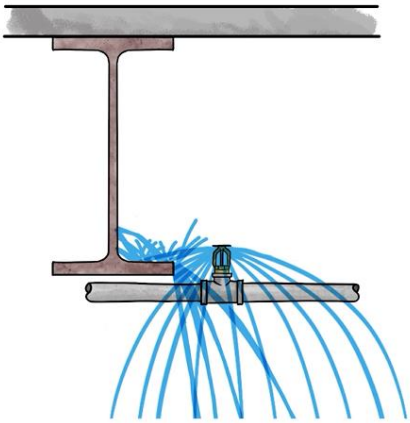
WHY DOES SPRINKLER SPACING MATTER?

UNDERSTANDING SPRINKLER LAYOUT SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | NOVEMBER 2022

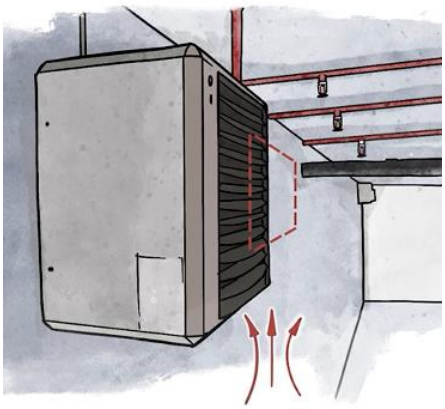
SUMMARY

Sprinkler spacing (the distances between sprinklers, sprinklers-to-walls, and sprinklers-to-obstructions) matters because it plays an important role in allowing a fire sprinkler system to actually suppress a fire.

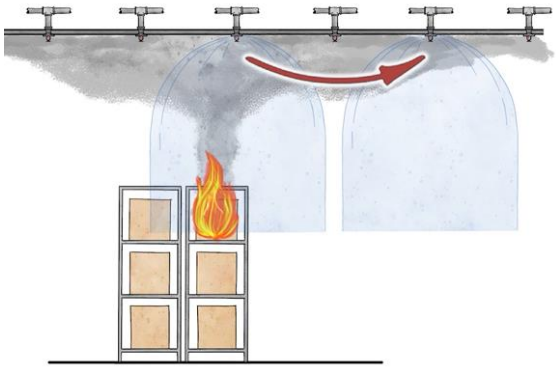
- Sprinklers **too close to obstructions** can prevent heat from reaching a sprinkler, and prevent sprinkler spray from reaching a burning hazard.
- Sprinklers **too close to heat sources** can cause a sprinkler to not activate in a timely manner, or cause unintended activation.
- Sprinklers **too close to other sprinklers** can unintentionally "cool" a space right below an adjacent sprinkler, causing sprinklers to "skip". Skipping can overtax a system and direct water away from where it needs to be: at the fire.
- Sprinklers **too far from other sprinklers** can cause too-little water to be sent to the fire, can create "gaps" in coverage, and can delay sprinkler activation.



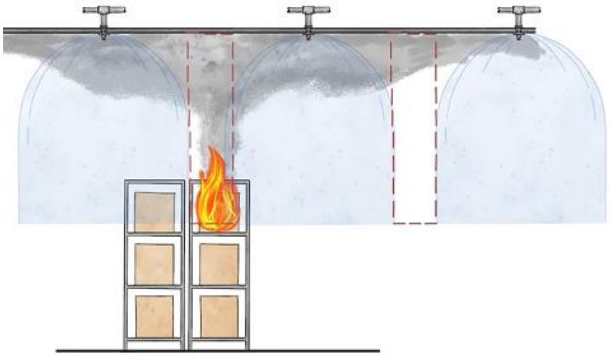
Sprinkler Too Close to Obstruction
(spray pattern does not develop properly)



Sprinkler Too Close to Heat Source
(can cause unwanted activation, or delays in activation)



Sprinklers Too Close Together
(can cause "skipping" during a fire, or cold-soldering)



Sprinklers Too Far Away from Other Sprinklers
(can leave gaps of coverage, can provide too little water at fire)

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/why-does-sprinkler-spacing-matter

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