



Tuesday e-Tech Alert

April 15, 2008

Number 113

Russell P. Fleming, P.E. – Editor

Error in NFPA 25 – Full Flow Preaction Trip Test Every 3rd Year

There have been very few errors in recent published editions of NFPA 25 – *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water Based Fire Protection Equipment*.

In the 1998 edition of NFPA 25 there were only two errors noted:

1. In Section 9-2.6 and Table 2-1, the frequency for the main drain test should be noted as “quarterly” instead of “annually”.
2. Also in Table 2-1, the reference for the obstruction investigation should be to “Chapter 10” instead of “2-4.3”.

The errata sheet published for the 2002 edition dealt with only with the reference in Sections 4.2 and 4.5 2 to “chapter 13” when the reference should have been “chapter 14”.

Although no errata have yet been officially issued for the 2007 edition of NFPA 25, NFSA has noted a fairly significant error in Section 13.4.3.2.4 relating to testing of preaction systems.

Sections 13.4.3.2.3 and 13.4.3.2.4 are intended to complement each other to clarify that while trip tests are required annually, full flow trip testing is required only once every three years:

13.4.3.2.3 Except for preaction systems covered by 13.4.3.2.5, every 3 years the preaction valve shall be trip tested with the control valve fully open.

13.4.3.2.4 During those years when full flow testing in accordance with 13.4.3.2.3 is NOT required, the preaction valve shall be trip tested with the control valve partially open.

As published, the word “not” is missing from Section 13.4.3.2.4, which obviously confuses the issue. The reference to Section 13.4.3.2.5 addresses system protecting freezers, for which standard trip tests are not required. For those systems, trip testing is required to be conducted in a manner that does not introduce moisture into the freezer piping.

As documented in the committee’s Report on Proposals and Report on Comments leading to the 2007 edition of NFPA 25, the change to a full flow trip test only once every three years was made to prevent unnecessary corrosion and build-up of scale in preaction system piping, consistent with requirements for dry pipe systems.

Upcoming NFSA “Business Thursday” Seminar – April 17th

Topic: ICC Code Development Process/FS-FP Proposals

Instructors: Bruce Johnson and Dorothy Harris

Date: April 17, 2008

This presentation is a review of the International Code Council’s code development and review process. How code change proposals can be proposed; the make-up and purpose of the Code Review Committees, Initial and Final Action Hearings, public comment and testimony, Final vote by Governmental Members, publication of Supplement and Final Code Books. The presentation will also review selected fire protection related code change proposals currently under review for Final Action in Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2008.

Upcoming NFSA “Technical Tuesday” Seminar – April 22nd

Topic: Water Supply Systems

Instructor: Cecil Bilbo, Jr., NFSA Director of Technical Services

Date: April 22, 2008

When a sprinkler system is called on to help control a fire in a building, the adequacy of the water supply can determine if property and lives will be saved. Understanding the different types of water supplies that can be used in the NFPA Standards will ensure the system works properly. Whether it is a city water supply, fire pump, tank, or a pond, you will need to know the rules that affect the installation, testing, use and inspection of the different types of water supply systems. This seminar will cover a broad review of the rules for each of the types of water supplies allowed for use in fire protection systems. It will also cover some of the federal regulations that have made it into each state and county in the United States.

Information and registration for the above “Technical Tuesday” and “Business Thursday” seminars are available at www.nfsa.org or by calling Dawn Fitzmaurice at 845-878-4200 ext. 133.

Additional NFSA training opportunities include...

NFSA Two-Week Technician Training Classes

August 4-15, 2008

Providence, RI

October 13-24, 2008

Chicago, IL

November 10-21, 2008

Houston, TX

For more information, contact Nicole Sprague using Sprague@nfsa.org or by calling 845-878-4200 ext. 149.

In-Class Training Seminars

The NFSA training department also offers in-class training on a variety of subjects at locations across the country. Here are some seminars scheduled for 2008:

Apr 22	Richmond, CA	Pumps for Fire Protection
Apr 23	Richmond, CA	Fire Pump Layout & Sizing (a.m.)
Apr 23	Richmond, CA	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (p.m.)
Apr 24	Richmond, CA	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance (CA Edition)
Apr 29	McFarland, WI	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Apr 30	McFarland, WI	Pumps for Fire Protection
May 1	McFarland, WI	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (a.m.)
May 1	McFarland, WI	Fire Pump Layout & Sizing (p.m.)
May 6-7	Colorado Springs, CO	NFPA 13 Overview & Intro to Plan Review
May 7	Mundelein, IL	Introduction to Sprinklers (a.m.)
May 7	Mundelein, IL	NFPA 13 Update 2002 (p.m.)
May 8-9	Mundelein, IL	NFPA 13 Overview & Intro to Plan Review
May 8	Colorado Springs, CO	Sprinklers for Dwellings
May 13	Quincy, MA	Sprinklers for Dwellings
May 14	Quincy, MA	Basic Seismic (a.m.)
May 14	Quincy, MA	Standpipe Systems (p.m.)
May 15	Quincy, MA	Pumps for Fire Protection
May 20	Willoughby, OH	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
May 21	Willoughby, OH	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
May 22	Willoughby, OH	Underground Piping (a.m.)
May 22	Willoughby, OH	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (p.m.)

For more information on these seminars, or to register, please visit www.nfsa.org or call Dawn Fitzmaurice at 845-878-4207 or email seminars@nfsa.org.

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About the National Fire Sprinkler Association

Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country. www.nfsa.org.