



Riverside County Fire Department

Office of the Fire Marshal

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Technical Policy

Title: Fire Department Connections for NFPA 13 & 13R Fire Sprinkler Systems and NFPA 14 Standpipe Systems

Technical Policy: # TP 21-001	Effective Date: 07/26/2021	Revised Date: n/a
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Code References: 2019 California Fire Code, Sections 104.1, 507.5.1.1, 903.3.7, 905.2, 912, and 2016 NFPA 13, 2016 NFPA 13R, 2016 NFPA 14 & 2016 NFPA 24

Purpose

The Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has prepared this policy to provide guidance to building officials, contractors, architects, business owners, consultants and the general public on local interpretations and practices that are considered to be in compliance with the California Fire Code (CFC). The purpose is to provide additional technical guidance regarding the installation of Fire Department Connections (FDC) for buildings protected by a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13 fire sprinkler system, NFPA 13R fire sprinkler system or NFPA 14 standpipe system. The intent is to clarify aspects of the code that are vague or non-specific by addressing selected issues under normal conditions. The requirements of this policy shall not be construed as altering any existing code, law or regulation which may require fire protection features not covered or alluded to in these requirements, nor shall they waive any requirements of any code, law or regulation. The reader is cautioned that the guidance detailed in this policy may or may not apply to their specific situation, and that the OFM retains final authority to determine compliance.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all FDCs incorporated as part of new NFPA 13 & NFPA 13R fire sprinkler installations and new NFPA 14 standpipe system installations and is supplemental to requirements contained within the CFC, NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 14 and NFPA 24 as amended.

Requirements

In addition to those FDC regulations contained within the CFC, NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 14 & NFPA 24 as amended, FDCs shall comply with all of the following:

1. Shall be located on the street side of buildings or facing approved fire apparatus access roads. Shall not be located in the rear of any building.
2. Shall be fully visible and recognizable from the street, fire apparatus access or as otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal.
3. Shall be accessible at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls, vehicles or any other fixed or moveable object.
4. Shall be within 50 feet of a fire apparatus access road via an approved path of travel.
5. Shall be at least 20 feet from and within 100 feet of an approved public fire hydrant or as otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal. Private fire hydrant as supply is acceptable

provided an accessible check valve is installed such that pumped circular water flow from fire apparatus through FDC back to supply fire hydrant will not occur.

6. Shall be located such that the fire apparatus and hoses connected to the FDC and supply fire hydrant do not restrict access to the building for other fire apparatus.
7. Shall be no less than 18 inches or more than 48 inches above grade to the inlet.
8. Shall be a minimum distance from the building served equal to the building served height plus 10 feet or as otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal.
9. Shall have a clear space of not less than 36 inches in width, 36 inches in depth and 78 inches in height in front and to the sides of wall mounted FDCs and around the circumference of free standing FDCs except as otherwise required or approved by the Fire Marshal.
10. Shall be painted red unless otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal.
11. Shall have an identification sign to indicate address of building served, what is served (AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS, STANDPIPES, or TEST CONNECTION or combination thereof) and portion of building served as applicable.
12. Shall be protected in accordance with CFC Section 312 where subject to impact by a motor vehicle.
13. Shall be oriented such that hose lines may be readily and conveniently connected to the FDC inlets without interference or kinks.
14. Shall be National Standard Thread (NST).