



Code Outreach Program – Maintenance, Testing and Inspection Requirements for Fire Department Connections

This edition of the Code Outreach program is intended to review some of the frequently overlooked maintenance, testing, and inspection requirements for fire department connections, specifically. Please refer to the [2015 IFC](#)¹ and [NFPA 25](#)² for a complete description of all inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements for water-based fire protection systems.

Section 912.7 of the 2015 IFC provides in part that: “*Fire department connections shall be periodically inspected, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25...*” NFPA 25 establishes the minimum requirements for periodic inspection, testing, and maintenance of various water-based fire protection systems, such as standpipes, sprinkler systems, fire pumps, etc. As it relates specifically to fire department connections, NFPA 25 requires the piping from the connection to the check valve to be hydrostatically tested to 150 psi for 2 hours at least every 5 years (Section 13.7.4). This allows any leaks or obstructions to be identified and repaired in a timely manner.

Section 13.7.1 provides a list of items related to fire department connections that are to be inspected quarterly. These items include verifying that:

- The fire department connections are visible and accessible.
- Couplings or swivels are not damaged and rotate smoothly.
- Plugs or caps are in place and undamaged.
- Gaskets are in place and in good condition.
- Identification signs are in place.
- The check valve is not leaking.
- The automatic drain valve is in place and operating properly.
- The fire department connection clapper(s) is in place and operating properly.
- Interior of the connection is inspected for obstructions.

Section 912.7 of the 2015 IFC requires records of inspections, tests, and maintenance to be maintained. This allows the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to request copies of these records.

As a reminder to code enforcement officials, building safety inspectors, and those who would like to take the training, 3 hours of in-service training in the Energy Conservation Construction Code category is now available online through the [Statewide Learning Management System \(SLMS\)](#). Additionally, the January-July 2018 basic training schedule is can be viewed on the DBSC’s website ([Schedule](#)).

Please look for our next edition of the Code Outreach Program at the beginning of next month.

¹ The 2015 International Fire Code (2015 IFC), publication date May 30, 2014, third printing, and the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement, publication date July 2017, are incorporated by reference into 19 NYCRR Part 1225 Fire Prevention, which is part of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

² NFPA 25 “Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-based Fire Protection Systems”, publication date 2014, incorporated by reference via Chapter 10 of the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement.

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If you have questions pertaining to the Code Outreach Program, email us at COP.codes@dos.ny.gov

If you have questions pertaining to the Uniform Code or Energy Code, email our technical support group at: codes@dos.ny.gov.

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