



**DPS**

**Montgomery County  
Department of Permitting Services**

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**HYDROSTATIC TEST PROCEDURE FOR COLD WEATHER**

**SINGLE FAMILY/TOWNHOUSES 13D and 4-story townhouse systems**

During cold weather months, it may be difficult to perform a hydrostatic test using water when the ambient temperature is less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit. **WHEN APPROVED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL**, the following “Cold Weather Procedure” should be followed in order to assure full compliance with **NFPA 13D** as well as the Office of the Fire Code Compliance Division. **This procedure may only be used for NFPA 13D and 4-story townhouse systems.**

1. The sprinkler contractor shall receive approval from our office to use the cold weather procedure. This may be obvious due to continuous cold weather patterns.
2. An inspector will perform all aspects of a hydro inspection. There will be no test pressure or water within the pipe during this inspection. This inspection will include all of the following but is not limited to, pipe size, bracing, sprinkler head location, spacing, **and insulation**. The fire inspector will note on the sticker given and their tough book computer that a cold weather hydro was performed so that the next inspector is aware.
3. The sprinkler contractor shall contact the general contractor and advise him/her that the home was performed under the cold weather procedure and item #5 below will have to occur at the time of final inspection.
4. Before any drywall is installed, water shall be introduced into the sprinkler system and the system pressurized to the required test pressure per approved plans. The sprinkler contractor, as well as the general contractor shall inspect and document this test by signing the “Hydrostatic Test Certification” form. (See attached document).
5. At final inspection, the original copy of the “hydrostatic test certification” shall be given to the fire inspector. **The sprinkler system shall be pressurized to the test pressure on the approved plans and witnessed by the fire marshal. A final sticker will not be given if this test is not completed satisfactorily.**

**NOTE:** The purpose of this procedure is to prevent possible delays in the construction/inspection schedule caused by cold weather. During the actual construction of the sprinkler system the home must maintain minimum temperature requirements to allow for proper curing of the glue.