MIDLOTHIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTIONS

Inspection Requests:

- Inspection requests for Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression System installations shall be coordinated by contacting the Fire Marshal's office at **972-775-7662** or **972-775-7665**.
- A 24-48 hour notification is required for all tests and inspections. Inspection appointments are subject to availability of an inspector.

The following information shall be provided when requesting an inspection:

- Name and address of project
- Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) Permit Number
- Fire protection contractor company name and contact information
- Type of inspection requested

On-Site Inspection Requirements:

- Building Permit shall be posted at the front entry of the building.
- A set of approved plans signed by a representative of the FMO and the FMO permit shall be on site at the time of inspection. Shop drawings stamped by your company are not acceptable.
- Components to be inspected shall not be covered up prior to inspection.
- **Any work performed without a FMO permit and approval is subject to a $2000 per day fine and a "STOP WORK ORDER."**
- ***Inspectors will not perform inspections if the premises are not maintained in a safe condition for inspectors and vehicle access.***

Inspections for Fire Sprinkler Systems:

Underground Piping and Components

- All underground piping, joints, valves, fire hydrants and thrust blocks shall be installed to NFPA 13 and NFPA 24 standards; City of Midlothian standards, codes and amendments; and inspected prior to hydrostatic testing. All joints, valves and thrust blocks shall be fully exposed and piping may be center loaded.
- All underground piping and system components shall be hydrostatically tested at 200psi for a minimum of two (2) hours. Flushing of piping, riser and remote FDC (if applicable) shall be witnessed by the Fire Marshal prior to installing the riser.
- Piping system shall comply with approved plans (fire flow, location, size and components). Fire risers shall be designed for building fire flow requirements and have a welded flange, Remote FDC piping shall be four inch (4") or larger with a welded flange and drip drain. Fire mains shall have a minimum of 42" of soil cover to top of pipe. Any components subject to corrosion shall be corrosion resistant and/or wrapped in polyethylene material.
- Fire Sprinkler backflow devices shall have a bypass and full-flow test header.

Overhead Piping and Components

- A visual inspection of rough piping and components shall be completed before piping is covered. Piping system shall comply with approved plans.
- A hydrostatic pressure test is required for all new installations and for tenant finish-outs with twenty (20) or more heads added or relocated. Hydrostatic test shall be at 200psi for two (2) hours for all systems. All joints shall be fully exposed during inspection.

Final Fire Sprinkler Inspection

- This inspection shall be conducted after all the drywall and millwork is completed. This inspection is to verify system coverage is still adequate after the initial hydrostatic pressure test. This will enable the FMO and the fire protection contractor to identify any deficiencies and make any necessary changes. Installation tag and current State of Texas inspection tag shall be in place after acceptance by the FMO. Knox FDC plugs/caps, FDC sign (red sign with 6" white letters) and fire riser room identification (4" letters) shall be installed prior to Certificate of Occupancy inspection.

Inspections for Fire Alarm Systems:

Alarm System and Devices

- All fire alarm systems shall be designed and installed to meet NFPA 72 standards and City of Midlothian adopted codes and amendments.
- A visual inspection of wiring and components shall be completed before ceilings and walls are covered. Wiring and device locations shall comply with approved plans.
- The complete system shall be pre-tested prior scheduling the acceptance test.
- All initiating, notification and signaling devices shall be inspected and tested.
- Water-flow switches shall activate a fire alarm within 40-50 seconds, and shall be non-silencable. An audible/visual notification device shall be located outside the fire riser room and be as close as possible to the FDC.
- All buildings and occupied spaces shall have one or more audible/visual notification devices and a remote annunciator panel in a normally attended location. In buildings and tenant spaces 6,000sf or larger, all HVAC units and fans shall shut down (global shut down) upon fire alarm activation.
- All alarm systems, new or replacement, shall transmit alarm, supervisory and trouble signals descriptively to the approved central station, remote supervisory station or proprietary supervising station as defined in NFPA 72, with the correct device designation and location of addressable device identification. Alarms shall not be permitted to be transmitted as a General Alarm or Zone condition.
- The fire alarm system shall comply with approved plans.

Final Fire Alarm Inspection

This inspection shall be conducted prior to the Certificate of Occupancy inspection. This will enable the FMO and the fire protection contractor to identify any deficiencies and make any necessary changes. Installation tag and current State of Texas inspection tag shall be in place after acceptance by the Fire Marshal.

Inspections for Commercial Cooking Hoods

Cooking Hood Requirements

- A Type I hood with a UL 300 fire suppression system shall be installed above all commercial cooking appliances, and domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes, that produce grease vapors. Warming kitchens and non-grease producing appliances may use a Type II hood. All cooking hoods shall comply with NFPA 96 and be installed per approved plans.
- The cooking hood and exhaust duct(s) shall be inspected and approved after installation. All joints and welds on exhaust ducts shall be tested for leaks with a light or smoke test. Exhaust ducts in wood frame buildings shall have two layers of approved fire wrapping material installed per manufacturer recommendations. All other exhaust ducts shall have a

single layer of fire wrapping installed per manufacturer recommendations. Inspection access panels shall be installed per approved plans.

- The fire suppression system shall be inspected, tested and approved. Fuel gas and power provided for cooking appliances and hood shall be interlocked with the extinguishing system to shut down upon activation. The exhaust fan shall continue to operate after activation of the suppression system. The fire suppression system shall be connected to the building fire alarm system, if applicable. Installation tag and current State of Texas inspection tag shall be in place after acceptance by the FMO.

Inspections for Fire Apparatus Access Roads

Fire Lanes

- Sub-grade and re-bar shall be inspected by the FMO prior to pouring concrete or laying asphalt. All fire lanes shall be installed per approved plans.
- **Striping** – Fire apparatus access roads shall be continuously marked by painted lines of red traffic paint six inches (6") in width to show the boundaries of the lane. The words "NO PARKING FIRE LANE" or "FIRE LANE NO PARKING" shall appear in four inch (4") white letters at 25 feet intervals on the red border markings along both sides of the fire lanes. Where a curb is available, the striping shall be on the vertical face of the curb.
- ***Fire lanes shall be installed, inspected and approved prior to vertical construction.***

One or more Knox Box key boxes containing current building keys shall be installed when fire protection systems are active and approved by the FMO.

Contact Information:

Fire Marshal
972-775-7662
fire.marshal@midlothian.tx.us

Fire Inspector
972-775-7665
fireinspector@midlothian.tx.us

Midlothian Fire Department
100 W. Avenue F
Midlothian, Texas 76065