



## Fire Marshal's Notice September 2013

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### Texas State Fire Marshal Announces Position on Use of Antifreeze in New and Existing Fire Sprinkler Systems

Beginning in 2010, research and standards development efforts were initiated on a national level to address concerns related to combustibility of antifreeze solutions in fire sprinkler systems. As testing results became available, NFPA issued several Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) in 2010/2012 and ultimately incorporated code changes into the current editions of NFPA 13, 13R, 13D, & 25. This notice is intended to provide guidance on this issue until the newer editions of these standards are adopted in The Fire Sprinkler Rules.

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#### Frequently Asked Question:

Since Texas has not adopted the 2013 edition of NFPA 13 yet, can a sprinkler contractor still install antifreeze systems?

#### Response:

Yes – but only where approved by the local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and meeting the following conditions:

- protected area must not include dwelling units
- must be pre-mixed solution from manufacturer with concentration limited to 38% by volume (glycerine) or 30% by volume (propylene glycol) \*\*
- concentrations may be increased to 50% by volume (glycerine) or 40% by volume (propylene glycol) when justified with approved deterministic assessment and approved by the local AHJ \*\*

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#### Frequently Asked Question:

Can antifreeze solution remain in existing fire sprinkler systems?

#### Response:

Yes – however, we recommend following the guidance of the TIA regarding antifreeze to the 2011 edition of NFPA 25. Consult with the local AHJ to determine any requirements they may have.

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#### References:

\*\* NFPA 25 (2011) Par. 5.3.4 and related TIAs

#### Background:

Generally, Tentative Interim Amendments (TIA) to the National Fire Protection Association standards are adopted as a response to an emergent condition that needs immediate attention prior to the next code revision cycle. Enforcement of the provisions stated in the TIA's is certainly within the purview of the AHJ. The State Fire Marshal's Office strongly advises fire sprinkler contractors to follow best practices and comply with these new requirements as a minimum standard of care. In all cases, the local authority having jurisdiction should be consulted prior to evaluation and design.

For more information on this topic, go to [www.nfpa.org/antifreeze](http://www.nfpa.org/antifreeze)

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<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/fmli.html> (website)