



GENERAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDER 610.08

Fire Department Connections

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Issue Date: June 21, 2005

Revision Date: August 16, 2018

1 APPLICABILITY

2 All Uniformed Personnel

3 POLICY

4 This General Order is in accordance with the Howard County Code, Section 17.104 the "Howard
5 County Fire Prevention Code," subsection 13.1.3.1, and establishes a policy outlining
6 procedures for use by Emergency Services Bureau (ESB) field operations personnel when
7 dealing with Fire Department Connections (FDC).

8 DEFINITIONS

9 ➤ None

10 PROCEDURES

11 GENERAL:

12 FDCs shall:

- 13 • Be located on the address side of the building; and,
- 14 • Be located within 100 feet of a fire hydrant.

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16 Signage will be provided in the following manner:

- 17 • The appropriate sign, indicated in Attachment A, shall be mounted on the building wall
18 between 8 and 12 feet above the FDC.
- 19 • A free standing FDC shall have the sign mounted on a pole directly behind the
20 connection approximately 6 feet high.
- 21 • Signs must be 18 by 12 inches and shall have a white background with red reflective
22 symbols.
- 23 • FDC's supplying either a standpipe system or combination standpipe/sprinkler system
24 shall have a sign (Attachment B) mounted adjacent to the FDC indicating the system
25 demand pressure required. This provision shall not apply to FDC's that only supply
26 sprinkler systems.
 - 27 ○ The system demand pressure that will be marked at the FDC is the amount of
28 pressure (in PSI) that must be supplied to the FDC. This is not the fire engine



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29 pump pressure, as operators must take into account friction loss in the line
30 supplying the FDC.

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32 Obstructions and clearance shall be addressed in the following manner:

- 33 • FDCs, along with its respective signage, shall be clearly visible to responding fire
34 department units.
- 35 • Any obstruction or condition that deters or hinders access is prohibited.
- 36 • A minimum clear space of 15 feet (7.5 feet on all sides) shall be maintained.
- 37 ○ Should any hindrances to access, or if there is any damage to an FDC (to
38 including missing FDCs), personnel shall notify the on call Fire Marshal through
39 the PSAP and follow up with a Fire Marshal Help Desk request.

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REFERENCES

- 41 • Current Edition of the Howard County Fire Prevention Code

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SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

43 Revised formatting and addition of system demand pressure signage.

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FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

- 45 • Attachment A: Approved Fire Department Connection Location Signs
- 46 • Attachment B: Approved Fire Department Connection System Demand Pressure Sign

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APPROVED

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Attachment A



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 400, Columbia, Maryland 21046
410-313-6000

JOHN S. BUTLER, FIRE CHIEF • ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

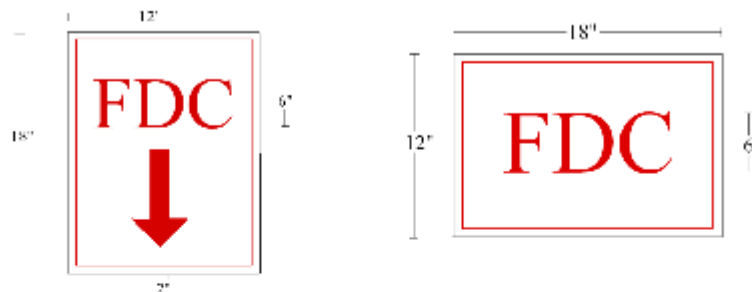
Office of the Fire Marshal Signage for Fire Department Connections

Fire department connections (FDC) shall be located and marked in the manner required by the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services (HCDFRS) Office of the Fire Marshal. Fire department connections shall consist of all hose connections and control valves used for operating, servicing, testing or supplying water to a fire protection system.

Fire department connections and its respective signage, if required by HCDFRS, shall be clearly visible to responding fire department units. Any obstruction or condition that deters or hinders access is prohibited. A minimum clear space of 15 feet (7.5 feet on all sides) shall be maintained.

The appropriate sign shall be mounted on the building's wall between 8 and 12 feet above the fire department connection unless otherwise specified by HCDFRS. A free standing fire department connection shall have the sign mounted on a pole directly behind the connection approximately 6 feet high.

Signs shall have a white reflective background with a red reflective border, red reflective letters and a red reflective arrow (if required by HCDFRS). The border shall have a 3/8" stroke. The letters shall be 6" high with a 1" stroke. The arrow shall have a stroke not less than 2". Overall sign measurements shall be 12" by 18".





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Attachment B



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 400, Columbia, Maryland 21046
410-313-6000

JOHN S. BUTLER, FIRE CHIEF • ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Office of the Fire Marshal Signage for System Demand Pressure

Fire department connections shall be marked to display the system demand pressure in the manner required by the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services (HCDFRS) Office of the Fire Marshal. The system demand pressure will be provided by HCDFRS to the building owner or other responsible party.

Signs shall have a white reflective background with a red reflective border, and red reflective letters. Overall sign measurements shall be 9" by 12" at a minimum. The sign shall be permanently attached to the building immediately adjacent to the fire department connection. Free-Standing fire department connections shall have the sign mounted on a pole directly behind and immediately above the connection.

