

VANDLAISM AND ARSON IN PRISONS INSPIRES NEW SPRINKLER SAFETY TOOL

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (January 16, 2017) Fires at prisons are not a rarity. In fact, National Fire Protection Agency estimates that approximately 600 fires occur in prison facilities each year. One out of four of these fires is intentionally set. In buildings, which by their very nature are designed to keep people contained, a clear fire reduction strategy is key. Automatic fire sprinklers and clear evacuation strategies help ensure that tragedies do not occur.

“With fire sprinklers comes the additional risk of vandalism. The cost from the resulting water damage, even if just left running for a few minutes can be substantial,” said Greg Patterson, President Technicraft Product Design Inc.

The installation of institutional grade sprinkler heads makes it more challenging for inmates to break the sprinkler heads as well as to reduce the likelihood of attaching heavy loads to the device. However; for the persistent prisoner, damage can still occur.

Recognizing these unique fire protection design challenges, the team at Technicraft Product Design Inc. has created a new product that will provide managers of **prisons, some mental health facilities** and **juvenile detention facilities** with peace of mind.

The Shutgun Institutional Sprinkler Shut off tool allows the building to maintain fire protection, while shutting down any extensive water damage due to a single accidental sprinkler head activation.

Patterson will exhibit his Shutgun booth from **January 22 – 24** at the **American Correctional Association Winter conference** at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The setting off of sprinklers can also cause confusion among staff and residents, in some cases many correctional facility employees are not familiar with the workings of sprinklers and how they operate. Shutgun has solved this problem with their trademark, one handed squeeze.

As an added safety feature, Shutgun’s unique fusible link allows it to be left in place with the sprinkler system charged until the pipes can be drained and the head replaced – thus giving you full building fire protection despite the activation.

Shutgun has three versions including original Shutgun for standard sprinkler head models, Sheared Head Shutgun and Concealed Head Shutgun. “The Shutgun is insurance for these facilities and their staff, and it has proven its value in real life situations,” said Patterson.

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More than 30,000 Shutguns have been sold worldwide and have become a toolbox staple for building, managers, construction companies and contractors worldwide. Developed with a Toronto District Fire Chief of 35 years, Shutgun models are engineered to shut off most types of sprinkler heads including pendant, wall mount, upright, sheared or broken, semi-recessed and concealed style now popular in commercial complexes and hotels. www.shutguntool.com.

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