

SECURE ALL SYSTEM CONTROL VALVES IN THE OPEN POSITION

CODE SECTIONS

National Fire Code 2002 Edition

Section 903.4 and NFPA-13.8.15.1.1.2.1 Valves on connections to water supplies, sectional control and isolation valves, and other valves in supply pipes to sprinklers and other fixed water-based fire suppression systems shall be supervised by one of the following methods:

- (1) Central station, proprietary, or remote station signaling service
- (2) Local signaling service that will cause the sounding of an audible signal at a constantly attended point
- (3) Valves locked in the correct position
- (4) Valves located within fenced enclosures under the control of the owner, sealed in the open position, and inspected weekly as part of an approved procedure

EXPLANATION

All control valves of the automatic fire sprinkler system, including Post Indicator Valves, Outside Stem and Yoke, and Butterfly valves must be locked in the open position. Only valves that are required to be kept in the closed position, such as the main drain and inspector's test valves may be kept closed. Even valves that are supervised by a monitoring system must also be locked open.

RATIONALE

It is imperative that the control valves serving the automatic fire sprinkler system are kept in the open position or no water will enter the system to control a fire. By locking these valves in the open position, we hope to discourage vandalism or the inadvertent closing of a valve.