



# FIRE PROTECTION NEWS

City of Madison Fire Department - Fire Prevention Division  
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## Meet Joe Seifert

Joe Seifert is an inspector for the City of Madison Fire Department, assigned to the west side of the City. He's been with the Department since 2001. Joe is responsible for fire alarm plan review and small new construction projects on the far west side. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Safety and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Joe has worked for the City of Madison since 1995. Prior to joining the Fire Department, he worked in Customer Service and Distribution for the Madison Water Utility.

He lives in Cottage Grove with his wife Dawn and their two sons.

Joe will be the primary contact for far west side inspections, small new construction projects on the far west side, and fire alarm plan review.

## Watch Out for the Land Mines!

*By Ed Ruckriegel, Fire Marshal*

Have you ever worked on a project that included last minute change orders, endless meetings and finger pointing because the fire department or building inspector noted a code violation? Everyone reading this understands this scenario because they have lived it many times. Different codes, interpretations and the wrong or missing information are often at the root of the problem. This summer, staff of the Fire Prevention Division is interested in meeting with you to help you and those you work with avoid the land mines in the codes.

Department personnel have developed a 45-60 minute presentation identifying the land mines in

the various codes, ideas to avoid design problems and suggestions to prevent delays in approvals or occupancy. The information will be presented to developers, contractors, design professionals, builders and other interested groups. Venues for the presentation include in-house staff meetings, the "lunch time chat" for your staff, professional or trade associations meetings and professional and trade seminars or conferences. If you can think of other audiences or other ways for the material to be presented, please make the suggestion.

To schedule a presentation please contact Ed Ruckriegel at [eruckriegel@cityofmadison.com](mailto:eruckriegel@cityofmadison.com) or 266-4457.

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## A Note From the Engineer

*By Bill Sullivan, Fire Protection Engineer*

### New Multi-family Sprinkler Requirements

The new Wisconsin Commercial Building Code is now in effect and applies to buildings that have been submitted for approval on or after March 1, 2008. The new building code adopts the 2006 editions of the International Code Council documents and references the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC). This will have little impact on fire protection systems installed in the City of Madison since Madison General Ordinance (MGO) has had the 2006 edition of the IFC in effect for two years now. The one big change is the

maximum number of units within a Multi-family Dwelling before a fire sprinkler system is required. All Multifamily Dwellings with 9 or more units must be protected with a fire sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13R. The previous code set the number of units at more than 20 and had an option of providing 2-hour fire resistance in lieu of sprinklers. The other thresholds for "Area within individual Dwelling Units" and "Area of Non-Dwelling Unit Portions" remain unchanged.



### Sizing Manual Standpipe Systems

When designing an automatic Class I standpipe system, NFPA 14 establishes the minimum pressure of 100 psi at the most remote 2 ½" hose valve while flowing the minimum system demand as determined by NFPA 14:7.10.1. The designer uses these parameters along with the available local water supply to select the fire pump size and the system pipe sizes to meet the standpipe demand.



What do you do when the standpipe is a manual standpipe system that does not have a building fire pump? You get to use a City of Madison fire engine! Our fire engines are equipped with a single stage 1250-gpm pump rated at 150 psi. The following points establish the fire engine pump curve: 1250 gpm at 165 psi, 875 gpm at 200 psi, and 625 gpm at 250 psi. The designer will use this pump curve to determine the available water supply at the fire department connection for the standpipe system. You cannot include the local water supply as an addition to this curve because the

backflow device or check valves on the local supply will close as soon as the system pressure exceeds the local water supply pressure.

I had given some designers different pump curve information in the past based on a 1500 gpm pump, but those numbers should be discarded and reference the above information. Our four (4) ladders have 1500 gpm pumps but the nine (9) engines only have 1250 gpm pumps, and the engines would be the apparatus that supplies the FDC.

If you wish to receive future issues of *Fire Protection News* electronically (or require any other changes to the mailing list), please contact Ann Blackdeer at [ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ablackdeer@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 261-9690. Please include your name, company, and e-mail address.