
STANDATA bulletin 23-FCB-004

Fire

Removal of standpipe hose in sprinklered buildings

Date Issued: August 2024

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Purpose

To provide clarification when a 38 mm standpipe hose can be permanently removed from a hose cabinet in a sprinklered building.

Discussion

In 1985, the Alberta Building Code (ABC) introduced a provision that allowed owners to not install a 38 mm hose in a hose cabinet of a standpipe system, if the building was sprinklered. This change was attributed to the added benefit of having a sprinkler system in a building. Buildings constructed prior to the ABC 1985 were required to have a 38 mm hose located in hose cabinets regardless whether the building was equipped with a sprinkler system.

A 38 mm hose in a standpipe system is not required to be provided where the building is sprinklered in conformance with NFPA 13, "Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems."

Prior to removing the hose, the following should be considered:

- Where a 38 mm standpipe hose is to be removed in existing sprinklered buildings, the owner should review the adequacy of fire extinguisher coverage with the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
- Building owners are encouraged to contact their insurance provider prior to removal to ensure insurance coverage would not be affected by the standpipe hose removal.
- If the standpipe hose is to be removed, it shall be removed throughout the building and reflected in an updated fire safety plan. A building required to be sprinklered in accordance with the National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)) will have sprinklers provided in all areas of the building except where specific sections of the of the NBC(AE) or referenced standards permit the exclusion of sprinklers.

If a 38 mm standpipe hose remains, it must be maintained in accordance with the National Fire Code – 2023 Alberta Edition (NFC(AE)).

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Fire Code – 2023 Alberta edition.

Issued by the Provincial Fire Administrator

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