



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

Title: Fire Department Connections		
Number: FPG-02	Effective Date: 01/01/2008	Revised Date: 03/01/2009
Code References: California Fire Code (CFC), California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Merced Municipal Code (MMC)		
Note: <i>This guideline is a summary of Fire Department clarifications and interpretations of City and State Codes and nationally recognized standards in accordance with the currently adopted edition of the Fire Code. Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.</i>		

Scope

This Guideline has been developed to assist the public and business community with the installation requirements and maintenance of Fire Department Connections.

Codes and Guidelines

This guideline shall apply to buildings or other structures including that require a Fire Department Connection (FDC) for a fire suppression system in accordance with the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 19 and the Merced Municipal Code.

Permits Required

A Fire Code permit is not required.

Specific Requirements

1. **Location**

The Fire Chief or his/her designee shall approve the location of Fire Department connections. In general,

- a. The fire department connection should be located at least 40 feet away from buildings or other potential exposures.
- b. Fire department connections shall be visible, accessible, and installed on the address side of buildings fully visible from the street or nearest point of fire department vehicle access or in approved locations.
- c. Fire department connections installed, as part of the back flow assembly shall be on the system side of the backflow device, and facing the fire apparatus road subject to fire department approval.
- d. Fire department connections shall be within five (5) feet of the curb or back of walkways adjacent to a public street or approved fire access road.



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

- e. Visual obstructions or screens including walls, plants, and covers shall not obstruct access to the fire department connection, system control valves or fire hydrant(s). The Fire Department shall have final approval of visual screens with regards to fire department equipment.

2. Existing Buildings

On existing buildings wherever the fire department connection is not visible to approaching fire apparatus, an approved sign mounted on the street front or address side of the building shall indicate the fire department connection. Such sign shall have the letters "FDC" at least 6 inches high in words in letters at least 2 inches high or an arrow to indicate the location. All such signs shall be approved by the fire code official.

3. Access

Immediate access to fire department connections so that hose lines can be readily and conveniently attached to the inlets shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other object within a minimum of 3 feet.

4. Identification

- a. Fire Department Connections shall be painted red. No paint shall be used around the swivel connections.
- b. Two-inch high block address numbers painted white shall be stenciled vertically on the connection piping with the numbers located as close to the top as possible. The numbers must be visible from the adjacent driveway or access roadway.

A metal sign with raised letters at least 1 inch in size shall be mounted on all fire department connections serving automatic sprinklers, standpipes, or fire pump connections. Such signs shall read "AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER", "STANDPIPE", or "TEST CONNECTION".

5. Reflective Markers

One or more green reflective markers shall be installed on the roadway adjacent to the fire department connection. Installation guidelines,

- a. Two-way streets and roads: Markers should be placed six inches from the edge of the painted centerline on the side nearest the FDC. If the street has no centerline, the marker should be placed six inches from the approximate center of the roadway.
- b. Streets with a left turn lane at the intersection: markers should be placed six inches from the edge of the painted white channelizing line on the side nearest the FDC.
- c. Streets with continuous two-way left turn lane: Markers should be placed six inches from the edge of the painted yellow barrier on the side nearest the FDC.



FIRE PREVENTION GUIDELINE

- d. Freeways and expressways: Because of higher maintenance at these locations if placed on the roadway, markers should be placed on the shoulder one foot to the right of the painted edge-line opposite the off-right of way FDC location. Approval from Cal-trans is required prior to installation of markers on any state highway or freeway.

6. Paint

All fire department connections shall be painted red. Do not paint the area around the swivel connections.

7. Caps

Fire department connections shall be provided with approved caps to prevent tampering or plugging with debris.