

CUT TO FIT

Using rotary cut-off machines for manufacturing cost-effective sprinkler systems

By Susan A. DeJesus

It has been proven time and again that sprinkler systems are life saving. These systems, whether installed in high-rise, commercial, or residential buildings, contribute a major part to new and retrofitted construction projects.

In today's economy, cost and quality are primary factors in the decision making process. Sprinkler systems must be of high quality, as well as cost effective to manufacture.

Continental's pipe and tube cut-off machines have contributed to those requirements in the manufacturing of sprinkler systems for many years. As a rotary cut-off machine, it has developed into an effective method of production and pipe cutting, regardless of lot sizes.

The rotary cut-off machine is basically a motorized version of a plumbers' cutting tool. When the blade is engaged in the material, it spins the pipe and parts the wall thickness without going through the entire diameter of pipe, leaving no material waste. In a matter of seconds, the cut is made. There are no chips. No coolant is required to make the cut. For every one hundred cuts, over a foot of material is saved. When the blade becomes dull, it can be sharpened 25 times before it needs to be replaced.

Vince Murphy, president of Accu-Fire Fabrication in Morrisville, Pennsylvania remarked, "It is a solid piece of equipment that is very versatile. With our machines we can cut 1" to 6" pipe, Schedule 10 to 40, black or galvanized, with minimal set-up and change over time.: (Various machines are available that can cut from ¼ " to 12-3/4" O.D. pipe and tube.)

The Continental cut-off machine can endure many years of active service when simple, preventative maintenance steps are taken. "This is what makes the machine great to work with – it is problem free, minimal maintenance is required, and it's user friendly," said Jerry Bernholtz, president of Midwest Automatic Sprinkler in Des Moines, Iowa.

As a quality control supervisor, Mike Helms at



Perkins Supply in Little Rock, Arkansas stated that "Continental has proven its reliability over the years with consistent, dependable service. The availability of parts is excellent. In most cases, parts can be ordered and shipped the same day. Also, their instructions are very user friendly and informative."

After speaking to fire sprinkler fabricators that use Continental pipe and tube cut-off machines, Jeff Withrow, head of Maintenance at S.A. Comunale in Norton, Ohio sums it up best. "The Continental cut-off machines are the fastest, cleanest and most productive cut-off machines there are. Without a doubt, they are great – the only way to cut."

About the Author

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