

Routine Fire Sprinkler Testing and Maintenance

The Alabama Department of Public Health

1. Inspection, testing and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems are required to be performed in accordance with the 2011 Edition of NFPA 25, except for 13D systems. The activity and frequency of inspection and testing vary depending on the type system installed, i.e. sprinkler, standpipe, fire pump, etc. Depending on the system, some type of inspection, visual or hands-on, is required on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual basis by qualified and trained individuals. Hands-on procedures are required to be performed by sprinkler contractors holding a permit from the Alabama State Fire Marshal. The Rules for Assisted Living Facilities and Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities require the sprinkler system and fire alarm system in these facilities to be inspected by licensed, trained and qualified personnel at least semi-annually for compliance with the respective code, to include those facilities that have a 13D system.
2. Activities are considered to be performed at “quarterly” intervals when they are performed during the third month following the previous visit. For example, if a facility’s quarterly schedule consists of testing and maintenance during January, April, July and October, visits may be conducted on any day of each of those months. Such will be considered to meet the NFPA 25 standard for “quarterly” frequency.
3. Fire pumps are required to have various testing and maintenance procedures performed on a weekly and annual frequency, per Table 8.1.1.2 of NFPA 25. All work and procedures on fire pumps must be conducted by sprinkler contractors who have sprinkler permits from the State Fire Marshal, except that the weekly run test under a “no-flow condition” may be performed by facility staff who have a Skilled Worker Exemption Certificate from the State Fire Marshal. See <http://www.firemarshal.alabama.gov/Permits.aspx> for more information.
4. Inspection, testing and maintenance documentation forms shall be filled out completely by the sprinkler contractor during each visit. Copies of completed forms must be kept at the facility site as documentation of the testing and maintenance, per 4.3 of NFPA 25.