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**Testing Requirements for NFPA 13D Systems**

Section 4.1.1. of the 2010 edition of NFPA 13D states that the installer shall provide to the owner instructions on the inspecting, testing, and maintaining of the fire sprinkler system. It is the owners responsibility to check their system. They do not have to hire a licensed inspector. So what would make up that list? I have taken a suggested list from an annex note in NFPA 13D, edited it, and placed it below. If the owner wanted to hire an inspector to check out his/her system, then the inspector could also use this list.

The annex note states that it is mostly common sense, but here is a suggested list, nearly verbatim from the annex note:

- (1) *Monthly visual inspection of all valves to ensure that they are open, (and know how to shut the water off after a sprinkler activation).*
- (2) *Monthly inspection of tanks, (if there are any), to confirm that they are full.*
- (3) *Testing of pumps , (if there are any), to make sure that they operate ok and that they don't trip circuit breakers.*
- (4) *Testing of all waterflow devices such as alarms, (if there are any), every 6 months including monitoring service, (if there is one). Note that where it appears likely that the test will result in a fire department response, notification to the alarm company and to the fire department should be made prior to the test.*
- (5) *Ongoing visual inspection of all sprinklers to make sure that they are not obstructed and that decorations are not attached or hung from them.*
- (6) *Whenever painting or home improvements are made in the dwelling unit, special attention should be paid to ensure that sprinklers are not painted or obstructed either at the time of installation or during subsequent redecoration. Sprinklers can be protected from painting with a bag, which needs to be removed as soon as the painting is finished.*
- (7) *Checking of the pressure of air used with a dry system when there is one.*
- (8) *Testing of antifreeze annually, (if there is any). Concentrations of antifreeze should be as minimal as possible to still prevent freezing.*
- (9) *Local authorities may have additional requirements.*

This is all that is necessary for inspecting, testing, and maintenance of NFPA 13D systems, except when they are used for Small Residential Board & Care buildings. In that case the guidelines of NFPA 25 need to be followed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any further questions.

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