

Question of the month:

Q. Last month's newsletter featured photographs of fire hose cabinets. Is FPS PAC suggesting that fire hose cabinets are required to be accessible by the public in the same manner as fire extinguishers? If there is a fire that cannot be put out with a fire extinguisher, the facility should be evacuated and the fire department should be called! In our opinion, the hose cabinet is not for staff or public use—it is for fire department use only! For that matter, the height of the cabinet should be such that it is easiest to use by the fire fighter who is the only person that is trained to use it in the first place.

R. We are in agreement. FPS PAC does not suggest relocating fire hose cabinets to provide public use accommodations. Many fire hose cabinets were noted as barriers because they created protruding objects due to their depth or because fire extinguishers were located inside those cabinets. As a solution to the latter, we recommend removing the fire extinguisher from inside the fire hose cabinet and installing it in a separate cabinet meeting all applicable accessibility requirements for fire extinguishers.

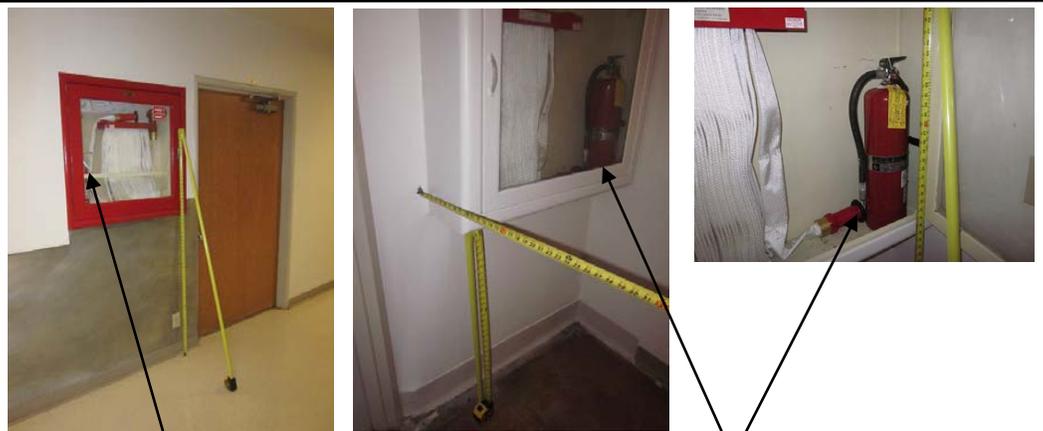
WHAT'S NEW IN 2015?

Last December marked the 3 year anniversary of the establishment of FPS PAC. Since then, we have processed over 300 plan reviews, have monitored more than 90 projects, and have facilitated 63 new property surveys, with 22 of those being performed in-house. Additionally, we've issued 5 Barrier Interpretation Notices and with this publication, we've written a total of 34 newsletters.

In an effort to organize this information, we have created a PAC website allowing users across the system to access all the information in one place. When logged into the system, you can simply type **PAC** in the URL field and you'll be routed directly to our site: <http://mysutter/Resources/SystemDepartments/FacilityPlanningDevelopment/PAC/PhysicalAccessCompliance.aspx>. We encourage everyone to navigate the page and to reach out to any PAC staff member with comments or suggestions. We plan in the near future to be able to make our website public so that outside users may also be able access all our reference material.

With only 3 years left of the Consent Decree, we'll be focusing heavily on barrier removal. To date, we have removed close to 25,000 barriers but we have an additional +/- 35,000 to go. Hence, we'll be actively meeting with project teams to establish budgets and schedules and to define and finalize remediation scope. We highly encourage involving the access specialist who'll be performing the review in the scoping sessions to enable a more streamlined comment and response phase. Upon conclusion of the accessibility plan review, a customer service survey will be sent out. Please be sure to fill it out. The feedback provided will help PAC continue to improve the established processes.

Last, we will be holding an Architect's Training seminar on January 30, 2015 at the Green Valley Conference Center. The focus will be on reviewing section 805 of the 2013 CBC. Please save the date.



Fire Extinguisher located inside the Fire Hose Cabinet