



# OKLAHOMA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Marshal's Office

### Interpretation

<b>Interpretation #:</b> OKCAHJ-2018-05	<b>Subject of Interpretation:</b> Maintenance of Private Hydrants	
<b>Code Reference:</b> 2009 IFC; NFPA 291; NFPA 25; NFPA 24		
<b>Reviewed By:</b> Robert Crisp	<b>Title:</b> Assistant Fire Marshal	<b>Effective Date:</b> 5/4/2018
<b>Approved By:</b> Harold Thompson	<b>Title:</b> Fire Marshal	<b>Revision Date:</b> N/A

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification and consistency in the requirements regarding the responsibility of property owners of privately installed fire hydrants that supplies water for fire protection and the related inspection, testing and maintenance of private fire hydrants (including the approved connection at private fire service water tanks and private fire service mains).

**Description of Code Reference:**

International Fire Code (IFC) Section 105.6.35 Private fire hydrants. An operational permit is required for the removal from service, use or operation of private fire hydrants.

International Fire Code (IFC) Section 105.7.11 Private fire hydrants. A construction permit is required For the installation or modification of private fire hydrants.

507.5.3 Private fire service mains and water tanks. Private fire service mains and water tanks shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25 at the following intervals:

1. Private fire hydrants (all types): Inspection annually and after each operation; flow test and maintenance annually.
2. Fire service main piping: Inspection of exposed, annually; flow test every 5 years.
3. Fire service main piping strainers: Inspection and maintenance after each use.

NFPA 24, Section 14.1. A private fire service main and its appurtenances installed in accordance with this standard shall be properly inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25 to provide at least the same level of performance and protection as designed.

NFPA 291, Section 5.2.5 Private Hydrants:

5.2.5.1 Marking on private hydrants within private enclosures is to be at the owner's discretion.

5.2.5.2 When private hydrants are located on public streets, they should be painted red or some other color to distinguish them from public hydrants.

5.2.2 Permanently Inoperative Hydrants. Fire hydrants that are permanently inoperative or unusable should be removed.

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5.2.3 Temporarily Inoperative Hydrants. Fire hydrants that are temporarily inoperative or unusable should be wrapped or otherwise provided with temporary indication of their condition.

**Policy based on the Interpretation of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ):**

This policy will require all property owners to inspect, test and maintain all private hydrants located on their property to ensure they are code compliant in accordance with the standards of NFPA 24, 25 and 291; and the requirements outlined in the IFC.

New and existing private hydrants shall obtain operational and construction permits as required and submit documentation of annual inspections/flow tests as required.

The IFC specifically states: Fire hydrant systems shall be subject to periodic tests as required by the *fire code official*. Fire hydrant systems shall be maintained in an operative condition at all times and shall be repaired where defective. Additions, repairs, *alterations* and servicing shall comply with *approved* standards (IFC, 507.5.2).

Emergency impairments shall include, but are not limited to, interruption of water supply, frozen or ruptured piping, and equipment failure, and includes impairments found during inspection, testing, or maintenance activities.

Permanently Inoperative Hydrants. Fire hydrants that are permanently inoperative or unusable should be removed as per NFPA 291, 5.2.2 with Fire Marshal approval and permitting required per the IFC.

Temporarily Inoperative Hydrants. Fire hydrants that are temporarily inoperative or unusable should be wrapped or otherwise provided with temporary indication of their condition (NFPA 291, 5.2.3).

Where any fire protection system is out of service for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period, the property owner or (impairment coordinator) shall obtain approval from the Fire Marshal to arrange for one of the following:

- (a) Evacuation of the building or portion of the building affected by the system out of service
- (b) An approved fire watch
- (c) Establishment of a temporary water supply
- (d) Establishment and implementation of an approved program to eliminate potential ignition sources and limit the amount of fuel available to the fire

The fire department shall be notified any time a private hydrant has an impairment (either preplanned or emergency) and when it is restored to service.