

NFPA 13R Inspection

The following pictures were taken after conducting an aboveground hydrostatic test on a 2-story hotel.



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After the hydrostatic testing was completed I decided to spot check some of the sprinkler heads for internal obstructions.

If the piping and heads are not installed properly, there is a possibility of pipe glue running down the inside of the pipe and collecting on the topside of the sprinkler head.

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The building is a two story hotel, so I figured that we would inspect 20 heads at random; 10 per floor.

Everything was going well, until we got to the 5th sprinkler head.

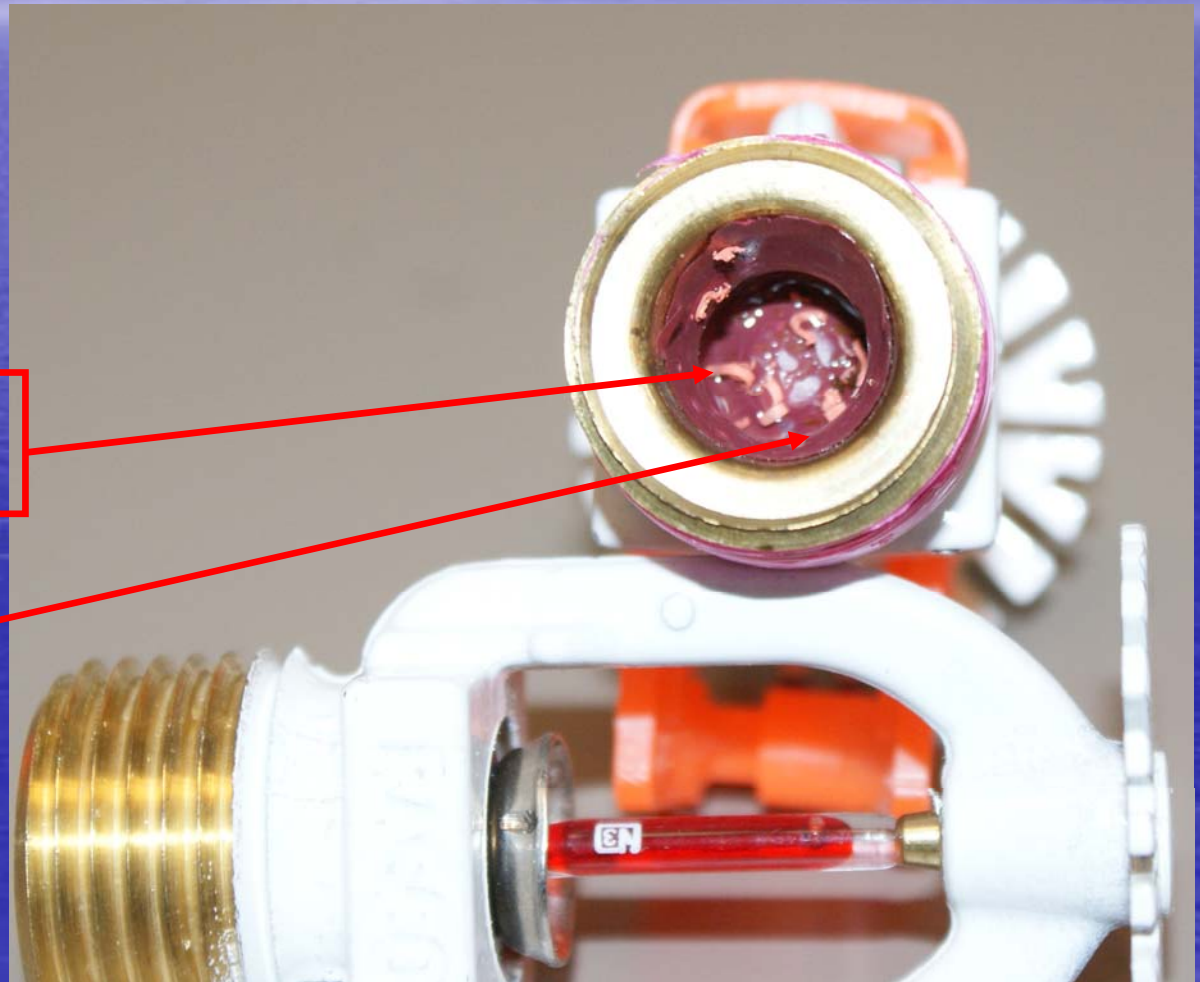
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This was one of the heads that was removed for visual inspection.

The orange pieces are pipe shavings

The purple coating is pipe glue

NOTICE THAT YOU CAN'T SEE THE PLUG

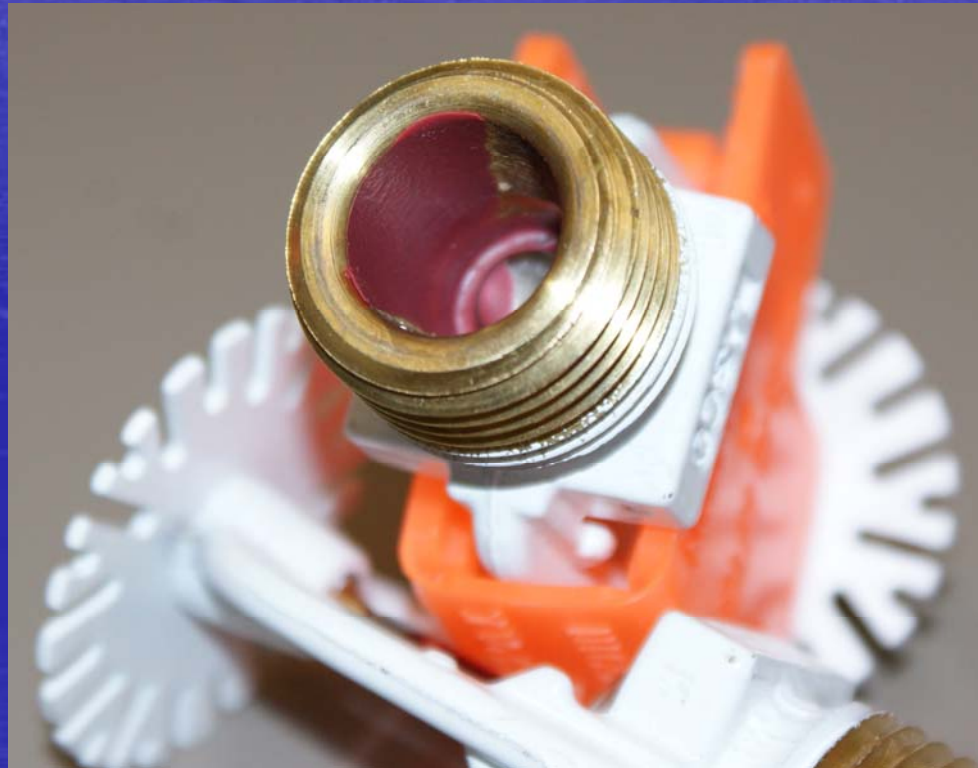


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After finding this head, we requested the remaining 2 heads in this room to be checked.

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We found these two:



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At this point we called it quits for the first floor. The sprinkler contractor was not very happy at this point. He stated that another employee did the work and he no longer works for their company.

We then took our inspection to the second floor.

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The first head that was removed had glue inside.

The pipe that this head was inserted in had signs of an excessive amount of glue.



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Our inspection stopped at this point. I requested that they change every head on this job with new heads.

This company (that will remain un-named) is a reputable company and has done work here before.

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In accordance to NFPA 13R:

Section 6.5.2 - Where solvent cement is used as the pipe and fittings bonding agent, sprinklers shall not be installed in the fittings prior to the fittings being cemented in place.

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The moral of the story is, that if you have never checked for this before, now is the time to start. You might be surprised what you find.

This company is replacing more than 150 heads.