



BRIGHTON AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

615 W. Grand River Ave.
Brighton, MI 48116
o: 810-229-6640 f: 810-229-1619

Forward Full Flow Testing of Backflow Devices

In an effort to provide contractors and designers of suppression systems with a more thorough understanding of forward flow testing of backflow devices, the Brighton Area Fire Authority has added an article that addresses the concerns to our web-site. There has been some confusion in the past as to the requirements concerning testing of backflow devices. To avoid delays and assist in the building process we are bringing this subject to your attention so it may be addressed in a timely manner.

NFPA 13 (Standard for the Installation of sprinkler systems) requires:

A means shall be provided downstream of all backflow prevention valves for conducting a flow test at system demand (forward full flow test).

Backflow prevention assemblies shall be forward flow tested to ensure proper operation (NFPA 13:10.10.2.5.1).

The minimum flow rate required shall be the system demand including hose streams demand where applicable (NFPA 13:10.10.2.5.2).

A forward full flow test of the backflow prevention device is important to the initial building process but it is also very important for the continuing support of the building systems. These devices must be tested annually and the building owner is responsible to ensure this is accomplished (NFPA 25: 13.6.2.1). We are recommending that the installing contractor provide an efficient means for flow testing these devices at the required intervals.

Please read the article and feel free to contact this office with any questions that you may have regarding the requirements. We hope that this answers questions that may arise while designing your system. The Inspector's or Deputy Chief can be contacted at 810-229-6640.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. O'Brian".

Michael O'Brian
Fire Chief