



Yakima County Fire Marshal's Office

Public Information Handout FP-4

Fire System Confidence Testing and Maintenance



International Fire Code, Chapter 9

The International Fire Code (IFC) requires inspection, testing, and maintenance, including fire detection and extinguishing systems; mechanical smoke exhaust systems; smoke control; firefighter communication systems; and heat vents. These systems must be maintained in operable conditions at all times and must be replaced or repaired if found to be defective. Non-required fire protection systems and equipment shall be inspected, tested, and maintained or removed.

Inspection, testing, and maintenance help ensure that systems function as they were originally designed and installed. This testing is separate from the fire and life safety inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office.

Responsibility

It is the system owner's responsibility to have the fire protection and life safety systems tested at the required intervals.

When a fire protection and life safety system is found to have a defect or needs repair, the system owner is required to have the repairs made to ensure the systems are maintained in operable condition at all times.

Qualifications

Inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems are performed by personnel who are registered, licensed, or certified to install, service, or test the systems. Evidence of such qualifications shall be available to the Fire Marshal upon request.



Records of all system inspections, tests, and maintenance required by the referenced standards shall be submitted for review, maintained, and available on site.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Yakima County Building and Fire Safety at (509) 574-2300.

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Testing Requirements

Inspection, testing and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems must be in accordance with the International Fire Code (IFC), or their referenced standard.

The personnel testing or servicing the fire protection and life safety systems should be familiar with the applicable code or referenced standards for each type of system.

Testing Intervals

Fire protection and life safety systems have many components and the testing intervals vary for each system type. The “Systems Table” identifies the system type, minimum test intervals and referenced standards. The applicable NFPA standards should be reviewed for additional testing requirements and schedules.

System Type	Referenced Standard	Test Intervals
Fire Alarm	NFPA 72	Annual
Fire Pumps	NFPA 25	Annual
Standpipe and/or Hose Cabinets	NFPA 25	5 Years
Automatic Sprinklers	NFPA 25	Annual
Shaft Pressurization	NFPA 92A	Annual
Emergency Generator	NFPA 110	Annual
Smoke Removal	NFPA 204	Annual
Foam Systems	NFPA 16	Annual
Portable Fire Extinguishers	NFPA 10	Annual
Halon 1301	NFPA 12A	Annual
Rangehood (Wet Chemical)	NFPA 17A	Semi-annual
800 MHz Building Radio	NFPA 1221	Annual & 5 years
Carbon Dioxide	NFPA 12	Annual
Clean Agent (FM 200, Inergen, Sapphire)	NFPA 2001	Annual
Dry Chemical	NFPA 17	Semi-annual
Water-Mist	NFPA 750	Annual
Private Hydrants	NFPA 25	Annual
Construction Ratings/Fire Doors	NFPA 80	Annual