

10 Commandments Of Sprinkler Systems

- 1) You, the owner, are responsible for your system being in running order. Sprinkler systems are mechanical and must be properly maintained. There is no point in paying for a sprinkler system if it's not in running order when you need it.
- 2) You, the owner, need to become familiar with the operations of the system. It will not only benefit you, but your neighbors as well.
- 3) Start your system frequently at least once a month. For owners with dual fuel capability, you have the option of running the system on one tank of gas (approx. 45 – 60 minutes). Otherwise run off your portable propane tank (not the 50# tank) for at least 30 minutes.
- 4) During hot, dry conditions it's recommended that you run your system each (it's recommended early in the morning) to hydrate the foliage and soil. It's good for your system, your property and will cool down your house on those hot summer days.
- 5) You will be asked to start your system if there is a threatening fire event or for mock fire drill, as a cautionary exercise. In either case, start your system and be attentive for further instructions.
- 6) During a fire incident, you are responsible for starting your system. A second tier would be to have an understanding with your neighbors to start each others' systems. A third tier would be to have your area property owners associations designate a group of volunteers who will start other systems within the association area. If and **only if**, the manpower and conditions allow for it, the fire department will attempt to start your system.
- 7) You should have a standard repair kit near your pump. (See attachment).
- 8) Don't put off repairs. If there is something not working either fix it or call someone to do it for you.
- 9) Remove fallen branches and debris from your system periodically
- 10) At the end of the season your pump housing and system lines must be drained. Also, fuel in the gas tank should be addressed. The recommendation is to run the pump until the gas tank is empty and drain the carburetor bowl. If you leave gas in the system for any length of time at least add an additive to prolong the performance of the fuel. **AT THE END OF THE SEASON THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE LEFT IN STAND BY MODE.** (See attachment/reverse)

10 Commandments (attachment)

Stand By Mode

At the end of the season the system should be run for a few minutes to insure that it is fully operational. Then the system should be completely drained and left in stand-by mode. Stand-by mode allows for immediate activation of the system by priming the pump and putting the intake line in the water. Flexible suction hose with foot valves should be reconnected to pump intake and stored adjacent to main supply line with foot valve end facing uphill. i. Rigid suction hose must be disconnected from pump and stored adjacent to pump and main supply line with all openings properly covered to keep out animals or debris. Intake and discharge opening on the pump should also be covered.

- ii. Once the pump has been completely drained, drain plug should be screwed back in place.
- iii. Pump must be covered with weatherproof fabric cover that is easy to remove. A rigid board should be placed on the top of the pump under the cover to shed water and snow.
- iv. All lines to sprinkler heads should be completely drained and reattached to the supply fittings. All auxiliary shut-off valves must be in the open position.
- v. The #50 propane cylinder must be full and in the closed position.

Pump Kit Recommendations

- 1) Storage box for the kit. *5-gallon bucket or weather resistant deck box*
- 2) 2 to 5-gallon water bucket for priming the pump.
- 3) Spark plug. *Recommendation: two spark plugs.*
- 4) Spark plug wrench. Most applications require a 5/8" or 15/16" socket. Some applications require a short extender and elbow. Check your plug size.
- 5) Adjustable wrench for propane tank.
- 6) Oil. *Recommendation: Two quarts of 10W-30 synthetic oil*
- 7) Strap or spanner wrench if your pump's intake or discharge pipes are connected with fittings that require these wrenches.
- 8) Needle nose pliers.
- 9) Screwdriver with multiple tips and 5/16 nut driver
- 10) Oil drain pan.
- 11) Funnel