



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems-Inspection, Testing, Maintenance		
Number: FPG-14	Effective Date: 01/01/2023	Revised Date: 03/01/2023
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
Note: <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

Scope

This Guideline has been developed to assist property owners and managers with the inspection, testing and maintenance requirements for Automatic Extinguishing Systems (AES) in the City of Merced.

Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply to all automatic extinguishing systems in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

Permits Required

A operational permit is not required for inspection, testing, or maintenance of automatic extinguishing systems. Construction permits are required for installation, modification, and major repairs.

Definitions

Inspection: A visual examination of a system or portion thereof to verify that it appears to be in an operating condition and is free of physical damage.

Maintenance: Work performed to keep equipment operable or to make repairs.

Service: The performance of testing and maintenance on an automatic fire extinguishing system.

Specific Requirements

1. **General**

The inspection, testing and maintenance of all Automatic Extinguishing Systems in California is regulated by Health & Safety Code Section 13195 and regulations described in Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 5. The following link provides access to the regulations.

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/aes/aeslawsregs.pdf>



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2. Systems

The following “fire-protection systems” are regulated by this section.

- a. Automatic fire sprinkler system
- b. Standpipe system
- c. Automatic fixed fire extinguishing system
 - i. An engineered fixed extinguishing system, or
 - ii. A pre-engineered fixed extinguishing system
- d. Fire alarm system

3. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Service

A service program provided by:

- a. A qualified State of California Contractors State Licensing Board Licensed Fire Protection Contractor (C-16), or
- b. A qualified California State Fire Marshal Licensed “A” concern, or
- c. A qualified owner’s representative as permitted under California Title 19 Chapter 5, Article 4, 904.1(a)

4. Required Inspection Testing and Maintenance Frequencies

All automatic fire extinguishing systems, including systems installed as an alternate to other building requirements, shall be inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with the following frequencies. Local authorities may require more frequent inspection, testing and maintenance and additional procedures.

- a. Water-based fire protection systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with the frequencies required by NFPA 25.
 - i. When proof of the installation date of standpipe systems or automatic fire sprinkler systems cannot be furnished, such systems shall receive initial testing and maintenance by July 1, 1985.
- b. Engineered and pre-engineered fixed extinguishing systems shall be inspected, tested and maintained at least semi-annually, and immediately after a system activation.



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5. Forms

All inspections, maintenance or service tests of AES are required to be documented on State Fire Marshal forms AES1-AES9, available on the State Fire Marshals web page at [OSFM - Structural Fire Engineering - Automatic Extinguishing System](#) under label/tags/forms or an Fixed System Report approved by the Merced City Fire Department.

6. Inspection (inspection only)

Any person designated by the building owner or occupant who has developed competence through training and experience may perform the inspection of automatic fire sprinkler systems.

- a. Records: Inspection records AES1-AES9 are required to be maintained on site by the owner for a period of five years after the next required inspection.
- b. Deficiencies: The owner or occupant is required to promptly correct or repair any deficiencies, damaged parts or impairments found while performing the inspection. All repairs to AES are required to be completed by a company with a valid State Fire Marshal "A" License or Contractor State License Board (CLSB) Fire Protection Contractor (C-16) Licensed Contractor.

7. Maintenance (inspection, maintenance and testing)

Required semi-annual or annual maintenance or repairs to AES are required to be conducted by a company with a valid State Fire Marshal "A" License or Contractor State License Board (CLSB) Fire Protection Contractor (C-16) Licensed Contractor.

- a. Records: A copy of the maintenance and inspection documented on SFM forms (AES1-AES-9), including any deficiencies are required to be maintained on site, and be submitted to Compliance Engine.
- b. Deficiencies: The owner or occupant is required to promptly correct or repair any deficiencies, damaged parts or impairments found while performing maintenance and testing. When repairs are completed, a new report is required to be maintained on site, including submittal to Compliance Engine.

8. Service testing and maintenance



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Required service tests or repairs to AES are required to be conducted by a company with a valid State Fire Marshal "A" License or Contactor State License Board (CLSB) Fire Protection Contractor (C-16) Licensed Contractor.

- a. Records: A copy of service test reports, documented on SFM forms (AES1-AES-9) or Fixed System Reports, including any deficiencies are required to be maintained on site, and submitted to Compliance Engine.
- b. Deficiencies: The owner or occupant is required to promptly correct or repair any deficiencies, damaged parts or impairments found while performing maintenance and testing. When repairs are completed, a new report is required to be maintained on site, including submittal to Compliance Engine. Contact Fire Prevention for assistance: 209-385-4777.