



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

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The Requirements for Alarm Activations within 90 Seconds California Code of Regulations Title 19/NFPA 25, 2006 California Edition

Question 1. NFPA 25 2006 California Edition Section 5.3.3.6 requires the alarm device to activate within 90 seconds of the valve opening.

- a) Does the 90 second time start when the inspector's test valve is first opened or when fully opened?

Answer: The inspector's test valve must be opened as quickly as possible. Start timing the 90 seconds once the valve is fully open.

- b) Is it permissible to use the alarm test (bypass) valve to test the alarm device?

Answer: The test valve may be either the inspector's test valve or the alarm test valve on an alarm valve, dry pipe valve, or deluge valve.

Please note that an annual test is required for water flow alarm devices per 5.3.3 and 12.2.7.

For a wet pipe system whether utilizing an alarm check valve or not, the inspector's test valve must be used per 5.3.3.3. This should be done during a non-freezing time of the year.

For a dry pipe valve, a full flow trip test is required every 3 years. This is accomplished by opening the inspector's test valve and thereby also testing the alarm device. During alternate years, a partially open control valve is to be used during the trip test (12.4.4.2.2.3). While the alternate year trip test is initiated by using the inspector's test valve, the test of the alarm device may use the alarm test (bypass) valve.

For deluge and preaction valves, an annual full flow trip test is required per 12.4.3.2.2. The alarm device should be tested during this trip test.

If you have further questions, please contact Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal James Parsegian at james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov or (916) 445-8415.

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