RE: Required Fire Pump Maintenance

South Metro Fire Rescue exists to protect lives and property from all hazards through preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and response. One method we utilize to accomplish this is our inspection program, through which we work to identify potential problems before they have a negative impact on lives or property. Fire inspection programs help to identify and resolve system malfunctions that can create major consequences for building owners, property managers and insurance companies, all of which assume some risk or liability for the use and purpose that a building or structure serves.

Annual testing of your sprinkler system and fire pump are required by fire code. To help guarantee that fire sprinkler systems are maintained to a constant degree of readiness, the International Fire Code (IFC), in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 25), offers effective means to provide sustainability, dependability, and reliability. In addition to the annual inspection and testing, the fire pump assembly is required to be operated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is determined by the type of pump you have. Diesel pumps must be operated for 30 minutes each week. Electric pumps must be operated for 10 minutes each month. This is to ensure proper operation of the motor and pump. To conduct this test, the pump should be isolated from the rest of the fire sprinkler system and manually activated. This is a churn test only, and water does not need to be flowed through the sprinkler system.

Please contact your fire protection systems vendor if you would like more detailed instruction in the sequence of operation for performing a churn test and keeping a proper log of testing that was performed. When applicable, record the motor voltage and current (all lines), pump speed in rpm, and pump readings of suction and discharge pressures. This log then will need to be made available to the fire department upon request.

If you have any other questions, please contact the Fire Marshal’s Office at 720-989-2230.

Thank you!