



Many new firefighter get confused between **Standpipe vs. Sprinklers**

because the **FDC** (**F**ire **D**epartment **C**onnection) on the outside of the building look the same.

Although they may have a similar purpose (getting water to a fire <u>inside a building</u>) their functions are completely different.



ESTBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT PROBATIONARY DRILL

SPRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

STANDPIPE:

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Is a pre-piped water supply system that allows Fire Dept hose to be connected from points inside the building.

Found in structures of large area (footprint), multiple floors or structures with both.

 Allows us to get closer to the fire, with our hose lines, quicker and prevents us from stretching large amounts of hose throughout the building before we can even close enough to begin firefighting operations.

What's happening to the fire when we have these Large stretches?



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SPRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

SRINKLERS:

Is also a pre-piped water supply system but instead of feeding hose lines, they feed sprinkler heads throughout the building, as designed by an engineer.

Typically found in high fire hazard structures or one with large occupancy.
They are designed to keep fire confined to a specific area and not necessarily designed to extinguish the fire. Doesn't need to be Entire building, could just Be an area of building

We are seeing more and more in residential applications, single or 2 family homes, to protection a truss building system or a heating system room.

Village of Westbury also requires residential sprinklers when a home's attic is sheet rocked, be aware these smaller residential sprinklers systems will differ from the commercial application, typically we will not be able to supplement the water source to them, most will be fed solely by local water.

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SPRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

Connecting our F.D. Hose to a <u>FDC</u> Sprinkler or Standpipe

The Engine will first need to gain a water source (hydrant) which will typically be in close proximity to the FDC. -Does this mean that this hydrant will operational?

We need to be ready for anything!

- when the engine is at an operational hydrant (water source)
- we want to connect to the FDC using larges diameter hose possible , Typically our 5" hose.

Can we reverse lay, instead of Hydrant to FDC, can we go FDC to Hydrant?

The newer FDC, we are seeing are 5" Storz and not the standard 2.5" Siamese. <u>If this is the case</u>, we can take our 5" Hose and make a direct connection to FDC.



5" Storz (sexless)



2.5" Siamese

WESTEURY PROBADOARY DRUL BRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS Connecting our E.D. Hose to a EDC

Connecting our F.D. Hose to a FDC Sprinkler or Standpipe

If we are confronted with a **Sprinkler and** a **Standpipe** FDC, next to each other, we always want to feed the **STANDPIPE** <u>first</u>, since this is what we'll be using.

Note:

The multiple Standpipe or Sprinkler FDC, found around a structure will all feed the entire, common, system.

Note:

Sprinklers and Standpipes are independent of each other, unless marked <u>Combo System</u>, only these will be feeding both sprinkler & Standpipe systems at the same time. Example: Combo system – Source Mall







Note:

In a FDC Siamese, there is a clapper valve that directs the water flow. If only connecting 5" make sure the clapper is operational otherwise you'll need to cap the side not being used. (gate it if nec.) **Note:** if found with no caps – debris inside could hinder operations

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Connecting 2.5" Hose to a FDC Sprinkler or Standpipe

• When we decide to connect 2.5" hose to our FDC, get that **first** 2.5" connected <u>as soon a possible</u>, get operational before doing the second one.









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Sprinkler Systems

Now that we have a FD water supply into the **sprinkler System**, is our job now done?

NO



It is very important for us to gain control of the buildings sprinkler system.

<u>An active sprinkler, although it may be keeping the main body of fire in check, it is typically hindering our hose line advancement.</u>

- the water being forced downward also forces down the products of combustion

• the smoke and heat are not lifting , even if the roof team cut us a nice big hole.

This will typically slow down us from advancing to the fire, visibility is harder, the TI camera doesn't hit on the hot room, because it's being cooled...



Note:

A <u>Sprinkler systems</u> can be a wet or dry system.

Wet – the system is always charge with water or an extinguishing agent.



Dry – (typically found in outside or in unheated areas) example: garages... These systems are charge with air – at a greater pressure then the water supply's pressure. When a head is tripped, the air escaping lowers the air pressure, making the water pressure greater and allowing the water to flow in pipe.

WESTEURY PROBADONARY DRUL Sprinkler Systems

When the head is actively flowing water,

This triggers a chain of events:

- Sensors in the pipe system will sense water movement and this activates an alarm , triggering a FD Response
- The moving water will activate the outside Sprinkler Alarm aka: "sprinkler gong or water flow gong "
- The outside drain will be flowing water out The more water = the more water flow inside... (could indicate more heads tripped then 1 ?)











What is important to us, as we arrive on scene is: the gongs going off and water being discharged.

* Listen for gong & look for that trail of water in parking lot...



*These items allow us to isolate the <u>active</u> riser, that we need to gain control of.

In buildings with multiple occupancy changes or the dividing of a once larger occupancy into many smaller ones, this may not be as **obvious** as you may think.

The gong closest to the fire building may not be the active one and the fire areas sprinklers could be getting fed from a different part of the building altogether.

These signs * and a good preplan will help you isolate the active riser for that fire <u>area</u>. **Note**: it's not uncommon to have multiple risers for 1 building, in different locations.



Sprinkler Systems

Once we've located the Active Riser, supplemented the water source with our engine, then we need to gain control of it.

Sprinkler <u>controls valves</u> can be found on the outside or inside of a building.

Typically in newer building: They are found grouped in a "Sprinkler Room".



Closed Open Outside Stem & Yolk (OS&Y)



So when open door, what side will riser be on?

<u>Older building</u> – Attached to building: Wall Post Indicator Valve



NOTE Since Open Access chain and locked In open position

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Sprinkler Systems

When the FDC is <u>not attached</u> to the building: in front yard, out by the street, in a parking lot...

These risers could be in an underground pit near the FDC

or a **Post Indicator Valve** typically between FDC and Building



Due to our climate, This entire set up will be in a outside under ground pit



Pit



Gaining control of the sprinkler valves will typically require forcible entry, if the valves are confined in a room or in an outside underground pit.

For the Post indicators, or any sprinkler control valve with <u>common access</u>, you may not need to force entry to them, but the valve will be locked in the **open** position.

Once the hose line crew has made it to the fire area, they will request the sprinkler be shut down.











Note: Sprinklers in <u>large footprint</u> buildings or especially <u>taller buildings</u>, the street water pressure may not be sufficient to supply enough pressure to the sprinkler systems – These building the sprinkler system's water will be supplemented by a **Fire Pump**, boosting the pressure.



Diesel pump

Electric pump



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Sprinkler Systems – Fire Pumps

These Fire Pumps need to be shut down:

- When our Engine is connected to the sprinkler system and we are now augmenting the water supply OR
- 2. When we have <u>orders</u> to shut down the sprinkler system, *if our engine is connected to the system or not.*

Provisions should always be in place to augment the system, plus restarting a pump is typically a simple few steps.



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Shutting Down Sprinkler Systems

All Locks... should remove and the valve ready to be operated, <u>awaiting the orders</u> to shut down the sprinklers

For the OS&Y valves you want to turn the wheel so the stem goes from **exposed** to inside the pipe:





ipe: d Stem en

Exposed Stem Open





Sprinkler Systems



For the <u>Post Indicators</u> – these work just like a Hydrant

- Cut the lock freeing the crank handle
- Pull off handle
- Operate to nut as you would a Hydrant
- The indicator will let you know if **OPEN** or **CLOSED**

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SPRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

Sprinkler Systems

Once the Sprinkler is shut down , is your job done?

NO, remain at the control valve.

- If the fire is unable to be controlled by line(s),
- if there is trouble with the lines...
- if there is a catastrophic event requiring regrouping

The sprinklers can always be reactivated.





Now that we have a FD water supply into the **Standpipe** System, what's next?

Does this mean we have water to the structure?

No

Once the MPO starts to flow water we'll get a better indication if our connection is effective. If they flows water and the rig is not continually flowing water, we're probably good.

But

If there is water flow, the rig is working hard and the hose team is not connected yet, we have to look for: broken pipe, open valve ...



Note:

Just like a Sprinklers Systems, A Standpipe system can also be **Wet** Or **Dry**.

A <u>Wet System</u> will be supplied by town water, and



A **Dry System**, again typically in areas susceptible to freezing (parking garages), will be dry, **until**: (1) a value is opened putting town water into it or (2) we put the water in with our engines.

<u>In Both systems</u>, we'll be connecting our hose to the system, Wet – supplementing the water supply Dry – we may be the only water supply and system is just a piping system.

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Standpipe System

If we are unable to make a connection to a specific FDC, <u>Alternatives to get water to the standpipe system</u> could be:

- find another FDC else where around the building
- the closest inside Standpipe Connection:
 Remember will need a double female adaptor since you'll be trying to connect 2 male connections
- other inside connections could later be used to supplement the original connection, once man power allows, by feeding another lower, close standpipe connection.

Don't only think of an inside Standpipe Connections as a discharges, The system is a grid/loop... They can be fed from these points too!



Adaptor Pipe Thread

Our Thread







Nozzle: 2 High Rise Packs (make sure there is a Nozzle's in bag or bring one)

Officer: Officers tool - 1 High Rise Pack, Hand light & Radio

Back Up: 2 High Rise Pack

<u>Control</u>: Standpipe Bag – 1 High Rise Pack, Hand Light & Radio

<u>Rule of thumb:</u> 1st Line – Connecting - Floor below Fire Floor 2nd Line – Connecting - 2 Floors below Fire ...





Control: will be making the connection to the stand pipe

Nozzle and Back up: Set up hose for easy advancement to fire

Officer – should be accessing floor plan, of the set up floor, to gain layout and determine best means to attack.
 (typically in high rise – floor layout same floor to floor)
 How may doors down is "504", will be same a "404" - on right or left?

Maybe easier to advance the floor below hallway then go up, then to go up to fire floor and advance to fire apartment?





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SPRINKLER & STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

Attaching Attack Lines to Standpipe system

When advancing hose line, use gravity to your advantage.

Whenever possible, try to get the hose in an easily advancing position before orders are given to "control " to charge the line.

Length of hose being used by 1^{st} line should be relayed to 2^{nd} line, They should always have **more**: (1) starting from further away, (2) if 1^{st} line does come up short – 2^{nd} line can advance past 1^{st} line and make the fire.



End of Lecture

Part 2 of Drill :

Gear up – going to Source Mall to Review:

- Connecting to Sprinkler System using (2) 2.5" hose
 - Gaining access sprinkler room and OS&Y's
 - Controlling Fire Pump
 - Shutting down Sprinkler System
 - Getting System back operational



Part 3 of Drill :

Gear up – going to Roosevelt Field Mall to Review:

• Connecting to Standpipe System – using 5" hose

Connecting to stand pipe if Siamese not operational
 Review Standpipe bags

• Connecting our hose to system

Getting High Rise packs into operation

• Setting pressure using in line pressure gauge

•Hose line positioning & advancement

•Repacking High Rise packs