

Sprinkler

The present invention relates to a sprinkler having, in a standby state, a heat-sensitive release means, which is in contact with a spindle. More specifically, the invention relates to a sprinkler comprising a frame, into which at least one nozzle has been mounted, whereby the frame has a fluid inlet and a passage for conveying extinguishing medium to at least one nozzle, whereby the sprinkler, in the standby state, has a heat-sensitive release means, which is in contact with a spindle slidably arranged in a conduit having an inlet and an outlet to said nozzle.

The release means may be, for instance, a glass vial that explodes at an elevated temperature. To achieve a rapid release, it is desirable to make the vial as thin as possible. Even a thin vial is able to withstand a sufficiently high mechanical load at a normal temperature, provided that the load is located directly on the vial end and is even.

Such a sprinkler is previously known from SE 501,267. However, this known sprinkler does not permit a high fluid pressure to exist in the fluid inlet, when the sprinkler is in the standby position, to achieve a rapid release of the sprinkler, since the fluid pressure would exert on the release means a force so great that the release means would break; alternatively, the release means would require a special construction.

The object of the invention is to provide a new sprinkler that ensures an even and straightlined load on the release means, whereby the load is not so high that the release means could break merely as a result of the fluid pressure in the sprinkler when the sprinkler is in the standby position.

The sprinkler according to the invention is characterized in that the conduit is composed of a channel, the wall of which the spindle is arranged in a slidable or almost slidable contact with, and that the
5 spindle and the channel extend on both sides of the channel inlet in order to at least partially balance the fluid pressure in the inlet when the sprinkler is in the standby state.

In a preferred embodiment, the nozzles, the release
10 means and the spindle are mounted into an insert housing, which thus premounted can in turn be mounted into a sprinkler retaining housing having a fluid inlet, which is in contact with the fluid inlet of the insert housing. It is thus easy to perform the mounting carefully without
15 causing any damage to a vial sensitive to impacts and uneven load.

The preferred embodiments of the invention are described in the enclosed claims 2 - 12.

The invention will be described in greater detail
20 below with reference to the preferred embodiments illustrated in the enclosed drawing.

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section of a first embodiment of the invention in the standby state.

Figure 2 shows the sprinkler according to Figure 1
25 in the released state.

Figure 3 shows a longitudinal section of a second embodiment of the invention in the standby state.

Figure 4 shows a longitudinal section of a third embodiment of the invention in the standby state.

Figure 5 shows the sprinkler according to Figure 4
30 in an intermediate position shortly after the release means has broken.

Figure 6 shows the sprinkler according to Figure 4 in a fully released state.

Figure 7 shows a detail of the sprinkler in Figure 4 in the standby state.

Figure 8 shows a detail of the sprinkler in Figure 5, i.e. in an intermediate position.

5 In Figures 1 and 2, a sprinkler is generally indicated by 1. The sprinkler has a housing 2, which is fastened to a ceiling 4 with a number of screws 3 and which has a fluid inlet 5 leading to a central channel 6. The sprinkler has further an insert 7 having an insert
10 housing 8 fastened to the sprinkler housing 2 with a number of screws 9. Due to an insert housing 8, which can be detached from the sprinkler housing 2, the installation of the sprinkler is simple, hydrostatic tests on fluid
15 tubes can be performed and the danger of mechanically deforming such components of the sprinkler that are sensitive to impacts is minimized. The insert 7 has a head 10, which is introduced into the channel 6 and is sealed against the channel downstream of (after) the fluid inlet
20 5.

20 The head 10 of the insert housing 8 has an inlet composed of a number of inlet apertures 11, which via a filter 12 are in contact with the fluid inlet 5 and which lead to a passage for fluid in the head 10, which fluid
25 passage is in the form of a central channel 13, which via outlets or branchings 14 branches off to a number of oblique nozzles 15. In the central channel 13 of the insert housing 8, a spindle 16 is slidably arranged, which spindle 16, in a standby position according to Figure 1, is sealed by means of seals 17 and 18 against the head 10
30 on both sides of the fluid inlet apertures 11. The channel 13 extends on both sides of the fluid inlet apertures 11 to prevent the fluid pressure from exerting too great a downward force on the spindle 16 when the sprinkler is in the standby position.

The spindle 16 also has a central channel 19, which downstream of (after) the spindle seal 18 via side openings 20 is in contact with the central channel 13 of the head 10 and from there via the branchings 14 with the
5 nozzles 15.

A holder 21 for a heat-sensitive release means 22, such as a glass vial that is filled with fluid and that explodes at an elevated temperature, is mounted onto the bottom of the insert housing 8. The inner end of the vial
10 22 is fitted into the outer end section 23 of the spindle 16 and is loaded via the outer end section 23 by a spring 24 provided in the spindle channel 19. The end of the spring 24 near the vial 22 rests against the bottom of the spindle channel 19 at a shoulder 25, whereas the end of
15 the spring opposite the vial rests against an adjusting screw 26 screwed into the head 10 or a corresponding adjustable stopper.

The force of the spring 24 and the annular surfaces at the seals 17, 18, which are under the influence of the fluid pressure in the inlet apertures 11, are adjusted so
20 that they do not, in the standby position according to Figure 1, crush the vial 22 at a normal temperature. The greater the difference of the annular areas at the seals 18 and 17, the greater is the force striving to press the spindle 16 downwards. If the part of the spindle 16 that
25 is located between the seals 17 and 18 is in contact with the wall surrounding the head 10, a complete balance of the fluid pressure at the inlet apertures 11 exists; only the spring 24 presses the spindle. The balance of the
30 fluid pressure does not have to be complete: a partial balance preventing too great a pressure - which could cause the vial to break - from being exerted on the vial suffices.

In the standby position according to Figure 1,
35 there is no fluid communication, due to the seal 17, from

the inlet apertures 11 via the upper end of the channel 13 to the spindle channel 19 and further to the nozzles 15; the direct communication is closed by the seal 18.

5 If the vial 22 is crushed, as is the case in Figure 2, due to hot gases or active heating by means of a heating coil (not shown), the force of the spring 24 hits the spindle 16 downwards. The spindle 16 has a shoulder 27 that restricts the downward movement of the spindle to the contact surface 28 of the holder 21 or - in the embodiment
10 in Figure 4 - to the contact surface 28" of the insert housing 8". The shoulder 27 and the contact surface 28 form a sealing annular surface. The spindle 16 moves sufficiently far to provide a fluid communication from the inlet apertures 11 via the channel 13 in the head 10 to
15 the central channel 19 and further to the nozzles 15, preferably with a great pressure and penetrating concentration in accordance with Patent Application PCT/FI92/00155.

Prior to mounting the insert 7 with the screws 9,
20 the vial 22 and the spindle construction 16, including the spring 24, are put in place in the insert housing 8, whereafter the adjusting screw 26 is tightened to load the spring 24 by the desired amount. The insert 7 is then mounted as a complete unit. It is thus easy to perform the
25 mounting carefully so that a vial sensitive to impacts or uneven load is not damaged.

In the embodiment according to Figure 3, the insert piece 7' of the sprinkler 1' corresponds to that in Figures 1 and 2. However, the housing 2' of the sprinkler
30 having a fluid inlet 5' is passed through a ceiling 4'.

In Figure 3, reference marks corresponding to those in Figure 1 have been used for the corresponding components.

35 Figures 4 - 6 show a third embodiment of the invention in the standby position, in the intermediate

position and in the fully released position. Reference marks corresponding to those in Figures 1 and 3 have been used in these figures for the corresponding components. The embodiment in Figure 4 differs from the embodiments in

5 Figures 1 and 3 as regards the position of the seal 17". When the sprinkler is in the standby position, the seal 17" is located close to the adjustable pin 26" at the upper edge of the spindle. In the embodiment according to Figure 4, a spring 24" arranged above the spindle 16"

10 replaces the spring 24, 24' in Figures 1 and 3. The spring 24", which is composed of Belleville springs, exerts a force against the upper end of the spindle 16" when the sprinkler 1" is in the standby position, see Figures 4 and 7. The seal 17" is located in a space defined by a

15 shoulder 29" in the adjusting screw 26", the lowermost Belleville spring 24a" of the spring 24" and the upper end of the spindle channel 19", when the sprinkler 1" is in the standby position. When the vial 22" is crushed in the event of a fire, the spring 24" assumes the shape

20 illustrated in Figures 6 and 8. In the fully released position of the sprinkler, see Fig. 6, the frustoconical shape of the Belleville spring 24a" holds the seal 17" pressed against the shoulder 29" in the adjusting screw 26". The Belleville spring 24a" is arranged to grip the

25 seal 17" before the upper end of the spindle 16" passes the shoulder 29" of the adjusting screw 26", i.e. before the spindle 16" falls so low that the spindle channel 19" no longer surrounds the seal 17". Due to the Belleville spring 24a", the seal 17" - regardless of whether the

30 sprinkler is in the standby or released position - is locked at the shoulder 29". Thus a high fluid pressure is not able to displace the seal 17" at the shoulder 29", when the sprinkler is in the fully released position, Fig. 6. Consequently, the spring 24 has two functions: the

function of pressing down the spindle 16" and the function of keeping the seal 17" in place.

5 The embodiment in Figures 4 - 6 also differs from the embodiments in Figures 1 and 3 as a nozzle 30" has been formed in the lowermost part of the spindle channel 19", see Figure 5. The nozzle 30" comprises a helical spring 31" surrounding a pin 32". Thus such a helical conduit 33" is formed that produces liquid mist from the diverging opening 34" of the nozzle 30". In the lower end
10 of the holder 21", a channel and a diverging opening with a conical surface 35" have been formed. The liquid mist jet emitted from the fluid channel 33" continues via said surface 35" and is finally emitted by the sprinkler 1".

15 The embodiment in Figures 4 - 6 differs further from the embodiments in Figures 1 and 3 as the insert housing 8" is screwed on the sprinkler housing 2" by means of threads 90", which have been formed in the part of the insert housing located below the head 10". A very simple construction for fastening the insert housing in the
20 sprinkler housing is achieved in this manner.



Claims

1. A sprinkler comprising a frame (2, 8, 2', 2"), into which at least one nozzle (15, 15', 15") has been
5 mounted, whereby the frame has a fluid inlet (5, 5', 5") and a passage (13, 13', 13") for conveying extinguishing medium to at least one nozzle (15, 15', 15", 30", 35"), whereby the sprinkler, in a standby state, has a heat-sensitive release means (22, 22', 22"), which is in
10 contact with a spindle (16, 16', 16") slidably arranged in a conduit (13, 13', 13") having an inlet (11) and an outlet (14) to said nozzle, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the conduit is composed of a channel (13, 13', 13"), the wall of which the spindle (16, 16', 16") is in a
15 slidable or almost slidable contact with, and that the spindle and the channel extend on both sides of the channel (13, 13', 13") inlet (11, 11', 11") in order to at least partially balance the fluid pressure in the inlet when the sprinkler (1, 1', 1") is in the standby state.

20 2. A sprinkler according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in

that the spindle (16, 16', 16") is sealed (18, 18', 18") against the channel (13, 13', 13") wall between the inlet (11, 11', 11") and the outlet (14, 14', 14") to the
25 nozzles (15, 15', 15"),

that the spindle (16, 16', 16") has a central spindle channel (19, 19', 19") having downstream of said seal (18, 18', 18") openings (20, 20', 20") to the surrounding channel (13, 13', 13") and having an open
30 inflow end,

that the spindle (16, 16', 16"), when the sprinkler (1, 1', 1") is in the standby state, is sealed (17, 17', 17") between the inlet (11, 11', 11") and the inflow end of the spindle channel (19, 19', 19"), and



that the spindle is arranged to be displaced, when the sprinkler (1, 1', 1'') is released, so that a connection is opened from the inlet (11, 11', 11'') past said seal (17, 17', 17'') to the inflow end of the spindle channel (19, 19', 19'').

3. The sprinkler according to claim 2, characterized in that a spring (24, 24') is provided in the spindle channel (19, 19'), resting partly against the bottom (25, 25') of the spindle channel and partly against an adjustable fastening means (26, 26') in order to displace the spindle (16, 16') when the sprinkler is released.

4. A sprinkler according to claim 2, characterized by a spring (24, 24', 24''), partly resting against an adjustable fastening means (26, 26', 26'') and partly against the spindle (16, 16', 16'') in order to displace the spindle when the sprinkler is released.

5. A sprinkler according to claim 4, characterized in that the spring (24'') is positioned above the spindle (16'') to exert a force against the upper end of the spindle when the sprinkler (1'') is in the standby state.

6. A sprinkler according to claim 4, characterized in that the adjustable fastening means (26'') extends into the spindle channel (19''), whereby the seal (17'') between the inlet (11'') and the inflow end of the spindle channel (19'') are mounted near the part of the adjustable fastening means that extends into the spindle channel when the sprinkler is in the standby position.

7. A sprinkler according to claim 6, characterized in that the spring (24'') comprises a Belleville spring (24a''), which is arranged to press the seal (17'') against a shoulder (29'') in the



adjustable fastening means (26") in order to keep the seal (17") in place.

8. A sprinkler according to any of the preceding claims comprising several nozzles (15, 15', 15"), characterized in that the nozzles (15, 15', 15"), the release means (22, 22', 22") and the spindle (16, 16', 16") having a fastening means (26, 26', 26") are mounted in an insert housing (8, 8', 8"), which thus premounted can in turn be mounted into the frame of the sprinkler (2, 2', 2") having a fluid inlet (5, 5', 5") that is in contact with the inlet (11, 11', 11") of the insert housing (8, 8', 8").

9. A sprinkler according to claim 8, characterized in that the inlet (11, 11") of the insert housing (8, 8") is arranged in a head (10, 10"), which can be displaced into a receiving channel (6, 6") formed in the retaining housing (2, 2"), which receiving channel (6, 6") is in contact with the fluid inlet (5, 5") of the frame.

10. A sprinkler according to claim 9, characterized in that the insert housing (8") comprises threads (90") for screwing the insert housing into the corresponding threads in the retaining housing (2").

11. A sprinkler according to claim 1 comprising a such a holder for the heat-sensitive release means (22"), which is positioned in the bottom of the frame (8"), characterized in that a nozzle (30") has been arranged at the lower end of the spindle channel (19") in order to produce a liquid mist, whereby a helical fluid channel (33") defined by a helical spring (31") surrounding a pin (32") leads to said nozzle (30").

12. A sprinkler according to claim 10, characterized in that an opening and a diverging surface (35") have been formed in the lower end



of the holder (21") to receive liquid mist from the nozzle (30") and to emit the liquid mist from the sprinkler (1").