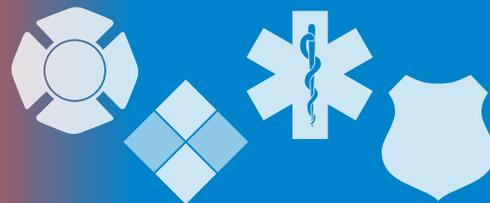


The InfoGram



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Preventing damage to fire department connections

Damage and vandalism to fire department connections (FDC) happens all the time. Passersby shove trash in the FDC opening, building owners block them or thieves steal parts for the metal. All these things can cause significant damage or make the connection inoperable.

This issue may be more prevalent during protests. While most protesters are not out to cause property damage, some are. It is important to be aware and inspect FDC more often if you are seeing protests in your jurisdiction.

Properly working sprinkler systems and FDCs help save lives and property. The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) has several codes and standards covering FDC maintenance. Both NFPA 13E and 25 cover these topics in detail although many others mention it as well.

Departments should regularly do the following:

- Periodically ensure FDCs are operational and free from debris.
- Plan for an alternate source of water in case a FDC is inoperable.
- Ensure any damaged or missing components are promptly fixed or replaced.

Humans are not the only cause of damage to systems. Corrosion, rust, ice and animals can all render a FDC inoperable. Fire and life safety rely on proper maintenance and inspections; catching these issues before they pose a threat is key.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Silence is deadly: addressing suicide in your department

A [Chicago deputy chief who had recently been promoted was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at a police facility this week](#). He'd been with the force for 30 years. He is at least the ninth member of the department to die by suicide in the past 2 years, and is another victim of the [suicide epidemic among first responders](#).

Expecting people to repeatedly see injury, violent death and the dark side of humanity but not have it affect them is unreasonable and naive. The number one action experts say helps relieve traumatic stress is also the thing missing in many fire and law enforcement settings: talking about it. Providing a coworker the space to release the unseen pressure that's been building might save their life.

This is also a time for individuals to re-evaluate their responsibility to their team. Pulling a colleague out of the line of fire or out of a burning building comes naturally. You train for it. It's expected that you will to this – and someone will do this for you – in order to save a life. Remember: [those struggling with what they see on the job also deserve to be pulled to safety](#). You don't have to understand what they are going through to be able to do this for them, you just need to do it.

If you or someone you know needs help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255. You can also call the Fire/EMS Helpline at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473). Resources for leadership interested in helping their staff and personnel:



Highlights

Preventing damage to fire department connections

Silence is deadly: addressing suicide in your department

The many dangers of wildfire smoke

CISA Services Catalog

Cyber Threats



U.S. Fire Administration

The U.S. Fire Administration operates the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC).

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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