



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Administration: The Importance of Inspections

No. FP-2015-31 August 4, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the importance of conducting fire prevention inspections.

Why do we perform fire prevention inspections?

The model fire codes authorize the fire code official or designee to conduct inspections as often as necessary to assess life safety threats, verify permit conditions, ensure fire protection features are in place and operational, correct hazards, and issue violation notices. Some local jurisdictions mandate the frequency of inspections, while others may not perform inspections at all.

Today's illustration is a simple example of why regular inspections are important. A landscaping project that added the decorative fence inadvertently resulted in blocking the dry hydrant. Due to the fact that the fence is less than 6 feet (183 centimeters) tall, no building permit was required, and therefore a plan review that might have caught this conflict before construction was not performed.



A landscaping project that added this decorative fence inadvertently resulted in blocking this dry hydrant.

A landscape or fence contractor cannot be expected to know everything about fire protection systems and equipment. The contractor may not have recognized the function of this dry hydrant connection and the importance of unobstructed access to it with a hard suction hose.

Furthermore, the protective cap normally installed over the threads is missing, making the threads vulnerable to damage. If the threads cannot seal against the hard suction coupling, air leaks may occur that could affect the fire pump's ability to draw suction.

Regular visits by a qualified fire inspector, Company Officer or firefighters would help to identify this problem, which is obvious to fire personnel, and help the owner find a workable solution to keep the fire equipment accessible.

For more information, consider enrolling in the National Fire Academy (NFA) course "Fire Inspection Principles" (R/N0220). Information and applications can be obtained at <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/47>. The course is available at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland, or through your state fire service training agency.



Eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

For archived downloads, go to:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/coffee_break/