



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue

Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 22, 2003

DAL: DAL/DQS 0306
Subject: Sprinkler Head Recall

Dear Administrator:

The Department of Health (the Department) recently received notification for dissemination to nursing homes and other health care facilities of a product recall regarding a dry sprinkler head widely utilized across the country for many years. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the recall of the Star ME-1 dry sprinkler head.

On April 25, 2003, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission [CPSC] announced that Star ME-1 dry sprinklers manufactured from 1983 through 1995 by Sprinkler Corporation of Milwaukee, Inc., [SCM] formerly known as Star Sprinkler Corporation have been determined to present a safety risk and should immediately be replaced. There have been reports of two failures involving Star ME-1 dry sprinklers.

The sprinklers have the following information molded onto the head of the sprinkler: the name "Star" on one side of the head and the designation "ME-1" on the other side as well as the year of manufacture. The CPSC announcement indicates that SCM is no longer in operation and is unable to conduct a recall. For more information on the SCM Star ME-1 sprinklers please call the CPSC hotline at (800) 638-2772 or go to the National Fire Sprinkler Association's Web site at www.nfsa.org. A picture of the Star ME-1 sprinkler can be found on the CPSC web site at: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml03/03117.html.

Other companies that have manufactured the Star ME-1 sprinklers before 1983 and after 1995 are recalling their Star ME-1 fire sprinklers as well. For information on the Star ME-1 dry sprinkler head recall for sprinklers manufactured by other organizations, facilities should contact:

- 1961 - 1976: Mealane Corporation at (800) 866-7807 or www.star-recall.com
- 1977 - 1982: American Household Inc. [formerly Sunbeam Corp.] at (888) 551-5014 or www.starme1recall.com
- 1996 - 1998: Central Sprinkler Company at (800) 866-3492 or www.SprinklerReplacement.com

The Department suggests you contact your facility's building owner to conduct an inspection of the sprinkler systems in all areas of the building based on CPSC guidance to identify and replace any Star ME-1 fire sprinklers. Financial assistance may be available depending upon the date and company manufacturing the Star ME-1 dry sprinklers installed within your building.

Questions regarding this letter or the Star ME-1 sprinkler head should be directed to the Department of Health, Bureau of Architectural and Engineering Facility Planning at (518) 402-0904. Please ensure that this letter is provided to all appropriate individuals within your facility.

Sincerely,

[s]

Keith W. Servis, Director
Division of Quality and Surveillance
For Nursing Homes and ICF/MRs