



# BRIGHTON AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

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## Forward 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.

A means shall be provided downstream of all backflow prevention valves for forward flow tests at a minimum flow rate of the system demand, including hose allowance where applicable. (NFPA 13:16.14.5.1).

The backflow prevention device's forward full flow test is essential to the initial building process. Still, it is also very important to continue supporting the building systems. The building owners are responsible for ensuring that these devices are inspected and tested annually (NFPA 25: 13.7). We recommend 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.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Boisvert".

Richard Boisvert, CFPS  
Fire Marshal