



Fire Prevention Bureau

Information Bulletin

Fire Department Connection Locking Caps

The functionality and access of a Fire Department Connection (FDC) is critical to the Fire Department's operation. International Fire Code (IFC), 2012 Edition, section 912 provide specifications for FDC requirements. This document is intended to provide owners, occupants and contractors with the acceptable criteria.

Access:

Immediate access to Fire Department Connections shall be maintained at all times and without obstruction by fences, bushes, trees, walls or any other fixed or moveable object. Access to Fire Department Connections shall be approved by the Fire Marshal or his designee.

Clear Space Around Connections:

A working space of not less than 36 inches (762 mm) in width, 36 inches (914 mm) in depth and 78 inches (1981 mm) in height shall be provided and maintained in front of and to the sides of wall-mounted Fire Department Connections and around the circumference of free-standing Fire Department Connections, except as otherwise required or approved by the Fire Marshal or his designee.

Locking Fire Department Connection Caps:

The Fire Code Official is authorized to require locking caps on Fire Department Connections for water-based fire protection systems where the responding Fire Department carries appropriate key wrenches for removal.

- a. Beginning July 2015, all new Fire Department Connections shall be provided with locking caps in accordance with IFC 912.3.1.
- b. Beginning July 2015, all Fire Department Connections on existing buildings that are found to have no caps at the time of inspection will be required to have the FDC inspected for obstructions first. After the inspection is complete and it is verified that no obstructions exist, the lockable FDC caps shall be installed.
- c. The only lockable cap that is accepted by the Fire Prevention Bureau is the Fail-Safe FDC cap. Caps may be ordered by visiting www.failSAFEkeybox.com

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 864.467.4450.