

NORTH NAPLES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

NNFD PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

Fire Sprinkler Impairments

PURPOSE:

To provide a consistent manner for shutdown, reporting, and restoring impaired fire sprinkler systems.

OVERVIEW

The leading cause of a fire sprinkler system failure is closed or partially closed valves in the water supply system.

Impairments generally occur where a sprinkler system is actually shut off for legitimate reasons during construction, renovations, or maintenance

PROCESS:

It will be the responsibility of the person who causes a sprinkler system impairment to clearly identify that system during the time it is impaired.

A tag shall be used to indicate that a system, or section of the system, has been removed from service. The tag shall:

- Be clearly visible to building occupants and the fire department
- Indicate that all or part of the system is out of service.
- Be weather resistant, plainly visible, and 4 in. × 6 in.
- Identify which system, date and time the impairment began, and the person responsible.
- Be posted at each fire department connection and system control valve indicating which part of the system is out of service.

Where a sprinkler system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the building owner and the person responsible for the cause or repair shall be responsible for insuring the following procedures have been implemented:

- Notify the Fire Department immediately.
- Notify the Fire Department as to the extent and expected duration.
- Determine and minimize risks in areas or buildings involved by the impairment.

Where a sprinkler system is out of service for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period, the Fire Department shall have the authority to require the building owner or their representative to arrange for one of the following:

- Evacuation of the building or portion of the building affected by the system out of service
- A fire watch, approved by the fire department, consisting of trained personnel who continuously patrol the affected area. The fire watch must have ready access to fire extinguishers and the ability to promptly notify the fire department. This person(s)

- shall be looking for fire as well as insuring that the other fire protection features, egress routes, and alarm systems are functioning.
- Establish a temporary water supply per the AHJ instructions.
 - Require the elimination of potential ignition sources and limit the amount of fuel available to the fire.
 - Require the immediate notification of the building insurance carrier.
 - Notification of occupants (including signage) indicating the building occupants of the impairment.

The person restoring the system will perform the following:

- Conduct any necessary inspections and tests to verify that the system is operational.
- Supervisors have been advised that protection is restored.
- The fire department has been advised that protection is restored
- The building owner/manager, insurance carrier, Alarm Company, and other authorities having jurisdiction have been advised that protection is restored.
- The impairment tag has been removed.

CODE REFERENCES:

NFPA 25 Chap 14

ATTACHMENTS:

NFPA 25 Chap 14 A.14.3.1



ATTACH TO VALVE
• READ INSTRUCTIONS ON OTHER SIDE •

SPRINKLER VALVE SHUT

THIS VALVE CONTROLS SPRINKLERS IN BUILDING(S):

SHUT BY (SIGNATURE)

DATE

→ After valve is opened, make 50-mm (2-in.) drain test. Drop in pressure should be normal. If pressure drop is extreme and does not build up, the system is impaired and immediate investigation is necessary.

DRAIN TEST RESULTS

STATIC PRESSURE

bar (psi)

FLOWING PRESSURE

bar (psi)

DRAIN TEST MADE BY (SIGNATURE)

DATE