

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 33 SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 3311 STANDPIPES

[F] 3311.1 Where required.

In buildings required to have standpipes by [Section 905.3.1](#), not fewer than one standpipe shall be provided for use during construction. Such standpipes shall be installed prior to construction exceeding 40 feet (12 192 mm) in height above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. Such standpipes shall be provided with fire department hose connections at locations adjacent to *stairways* complying with [Section 3310.1](#). As construction progresses, such standpipes shall be extended to within one floor of the highest point of construction having secured decking or flooring.

[F] 3311.2 Buildings being demolished.

Where a building is being demolished and a standpipe exists within such a building, such standpipe shall be maintained in an operable condition so as to be available for use by the fire department. Such standpipe shall be demolished with the building but shall not be demolished more than one floor below the floor being demolished.

[F] 3311.3 Detailed requirements.

Standpipes shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 9](#).

Exception: Standpipes shall be either temporary or permanent in nature, and with or without a water supply, provided that such standpipes conform to the requirements of [Section 905](#) as to capacity, outlets and materials.

SECTION 3312 AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM

3312.1 Completion before occupancy.

In buildings where an automatic sprinkler system is required by this code, it shall be unlawful to occupy any portion of a building or structure until the automatic sprinkler system installation has been tested and approved, except as provided in [Section 116.1.1](#).

[F] 3312.2 Operation of valves.

Operation of sprinkler control valves shall be permitted only by properly authorized personnel and shall be accompanied by notification of duly designated parties. When the sprinkler protection is being regularly turned off and on to facilitate connection of newly completed segments, the sprinkler control valves shall be checked at the end of each work period to ascertain that protection is in service.

SECTION 3313 WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE PROTECTION

3313.1 Where required.

*An approved water supply for fire protection, either temporary or permanent, shall be made available as soon as combustible building materials arrive on the site, on commencement of vertical combustible construction, and on installation of a standpipe system in buildings under construction, in accordance with the *Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code*.*

3313.2 Combustible building materials.

(Section deleted.)

3313.3 Vertical construction of Types III, IV and V construction.

(Section deleted.)

3313.3.1 Fire separation up to 30 feet.

(Section deleted.)

3313.3.2 Fire separation of 30 feet up to 60 feet.

(Section deleted.)

3313.3.3 Fire separation of 60 feet or greater.

(Section deleted.)

3313.4 Vertical construction, Types I and II construction.

(Section deleted.)

3313.5 Standpipe supply.

(Section deleted.)

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SECTION 3314 FIRE WATCH DURING CONSTRUCTION

[F] 3314.1 Fire watch during combustible construction.

A fire watch shall be provided during nonworking hours for construction that exceeds 40 feet (12 192 mm) in height above the lowest adjacent [grade at any point along the building perimeter, for new multistory construction with an aggregate area exceeding 50,000 square feet \(4645 m²\) per story or as required by the fire code official](#)