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HOLDER FOR MOUNTING A SPRAY HEAD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a holder for mounting a spray head for fire fighting, comprising a body, a first end, a second end and a passage between the first and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, a channel at the second end of the body for receiving the spray head in such a way that a housing of the spray head is inserted into the channel, the first end being intended to receive a conduit for supplying extinguishing medium. The holder can also be called a mounting part of a spray head.

A holder of the above type is known from the publication WO 95/31252, for instance. The holder is typically mounted on a ceiling, but can be mounted on a wall, alternatively.

SE 504 325 discloses a release device intended for a sprinkler head, facilitating function testing and comprising a remote-control pilot piston, which is, also in case of intact fuse, arranged to keep the passage between the inlet and the nozzle closed or open, respectively, depending on the position of the pilot piston.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a holder according to the preamble of the attached claim 1 and to a combination of a holder and a spray head according to the preamble of the attached claim 10.

Spray heads and sprinklers, i.e. spray heads with built-in release means, are pressure tested or tested in another manner to secure their function in case of fire. After the tests, the sprinklers and/or spray heads are unscrewed from their respective holder to carry out possible adjustments and - if sprinklers are used - to replace the release means damaged at release, such as a broken glass ampoule, for instance.

After the sprinklers or spray heads have been tested, extinguishing medium remains in the conduit (for supplying extinguishing medium), though a section valve controlling the flow of extinguishing medium to the sprinklers or spray heads is closed. When the spray head or sprinkler is being unscrewed, the extinguishing medium remained in the conduit conducting the extinguishing medium to the spray head flows out.

The above implies that - if water is used as extinguishing medium - water flows on the floor or on some other undesired place. Because the con-

duits may be very long, the amount of water flowing out will be great. To prevent water damages, this water has to be dried up, or alternatively, a big container is needed, in which the water is collected. A further drawback of this water flow is that the person testing the sprinklers or spray heads is easily
5 subjected to water spraying.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to solve said drawbacks. This object is achieved by means of a holder for mounting a spray head for the fire fighting, comprising a body, a first end, a second end and a passage between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, the first end being arranged to receive a conduit for supplying the extinguishing medium, a channel at the second end of the body for receiving a housing of the spray head and a displaceable element mounted in the passage for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open, in which the element is arranged to be in the first position when the housing is not received and to be displaced to the second position by the spray head when the housing is received and in which the element comprises radial projections extending from a portion thereof and the passage comprises grooves for receiving the projections in the grooves.

Preferred embodiments of the holder are presented in the attached claims 2 to 9.

According to the invention, a combination of a holder and a spray
25 head is characterized in what is set forth in the characterizing portion of the attached claim 10.

The invention is essentially based on the idea to provide a construction in which a flow of water or other extinguishing medium out of the conduit leading to the spray head (or sprinkler) is automatically prevented
30 upon the spray head or sprinkler being detached from its holder and in which the water flow is possible when the spray head (or sprinkler) is mounted to its holder. In other words, the invention relates to a valve of a holder for a spray head (or sprinkler) for fire fighting, the functional position of the valve being controlled depending on whether the spray head (or sprinkler) is mounted to
35 the holder or not. When the spray head is not mounted, the valve gets into a

blocking position on account of the fact that 1) force of gravity acts on the valve, 2) pressure of extinguishing medium acts on the valve, or 3) an element, such as a spring, acts on the valve. Naturally, the blocking position can also be provided as a result of a combination of said reasons.

5 The greatest advantages of the invention are that it prevents extinguishing medium, e.g. water, from flowing out of conduits leading to sprinklers and spray heads, when sprinklers and spray heads are detached from their respective holders, and thus prevents considerable amounts of extinguishing
10 medium from flowing out in places where the extinguishing medium may cause damage.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the following, the invention will be described in more detail by means of two embodiments with reference to the attached drawing, in which:

15 Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of a holder according to the invention in a first position;

 Figure 2 shows a sprinkler to be mounted to the holder of Figure 1;

 Figure 3 shows the holder of Figure 1 in a second position and the sprinkler of Figure 2 mounted to the holder;

20 Figures 4 to 6 show a detail of the holder of Figure 1 from above, from the side and from below, respectively;

 Figure 7 shows a second embodiment of the holder according to the invention in a first position corresponding to the position of Figure 1;

25 Figure 8 shows a sprinkler to be mounted to the holder of Figure 7; and

 Figure 9 shows the holder of Figure 7 in a second position and the sprinkler of Figure 8 mounted to the holder.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

30 Figure 1 shows a mounting part or a holder 1 for a spray head for fire fighting. By means of the mounting part, the spray head can be mounted on a panel, for instance. The spray head may comprise an ampoule or another member, which is broken or which changes its shape at heat to make the spray head release, whereby the spray head together with said member forms
35 a sprinkler. Such a sprinkler 2 is shown in Figure 2.

In Figure 1, the holder 1 is mounted on a panel 6 by means of screws 7 or corresponding fastening members. The panel 6 may typically constitute a ceiling. Instead of mounting the holder 1 horizontally, as shown in Figure 1, the holder can be mounted on a vertical surface or a slanting surface. A conduit 3 for supplying extinguishing medium mounted in the holder 1 is also drawn in Figure 1. The conduit 3 is kept mounted by means of a threaded part 4. The reference numeral 5 indicates a sealing.

The holder 1 comprises a body 8, a first end 9 for receiving the conduit 3, and a second end 10 for receiving the sprinkler 2. A passage 11 for extinguishing medium, e.g. water, leads from the first end 9 to the second end 10. In Figure 1, the passage is blocked by a valve element 12, which is kept in the position shown in Figure 1 by its weight, i.e. by means of gravitation. Alternatively, a pressure in the conduit 3 can keep the valve element 12 sealingly in place by exposing a pressure surface 13d of the valve element to a force. An actuating surface 13e, opposite to the pressure surface 13d, is formed at a lower end of the valve element 12. This actuating surface 13e works in cooperation with the sprinkler 2, for opening the passage 11, which will be described later.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 show the valve element 12 from above, from the side and from below.

The valve element 12 comprises a conically tapering portion 13a, which changes over to a guide portion 13b having a waist portion 13c and a wider portion with three projections 15, between which there are grooves 110, see Figures 5 and 6. The passage 11 (see Fig. 1) comprises a conically tapering seat 14a, whose shape corresponds to the conically tapering portion 13a of the valve element 12, and a cylindrical portion 14b for receiving the projections 15 of the guide portion. The conically tapering portion 13a constitutes together with the conically tapering seat 14a a sealing composed of a sealing surface or a sealing line blocking the passage 11.

Thanks to the guide portion 13b, the valve element 12 will be guided in the longitudinal direction of the passage 11. The cylindrical portion 14b of the passage 11 may be provided with shallow grooves 16 receiving the projections 15 of the valve element, in which case the valve element 12 can be kept steadily in place also when the passage 11 is open, cf. Fig. 3. This is the case also when the holder 1 is mounted in a horizontal position.

From Figure 1 and 3 appears that a slot 40 is formed between the conically tapering portion 13a and the wall of the surrounding passage 11 even at the place where the diameter of the conically tapering portion is biggest. The grooves 110 of the guide portion 13b form channels for the flow of extinguishing medium past the slot 40 and the valve element 12 when this is in the open position, cf. Fig. 3 and 5. A flow of extinguishing medium past the slot 40 through the valve element 12 can also be provided (when the valve element is in the open position) by making the grooves 16 bigger than the projections 15 in such a way that the grooves 16 constitute passages for extinguishing medium.

The above shows that the shape of the guide portion 13b may vary in many ways: for instance, a waist portion is not absolutely necessary, though such a portion enables an efficient flow of extinguishing medium in spite of small size of the valve element 12. It is also conceivable that the end of the valve element 12 which faces the first end 9 of the holder is guided by the passage 11. Hereby, either the guide portion of the valve element or the passage is provided with grooves enabling a flow of extinguishing medium. In the latter case, the valve element 12 does not need any guide portion facing the second end 10 of the holder, but can have a guide portion at its end facing the first end 9 of the holder.

The cross-sectional area of the cylindrical portion 14b constitutes about 3 to 30 % of the cross-sectional area of the passage 11.

It is also conceivable that one or more channels (not shown) are formed in the wall constituting the passage 11, which channels are opened by the valve element 12 being displaced to the position of Figure 3. Such a channel could replace the grooves 110 of the valve element 12 for the purpose of enabling a flow of extinguishing medium from the first end 9 of the holder to its second end 10.

The lower end of the passage 11 is constituted by a channel 17 for receiving the sprinkler 2, see Fig. 1 and 2. The sprinkler 2 comprises a housing 18 with an upper end 19. The sprinkler 2 is screwed in place by means of threads 20 formed in the channel 17 of the holder 1. Instead of threads, some other means, e.g. bayonet connection or other quick-coupling means, can be used for fastening the sprinkler to the holder. When the sprinkler 2 is being mounted to the holder 1, the upper end 19 of the housing 18 presses against the actuating surface 13e and thus lifts the valve element 12 from the position

shown in Figure 1 to the position shown in Figure 3. Hereby, the passage 11 is opened and extinguishing medium may flow from the conduit 3 into the sprinkler 2. The expression actuating surface 13e signifies any type of actuating surface, which also can have a very small area. Thus, the actuating surface
5 can be a point or a line (in Figure 9, the actuating surface is formed of a point).

Figure 7 shows another embodiment of the holder 1' according to the invention. The holder 1' of Figure 7 differs from the holder of Figure 1 therein that it comprises, instead of a conically tapering valve element, a ball 12' loaded by a spring 30'. The ball 12' has a smaller diameter than the surrounding passage 11 so that there is a slot 40' between the ball and the wall of the surrounding channel. The spring 30' is a helical spring comprising a first end and a second end, the first end of the spring bearing against the ball 12' and the second end of the spring bearing against a ring element 40' in the passage 11'. In the Figures 7 to 9, similar parts of the holder and the sprinkler
10 are indicated by reference numerals formed by adding an apostrophe to the reference numerals used in the Figures 1 to 3. The spring 30' is not necessary, but, thanks to the spring, the ball 12' stays in the blocking position shown in Figure 1, though the holder 1' is mounted in a position differing from the vertical position. Though the valve element 12, 12' is arranged to be in a slanting position by exposing the valve element to a force by the pressure of the extinguishing medium, there is a possibility that the valve element allows extinguishing medium to pass when the holder is mounted in a horizontal or slanting position, if there is no spring 30'. The spring 30' secures also that the ball 12' does not start rotating so as to disturb the flow of extinguishing medium in the passage 11', when the ball is in the position with the passage
20 open.

From Figure 9 appears that the upper end 19' of the sprinkler shall be sufficiently long to be able to displace the ball 12' to a position with the passage 11' open.

30 The invention has been described above by means of two examples only, and therefore, it is pointed out that the details of the invention may differ in many ways within the scope of the attached claims. Accordingly, the shape of the displaceable element 12, 12' may differ from an element having a conical portion or from a ball-shaped element. Instead of the element 12, 12' being mounted centrally in the passage 11, 11', it is conceivable that the element
35 is built in the wall of the body 8, 8' of the holder. In the latter case, it is

conceivable to a person skilled in the art that some other part of the housing 18, 18' of the sprinkler than the upper end 19, 19' of the sprinkler could attend to that the element will be displaced from the closing position to the opening position.

CLAIMS

1. A fire fighting spray head holder (1) comprising:
 - a body (8), a first end (9), a second end (10), and a passage (11) between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, the first end being arranged to receive a conduit for supplying the extinguishing medium;
 - a channel (17) at the second end of the body for receiving a housing (18) of the spray head; and
 - a displaceable element (12) mounted in the passage (11) for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open,
 - wherein the element (12) is arranged to be in the first position when the housing (18) is not received and to be displaced to the second position by the spray head when the housing is received, and
 - wherein the element (12) comprises radial projections (15) extending from a portion (13b) thereof and the passage (11) comprises grooves (16) for receiving the projections in the grooves
2. A fire fighting spray head holder (1) comprising:
 - a body (8), a first end (9), a second end (10), and a passage (11) between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, the first end being arranged to receive a conduit for supplying the extinguishing medium;
 - a channel (17) at the second end of the body for receiving a housing (18) of the spray head; and
 - a displaceable element (12) mounted in the passage (11) for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open,
 - wherein the element (12) is arranged to be in the first position when the housing (18) is not received and to be displaced to the second position by the spray head when the housing is received,
 - wherein the element (12) comprises a conically tapering portion (13a) for bearing against a conically tapering seat (14a) arranged in the passage (11), the portion of the element (12) together with the seat constituting a sealing surface preventing extinguishing medium from flowing from the first end (9) to the second end (10) when a housing is not received, the portion of

the element (12) having a diameter bigger than the diameter of the passage (11) and being arranged to be displaced from the seat to open a connection between the first end and the second end when the housing (18) is received, and

5 wherein the conically tapering portion (13a) tapers towards the channel (17) and changes over to a guide portion (13b), which comprises at least one channel (110) for keeping the passage (11) between the first end (9) and the second end (10) open when the housing is received.

3. A fire fighting spray head holder (1) comprising:

10 a body (8), a first end (9), a second end (10), and a passage (11) between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, the first end being arranged to receive a conduit for supplying the extinguishing medium;

 a channel (17) at the second end of the body for receiving a housing (18) of the spray head; and

15 a displaceable element (12) mounted in the passage (11) for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open,

 wherein the element (12) is arranged to be in the first position when
20 the housing (18) is not received and to be displaced to the second position by the spray head when the housing is received, and

 wherein the channel (17) for receiving said spray head is internally threaded (21) for receiving corresponding threads (20) of the spray head.

4. A fire fighting spray head holder (1) comprising:

25 a body (8'), a first end (9'), a second end (10'), and a passage (11') between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, the first end being arranged to receive a conduit for supplying the extinguishing medium;

 a channel (17') at the second end of the body for receiving a housing (18') of the spray head; and

30 a displaceable element (12') mounted in the passage (11') for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open,

 wherein the element (12') is arranged to be in the first position when
35 the housing (18') is not received and to be displaced to the second position by the spray head when the housing is received,

wherein a spring (30') urges the element (12') to the first position when the housing (18') is not received, and

wherein the element comprises a ball (12') for bearing against a seat (14a') in the body (18'), the ball and the seat together constituting a seal preventing extinguishing medium from flowing from the first end (9') to the second end (10') when the spray head is not mounted, the ball being arranged to be displaced from the seat and to open the passage (11) between the first end and the second end when the spray head is being mounted.

5 A holder according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the grooves (16) constitute passages for the extinguishing medium.

6. A holder according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the element (12, 12') is arranged to be displaced to the second position by exposing the element to a force by the housing (18, 18') of the spray head, when the spray head (2, 2') is being mounted to the holder (1, 1').

15 7. A holder according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the element (12) comprises a pressure surface (13d) to be exposed to the pressure of extinguishing medium prevailing in the passage, said pressure exposing the element to a force keeping the element in the first position, when the spray head (2) is not mounted.

20 8. A holder according to claim 4, wherein the element (12') is arranged to be in the first position by means of a spring (30') exposing the element to a force, when the spray head (2') is not mounted.

25 9. A holder according to any claims 1 or 2, wherein the element (12, 12') is arranged to be in the first position by means of gravitation, when the spray head (2, 2') is not mounted.

10. A holder according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the element (12) comprises a conically tapering portion (13a) for bearing against a conically tapering seat (14a) arranged in the passage (11) of the holder, which portion together with the seat constitutes a sealing surface preventing extinguishing medium from flowing from the first end (9) of the holder to its second end (10), when the spray head (2) is not mounted, which portion is arranged to be displaced from the seat and to open a connection between the first end and the second end of the holder, when the spray head is being mounted

35 11. A holder according to claims 2 or 3, wherein the element (12) comprises radial projections (15) extending from a portion (13b) thereof and

that the passage (11) comprises grooves (16) for receiving the projections in such a way that these are inserted into the grooves.

12. A holder according to claim 2, wherein the conically tapering portion (13a) tapers towards the channel (17) and changes over to a guide portion (13b), which comprises at least one channel (110) keeping the passage (11) between the first end (9) and the second end (10) of the holder open, when the spray head is mounted.

13. A combination of a fire fighting spray head holder (1, 1') and a housing (18, 18') of the spray head (2, 2'), the holder comprising a body (8, 8'), a first end (9, 9'), an opposite second end (10, 10'), a passage (11, 11') between the first end and the second end for conducting extinguishing medium from the first end to the second end, and a channel (17, 17') at the second end for receiving the housing (18, 18'), the first end (9, 9') being for receiving the extinguishing medium, and a displaceable element (12, 12') mounted in the passage (11, 11') for displacement from a first position in which the element closes the passage to a second position, in which the element keeps the passage open, wherein the element (12, 12') is in the first position when the housing (18, 18') is not received in the channel (17, 17') and in the second position when the housing is received in the channel (17, 17').

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