

**From:** Thomas E. West <twest@suffolkva.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Port 460 fire discussion  
**To:** Tracey Foster <tfoster@hgi-fire.com>; Bourke, Katy <Katy.Bourke@kimley-horn.com>; Long, Kyle <Kyle.Long@kimley-horn.com>; Karl Morris <karl@mataninc.com>; Nick Salameda <nsalameda@rockefellergroup.com>; Adam James <ajames@suffolkva.us>; Ashlie H. Jordan <ahjordan@suffolkva.us>; Kevin Hughes <khughes@suffolkva.us>; Paul J. Retel <pretel@suffolkva.us>; Chris D. Cornwell <ccornwell@suffolkva.us>; Sean Day <sday@suffolkva.us>; Matthew A. Sims <msims@suffolkva.us>; Kyle Collins <KCollins@hgi-fire.com>  
**Cc:** Tyler Edwards <tyleredwards@clancytheys.com>; France, Dave <Dave.France@kimley-horn.com>; Matt Connolly <mconnolly@hgi-fire.com>  
**Sent:** May 13, 2025 2:45 PM (UTC-04:00)

Tacey,

We appreciate the illustration from the Code about the arrangement of the bypass around the booster pump, and the check valve with monitored control valves.

Thanks,  
Ed

Ed West, PE  
City of Suffolk  
Public Utilities  
Utility Engineering Manager  
(757) 514-7054 office  
(757) 617-9019 cell

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**From:** Tracey Foster <tfoster@hgi-fire.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** Bourke, Katy <Katy.Bourke@kimley-horn.com>; Long, Kyle <Kyle.Long@kimley-horn.com>; Karl Morris <karl@mataninc.com>; Nick Salameda <nsalameda@rockefellergroup.com>; Adam James <ajames@suffolkva.us>; Thomas E. West <twest@suffolkva.us>; Ashlie H. Jordan <ahjordan@suffolkva.us>; Kevin Hughes <khughes@suffolkva.us>; Paul J. Retel <pretel@suffolkva.us>; Chris D. Cornwell <ccornwell@suffolkva.us>; Sean Day <sday@suffolkva.us>; Matthew A. Sims <msims@suffolkva.us>; Kyle Collins <KCollins@hgi-fire.com>  
**Cc:** Tyler Edwards <tyleredwards@clancytheys.com>; France, Dave <Dave.France@kimley-horn.com>; Matt Connolly <mconnolly@hgi-fire.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Port 460 fire discussion

You don't often get email from [tfoster@hgi-fire.com](mailto:tfoster@hgi-fire.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

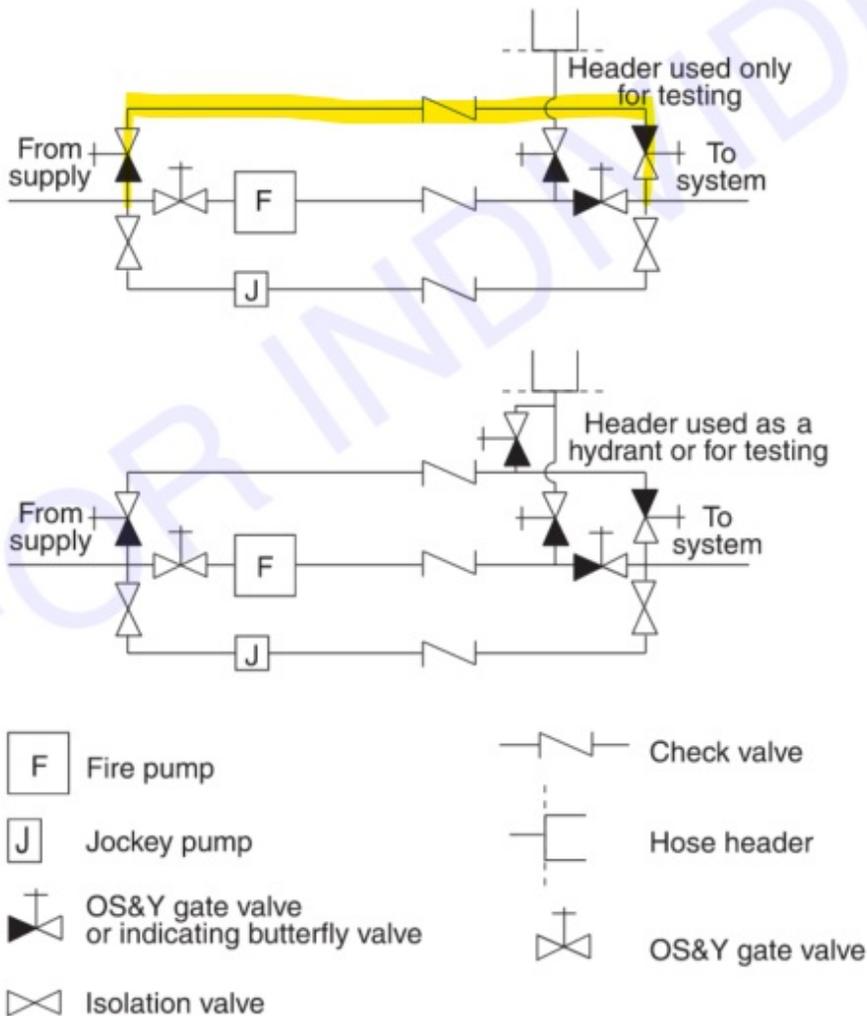
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Good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us yesterday to discuss the fire protection infrastructure requirements for Port 460 Building 2. Per the discussion, it is our understanding that the city has concerns about the reliability of fire hydrants when they are installed downstream of a fire pump.

We believe that the requirements of 2019 NFPA 20, *Standard for the Installation of Stationary Pumps for Fire Protection*, sufficiently address this concern by requiring that a bypass be provided around the fire pump when the suction supply is of sufficient pressure to be of material value without the pump [NFPA 20 §4.16.4.1]. The bypass is equipped with a check valve, installed between two control valves which are required to be normally open so that the attached water supply is available automatically. The check valve prevents water from circulating through the bypass back to the inlet side of the pump when

the pump is running. The control valves are equipped with tamper switches which will be monitored by the addressable fire alarm system in the normally open position, thereby generating a supervisory alarm in the fire alarm system if one or both of the bypass control valves are closed. The required arrangement is detailed in the annex of NFPA 20, and included below for reference:



**FIGURE A.4.16.4** Schematic Diagram of Suggested Arrangements for a Fire Pump with a Bypass, Taking Suction from Public Mains.

It is also worth noting that the fire protection system is equipped with a Fire Department Connection ("FDC") that will be located adjacent to a city pressure hydrant and can be used to boost pressure to the fire sprinkler system(s) and private fire hydrants (if/when the hydrants are installed downstream of a private fire pump). In a true fire emergency, the responding fire fighters can elect to manually shut down the fire pump and boost the pressure to the systems (both sprinkler and private fire hydrants) via a fire department pumper truck through the FDC. This type of arrangement is acceptable per the requirements of 2019 NFPA 24, *Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*, and is commonly designed throughout the country.

It is our understanding that the civil engineer, Kimley Horn, is concerned about meeting the Appendix B fire flow requirements (i.e., 2,000 gpm for 2-hr duration) at the required 20 psi at the most remote fire hydrants serving Port 460 Building 2, as well as future buildings slated for Phase I and Phase II as the

building sites' are further from the point of connection to the municipal water source.

HGI understands that the recently adopted amendments to the City of Suffolk Fire Prevention and Protection Code provide an exception for the fire official to approve alternate fire hydrant arrangements when the municipal water system cannot meet the fire flow demand. Under such a scenario, we respectfully request that the city consider allowing the fire hydrants to be installed downstream of a fire pump, since the presence of the pump bypass ensures that water will be available to the hydrants in the event of a pump failure. If desired, an additional bypass could be provided to the underground fire loop (comprised of a check valve in vault located between two control valves; Post-Indicator Valves or OS&Y gate valves in roadway boxes). HGI has previously provided this arrangement in other jurisdictions to offer redundancy to the interior pump bypass.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**TRACEY FOSTER, SET, CFPS**  
Senior Fire Protection Technician

770-564-3505, Ext. 193

COS - PII

[tfoster@hgi-fire.com](mailto:tfoster@hgi-fire.com)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Bourke, Katy <[Katy.Bourke@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Katy.Bourke@kimley-horn.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 8:26 AM

**To:** Bourke, Katy; Long, Kyle; Karl Morris; Nick Salameda; Adam James; Thomas E. West; Ashlie H. Jordan; Kevin Hughes; Paul J. Retel; Chris D. Cornwell; Sean Day; Matthew A. Sims; Kyle Collins; Tracey Foster

**Cc:** Tyler Edwards; France, Dave

**Subject:** Port 460 fire discussion

**When:** Monday, May 12, 2025 1:30 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

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