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STATE FIRE MARSHAL OPINION 16-01

Subject of Opinion: NAC 477.281(2)(p) adopting NFPA 25-2011 edition; NAC 477.281(2)(x) adopting NFPA 72-2013 edition; and NAC 477.335(1)(a) inspections of fire alarm and automatic sprinkler systems (among other items) by a person licensed by the State Fire Marshal.

Background. Fire protection systems are required to be inspected and tested in accordance with the scheduled contained in the adopted NFPA standards applicable to the system. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) section 477.281(2)(p) adopts NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, NAC 477.281(2)(x) adopts NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code while NAC 477.335(1)(a) contains the requirement that the frequency of the inspection and test schedule in that document be conducted by a person licensed by the State Fire Marshal.

Question to the State Fire Marshal Division.

A licensee of the State Fire Marshal Division is: *...seeking clarity in regards to wet systems for fire monitoring testing and tagging.*

With an F-Card Technician, what is the proper way(s) to test the following:

*Wet System Water Flow
Tamper Valves
Gate Valves
PIV*

Also, do we need to test these signals as the monitoring company. If we monitor and maintain a record of devices tested by the properly licensed companies that installed the systems, does that

meet our requirements for monitoring? For example, fire pump tested and tagged by a sprinkler company.

Opinion. Testing of waterflow alarm devices of various types is detailed in NFPA 25, section 5.3.3. Section 5.3.3.3 requires the use of the inspector's test connection, unless certain conditions contained in Sections 5.3.3.1 or 5.3.3.5 dictates use of the bypass connection. Additional explanatory information is contained in Annex Sections A.5.3.3.2 and A.5.3.3.5.

Similarly, tamper valves, gate valves and post indicator valves (PIVs) are covered by NFPA 25 in detail in Sections 13.3 and 13.3.3 with additional explanatory material in associated Annex A sections of NFPA 25, including how to conduct such inspections and tests.

Details regarding supervisory switches are also covered by NFPA 72, Chapter 14 plus associated explanatory material in Annex A of NFPA 72.

Only the respective NFPA Technical Committee may make formal interpretations of the language in these documents. If questions still remain, the concerned party should submit their question(s) to the National Fire Protection Association.

Alarm monitoring services are not regulated by the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division, only the on-site fire alarm installation, maintenance and testing is covered by this agency. Testing of local fire alarm systems by a State Fire Marshal licensee per NAC 477.335(1)(a) on premises is all that is required. Sending signals through to a proprietary, remote or central station alarm service, if done, may be conducted by any appropriate State Fire Marshal licensee at the discretion of the property owner, fire alarm service company or the alarm monitoring service company. Documentation of all inspections and tests must be retained for inspection by an Authority Having Jurisdiction.

An "F-card technician" is permitted to operate whatever fire protection equipment is related to the testing, maintenance and servicing of a fire alarm system within their knowledge and experience and under the direction of the licensed company employing them.

By:



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