

MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTION 99-1

CODE REFERENCE:

- A. NFPA 14 (1996), 5-7 (Standpipe Design Pressure)
- B. NFPA 14 (1996), 5-9.1.3 (Water Supply for Sprinkler Retrofits)
- C. NFPA 14 (1996), 5-8.2 and BOCA 915.7.3 (Pressure Regulating Valves)

BACKGROUND:

- A. This section of the code recently changed to require 100 psi at the top of new standpipe risers. The application of this has resulted in smaller sprinkler piping, which compromises the system effectiveness during times the pump is out of service. In the past, we have not permitted the use of the 65 psi exception to this section.
- B. We have interpreted this section to require that new pumps feeding existing standpipe systems and retrofitted sprinkler systems have the capacity to meet the greater of the two demands.
- C. These sections of both codes require Pressure Regulating Valves (PRV's) at any hose valve exposed to 175 psi or more pressure.

EXCEPTIONS, JUSTIFICATION, & COMPENSATORY ACTION

- A. Allow the exception built into the code that permits AHJ's to lower this to 65 psi based on suppression tactics. Fire Department operations contemplate supplying the required pressures with their pumpers.
- B. Allow the alternate in subsection 5-9.1.3.3 where water supplies feeding existing standpipe systems and retrofitted sprinkler systems need only meet the sprinkler demand if the existing risers are at least 4 in. size.
- C. Prohibit the use of PRV's on hose valves, even when pressures can exceed 175 psi. The Fire Department hoselines can require more than 175 psi, especially since the code changed to allow longer hose reach distances. Their training and operational procedures already contemplate the possibility of higher pressures.

PREPARED BY: M. I. Chibbaro

DATE <u>3/11/99</u>	MONTGOMERY CO. FIRE MARSHAL <u>[Signature]</u>
DATE <u>3/12/99</u>	MONTGOMERY CO. DEPT. PERMIT SERVICES <u>[Signature]</u>
DATE <u>03/10/1999</u>	GAITHERSBURG CITY FIRE MARSHAL <u>[Signature]</u>
DATE <u>3/12/99</u>	ROCKVILLE CITY FIRE MARSHAL <u>[Signature]</u>