



Ocean City Fire Department

PRESS RELEASE

Chris Larmore
Fire Chief

Chuck Barton
Deputy Chief

David Cropper
Deputy Chief

S.E. Villani
Deputy Chief

For Immediate Release-
Contact:

Ryan L. Whittington
Public Information Officer
Ocean City Fire Department
1409 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 410-251-1253
rwhittington@ococean.com

H. Stephen Price
Public Information Officer
Ocean City Fire Department
1409 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone: 410-430-5155
hsprice@mail.worcester.k12.md.us

Pipe Advisory

Due to the recent dip in temperatures, the Ocean City Fire Department would like to offer property owners simple maintenance tips to ensure that fire sprinkler and domestic pipes do not freeze and break, causing thousands of dollars in water damage as well as rendering fire sprinkler systems inoperable.

Maintaining wet pipes above freezing is a key concern. Domestic water pipes can be insulated or wrapped with an approved UL-listed heat tape. In the event that a unit is unoccupied for the winter season, domestic water pipes can also be drained.

Wet sprinkler systems, however, usually cannot be wrapped with heat tape. All sprinklered areas of a building should be checked to make sure they are above freezing. Setting a unit thermostat to keep pipes around 40 degrees Fahrenheit will help prevent these pipes from freezing.

With regard to dry sprinkler systems, auxiliary condensate drains should be drained by a licensed sprinkler company or person knowledgeable about sprinkler systems. The following pictures illustrate the auxiliary drains for dry pipe sprinkler systems:



Finally, emergency contact numbers should be posted on the outside of the building, which can help the fire department contact responsible parties in the event of a pipe break. Also, key lock boxes, which can be purchased from the fire department headquarters at 15th Street, can allow access into a building in the event of an emergency to allow firefighters to turn off water mains and minimize damage within units.

For more information on precautionary measures to take to prevent pipe breaks, contact the Ocean City Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal at 410-289-8780.