



Alcohol and
Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal



State Fire Marshal

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 145 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5145

Phone: 651-201-7200 • Fax: 651-215-0525 • TTY: 651-282-6555

www.dps.state.mn.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 24, 2014
TO: All Fire Protection Contractors
FROM: Jon Nisja, Supervisor
SUBJECT: Design of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal has noticed a trend where Minnesota-licensed fire protection contractors are using third-party contractors to perform “design” of fire sprinkler systems.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 299M.03, subdivision 1 requires that contractors must be licensed to perform design work in Minnesota:

299M.03 LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE REQUIRED.

Subdivision 1. **Contractor license.** Except for residential installations by the owner of an occupied one- or two-family dwelling, a person may not sell, design, install, modify, or inspect a fire protection system, its parts, or related equipment, or offer to do so, unless annually licensed to perform these duties as a fire protection contractor. No license is required under this section for a person licensed as a professional engineer under section 326.03 who is competent in fire protection system design or a person licensed as an alarm and communication contractor under section 326B.34 for performing activities authorized by that license.

As you can see there are two exceptions: Minnesota-licensed professional engineers can do sprinkler design work and Minnesota-licensed alarm and communication contractors can work on fire alarm portions of sprinkler systems.

Minnesota Rules, Part 7512.0500, subpart 3 allows for a “Designer Contractor License”. There are currently four licensed design contractors in Minnesota. As a fire protection contractor, here are your options for designing fire protection systems:

1. You can do the design “in-house”,
2. You can have another Minnesota-licensed fire protection contractor do the design for you,
3. You can use a Minnesota-licensed design contractor to perform design for you,
4. You can use a Minnesota-licensed professional engineer to do the design.

Plans received in our office using non-licensed design contractors will be rejected. Minnesota Rules, Part 7512.0900 also requires the contractor license number be displayed on installation drawings (this includes the design contractor’s license number).