Fire Alarm System Test Checklist

This checklist is designed to help facility managers, safety officers, and property owners perform and document fire alarm system tests in compliance with NFPA 72 and local fire codes. Use this checklist as a guide and keep completed forms for inspection and insurance purposes.

Pre-Test Planning & Notifications

[] Notify building occupants of the test schedule.
[] Notify local fire department or monitoring service.
[] Identify all fire alarm system components to be tested.
[] Ensure tools and test equipment are available.

Visual Inspection

[] Check detectors for dust, paint, or obstructions.
[] Inspect wiring for damage or corrosion.
[] Confirm access to alarm panels and pull stations is clear.
[] Ensure notification appliances (strobes, sounders) are visible and unobstructed.

Functional / Operational Tests

[] Activate manual pull stations and confirm alarms sound.
[] Simulate smoke/heat for detectors using proper testing equipment.
[] Check all audible and visual alarms for proper sound/visibility levels.
[] Verify control panel logs signals correctly.

Sensitivity & Performance Testing

[] Perform smoke detector sensitivity test (per manufacturer/NFPA 72 schedule).	
[] Test duct detectors and specialty detection devices if applicable.	

Power & Backup Systems

[] Inspect and test main power supply connections.
[] Check and test backup batteries for charge and load capacity.
[] Simulate loss of primary power and verify system switches to backup power.

Communication & Monitoring

[] Test signals to central monitoring station or fire department.
[] Verify communication path (phone, IP, or radio) functions properly.
[] Test supervisory and trouble signals.

Post-Test Actions

[] Document all results with date, time, and personnel.	
[] Record deficiencies and corrective actions.	
[] Restore system to normal operating condition.	
[] Notify monitoring service and fire department that testing is complete.	