



FIRE & EMS MESSAGE



LIGHTNING PROTECTION FOR STATIONS

As reported on the August 21, 2025, edition of Firehouse.com Newsday:



“A fire, possibly caused by a lightning strike, destroyed the station and three rigs, including the department's pride and joy – a 1941 engine”, Vine Grove (KY) Fire Department Chief Matt Haddle told a local television station.

Many fire and EMS stations in NJ bristle with antennae, flag poles, hose towers, weathervanes, and other rooftop accessories and adornments.

NFPA 780 Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems outlines the design and installation of systems using air terminals, conductors, and grounding electrodes to safely redirect lightning strikes to the earth.

Key requirements include placing strike termination devices strategically, using appropriate conductors with specific bending radii, ensuring all metallic parts are bonded to the system to prevent side flashes, and connecting down conductors to ground rods to dissipate the charge. The standard emphasizes professional installation, proper bonding of the system to the building's electrical system, and performing regular inspections and maintenance to ensure continued effectiveness.

Let This Be a Wake-Up Call to Check the Integrity of Our Lightning Protection Systems!