

LEAN LINE



Plastic Bag Saves the Day

The photos below demonstrate the clear plastic tubing that our Pennsylvania Fire Protection branch uses to prevent black sprinkler water from splashing newly painted walls or occupied areas when relocating sprinklers and repairing leaks.

The plastic tubing comes in a continuous roll that can be cut to any length and is available through U-LINE.

If not sure how much water is trapped in the piping, they start with a 55 gallon barrel on wheels. If after the first opening, they are certain there is less than 4 gallons of trapped water, then they use a 5-gallon bucket.

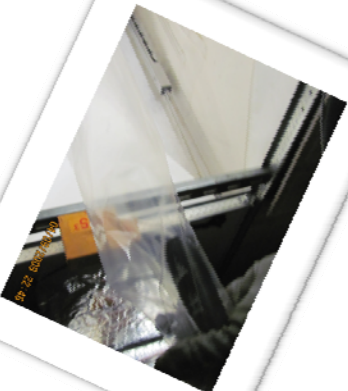
The procedure PA uses is:

Lean Mission: To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.

1. Loosen the sprinkler head; place the plastic tubing over the sprinkler drop and into the bottom of your container.
2. Remove the sprinkler head with your hand wrapped around the outside of the plastic tubing.
3. Release the sprinkler head and let it travel down inside the tubing to the bottom of the container with the trapped water. The friction from traveling down the tubing slows the water down and the barrel contains the splash.

This is an easy and innovative solution to a common problem in our fire protection trade. Way to go, PA!

VISUAL DEMONSTRATION:



Click & Email



A Sheet Metal worker received a \$50 gift card for his "Making Lean Personal" entry. He was the first to provide the great idea of sending the field-signed Toolbox Talks back to the office in a quick efficient way. He used his phone to take a photo of the signed Toolbox Talk and then emailed it to our Lean & Safety Coordinator.

No more finding a fax machine; no more filling out an inter-office mail envelope & sending through the mail runner; no more making a special trip to the office to drop off signed Toolbox Talks. Just one click with his phone and a quick forwarding email and it's done. This saves time not only in the field but also makes the office more productive since we scan and electronically file the Toolbox Talks; now the file is already in electronic form.

We recommend others use this best practice as well, but check with the end-user before using on other forms since sometimes originals are required.