TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 5
665 W. FM 1626, Austin, TX 78748
TEL: 512-640-8273
crr@tcesd5.org

NATHAN MENDENHALL
Fire Code Official / Risk Reduction Officer

TO: Travis County ESD 5 Customers

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION BULLETIN 006**
Fire Department Connections

DATE: January 1, 2026

CREATED BY: Travis County ESD 5 Fire Code Official

Purpose:

The Fire Code Official for Travis County ESD 5 (TCESD5) has created this Information Bulletin to assist applicants regarding required submittal details for Fire Department Connections (FDCs). Please review IB 001 – Plan Submittal Requirements and Third Party Plan Review, before submitting your plans and application electronically at www.tcesd5permits.com

Code References:

2021 Fire Code of Travis County Emergency Services District 5 / Manchaca Fire Rescue, published by the ICC (Section 912.1 through 912.8); Travis County ESD 5 Ordinances 2025-08-14-01; 2025-08-14-02; 2025-09-11-01

Scope:

Fire Department Connections (FDCs) are essential elements of a building's fire protection system(s). If required and/or provided, they are required to be included on the fire protection site plan page(s) in the submitted plan set (reference 501.3.2). FDCs shall comply with Section 912 of the adopted fire code of Travis County ESD 5, published by the ICC, based on the 2021 International Fire Code.

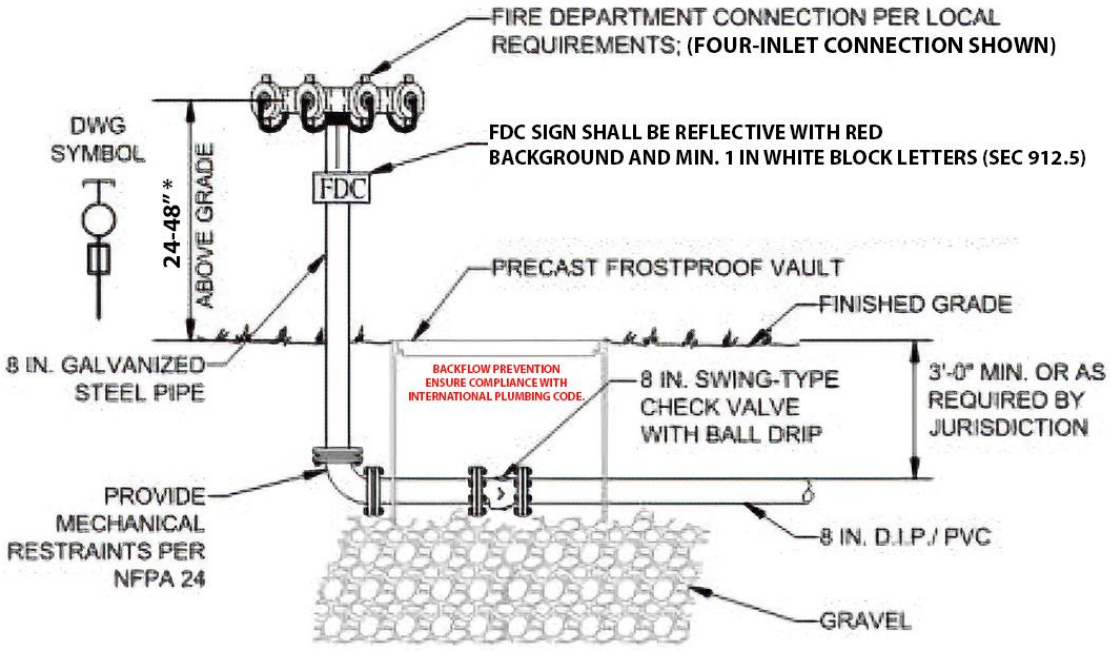
FDCs shall comply with the following, summarized from Section 912 of the adopted fire code of TCESD5:

- The FDC(s) shall be located so that when in use, the fire apparatus and hose connections to the FDC and to the supply hydrant will not obstruct access to the building for other fire apparatus. [IFC 912.2].

- FDC(s) shall be **REMOTELY located** on the street side of the building or facing approved apparatus access roads. (It is preferred that the remote FDC be located at a distance away from the building of at least 1.5x the building height, and the preferred location is one of the corners of the building.) [IFC 912.2.1].
- The FDC(s) shall be within 100 feet of a fire hydrant and installed on the same side of the fire apparatus access road as the fire hydrant, as required locally. [IFC 912.8(2)].
- FDC(s) shall be installed at a height between 24 and 48 inches above grade for standard inlets and a minimum of 30 inches at the lowest point above finished grade and a maximum of 48 inches for a five-inch "Storz" inlet. [IFC 912.8(3)].
- The FDC(s) shall be fully visible and recognizable from the street or nearest point of the fire department vehicle access or as otherwise approved [IFC 912.2.1].
- Where the FDC(s) is/are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, bollards or other vehicle impact protection must be provided in accordance with IFC 312. [IFC 912.4.3].
- The FDC(s) shall be provided with Knox Locking Caps as required locally. [IFC 912.4.1].
- A clear working space of not less than 36 inches in diameter and 78 inches in height shall be provided and maintained around all FDCs. [912.4.2].
- Backflow protection compliant with the International Plumbing Code is required on FDCs. [912.6].
- FDCs shall be installed a minimum of 24 inches and a maximum of 96 inches from the gutter face of the curb of a fire apparatus access road. [912.8(1)].
- The five-inch "Storz" inlet, when provided, shall be installed at a 30-degree angle pointing down.
- System demand of 500 GPM more or less: Minimum pipe size of 4 inches, two-inlet (2 ½ inch) or one "Storz" connection required.
- System demand of 501 to 750 GPM: Minimum pipe size of 6 inches, three-inlet (2 ½ inch) or one "Storz" connection required.
- System demand greater than 750 GPM: Minimum pipe size of 8 inches, four-inlet (2 ½ inch) connection required.

Refer to Section 912 of the adopted fire code for the complete list of requirements.

- Installation of remote FDC shall follow the schematic below:



Summary:

This Information Bulletin is for informational purposes only.

Prepared by: Nathan Mendenhall, Risk Reduction Officer/TCESD 5 Fire Code Official