

Alabama Department of Public Health, Technical Services Unit

Weekly Testing of Fire Pumps

09/16/02

Weekly testing of fire pumps is required by NFPA 25, *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based fire Protection Systems*, under Table 5-1.1. NFPA 25 includes a checklist of items to be covered at each test. The Alabama sprinkler statute, *Code of Alabama 1975*, Sections 34-33-1 through 34-33-12, requires a permit from the State Fire Marshal to be issued to any individual or organization performing "installation, repair, alteration, addition, maintenance, or inspection of a fire protection sprinkler system in this state" (Section 34-33-3). The State Fire Marshal, who is named in the statute as the enforcing authority, requires that the weekly fire pump tests be performed by individuals complying with this statute.

In lieu of having a sprinkler contractor come and perform the weekly fire pump test, NFPA 25 provides for the use of an automatic timer to start and perform the test. It is permissible for an employee of a facility to observe and monitor this automatic test, without the presence of a permit-holding sprinkler contractor. Automatic timers must be compatible with the fire pump and associated equipment, and must be installed by, or under the direction of, the sprinkler contractor.