The problems with fire regulation

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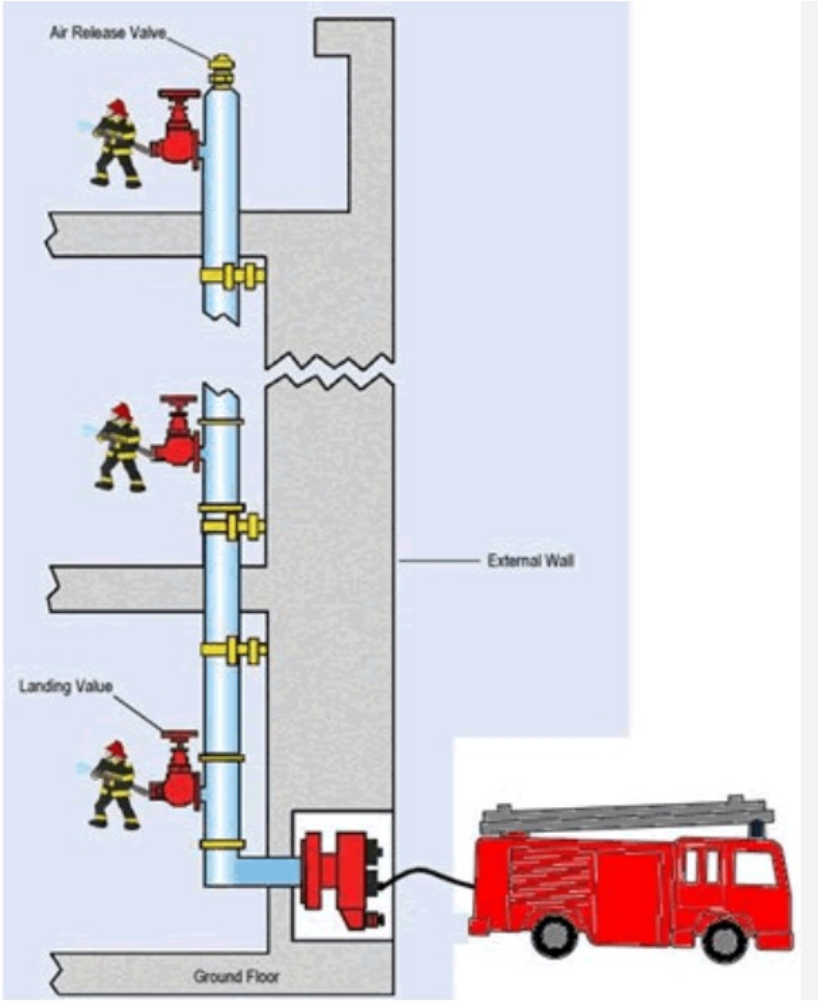
Do we have sensible fire regulation?

Do we have sensible fire inspection?

Some insights from practice

- People fly using the doors they came through
- All fire walls are broken through in months because of ‘maintenance’
- Let’s be honest: not even a fire(wo)man can handle a fire extinguisher well …
- No serious fire(wo)man uses a dry liner
- No developed fire is put out by the fire service, it just burns out



Ok, so what's sensible?

- Starting point: everything that is flammable will start burning sooner or later

- We thus can have two reasonable policy goals as a government:

  - Allow people to flee if they are able (on average!) or be safe when they are vulnerable
  - Make sure out buildings aren't bothered by the fire

- Ok, now how would you write and inspect fire regulation at the 'right' technical level?

My answer

- Buildings for average people: the building must burn so slow for 15 minutes that people can get out.
  - This translates in some requirements on the use of materials
- Buildings for average people: the building must have such a distance to other buildings that these won't burn down themselves.
  - This translates in some requirements on the use of materials
- Buildings for vulnerable people: sprinkler in all rooms
- General rule for all regulation: if you are able to reach the policy goals in another way you are allowed to.