

PREVENTION OF FREEZING OF WET CHEMICAL SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

In the event of a fire, commercial cooking equipment is protected by automatic fire suppression systems that use a wet chemical solution for suppression.

Under normal temperature applications, usually within the storage temperature range recommended by the manufacturer, there is no concern with the integrity of the wet chemical solution or container (cylinder) that stores the solution. However, there are a number of applications where wet chemical systems are installed and placed in an environment that would make the system susceptible to freezing. These environments include, but are not limited to, relocatable industrial accommodations and mobile cooking operations (such as food trucks and trailers) where the units may be temporarily located, parked or stored outdoors or in unheated garages or buildings. In these cases, the wet chemical suppression systems may be exposed to temperatures below the manufacturer's recommended specified storage temperature range and the wet chemical solution may freeze.

Although freezing of the wet chemical solution may be of concern, the container in which it is housed may also be damaged due to the expanding and contracting of the frozen wet chemical. Suppression systems that may have been stored outside of the manufacturer's recommended storage temperatures should be taken to a qualified service provider to go through an inspection, testing and maintenance process.

Where wet chemical kitchen suppression systems have the potential for freezing, it is recommended the wet chemical container be disconnected by a qualified service provider and stored in an environment within the manufacturer's recommended temperature range by the operator.

A "K" class wet chemical portable fire extinguisher is required to be installed in the vicinity of the commercial cooking equipment and should also be stored in an environment within the manufacturer's recommended temperature range.

If you believe your system may have been impacted and require further information, please contact your local fire department or fire suppression service provider.

Contact

Please contact your local Fire Department for any questions regarding this Safety Tip.

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