



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Fire-Rescue Department

Sprinkler Policies

Policy FS - 0410

On Site Fire Hydrants

1. Fire hydrants shall be located no further apart than 600 feet, measured on center. In addition, a fire engine shall travel no further than 300 feet in any direction to reach a hydrant. These distances are measured along the fire access roadway. See Section 903.4.2 of the 2001 California Fire Code and FHPS Policy A-00-01 for access roadway requirements.
2. Fire hydrants shall have individually valved ports, one 2 1/2 inch and two 4 inch for all occupancies except R-3. Hydrants protecting R-3 occupancies may have two 2 1/2 ports and one 4 inch port.
3. Fire hydrant locations shall conform to Standard Drawing W-10 and W-11 with the following exception:

Type A The dimension of the distance from the face of the curb to centerline of the fire hydrant shall be 6 feet.

4. When three (3) or more hydrants are required, supply to the hydrants shall be looped with two (2) separate connections to the public water supply. Gate valves shall be installed on both sides of each fire service lateral. In addition, a sectional control valve shall be located so that no more than two (2) hydrants will be out of service at one time. The gate valves for the fire service laterals may serve as a sectional control valve. If a site can be designed so that any one fire hydrant lateral has two (2) or less hydrants, looping is not required.

Pipe size for fire hydrant laterals shall be a minimum of 6 inches.

5. All hydrants shall have a shut off valve located no closer than 5 feet from the hydrant and no further than 20 feet.
6. Fire hydrants shall have the 4 inch port facing the required access roadway and the base flange of the hydrant must not vary more than 1 foot in elevation from the grade level of the required access roadway. The lowest stem shall be a minimum of 18 inches above the ground.
7. If, in the opinion of the fire inspector, fire hydrants are vulnerable to vehicular damage, appropriate crash posts shall be provided. No obstructions shall exist within 3 feet of the hydrant. Crash posts shall be 4 inch, concrete filled pipe, with a minimum of 3 feet in height and 4 feet of pipe below grade (See City of San Diego Standard Drawing W-16).

8. Underground piping to fire hydrants must be inspected by fire inspection. Such inspections shall include visual inspection of piping thrust blocks poured in accordance with Standard Drawing W-17, and hydrostatically pressure tested at a minimum of 200 psi. A flush test will be required before installation is complete. See Policy FS-0403.
9. Fire hydrants are required to be maintained in an operable condition at all times and shall be repaired or replaced when defective. Hydrants shall be fully operable before combustible materials are brought on site.
10. Fire flow requirements shall be in accordance with 2001 California Fire Code, Appendix III-A, Table III-AA.