

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Warning: Hot Coffee!

Hot Topic: Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems

Learning objective: The student shall be able to obtain a copy of OSHA's latest fire protection booklet.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the United States Department of Labor has just published an excellent and easy-to-read fire services reference document for property owners and managers.

Entitled "Fire Service Features of Buildings and Fire Protection Systems," the manual is intended to increase building occupants' and emergency responders' safety by streamlining fire service interaction with building features and fire protection systems.

The information in this manual will assist building and fire protection systems designers to understand better the needs of the fire service when called upon to operate in or near the built environment.

A quote from the manual's opening page helps explain: "To put this another way, architects and engineers create workplaces for firefighters. Designs can be tailored to better meet operational needs, thereby reducing the time it takes to mitigate an incident.

"The guidance in this manual is expected to decrease the injuries to responding and operating fire service personnel. When an incident can be mitigated faster, there is less time for the hazardous situation to grow in proportion. With less potential exposure, employees occupying buildings will be afforded greater protection from fire incidents. Employee occupants as well as fire service employees will realize the benefits of this manual in terms of safe working conditions as intended by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970."

The book includes many pictures and drawings illustrating fire service features in the built environment.

Technical peer review was provided by representatives of the Nation's leading fire service organizations.

The 72-page booklet can be downloaded from the OSHA publications Web site at <http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/pubindex.list>. Click on the link for the Publication ID Number 3256 "Fire Service Features."

