



Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS

Standard Operating Procedure

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Standard Operating Procedure: 4.2.5	Effective Date: 9/22/2025
Subject: Standpipe & Sprinkler Support	Section: Fire/Rescue Operations
Authorized: Deputy Chief Paul Supko	Revision Date: N/A

Applicability: ☒ Volunteer ☒ Career

I. PURPOSE

This section ensures that proper coverage of sprinkler and/or standpipe systems is incorporated into the department's response to incidents at structures and/or facilities equipped with sprinkler/standpipe systems. This coverage must be integrated into our suppression response SOPs to be consistent with our standard operations and ensure the effective support of these systems.

II. DEFINITIONS

Wet system - Water is in the pipes at all times and is supplied by an independent water source. The pressure in the system is constantly maintained by the water source which may be supported by a fire pump. This will be found in most occupancies.

Automatic dry standpipe - Air is stored inside the standpipe at a constant pressure. When a hose valve is opened, the air escapes allowing the water from the independent water source to enter into the standpipe system. This will be found in occupancies/areas where freezing is a concern.

Semi-automatic dry standpipe - Air is stored inside the pipes, which can be pressurized or not be pressurized. Once an actuation device such as a manual pull station or an electrical switch is activated, water then enters the system.

Manual dry standpipe - This system has only pipes feeding the system with no air or water in them; nor is it connected to an independent water source. Fire apparatus must be used to supply the water through the standpipe. This may be encountered in parking structures, etc.

III. POLICY

- A. Sprinkler/standpipe systems shall be supported by initial suppression units when responding to incidents at structures and/or facilities equipped with these systems, in accordance with the following procedures.
- B. In some occupancies where a fire pump is provided, the fire pump may be required to maintain pressures required during firefighting operations in the absence of fire apparatus support. If you are unsure if this is the case on any particular structure, support the system out of caution.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The **first arriving engine** shall address coverage of the fire department connection (FDC) supplying the sprinkler/standpipe system during their BIR based on the conditions encountered upon arrival and their familiarity with the structure and/or facility.
 - 1. The **1st arriving engine** will either;
 - a. Cover the FDC and lay to an appropriate hydrant (normally within 100') **or**
 - b. Direct the **2nd arriving engine** to cover the FDC and lay to an appropriate hydrant.
- B. The **2nd arriving engine** shall cover the FDC if directed to do so.
 - 1. If the **1st engine** is covering the FDC, then the **2nd engine** shall assist the **1st engine** at the hydrant while the crews of both engines accomplish their respective duties based on the applicable SOP or Incident Commander's (IC) direction.
- C. Sprinkler systems must be charged immediately if they are part of the standpipe system. Otherwise, they must be charged to the required pressure when:
 - 1. Smoke or fire is visible.
 - 2. The water flow alarm sounding; or
 - 3. The officer in charge directs it to be done.
 - 4. Drivers must advise **IC** via radio when systems are charged.
- D. All other units shall accomplish their respective duties based on the applicable SOP or ICs direction.
- E. IC shall assign a crew (at least 2 personnel) from one of the responding units to locate the sprinkler room and remain in radio contact with the IC to shut and/or open the sprinkler/standpipe system at commands direction.
- F. The engine supplying the FDC will support the sprinkler/standpipe system at the applicable pressure based on type of occupancy:

1. Commercial/Apartment sprinkler/standpipe system - **150psi (unless the pressure is noted on the FDC sign, in which case supply the system at that pressure)**
2. Residential sprinkler system - **100psi**

G. Whenever a sprinkler/standpipe system has activated due to proper function, a mechanical or electrical failure, or physical damage, the following actions shall be completed:

1. Document the performance or non-performance of the sprinkler/standpipe system in the fire report.
2. While on location, units will notify the State Fire Marshal's Office representative for the following instances:
 - a. Malfunction or non-performance of a sprinkler/standpipe system.
 - b. A sprinkler/standpipe system not being effective when activated.

H. Fire department members **shall not** replace activated sprinkler heads. However, fire department members should make all efforts to return as much of the sprinkler/standpipe system to service as possible. This may include isolating the activated floor or area via shut off valves or otherwise limiting the inoperable portion of the sprinkler/standpipe system.

- a. The building owners must be advised to contact a sprinkler company to have the system inspected and certified as back in service.

V. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding Standpipe & Sprinkler or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.

VI. RELATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES / DOCUMENTS

None

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None