

## High Stock Piling Blocks Sprinkler Protection

### Effectiveness of Automatic Sprinklers

Automatic sprinkler systems with adequate water supplies are the most effective, single means of protecting life and property from fire. However, if the distribution of water is obstructed so that it cannot reach the fire, not only will the fire not be extinguished but the heat from the fire will spread and open many sprinkler heads unnecessarily.

The result is excessive water damage accompanied by the possibility that the volume and pressure of the water supply would be reduced to the point that even the smallest fire cannot be controlled.

### Maintain Clear Space Below Sprinkler Head to Insure Proper Distribution of Water

A clearance of 12 inches should be maintained below old type (prior to 1953) sprinkler heads. With newer spray type sprinkler heads a clearance of 18 inches should be maintained below the sprinkler deflectors.

A clearance of 36 inches should be maintained over large closely packed piles of combustible cases, bales, cartons or other closely packed combustible stocks.

### Effectiveness of Automatic Sprinklers

Combustible materials stored over 12 feet in height on racks requires special consideration. Adequate sprinkler head clearance must always be considered in relation to ceiling heights and heights of the stock piles. At least 3 feet clear space should be maintained between the top of the high piled stock and the sprinkler head deflectors.

### High Piled Stock Exceeding 12 Feet in Height

- Specifically designed automatic sprinkler protection may be required.
- As the height of the combustible stock becomes greater, increased clearances between the top of the piles and the sprinkler head may be required.

The result is excessive water damage accompanied by the possibility that the volume and pressure of the water supply would be reduced to the point that even the smallest fire cannot be controlled.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued. 301 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 F13371B-LP (01/13)