



Fire Marshal's Notice

May 2016

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office announces new changes regarding the dimensions of fire department connection signs and wording.

The following is an outline of the changes affecting the signage required for fire department connections to fire sprinkler systems and standpipe systems in State-owned and State-lease facilities. These changes are part of the Government Code §417.008 implementation of the 2012 Edition of National Fire Protection Association 1, Fire Code.

What will be different:

- * Reduced confusion for the fire department to locate and connect to the fire department connection.
- * May require coordination with the local fire department for placement of signage.
- * The certified inspector will ensure facilities meet minimum code requirements, regardless of prior approvals.

Approximate cost:

The responsible party will incur a cost of approximately \$85-100 per sign.

Who will be affected:

Facilities that require a fire safety inspection as part of Government Code §417.0081 requirements. This includes state universities, Texas Facilities Commission, other state agencies and state leases.

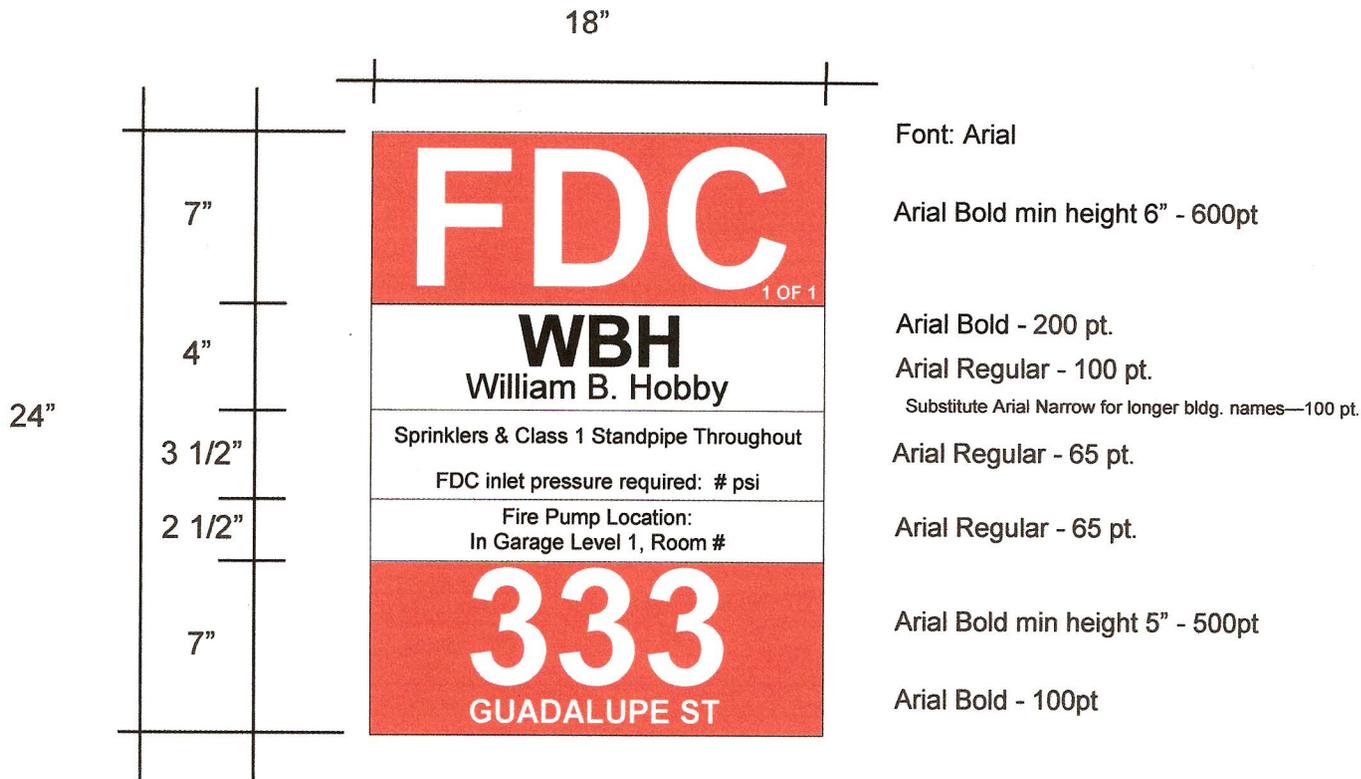
Attachments:

The attachments outline the dimensions and specifications the signage must include.

In addition, the National Fire Protection Association code requirements are provided for references.



TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS



REFLECTIVE ALUMINUM

Engineering Grade (Type 1) Reflective Aluminum (.08"):
 Sign Size 18" x 24" rounded corners 1 1/5" radius

Printed with UV Inks
 Printing Process: Digital or Screen
 Clear top coat

Description and Attributes

Engineering Grade (EG) Reflective Sheeting meets ASTM D4956 Type I retro-reflective sheeting standards.

Safety Red to be used—PMS 485 C
 Fonts as specified

Mounting locations and site-specific requirements to be determined as per State Fire Marshal's Office or local fire department's recommendation.



TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

NFPA Standard requirements:	
	William B. Hobby
NFPA 25: Ch. 13.7.1 - Fire department connections shall be inspected quarterly to verify the following: (5) Identification signs are in place.	FDC
	WBH
	William B. Hobby
NFPA 13: Ch. 8.17.2.4.5 - Where a fire department connection services only a portion of a building, a sign shall be attached indicating the portions of the building served.	Sprinkler & Class 1 Stand-pipe Throughout
NFPA 13: Ch. 8.17.2.4.7.2 - A sign shall also indicate the pressure required at the inlets to deliver the greatest system demand. Ch. 8.17.2.4.7.3 - The sign required in 8.17.2.4.7.2 shall not be required where the system demand pressure is less than 150 psi (10.3 bar).	FDC inlet pressure required: # psi
	Fire Pump Location:
	in Garage Level 1, Room #
	333
	GUADALUPE ST



TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

NFPA® 13
Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems
2010 Edition

8.17.2* Fire Department Connections.

8.17.2.2 The following systems shall not require a fire department connection:

- (1) Buildings located in remote areas that are inaccessible for fire department support
- (2) Large-capacity deluge systems exceeding the pumping capacity of the fire department
- (3) Single-story buildings not exceeding 2000 ft² (186 m²) in area

8.17.2.4* Arrangement. See Figure 8.17.2.1.

8.17.2.4.2 For single systems, the fire department connection shall be installed as follows:

- (1) Wet system—on the system side of system control, check, and alarm valves (*see Figure A.8.16.1.1*)
- (2) Dry system — between the system control valve and the dry pipe valve
- (3) Preaction system — between the preaction valve and the check valve on the system side of the preaction valve
- (4) Deluge system — on the system side of the deluge valve

8.17.2.4.3 For multiple systems, the fire department connection shall be connected between the supply control valves and the system control valves.

8.17.2.4.4* The requirements of 8.17.2.4.2 and 8.17.2.4.3 shall not apply where the fire department connection is connected to the underground piping.

8.17.2.4.5 Where a fire department connection services only a portion of a building, a sign shall be attached indicating the portions of the building served.

8.17.2.4.6* Fire department connections shall be located at the nearest point of fire department apparatus accessibility or at a location approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

8.17.2.4.7 Signs.

8.17.2.4.7.1 Each fire department connection to sprinkler systems shall be designated by a sign having raised or engraved letters at least 1 in. (25.4 mm) in height on plate or fitting reading service design — for example, AUTOSPKR., OPEN SPKR., AND STANDPIPE.

8.17.2.4.7.2 A sign shall also indicate the pressure required at the inlets to deliver the greatest system demand.

8.17.2.4.7.3 The sign required in 8.17.2.4.7.2 shall not be required where the system demand pressure is less than 150 psi (10.3 bar).



TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

NFPA® 14
Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems
2010 Edition

6.4* Fire Department Connections.

6.4.3 The fire department connection shall be installed as follows:

- (1) *Automatic Wet and Manual Wet Standpipe Systems.* On the system side of the system control valve, check valve, or any pump, but on the supply side of any isolating valves required in 6.3.2
- (2) *Automatic Dry Standpipe Systems.* On the system side of the control valve and check valve and the supply side of the dry pipe valve
- (3) *Semiautomatic Dry Standpipe Systems.* On the system side of the deluge valve
- (4) *Manual Dry Standpipe Systems.* Directly connected to system piping

6.4.5 Location and Identification.

6.4.5.1 Fire department connections shall be visible and recognizable from the street or nearest point of fire department apparatus accessibility or on the street side of buildings.

6.4.5.1.1 Fire department connections shall be located and arranged so that hose lines can be attached to the inlets without interference from nearby objects, including buildings, fences, posts, landscaping, vehicles, or other fire department connections.

6.4.5.2 Each fire department connection shall be designated by a sign, with letters at least 1 in. (25.4 mm) in height, that reads "STANDPIPE." For manual systems, the sign shall also indicate that the system is manual and that it is either wet or dry.

6.4.5.2.1 If automatic sprinklers are also supplied by the fire department connection, the sign or combination of signs shall indicate both designated services (e.g., "STANDPIPE AND AUTOSPKR," or "AUTOSPKR AND STANDPIPE").

6.4.5.2.2 A sign also shall indicate the pressure required at the inlets to deliver the system demand.

6.4.5.3 Where a fire department connection services multiple buildings, structures, or locations, a sign shall be provided indicating the buildings, structures, or locations served.

6.4.5.4* Fire department connections shall be located not more than 100 ft (30.5 m) from the nearest fire hydrant connected to an approved water supply.

6.4.5.4.1 The location of the fire department connection shall be permitted to exceed 100 ft (30.5 m) subject to the approval of the authority having jurisdiction.



TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

NFPA® 25

Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
2011 Edition

13.7 Fire Department Connections.

13.7.1 Fire department connections shall be inspected quarterly to verify the following:

- (1) The fire department connections are visible and accessible.
- (2) Couplings or swivels are not damaged and rotate smoothly.
- (3) Plugs or caps are in place and undamaged.
- (4) Gaskets are in place and in good condition.
- (5) Identification signs are in place.
- (6) The check valve is not leaking.
- (7) The automatic drain valve is in place and operating properly.
- (8) The fire department connection clapper(s) is in place and operating properly.

13.7.2 If fire department connection plugs or caps are not in place, the interior of the connection shall be inspected for obstructions, and it shall be verified that the fire department connection clapper is operational over its full range.

13.7.3 Components shall be repaired or replaced as necessary in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

13.7.4 Any obstructions that are present shall be removed.



Texas Department of Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office

Mail Code 112-FM, 333 Guadalupe • P.O. Box 149221, Austin, Texas 78714-9221
512-676-6800 telephone • 512-490-1063 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov/fire

Memorandum

To: Texas Facilities Commission and State Agencies
From: Chris Connealy, State Fire Marshal *CC*
Date: April 19, 2016
Subject: Co-operation with Local Jurisdictions and Fire Departments

Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) and all state agencies depend on local fire departments for emergency response and fire suppression. These local fire departments must have confidence that buildings and fire safety systems meet the state standards and are compatible with local equipment so that the fire departments can safely and promptly respond to an emergency.

TFC and state agency staff involved in safety, planning, operation and maintenance must be aware of the responsibilities they have for the compatibility and use agency equipment by the local emergency responders. All third-party contractors, architects and engineers providing design and construction must assure TFC and state agencies that the Life Safety Code and local requirements have been taken into consideration and addressed in the planning, design, construction and operation of all facilities.

Water mains, building access, fire lanes and turning radius requirements, compatibility of fire hydrants, fire department connections, fire sprinkler systems, standpipe and hose systems, alarm systems, and other emergency equipment must be designed with the operation by the local department in mind. Local fire departments should be invited to review the plans for and to participate in viewing acceptance tests of water mains and fire suppression systems.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Clint Williams, Manager of Fire Safety Inspections at (512) 417-7404. Mr. Williams' E-mail address is clinton.williams@tdi.texas.gov. Thank you for your corporation.



Texas Department of Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office

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Memorandum

To: State Universities
From: Chris Connealy, State Fire Marshal *CC*
Date: February 04, 2016
Subject: Co-operation with Local Jurisdictions and Fire Departments

All state universities and agencies depend on local fire departments for emergency response and fire suppression. These local fire departments must have confidence that university buildings and fire safety systems meet the state standards and are compatible with local equipment so that the fire departments can safely and promptly respond to an emergency.

All university and agency staff involved in safety, planning, operation and maintenance must be aware of the responsibilities they have for the compatibility and use of campus or agency equipment by the local emergency responders. All third-party contractors, architects and engineers providing design and construction must assure the university or agency that the Life Safety Code and local requirements have been taken into consideration and addressed in the planning, design, construction and operation of all facilities.

Water mains, building access, fire lanes and turning radius requirements, compatibility of fire hydrants, fire department connections, fire sprinkler systems, standpipe and hose systems, alarm systems, and other emergency equipment must be designed with the operation by the local department in mind. Local fire departments should be invited to review the plans for and to participate in viewing acceptance tests of water mains and fire suppression systems.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Clint Williams, Manager of Fire Safety Inspections at (512) 417-7404. Mr. Williams' E-mail address is clinton.williams@tdi.texas.gov. Thank you for your corporation.