

# Office of the State Fire Marshal – Fire Prevention Division



References (s): 07-14; 06-IBC/905

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Throughout Kansas, local fire departments utilize their own hoses and nozzles and do not rely on standpipe hoses found in buildings. The fire departments train and utilize 1 ½ inch or larger hoses that are routinely tested. In several situations, the Kansas State Fire Marshal has permitted the removal of existing standpipe hoses with the concurrence of local fire department officials.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal emphasizes exiting and safe evacuation from a building over expecting suppression efforts by building occupants. We do not encourage occupants to stop and fight a fire, nor are we currently actively enforcing the maintenance and upkeep of standpipe hoses or employee training on proper use. We believe having untrained personnel use the equipment in an emergency may create more hazard and obstruction to building occupants, thus impeding the speedy exiting from the building. Further, once provided, annual testing, documentation and training are required.

In an actual fire emergency, the local fire departments will rely on their own engines and hoses to control an incident. A properly located Class I dry standpipe would be utilized by the local department whereas a Class II standpipe may not.

The chart below details the general requirements for standpipe classes. For more information on this requirement, review the International Building Code, International Fire Code, and NFPA 14 for the specific requirements.

**FIRE FACT 064- STANDPIPE**

## NFPA 14 Standpipe Classes

| Class | Used By                   | Hose/Outlets        | Min. Pressure | Min. Flow             |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| I     | Fire Dept & Fire Brigades | 2.5 in              | 100psi        | 500gpm/250 additional |
| II    | Building Occupants        | 1.5 in & 100ft hose | 65psi         | 100gpm total          |
| III   | Combined I & II           | All of above        | Same          | 500gpm/250 additional |

## *Alternative Design*

Where Class II standpipe systems are required by Code, a minimum of a Class I dry standpipe system shall be allowed by the Kansas State Fire Marshal to replace the Class II system. This is acceptable only if the Class I dry standpipe is designed in accordance with either NFPA 14 or the International Building/International Fire Code and equipped with 2 1/2 inch fittings, valves and piping located as for Class II standpipes, and if the local fire department concurs.

## *Background:*

Pursuant to the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, the Kansas State Fire Marshal adopts the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) as minimum construction requirements. Section 104.11 of the IBC-06 permits the acceptance of alternative provisions that provide equivalent protection. NFPA-101 Section 1-5 contains similar provisions.