



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



Number:	2017-6		
Subject:	Fire Suppression Contractor Licensing Requirements Specific to Fire Suppression Backflow Prevention Devices		
Reference:	2011 Pikes Peak Regional Building Code, Section 207 and 2009 Amended International Fire Code, Section 901.4.5		
Effective Date:	12/22/2017	Issued By:	Chip Taylor, Fire Protection Engineer I
Revision Date:	N/A	Revised By:	
Approval Date:	12/22/2017	Approved By:	Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal 

PURPOSE: To establish licensing requirements specific to repairing, maintaining, testing, and inspecting backflow prevention devices.

SCOPE: Administrative ruling 2017-6 applies to all contractors, individuals or entities performing repairs, maintenance, tests, and inspections on fire suppression backflow prevention devices.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: Section 207.4 of the *2011 Pikes Peak Regional Building Code* authorizes a Fire Suppression Contractor A to design, install, add to, alter, service, repair, maintain, test, and inspect water-based fire suppression and standpipe systems of all types, including their necessary control, alarm and detection components, as well as retrofit existing systems with backflow prevention devices. In addition, section 207.10 states that the individual technician performing work on fire suppression backflow prevention devices shall maintain a Suppression On-Site Installer license. Section 901.4.5 of the amended *2009 International Fire Code* states, all fire alarm, water-based suppression systems, portable fire extinguisher appliances and special hazard systems shall be designed, installed, repaired, inspected, tagged and maintained by an appropriately licensed contractor. All requirements prevent qualified contractors, specifically plumbers, from performing repairs, maintenance, tests, and inspections on fire suppression backflow prevention devices.

DECISION: In order to foster a business friendly environment, requirements to repair, test, maintain, and inspect fire suppression backflow prevention devices are as follows:

1. The contractor, individual, or entity repairing, maintaining, testing or inspecting a fire suppression backflow prevention device shall obtain Fire Suppression System Contractor – Backflow certification from Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control or be a locally licensed fire suppression contractor.
2. The contractor, individual, or entity shall provide a tag on all fire suppression backflow prevention devices stating:
 - a. Work performed (Repaired, Maintained, Tested, or Inspected)
 - b. Date work was performed
 - c. Name of contractor or individual that performed work
 - d. Name of company the contractor or individual represents
 - e. Certificate number from Fire Suppression System Contractor – Backflow certification or identification number from the fire suppression contractor license.

NOTE: State Fire Suppression System – Backflow certification authorizes a contractor, individual, or entity to repair, maintain, test, and inspect fire suppression backflow prevention devices. State Fire Suppression System – Backflow certification DOES NOT authorize a contractor, individual, or entity to design, install, alter or retrofit fire suppression backflow prevention devices.