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FIRE INDUSTRY BULLETIN 2018-003

SCOPE

Add-on or “piggyback” new construction inspections.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this industry bulletin is to notify applicable stakeholders regarding “Add-on” or “piggyback” inspections.

INFORMATION

The Fresno Fire Department strives to provide excellent customer service through the fire protection system field inspection process. Field installation inspections help ensure that fire protection systems designed to protect the public, responding firefighters, and other emergency responders, perform as designed during an emergency.

Because of the high demand for field inspection service, support staff members schedule as many new construction field inspections as possible into each duty day. Department inspectors regularly leave early in their duty shift with the materials necessary (including new construction drawings, materials specification sheets, etc.) to complete the scheduled field inspections, often leaving one field inspection and heading directly to the next. This process ensures efficient service is delivered to the consumers who have scheduled their inspections, sometimes weeks in advance.

Regardless of the type of installation being inspected, staff members are only required to complete the field inspection that has been scheduled, as every inspection requires staff to be alert to potential problems with the installation.

In some cases, contractors have requested Department staff to inspect other, unscheduled fire protection related installations. “Add-on” or “piggyback” inspections, (where a different contractor requests an inspection for a different fire protection system to occur at the same time as a scheduled inspection) are not permitted. Department members have been directed to complete only the applicable scheduled inspection. Contractors who request an “add-on” or “piggyback” inspection will be directed to

“To protect and put service above all else.”

contact the Department and schedule the requested inspection through the normal field inspection scheduling inspection.

By adhering to this process, the Department ensures that each scheduled inspection is completed in a fair and consistent manner, and results in equitable outcomes for all contractors. It also ensures that staff members have all of the required materials to complete the scheduled inspection, and that installations are not “field judged” to comply.

NOTE

This notice is effective until revoked.