

Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

Hot Water Boilers in Florida Do You Comply With Safety Standards?

You will be surprised to know that even in Florida, we utilize boilers to heat water and buildings, especially in the northern part of the state. There are approximately 2,300 boiler accidents per year across the United States, including exploding boilers and fatalities.

Boilers are utilized to make steam under pressure. When anything is under pressure, that pressure wants to escape any way it can. Boilers are designed to keep that pressure under control when properly operating; however, if not routinely maintained and inspected, they can be very dangerous things to have.

Boilers must be registered with the state of Florida's Fire Marshal's office. Each boiler must have a State Registration and be inspected annually, either by the State Fire Marshal's office or Hartford Steam Boiler, Inc. You can easily check this by looking at the Certificate of Compliance, which should be hanging on or next to the unit. In addition, a metal tag with a Florida Identification number should be affixed to the unit. If you do not see these, please contact your business manager or priest, and/or Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. at 561-998-6807.

A Boiler Safety Plan is necessary to ensure your boiler lasts for a long time and, more importantly, no one gets injured working on these systems. The following will help to achieve this:

- Ensure you have the manufacturer's owners manual and that you closely follow the recommended periodic maintenance requirements contained therein.
- Maintenance work should be performed by a trained maintenance person or a licensed contractor.
- Keep your boiler room clean and do not store flammable materials, boxes, and other items not associated with the boiler and its operation.

- A trained maintenance worker or vendor should test the low-water cutoff and the pressure relief devices at least every two months.
- Routinely "blow down" the boiler as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Ensure your boiler is inspected by the State Fire Marshal or Hartford Steam Boiler, Inc., and Certificates of Compliance are clearly posted.
- Ensure all major repairs are conducted by a certified vendor, and carefully keep track of maintenance logs on all boilers.
- In the event of an accident, promptly notify:

Chief Boiler Inspector

State of Florida
Division of State Fire Marshal
Phone: 850-413-3614
Fax: 850-922-2553
E-mail: FirePrevention@fldfs.com

Gallagher Bassett

877-376-2561



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 Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

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