This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2018 International Fire Code; it is intended for clarification of the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) and is an official interpretation of Section 107.3 of the 2018 IFC.

The following shall apply to the inspection of concealed work for automatic fire sprinkler systems:

Section 107.3 of the 2018 IFC reads as follows: "It shall be the duty of the permit applicant to cause the work to remain visible and accessible for inspection purposes. Where any installation... is covered or concealed without having first been inspected, the fire code official shall have the authority to require that such work be made visible and able to be accessed for inspection." It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that all fire sprinkler work shall be inspected prior to any use of the system. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau’s policy on when an inspection is required and how inspections will be scheduled:

1.) Inspections shall be requested for ALL fire sprinkler work prior to concealment.
2.) Inspections shall be scheduled through a DMFD administrative assistant at 515-283-4222 and required supporting information can be sent to firedept@dmgov.org.
3.) Inspections shall be requested at least 48 hrs prior to the requested inspect time.
4.) Inspections for pipe installation (prior to concealment) should coincide with the hydrostatic test witnessing whenever possible. ALL SPRINKLER WORK REQUIRES A HYDROSTATIC TEST AND THE DMFD MUST WITNESS A PORTION OF THIS TEST.
5.) Inspections will NOT be conducted for projects that do not have approved plans received and a permit issued.
6.) In accordance with IFC 901.2.1; before requesting final approval of the installation, the installing contractor shall furnish a written statement to the Fire Prevention Bureau, this statement should be in the form of the contractor’s material and test certificate (see Figure 25.1 in the 2016 edition of NFPA 13). This form may be emailed to firedept@dmgov.org.
7.) In accordance with NFPA 13:25.1; the installing contractor shall:
   a. Notify the authority having jurisdiction and the property owner or the property owner’s authorized representative of the time and date testing will be performed
   b. Perform all required acceptance tests (see Section 25.2)
   c. Complete and sign the appropriate contractor’s material and test certificate(s) (see Figure 25.1)
   d. Remove all caps and straps prior to placing the sprinkler system in service

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Protection Engineer
City of Des Moines Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
2715 Dean Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
Office: (515) 237-1316
Fax: (515) 283-4907
Email: firedept@dmgov.org