



<b>29.6 Development of Impairment Plan for Facilities Equipped with Fire Sprinkler Systems</b>	
<b>Application:</b> Department of Children's Services (DCS) Employees at Facilities Equipped with Sprinkler Systems	
<b>Authority:</b> TCA 37-5-101; 37-5-102, 37-5-105 (3), 37-5-106; <i>National Fire and Protection Association (NFPA) 25 Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection System; NFPA 101 Life Safety Code</i>	<b>Standards: None</b>
<b>Commissioner:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Original Effective Date: 08/01/00 Current Effective Date: 02/28/19	Supersedes: DCS 29.6 03/01/08 Last Review Date: 02/28/19
<p><b>Glossary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Emergency impairment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The unplanned break-down of any fire protection system and/or fire hydrants due to equipment failure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Impairment coordinator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The employee assigned to coordinate all impairments and restoration of protection.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An international organization charged with creating and maintaining minimum standards and requirements for fire prevention and suppression activities, training, and equipment. This includes everything from building codes to the personal protective equipment utilized by firefighters while extinguishing a blaze.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Pre-planned impairment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The planned, temporary shut-down of any fire protection system and/or fire hydrants for repairs or routine maintenance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Policy Statement:**

In the event of fire protection system/fire hydrant impairment, DCS ensures operating procedures are in place until repairs are made.

**Purpose:**

To educate employees and minimize risks in the event of impairments to the fire protection system/fire hydrant impairment.

**Procedures:**

**A. Development of Emergency Impairment Program**

The fire and safety coordinator maintains an emergency impairment plan program for the shutdown of sprinkler alarm valves, fire hydrants, and any other fire protection system. In accordance with NFPA 25 and NFPA 101, the plan includes the following:

- ◆ Notification of local fire officials (as necessary);
- ◆ Documentation of shutdown dates and times; and
- ◆ Alternate fire protection methods available.

**Note:** In a Youth Development Center (YDC), the YDC Facility Safety Officer (YCSFSO) performs the above stated tasks.

**B. Local Procedures**

Each DCS facility supervisor or designee develops written local procedures to address the specialized needs for the impairment program at each location. The local procedures are reviewed annually thereafter and updated as needed to ensure that the plan includes any changes.

- ◆ YDC staff adheres to the [\*Protocol for Youth Development Center Fire Impairment.\*](#)

**C. Role of impairment coordinator**

1. The Regional Administrator, Superintendent, or designee, assigns an employee to serve as the impairment coordinator in the event of an emergency.
2. Prior to the authorization of any pre-planned impairment, the assigned impairment coordinator:
  - ◆ Inspects the area or building involved and determines the increased risks;
  - ◆ Considers the need for temporary protection and frequent inspections of the area involved and reports resulting needs to the Superintendent/supervisor; and
  - ◆ Maintains as large a portion of the system as possible in working order.

**D. Reporting emergency impairments**

1. Emergency impairments are reported to the impairment coordinator or YDCFSO as soon as discovered. For pre-planned impairments, the assigned impairment

coordinator/YDCFSO immediately follows the same procedures as outlined in Section A.

2. Upon restoration of all equipment, after pre-planned and emergency impairments, the impairment coordinator/YDCFSO notifies the Superintendent/ supervisor and appropriate staff that protection has been restored.
3. At a YDC, an entry in the shift/daily log includes reasons for the shutdown and actions taken.

**E. Follow-up inspection**

In a facility, when all impaired equipment is restored to normal working order, maintenance staff verifies that all control valves are operating correctly.

**Forms:**

None

**Collateral Documents:**

[\*Protocol for Youth Development Center Fire Impairment\*](#)

[\*National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)\*](#)