

June 2006

Seattle Fire Department Information Installation of a Fire Sprinkler System in an Existing Building

Contact a Fire Sprinkler Company

Look in the phone directory under “Sprinklers-Automatic-Fire” or look in an online directory. A Fire Sprinkler Company can provide design services, secure the appropriate permits, install the system, and oversee the testing and final inspections.

In the City of Seattle, automatic fire sprinkler systems must be installed by technicians with appropriate certifications from the Seattle Fire Department. Depending on the type of work performed, sprinkler technicians will require an AS-1, AS-2 or AS-3 certification. Information regarding the requirements for work to be performed by Seattle Fire Department certified technicians can be found in the Seattle Fire Department Administrative Rule 9.01.04 - *Certification for Installing, Maintaining and Testing Life Safety Systems and Equipment* at <http://www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/firecode/adminRules.htm>

As with any construction project, it is advisable to obtain quotes for services from more than one company.

Underground Contractor

You may be required to provide a new water supply or an increased water supply and appropriately sized water meter in order to operate the sprinkler system. A special underground contractor, with appropriate “Level U” licensing from the Washington State Patrol is required to perform the work of installing new underground water supply lines and equipment. Your sprinkler company may be able to recommend an underground contractor if one is needed.

To view lists of licensed contractors for varying fire protection services including underground work, look at the Washington State Patrol Web page at the following link. <http://www.wa.gov/wsp/fire/sprinkler/licforms.htm>

Seattle Public Utilities – Fees for Water Meters and Fire Service Water Supply

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) charges may apply for installation of a new or larger water meter service if one is needed. A monthly “standby fire service charge” also will apply to meters supplying a fire sprinkler system. Information regarding rates and charges can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Water/Rates/index.asp>

Seattle Fire Department Inspections of New Fire Sprinkler Systems

The sprinkler contractor has the responsibility to schedule required inspections for your fire sprinkler system installation at varying steps in the project.

Annual “Confidence Test” Requirements

All fire and life safety systems in the City of Seattle, including fire sprinklers and fire alarm systems, are required to have regular testing known as “Confidence Tests” to ensure the systems will operate correctly in an emergency. For fire sprinklers, the test is

June 2006

required annually. These tests are performed by private, third-party inspection companies. All persons who perform these tests in Seattle are required to have Seattle Fire Department certification for type of system on which the work is being performed. For fire sprinkler system confidence test personnel, the State requires that they also hold a "NICET II" certification. Information regarding state license requirements and Seattle certification requirements can be located on the Washington State Patrol and Seattle Fire Department web pages shown above.

Monitoring

Fire sprinkler systems with 20 or more sprinkler heads require monitoring from a monitoring company service listed by Underwriters Laboratory (U.L.). The monitoring service will immediately notify the Seattle Fire Department if fire sprinkler water is detected flowing at your place of business. If your building already has a fire alarm panel that is monitored by a U.L. listed monitoring company, the fire sprinkler system can most likely be tied to that alarm panel.

If your building does not currently have a monitored panel, the fire alarm company will provide this feature as part of your system. Monthly monitoring service charges will apply.