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Think Quality over Cost when it comes to Fire Protection Air Compressors

One difficulty universal to construction planning and design is the battle between costs versus quality. In the fire protection world, each component of a system must be examined closely for its cost effectiveness, reliability, and performance.

One component, vital to dry pipe systems, is often overlooked - the air compressor. While some parts of a fire protection system may not need to be put under a microscope because of a limited role in their use, or because of the standardization of materials, the air compressor does.

The air compressor is the heart of a dry pipe sprinkler system. The performance of the system as a whole hinges on the reliability and overall quality of the compressor that you choose. However many contractors, in an effort to save a few dollars, elect to purchase a generic consumer grade compressor.

The problem is inherent in the type of retailer where one might purchase a generic compressor - home improvement centers. These compressors are designed specifically for intermittent home use, not for the protection of lives and property.

In fact most, if not all, home improvement centers use an industrial grade air compressor designed for use in fire protection systems to safeguard their property and the lives of their customers. They will sell a generic air compressor to an unsuspecting contractor but they will not rely on one for their own system!

The next time you are walking through a home improvement retailer take a look for yourself. Find the riser and follow it to the compressor. You will find that they have chosen a different line than the ones they are willing to sell you. You will find that they have chosen quality over cost when it comes to your safety in their store.

The next time a dry pipe sprinkler system comes your way make sure that you choose wisely as well. Select an air compressor specifically designed for the fire protection industry – according to NFPA 13 performance guidelines, using industry standards like FM Approval and UL 2125 listings.

Remember, the heart of your customer's system demands the best quality.

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