



Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal  
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2014 – 05

To: OSFM Industry Partners  
OSFM Staff

From: Joe Delaune, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: October 8, 2014

**Re: Backflow Preventers Added to Existing Sprinkler Systems - Plan Review Requirements**

The installation of backflow preventers on water supply lines that serve existing fire sprinkler systems may have an impact on the system's required flow and pressure. A reduction of the supply could compromise the fire sprinkler system, causing it to not function properly in a fire event. These installations have a potentially serious impact on the required fire protection features of buildings.

State law LRS 40:1574 requires plans and specifications to be submitted to this office for any repair, remodeling, addition, or other details of construction that affect the fire protection features of a structure. Therefore, the owner of a building that is protected by an automatic sprinkler system, or their representative, shall submit plans and specifications to this office for evaluation prior to installation of any such device.

Documentation shall indicate that the proposed alteration to the water supply line has been evaluated by a fire sprinkler contractor licensed by this office, and that the proposed installation will either not adversely affect the system, or that modifications to the fire sprinkler system will be necessary in order to offset the impact. Plans and specifications that identify any necessary modifications to the fire sprinkler system shall accompany this submittal.

An application form titled "**Automatic Sprinkler System Modification – Request for Installation of Backflow Preventer**" has been established for this purpose in order to expedite the process. This form is available for download from our website at [LASFM.org](http://LASFM.org) in the "Plan review, "Forms" section.

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Smoke Alarms Save Lives! [Savealife@la.gov](mailto:Savealife@la.gov)

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806  
(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452 Fax (225) 925-4593

The licensed fire sprinkler contractor shall complete a thorough hydraulic analysis, including revised hydraulic calculations, new fire flow data, and all necessary system modifications to accommodate the additional friction loss, in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 13.

The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 55, Part V, Section 3153 authorizes a plumbing contractor who has met all requirements and passed a prescribed written examination based upon the NFPA to install the backflow preventer. However, the planning, certifying, inspecting, maintenance and servicing of a fire sprinkler system shall be performed only by a fire sprinkler contractor that is certified, and its employees licensed, with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to perform such work.

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