

Birthday Issues for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems

NFPA 25 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems

4.1.1: “The property owner or designated representative shall be responsible for properly maintaining a waterbased fire protection system.”

5.3.1.1.1 & 5.3.1.1.1.1: “Where sprinklers have been in service for 50 years, they shall be replaced or representative samples from one or more sample areas shall be tested. Test procedures shall be repeated at 10-year intervals.”

5.3.1.1.1.2: “Sprinklers manufactured prior to 1920 shall be replaced.”

5.3.1.1.1.3: “Sprinklers manufactured using fast-response elements that have been in service for 20 years shall be replaced or representative samples shall be tested and then retested at 10-year intervals.”

5.3.1.1.1.5: “Where sprinklers have been in service for 75 years, they shall be replaced or representative samples from one or more sample areas shall be submitted to a recognized testing laboratory acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction for field service testing and repeated at 5-year intervals.”

5.3.1.1.1.6: “Dry sprinklers that have been in service for 10 years shall be replaced or representative samples shall be tested and then retested at 10-year intervals.”

5.3.1.2 & 5.3.1.3: Testing shall include 1% or a minimum of 4 heads. If a single head fails testing all sprinkler heads shall be replaced.

Consult your local authority having jurisdiction for specific requirements.

Contact Aric Curtiss at ACurtiss@mt.gov for more information.