October
1993
$7

FPC magazine

The Most Widely Read Sprinkler Industry Publication

FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTOR

Phoenix Municipal Building: Copper Installation

INNOVATION
COPPER
IN ARIZONA

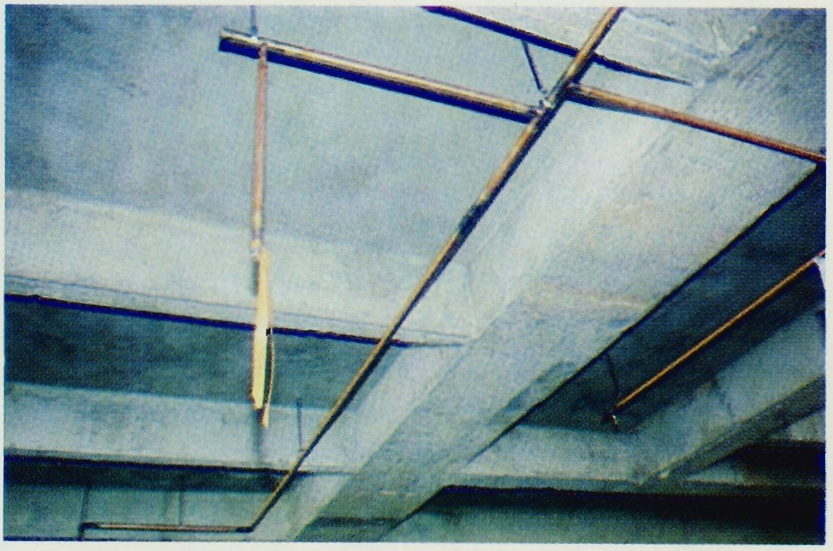
Subject:
21-story Phoenix Municipal Building

System:
Copper Fire Sprinkler Installation

Contractor:
Gary Beyschau
Aero Automatic Sprinkler
Phoenix, Arizona

More than a quarter-mile of copper tubing and 96 sprinkler heads were installed in 60 hours by one of Aero's top fitters. "When my entire crew gets that proficient at brazing, we'll be able to do more jobs in the same amount of time. That's good for me and *our customers," said Gary Beyschau, President of Aero Automatic Sprinkler, Inc., headquartered in Phoenix. Beyschau said there were numerous revisions issued after the floors were roughed-in on this project. "Our performance in revising these floors was far better than we anticipated. The workability of copper allowed us to achieve a job performance which would have been unobtainable with a steel piping system."*

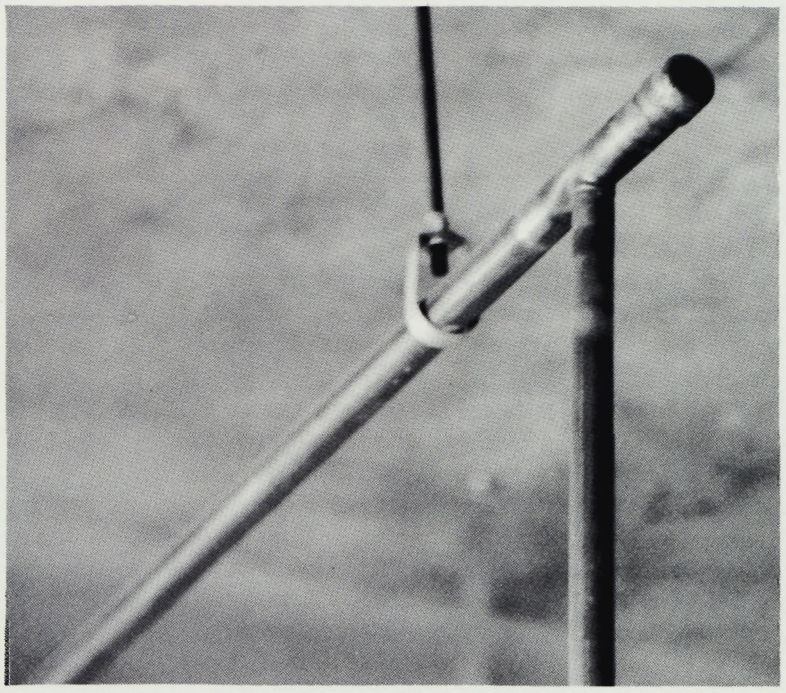
Mr. Beyschau pointed out that not everyone working for him was familiar with brazing techniques when this project started. That situation was corrected with training sessions conducted by Richard Weiting, the Copper Development Association's (CDA) Western Regional Manager, and by an instructional team from CDA. "The learning curve was surprisingly short for the crews," said Beyschau. "However, I think it will take me another project or two to feel I've really achieved the maximum potential using copper tube. Each week I discover more subtle ways that copper helps keep down job costs." The CDA is a trade association representing the copper and brass industries in the U.S., handling the technical and marketing arm of the copper industry.

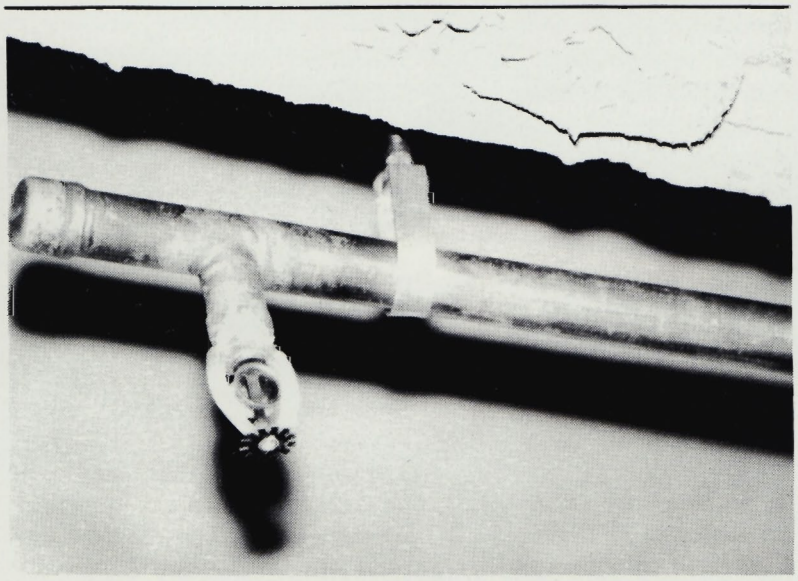


Reprinted from *FPC/Fire Protection Contractor*, October 1993

Automatic fire sprinkler systems and copper tubing are not always used in the same conversation. But in Arizona, if someone talks about the construction of the new 21-story Phoenix Municipal Building, the subjects are interchangeable. This facility is the first major Arizona project to utilize a copper fire sprinkler system that uses the mechanically-formed tee connection, supplied by T-Drill Industries, Inc. Upon completion of the job, owners of a major resort hotel were so impressed with Aero Automatic's performance and minimal interruption of their operations that the firm has been awarded two more million-dollar contracts for their resort properties.

A significant factor in reducing the cost of a copper tube installation is the use of the UL listed T-Drill method for mechanically forming tees in the tube itself. A combination of fast-track installation and no tee-fitting cost can create an 18% cost reduction in copper tube installation, according to Richard Nelson, the North American Sales Manager for T-Drill Industries, Inc., headquartered in Norcross, Georgia.





Mr. Beyschau explained that "prefabrication of right-angle bends during normal downtime can save the installation of two joints when you're back on the job site. That prefab can save a cap fitting and tee for each head drop, too. While the T-Drill reduces fitting requirements, I also can order custom lengths of copper tube that will match repeated runs on the layout. That saves even more on labor."

Information:
"Design Guide – Fire Sprinkler Systems"

"Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems"

"Material Selection Guide, Copper vs. CPVC for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems"

Available free of charge from:
Copper Development Association, Inc.
260 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10016
1-800-CDA-DATA

Reprinted from *FPC/Fire Protection Contractor*, October 1993

DO IT PROPER. DO IT COPPER.

Dependable, durable copper is the preferred choice for fire sprinkler systems. Three free publications from the Copper Development Association describe the significant advantages of copper tube and fittings. Quality advantages that will pay back year after year after year.

Get the design, installation and material information you need in "Design Guide — Fire Sprinkler Systems," "Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems" and "Material Selection Guide — Copper vs. CPVC for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems."

Request your free copies from: Copper Development Association Inc., 260 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Or call 1-800-CDA-DATA.

4014-0009

COPPER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION INC.