



FIRE PREVENTION MANUAL

FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS

405.013 INSPECTORS TEST VALVES & AIR VENTS

EFFECTIVE: JUNE 2006

SCOPE

This policy clarifies the Fresno Fire Department (FFD or Department) requirements for the installation of sprinkler system inspector test valves and air vents within the City of Fresno and contract service areas. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary systems.

PURPOSE

This policy has been established to provide direction for designers, contractors and installers for inspectors test valves and air vent locations and configurations.

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 system installations.

Inspectors test valves installed as noted in *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13 – Automatic Sprinkler Systems (2016 ed. With California Amendments)*, Section 8.17.4.1.1 are a more realistic and accurate test of the required 90 second alarm actuation requirements, and are a convenient method to bleed air from a fire sprinkler system as noted in *NFPA 13, Section 8.16.6*.

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 automatic fire sprinkler system shall have an inspector's test valve and air vent installed as required in *NFPA 13*. Both the test connection and vent shall be shown on the plans as required by *Fire Sprinkler Plan Specifications Policy No. 401.011*.

2. The inspector's test valve shall be located at the end of the most hydraulically remote branch line, or other approved location, not more than 7' from the finished floor.
3. Where installed above a ceiling, the inspector's test valve shall have an approved sign installed in accordance with *Fire Department Required Signage Policy No. 402.016*.
4. When used in combination, the inspector's test valve and air vent piping assembly shall be installed as noted in figure 405.013(a) below.

COMBINATION ITV - AIR VENT
INSTALLATION DETAIL.

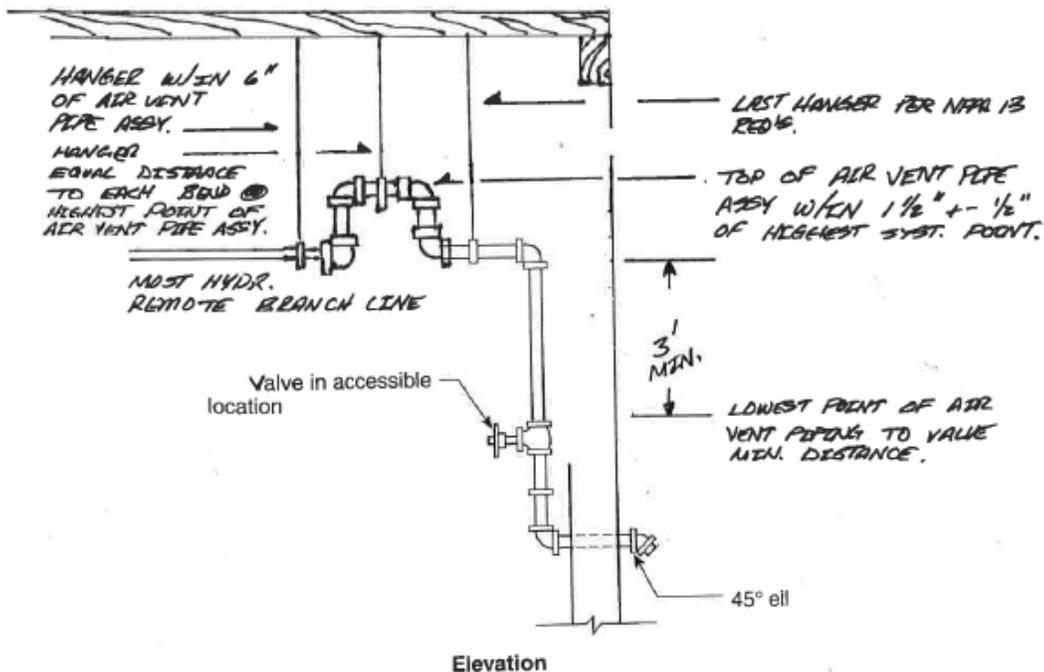


FIGURE 405.013(a)

REV. 12/03/16

5. Inspector's test valves for all group "R" occupancies shall be placed in an approved location which does not require entry into a dwelling or dwelling unit to operate the valve.

REFERENCES

California Fire Code (CFC)

Revised 2/1/18

NFPA 13 – Automatic Sprinkler Systems (2016 ed. With California Amendments)
Fresno Fire Department Prevention Manual

Section 401.011, Fire Sprinkler Plan Specifications
Section 402.016, Fire Department Required Signage
Section 405.013, Location of Inspector's Test Valve