

# 3 Fire Systems

## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 Why is a museum's fire system important?
- 2 What are some different parts of a fire system?



Dear Ms. Hackett,

Thank you for your interest in Flame Guard, Inc. We are the leaders in **active fire prevention**.

I'm contacting you regarding options for your new **fire-suppression system**. We have many types of **smoke detectors**, **fire alarms**, and **fire sprinklers** to choose from.

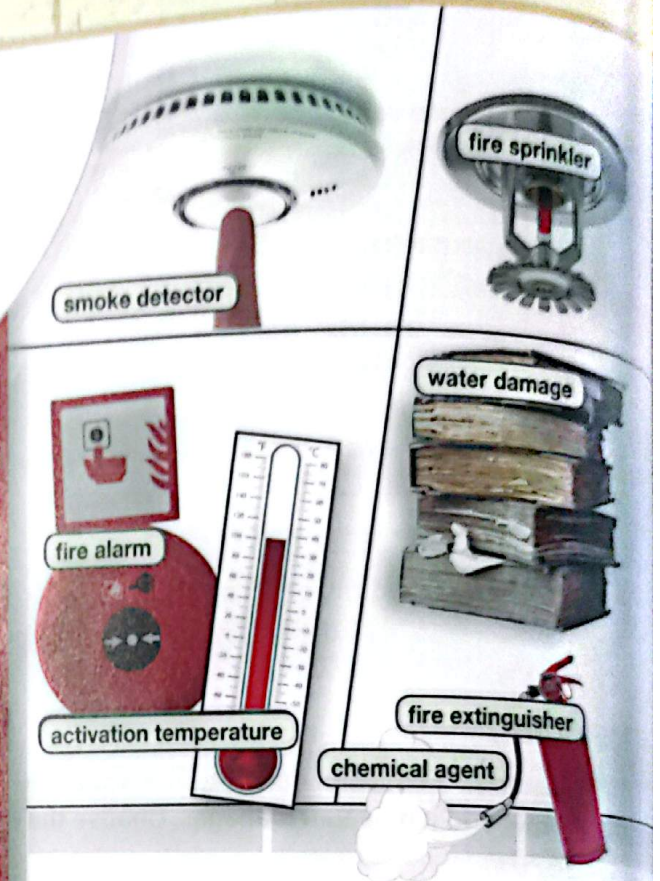
I understand your museum carries artwork sensitive to **water damage**. Fortunately, we have products specifically for this purpose. Our handheld **fire extinguishers** use **chemical agents**, which do not harm canvas materials.

For public spaces, however, we recommend using a **deluge system**. These expel water at a certain **activation temperature**. Because of your location, we recommend a **dry pipe system** instead of the typical **wet pipe system**. Dry systems prevent pipe freezing during the winter.

However, you may also consider a **foam water sprinkler system**. These can put out tough fires. Many people use these in areas with flammable liquids.

For more information, please contact us at 555-1298, or via email.

Ken Truman  
Flame Guard, Inc.



## Vocabulary

3 Match the words or phrases (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- 1 \_\_ fire sprinkler
  - 2 \_\_ fire alarm
  - 3 \_\_ water damage
  - 4 \_\_ smoke detector
  - 5 \_\_ fire-suppression system
  - 6 \_\_ foam water sprinkler system
  - 7 \_\_ active fire prevention
  - 8 \_\_ activation temperature
- A a system that uses sprinklers, chemicals, and gases to stop fires
- B harm or destruction of property that is caused by water
- C the point at which the temperature is high enough to set off a sprinkler system
- D a device that alerts people about the outbreak of a fire
- E a special fire sprinkler system that applies water and foam, used for tough fires
- F a device that protects against fire hazards by sensing and warning of smoke
- G the method of controlling and stopping fires
- H a device that sprays water when a fire has been detected

## Reading

2 Read the email. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 \_\_ Flame Guard, Inc. offers smoke detectors, first aid kits, and fire sprinklers.
- 2 \_\_ Many chemical agents are useful because they prevent water damage.
- 3 \_\_ A deluge water sprinkler system is best for areas storing sensitive artwork.

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words or phrases.

- 1 A fire-suppression system / deluge system keeps its sprinklers open in case of a fire.
- 2 Using smoke detectors / chemical agents is a good way to put out fires without water.
- 3 Some businesses use a dry pipe system / foam water sprinkler system to prevent their water pipes from freezing.
- 4 A wet pipe system / smoke detector is effective, but not the best system for putting out tough fires.

5 Listen and read the email again. What is a good system to use in public spaces?

## Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between a curator and a director. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What type of sprinkler system needs to be installed, and why?
  - A a dry pipe system, because it is a public space
  - B a dry pipe system, because the climate is cold
  - C a deluge system, because the museum has sensitive artwork
  - D a deluge system, because the climate is cold
- 2 What will the director and curator likely do next?
  - A purchase a foam water sprinkler system
  - B purchase a wet-pipe, deluge sprinkler system
  - C purchase a dry-pipe, deluge sprinkler system
  - D purchase a dry pipe system and fire extinguishers

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Curator: Hey, Mr. Greenberg. Do you have time to talk about our new 1 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Director: Of course, Ms. Hackett. Did you speak to someone from Flame Guard?

Curator: Yeah. I inquired about new 2 \_\_\_\_\_ , and a few other things.

Director: Okay, great. What exactly do we need?

Curator: Well, apparently we need a 3 \_\_\_\_\_ for our public spaces.

Director: Oh, I see. Is that a type of 4 \_\_\_\_\_ system?

Curator: Yeah, exactly. They're designed to keep their sprinklers open, and expel water at a certain 5 \_\_\_\_\_ .

Director: I see. Well, that makes sense.

Curator: Yeah. And apparently we need a 6 \_\_\_\_\_ because of the cold climate.

## Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

### USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

*I inquired about our new ... / What exactly do we need?  
They're designed to ...*

**Student A:** You are a museum curator. Talk to Student B about:

- a new fire-suppression system
- what your requirements are
- which type of system meets your needs

**Student B:** You are a museum director. Talk to Student A about fire systems.

## Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to complete the email.

Dear Mr. Truman,

I am writing in response to your email about our fire system options. We discussed our options thoroughly, and decided \_\_\_\_\_

Regards,  
Wanda Hackett