



Memorandum

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BUILDING AND FIRE SAFETY
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TO: All Sprinkler Contractors, General Contractors and Fire Inspectors

FROM: Alan Ellis – Senior Fire Inspector

DATE: September 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Sprinkler System Hydrostatic Testing

NFPA 13 (10.10.2.2.1) requires the hydrostatic testing of all piping and attached appurtenances subjected to working pressure, **including the tie-in between the underground stub and the check valve to be tested.** To assist contractors from difficulties that they may incur, the following three options have been developed for them to choose from.

1. If the 'spool' used between the underground stub and the riser system check is a one piece welded unit, then the hydrostatic testing can begin at the top end of that 'spool.
2. The system can be 'blanked' off at the bottom connection to the underground stub and hydrostatically tested from that point up. If this creates a need for an additional inspection, no additional inspection fees would be required.
3. The contractor may elect to test back to the post indicator valve (PIV), therefore testing the entire system as a whole unit. By closing the PIV, only the underground from the stub-in back to the PIV would be subjected to the testing. **If this option is used, no leakage or loss of pressure is allowed in any part of the system or underground during the test.**

These options will provide avenues for contractors to determine the most convenient method for performing hydrostatic testing of systems, while ensuring consistency during the inspections.