

Thurston County Development Services Confidence Testing Requirements



Confidence Testing of Fire Protection Systems

General Requirements

The Thurston County Code chapter 14.32 requires building owners to maintain their building's fire protection systems in good working condition at all times, and to ensure that these systems are tested on a regular basis. The periodic testing of fire protection systems is called confidence testing. Building owners are expected to schedule annual and 5-year confidence tests without notification from the Thurston County Fire Marshal (TCFM). A certified service technician must conduct all confidence tests. Many companies with certified employees are listed in your telephone company's yellow pages under headings such as "Fire Alarm Systems" and "Fire Protection". After the system is tested, a service label must be attached to the system, and a confidence testing form must be sent to the TCFM. The TCFM is located at 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Building # 1, Olympia, 98503. The company you choose to perform your confidence test will have the correct forms, and will generally take care of sending the paperwork to the TCFMO. However, it is important to check with your confidence testing company on this point.

Testing Fire Alarm Systems

Fire alarm systems in high-rise buildings have 1/4 of the system tested each quarter so that the entire system is confidence tested annually. Fire alarm systems in low-rise buildings are required to be functionally tested once a month. This means that a pull alarm is activated to ensure it is functioning. The person who conducts this monthly test does not have to be certified; however, they do need to be competent in the necessary procedures for testing and restoring the fire alarm system. If you elect to have your fire alarm system professionally tested quarterly; you are not required to perform a monthly test. If your fire alarm system consists only of interconnected smoke detectors, you are not required to perform a monthly test.

TEST FREQUENCY FOR FIRE SYSTEMS

Fire Alarm	Annually for low-rise buildings
Fire Pumps	Annually
Automatic Sprinklers	Annually
Shaft Pressurization	Annually
Emergency Generator	Annually
Sequence Tests (high rise)	Annually
Halon, CO2, Inergen	Annually
Hood Suppression	Semi-Annual
Foam Systems	Annually & five years
Fire Escapes	Five years
Standpipe and/or Hose Cabinets	Five years