



Miami Beach Fire Department  
*FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION*  
**STANDARDS**



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TOPIC: Backflow Preventers Testing

STANDARD NO: NEWC-S018  
EXINSP-S05  
Revision 0

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This FPS will establish the testing requirements for backflow preventers installed in a fire protection water main.

Backflow Preventers are not required by the Fire Code. However, most sprinkler designers use the backflow preventer as the main shut off valve required in NFPA 13. If they choose to do so, the backflow preventer must be accessible and visible from the street.

Florida Dept of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requires public water systems to establish a cross-connection control program to detect and prevent cross-connections that create or may create an imminent and substantial danger to public health. Customers shall provide approved backflow preventers next to the service connection for the containment of their premises.

Protection requirements of the water supply are based on American Water Works Association (AWWA), Florida Building Code, and Miami-Dade County Ordinance O#06-158.

Miami Beach Public Works department is responsible for establishing and enforcing the Cross Connection Control Program. The Fire Prevention Division will assist Public Works in enforcement of this program by identifying non-compliant inspection/testing of these devices.

Backflow preventers must be certified at installation and annually by a certified backflow preventer tester. The individual must complete a training program approved by FDEP and then pass a test administered by Miami Dade County Trades Qualifying Board (CTQB). Contractors testing the backflow preventers in fire lines **MUST** be a fire sprinkler contractor as licensed by the State Fire Marshal's Office in addition the contractor must possess the tester certification. The contractor must have both licenses/certifications.

The contractor must conduct the inspection and testing of the backflow preventer as indicated in NFPA 25, Section 12.6 and must conduct the testing certification as required in the Miami-Dade County Ordinance. The contractor must install a tag on the device documenting annual certification.

New installation:

The Fire Protection Analyst must get a copy of the certification before final approval of the sprinkler system and send it to Public Works Department. The certification is a separate document from the NFPA 13 forms.

Existing installation:

The Fire Inspector must check for the annual testing certification (separate document) in addition to the sprinkler system NFPA 13/25 annual certification. If the backflow preventer has an expired certification (annual) or no certification, then write a deficiency notice (not NOV) to the owner based on Miami-Dade County Code Chapter 110. The owner or representative should sign the notice to acknowledge receipt. The fire inspector will forward the notice to Public Works Department. Personnel in Public Works are authorized to enforce the requirements of Chapter 110 and imposed penalties accordingly. If the domestic backflow preventer is next to the fire main, then the fire inspector can check for the tag on that backflow preventer as well as a courtesy to Public Works Dept. If it has no tag or it is expired, then the fire inspector can include that information in the deficiency notice described above. If the fire main device is okay, but the domestic device does not have proper certification, then send an email only since we have no jurisdiction over domestic lines.

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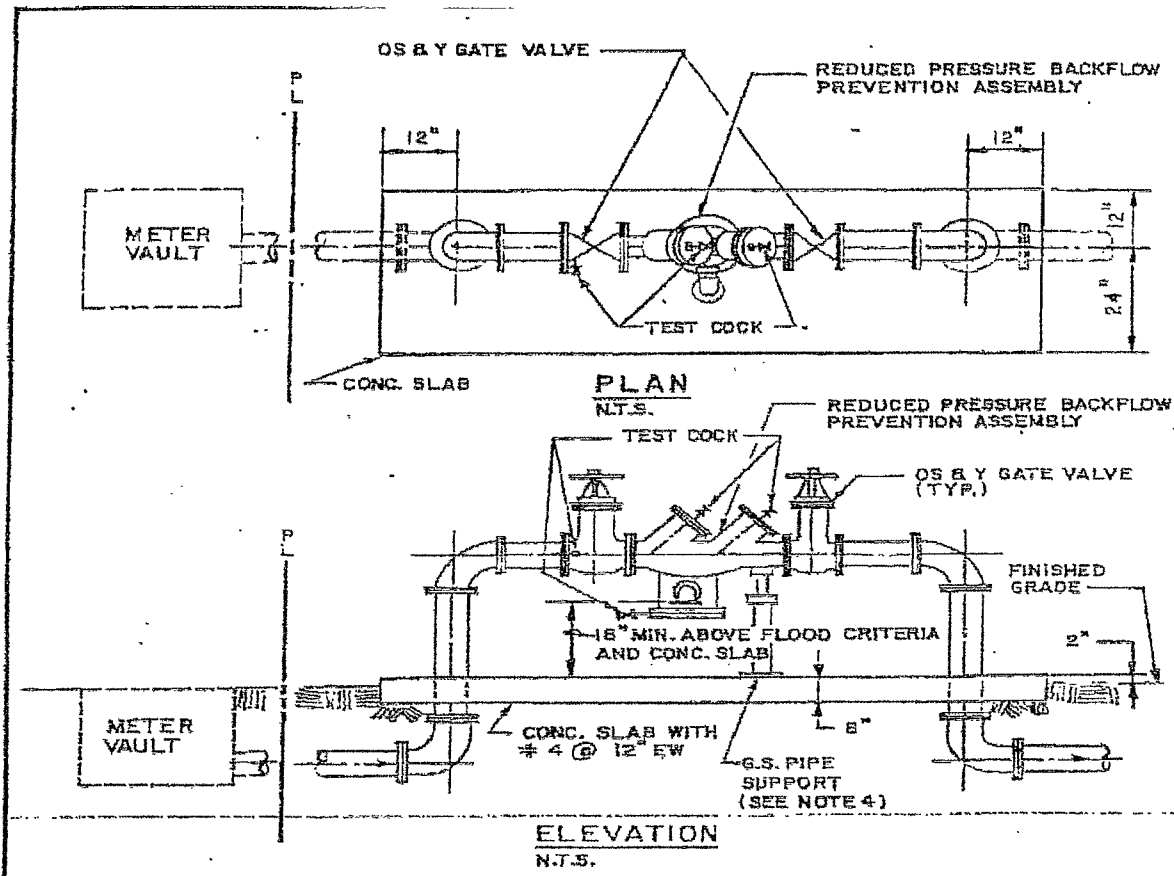
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**NOTE:** Send documents to Percival Balgobin, Backflow Preventer Coordinator, Public Works Department or send emails to [pbalgobin@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:pbalgobin@miamibeachfl.gov). Customer can use sample inspection form attached or form supplied by contractor.



  
Sonia Flores Macher, P.E.  
Fire Marshal

8/31/09  
Date Issued