Updates to NFPA 25, 2026 Edition

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Joshua McDonald, PE, MSET, CFPS, CWBSP, WBITM, is the director of training and operations for AFSA, where he is responsible for developing, updating, and delivering technical content. He has experience in all areas of training for fire protection industry professionals including web-based and hands-on learning. As a manufacturer, McDonald has been involved in research and development of new fire protection products and has experience with risk engineering applying to the installation of fire protection systems. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in fire protection and safety engineering technology and Master of Science degree in Fire Safety and Explosion Protection from Oklahoma State University. McDonald is a member of NFPA and SFPE.

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NFPA Standards Development

- Standards are updated every 3 to 5 years.
- Approximately 8,880 volunteers serve on NFPA Technical Committees.
- Technical Committees represent a balanced variety of interests. Approximately 260 Technical Committees are responsible for document development.
- AFSA representation
  - 48 Committees
  - 38 Documents
  - 100 Seats (Principal/Alternate)

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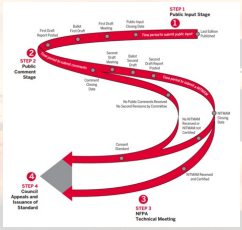
NFPA Standards Development Process



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Scope

- Minimum requirements for ITM
  - Coordination with NFPA 72
- Addresses water-based fire protection systems
  - Installed in accordance with generally accepted practices
  - Wear-and-tear
  - Not intended to verify original installation or design
    - **Unless NFPA 25 tells you otherwise**

FR-1 Section 1.1

6

Inspection Definition

FR-7 Section A.3.3.23

7

Correlating Sprinkler Type Definitions

FR-17 Section 3.3.41

8

Correlating Pressure-Regulating Device Definitions

Pressure Regulating-Device
A device designed for the purpose of reducing, regulating, controlling, or restricting water pressure.
All-Encompassing

Pressure-Reducing Valve
A valve designed for the purpose of reducing the downstream water pressure under both flowing (residual) and nonflowing (static) conditions.
Flowing and Nonflowing

Pressure-Restricting Device
A valve or device designed for the purpose of reducing the downstream water pressure under flowing (residual) conditions only.
Flowing

FR-72 Chapter 3

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Qualified Personnel

- Performed by qualified personnel ~~meeting one of the following:~~
  - ~~Meet requirements/training for a given field~~
  - ~~Certified by FP certification organization~~
  - ~~Registered, licensed, or certified by state or local authority~~

SR-1 Section 4.1.1.3

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Maintaining Dry/Preaction Systems

- Technologies permitting increase of C Value (100➔120)
  - **Nitrogen generator**
  - **Vapor corrosion inhibitor**
  - **Negative pressure system**
  - **Other approved technologies**
- Deficient or impaired?
  - **Replace with any option**
- System calculated without increase?
  - **No required actions**

FR-52 Section 4.1.5

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Which Signs Do You Inspect?

Information Sign

- Area served
- Location of auxiliary and low-point drains
- Location of antifreeze and auxiliary systems
- Location of heat tape
- Location of control valves

General Information Sign

SR-10 & SR-11 Section 5.2.7

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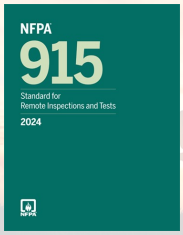
Remote Inspections and Tests



FR-15 Section 4.8

13

Replacing Sprinklers in Dwelling Units

- 50 years of service
  - Replace with fast-response sprinklers
  - Test samples
    - RTI cannot exceed 65

SR-12 Section 5.3.1.1.1.7

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Antifreeze Replacement

- Replace nonlisted antifreeze with listed solution
  - **Permitted to be used beyond volume and calculation requirements**

FR-27 Section 5.3.4.4.1

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Relocating Circulation Relief Valve Requirements

- Inspected with no-flow test
  - Verify flowing water
  - Cools fire pump
  - Verify closure after test

FR-77 **Section 8.2.3**

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Relocating Main Relief Valve Requirements

- Inspected during any pump test
  - Verify pressure downstream
  - Not to exceed rating of system components
- Adjusted during annual flow test
  - Correct downstream pressure
  - Close at correct setting

SR-18 **Section 8.2.4**

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Interpretation of Annual Flow Test

- Net performance
  - Relative to original performance
  - Acceptability of pump assembly
- Gross performance
  - Relative to system demands
  - Acceptability of water supply and pump assembly
- **Clarifying annex language on gross vs. net performance**

FR-37 Section A.8.3.7.1.1.1

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Internal Inspection of Preaction/Deluge Valves

- Inspection to be conducted annually
- **5-year exception for external reset removed**
  - Not magical
  - Concern for internal corrosion, blockages, and worn parts

FR-43 and FR 45 Section 13.4.3.1.2.1 & 13.4.4.1.2.1

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Testing Solenoid Supervisory Switch

- NFPA 13 required supervision in previous cycles
- **Adds a quarterly test to verify operation**

FR-46 Section 13.4.4.2.14

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Hydrostatic Testing FDC Pipe

- 5-year frequency
- 150 psi for 2 hours
- First Draft
  - Omitted if less than 48 in. in length
  - Complete visual inspection
- Second Draft
  - Omitted if less than 10 ft
- Why?

FR-48 & SR-30 Section 13.8.5.2

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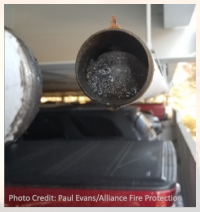
Ice Plug Inspections

- Annual inspection
- If maintained with 98% Nitrogen or Listed Dry Air pack
  - After two successive tests
  - Increase to 3-frequency
- Similar dew point for either method



SR-36 Section 14.4.2

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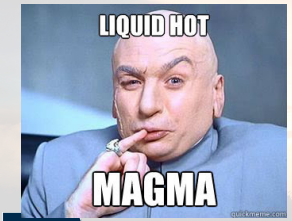
Frozen System Piping



- First Draft
  - Frozen system piping is considered an impairment
    - Thaw out
    - Replace
- Second Draft
  - Moved to Chapter 4
  - "Systems containing ice..."

FR-19 Section 15.6.3 & SR-35 Section 4.1.2.6

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REQUIRED

FOR CEU CREDIT:

- ✓ Badge scanned at start of seminar
- ✓ Attend full seminar
- ✓ Complete survey 1 of 2 ways:
  - ✓ Survey link is emailed to attendees with scanned badges
  - ✓ Event app by EventsAir
    - Login to app
    - Navigate to seminar survey
  - ✓ Surveys close 10/31/26

Thank you!

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Scan QR code to submit questions for **Ask the Experts!**

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2027 Training Schedule

WEBINARS

1/6	Updates to NFPA 20
1/20	Calculating Pressure Reducing Hose Valves
2/3	Consumer Alert: Nitrogen in Sprinkler Systems
2/17	Reviewing Hydraulic Calculations
3/3	Updates to NFPA 13, 2028 Ed.
3/17	Updates to NFPA 13R & 13D, 2028 Eds.
4/7	Topic Coming Soon
4/21	NFPA 25: Roles & Responsibilities
5/5	Standpipe Flow Test Procedures
5/19	Storage 101
6/2	NFPA Technical Meeting - Voting Guide
6/16	Topic Coming Soon
6/30	Topic Coming Soon
7/7	Updates to NFPA 14, 2027 Edition
7/21	Adjacent Hazards & Design Methods
8/4	Acceptance Testing
8/18	Modifications to Existing Systems
9/22	Topic Coming Soon
10/6	Seismic 101
10/20	Proposed Updates to NFPA 25, 2029 Ed.
11/3	Evaluating Fire Pump Flow Tests
11/17	Top 10 Tech Reviews
12/1	Designing Water Storage Tanks
12/15	Pump Room Layout

PROGRAMS

Feb 9 - Mar 5 Apr 20 - May 14 Aug 3 - Aug 27** Oct 26 - Nov 19	Beginning Design School*
Apr 26 - May 7 Nov 1 - 12	Intermediate Design School*
Feb 8 - 10** Apr 12 - 14 Jul 12 - 14 Oct 11 - 13	Sprinkler Hydraulics Calculations Workshop
Apr 19 - 21 Oct 18 - 20	Advanced Hydraulics Calculations Workshop
Feb 11** Apr 30 Jul 23 Sep 24	Introduction to the Fire Sprinkler Industry
Mar 1 - 3 May 17 - 19 Aug 16 - 18 Oct 18 - 20**	NFPA 25 Essentials Workshop
Jun 7 - 10 Sep 20 - 23	Experienced Inspector Skills Lab
Mar 4 - 5 May 20 - 21 Aug 19 - 20 Oct 21 - 22**	NFPA 25 Fire Pump Workshop
Spring Summer Fall	ITM Inspector Development Program* *This program is 20 months.*

** Hybrid course **At General Air Products Lab, Exton, PA*

AFSA46

September 8-11	Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, CA

For More Details Visit:
firesprinkler.org

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Dates subject to change. Programs subject to minimum registrations.

rev 9/14/2026

Virtual Instruction Path (VIP)

for Sprinkler Fitting Apprentices

Level 1 - Begins January 2027

Level 2 - Begins February 2027

Level 3 - Begins January 2027

Level 4 - Begins March 2027

www.firesprinkler.org/VIP

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HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS FOR 2027

FEATURING AFSA'S TRAINING LAB

NFPA 25 Essentials Workshop

Mar | May | Aug | Oct

Description: Understand roles, responsibilities, and NFPA 25 ITM procedures through hands-on testing of wet systems, dry systems, and fire pumps.

NFPA 25 Fire Pump Workshop

Mar | May | Aug | Oct

Description: Develop practical NFPA 25 fire pump ITM skills, including no-flow and full-flow testing, water supply graphing, and performance evaluation.

Introduction to the Fire Sprinkler Industry

Feb | Apr | Jul | Sep

Description: This course is designed for those new to the industry. An introductory, wide-ranging 8-hour course that provides a broad overview of core fire sprinkler industry concepts for those new to the field.

Experienced Inspector Skills Lab NEW

Mar | Sep

Description: Take your ITM expertise beyond the basics. Designed for experienced technicians, this course combines focused classroom instruction with hands-on system lab training to strengthen your application of current NFPA 25 inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements. Refine fire sprinkler testing practices, improve documentation, deliver more consistent service, and help reduce liability while reinforcing knowledge commonly covered on certification exams.

Learn more about AFSA's fire sprinkler lab featuring functional risers, a spray room, fire pumps, and an interactive classroom.

firesprinkler.org/lab