



These guidelines are to be followed when an automatic fire sprinkler system within the City of Rockwall is to be installed or modified. These guidelines are not to be interpreted as containing all data required for proper design, installation, or approval.

All Fire Sprinkler Systems shall conform to the 2021 International Fire Code, as adopted and amended by the City of Rockwall, current edition of NFPA 13 and NFPA 14. These guidelines are not intended to replace, nor supersede any codes and/or ordinances adopted by the City of Rockwall, or determinations and positions of the Rockwall Fire Department.

### Designs

1. Sprinkler systems for all strip retail centers, multiple tenant buildings, speculative warehouses, or any other multiple tenant building, regardless of ceiling height, shall be designed to provide a minimum of Ordinary Hazard Group 2 for Cal IV commodities. **A minimum of 1” outlets shall be provided on all branch lines. A hexagonal bushing to accommodate sprinklers attached directly to branch lines is permitted.**
2. Double Check/Backflow Preventer is required and shall be installed inside the building. **A meter is not required.**
3. A means shall be provided downstream of backflow prevention assembly for full-forward flow test at system demand.
4. The system shall be designed with 5 psi safety factor at 20 psi residual on City mains.
5. The water supply test used for design of the sprinkler systems shall be witnessed by the Rockwall Fire Department. The results of the flow test shall be within one year of the sprinkler plan submittal. The exact location of the static/residual hydrant and the flow hydrant shall be indicated on the design drawings. All fire protection plan submittals shall be accompanied by a water flow test report provided by the Rockwall Fire Marshal Division.
6. All risers for building requiring multiple risers shall be centrally located.
7. Sprinkler system risers providing protection for buildings with multiple tenant spaces must be located in a ground floor room directly accessible from the exterior. The door must be labeled as the riser room.
8. Riser room shall be large enough to accommodate maintenance, provided with lighting hard-wired to the building electrical system, emergency lighting, and hardwired permanent heat.

### NFPA 13R Systems:

9. Freeze Protection - Freeze protection Systems for automatic fire sprinkler systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of the applicable referenced NFPA standard and this section.

Attics. Only Dry Pipe fire sprinkler systems shall be allowed to protect non-ventilated attic spaces where:



- a. The attic sprinklers are supplied by a separate floor control valve assembly to allow ease of draining the attic system without impairing sprinklers throughout the rest of the building unless, otherwise approved by the Fire Code Official.
  - b. Adequate heat shall be provided for freeze protection as per the applicable referenced NFPA standard.
  - c. The attic space is a part of the building's thermal, or heat envelope, such that insulation is provided at the roof deck, rather than at the ceiling level.
10. Balconies, decks and corridors shall be protected in accordance with the 2021 International Fire Code. 903.3.1.2.1 & 903.3.1.2.2 (as amended).
  11. Sprinkler protection is required in attic spaces of such buildings three or more stories in height, in accordance with IFC 903.3.1.2.3

### **Installation**

12. Inspector test connections, drains, and ball-drips shall be piped directly to the exterior
13. At least one inspection test valve shall be located at the remote system area.
14. Sprinkler and Standpipe system water-flow detectors shall be provided for each floor tap to the sprinkler system and shall cause an alarm upon detection of water flow for more than 45 seconds. All control valves in the sprinkler and standpipe system except for fire department hose connection valves shall be electrically supervised to initiate a supervisory signal at the central station upon tampering.
15. Dry-system air compressors shall be hard wired and shall have a listed air maintenance device connected to the compressor with a minimum 1/2" connection.
16. Pre-action system solenoids shall be wired for alarm activation upon current loss.
17. All systems with a chemical additive or antifreeze shall be provided with a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly or a reduced pressure principle fire protection backflow prevention assembly. Where only added to a portion of a system, the device shall be permitted to be located so as to isolate only that portion of the system. (IPC 608.16.4.1)

### **Standpipes**

18. In buildings exceeding 10,000 square feet in area per story, Class I standpipes shall be provided where any portion of the building's interior area is more than 200 feet of travel, vertically and/or horizontally, from the nearest point of fire department vehicle access.
19. Standpipe systems shall be installed in accordance with this section and NFPA 14 & IFC 2021 905 (as amended).
20. Manual dry standpipe systems shall be supervised with a minimum of 10 psig and a maximum of 40 psig air pressure with a high/low alarm.
21. When a roof-top hose connection is required, the hose connection shall be two-way.
22. Standpipe hose connecting in stair wells shall be located at floor level.
23. National Standard Thread (NST) shall be provided.

### **Fire Department Connection**



24. FDC's for automatic sprinkler systems and/or standpipe systems for new buildings shall be equipped with a 2 ½" Siamese connection. (See Figure 1).
25. All FDC connections shall be equipped with a locking Knox FDC Cap. Knox products may be ordered online at [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com).
26. Check valves shall be accessible for 5-year inspection. If located underground, shall be installed within a meter can/valve box large enough to access the valve.
27. FDC shall be facing, visible, and within from 50 feet of fire lane.
28. FDC must be within 100-feet of a fire hydrant.
29. The FDC shall be clear and unobstructed with a minimum of a 5-foot clear all-weather path from fire lane access.
30. The FDC shall be installed 18-48 inches above grade.
31. Fire hose threads used shall be national standard hose thread.
32. The FDC shall discharge into the system on the discharge side of the pump if a pump is present. *See Underground Fire Lines guidelines for details on Remote Fire Department Connections (FDC)*

### Inspection Requirements

33. **Do not stack the riser until the underground flushing has been completed.**  
Check Fire Sprinkler Underground permit for verification of completion.
34. Visual: All overhead piping and joints must be uncovered, exposed, and be visible with labeling of the pipe legible from the floor. All hangers will be visually inspected and must be uncovered, exposed, and visible from the floor.
35. Overhead Hydrostatic Test: Overhead piping will be visually inspected with all joints exposed and labeling of the pipe turned downward. The test will be at 200 psi for a minimum of two hours. No pressure drop or gain allowed.
36. A hydrostatic test is required for all new installations.
37. A hydrostatic test is required for all modifications/tenant finish-out with twenty or more sprinkler heads added and/or relocated.
38. Dry System/24-hour air test: The test will be conducted at 40 psi of air for 24-hours with less than 1.5-psi loss.
39. Dry System/Trip Test: Operational test of the dry-pipe valve is performed and the quick opening device (500+ gallon systems) is tested, 750+ gallon systems must trip within 60 seconds.
40. Dry System/Compressor Test: Dry system compressor fills the system within 30 minutes.
41. Riser Main Flush: Upon completion of the overhead hydrostatic test, the overhead piping will be drained and witnessed by the Fire Department.
42. Riser Room: Verify riser room requirements, including floor drain for fire pumps, heat, light, markings, spare sprinkler head box and wrench, etc.
43. Hydraulic Design Information Sign (Hydraulic Data Nameplate).
44. General Information Sign.
45. Combination hydraulic design information and general information are permitted.
46. Standpipe and Fire Department Connection (FDC): Hydrostatic testing if not already done, the test will be at 200 psi for a minimum of two hours. No pressure drop or gain allowed. A flow test at hydraulically most remote standpipe through FDC to verify required pressure and flow.



47. Fire Pump: Hydrostatic testing (if not already done, the test will be at 200 psi for a minimum of two hours, no pressure drop or gain allowed.), all piping flushed, pump room requirements verified, and operational test conducted by manufacturer witnessed by the fire department.
48. Standpipe: Acceptance test in compliance with NFPA 14.
49. Fire Sprinkler Final: Final sign-off at completion of all inspections and the receipt of all State require paperwork and a complete and signed appropriate contractor's material and test certificate(s). The inspection shall be conducted when all sheet rock and millwork is completed.

**Plan submittal is only required for alterations/modifications involving 20 or more sprinkler heads, alterations/modifications to the system risers, and/or special applications (i.e. water curtains).**

**Minor fire sprinkler system modifications (such as adding fewer than 20 heads) do not require plan submittal. Work not requiring plans submittal: Contractors shall install a white service tag indicating location (i.e. Suite #) and scope of work.**

### **Submittal Requirements**

Prior to fire sprinkler system submittal, the underground fire line plans must have been submitted and approved. Underground plans must be included as a reference for hydraulic calculations.

50. Please upload the following documents when submitting your permit online:
  - (1) Design plans
  - (2) Hydraulic calculations forms, where systems are required to be calculated
  - (3) Data sheets for the system components
  - (4) Signed owner's certificate
  - (5) Third Party Review Letter
  - (6) State License(s)



Figure 1: Fire Department Connection Detail

