



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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STANDPIPES IN HIGHRISE BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Fire Code requires at least one standpipe, temporary or permanent, with or without a water supply, in buildings under construction, four stories or more in height, when the height of the building reaches 40 feet. This requirement is inadequate when the height of the building exceeds the pumping capacity of fire department apparatus. Assuming one standpipe, this height is approximately 300 feet (25 +/- stories). Once this height is exceeded, the Fire Department must rely solely on the building's stationary fire pump(s) to provide the needed pressure for fire suppression activities.

Since standpipe requirements in buildings under construction where the height of the building exceeds the pumping capacity of fire department apparatus is not adequately addressed in the Fire or Building Codes, the Fire Department, in accordance with the Philadelphia Administrative Code, Section A-102.5, hereby issues the following directive.

Buildings four or more stories in height shall be provided with not less than one standpipe for use during construction. Such standpipes shall be installed when the progress of construction is not more than 40 feet in height above the lowest level of fire department access. Such standpipe shall be provided with fire department hose connections at accessible locations adjacent to usable stairs. Such standpipes shall be extended as construction progresses to within one floor of the highest point of construction having secured decking or flooring.

Standpipes shall be either temporary or permanent in nature, and with or without a water supply, provided that the height of the structure is not beyond the pumping capacity of the fire department apparatus to provide 100 psi residual pressure at the hydraulically most remote outlet while delivering the minimum flow rate specified in NFPA 14. Where the height of the structure is beyond the pumping capacity of the fire department apparatus, standpipes shall be automatic wet, automatic dry, or semiautomatic dry systems, or as otherwise approved by the fire department.

Requests for consideration of alternate proposals should be submitted to Deputy Chief Richard Bailey of the Fire Department's Fire Code Unit. The Fire Department will reject any proposal that includes Fire Department members operating the building's stationary fire pump(s) or manipulating valves in order to pressurize standpipe systems.