

**CUSTOMER
TRAINING
SERIES**

Fire Department Connection



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**POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Fire protection system water is considered an elicit discharge
- Discharge of fire protection system water is regulated by CDPHE
- Permits are required for some type of water discharge into storm water systems

Fire System Water Discharge

Learning Objective: To identify what fire protection system water discharges require a hydrostatic discharge permit

Fire protection contractors frequently need to discharge water in the course of their normal duties. This water discharge could be from flushing underground mains, to conducting fire hydrant flow test, or through inspector test or main drain discharges. This common occurrence, as simple as it may seem, could cause the contractor to be in violation of water quality standards and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

There has been a lot of recent attention given to EPA regulations at both the state and local level in terms of fire protection system water discharge. As fire sprinkler contractors it is important to have a good grasp on these rules in order to avoid possible fines for failure to comply.

There are two basic types of water discharges that you need to be aware of that are regulated through the Colorado Department of Health & Environment. (CDPHE)



Low Risk Discharges include fire hydrant flushing/testing and underground fire main flushes. Basically anything where clean water is being discharged directly from a potable water supply. Low Risk Discharges shall not cause erosion, contain solid material or cause floating debris into the storm drain system, or contain high levels of residual chlorine. Low risk discharges are generally covered under a municipal MS4 permit for discharges into a storm water system.

Discharges that require a Hydrostatic Discharge Permit are any discharges that contain contami-

Example of discharge that would require Hydrostatic Discharge Permit

nants, or are generally from the system side of a backflow prevention device, such as a main drain discharge. These discharges are of particular importance to the fire protection contractor as they require specific permits from CDPHE. For more information on the discharge permits visit: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/MS4newpage.html>

**For Information
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