

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

Understanding the risk

The fire department connection is an essential assistant to many water-based fire protection systems. It may serve as a secondary water source for automatic sprinklers, and may be the sole connection point of a fire standpipe system.

Controlling the hazard

The Risk Engineer should closely check the fire department connection when conducting regular protective inspections. Here are just a few things to examine:

- Protective caps or plugs should be in place to prevent obstructions being placed inside the fire department connection.
- The female swivel connections should be free to spin. They should be lubricated with powdered graphite or some other lubricant that will not leave a gummy residue.
- The threads should be smooth and undamaged. The female swivel should be round. Consider using a male adapter to check all the fittings for correct thread cuts.
- Visually inspect the interior for obstructions.

- Inspect the swing check devices or clappers. Use a spanner wrench or other tool to operate them.



- Verify that there is no water accumulation in the fire department connection. This may indicate a leaky check valve or faulty automatic drain.
- Verify that the identification sign (cast plate) correctly labels the connection for sprinklers, standpipes, combination systems, or other protection systems.

www.rmcgrp.com

Head Office:

Building A2, International Free Zone Authority (IFZA),
Dubai Digital Park (DDP), Dubai silicon Oasis (DSO),
P.O. Box 478410, Dubai, United Arab Emirates,

UAE +971 56 507 0732 - **EGY** +2 012 858 56 299

E info@rmcgrp.com

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