



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 57115, Irvine, CA 92619-7115 • 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602

Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief

(714) 573-6000

www.ocfa.org

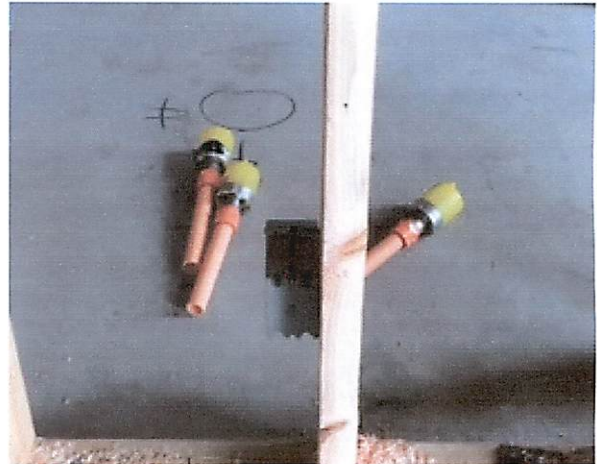
May 6th, 2015

RE: CHANGES TO OCFA FIRE SPRINKLER INSPECTION PROCEDURE

Beginning Monday, May 18th, 2015, there will be changes to the procedures required for Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) during the rough/hydro and fire sprinkler final inspections. The purpose is to prevent fire sprinkler heads from being plugged with CPVC pipe cement, and to ensure that concealed fire sprinklers are installed properly at the final fire sprinkler inspection.

Rough/Hydro

The current procedure is that fire sprinkler heads shall be installed at the rough/hydro inspection with CPVC piping. **Starting May 18th, only temporary test plugs may be installed at rough/hydro inspection when utilizing CPVC pipe.** Recently, there have been a number of inspections where “pre-installed heads” (see adjacent picture) were observed being used. OCFA Inspectors have found several installations where the CPVC pipe cement has flowed into the sprinkler head when installed in the pendent position. Per CPVC manufacturers, “sprinkler heads can be installed ONLY after all CPVC pipe and fittings are solvent cemented to the piping system and allowed to cure for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes.”



Fire Sprinkler Final

The current procedure is that concealed sprinkler heads are required to have their cover plates installed on a finished ceiling at the sprinkler final inspection. **Starting May 18th, cover plates are NOT to be installed but shall be available for inspection on the job site.** This will allow OCFA inspectors to observe all installed concealed fire sprinkler heads to ensure the appropriate heads are being installed and devoid of contaminants such as paint or drywall mud. Cover plates can be installed after the sprinkler final inspection without any further inspections.

Sincerely,

Pete Bonano

Deputy Fire Marshal

Serving the Cities of: Aliso Viejo • Buena Park • Cypress • Dana Point • Irvine • Laguna Hills • Laguna Niguel • Laguna Woods • Lake Forest • La Palma
Los Alamitos • Mission Viejo • Placentia • Rancho Santa Margarita • San Clemente • San Juan Capistrano • Santa Ana • Seal Beach • Stanton • Tustin • Villa Park
Westminster • Yorba Linda • and Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS AND SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES