



# FIRE PROTECTION NEWS

City of Madison Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division  
Volume 2 - Issue 1

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## Meet Scott Strassburg

As the New Construction Inspector for the City of Madison Fire Department, Scott Strassburg brings almost 20 years of fire service experience to the job. Scott started with the Madison Fire Department in November 1994. His duties in the Department's Engineering Division include inspection and testing of all types and configurations of fire suppression systems and fire detection and notification systems, high rise systems and fire command centers. He represents the fire department on the City's Department Assistance

Team and reviews proposed building site plans for access and potential challenges with building and fire codes.

He remains an active member of the Blooming Grove Fire Department as a Lieutenant / Fire Marshal and past Training Officer. He shares his knowledge as an adjunct Instructor for MATC fire service programs, teaching everything from firefighting and hazardous materials, to fire prevention and State Fire Inspector certification courses.

Scott is a Certified Fire Inspector I, Fire Instructor II, Firefighter II, Hazmat Technician, Commercial Building Inspector and International Code Council-certified Inspector I, and holds several certifications from the National Fire Academy and Department of Homeland Security. Scott is a founding member and current Treasurer of Dane County Arson Response Initiative (DCARI). DCARI works with both police and fire investigators throughout Dane County in support and training.

Scott has presented at national and regional conventions and was recently invited to speak at the 2008 NFPA World Conference in Las Vegas.

A Madison resident all his life, Scott holds an Associate degree in electronics from Wisconsin School of Electronics, with many years of experience in that field.

When inspecting new construction projects, Scott credits the installing contractors (whether for sprinklers, fire alarm, or alternate suppression systems) with saving lives and property.

"They are the ones that do the work and install the systems correctly and operationally; I am only a second set of eyes looking at it."

## Fire Alarm Pretests

*By Bill Petri, Fire Prevention Officer III*

Fire alarm contractors and/or electrical contractors along with the sprinkler contractors all need to participate in performing the pretest of the fire alarm system. All tamper switches including normally closed valves need to be tested for proper activation and annunciation. All flow switches need to be tested for time and proper labeling and annunciation. This all needs to be done on the pretest. MFD will not do this at the time of the

acceptance tests.

Remember if you have not done a complete pretest we will leave the site until one is done. Remember also that a reinspection may not be rescheduled for up to 48 hours later, depending on previously scheduled inspection requests. MFD may also issue a reinspection fee for the next test at that site.

## A Note From the Engineer

*By Bill Sullivan, Fire Protection Engineer*

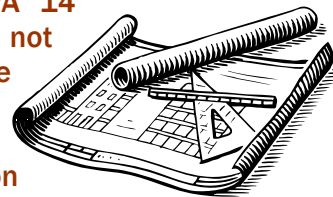
### Fire Department Connections Part II: *FDC Size and Signage*

In the last issue, I talked about the requirements that affect the location of the FDC. I have received a few inquiries to discuss the FDC location; unfortunately, MFD has seen just as many FDCs that had to be relocated after the fact because the location was unacceptable. Please contact me or have a new construction inspector approve the location before installation.

Now let's cover some installation requirements and the differences between sprinkler and standpipe system needs. The purpose of the FDC on a sprinkler system is to supplement the supply pressure while a standpipe system must have the capability of supplying the system demand. This is reflected in the fact that NFPA 13 only requires (2) 2 ½" inlets regardless of the sprinkler system demand and even allows (1) 2 ½" inlet if the system riser is 3 inches or smaller. [NFPA 13 6.8.1, 6.8.1.3] NFPA 14 states the number of inlets shall be based on the system demand and include (1) 2 ½" inlet for every 250 gpm. [NFPA 14 7.12.3] Buildings provided with standpipe systems are going to typically have 3 or 4 inlets. You should be planning accordingly to accommodate the space needs on the address side of the building.

The other major difference between NFPA 13 and NFPA 14 is the requirement for a fire hydrant within

100 feet of the FDC. [NFPA 14 6.4.5.4] NFPA 13 does not address a need for a fire hydrant. MFD will review requests for distances greater than 100 feet based on the site layout and MFD response routes on a case-by-case basis.



The last item I will cover today is signage. A sign shall be provided that indicates the type of system (AUTOSPKR and/or STANDPIPE) the FDC serves with letters at least 1 inch in height. [IFC 912.4, NFPA 13 8.17.2.4.7.1, NFPA 14 6.4.5.2] Signage is also necessary to indicate the pressure required at the FDC to meet the system demand. [NFPA 13 8.17.2.4.7.2, NFPA 14 6.4.5.2.2] MFD standard operating procedure is to supply 150 psi to the FDC; therefore, a sign is not required if the system demand is 150 psi or less. [NFPA 13 8.17.2.4.7.3] Wherever a partial sprinkler system is installed, a sign shall be placed at the FDC that indicates the portion of the building that has sprinkler protection.

There will be other occasions where MFD will request additional signage for unique situations so please contact me when the prescriptive codes do not seem to match very well. Please don't forget to review the requirements for standpipe systems because they can be more restrictive than sprinkler systems, which we tend to be more familiar with. It is a lot cheaper to erase ink than to tear down brick, mortar, and pipe.

### Ideas for Future Issues?

It is the intent of this newsletter to provide another method of communication between the City of Madison Fire Department, design professionals and area contractors. Future issues will cover topics to help you better understand code interpretations and discussions on plan review and inspections, as well as other information we hope you'll find useful. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future issues. Please contact Bill Sullivan ([wsullivan@cityofmadison.com](mailto:wsullivan@cityofmadison.com)) with any new ideas or questions. We hope you find this brief newsletter to be a useful resource.

If you wish to receive future issues of *Fire Protection News* electronically, please email Ann Blackdeer ([ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com)). Be sure to include your name, company, and email address. Also, if you wish to receive multiple print copies at your office, please contact Ann Blackdeer.

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