

Department of Community Affairs

Division of Fire Safety

Division Administration



TO: Fire Protection Contractors

FROM: Richard J. Mikutsky, Director/State Fire Marshal

DATE: June 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Routine Maintenance and Repairs to Fire Protection Equipment

During the last several weeks, the Division of Fire Safety (Division) has received numerous inquiries from business owners, fire officials, and fire protection equipment contractors concerning fire protection equipment maintenance and repairs. During the COVID-19 epidemic, as in normal times, fire officials and fire protection equipment contractors must ensure fire protection equipment and life safety systems are maintained and in working order. These systems and equipment are essential in safeguarding the public, occupants of the businesses, and firefighters.

On Wednesday, May 13, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 142 (EO 142) which permitted the resumption of non-essential construction beginning Monday, May 18, 2020. Public and private contractors and employees who perform the inspection, maintenance and other responsibilities for fire protection equipment and life safety systems are included in EO 142. We are sending this memo to industry associations and local government partners to provide clarification and guidance to all parties who perform these essential duties. It is imperative that all buildings maintain fully operational fire protection equipment and life safety systems and perform routine testing and maintenance as required by Code.

The Uniform Fire Code Statutes and Regulations remain in effect. Requirements for testing and maintenance of fire protection systems and life safety equipment found in the 2015 International Fire Code New Jersey Edition remain unchanged. It is important to remember that the building's fire protection systems and life safety systems protect not only the building's occupants, but the firefighters that must respond to an emergency at the property. It is for this reason that fire protection equipment and life safety equipment must be maintained in vacant and unoccupied buildings as well as occupied buildings.