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**Editor-Kenneth E. Isman, P.E.**  
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**April**

### Major Changes in the 2013 Edition of NFPA 14

In this issue of e-TechNotes we will discuss what is new in the 2013 edition of NFPA 14. This summary will explain the changes that are most important in the opinion of the editor. This will not be a list of every change to the standard, but is intended to help everyone understand the big issues. NFPA 14 was processed on a revision cycle 6 months behind NFPA 13, but since nobody filed any intent to make a motion to revise the committee's decisions, the NFPA allows the document to skip the step of reporting to the NFPA membership and the document was sent straight to the Standards Council, who issued the standard at their next meeting. The 2013 edition of NFPA 14 is now available from the NFPA and the following items were changed:

**3.3.7.2 (Definition of Express Main)** - An Express Main was defined as a type of feed main, which clarifies the installation and protection requirements for the pipe.

**4.7.5 (Clearance Around Hose Connection)** - A minimum clearance of 3 inches is required around the hose connection and valve so that a firefighter with a gloved hand can connect hose and open the valve.

**5.2.1.4.2.2 (Single Compressor and Multiple Systems)** - An annex note was inserted to clarify that a single compressor can serve multiple standpipe systems as long as the 30-minute fill-time requirement for the largest single system can be met.

**6.1.2.2.1 (Protection of Horizontal Standpipes)** - Horizontal Standpipes were added to the list of pipes that are not required to be specifically protected from fire in buildings that are fully sprinklered. The fire sprinkler systems in these buildings effectively protect the pipe from fire.

**6.1.3 (Pitch of Pipe in Dry Systems)** - A new requirement was inserted to pitch all piping in dry-pipe systems (automatic-dry, manual-dry, and semi-automatic-dry systems). The pitch is required to be at least ¼ inch per 10 ft except in refrigerated areas where the pitch is required to be at least ½ inch per 10 ft.

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**6.4.2 (Check Valves on Manual Dry Systems)** - A change was made to clarify that check valves are required on fire department connections for manual-dry systems. Many people try to leave check valves out of these connections, but that is a terrible mistake that makes it difficult for firefighters to disconnect hose after using the manual-dry system.

**7.2.4 (Master Pressure Reducing Valve Assembly)** - The committee clarified and long-standing position that wherever a pressure reducing device has more than 2 hose connections downstream, it needs to be a special Master Pressure Reducing Valve Assembly with built-in automatic redundancy. This rule applies whether or not the situation is substituting for a fire pump in a low zone.

**7.3.2.2.1 (Measurement of Travel Distance)** - Many of the requirements in NFPA 14 regarding the location of hose connections have to do with measuring the travel distance from some point in the building back to the hose connection. But since the committee has used the term "travel distance" there has been a debate as to whether the measurement stops at the exit door or continues to the hose connection in the stairwell. Even though the committee used the term "travel distance", they intend for the measurement to continue all the way into the stairwell so to the hose connection so that it adequately represents the amount of hose the firefighters will need to carry to reach a fire anywhere in the building.

**7.3.2.2.1 (Travel Distance on Roof)** - The travel distance requirements do not apply to roof outlets. A single outlet on the roof is sufficient to meet the requirements to have a hose connection on the roof.

**7.3.2.3 (Horizontal Exits)** - Previous editions of NFPA 14 required outlets on both sides of horizontal exits. This edition will say that an outlet on one side of a horizontal exit can be omitted if another outlet on that side of the horizontal exit can cover all of the area on the other side of the horizontal exit that the omitted outlet would have covered.

**7.5.3 (Interconnection of Risers and Check Valves)** - The installation of check valves at the base of each riser is only necessary where the risers are interconnected at both the top and the bottom.

**7.10.1.1.6 (Lateral Runs to Outlets)** - Where a lateral run to an outlet on each floor replaces a vertical riser, the situation needs to be treated as an additional standpipe rather than a horizontal standpipe.

**7.10.1.3.1.1 (NFPA 13R Systems and Water Supplies)** - Where a standpipe system is installed in a building with an NFPA 13 R system, the water supply only needs to meet the standpipe demand. The sprinkler system demand is not required to be added to the standpipe demand.

**7.11.2.2 (Main Drain)** - the lowest hose connection on a system is permitted to serve as a main drain.

**8.1.2 (Working Plans)** - A section was added that requires working plans to be submitted to the AHJ with 21 items that need to be included on the plans.

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#### Upcoming In-Class Training

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Storage Protection

May 3 Menomonee Falls, WI  
Understanding, Applying  
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May 14 Meridian, ID  
NFPA 13 Update 2013

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