



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2010-02

To: LA Licensed Architects
LA Licensed Engineers
Felicia Cooper, Deputy Asst Secretary/Plan Review, OSFM
Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Fire Marshal Enforcement/Emergency Services, OSFM
Stephen Gogreve, Manager, OSFM
Pat Aronstein, Manager, OSFM
Plan Review Staff, OSFM

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: April 13, 2010

RE: Use of Listed Heat Trace with NFPA 13R systems

Code References: NFPA 13 and NFPA 13R, 2007 Edition

The NFPA 13 provides for the use of heat for protection of sprinkler piping. NFPA 13R: 6.1.4.1.2 states that where aboveground water-filled supply pipes, risers, system risers, or feed mains pass through open areas, cold rooms, passageways, or other areas exposed to freezing temperatures, the pipe shall be protected against freezing by insulating coverings, frostproof casings, or other reliable means capable of maintaining a minimum temperature between 40 deg F and 120 deg F.

An editorial commentary provided in the NFPA 13R states that other means of freeze protection includes heat tracing that has been specifically investigated and listed for use with sprinkler piping.

This office hereby deems that the use of listed heat trace for protection of piping will be permitted by this office with the following stipulations.

1. Heat trace in NFPA 13R systems will use of the guidance of NFPA 13:8.16.4.1.3 and 13:8.16.4.1.4 for location and supervision requirements
2. Heat trace will not be permitted for use on branch line per NFPA 13R:A6.1.4.1.2. The reference of 13:8.16.4.1.5 will not be accepted.
3. Review of method of freeze protection will include cut sheets of proposed heat trace showing it is listed for the specific location and type of piping. Documentation to be reviewed as separate correspondence by the reviewing supervisor.

DZ/LRB