



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Development Services and San Antonio Fire Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: San Antonio Fire Department and Development Services Department Associates

From: Roderick J. Sanchez, Director and Code Official
Earl Crayton, II, Fire Marshal

Date: January 30, 2013

FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2012-009

TITLE: Plumbing and Fire Service Requirements for Combination Water Mains

CODE EDITION: 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio (COSA)
2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC) as adopted and amended by COSA
2012 San Antonio City Code, Chapter 10, Building-Related Codes as adopted and amended by COSA

SECTION: IFC Chapter 9; IPC Chapter 6, San Antonio City Code, Chapter 10, Section 10-6(j)

PURPOSE: To clarify the permitting requirements for plumbing and fire service combination water mains.

QUESTION 1: If I am a licensed fire line contractor installing a combination fire/domestic line (e.g., an apartment complex), do I need both a plumbing permit from the Development Services Department (DSD) and an underground fire line permit from the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD)?

ANSWER 1: Yes. As a combination fire/domestic line, the work shall also be inspected by both an SAFD Fire Inspector and a DSD Plumbing Inspector. The line shall comply with the applicable sections of the IPC, including COSA amendments and the IFC with its referenced standards, including COSA amendments.

QUESTION 2: Am I required to pull a plumbing permit for the installation of a Fire backflow prevention (BFP) device (e.g., an Apartment Complex with a combination fire/domestic line)?

ANSWER 2: Yes, if the BFP device is on a combination fire/domestic line, a plumbing permit is required. As a combination fire/domestic line, the work shall be inspected by both an SAFD Fire Inspector and a DSD Plumbing Inspector.

QUESTION 3: Am I required to have a plumbing license to pull a plumbing permit for a Fire BFP device on the fire side of a combination fire/domestic line (continuation from Question 2)?

ANSWER 3: No. San Antonio City Code, Chapter 10, Section 10-6(j)(5) allows licensed fire line contractors to pull a plumbing permit for the installation of a Fire BFP device on the fire side of a combination fire/domestic line.

QUESTION 4: Am I required to pull a plumbing permit for the installation of a BFP device on a dedicated fire main?

ANSWER 4: No. If the BFP device is on a dedicated fire main with fire hydrants or servicing a sprinkler system in a commercial building, the required permit is an underground permit from SAFD. No DSD plumbing permit of any kind is required. The water purveyor will inspect the BFP device.



Roderick Sanchez, AICP, CBO
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Development Services Department



Asst. Chief Earl Crayton, II
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