

FDC & Valve Signage

2025 California Fire Code §§509 and 912.2.2, 912.5-912.5.4

Purpose. This handout summarizes identification and signage requirements for fire department connections (FDCs), system valves and related fire-protection equipment.

1. FDC Identification

Every FDC serving an automatic sprinkler, standpipe or fire-pump connection requires durable identification. The sign communicates the type of system being supplied and, where necessary, the building, zone or portion of the building served.

Code reference: 2025 CFC §912.5

Sign condition	Minimum identification
Standard FDC system sign	Metal sign with raised letters at least 1 inch high
Hidden FDC on an existing building	Street-front/side sign with "FDC" letters at least 6 inches high and words at least 2 inches high, or an approved directional arrow
FDC serving only part of a building / one of multiple buildings	Sign identifies the specific building or portion served
Multiple/combined systems	Sign identifies the system(s) served
Standpipe requiring demand-pressure marking	Required pressure displayed as applicable

2. Required System Wording

- The system sign must identify the connection as applicable, such as AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS, STANDPIPES, TEST CONNECTION or an appropriate combination.
- Manual standpipe systems require identification of the manual system and whether it is wet or dry as required by the CFC.
- Where a connection serves a specific zone, building, tenant area or only a portion of a building, the sign must state what is served.
- Where a standpipe FDC requires a system demand pressure greater than the threshold addressed by the CFC, the required inlet pressure must be indicated.

Code reference: 2025 CFC §§912.5-912.5.4

3. Visibility and Directional Signs

- FDCs must be visible and recognizable from the street, approved fire apparatus access road or nearest fire department vehicle-access point.
- On an existing building where the FDC is not visible to approaching apparatus, install the approved directional identification described in CFC §912.2.2.
- Landscaping, fences, parked vehicles, storage and architectural features must not conceal the FDC or required sign.

Code reference: 2025 CFC §§912.2.1-912.2.2 and 912.4

4. Valve and Fire Protection Equipment Identification

- Fire-protection equipment must be identified in an approved manner.
- Rooms containing fire-protection controls must be identified for fire department use.
- When required by the fire code official, gas shutoffs, electric meters, service switches and other utilities must be marked to identify the unit or space served.
- PIVs, sprinkler control valves, backflow assemblies and other fire-service-main components should be identified as required by the approved plans, CFC and referenced NFPA standards.

Code reference: 2025 CFC §509; NFPA 13/NFPA 24 as applicable

5. Sign Construction and Placement

- Use durable, permanently installed signs capable of remaining legible in the installed environment.
- Mount signs where they can be seen without opening a cabinet, moving stored material or entering a locked area unless the approved design specifically provides otherwise.
- Do not use handwritten temporary labels as permanent system identification.
- Coordinate sign text with approved drawings so valve and FDC identification matches the system designation used on the plans.

6. Final Inspection Checklist

- FDC system type clearly identified.
- Raised-letter metal FDC sign installed where required.
- Hidden-existing-building directional sign meets 6-inch/2-inch lettering requirements.
- Building/zone/portion served is identified where applicable.
- Required standpipe system type and pressure information shown.
- PIV and other valves are accessible and identified.
- Equipment-room and utility identification installed where required.
- No landscaping, fencing or parking obstructs signs or equipment.

Primary References

- 2025 California Fire Code §509 - Fire Protection and Utility Equipment Identification and Access
- 2025 California Fire Code §§912.2.1-912.2.2 and §§912.4-912.5.4
- NFPA 13, NFPA 14 and NFPA 24, adopted editions, as applicable

This handout is an informational summary. It does not replace the adopted code, approved plans, permit conditions, State licensing requirements, or determinations of the fire code official. Project-specific requirements may vary.