



Tuesday March 24, 2020

Recommendations from Nova Scotia Fire Marshal

It would be the recommendation of the Nova Scotia Office of the Fire Marshal that agencies performing inspection, testing and maintenance on fire protection systems make every effort to continue to carry out their work while ensuring their staff are following any and all of the requirements now legislated due to the provincial state of emergency in Nova Scotia. In line with other similar services being provided, we would suggest that when determining which of your services are more critical, it is a manner of risk management.

There may be occasions when portions of your work may need to be postponed, as carrying them out might present a greater risk than not, depending on the occupancy. Obviously emergency calls are crucial in order to ensure that systems are up and running. For example, an annual inspection and test in a nursing home is very important, however, the visual inspection of the sprinklers and piping in the resident areas may present a greater risk than postponing that portion to a later date. An option may be to have the home staff walk through those areas and video the system as much as they can for you to review as a temporary measure.

Our expectation is that you would work with clients to ensure both your safety and theirs to minimize the risk. On a case by case basis, if there is some uncertainty about how to proceed, reach out to the local authority, whether it is our office or the local municipality for guidance. We are finding that this is a time to be creative in how we carry out our work. I will say that our office is trying to take a reasonable approach on things and that we realize that there will be occasions when code requirements will need to be relaxed for a period in order to minimize the overall risk to an occupancy.

In order for Provincial Authorities Having Jurisdiction to be aware of this information, I am copying this to my field staff and Nova Scotia Municipal Fire Inspectors.

If there are any further questions or clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Fred Jeffers
Fire Marshal

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Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association

The Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association is a National Trade Contractor's Association. It has existed in one form or another since the 1920's, and was incorporated under a Dominion Charter in 1961. CASA promotes, defends, enhances and improves the business designing, installing and manufacturing fire sprinkler devices and systems. The Association works closely with the fire and building officials, architects and others "To enhance the level of life safety and property conservation from the effects of fire through the use of fire sprinklers".