

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 9 FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

SECTION 912 FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTIONS

[F] 912.1 Installation.

Fire department connections shall be installed in accordance with the NFPA standard applicable to the system design and shall comply with [Sections 912.2](#) through [912.6](#).

[F] 912.2 Location.

With respect to hydrants, driveways, buildings and landscaping, fire department connections shall be so located that fire apparatus and hose connected to supply the system will not obstruct access to the buildings for other fire apparatus. The location of fire department connections shall be *approved* by the *fire code official*.

[F] 912.2.1 Visible location.

Fire department connections shall be located on the street side of buildings or facing approved fire apparatus access roads, fully visible and recognizable from the street, fire apparatus access road or nearest point of fire department vehicle access or as otherwise *approved* by the *fire code official*.

[F] 912.2.2 Existing buildings.

(Section deleted.)

[F] 912.3 Fire hose threads.

Fire hose threads used in connection with standpipe systems shall be *approved* and shall be compatible with fire department hose threads.

912.4 Access.

Immediate access to fire department connections shall be provided without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object. Access to fire department connections shall be approved by the fire official..

Exception: Fences, where provided with an access gate equipped with a sign complying with the legend requirements of this section and a means of emergency operation. The gate and the means of emergency operation shall be approved by the fire official.

[F] 912.4.1 Locking fire department connection caps.

The fire code official is authorized to require locking caps on fire department connections for water-based *fire protection systems* where the responding fire department carries appropriate key wrenches for removal.

912.4.2 Clear space around connections.

A working space of not less than 36 inches (762 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided in front of and to the sides of wall-mounted fire department connections and around the circumference of free-standing fire department connections, except as otherwise required or approved by the fire official.

[F] 912.4.3 Physical protection.

Where fire department connections are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, vehicle impact protection shall be provided in accordance with [Section 312](#) of the *International Fire Code*.

[F] 912.5 Signs.

A metal sign with raised letters not less than 1 inch (25 mm) in size shall be mounted on all fire department connections serving automatic sprinklers, standpipes or fire pump connections. Such signs shall read: "AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS," "STANDPIPES," or "TEST CONNECTION," or a combination thereof as applicable. Where the fire department connection does not serve the entire building, a sign shall be provided indicating the portions of the building served.

[P] 912.6 Backflow protection.

The potable water supply to automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems shall be protected against backflow as required by the [International Plumbing Code](#).