



# CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## Code Interpretation 26-01

Issued: March 2, 2026

### Fire Sprinkler Installation Post Activation

#### OVERVIEW

**Edition:** Title 19, California Code of Regulations – Public Safety  
**Code:** Division 1 – State Fire Marshal  
**Section(s):** Chapter 5.5, Article 3, Subsection 925. General Provisions  
Chapter 5, Article 1, Subsection 901. Scope - 2013 NFPA 25 California Edition  
A5.4.1.4  
**Requested By:** Randy D. Roxson, Executive Director, Sprinkler Fitters Association of California  
**Date Received:** June 6, 2025

#### QUESTION #1

Can persons who are not an Office of the State Fire Marshal Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter, including first responders, remove and replace sprinkler heads from a fire sprinkler system after it has been activated?

#### ANSWER #1

No, Pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR), [Title 19, Section 925](#), “No person shall engage in the installation of water-based fire protection systems as defined in [Section 924.12](#) without first being certified or registered in accordance with these regulations and having obtained a certification or registration card issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.”

Accordingly, the installation, repair, or alteration of water-based fire protection systems, including the removal and replacement of fire sprinkler heads following activation (e.g., due to a fire), must be performed by individuals who are certified or registered as fire sprinkler fitters, apprentices, or trainees. These individuals must be employed by a contractor holding a valid C-16 Fire Protection license issued by the California Contractors State License Board.

An Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may temporarily replace a sprinkler head following activation. However, the building owner is responsible for ensuring that, as soon as reasonably possible, a contractor holding a valid C-16 Fire Protection license inspects the system and the replaced sprinkler head(s) using certified or registered fire sprinkler fitters, apprentices, or trainees.