

What is it and why is it a concern?

The HPCF has specialized fire suppression systems designed to extinguish fires in critical equipment areas without using water (such as, server rooms). When activated, these systems release the fire suppression agent throughout the protected room to extinguish a fire. The discharge may create an oxygen-deficient atmosphere and can be hazardous to anyone remaining in the room.

How to protect yourself

If an alarm sounds: **LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY**

Do not wait to determine whether the system will discharge.

Do not attempt to continue working, collect belongings, or investigate the cause of the alarm.

Understanding the Alarm Stages

Stage 1 - Fire Detector Alarm

What happens?

- One smoke detector goes into alarm.
- Loud slow beeping sounds.
- White warning strobe activates.
- Fire Department is notified.

What does it mean?

- Agent discharge is **not imminent**.
- The alarm could be caused by smoke, dust, a detector malfunction, or another condition.

Your Required Action

Evacuate immediately and call OCC.

Even though discharge has not started, workers should treat the alarm seriously and evacuate.

Stage 2 – Pre-Discharge Countdown

What happens?

- A second smoke detector activates.
- The system starts a 30-second countdown to discharge.
- Beeping becomes faster and more urgent.
- Warning strobe continues flashing.

What does it mean?

- The system now believes a fire is likely present.
- Clean agent release may occur in less than one minute.

Your Required Action

Evacuate immediately and call OCC.

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Stage 3 – Agent Discharge

What happens?

- The clean agent is released into the room.
- The entire cylinder system is discharged.

Hazards

- Oxygen levels will be reduced.
- Breathing hazards may be present.
- High pressure gas release can create additional hazards.

Your Required Action

Remain outside of the building and wait for clearance from emergency responders or authorized personnel before re-entering.

Manual Release Control

This device deliberately releases the clean agent.

- Activation causes system discharge.
- Once activated, it cannot be stopped by the abort button.
- Should only be used by trained personnel.



Abort Button

The abort button is a **hold-to-delay** button. It is intended to extend the time for people inside the building to evacuate by holding it down and delaying suppressant discharge.

- It only works during the Stage 2 countdown.
- It pauses the countdown only while being held down.
- Releasing the button allows the countdown to continue.
- It does not permanently cancel a discharge.
- It does not stop a manually initiated release.



Re-entry Rules

DO NOT ENTER if:

- An alarm is active.
- A countdown is in progress.
- A discharge has occurred.
- Emergency responders have not provided clearance.

Only return to the area after it has been evaluated and declared safe.