



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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NFPA 14 Update - Effects on Fire Attack Operations

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Issue Date: September 7, 2016
Expiration Date: N/A
Applicability: All Operational Members

MESSAGE

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

To inform operational personnel of changes that have occurred in NFPA 14 in regards to Sprinkler Equipped Buildings. This change does not affect existing buildings.

DETAILS:

The 2016 edition of NFPA 14: Standard for Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems has changed/updated the hose valve requirements to allow 200ft travel distance between stand pipe connections in Sprinkler Equipped Buildings. Previously 130ft was the maximum required travel distance. When GO 310.02: Initial Operations at High Rise Incidents was developed, the requirement to deploy 200' of attack line was established based on the 130' foot travel requirement. The initial 200' line deployment took into consideration hooking up on the floor below and the number of personnel required to effectively deploy the initial attack line as well as the reflex time considered to reach the fire.

With the most recent update to NFPA 14, fire officers must be cognizant of the changes and the potential negative effects that may be experienced in newer construction. During incidents involving fire in these types of buildings, the additional hose bundles carried by the second arriving engine will most likely be needed for the initial attack line to reach the seat of the fire. Additionally, the crew will need to assure the proper pressure is supplied to the longer attack line from the standpipe connection. The officers must provide the information to the fourth and fifth engine companies so adjustments can be made to the second 2 1/2 inch attack line on the fire floor from the standpipe connection two floors below the fire.

Companies should be visiting construction sites, conducting building tours and developing pre-plans in addition to training in buildings in their first due area where this change may affect our fire ground operations. Establishing and sharing beforehand knowledge of these types of buildings in the County will enhance the operational proficiency and provide a better margin of safety for all of our members.

Additions and updates to GO 310.02: Initial Operations at High Rise Incidents as well as GO 510.04: Standard Equipment Inventory will address the updated operational considerations.