

## Chapter 3 Protective Measures and Procedures

### 3-1. Commercial

*a. Initial response.* Professional fire-fighting services should be relied upon to control and extinguish fires at the facilities. The initial response to a fire emergency should follow a written procedure as required by EM 385-1-1 and agreed to by the local fire departments, the Coast Guard, and the operating District. This procedure should include hardware requirements, method of communications, equipment access, response times, etc.

*b. Spray systems.* A water spray system should be activated as quickly as possible to cool and help wash flammable liquids away from the miter gates. Fixed sprinkler systems have the advantage of allowing lock personnel to perform other duties or seek shelter once they are activated. Sprinkler systems, however, are expensive to install, test, and maintain. Hose stations, readily available to the lock chamber, can be used to cool the gates, protect adjacent buildings, and assist in controlling fires on board vessels. Hose stations can be supplied at a relatively small cost, especially when combined with service water or deck wash systems, and are more easily maintained.

*c. Additional protection.* Filling the lock chamber will provide additional protection for the miter gates and lock walls. This is an effective procedure only when it does not expose important buildings and equipment on the lock walls to danger. Flushing a burning vessel out of a lock chamber is another alternative when it can be accomplished quickly enough to prevent damage and it does not endanger other navigators or river facilities. It also could require the installation of an oil boom downstream for liquid containment.

*d. Evacuation.* The burning vessel's crew and lock personnel should be evacuated as required by the situation. Ambulances and police should be called in to assist.

### 3-2. Recreational

As with commercial vessel, an emergency response should be initiated and the vessel evacuated as soon as possible. Hose stations should be used to control the fire and protect other vessels that may also be in the chamber. Sprinkler systems should be activated or the gates hosed as necessary.