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Civil Engineering

**FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS
DURING CONTRACT PERFORMANCE
AND CIVIL ENGINEER
IN HOUSE WORK PERFORMANCE**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction establishes fire prevention standards for agencies and personnel that accomplish service contracts and construction type projects on McChord AFB. These standards will become part of applicable contract specifications for work to be performed whether funded by military construction programs, operation and maintenance, or non-appropriated funds. The National Fire Code Standard 241, Safeguarding Building Construction and Demolition Operation, will be used for the prevention of fire by all construction contractors. For the purpose of this regulation, the word “contractor” will be construed to include Civil Engineering in-house work forces, and “fire protection systems,” mean both alarms and suppression systems and components.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

Include paragraph **3**, “Fire Protection Systems”. Modify paragraph **5**, the second sentence to read “Reduced pressure back flow protection with support and a 2-½ inch ball valve will be used when connecting to a fire hydrant.” Include Paragraph **7**, “Reporting a Fire”. Include paragraph **8**, “Open Flame Equipment”. A bar (|) indicates a change since the last edition.

1. Construction Fire Protection. Fires can be prevented and controlled. Danger from fire is usually greater during construction than after completion. Serious fires can occur due to accumulation of combustible materials or debris and the presence of ignition sources. Basic safeguards against construction fire hazards must be provided during project planning. This regulation provides measures, which, with some pre-planning, will help prevent fires and minimize damage if fire occurs.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1. The Base Fire Chief or technical services representative will attend pre-performance conferences to brief contractors on pertinent fire regulations and to provide guidance for fire-safe operation during

contract performance. Fire Prevention guidance appropriate for each contract type will be furnished to the contractor for briefing contract personnel and subcontractors.

2.2. It is the contractor's responsibility to brief all of their employees, including subcontractors, about fire prevention safety and emergency reporting.

2.3. The contractor, or individual appointed by the contractor, will be in charge of fire prevention. The construction management representative will be the liaison between the contractor and the Base Fire Department.

3. Fire Protection Systems. When a contractor is to perform work on a facility that has an installed fire protection system and this work involves the fire protection system in whole or in part, the contractor is required to maintain and service the fire protection system until the project is completed and the facility is accepted by the base. The fire protection system will be operational at all times, to include nights, weekends, and holidays. The contractor must provide the Base Fire Department with a 24-hour telephone number for emergencies that may occur with the system. When the contractor has completed the project, an acceptance for the proper operation of the system is required. When confirmed by Civil Engineering that the system operates properly, the appropriate Civil Engineering shop will accept responsibility for maintenance of the system. Any time a contractor is working on or around fire protection systems they **MUST** contact fire dispatch 982-2603 before and after the work is complete. If they require the system to be shut-down, coordination with CE utilities shop needs to be done at least 24-hours in advance.

4. Construction Management. The Base Fire Department Communications Center, (253) 982-2603, must be notified any time work or testing is being accomplished on a fire protection system. The notification will be within 5 minutes before the work is to be accomplished and after the work or test has been completed.

5. Water Mains and Fire Hydrants. Temporary connection to a water main or fire hydrant by a contractor will be coordinated with the Base Fire Department (253) 982-2603 and Utilities Shop (253) 982-2482 to ensure availability of water supply for fire protection is not jeopardized. Reduced pressure back flow protection with support and a 2-½ inch ball valve will be used when connecting to a fire hydrant. This will protect the base water supply from contamination and make use of the fire hydrant by the fire department easier in an emergency. 5-inch caps for the stortz connection are available from construction management. Use proper fitting hydrant wrench and spanner wrenches on fire hydrant and connections. Do not use a pipe wrench to operate fire hydrants. Ensure fire hydrants are fully open or fully closed; damage will result from leaving a hydrant partially open.

6. Fire Safety. Service contractors and their employees will follow fire safety provisions as outlined in 62 AWI 32-17, Base Fire Prevention Program, Air Force Occupational Safety and Health Standards, and the National Fire Codes. If there is a fire in the building, pull the nearest fire alarm and initiate evacuation. Call 911. ALL fires must be reported even if extinguished.

7. Reporting a Fire. When reporting a fire emergency dial 911 from the nearest phone. If you are calling from a base phone the call will be answered at the base fire department. If the call is placed from any other phone including cellular phones, ensure the 911 operator knows you are on McChord AFB and the call will be forwarded to the Base Fire Department. Once you reach the Base Fire Department give location (building number of job site), nature of emergency and a callback phone number and your name. If the fire

is inside a facility, activate the fire alarm to initiate evacuation. All fires must be reported, even if extinguished.

8. Open Flame Equipment. If welding, cutting, brazing, or open-flame soldering is required, the Base Fire Department will issue an AF Form 592, USAF Welding, Cutting, and Brazing Permit. All work will be accomplished in accordance with the provisions contained in National Fire Codes, OSHA and AFOSH guidelines. If any special precautions are required, they will be addressed at the time the permit is issued. Base personnel conducting hot work on McChord AFB should attend the annual hot work training class given at the base fire department and obtain a Certificate of Competency card for hot work on the installation. Contact 62 CES/CEFP (253) 982-9017 or (253) 982-2603.

9. Forms Adopted. AF Form 592, USAF Welding, Cutting, and Brazing Permit.

ROBERT R. ALLARDICE, Colonel, USAF
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Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 32-2001, *The Fire Protection Operations and Fire Prevention Program*, 1 April 1999

62 AWI 32-17, *Base Fire Prevention Program*, 5 August 2002

Terms

Stortz—A type of fire hose coupling that requires only a ¼ turn to connect to a hydrant. All hydrants on McChord AFB are fitted with Stortz Couplings.