

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone (208)334-4370
Fax (208)334-4375
www.doi.idaho.gov

THOMAS A. DONOVAN
Acting Director

KNUTE C. SANDAHL
State Fire Marshal

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Dear Idaho Licensed Fire Sprinkler Contractor,

Over the past several months, this office has received a number of calls from water purveyors concerning the annual inspection of automatic fire sprinkler systems and backflow prevention devices.

For clarification, Idaho Statute 41-254(7) states; *To have exclusive jurisdiction over single service integrated fire sprinkler systems. A "single service integrated fire sprinkler system" is defined as an integrated system of underground and overhead piping, valves and sprinklers used exclusively for fire protection purposes and designed in accordance with fire protection engineering standards, including the international fire code, beginning with the first connection to a public water system regardless of the existence or location of a back flow prevention device.*

Because backflow prevention devices attached to the automatic fire sprinkler system are an appurtenance of the automatic fire sprinkler system, they are required to be inspected in accordance with Idaho Code 41-254 **and** Idaho Code 54-2402.

What does this mean? There are essentially **only two options** for licensed fire sprinkler contractors to do for compliance with state statutes and referenced NFPA Standards:

#1. Idaho licensed fire sprinkler contractors shall have a licensed Idaho Backflow Assembly tester on staff and responsible for conducting both automatic fire sprinkler inspections and backflow prevention device inspections, **OR**

#2 Have as their agent, a licensed backflow prevention tester to work jointly during the automatic fire sprinkler annual inspection.

The backflow prevention device shall be properly tagged as prescribed in the appropriate statute in addition to the required inspection tag for the sprinkler system.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Knute C. Sandahl, State Fire Marshal