

**SPECIAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE.**

By **Albert H. Wehr.**

The prohibition of the Fire Underwriters' Association against ordinary water meters on private fire protection services, and the excessive cost of the recently devised fire service meters which neither our company nor our consumers, care to pay, has caused us to devise a set of Rules and Regulations covering special services of this character, which we have found to be satisfactory to us and acceptable to our consumers.

We require every applicant for special fire protection service to enter into an agreement with us as per the form following, and also to furnish us with a bond, with some responsible and reliable bonding company as surety, a copy of the form of this bond being also appended. The rules and regulations embodied in the form of the agreement are modeled largely upon those of the Baltimore City Water Department, with such modifications and additions as are deemed reasonable and proper in the case of a private water-works.

**This agreement**, made this .....(1).....day of .....(2)....., in the year nineteen hundred and..... (3)..... between .....(4)..... (hereinafter called the "Owner") party of the first part, and **The Baltimore County Water and Electric Company, of Baltimore County**, (hereinafter called the "Company") party of the second part, **Witnesseth:**

**Whereas**, the Owner is about to install, in .....(5)..... .....(6)..... building, situate .....(7).....  
a Fire Protection .....(8)..... System, and is desirous that the company furnish the water supply and service pipe for said system from its mains;

**And Whereas**, the company is willing to furnish the necessary water supply and connection therefor, to said system, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the following:—

**RULES GOVERNING SPECIAL WATER SUPPLIES FOR FIRE PROTECTION.**

**Installation of Service and Charges:—**

All fire services will be installed by the company, which will ascertain the best location for same, and lay the pipe from the street main to a point just inside the wall of the building, or within the building line of open yards, where buildings are set back from the building line. The owner will be charged with the exact cost of labor and materials used in the work of installing the service, with an addition of ten per cent. to cover the cost of superintendence and inspection. Payments for installing the service shall be made as follows: Simultaneously with the execution of the agreement for the Fire Protection Service, by the owner, such owner shall pay in advance, to the company, an amount, which shall be credited against the total cost of installing the service as above set out, based upon the estimated length of the fire service pipe to be installed by the company, and upon the size of such pipe, at the following rates:—

- For 4-inch service pipe, 40c. per lineal foot,
- For 6-inch service pipe, 60c. per lineal foot,
- For 8-inch service pipe, 90c. per lineal foot,
- For 10-inch service pipe, \$1.25 per lineal foot.

and immediately upon the completion of the work of installing said service pipe and the rendition of the bill therefor, the balance of the cost to be charged as above shall be due and payable.

All repairs to the service pipe between the street main and the building or building line, as the case may be, shall be done by the company at the expense of the owner.

The annual charges for this service, payable in advance, as of January 1st, and every year, shall be as follows:—

- For 4-inch service pipe ..... \$50.00
- For 6-inch service pipe ..... 50.00
- For 8-inch service pipe ..... 100.00
- For 10-inch service pipe ..... 150.00

**Size of Service Pipe.**

In all cases the company shall decide the size of the service pipe required, which shall be determined by the size of the street main, the available pressure on the main, and the nature and capacity of the fire protection equipment within the building. In all cases where underwriters' pumps are to be installed, a suction pipe of sufficient internal area to deliver a quantity of water equal to the full rated capacity of the pipe will be allowed, and no enlargement of said suction pipe inside the premises will be permitted. If, however, this service pipe is run to a surge tank placed in close proximity to the pump, the full size of suction which the pump calls for may be run from the pump to the tank.

**Number of Services:**

One service only will be allowed to any one building or premises, unless in the opinion of the company more than one is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of the premises. All fire protection equipment connected to the company's service shall be confined within the building or on the premises named in the application, and where two or more connections are made for one building or premises, they shall be kept separated, unless special permission is obtained from the company to connect the same in a manner to be approved by it.

**Use of Fire Services.**

No water shall be drawn from the fire service pipes for any purpose whatever, except for the extinguishment of fire, and no connection shall be made between the fire service pipe system and the regular water supply to the premises, and the valves on hose outlets, drain cocks, etc., placed on the pipe system shall be of a style that can be sealed by the company and when any such valve or cock is opened, the owner or occupant of the premises shall notify the company at once, so that the same can be resealed. This paragraph is not to be construed as prohibiting a reasonable use of water for draining of a system to prevent freezing, or other reasonable use in connection with proper fire protection, but does not permit of the use of water through the system for fire drills, except with the consent of the company first had and obtained by the owner in every instance, when such drill is to be had. Whenever a fire service system is to be tested under the regulations of the fire insurance underwriters, the owner must notify the company of such proposed test, naming the day and hour when the same is intended to be made, so that, if desired, the company may have an inspector present during the test.

**Contamination of Water Supply.**

Any fire protection system supplied with water from the company's service shall be supplied exclusively with such water, and no connection will be allowed with any other system drawing its supply from any other source whereby the company's water supply may be contaminated by the failure to close valves, or leaking check valves, etc., and no auxiliary or secondary suction pipe to any underwriter's pump taking water from the harbor, streams, or other source whatever will be permitted. Any fire protection system using water from the harbor, streams or other source than the company's service, shall be kept separate from any such system supplied from the company's service.

**Inspections.**

All fire services shall be subject to inspection by the company from time to time, and the owner or tenant shall give the inspectors all reasonable facilities for making the inspections, and any information concerning the same that the inspector or the Company may require. Care will always be taken that inspections will be made with as little inconvenience to the owner or occupant as possible.

**Penalties.**

In any case when the owner or occupant of any premises is found to be using water from a fire service for other purposes than fire protection, or fail to comply with any of the foregoing Rules not hereafter specifically excepted, the water shall be shut off from the same at once, and the owner shall thereupon immediately be and become liable to the