



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Public Protection Classification for Individual Properties, Part 2

No. FP-2015-11 March 17, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will learn about Public Protection Classification (PPC™) that applies to specific Individual Properties.

Water Supply System

The water supply system is evaluated to determine its adequacy at each Individual Property relative to the needed fire flow (NFF) for that property. The adequacy of the water supply system is determined based on the evaluation of the following water system components:

- Supply works capacity.

The supply works capacity is evaluated by considering the minimum water storage available for fire protection, total water delivery rate, ability to connect to emergency supplies, approved suction sources (bays, rivers, canals, streams, ponds, wells, cisterns, etc.), or water hauled by the fire department.

- Main capacity.

The main capacity serving the Individual Properties is evaluated by reviewing the amount of water available at a residual pressure of 20 pounds per square inch through the results of the hydrant flow test or the results of a properly balanced and tested hydraulic water system model.

- Fire hydrant distribution.

Fire hydrants and water suction points within 1,000 feet of the Individual Property are evaluated to determine the amount of water available in close proximity to the Individual Properties.

The amount of water available for each of the above water system components is calculated to identify the limiting water supply component. The creditable rate of flow is the lowest of the NFF, supply works capacity, main capacity or fire hydrant distribution.

The protection class of an Individual Property is calculated based on the lower of two credits, either the credit for fire department companies or the credit for the water supply system.

In the next series of Coffee Break Training sessions, you will learn more about the Insurance Services Office's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS®) program. The BCEGS program evaluates the building departments across the country.

The National Fire Academy's course information and registration is available at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/index.shtm>.

