

TO: Fire sprinkler contractors  
FROM: Kathy Saunders, Fire Marshal Knox, County Fire Prevention Bureau  
Mike Brown, Deputy Fire Marshal Knox, County Fire Prevention Bureau  
DATE: 12/17/2008  
RE: Submittal of plans

To all fire sprinkler contractors performing work within the boundaries of Knox County and outside the Corporate City Limits of Knoxville and the Town of Farragut;

Effective upon receipt of this letter the following permitting and testing requirements will be required:

- ❖ Fire sprinkler work, which involves the installation or relocation of more than 10 sprinkler heads, will require a permit. All plans, calculations and scope of work are to be submitted to Knox County Codes Administration for review for code compliance. For permit submittal information visit [www.knoxcounty.org/codes](http://www.knoxcounty.org/codes) or call (865) 215-2325.
- ❖ A permit is required for fire sprinkler systems being installed to provide protection from hazards as outlined in the 2006 edition of NFPA 101 9.7.1.2: "Sprinkler piping serving not more than six sprinklers for any isolated hazardous area shall be permitted to be connected directly to a domestic water supply system having a capacity sufficient to provide 0.15 gpm/ft<sup>2</sup> (6.1 mm/min) throughout the entire enclosed area. An indicating shutoff valve, supervised in accordance with 9.7.2 or NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, shall be installed in an accessible, visible location between the sprinklers and the connection to the domestic water supply". It should also be noted that protection from hazards systems within buildings containing a fire alarm system must have a water flow switch installed and connected to the fire alarm control panel.
- ❖ Fire sprinkler work that involves 10 or less heads does not require a permit. Upon completion of the work a letter of completion will be submitted to the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau. The letter of completion must state the business name and address, the reason for the completed work, location within the building work was performed, the number of heads installed or relocated and a statement certifying compliance (i.e. Fenster's Hatters, 714 Downing St, Knoxville, TN 37902, new ductwork added to room 244, relocated 2 sprinkler heads, all work performed complies with the applicable sections of NFPA 13).

- ❖ **When scheduling the required fire sprinkler inspections, the permit number issued for the fire sprinkler system must be used. All inspections are scheduled through Knox County Codes Administration, (865) 215-2325. Please be specific when scheduling an inspection for testing.**

If you need a hydrostatic test please be sure to indicate that the test will take 2 hours. If scheduling a large project or numerous buildings such as an apartment complex, indicate that you may need several time slots on the schedule for the inspector to adequately complete the necessary testing.

If the work to be performed involves shutting down the fire sprinkler system the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau must be notified in accordance with **NFPA 13 26.1\*** **General:** “A sprinkler system installed in accordance with this standard shall be properly inspected, tested, and maintained by the property owner or their authorized representative in accordance with **NFPA 25**, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, to provide at least the same level of performance and protection as designed.”

**A.26.1 Impairments reads in part:** Before shutting off a section of the fire service system to make sprinkler system connections, notify the authority having jurisdiction, plan the work carefully, and assemble all materials to enable completion in the shortest possible time. Work started on connections should be completed without interruption, and protection should be restored as promptly as possible.”

I have included the testing requirements for fire sprinkler systems from the 2007 edition of NFPA 13. Remember that all system components must be installed before testing. This as well as other helpful information can be found on our web site [www.knoxcounty.org/fire](http://www.knoxcounty.org/fire).