



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS BRANCH
PERMITS AND REVIEW DIVISION

FIRE PROTECTION BULLETIN
F06-01

February 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Establish policy and guidelines for third-party inspection of underground water pipes serving fire protection systems.

PURPOSE: This Bulletin will establish policy and guidelines for third-party inspection of private underground water pipes serving fire protection systems, such as, but not limited to, fire hydrants and automatic suppression systems.

AUTHORITY: This Fire Protection Bulletin is issued by authority granted to the Fire Code Official in Section 4-109 (Duties and Powers of Code Official; Fire Safety Provisions) of the Prince George's County Code. Orders of the State Fire Marshal are by authority of Article 38A, Section 8(a)(3), of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

NOTIFICATION: In order to perform inspections of underground water lines serving fire protection equipment, the Third-Party Inspector must be a registered Maryland Professional Engineer. The Third-Party Inspector must also be knowledgeable and had training on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 24 standard for the "Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances", 2002 Edition, or be certified through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, Level III, for "Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems".

All Third-Party Inspectors interested in performing inspections of underground waterlines for private fire service mains must submit a resume to the Fire Code Official for review and approval prior to performing any inspections. This resume should include certifications related to NFPA. Work not inspected by a qualified Third-Party Inspector will not be accepted and will be subject to re-inspection by an approved Third-Party Inspector. This may include exposing all or part of the installed water line.

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RESPONSIBILITIES: Registered Third-Party Inspectors, who are also registered Professional Engineers, shall inspect underground water lines serving private fire protection equipment in accordance with NFPA 24 standard for the "Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances", 2002 Edition. The inspection responsibility shall extend from the valve at the base of the riser to the first valve near the property line. All Third-Party Inspectors must practice inspections of fire protection systems and related matters within their field of expertise.

APPROVED AND ISSUED: Effective this date, February 1, 2006.

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