



Update on the State Capitol Pipe Break

January 24, 2005

- (1) **What happened?** An elbow section of a two-inch sprinkler system pipe broke at about 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, December 24, 2004. The pipe is located on the fourth floor attic. The pipe break triggered multiple alarms. Department of Administrative Services (DAS) staff and the Des Moines Fire Department responded promptly.
- (2) **How much water escaped?** It appears that water escaped for about 45 minutes. A very rough estimate indicates that some 2,000 gallons of water may have been released.
- (3) **Where did the damage occur?** The damage occurred on all floors of the north side of the Statehouse. These areas house legislators, legislative staff and the formal chamber of the Iowa House of Representatives.
- (4) **What was damaged?** Damage is consistent with a water leak flooding downward through four floors of the building. Ceilings, walls, floors, and electrical and mechanical systems were affected. Restoration of these areas was completed in 2004, so the damage includes reproductions of historic carpeting, draperies, stenciling, light fixtures, etc.
- (5) **How much will the repairs cost?** We do not yet know. Estimating is complicated by the fact that the full extent of the damage to unique restoration areas may not be visible for several months. Some wet plaster may not dry out completely for several years.
- (6) **Who will pay for the damage?** The state is self-insured. If it is determined that another party or parties is liable for the damages, the state will expect payment and/or reimbursement.
- (7) **Will this problem interfere with the upcoming legislative session?** We expect to be able to accommodate the needs of the legislature when it convenes on January 10, 2005.
- (8) **Where can I get more information?** Background on the State Capitol can be found at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Pubinfo/Tour/>