



COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE & RESCUE

Kevin J McGee
Chief

Notice to all fire protection system contractors and installers.

NEW POLICY REGARDING HYDROSTATIC TESTING OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM (TENANT WORK)

Effective **July 1, 2004**, the Prince William County Fire Marshal's Office has changed its policy governing hydrostatic testing for automatic sprinkler system components in tenant spaces. A hydrostatic test will be required only when tenant work meets the following criteria:

1. The addition or relocation of 5 heads or more,
2. The addition of 10 or more new fittings,
3. The addition of 20 feet or more of pipe (pipe nipples shall not be counted as pipe length).
4. Or any combination of the above items.

Any work that does not meet the above criteria will require a visual inspection, **prior to any close-in**, and a sprinkler final upon completion of the job. For example, the addition of 4 sprinkler heads would not require a hydrostatic test. Only a visual inspection of all components, prior to any close-in, and a sprinkler final would be required. (The system will be under system pressure normally found in the street main.)

This change is made to streamline the fire protection system acceptance inspection process and provide an improved response to the fire protection community related to such inspections.

Please note that a fire protection permit **is still required** for any modification of a fire protection system. Fire protection plans need to be submitted when there is a change in piping, type or temperature of sprinkler heads, or other similar changes that are being made to a fire protection system.

July 1, 2004