



# MOBILE FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Prevention Bureau

### Contractor Guide: Fire Protection and Underground Water Supply Permits and Inspections

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#### Annual Permit Requirement for Fire Protection Work

Contractors performing fire protection work within the City of Mobile are required to obtain an annual permit. To apply, contact our office at **251-208-7484**, where our administrative staff will assist you with the submission of the required documentation and payment of fees.

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#### Types of Annual Permits:

- Clean Agent
- ERCES
- Fire Alarm
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fire Underground Water Supply
- Hood Suppression
- Sprinkler

An Annual Permit must be obtained prior to applying for work permits or performing any fire protection-related work. Once issued, apply for a work permit through the **Build Mobile CSS Portal**.

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#### Work Permit Requirements

A work permit is mandatory for:

- New installations of fire protection systems and components of fire water supply.
  - Additions or modifications to existing systems involving three or more appliances/devices.
  - Fire Alarm Panel replacements.
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## Inspection Guidelines

### Clean Agent Permits

- **Inspection Required:** Single inspection upon completion.
  - **Coordination:**
    - If part of a building project, align with the Fire Final.
    - If independent, ensure fire alarm connection and coordinate with the business owner or management and relevant contractors.
  - **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 2001** guidelines.
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### ERCES Permits

- **Pre-Installation Testing:** Required to establish existing conditions.
  - **Post-Installation Testing:** Results must be provided to the inspector and secured in the ERCES document box upon inspection completion.
  - **Inspections Required:** Single inspection after the exterior/interior walls, ceiling, and roof have been constructed or modified.
  - **Coordination:**
    - If part of a building project, align with the Fire Final.
    - If independent, coordinate with the building owner or management and relevant contractors.
  - **Reference:** Follow **IFC 510** guidelines.
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### Fire Alarm Permits

- **Inspections Required:** Single inspection upon installation completion.
  - **Coordination:**
    - If part of a building project, coordinate with the Fire Final inspection.
    - If independent, coordinate with the building owner or management.
  - **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 72** guidelines.
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### Fire Extinguisher Installation

- **Inspection Requirement:** None, unless associated with a violation case.
- **Additional Information:** Proper location, mounting, size, and type will be inspected during the Fire Final for all permitted work.
- **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 10** guidelines.

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## Fire Pump Permits

- **Inspection Required:** Single inspection upon completion.
- **Coordination:**
  - Align with the Fire Final if part of a building project.
  - If independent, coordinate with the building owner or management, fire alarm, and sprinkler contractors.
- **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 20** guidelines.

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## Fire Underground Water Supply Permits

- **Inspections Required:** Minimum of three inspections (four if thrust block/pipe connection visualization and hydrostatic cannot be scheduled simultaneously). **Do Not Bury Pipe Before Calling for Inspections!**
  1. Visualization and hydrostatic test.
  2. Witnessed flush.
  3. Monitoring and insulation of the backflow preventer.
- **Additional Requirements:**
  - For private hydrants only, monitoring is not required. The backflow preventer may be secured with a chain and lock.
  - For fire hydrants or FDCs, inspections must confirm proper placement for fire apparatus, staging areas marked "NO PARKING," hydrants painted as private, and bonnets compliant with NFPA 291. FDCs must have Knox Caps and signage labeled "FDC" in 6-inch white reflective letters on a red background.

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## Hood Suppression Permits

- **Inspection Required:** Single inspection upon completion.
- **Coordination:**
  - If part of a building project, align with the Fire Final.
  - If independent, coordinate with the building owner or management.
  - If connected to a fire alarm system, the fire alarm contractor must be present during the inspection.
- **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 96** guidelines.

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## Sprinkler Installation Permits

- **Inspections Required:** Minimum of two inspections (three if above ceiling and hydrostatic cannot be scheduled simultaneously).
    1. Above ceiling and hydrostatic pressure test.
    2. Water flow and supervised monitoring.
  - **Coordination:**
    - Align with the Fire Final inspection for building projects.
    - For independent projects, coordinate with the building owner or management and fire alarm contractor.
  - **Reference:** Follow **NFPA 25** guidelines.
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### **Sprinkler Modification Permits**

- Follow the same process as installation permits.
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### **General Notes**

- **Other Fire Protection Permits:** Shall be permitted upon request to the Fire Prevention Bureau and tested per the IFC and associated NFPA standards.
- **Inspection Scheduling:** Request inspections at least two days prior to the preferred date.