

INTRODUCED: September 14, 2015

AN ORDINANCE No. 2015-205

As Amended

To amend ch. [~~46.1~~] 13, art. V, div. 3 of the City Code[~~5~~] by adding therein a new section [~~46.1-64~~] 13-201, concerning maximum standpipe outlet pressure, for the purpose of regulating the maximum outlet pressure for firefighting standpipe systems.

Patron – Mayor Jones

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: NOV 9 2015 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Chapter [~~46.1~~] 13, Article V, Division 3 of the Code of the City of Richmond [~~(2004)~~] (2015) be and is hereby amended and reordained by **adding therein a new** section [~~46.1-64~~] 13-201, as follows:

Sec. [~~46.1-64~~] 13-201. Maximum standpipe outlet pressure.

The owner, manager or person in control of a building, structure or premise equipped with adjustable pressure reducing valves on a firefighting standpipe system, shall set the maximum outlet pressure for no more than 125 PSI residual pressure during full flow. Each standpipe outlet valve shall be tested at least every five years to ensure that the maximum flow discharge pressure does not exceed 125 PSI during full flow. Test records shall be provided to

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:

ADOPTED: JAN 11 2016 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

the fire code official. [~~Standpipe~~] Non-adjustable standpipe discharge valves with outputs over 150 PSI shall have permanent signs reading expected pressure. Pressure reducing valves installed after July 1, 2015, shall be set with maximum 125 PSI residual pressure during full flow.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.



CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

4-3929
AUG 6 2015

O&R REQUEST

DATE: EDITION: 3

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: Dwight C. Jones, Mayor

THROUGH: Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Robert Creecy, Fire Chief

RE: Maximum pressure from firefighting standpipe outlets

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2015
OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

ORD. OR RES. No.

PURPOSE: Regulates maximum water pressure on firefighting hose connections from standpipe system.

REASON: Higher water pressure makes hose harder for firefighters to maneuver, and excessive discharge pressure subjects firefighters to injurious reaction forces.

RECOMMENDATION: Add Section 46.1-64 to the City Code

Maximum standpipe outlet pressure: Where adjustable pressure reducing valves are used on a firefighting standpipe system, the maximum outlet pressure shall be set for no more than 125 Pounds per Square Inch (PSI) residual pressure during full flow. Each standpipe outlet valve shall be tested at least every 5 years to assure maximum flow discharge pressure does not exceed 125 PSI during full flow. Test records shall be provided to the fire official.

Standpipe discharge valves with outputs over 150 PSI shall have permanent signs reading expected pressure. Pressure reducing valves installed after July 1, 2015 shall be set with maximum 125 PSI residual pressure during full flow.

BACKGROUND: Most firefighting hose nozzles are designed for best performance using 50 to 100 pounds of water pressure, depending on nozzle type. Buildings far above seven floors high use water pressures which may exceed 175 PSI in standpipes used for firefighting, so systems have pressure reducing valves. Higher water pressure makes hose harder for firefighters to ma-

never, and excessive discharge pressure subjects firefighters handling hose to injurious reaction forces. Code currently requires pressure reducing valves where excessive pressure occurs, periodic inspections, tests, and maintenance. State code allows local fire code to improve safety, such as settings on adjustable pressure reducing valves.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: Minimal labor to adjust setting on pressure reducing valves in some high-rise buildings. Goal towards managing healthcare cost via reducing risk of firefighter injury from excessive hose pressures.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal labor to adjust setting on pressure reducing valves in some high-rise buildings. Goal towards managing healthcare cost via reducing risk of firefighter injury from excessive hose pressures

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: None

REVENUE TO CITY: None

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: September 14, 2015

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: September 28, 2015

REQUESTED AGENDA:

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Safety

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: City mechanical officials issue permits for installing or modifying fire protection systems. When approving plans and inspecting installations of new standpipe systems which involve pressure reducing valves, city mechanical officials should verify pressure reducing valve set at pressure approved by fire official.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: Applies city code to promote safety.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): Enables fire officials to better manage firefighting risk in high-rise buildings.

ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF: