



Elk Creek Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division

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SUPPLEMENTAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Number:	20-903.3.1.1		
Subject:	Fire Sprinkler Hazard Classification for Buildings of Undetermined Use		
Code:	2018 International Fire Code	Code Section:	903.3.1.1
Code:	2019 NFPA 13	Code Section:	19.2.1
Effective Date:	May 1, 2020	Issued by:	Fire Marshal Roger Parker <i>Roger Parker</i>
Revision Date:	NA	Issued by:	NA
Supersedes:	NA	Date:	NA

AUTHORITY:

The 2018 International Fire Code §104.1 authorizes the *fire code official* to render interpretations of the fire code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of the code. Such policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in the code.

PURPOSE:

To clarify the intent of the fire code amendment and establish rules and regulations regarding requirements for fire sprinkler hazard classification for buildings of undetermined use.

SCOPE:

This regulation covers all facilities, buildings, or uses within the Elk Creek Fire Protection District after the effective date.

CODE REFERENCES:

The 2018 International Fire Code §506.1 states:

903.3.1.1 NFPA 13 sprinkler systems. *Where the provisions of this code require that a building or portion thereof be equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with this section, sprinklers shall be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13 except as provided in Sections 903.3.1.1.1 and 903.3.1.1.2.*

The 2019 National Fire Protection Association Standard 13 §19.2.1 states:

19.2.1 *A building or portion thereof shall be permitted to be protected in accordance with any applicable design approach at the discretion of the designer.*

SUPPLEMENTAL RULE OR REGULATION:

Fire sprinkler design shall be based on the hazard classification of the building or area in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 13. Automatic fire sprinkler designs for high-piled storage shall be in accordance with Chapter 32 and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 13.

When fire sprinkler systems are required in buildings of undetermined use with a ceiling height of 20 feet or less, they shall be designed and installed to have a sprinkler density of no less than that required for an Ordinary Hazard, Group 2 use, with a minimum design area of 3,000 square feet, and no reduction(s) in density or design area. For buildings of undetermined use with ceiling height of over 20 feet, the system shall be designed as Extra Hazard Group 1, with a density of 0.33 square feet and a minimum design area of 3,000 square feet.

Use is considered undetermined if not specified at the time that the building plans are reviewed. Where a subsequent occupancy requires a system with greater capability, it shall be the responsibility of the occupant to upgrade the system to the required density for the new occupancy.

Changes of use and/or commodity to a higher hazard classification or storage configuration that exceeds the capabilities of the existing sprinkler system design shall require the sprinkler system to be modified. The sprinkler system shall be modified to provide an approved design in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 13, or other applicable design standard, for the commodity present in the building or area.

EXPLANATION:

Provides a reasonable minimum fire sprinkler hazard classification for buildings of undetermined use to insure that the sprinkler system design would be adequate for a typical future occupant. Advises building owner that they would be responsible for modifying the sprinkler system if a future use requires greater capacity.