

Chesterfield County Fire and EMS
Fire and Life Safety Division – Plans Review Section

I. Fire Protection System Sign Requirements

- A. Fire protection system identification signs are required by the 2009 Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC) and the referenced National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The letter size, sign material and sign colors are Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety requirements.
- B. VSFPC, Section 509.1: *Fire protection equipment shall be identified in an approved manner. Rooms containing controls for air-conditioning systems, sprinkler risers and valves, or other fire detection, suppression or control elements shall be identified for the use of the fire department. Approved signs required to identify fire protection equipment and equipment location shall be constructed of durable materials, permanently installed and readily visible.*

II. Sign Material, Letter Size and Colors:

- A. Two-inch block letters for interior signs and four-inch block letters for exterior signs unless otherwise specified. Note: If additional verbiage is required on a sign that would make the sign unreasonably large, the letter size may be reduced; contact the Assistant Fire Marshal to determine a reasonable size.
- B. All signs must have white letters on a red, reflective background.
- C. Sign must be of durable materials. (Note: plastic signs tend to bleach and fade within a few years of installation.)
- D. Post Indicator Valve (PIV) signs can be one-inch white block letters; NFPA 13, Section 8.16.1.1.8.

III. Required Signs and Code Section:

- A. “**FDC**” (Fire department connection): VSFPC, Section 912.4; NFPA 13, Section 8.17.2.4.7.1
 - i. Where the FDC serves only a portion of a building, the sign shall indicate the portion(s) of the building served; NFPA 13, Section 8.17.2.4.5.
 - ii. The sign should indicate the address the FDC serves. Address letters can be 1-inch letters. Sign should be attached to the FDC by a U-bolt or mounted on sign posts and installed near the vault.
- B. “**FIRE PUMP ROOM**” sign and “**FIRE PUMP TEST HEADER**”: 2007 ed. NFPA 20 *Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection*, Section 5.12.1.1.3.
- C. “**The automatic run timer shall not be reconnected or enabled. The booster fire pump is to be manual shutdown only in accordance with Section 10.5.4.2 (3) of NFPA 20 (2007 ed.), Standard for the Installation of Stationary Fire Pumps, per the Chesterfield County Fire and Life Safety Division (804-748-1426)**”: The letters should be sized so that the sign will fit on the fire pump controller door.
- D. “**SPRINKLER CONTROL ROOM**”: 2007 ed. NFPA 13, Sections 6.7.4 and 7.7.1.5
- E. “**FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL**” or “**FACP**”: 2007 ed. NFPA 72, Section 4.4.6.2
- F. If the sprinkler riser/control valve and fire alarm control panel are in the same room, the sign should read “**FIRE ALARM & SPRINKLER CONTROL ROOM**” or “**FACP & SPRINKLER CONTROL ROOM**”
- G. PIVs must be labeled with the address of the associated building.
- H. Permanent signs are required for fire protection system controls/devices within the building, such as: auxiliary drains, location of duct smoke detectors, control valves, etc. The above sign requirements (colors, letter sizes, materials) do not apply to these labels; NFPA 13, Sections 6.7.4 and 8.16.1.1.8; NFPA 72, Section 5.16.5.4.