

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
In cooperation with the  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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**Notice**

Dated: October 14, 2009

Effective Dec. 1, 2009, the Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection Planning Offices will implement the following fire sprinkler and fire alarm system inspection/testing changes in addition to those inspections and tests currently required:

**Fire Sprinkler System Tests**

**Hydrostatic Pressure Tests:**

Hydrostatic pressure tests two (2) hours prior to an inspection will no longer be accepted. All required hydrostatic pressure tests shall be witnessed by an inspector at the beginning of the inspection and will be verified at the end of the two hour test duration.

**Weld Inspections:**

Weld inspections shall be performed prior to pipe installation. Contractors must have copies of the written quality assurance procedure ensuring compliance with the requirements of NFPA 13, 6.5.2.9, along with appropriate welders' certification available for the inspector at the time of inspection. Each weld must be properly stamped to indicate the welder or welding machine operator.

**Fire Alarm System Tests**

**Battery Standby Tests:**

Fire alarm systems utilizing batteries for required secondary power supplies shall be inspected in accordance with NFPA 72, Table 10.4.2.2. The ability of the batteries to meet *standby and alarm* requirements shall be verified. Inspectors shall witness the disconnection of the primary AC power twenty-four (24) hours prior to conducting a final system load test. After 24-hours a full function system test of five (5) minutes for general alarm systems and fifteen (15) minutes for emergency voice communications systems shall be performed *while on* secondary battery backup power. Final end-of-line voltage drop measurements for the notification circuit(s) shall also be taken to verify that the available battery voltage does not drop below the Listed minimum nameplate operating voltage at the notification device(s).

**Wiring Inspections:**

Fire sprinkler monitoring and fire alarm system wiring inspections shall be required to verify compliance with installation provisions of the California Electrical Code. Where system wiring is to be concealed by building construction, it is the responsibility of the installing contractor of the wiring to schedule separate inspection(s) for an inspector to verify the installation prior to concealment by building construction.