

FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 06-2

CODE REFERENCE:

NFPA 13D (2002). 6.2.(4)

BACKGROUND:

This code section requires that the sprinkler is fed from a stored water source and has an automatically operated pump. This code does not define the phrase "Stored Water Source" or "Automatically Operated".

INTERPRETATION: (*Stored Water Source*)

The phrase "stored water source" in section 6.2.(4) is defined as a water vessel in the home or in a well that meets the requirements of NFPA 13D including adequate water supply for a minimum of ten minutes. Regardless of which static water source is chosen, documentation demonstrating that the water requirements of the sprinkler system will be met, shall be included with plan submittal. They shall also be made available to the inspector at time of testing.

INTERPRETATION: (*Automatically Operated*)

The phrase "automatically operated" in section 6.2.(4) is defined as a pump that has the ability to activate when a pressure loss is indicated and provide the required water at the proper pressure to the sprinklers for a minimum of ten minutes.

Stand-alone pumps shall have a *test connection* located downstream from the pump and piped to return the water back into the tank.

JUSTIFICATION: (*Stored Water Source*)

Recent technology has improved the water delivery systems provided in wells so that they now have the ability to meet both the domestic, as well as the fire protection needs of the home.

JUSTIFICATION: (*Automatically Operated*)

A stand-alone pump that is there only for fire protection fills a critical void as a component of the sprinkler system and must be capable of performing when needed. This interpretation will ensure that the pump will be "automatically operated" when called upon, and provides the homeowner with a quick and easy way to test this vital system.

Well pumps that meet the sprinkler requirement contain a "constant pressure" device that ensures correct water flow, even with multiple head activation. Also, these pumps are tested every time they supply the domestic needs of the home.

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