



TECHNICAL POLICY

13 – 91 Pressure Testing of Existing Systems

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Water leaks, air leaks, or corrosion may be signs of a loss of pressure integrity in a piping system. This department is concerned about the potential catastrophic failure of sprinkler and standpipe systems when the fire department supplies water to the system by pumping into the fire department connection.

When the integrity of a sprinkler or standpipe system is in question, this department will require that the system be subjected to a pressure test.

The test shall consist of hydrostatic (or air) pressure at 150 psi for at least two hours. The pressure source is to be connected to the system by a maximum ½ inch connection. The pressure is to be automatically maintained regardless of the amount of leakage. The test is to be witnessed by a Minneapolis Fire Inspector. If the ½ inch connection is not large enough to continuously supply the pressure, the system is to be repaired to reduce the leakage.

Hydrostatic tests for new or remodeled systems are to meet the requirements of the appropriate NFPA standard and other MFD policies, which are not superceded by this policy.

Justification: The Minnesota State Fire Code requires fire protection systems to be maintained. NFPA standards 13 & 25 do not allow leakage of water and limit the amount of air leakage.