

Construction Industry Communication #06

From: Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official
Re: Private Fire, Combined Private Fire & Potable, and Private Potable Main/Service Installations
Date: October 27, 2025

Background: Previously, the Columbus Division of Water inspected all underground water installations, public and private. Due to a conflict with EPA and Ohio Plumbing Code regulations, the inspections related to Private Fire, Private Combined Fire & Potable, and Private Potable Water Mains/Services (hereafter referred to as Private Mains/Services) have been transferred to the City of Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services.

Memorandum: Contractors shall install private fire, private combined fire and potable, and private potable mains/services in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Ohio Plumbing Code (OPC) & National Fire Protection Association Standard 24. Additional information that may be useful can be found on the plumbing page of the Department of Building and Zoning Services website.

Mains: Permits shall be acquired for private mains. Contractors shall reference the approved Water Service Plan (WSP) in the permit application.

Services: Permits shall be acquired for each private service. Contractors shall reference the approved WSP in the permit application.

Exception: Private potable branch services associated with new construction shall be permitted to be associated with all individual services connected to the branch for all addresses covered by a single roof.

Repairs: Permits shall be acquired for repair work associated with private mains/services. Repair work shall comply with the most recent approved WSP plan.

Appurtenance Replacement: Permits shall be acquired for appurtenance replacements, such as private fire hydrants, associated with private mains/services. Replacement appurtenances shall comply with the most recent approved WSP plan.

Excavation Depth: Due to the dangers and difficulty in verifying installation compliance when excavation depth exceeds 6 feet below grade level, continuous inspections will have to be performed by an approved special inspector. Upon completion of backfilling, the special inspections report shall be provided to the inspector upon scheduling for the hydrostatic test and flush.

Optional: If a contractor wishes to include the underground and backfill as part of the Statement of Special Inspections for a project, the contractor can elect to hire an approved

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special inspector/inspection agency to perform continuous inspections. Upon completion of backfilling, the special inspections report shall be provided to the inspector upon scheduling for the hydrostatic test and flush.

Revised 4/3/2026