COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT
GREG DUPUIS, FIRE CHIEF
300 W. Elm Ave • Coalinga, CA 93210 • Phone (559) 935-1652 • Fax (559) 935-1638

CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT		
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD		
STANDARD TITLE:	405.021 TESING OF FIRE SERVICE UNDERGROUND PIPING	
STANDARD NUMBER: **405.021**	EFFECTIVE DATE: **October 26, 2022**	REVISION DATE: October 26, 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Coalinga Fire Department's (CFD or Department) requirements for the installation and testing of fire service underground piping.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all fire service underground piping installations within the Department's service area. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary installations.

OPERATIONAL POLICY

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OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined that the following requirements regarding hydrostatic testing of underground fire service piping assemblies, and their visual inspection prior to covering will be as follows:

1. Isolating fire service underground piping from a public water supply. Hydrostatic pressure testing of the fire service underground piping must be done against a blank test flange or other fitting. Under no circumstances may pressure testing be done against detector check, closed gate valve or other similar assembly.

2. Pressure testing exception. As has been practiced for many years, it is acceptable to pressure test a single length of underground pipe between the detector check and the ductile iron (or other approved transition piece) to the above ground riser flange at static public water main pressure. If this method is used, the requirement for a test flange is not applicable.

3. Covering work. The currently adopted edition of National Fire Protection Association Standard (NFPA) 13 allows for the covering of underground pipe prior to pressure testing when the trench conditions present an unreasonable hazard or if the trench must remain open for an abnormal length of time. As noted in the handbook narrative and the appendix, it is still the best practice to center load the pipe for the test so that any leaks to be quickly identified and repaired.

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PROCESS

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INFORMATION

Concerns were raised by the City of Coalinga Water Division which centered on water quality issues when pressure testing was completed against a single detector check valve, which is not approved as a reduced pressure differential backflow device.

If, upon inspection, testing is conducted in violation of the requirements noted in the Operational Guidelines noted above, the hydrostatic test must be immediately discontinued, and a reinspection fee will be assessed.

It is the installing contractor's obligation to schedule a re-test using the normal scheduling procedure at a later time. Prior to scheduling a re-test, pre-payment of the reinspection fee must be completed.

Any testing which does not conform to the requirements of this policy, will be referred to the City of Coalinga Water Division for additional administrative and/or civil action against the installing contractor.

Any costs related to damage of public water supply components or systems, and any remediation of contaminated water will be the legal responsibility of the installing contractor.

DEFINITIONS

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CROSS REFERENCES

Fire Protection Association Standard (NFPA) 13

Currently adopted edition