



California State Fire Marshal  
Information Bulletin

## MORE ON CENTRAL SPRINKLER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

On July 25, 2001, the California State Fire Marshal (SFM) issued an Information Bulletin regarding the voluntary replacement program for O-ring sprinklers that had been announced jointly by the Central Sprinkler Company and the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). SFM commends Central Sprinkler Company for working with CPSC to establish this program and strongly encourages owners of buildings with Central's O-ring sprinklers to participate in the program.

SFM has evaluated laboratory test data on these O-ring sprinklers and concludes that the risk of complete failure of a sprinkler is relatively low. SFM also recognizes that it is impossible for the company to immediately replace every O-ring sprinkler affected. However, this delay could significantly affect the ability of a building owner to occupy or utilize a facility.

To mitigate the impact on business and industry, SFM has implemented the following policy:

**Five-Year Sprinkler Certification:** Sprinkler systems should not fail certification solely because they contain the affected O-ring sprinklers. SFM will accept a building owner's participation in Central Sprinkler Company's voluntary replacement program. The program registration number issued to the building owner by Central Sprinkler should be entered on the certification/inspection documentation.

This policy is designed for buildings where SFM is the AHJ. However, SFM encourages all local AHJs to implement this mitigation strategy for their jurisdictions. In buildings having special or significant issues concerning the sprinkler system, AHJs may contact Central Sprinkler Company directly [phone: (866) 836-3928] for a consultation, an on-site evaluation or additional information.

SFM will continue to provide information regarding this program and SFM's involvement with it. It is important to remember that this is a *voluntary* replacement program — not a mandatory recall by CPSC. For additional information regarding this issue, please contact Central Sprinkler Company [[www.sprinklerreplacement.com](http://www.sprinklerreplacement.com)]. For information regarding SFM's automatic fire sprinkler program, please telephone Sr. Deputy James Parsegian at (916) 445-6787.