



# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PO BOX 839966 SAN ANTONIO TEXAS 78283-3966



TO: Development Services and Fire Department Customers

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN 143**  
Fire Flow Test Reports

DATE: May 16, 2008  
*Revised Feb 22, 2012/Aug 1, 2014/Oct 1, 2018/June7, 2022*

CREATED BY: Development Services and San Antonio Fire Departments

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## **Purpose:**

As a customer service initiative, the Development Services Department (DSD) and the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) created this **revised** bulletin to update Information Bulletin (IB) 143 on fire flow test reports. This bulletin has been updated to change the contact phone number.

The purpose of this IB is to provide DSD and SAFD customers with a standardized format with which to report water supply availability data to DSD and SAFD for the purpose of obtaining building, automatic sprinkler, standpipe, and underground fire line permits. All code sections reference the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), as amended by SAFD, unless otherwise noted. The City's fire code amendments can be found at [City Amendments to the 2018 IFC](#).

## **Scope:**

Per 2018 IFC Section 507.1, an approved water supply capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to premises upon which facilities, buildings, or portions of buildings are constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. See IFC Section 507.2 for approved types of water supplies. Per Section 507.4 of the city amendments, approved documentation of the water supply test shall be provided to the fire code official for final approval of the water supply. This documentation shall be provided in the form of the **Fire Flow Test Report** (contained in this document).

A **Fire Flow Test Report** is required to be submitted for the following:

### 1. Building Permits

- a. All new structures 1,500 square feet or more in building area. When phased permitting is utilized (i.e. site work, foundation, superstructure, shell, and interior finish-out permit applications, or any combination thereof) the **Fire Flow Test Report** shall be submitted at the time when either a new underground fire water line (public or private) is proposed as part of the permit or any construction past the foundation stage is proposed.

- b. Regardless of size, all new structures classified as Group S-1 or Group H occupancies in accordance with Chapter 2 of the IFC.
- c. Modifications to existing buildings, or their contents, that increase the required fire flow as determined by Appendix B of the IFC as amended, or by other approved methods as determined by the Fire Chief or his designee. Common examples are: building additions, change to a lesser type of construction, or changes of building use to include high-piled combustible storage. See Section 507.3.1 of the city amendments for Fire Flow for Rural Isolated Areas for additional information.
- d. Existing buildings with no Certificate of Occupancy.

## 2. Automatic Sprinkler System Permits

- a. All new sprinkler or standpipe systems required to be submitted for review.
- b. All modifications to sprinkler or standpipe systems required to be submitted for review. Sprinkler system modifications not requiring calculations per IB 140 are not required to submit a **Fire Flow Test Report**. In these instances, it is the responsibility of the design/installing contractor to evaluate adequacy of the water supply.

## 3. Underground Fire Line Permits

- a. When review of hydraulic calculations is required per Section 507.4(4) of the city amendments, and where said review was not conducted during review of the building permit. See Section 507.5.7 of the city amendments for the design criteria for new fire mains.

The following is a list of procedures for preparation of a required **Fire Flow Test Report**.

- i. The fire flow test shall be conducted by a qualified person(s) with the appropriate training on how to conduct a fire flow test.
- ii. Per Section 507.4 of the city amendments, the flow test shall be conducted on the fire hydrants nearest the project site unless other wise approved by the Code Official.
- iii. Both the report preparer and a witness, usually the water purveyor, shall sign and date the report as testament to the accuracy of the results shown. The applicant is to contact the water purveyor to schedule and/or request a fire flow test.
  - San Antonio Water System (SAWS) – 210-233-3926 or 210-233-3252
  - For the old Bexar Metropolitan Water District – 210-354-6563 or 922-2141
- iv. Per Section 507.4 of the city amendments, the flow test shall have been conducted no more than twelve (12) months prior to the date of construction document submittal to the City.
- v. Per Section 507.4 of the city amendments, the test shall be conducted in accordance with the 2010 edition of NFPA 291, *Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants*. Report the pressure readings taken, discharge coefficient, outlet size, and number of outlets; then calculate and report the actual flow and flow at **25** psi.

- vi. Provide a sketch of the flow test location. Items shown should include, but are not limited to, the following: flow and test hydrants, approximate water line location and size, streets (with labels), approximate location of the project site, elevation changes (if applicable).
- vii. Fill out the **Fire Flow Test Report** completely. All the information is required for City staff review.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Fire Protection Review team at 210-207-8056.

**Summary:**

This Information Bulletin is for informational purposes only.

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**FIRE FLOW TEST REPORT**

\*\*\*For Building Permit Application

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRE FLOW TESTING COMPANY INFORMATION:

Name of individual preparing this report: \_\_\_\_\_

Company represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the individual preparing report attesting to the accuracy of data contained herein:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of this report: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Name of individual witnessing flow test: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the witness attesting to the accuracy of data in this report:

FIRE FLOW INFORMATION:

Date and time of flow test: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of "flow" hydrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location of "test" hydrant: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Theoretical fire flow (gpm) available at **twenty-five (25) psi:** \_\_\_\_\_

# FIRE FLOW TEST DATA SHEET

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	TIME AM PM	TEST HYDRANT		FLOWING HYDRANT					FLOWING HYDRANT					TOTAL FLOW	
		STATIC (psi)	RESI-DUAL (psi)	PITOT (psi)	DIA (in)	THEOR FLOW (gpm)	HYD COEF	ACTUAL FLOW (gpm)	PITOT (psi)	DIA (in)	THEOR FLOW (gpm)	HYD COEF	ACTUAL FLOW (gpm)	ACTUAL (gpm)	AT 25 psi (gpm)

SKETCH FLOW TEST LOCATION: