

GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTION AND TESTING INTERVALS REFERENCED IN NFPA CODES AND STANDARDS

Technical Services Unit, Alabama Department of Public Health

FIRE DRILLS – Required by NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, to be “quarterly on each shift” (101:18.7.1.2 and 101:19.7.1.2), and also indicated as “once in each 3-month period” (101:A18.7.1.2 and 101:A19.7.1.2). Drills may occur any time during each calendar quarter (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec). Consecutive drills on a shift may occur a few days apart or more than 5 months apart, as long as the drills occur in separate quarters. Drills shall be scheduled on a random basis on each shift each quarter so that start times vary throughout the entire shift - not concentrated all at the beginning, at the middle, or at the end of the shift.

INSPECTION AND TESTING INTERVALS REFERENCED BY NFPA CODES AND STANDARDS:

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM – NFPA 72, Section 7-3 (Monthly, quarterly, semiannually, every alternate year, annually, within 1 year after installation, a maximum of 5 years)

FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM – NFPA 25 (Weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannually, annually, biannually, 5 years and so on)

KITCHEN HOOD SUPPRESSION SYSTEM – NFPA 96, Chapter 8 (Monthly, quarterly, semiannually, “every 6 months,” annually)

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - NFPA 10, Chapter 4 (“approximately 30-day intervals,” monthly, quarterly, semiannually, “not more than 1 year,” annually, “every 6 years,” “once every 3 years,” “once every 5 years,” “maximum interval of 12 years”)

STANDBY GENERATORS – NFPA 99 and NFPA 110, Chapter 6 (“12 times a year,” weekly, monthly, “every 6 months,” “every 2 years,” annually)

Monthly: Occurring at an approximate interval of 30 days, but not more than 40 days. A test or inspection is required during each calendar month.

Quarterly: Occurring at an approximate interval of 3 months, but not more than 15 weeks. A test or inspection must be performed during each calendar quarter.

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Semiannually, and “every 6 months”: Occurring at an approximate interval of 6 months, but not more than 14 days beyond 6 months. Two tests or inspections must be performed during each calendar year.

Annually: Occurring at an approximate interval of 12 months, but not more than 21 days beyond 12 months.

Biannually, every alternate year: Occurring at an approximate interval of 2 years, but not more than 1 month beyond 2 years.

Once every 3 years, 5 years, 6 years, and so on: Tests or inspections must occur within 2 months before or after the anniversary date from the previous test, inspection, or installation date.

“Not more than” statements: Required intervals that are stated such as “not exceeding 6 months,” “not more than 1 year,” “within 1 year,” and “a maximum of 5 years” must be followed as written.