U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Class I and III Standpipe Hose Station Locations

Learning objective: *The student shall be able to identify one location where standpipe hose station outlets are required.*

Standpipe systems are installed in buildings to help firefighting personnel deploy attack hoselines quickly and with adequate water pressure and volume to suppress a fire.

The picture below illustrates one location where standpipe hose station outlets are required: both sides of the exit doors through a horizontal exit.

A "horizontal exit" is a path of egress from one portion of a building to another, usually on the same floor level, that divides that floor area with a fire resistive barrier. The horizontal exit must have a minimum 2-hour fire resistance rating, and the openings in it must be rated at least 1-1/2-hours.

By code, this arrangement creates "separate buildings" so a person leaving one side of the horizontal exit essentially has gone into a separate building, even though it may be within the perimeter walls of the same structure. The horizontal exit concept was developed in the years before automatic sprinkler systems were required in highrise buildings as a way to provide an additional level of life safety and meet egress requirements.

Providing standpipe hose outlets on both sides of the horizontal exit gives firefighters a refuge while fighting a fire on the opposite side of the fire barrier.

For more information, refer to the *International Fire Code®* or NFPA 14, *Standard for the Installation of Private Standpipe, Hydrant, and Hose Systems*.