system, a qualified fire suppression system service company, trained and experienced in the type of equipment installed, should be called to do the work.
- Personnel involved with fire suppression system cylinders must be thoroughly trained in the safe handling of the containers as well as in the proper procedures for installation, removal, handling, shipping and filling; and connection and removal of other critical devices, such as discharge hoses, control heads, discharge heads, initiators and anti-recoil devices.
- The procedures outlined in the Operation and Maintenance Manuals, Owner's Manuals, Service Manuals, etc., that are provided by the Manufacturer, for the specific equipment installed, must be followed.

- Most fire suppression system cylinders are furnished with valve outlet anti-recoil devices and in some cases cylinder valve protection caps. **DO NOT** disconnect cylinders from the system piping, or move or ship the cylinders, if the anti-recoil devices or protection caps are missing. Obtain these parts from the Distributor of the Manufacturer's equipment, or the equipment Manufacturer. These devices are provided for safety reasons and must be installed at all times, except when the cylinders are connected into the system piping or being filled.
- All control heads, pressure operated heads, initiators, discharge heads, or other type actuation devices must be removed before disconnecting the cylinders from the system piping; and anti-recoil devices and/or protection caps immediately installed before moving or shipping the cylinders. Most fire suppression system equipment varies from manufacturer to manufacturer, therefore it is important to follow the instructions and procedures provided in the equipment Manufacturer's manuals. These actions should only be undertaken by qualified fire suppression system service company personnel.

SAFETY IS OF PRIME CONCERN !

Don't get careless! Never assume that a cylinder is empty. Treat all cylinders as if they are fully charged.

Most fire suppression system cylinders are equipped with high flow rate valves that are capable of producing high discharge thrusts out of the valve outlet if not handled properly.

Remember pressurized cylinders are extremely hazardous. Failure to follow the equipment manufacturer's instructions and the guidelines contained herein may result in serious bodily injury, death, and property damage.

PLEASE NOTE:

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