

## INSPECTION FREQUENCIES OF BUILDING LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

Under the Nevada State Fire Marshal Regulations Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 477, the State defers inspection frequencies to the standards set forth by NFPA. The following is a summation of those requirements:

Fire alarm systems have their inspection guidelines set by NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm Code. Per NFPA 72 Table 10.4.4 fire alarm systems and their components are to be inspected annually. This includes smoke and heat detection devices and manual pull stations. Water flow devices and tamper supervision devices are required to be inspected/tested semi-annually.

Fixed hood suppression systems inspection guidelines are set by NFPA 17 Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems, NFPA 96 Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations and the IFC. Per NFPA hood suppression systems and interconnections are to be inspected/tested semi-annually.

Portable fire extinguishers guidelines are covered by NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers. Fire extinguishers shall be inspected per Chapter 7 of NFPA 10. Hydrostatic testing shall be conducted per extinguisher type and NFPA 10 Table 8.3.1. Fire extinguishers that are typically used (ABC) in most all buildings are required to be inspected/serviced annually. This inspection includes internal inspection and recharging. Visual inspections are required monthly. This inspection is to confirm placement, location and status of the fire extinguisher. This inspection can be performed by the building/business owner.

Fire sprinkler system inspection guidelines conform to NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems and NFPA 25 Standard for Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems. Inspections shall be required quarterly. At least one of the quarterly inspections shall be deemed an annual inspection.

All of the above inspections are to be performed by a Nevada State contractor/person who is licensed/certified for the specific work scope and is recognized by the Nevada State Fire Marshal. After each inspection a State Fire Marshal tag shall be placed in a conspicuous location which is dated and signed by the inspector with his certification registration number.

The State Fire Marshal under NAC 477 allows each AHJ to accept the inspections of fire systems to be conducted by any responsible person, including an employee of the firm, who, in the opinion of that AHJ has sufficient knowledge of the system to conduct such inspections. This is with strict adherence to NFPA standards adopted by the AHJ. This person would need to be a current Nevada State Fire Marshal certified/licensed individual in order to conduct any maintenance or installation of these systems. It is typical that **contractors** certified/licensed to perform the maintenance and inspection of specific fire systems complete these inspections due to possible legality and liability ramifications. It is not typical for others to perform these inspections.

**NAC 477.460 Inspections and testing; notice of deficiencies; notice of discontinuance of service. (NRS 477.030)**

1. Each automatic fire sprinkler system must be inspected quarterly. One of the quarterly inspections must be termed an annual inspection and be conducted in accordance with the provisions of subsection 2. The other quarterly inspections may be conducted by any responsible person, including an employee of a firm, who, in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, has sufficient knowledge of the system to conduct such inspections. The quarterly inspections must conform to the requirements of N.F.P.A. Standards 13 and 25. Records of inspection must be kept on-site for review by the authority having jurisdiction. Any deficiencies must be reported to the authority having jurisdiction if the owner or occupant has received notice of the deficiency and fails to correct the deficiency within 30 days. Systems which terminate within a station for central control for a high-rise building must be scheduled for testing in accordance with paragraph (e) of subsection 2 of NAC 477.283.

2. The annual inspection must be made by a qualified licensee for automatic fire sprinkler systems. The annual inspection must comply with the standards and publications described in subsection 1.

**NAC 477.410 Installation, inspection, maintenance and repair; failure to comply. (NRS 477.030)**

1. All installation, inspection, maintenance and repair of portable fire extinguishers and fixed extinguishing systems must be performed in accordance with N.F.P.A. 10, "Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers," and N.F.P.A. 17 and 17A, 2002 editions, and the State Fire Marshal.

2. Regardless of exceptions contained in the N.F.P.A.'s applicable standards, all portable fire extinguishers except the carbon dioxide extinguishers, disposable extinguishers and Halon extinguishers must be recharged at least annually and whenever the service seal has been broken, or an inspection indicates that the extinguisher might fail to function. For the recharging of any dry chemical type of extinguishment cylinder to be valid, the serviceman must date and initial with a permanent marking pen on the topmost exposed portion of the pick-up tube before reassembly and recharging. The date on the pick-up tube must correspond to the date on the exterior service tag. Failure to date and initial the pick-up tube is grounds for the immediate suspension or revocation of a certificate of registration. If possible, a collar tag ring as required by N.F.P.A. 10 or an alternate collar tag ring that is approved by the State Fire Marshal must be installed at the time the extinguisher is recharged or serviced.

3. Nitrogen or approved dry air must be used as expellant when recharging dry chemical type extinguishers unless the manufacturer recommends otherwise.

4. Before a fire extinguishing system using Halon is accepted, a test as referenced in N.F.P.A. Standard 11A must be performed and recorded.

5. Within 30 days before the date on which an extinguisher must be serviced, the owner of a portable fire extinguisher may enter into a verbal service agreement for the service of that extinguisher. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section by a person who holds a certificate of registration is a ground for the immediate suspension or revocation of the certificate of registration, and the person who holds the certificate of registration may be criminally or civilly liable for fraud.

[St. Fire Marshal, §§ 2.301-2.303, eff. 11-27-78]—(NAC A 1-19-84; 3-9-89; 2-17-94; R220-99, 9-25-2000; R062-04, 9-3-2004)

# **FIRE SYSTEMS**

## **General Provisions**

### **NAC 477.335 Inspections. (NRS 477.030)**

1. All pre-engineered or engineered fixed fire extinguishing systems, fire alarm systems, standpipe systems or sprinkler systems must be inspected in accordance with schedules recommended in the appropriate adopted standards as published by the N.F.P.A. Those inspections, other than a required inspection and certification, may be conducted by any person, including an employee of a firm, who, in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, has sufficient knowledge of the system to conduct such an inspection and who will maintain an accurate record of such inspections of the system in the designated place for each system.

2. The authority having jurisdiction may inspect a fire protection system at any time. All work must comply with the standards adopted for the system being installed. The methods or equipment used in the installation must not vary from those required by the plans pursuant to which the fire protection system is being installed and the applicable standard for that fire protection system.

(Added to NAC by St. Fire Marshal, eff. 1-19-84; A 3-9-89; 8-24-90; 2-17-94; R220-99, 9-25-2000; R062-04, 9-3-2004)