

FREDERICK COUNTY OFFICE OF LIFE SAFETY

FREDERICK COUNTY DIVISION OF
PLANNING AND PERMITTING

OFFICE OF LIFE SAFETY
30 NORTH MARKET STREET
FREDERICK, MD. 21701

301-600-2313 OFFICE
301-600-2309 FAX



SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

This informational handout has been developed to assist you with the specifications and installation of the required signage for your facility.

Why Post Signs:

In an emergency, time is critical. Time spent by Fire and Rescue personnel attempting to locate building services, sprinkler system connections, standpipe connections, and access passages could mean the difference between a loss of life and extensive property damage. Another critical element for Fire and Rescue services is access. Identification of designated fire lanes via the painting of curbs and the installation of signage ensures that Fire and Rescue apparatus can adequately make access to an emergency. The Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services have developed a standard for signage to identify building services, fire suppression systems, access passages, and fire lanes.

Sign Specifications:

1. The sign plate shall have a minimum measurement of 12" X 12" and shall have a thickness of at least .080 aluminum with 1-½" radius corners.
2. The sign face shall have a red reflective background with white lettering using a Handel Gothic BT font.
3. The lettering shall be a minimum of 1-½ inch high using .344 strokes (between 5/16" and 3/8" width.) FDC signs shall use 3-inch letters. This is the only exception. See FDC Supplement for complete details.

Mounting Specifications:

FDC, FDC Standpipe, and Fire Dept. Standpipe signs shall be mounted on the exterior of the building over the connection at exactly seven feet from finished grade. Building services signs shall be mounted on the entry door or access point no higher than 6 feet. "No Parking" signs shall be installed to DOT or local Highway Department standards, which are usually at 75-foot intervals. Interior building services signs are permitted to be aesthetically coordinated. However, interior signage shall use the standard verbiage and shall be on a contrasting background.

Examples of Standard Signs:

These are examples of the most common signs. Your facility may require custom signs to identify specific hazardous associated with your facility. An Office of Life Safety Inspector will provide guidance with any facility specific signage requirements.

ELEVATOR
MACHINE
ROOM

FIRE DEPT.
SPRINKLER
VALVE RM.

ROOF
ACCESS

FIRE PUMP
ROOM

MAIN
ELECTRICAL
ROOM

F.A.C.P.

HVAC
ACCESS

ROOF
ACCESS

FIRE
LANE
NO
PARKING
BY ORDER
OF THE FIRE
MARSHAL



FDC Signage Requirements:

The FDC sign indicates that the building is protected by a sprinkler system. The FDC sign is the first sign that Fire and Rescue personnel will be looking for as they approach the building. The FDC sign is often read as Fire and Rescue personnel are approaching the building and therefore needs to be in larger letters than other signs that may be posted on or about the building.

Not only do FDC signs indicate that the building is protected by a sprinkler system it may also indicate partial protection of a building or a designated zone within a building or complex that a sprinkler system protects. To ensure that Fire and Rescue personnel can readily read the FDC sign along with any specific instructions the minimum requirements for lettering have been modified. The header of the sign "F.D.C." shall be in a minimum of 3-inch letters at a width of ½-inch. The secondary information shall be in a minimum of 2-½ inch letters at a width of 7/16 inch. The sign plate shall measure 12" X 12" with 1-½ inch radius corners.

F.D.C.
NEW
ADDITION

F.D.C.
A and B
Wings