



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL
FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS
405.033 VALVE SUPERVISION
EFFECTIVE: JUNE 1988

SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) requirements for normally open fire sprinkler system control valves within the City of Fresno and contract service areas.

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction for the proper safeguarding of normally open fire sprinkler system control valves as required in the *California Fire Code(CFC)* and *National Fire Protection Association Standard #13(NFPA #13)*.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the *CFC*, the fire code official has the authority to formulate policies they deem necessary based upon local conditions including the proper safeguarding of fire sprinkler system control valves.

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safety of the public and emergency responders by providing both mechanical and electrical (where required) means of fire sprinkler system control valve supervision. This dual means of supervision provides assurance that installed fire sprinkler system control valves will be open and that the fire sprinkler system is likely to perform as required under emergency conditions.

It reduces the chances of an unknown (or inadvertent) fire sprinkler system failure because of a closed fire sprinkler system control valve that was not transmitted by a faulty dedicated (or other) fire alarm system, and provides a redundant means of preventing one of the main causes of fire sprinkler system failure, namely, closed control valves.

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. Every normally open fire sprinkler system control valve shall be supervised as required by the original installation requirement.
2. Every normally open fire sprinkler system control valve, regardless of required electrical supervision, shall also be secured by a chain and lock.
3. Keys to the lock(s) of every normally open fire sprinkler system control valve shall be labeled indicating the lock(s) served, and shall be placed in the fire sprinkler spare head box or other approved location as required by the Fire Marshal (or designee). For buildings with a fire pump or riser room, the keys shall be placed in a fire department approved lock box. (See Knox Box Locations Policy No. 402.009).
4. These requirements shall be applied to both new and existing fire sprinkler system control valve locations, regardless of installation date.

In every case, the Fire Marshal (or designee) has the authority to require additional keys be located in other approved location(s). This determination shall be made at the sole discretion of the Fire Marshal (or designee).

REFERENCES

California Fire Code
National Fire Protection Association Standard #13
FFD Policy No. 402.009