



CODE CORNER

ABOUT CODE CORNER

CCFS would like to remind you to check with your local "Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)" for questions and opinions concerning your local Fire and Building Codes. The information contained in this article is supplied as a courtesy by the International Code Council (ICC) and is based on the International Fire and Building Codes and their respective commentaries. Your local codes or ordinances may vary.

Submitted by **Randall Hormann, Founding Editor**

IFC Chapter 14 FIRE SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

SECTION 1408

OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION

1408.1 Program superintendent. The owner shall designate a person to be the Fire Prevention Program Superintendent who shall be responsible for the fire prevention program and ensure that it is carried out through completion of the project. The fire prevention program superintendent shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter and other provisions as necessary to secure the intent of this chapter. Where guard service is provided, the superintendent shall be responsible for the guard service.

Each project must have a fire prevention program superintendent who is in charge of all fire safety efforts such as prefire planning, on-the-job training of personnel, guard service and the other areas covered in Sections 1408.1 through 1408.7. This person acts on behalf of the fire code official and can enforce the provisions of Chapter 14.

1408.2 Prefire plans. The fire prevention program superintendent shall develop and maintain an approved prefire plan in cooperation with the fire chief. The fire chief and the fire code official shall be notified of changes affecting the utilization of information contained in such prefire plans.

Prefire plans are developed by the fire prevention program superintendent to assist the site personnel responding to a fire. This plan must be coordinated with the local fire chief and the fire code official. Changes in building operations or equipment that could affect or change the fire department's ground attack of a fire must be reported to the fire department responder immediately. For example, if an additional 1,000-gallon (3785 L) propane tank is located alongside an existing tank, the responder needs to know about this situation.

1408.3 Training. Training of responsible personnel in the use of fire protection equipment shall be the responsibility of the fire prevention program superintendent.

The fire responder is expected to know what fire-fighting and fire protection equipment is on the site and how to operate it. The fire prevention program superintendent is responsible for training the job site personnel in the proper use of hand-held fire extinguishers, hose lines, fire alarms and sprinkler systems.

1408.4 Fire protection devices. The fire prevention program superintendent shall determine that all fire protection equipment is maintained and serviced in accordance with this code. The quantity and type of fire protection equipment shall be approved.

Fire protection and detection equipment must be maintained during construction and demolition. The fire prevention program superintendent must decide what is required to enforce maintenance as required by the code. Approval of the equipment and its maintenance is not, however, transferred to the fire prevention program superintendent, but remains with the fire code official.

>>> MORE - NEXT PAGE

1408.5 Hot work operations. The fire prevention program superintendent shall be responsible for supervising the permit system for hotwork operations in accordance with Chapter 26.

⌘ This issue is also discussed in the commentary to Section 1404.6. Chapter 26 contains an in-depth treatment of hot work, especially Section 2603.3, which deals with hot work permits. The fire prevention program superintendent issues the permits to coordinate a response if a fire should occur in the known hot work permit area.

1408.6 Impairment of fire protection systems. Impairments to any fire protection system shall be in accordance with Section 901.

⌘ Section 901.7 specifically deals with systems out of service because of planned, emergency or accidental impairment. During demolition, portions of the equipment must be kept in service as long as possible. Likewise, equipment on a construction site must keep pace with the new work and be kept in service as much as possible, especially at the end of the work day.

1408.7 Temporary covering of fire protection devices. Coverings placed on or over fire protection devices to protect them from damage during construction processes shall be immediately removed upon the completion of the construction processes in the room or area in which the devices are installed.

⌘ Fire protection devices must be kept in service as much as possible during construction. An example would be that paper or plastic bags must be removed from the sprinkler heads as soon as the painting of the sprinkler piping or the adjacent ceiling is completed. Additional information can be obtained from standards such as NFPA 13 and NFPA 72.

SECTION 1409

FIRE REPORTING

1409.1 Emergency telephone. Readily accessible emergency telephone facilities shall be provided in an approved location at the construction site. The street address of the construction site and the emergency telephone number of the fire department shall be posted adjacent to the telephone.

⌘ The construction site must have an emergency phone located in an approved location. Workers on the site

are not expected to know the street address of the site or the fire department emergency number if it is a number other than 911. Therefore, the site address and fire department emergency number must be prominently posted. Typical customized signs are available from safety equipment suppliers or sign companies.

SECTION 1410

ACCESS FOR FIRE FIGHTING

1410.1 Required access. Approved vehicle access for fire fighting shall be provided to all construction or demolition sites. Vehicle access shall be provided to within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of temporary or permanent fire department connections. Vehicle access shall be provided by either temporary or permanent roads, capable of supporting vehicle loading under all weather conditions. Vehicle access shall be maintained until permanent fire apparatus access roads are available.

⌘ Fire-fighting vehicle access is the means by which fire fighters gain access to the construction or demolition site and building for fire suppression and rescue operations until the permanent fire apparatus access roads are constructed. Such access is an integral component of the fire prevention program. The site superintendent or other person responsible for construction and demolition operations is responsible for maintaining and policing fire-fighter access routes, as provided in Section 1408. Fire apparatus must be able to get within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of any installed fire department connection supplying water to temporary or permanent fire protection systems over roads that will support the weight of the heaviest vehicle that might respond. The weight requirements are available from the local fire department. All-weather surfaces are required because the responding fire department should not waste time moving snow or trying to get out of mud (see also commentary, Section 503).

1410.2 Key boxes. Key boxes shall be provided as required by Chapter 5.

⌘ As construction nears completion; some areas may not be accessible to the fire department without the use of a key. In those cases, the fire code official may require a key box as stipulated in Section 506.