

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Temporary Standpipe Systems

Learning objective: The student shall be able to describe the requirements for temporary standpipe systems installed during construction.

Tall buildings under construction provide many challenges for responding firefighters. Site access may be poor, water supplies may not be fully developed or easily available, construction equipment and debris may be in the way on the ground and on each floor under construction, and simply finding one's way around the job site may be difficult.

The model fire codes require that temporary standpipe systems be provided so fire fighters have one more tool to make their jobs easier. While there are some minor differences between the codes as to when standpipes are required, the temporary standpipe specifications generally include

- At least one standpipe with at least one outlet per floor must be available during construction.
- The fire department connection for supplying the standpipe system must be in an approved and convenient location that is conspicuously marked like the one in the photograph.
- The standpipe must be extended vertically as new floors are added. The highest hose outlets must be within one floor level of the highest point of construction.
- The standpipe riser must be securely supported and restrained at each alternate floor.
- Standpipe hose outlets must be in accessible locations near usable stairs. They must be protected from physical damage.
- Standpipe hose outlets must have thread connections matching the local fire departments' hoses.
- Temporary standpipes must remain in service until the permanent standpipe system is operational.



One item that is not addressed specifically in the codes, but every inspector should consider, is verification that, as the standpipe is extended vertically with the building, it is adequately tested hydrostatically to be certain it will survive when it is needed.

For additional information, see *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 14; or *NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code*[™], Chapter 16. For specific information on standpipe construction, refer to *NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems*.