

4.24 Fire Department Connections (FDC) Requirements (2025)

Reference: 2025 NFPA 13 Section 8.7.2.3; 2024 NFPA 14 Sections 7.9 and 9.9.5.4

Purpose: The San Francisco Fire Department shall require more than one FDC for buildings when any of the following conditions exist:

1. The building fronts on more than one public way and at each frontage street within 100 feet distance from the fire hydrant.
2. The building has a significant floor area where firefighter response to the location of the fire may be delayed.
3. All street frontages will require a fire department connection.
4. When the adjacent streets or public way characteristics may hinder firefighting operations.
5. When determined necessary by the Fire Department.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **3" Hose Threads.** Fire department connections (FDC) shall have 3-inch National Standard hose threads. (2025 SFFC Section 905.2.1)
2. **Location Approved by SFFD.** FDC location(s) shall be approved by the Fire Department.
3. **Exterior of Wall Facing Street.** All FDC's must be located at the exterior of the building wall with the connections facing the street within the property line of the building.
4. **Alcove/Landscaping/Concrete Path.** FDC's shall not be located within an alcove or near landscaping features (or other obstructions). A concrete unobstructed access path at least 4-feet wide to the FDC shall be provided or the FDC connections must be located at the property line.

The requirement for the Fire Department Connection may be removed where it is determined to be unnecessary by the Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention.

***For more information, see SFFD 2025 Administrative Bulletins 4.05 & 4.06.