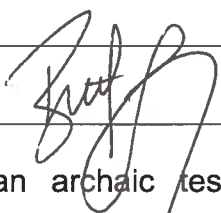




**COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Division of the Fire Marshal**  
**Administrative Ruling/Interpretation**



<b>Number:</b>	2017-5		
<b>Subject:</b>	Acceptance Testing Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems		
<b>Reference:</b>	2016 NFPA 13D 2016 NFPA 13R		
<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 13, 2017	<b>Issued By:</b>	Doreen Withee, FPE
<b>Revision Date:</b>		<b>Revised By:</b>	
<b>Approval Date:</b>	October 13, 2017	<b>Approved By:</b>	

**PURPOSE:** To provide options to eliminate an archaic testing method unsupported by installation standards.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to new residential fire sprinkler systems designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 13D and 13R.

**DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:** Fire AHJ's around the country have required a bucket test on 13D systems to prove the hydraulics of the systems. However, NFPA 13D maintenance committee does not consider the bucket test to be necessary, having been soundly rejected several times in the past. Per the committee responsible for the maintenance of 13D, "the system water flow can...be adequately tested using the test and drain connection..." Any issues that were found during a bucket test, involved the underground piping and/or closed valves. Both of which can be discovered during routine inspections involving test connections and underground flow tests.

Bucket tests can be problematic to conduct as they are often done when the structure is nearly finished, and there are increased equipment and man-power costs associated as well. All of these can be alleviated by conducting an underground inspection, similar to the requirements of NFPA 13 and NFPA 24.

**DECISION:** CSFD is pleased to offer two options for final acceptance testing of residential fire protection systems:

1. Bucket Test as has been past practice.
2. The following test procedures:

- a. Main drain test.
- b. Underground flush.
- c. Underground hydrostatic test per installation standards.
- d. Completed Contractor's Material and Test.