



## **FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL**

### **FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

#### **405.028 FIVE YEAR TEST PROCEDURES**

**EFFECTIVE: MARCH 2005**

## SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) requirements for the testing and certification of fire sprinkler systems during the required five year test.

## PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction for contractors and sprinkler system owners regarding the testing and certification of fire sprinkler systems for the required five year test.

## BACKGROUND

As noted in the *California Fire Code (CFC)*, the fire code official has the authority to formulate policies they deem necessary based upon local conditions related to fire sprinkler systems, including their installation, testing and maintenance. Additionally, *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 25 (California edition)* should be referred to when necessary for additional background and application information.

## REQUIREMENTS

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined the following:

1. It is the building owner's responsibility to hire a California Contractors State License Board C-16 licensed contractor to perform the required five year testing of fire sprinkler systems.
2. The contractor is required to obtain a five year permit from the Department before conducting the five year test.
3. The contractor is required to schedule an inspection with the Department to witness portions of the five year test, to include the full flow back flush of the

- fire department connection (FDC), the obstruction inspection, the fire pump test (if present), all standpipe testing (if present), and dry pipe valve trip (if present).
4. When the contractor is conducting the five year test, they should complete their walk-through of the building before the inspector arrives on site. This allows for the contractor to clarify any issues with the inspector before they complete the five year test report.
  5. The contractor is required to be ready to conduct those portions of the five year test witnessed by the Department when the inspector arrives on scene. If the contractor is not ready when the inspector arrives on scene, a re-inspection fee may be charged and shall be paid before the contractor is allowed to re-schedule the inspection.
  6. The required five year permit is not complete until the Department has witnessed all portions of the test listed in item No. 3. If the contractor is not able to complete all testing during the scheduled inspection, they shall schedule as many additional inspections as necessary to ensure those portions of the test are witnessed by the Department.
  7. If no violations are found during the testing process, the contractor shall certify the fire sprinkler system and place a certification sticker on the fire sprinkler riser.
  8. If violations are found during the testing process, the contractor shall document them on the five year test report and they shall not place a certification sticker on the fire sprinkler riser.
  9. After the testing has been completed, the contractor is required to accurately complete the five year test report. The contractor is required to send the property owner and the Department copies of the completed five year report.
  10. The property owner has the right to hire another licensed contractor to complete all deficiencies noted on the five year test report.
  11. If the property owner chooses to hire a different contractor to make the repairs, that contractor shall obtain all required permits before making noted repairs.
  12. Once all deficiencies have been corrected, the licensed contractor that completed the original five year test is required to place a certification sticker on the fire sprinkler riser.

Should a dispute arise wherein the original five year test contractor does not agree that the required corrections have been completed properly, the original five year test contractor shall notify the Department in writing that the repairs

are, in their opinion, unsatisfactory. The document shall include the following: on company letterhead; company stamp affixed; a wet signature; and, shall include detailed reasons it is believed that the repairs are unsatisfactory. This letter shall be received within 180 days of the date of the five year test.

Upon receipt of the letter, fire department staff will complete an inspection of the repairs and issue a letter of determination to the original five year test contractor which shall be the final determination.

Upon issuance, the original five year test contractor shall comply with the order of the Fire Marshal (or designee). All correspondence will be retained by the Department until the next five year test is completed.

## REFERENCES

*National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 25 (California edition)*  
*California Fire Code*  
*California Code of Regulations, Title 19*