



**Town of Leicester Fire Department  
3 Paxton Street  
Leicester Massachusetts, 01524**



Michael R. Dupuis  
Chief

508-892-7022

January 24, 2022

**TO:** David Genereux  
Town Administrator

**FROM:** Michael Dupuis  
Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Leicester High School Sprinkler System

The following is some of the dealings that the Fire Department has had with the High School Sprinkler System. In the past, the sprinkler system would on occasion, while doing an exercise run to maintain itself, would inadvertently notify us through a Fire Alarm call that it was running. About two years ago, the School Department notified the Fire Prevention Office that the control panel that operated the battery charging system was inoperable and the panel components were to be replaced.

Recently, back on December 14, 2021, the sprinkler system went down on due to the Jockey pump failure. The Jockey pump is a water pump that maintains the water pressure in the system. This failure prevented the sprinkler system to hold the proper water pressure. The following day a new jockey pump was installed replacing the worn out one. When work was completed, and the contractor was ready to test the pump, they notice that the main pump bearing housing was broken and bearing parts were found on the floor. Upon further inspection, rocks and debris also were found inside the sprinkler drain itself.

On December 21, 2022 the piping was inspected throughout the pump itself and the incoming fire suppression waterline for any more debris. The results came back clean with no restrictions to the water supply.

Next, the contractor, F.W. Webb, began replacing the worn-out bearings and found that the shaft itself is also worn and isn't perfectly round in shape. They then disassembled the pump and found that the packing housing around the shaft is worn and needs to be replaced. The contractor stated the pump would work but would leak water. They then refused to conduct the pump test itself.

The school then contacted another sprinkler contractor "Impact Fire Service" to do the test on Wednesday January 19, 2022. When the Fire Inspector arrived to oversee the test, he was informed that Impact Fire Service had refused to conduct the test that day stating that they feel the pumps Engine would fail due to lack of maintenance. Impact Sprinkler Fire Service then recommended another vendor to service the motor. Impact Fire Service showed the Fire Inspector some other deficiencies which may be code related. The Inspector informed Impact Fire Service to go over the whole system and send a report of any violations or issues of the sprinkler pump to the Fire Prevention office.

The following is a list of issues received from Impact Fire Service:

1. Engine requires service.
2. Block heater inoperable.
3. Suggest replacing original hoses, belts and air filter.
4. Sensing lines shared are not installed per NFPA 20.
5. Replace copper fuel lines.
6. Suggest fuel filtering and tank inspection.
7. Pump frame seriously corroded. Pump secured by five out of six mounting points.

We are currently reviewing the reports following NFPA 13,20, and 25 fire sprinkler codes.

As of today, we are told by the School Department that they are waiting for these repairs to be completed prior to the Fire Prevention Office observing a scheduled pump test.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Dupuis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Chief Michael R. Dupuis, CFO*