

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
DIVISION OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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WILLIAM W. DEAL
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MARK A. LARSON
State Fire Marshal

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 28, 2011

To: Licensed Fire Protection Sprinkler Contractors and Licensed Backflow Assembly Testers

From: Mark Larson, Idaho State Fire Marshal
Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals

Re: Testing and maintenance of backflow assembly appliances

The protection of life and property from fire and explosion and the protection of Idaho's water supply have both been declared to be a matter of public health, safety and welfare by different sections of Idaho Code. The regulation and licensing of persons engaged in the design, installation and maintenance of fire sprinkler systems and those persons engaged in the testing and maintenance of backflow prevention appliances are regulated under two different sections of Idaho Statutes.

Periodically, we receive questions about who can perform testing and maintenance on backflow assembly appliances that are appurtenances to a fire sprinkler system. Please note the code sections cited in the following:

In order to perform tests on or maintenance to a backflow assembly appliance attached to a single service integrated fire sprinkler system, a person must have a license under the authority of Idaho Code 54-2402 (a backflow assembly tester) as well as being regulated under the authority of Idaho Code 41-254 (a licensed fire sprinkler contractor or as their agent).

A fire sprinkler contractor may NOT, without the additional license obtained pursuant to IC 54-2402, test any backflow prevention assembly either stand-alone or an appurtenance to a fire sprinkler system.

The backflow assembly tester may NOT, without the additional license obtained pursuant to IC 41-254, perform any testing or maintenance to any appurtenance to a single service integrated fire sprinkler system.

We hope this information is helpful to you.