



STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
**STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Whom it May Concern

**FROM:** Kyle R. Gorsh, Special Agent in Charge

**DATE:** May 11, 2011

**SUBJ:** Sensitivity Testing

The State Fire Marshal Division is adopting the following policy reference smoke detector sensitivity testing:

**Addressable Fire Alarm Systems (NFPA Compliant)** that provide sensitivity testing on a continuous basis shall have sensitivity testing results (printed report) made available on-site every two years for review by State Fire Marshal fire inspectors.

**Non-addressable Fire Alarm Systems (NFPA Compliant)** shall be provided with sensitivity testing every two years.

Documentation shall be required for both systems showing the manufacturer's recommended range for sensitivity, each smoke detector listed (including location), sensitivity results, and a pass or fail record for each detector.

**Sensitivity Testing – NFPA 72, 2010 Edition, 14.4.5.3.1 through 14.4.5.3.3 (see below)**

**14.4.5.3.1** Sensitivity shall be checked within 1 year after installation.

**14.4.5.3.2** Sensitivity shall be checked every alternate year thereafter unless otherwise permitted by compliance with 10.4.4.2.3

**14.4.5.3.3** After the second required calibration test, if sensitivity tests indicate that the device has remained within its listed and marked sensitivity range (or 4 percent obscuration light gray smoke, if not marked), the length of time between calibration tests shall be permitted to be extended to a **maximum** of 5 years.