



Portsmouth Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention and Control

170 Court St., Portsmouth NH 03801 603-427-1515 Fax 603-427-1555

General Information for Fire Sprinkler System Designers/Installers

All installers must obtain an application from the City of Portsmouth Inspections Department. Application forms are also available on the web at www.cityofportsmouth.com/inspection.

The completed application and three sets of working plans, hydraulic calculations, cut sheets and specifications shall be submitted to the Inspection Department at City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave, Portsmouth NH 03801 (603-610-7243) prior to the installation of the sprinkler or standpipe system. The Inspections Department will forward the plans to the Water Department and Fire Prevention Bureau for approval. Working plans shall be drawn to an indicated scale and include all items detailed in NFPA 13. **FOR A TIMELY REVIEW THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETE AND THE DRAWINGS THOROUGH.**

After review, the Inspection Department will notify the applicant that the permit is ready and what the fee will be. The permit fee is established in the Building Code Ordinance. (See web site.)

Permits and Inspections shall be required for the following:

1. New installations.
2. Any repair work or modification to an existing sprinkler system.
3. Any repair or modification to the system components and hardware as listed in NFPA -13.
4. Any installation of clean agent systems
5. UL 200 and UL 300 systems.
6. Any addition to or expansion of existing systems shall require submission of hydraulic calculations

Installation, Inspection and Acceptance Requirements:

1. All sprinkler installations shall be in accord with NFPA 13, 13D or 13R.
2. All system valves shall be supervised in accordance with NFPA 13 requirements.
3. System components shall be labeled in accordance with NFPA 13 requirements.
4. All Sprinkler systems require automatic notification of emergency forces via an approved auxiliary alarm system, central station, proprietary or remote station system. In addition, all systems are required to provide audible and visual water flow alarms on the interior and exterior of the building.
5. The System Installer shall notify the Fire Prevention Office at 603-610-7345 for a rough piping and riser inspection with a minimum of three (3) working days notice.
6. Upon system completion, the system installer shall notify the Water Department (Tom Cravens 603-766-1413) for a final backflow preventer test with a minimum of three (3) working days notice. The backflow preventer test certificate shall be shown to the building inspector during the final building inspection.

7. ***The installer shall notify the Fire Prevention Bureau for a final system test and inspection with a minimum of three (3) working days notice. The contractor shall document that the installation is in accordance with NFPA 13 requirements and submit a Contractors Material and Test Certificate, certifying that the system has been 100% tested and functions in compliance with the system design and manufacturer's recommendations prior to the Fire Department Inspection. Completed test paperwork shall be submitted PRIOR to final inspection. The form found in NFPA 13 in the Systems Acceptance chapter is required and no other form will be accepted.***
8. **FAILURE TO HAVE A PROPERLY OPERATING SYSTEM WILL CAUSE THE SYSTEM TO BE REJECTED AT THE FINAL INSPECTION. THIS INCLUDES ANY ALARM SYSTEM COMPONENTS CONNECTED TO THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM.**
9. Components of the system found to be inoperative, malfunctioning or in noncompliance will need correction before the system is accepted by the Fire Department. Ample notice for reinspection is required.
10. A Knox Box is required on all buildings with sprinkler and fire alarm systems.
11. The Fire Department shall notify the Inspection Department of all system test results so occupancy permits may be issued when appropriate.

Fire Department Connection

The Portsmouth Fire Department requires installation of “*The Portsmouth Connection*” which consists of a single **5” Storz** and a single **2 ½” Siamese FDC** on all sprinklers and standpipes. The installer shall consult the Fire Prevention bureau for location of the Fire Department Connection and questions concerning its installation. Examples of this connection are located at Portsmouth High School on Andrew Jarvis Dr. and at the intersections of Porter St. and Fleet St. on the Porter St. Townhouses. One such device is manufactured by American Fire Hose and Cabinet, Worcester, MA. 800-252-7570. On the Web at www.americanfirehose.com.



Fire Pumps

All fire pumps installed in the City of Portsmouth shall be installed in accordance with the provisions put forth in NFPA 20. The operation and status of the building fire pump shall be supervised for pump running and power failure, including off normal position of the disconnect switch.

Standpipes

All standpipe systems installed in the City of Portsmouth shall be installed to meet the criteria put forth in NFPA 14.

All standpipe hose outlets shall have a 2 1/2” by 1 1/2” reducer with a cap and chain. The threads on these devices shall be compatible with hose threads used by the Portsmouth Fire Department. (2 ½” National Standard Thread and 1 ½” Iron Pipe Thread.)