



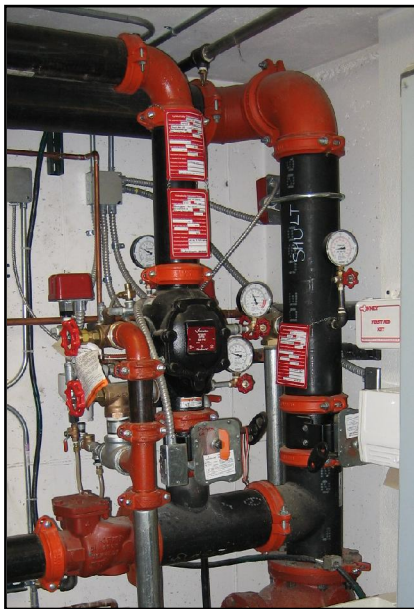
QUICK RESPONSE

Saving life and property through effective licensing, plan review, and inspection of fire protection systems.

October 2006

Supervising, Locking and Securing Valves

The **Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC)** has separate requirements in regard to supervising (monitoring) and securing valves. **Section 903.4** requires supervising (monitoring) of valves. It states: *All valves controlling the water supply for automatic sprinkler systems and water-flow switches on all sprinkler systems shall be electrically supervised.* **Section 903.4.4**, which requires securing of valves, states: *All valves controlling water supplies for automatic sprinklers shall be locked or secured in the open position. Exception: Valves located in a room where access is limited to essential personnel only.*



It is important to note that in addition to electrically supervising (monitoring) control valves, all valves controlling water supplies for automatic sprinklers, which are not located in a room or area where access is limited to essential personnel only, shall be locked or secured in the open position. This applies not only to the valves located on the system riser(s) but also to any auxiliary/sectional zone valves controlling more than 20 sprinklers.

Auxiliary valves serving less than 20 sprinklers do not need to be supervised, but these valves need to be locked or secured in the open position. Also jockey pump control valves, trim valves to pressure switches in dry, preaction and deluge systems that are sealed



or lock in the open position do not need to be supervised. See **MSFC Section 903.4** for valves that are exempt from supervision.



It is important to note, when valves are located in a room where access is limited to essential personnel, proper signage is required. **MSFC Section 510.1** states: *Rooms containing controls for air conditioning systems, sprinkler risers and valves, or other fire detection, suppression or control elements shall be identified for fire department use.*

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