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J. A. C. McCUAIG
27-29 WELLINGTON ST. EAST
TORONTO.
PHONE, MAIN 5069

THE DOMINION FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

SPECIFICATIONS
FOR THE
INSTALLATION
OF

FIRE PAILS



TWENTY-SEVEN AND TWENTY-NINE
EAST WELLINGTON STREET
TORONTO 1905

FIRE PAIL EQUIPMENTS

SPECIFICATIONS.

Where Pails Are Desirable.

- A—In all places of business upon which insurance rate is computed by a schedule which provides allowances for the installation of Fire Pails, or provides charges for their absence. This includes factories, wholesale and retail stores, warehouses and office buildings.
- B—Throughout the entire premises occupied for business purposes. This includes basements, sub-basements, attics, mezzanines or galleries, extensions, in brief every floor and every part of a floor, used for business purposes.

Number Necessary.

- A—For a floor space of 2,500 square feet or less, six (6) pails. For each additional 2,500 square feet, or fraction, of floor space, six (6) additional pails.
- B—The number of pails necessary on any one floor depends on the area of that floor, and is not governed by the number required for floors above or below.

Standard For Pails.

- A—To be galvanized iron.
- B—Capacity 10 or 12 quarts.
- C—To be painted red.
- D—To be lettered "FIRE," or "FOR FIRE ONLY." Letters to be black, not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.
- E—Round bottom recommended for establishments where employees are likely to use pails for ordinary purposes.
- F—Covers recommended.
- G—Wooden pails not acceptable under any circumstances.

Setting.

- A—To be fixed, permanent and reserved for Fire Pails. Shelves, brackets or benches are the approved setting, but they should be intended for, and limited in their use to, Fire Pails. Fire Pails placed as follows, not satisfactory:—

On the floor—On stock shelves—On window sills—On safes—On desks—On Radiators—On boxes—On or under work tables or benches—On top of one another or in tiers.

- B—To be not lower than two feet above the floor, measured from the floor to the bottom of the pail.
- C—To be not higher than five feet above the floor, measured from the floor to the top of the pail.
- D—When round bottomed pails are set in shelves or benches, the holes cut for the oval bottom should be only large enough to receive the oval, that is, the flange of the bottom should rest on the wood and not be set into opening.

Distribution.

- A—To provide pails near at hand in every part of premises.
- B—To provide extra pails near dangerous features.
- C—In groups of two, three, four, five or six, but not larger.
- D—Groups to be placed diagonally opposite, *i.e.* "criss crossed" or "staggered."

Location.

- A—In clear space, providing free and unimpeded access.
- B—In close proximity to exits, such as stairways, elevators, fire escapes.
- C—In a familiar place, within constant sight of occupants.
- D—In close proximity to places where fire is likely to start.
- E—Not to be blocked by stock or machinery, or covered with rubbish or other materials.

Sand Pails.

Water should not be used on burning liquids, such as oils, paints, etc., as it will not extinguish the fire but float the burning liquids to a distance, and thereby spread the fire. Some material, such as sand, should be used, first, to keep

FIRE PAIL EQUIPMENTS

the burning liquid from spreading and then to smother the fire. Where such liquids are kept, used, or stored, one half of the total number of required pails should be kept filled with clean dry sand, and a scoop provided for use in throwing the sand.

Filling.

Water Pails should be refilled once a week regularly with clean water.

Sand Pails should not be filled so full as to make them inconveniently heavy. Two-thirds full is sufficient.

Bucket Tanks.

Patent bucket tanks, containing six (6) Fire Pails, are recognized as the equivalent of six (6) Fire Pails each, provided they are tested once a week, to insure that the covers lift readily and that the pails may be withdrawn without delay.

Casks of Water.

A cask of water is considered the equivalent of six (6) Fire Pails, provided the following conditions are complied with:—

A—Cask to be a good oak barrel. Capacity to be not less than 50 gallons. To be painted red, with word "FIRE" or "FOR FIRE ONLY" in black letters not less than 6 inches high. To have a cover with a handle.

B—Six (6) Standard Fire Pails (empty) to be placed on a shelf or on hooks along-side of the cask.

Freezing.

When Fire Pails are located where there is a liability of the water being frozen, it is recommended that two pounds of chloride of calcium or salt, (the chloride of calcium is preferable) be placed in each pail. For casks, the quantity recommended is 50 pounds for each cask. It is necessary that the chloride of calcium or the salt be dissolved by thorough stirring.

Supervision.

The Fire Pail equipment should be placed in charge of the engineer, the janitor, the foreman, the watchman, or some person with authority, who will be answerable for its efficiency.

EXPLANATION AND ADVICE.

It has been found advisable to require that the pails be painted red, with the word "FIRE" or "FOR FIRE ONLY" in black letters, the red color being useful because of its general association with fire. It helps to make the pail clearly visible when wanted; and with the word "FIRE," is a constant reminder that the pail is there for a special purpose, the putting out of fire, and is not to be taken away or used for ordinary purposes. The placing at a medium height is devised to permit of grasping the pail without spilling half its contents; if a pail is placed more than five feet high, it is likely to be out of the reach of the average person; and if set lower than two feet, it is likely to be overlooked or to be knocked from its position. The use of an iron pail in preference to a pail of wood or other material, is a matter of service and economy, in addition to the greater likelihood that an iron pail will be found serviceable when suddenly wanted for use. The requirement of a stated number distributed in groups throughout the entire premises, is framed to provide that pails shall be within a hand's grasp, and not be distant anywhere from 50 to 200 feet at a time when a tiny flame is rapidly growing into a formidable blaze. The insistence of a permanent setting, such as hooks or shelves, is intended to make sure that the pail will be given a fixed position, which will become familiar to the occupants, who in time of excitement, can rely on finding pails in a definite spot. The regular refilling is a common sense precaution to make sure that the pails shall contain water.

When possible, Fire Pails should be used under the direction of a competent person and water not thrown in a wild, aimless manner, but if there is time use should be made of a wetted broom to beat out the fire or of blankets to smother it. In using water for fire purposes, remember that to do any good it must reach the burning material.

To those who desire to equip their premises with supplementary appliances, the suggestion is offered of providing a fireman's hook, an axe, and blankets, the last being especially useful to smother a fire or to wrap about a person whose clothing has taken fire.

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Shelf

Length - 2' to bottom of pail
Height - 2' to top of pail



Hook

Length - 2' to bottom of pail
Height - 2' to top of pail



Tank

TANK CONTAINS SIX PAILS SUBMERGED.



Barrel

3 Pails on shelf, bench or hook.

By courtesy of "INSURANCE ENGINEERING."