



FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

2021-001

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIVATE HYDRANTS – INSPECTION, TESTING & MAINTENANCE

Purpose

Chapter 7 of NFPA 25-2017 provides the minimum requirements for the routine inspection, testing and maintenance of private fire service mains and their appurtenances, **and includes annual requirements for owners of dry barrel and wall hydrants.**

This document clarifies the minimum qualifications for persons who have met the requirements and training to inspect, test and maintain **private hydrants** (including dry barrel and wall hydrants) within the City of Calgary, **format of reports**, and **requirements to report deficient systems** where owners do not take timely action to remedy deficiencies.

The requirements outlined below are effective December 1st, 2022.

Code reference(s)

National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition Article 1.4.1.2, Defined Terms

Authority having jurisdiction means a safety codes officer in the fire discipline exercising authority pursuant to designation of powers and terms of employment in accordance with the Safety Codes Act. See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).

NFPA 25-2017 3.3.24 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance

A service program provided by a qualified contractor or qualified property owner's representative in which all components unique to the property's systems are inspected and tested at the required times and necessary maintenance is provided.

NFPA 25-2017 3.3.34 Qualified

A competent and capable person who has met the requirements and training for a given acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

Communication Update

Qualifications to Inspect, Test and Maintain Private Hydrants

Within the City of Calgary, persons shall only be considered qualified to inspect, test and maintain private hydrants when they have obtained one of the following designations

1. Certification from Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators' Association (AWWOA) for Hydrant Flow Testing and Hydrant Maintenance and Operation. See <https://www.alberta.ca/water-wastewater-operator-certification.aspx> for further information on this certification.
2. A "Private Hydrant Operator's Certificate of Training", issued upon successful completion of a course for the "inspection, testing and maintenance of fire hydrants" as conducted by a training facility approved by the AHJ (Calgary Fire Department – CFD).
3. Approved providers of these courses include:
 - a. [Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators' Association](#)
 - b. [United Association Local 496](#) (sprinkler fitters union)
 - c. Other as approved by CFD.

Having obtained such qualification, persons who continue to inspect, test and maintain private hydrants must be re-certified (qualifications renewed or kept current) every three (3) years, or in the case of Certification from AWWOA, as required by AWWOA Guidelines.

Reports

The AHJ frequently requests reports of inspection, testing and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems as proof that the applicable requirements are satisfied. Persons who inspect, test and maintain private hydrants are required to produce a report for the owner and AHJ. These reports must include, at a minimum, the information outlined by NFPA 25-2017 B.4.

Reports that do not include this required information will be rejected by the AHJ.

Reports may use the report template provided by the [Calgary Fire Department](#).

In addition to providing reports to the owner (to retain on-site for 2 years), qualified persons must also email a copy of the report to fpbsupport1@calgary.ca

Reporting of Deficient Life Safety Systems

Where deficiencies exist, owners of private hydrants have 10 days from the initial inspection to take action to fix deficiencies. Where owners delay beyond this 10 day window, qualified persons are required to report deficient systems to the Calgary Fire Department through electronic reporting.

See <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/fire/fire-codes/fire-safety-systems.html> for further information on the reporting process and contact FireLegal@calgary.ca to obtain the private electronic link to report deficient systems.

Effective Date

Operators of private hydrants are required to possess the above qualifications and comply with the above requirements no later than **December 1st, 2022**.

Referenced STANDATAs

This bulletin is subject to any STANDATAs released by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Questions regarding this document may be forwarded to FireLegal@calgary.ca



Glenn Baxter
Acting Fire Marshal
Fire Inspections & Investigations
Calgary Fire Department