

FIRE DEPT. CONNECTION is a term used to identify any outside auxiliary connection used by the Fire Fighting Service to supplement the fire protection water supply, increase system pressure and flow, by pumping into female inlet connections or to supplement or increase their own supply to obtaining water from male outlet connections (or hydrants). These connections are generally located at ground level (both inlets and outlets) or at the roof level (outlets only). Ground level fire dept connections can be identified with lettering (branding) indicating their function such as "Standpipe", "Dry Standpipe", "Wet Standpipe", "Auto Spkr." (Automatic Sprinkler) or "Wall Hydrant".

FIRE DEPARTMENT INLET (FEMALE) CONNECTIONS are required for Class 1 and Class III service. The number of inlets and pipe size of the outlet of these connections is determined by the height of the building. Standpipes 100 ft high or less would use an inlet connection with a 4" pipe size outlet. Standpipes exceeding 100ft. in height would require an inlet connection with a 6" or larger pipe size outlet. The height of Standpipe risers is limited to 275 ft. in buildings requiring more than this, a second or additional riser must be installed, the building then becomes zoned. The minimal capacity of each individual inlet on a connection is set at 250 G.P.M. to furnish the total requirements for the structure. Most fire dept. inlet connections have two or more inlets and a check is required to prevent water from flowing out of the unconnected inlets. This is accomplished by the use of either clappers or spring checks. Clappers swing freely and open to incoming water at the connections and close the opening, to unused inlets, by water pressure. Spring check snoots operate independently of each other on a single fire dept. connection. The brass check valve must be installed downstream from the fire dept. inlet connection.

Accumulated water at the lowest point in the system should be drained off with a sillcock or an automatic draining device.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OUTLET (MALE) CONNECTIONS may be required for Class I and Class III service. Serving as a water source for the Fire Fighting Service, each outlet must be capable of supplying a minimum flow of 250 G.P.M. and are controlled by valves. The control valve may be attached directly to the male outlet or installed in a remote position and controlled by external means. There are no clappers or spring checks in any outlet connection. In buildings equipped with fire pumps, these outlets or "hydrants" can be used as a fire pump test connection for conducting flow tests. Fire Dept roof connections are a source of water to enable the Fire Fighting Service to attack a fire on or below the roof of a building.

STANDPIPE SYSTEMS

