
In this meeting we will cover a host of issues with fire alarm, sprinkler, and kitchen hood system inspection and testing. We will be talking about things like battery testing, intelligibility, and phasing of projects. We will cover hood cleaning and maintenance requirements, permitting, and tagging requirements. We will cover some common issues encountered with sprinkler inspections including when sprinklers are required above and below ceiling. We will also be covering the forward flow requirements for backflow preventer and the NFPA 13 2013 requirement to design for this requirement and other important requirements.

Next Coffee Break

Topic: System Inspection and Testing
Location: DMFD AMT
       2715 Dean Ave
       Classroom
Date/Time: Wednesday
           November 28, 2018
           8:00 AM

Inspection & Testing

Sprinkler Systems and NFPA 25
There are a number of significant changes to NFPA 25 that relate to inspection and testing of sprinkler systems. We will cover those changes and frequent issues within Des Moines at the meeting.

Backflow Forward Flow and NFPA 13
Up until the 2013 version of NFPA 13 the requirement for forward flow testing of backflow preventers was required, but there was no requirement to specifically design for it. The 2013 version requires that the sprinkler design incorporate a means for forward flowing of the backflow preventer. We will discuss ways to implement this into designs and how to test it.

Kitchen Hood Systems
The IFC requirements for kitchen hood cleaning and system testing will be reviewed.

Fire Alarm Systems and NFPA 72
The FPB’s expectations for fire alarm system testing have been consistent and are outlined in the fire alarm packet, link below, on our website. Below is a reminder of some of our requirements that are frequent issues. We will review the requirements and frequent issues more exhaustively at the meeting.

1. Notification appliances and circuits, alarm- supervisory- and trouble-initiating devices and circuits, primary and secondary power supplies, shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 72 (IFC 907.8).
2. A full operational pre-test of the fire alarm system shall be performed PRIOR to the scheduled fire inspection and shall be documented on the DMFD Pre-Final Acceptance Test Checklist.
3. Battery/Voltage Drop Test Procedure: Systems are to be taken off of AC power 24 hours prior to scheduled final testing. Once the inspector arrives on site, the 5 or 15 minute alarm test shall commence. One initiating device will be activated and visual/audible devices will continue to operate for 5 minutes (15 minutes for voice alarms).
4. Phone lines/monitoring devices are still required to be provided for final testing even if there is no occupant for the building. Without verification of monitoring, the system cannot undergo final testing.
5. When any initiating device, notification appliance or control relay is added, it shall be functionally tested.
6. If any of the above is deleted, another item of the same description on the circuit shall be tested.
7. When any modification to the control equipment is made, the control equipment shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 72.

Administrative Reminders
The Central Iowa Code Consortium proposal deadline has closed. Currently all code subcommittees are meeting to discuss and vote on those proposals. If you have submitted a proposal you should be notified by the committee when your proposal will be discussed. You are encouraged to attend and contribute to the discussions. Of particular interest to this group are proposals to change the sprinkler thresholds on both commercial and residential projects in the IBC/IFC and IRC respectively. You can find the schedule of meetings and agendas here:


Scheduling tests should be done with Captain Ramquist at 515-283-1367 or by email grramquist@dmgov.org. Prior to scheduling any tests all the required pre-testing and inspections per NFPA 13 & 72 should be completed. Per DMFD policy NFPA 72 record of completions should be submitted 48 hours prior to the test. Finally, the primary power to the fire alarm should be shut off 24 hours in advance of the start of fire alarm tests.