



Yakima County Fire Marshal's Office
Public Information Handout FP-14
Fire Department Connections and Post
Indicator Valves



International Fire Code Chapter 9

The International Fire Code (IFC) and NFPA—24 regulate the installation of Fire Service Features such as Fire Department Connections (FDC) and control valves such as Post-Indicator Valves (PIV).

In an emergency, it's important for the fire department and emergency responders to be able to quickly locate and access fire protection equipment such as FDC.

The FDC is a hose connection attached to a stand-alone pipe or piping attached to a building where the fire department supplies water to the fire protection standpipe and/or sprinkler system.

They are also required to be kept accessible and clear of obstruction for 3 feet all around the FDC. The caps for the hose connection ports must be in place or replaced when missing to prevent trash or foreign material from obstructing the pipe. If caps are found to be missing, an inspection for any obstructions may be required. Locking caps may also be required.



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FDCs may be marked with the building address or approved description. The address characters are to be white reflective numbers at least three inches in height, affixed to the upright portion of the FDC piping.



FDCs come in a variety of types and configurations. They are required to be visible from the street or fire access roadway.



As a general rule, fire protection equipment including FDCs are painted red.

A sign may include the following information:

1. All words in letters at least one inch in height.
2. Type of system (s) being served:
 - Auto-Sprinklers
 - Standpipes
 - Fire Pump Connections
 - A combination thereof

**COMBINATION AUTO-
SPKR / STANDPIPE**

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PIV and WPIV are key components of a fire suppression system. These valves provide a means to control and/or isolate fire sprinkler systems and to add to the intake of water in the event of a fire. They can be found attached to a building (WPIV) or freestanding (PIV).

They must provide a means to readily identify the position of the valve (open or shut).
Yard

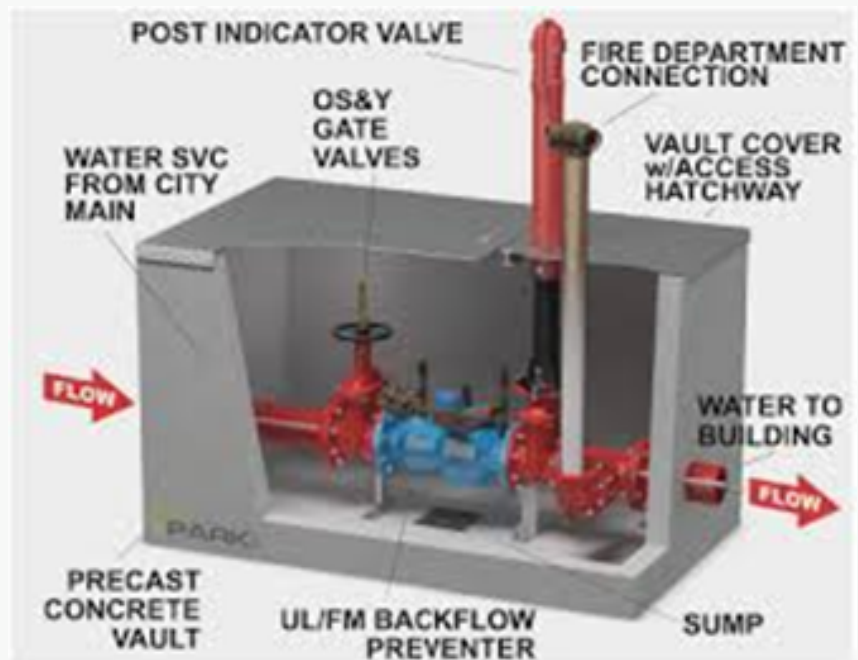
PIVs may sometimes be co-located with other PIVs. When this occurs, they may be required to be identified by the corresponding building's address.

Yard PIVs are required unless there are physical limitations to the site.



These components **MUST** be installed in accordance with local codes and requirements.

They also must be maintained. Serviced and repainted as needed or required.



If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Yakima County Building and Fire Safety at (509) 574-2300.