



Memo

To: All Contractor and Owners
From: Kathy Saunders, Knox County Fire Marshal
CC: All Knox County Fire Inspectors
Date: January 5, 2017
Subject: Underground Fire Mains

Be advised that under **TCA Title 62, Chapter 32** of the Fire Protection Sprinkler System Law, any assembly of underground piping that conveys fire protection water must be in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 13, Installation of Sprinkler Systems, NFPA 13R, Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies up to and including Four Stories in Height, and NFPA 24, Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances.

**Rules of
Department of Commerce and Insurance
Division of Fire Prevention
Chapter 0780-2-7
Fire Protection Sprinkler System Contractor**

Section 0780-2-7.01 Definitions.

(g) "Point of service" means the point immediately after the tap of the service main where water is used exclusively for fire protection purposes.

Section 0780-2-7.08, Installation, Inspection and Service.

(2) Installation of fire protection sprinkler systems, beginning at the point of service, shall be in compliance with all applicable laws, codes, and standards. (NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, and NFPA 24)

(8) New installations of a fire protection sprinkler system must be performed by a fire protection sprinkler contractor registered by the Division, or by his or her responsible managing employee licensed by the Division and on staff with the contractor.

The Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau requires designs, plans, hydraulic calculations, and equipment cut sheets be submitted to the Knox County Code Administration with the required permit application for review prior to the installation. The Knox County Fire Bureau will require that the installing sprinkler contractor complete an approved underground certificate. The Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau must witness acceptance tests, required by NFPA 13 and NFPA 24. These requirements have been in effect in Knox County since 1988. As of this date, acceptance testing in accordance with NFPA 13R 6.4 must be witnessed by the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau.