



FSSA

Fire Suppression Systems Association

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Preventative Measures to Reduce the Risk of Accidental Clean Agent System Discharge

Causes for Non-Fire Related Discharge

1. Dirty smoke detectors.
2. The burning of dust and/or insects which have collected on HVAC heating coils at the beginning of each heating season can create enough smoke to activate detectors and cause agent release.
3. Refrigerant leaks in AC units may falsely activate smoke detectors.
4. Electrical power surge to the panel may disrupt circuitry and cause a discharge.
5. Maintenance performed on a system by unqualified personnel.
6. Manual release station pulled in a non-fire situation or by accident.
7. Lack of appropriate system training of personnel on system operation.



Preventative Measures for Non-Fire Related Discharges

1. Ensure that only trained and certified technicians perform the required inspections including cleaning and calibration of detectors.
2. Provide periodic inspection and regular maintenance of HVAC units. Regular maintenance should include checking for frayed or worn drive belts. Clean your HVAC heating coils prior to start up in the heating seasons. Have certified personnel disable your clean agent fire suppression system prior to servicing HVAC units.
3. Identify clean agent fire suppression system manual pull stations with signage so that occupants can differentiate them from the building fire alarm pull stations. Providing protective covers on the system's manual pull stations may help to avoid unwanted discharge due to damage to the pull station.



4. Train current and new employees on the proper operation and the sequence of operations of the fire suppression system before permitting entry into the protected areas. Post the sequence of operations near the suppression system releasing panel.

5. Use lightning and/or surge arrestors on all systems.
6. Contact your qualified and certified fire suppression contractor before performing any work or modifications in the protected areas.
7. The following upgrades may improve the reliability of your system thereby lessening the possibility of non-fire discharges or unwanted shutdowns:

- ▲ Installing agent disconnect switches.
- ▲ Upgrading the releasing control panel and smoke detectors to "addressable technology".
- ▲ Connecting any "shutdowns" to system discharge pressure switches rather than shunt trips when practicable.

