



COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE & RESCUE

Kevin J McGee
Chief

Notice to all fire protection system contractors and installers.

NEW POLICY REGARDING TESTING AND INSPECTION OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Effective **July 15, 2004**, the Prince William County Fire Marshal's Office will be making changes to the fire protection permit inspection system regarding inspections for automatic sprinkler system components. The following changes have been made to the inspection records system.

1. The sprinkler hydrostatic test/inspection has been modified to now be a sprinkler visual inspection and a sprinkler hydrostatic test. This was done to allow the hydrostatic test/inspection to be separate from the inspection of hangers, supports, and other associated sprinkler devices and components. When requesting a sprinkler hydrostatic test, a sprinkler visual will automatically be scheduled.
2. The sprinkler hydrostatic test has been modified to allow for separate inspection/testing of sprinkler breezeway loops. The new inspections will be referred to as a sprinkler breezeway loop visual, sprinkler breezeway loop hydro, and sprinkler breezeway loop flush. This change has been made to allow easier documentation of the inspection/testing of the sprinkler breezeway loops commonly found in garden apartment buildings and such.
3. The establishment of a 4-head flow test on the 13R automatic sprinkler systems to assure proper flow and pressure is available for the system to operate properly. This requirement has been a policy of this office for a long period of time and was previously done as a type of hydrostatic test. The change is made to make it easier to request this test.

This change is made to streamline the fire protection system inspection process and provide an improved response to the fire protection community related to such inspections.

Please note that a fire protection permit **is still required** for any modification of a fire protection system. Fire protection plans need to be submitted when there is a change in piping, type or temperature of sprinkler heads, or other similar changes that are being made to a fire protection system.

July 15, 2004