This information bulletin describes the procedure for obtaining the available water flow and pressure at a fire hydrant for projects in the City of San Diego. This information is required when applying for fire sprinkler or standpipe permits requiring hydraulic calculations within the City’s jurisdiction. The City of San Diego utilizes a computer model to track and display the flow and pressure of fire hydrants within the City of San Diego water district.

I. COMPLETING FORM DS-160

Print/type all necessary information for the desired fire hydrant flow and pressure location on the Hydrant Flow Request form (DS-160). Include the name of the company requesting hydrant flow, the project address, the location of the nearest hydrants, and nearest cross streets.

On the bottom of the form, draw or insert an accurate site map of the area. The site map must indicate the location of the desired fire hydrant for which test results are desired, the street name, the location of the project, the nearest cross street, and north arrow. The map must be drawn to a size or scale sufficient to show all elements described above clearly.

II. SUBMITTING FORM DS-160

To request available water flow and pressure, complete form DS-160 and e-mail the request to DSDHydrantFlow@sandiego.gov. The request may also be mailed to:

City of San Diego Development Services
Attention: Hydrant Flow Request
1222 First Ave., MS 401
San Diego, CA 92101-4101

III. LOCATIONS WITHOUT MODEL DATA

A. For private fire service lines or hydrants where model data is not available, a flow test shall be performed in the presence of Development Services Department (DSD) staff to determine the flow rate for a fire hydrant. To schedule the flow test, submit a request to the email address in Section II above or call 619-446-5151.

B. For new developments without current fire hydrants or where water flow and pressure data is not available, the water study or a hydraulic analysis prepared by a registered professional engineer shall be provided in lieu of hydrant flow data with fire sprinkler plans.

C. For projects located outside the City of San Diego Public Utilities District, water supply information obtained from the applicable water purveyor will be used.

IV. USING HYDRANT FLOW DATA

A. A signed copy of the Hydrant Flow Request form complete within 12 months of the application date shall be provided as part of a fire sprinkler permit.

B. If a flow test was conducted in the field, a 10% safety factor must be added to the observed flow test data to account for seasonal fluctuations.

V. CONTRACTOR’S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the contractor’s responsibility to confirm the available static pressure at the system point of connection and to report discrepancies to DSDHydrantFlow@sandiego.gov as soon as possible.

The minimum fee will be two hours based on the fee type "Hourly Rate for Services Not Covered Above" from Information Bulletin 506 Table 506B. The fee for services must be paid to the City Treasurer at the Development Services Department or online at OpenDSD prior to scheduling the test.

Documents referenced in this Information Bulletin

- Information Bulletin 139, How to Obtain a Permit for Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Information Bulletin 506, Fire Permit Fees
- Hydrant Flow Request, DS-160