Florida Department of Transportation

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STRUCTURES DESIGN BULLETIN 15-09

ROADWAY DESIGN BULLETIN 15-13

(FHWA Approved: September 23, 2015)

DATE: September 24, 2015

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Structures Design Engineers, District Maintenance Engineers

FROM: Robert V. Robertson, P.E., State Structures Design Engineer
Michael Shepard, P.E., State Roadway Design Engineer



COPIES: Brian Blanchard, Tom Byron, Tim Lattner, David Sadler, Gregory Schiess, SDO Staff, Jeffrey Ger (FHWA)

SUBJECT: Fire Suppression Systems

This bulletin implements policy regarding the use of fire suppression systems on Department owned limited access facilities, bridges and retaining walls.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Add the following to ***Plans Preparation Manual*** Volume 1, Section 13.5.7:

13.5.7 Fire Suppression Systems

Fire suppression systems are not permitted on bridges, retaining walls or limited access facilities unless they are approved by the Chief Engineer due to special circumstances. Commonly occurring traffic related incidents will not be considered as special circumstances or as justification for the installation of any fire suppression system. If a fire suppression system has been determined to be justified and is approved, the local agency requesting the system will be solely responsible for all installation costs, repair costs and maintenance functions, and will be required to provide a Maintenance Agreement.

2. Add the following to ***Structures Design Guidelines***, Chapter 1:

1.11 Fire Suppression Systems

See ***PPM*** Volume 1, Section 13.5.7 for fire suppression system prohibitions.

COMMENTARY

The Department has determined that the details for standpipes, valves and hydrants that have been used on past projects for fire suppression systems located within traffic railings and roadway barriers present significant snag hazards for errant vehicles and thus are not crashworthy. The Department has also determined that there is insufficient justification for incorporating fire suppression systems into, on or attached to traffic railings and roadway barriers in an attempt to improve safety during an extreme event, e.g. a vehicle fire.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Requirements of this bulletin are effective immediately on all design-bid-build projects.

This bulletin is effective immediately on all design-build projects for which the final RFP has not been released.

CONTACT

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