

1305.0903 SECTION 903, AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

Subpart 1. [Repealed, 32 SR 7]

Subpart 1. [Repealed, 39 SR 1605]

Subp. 1a. **IBC [F] section 903.2.8.** IBC [F] section 903.2.8 is amended to read as follows:

903.2.8 Group R. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R fire area. For purposes of this provision, fire walls, party walls, or attached multiple fire-resistive exterior walls shall only create separate buildings where providing separation from occupancies other than Group R.

Exceptions:

1. A Group R-1 or R-2 fire area or combined fire areas less than 4,500 square feet of building area.
2. Group R-3 or R-4 dwelling unit with less than 4,500 square feet of building area, excluding garages.
3. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall not be required if additions or alterations are made to existing Group R-3 or R-4 buildings or a portion thereof that do not have an automatic sprinkler system installed, unless required by a Minnesota license.
4. Group R-1 multiunit resort buildings, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 157.15, and licensed by the Department of Health, with less than 9,250 square feet of building area.

903.2.8.1 Group R-3 or R-4 congregate residences. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in Group R-3 or R-4 congregate residences with 16 or fewer residents.

903.2.8.2 State licensed facilities. Group R-3 or R-4 occupancies containing facilities licensed by the state of Minnesota shall be provided with an automatic sprinkler system as required by applicable licensing provisions or this section, whichever is more restrictive.

903.2.8.3 Residential hospice facilities. An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with NFPA 13 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R-3 or R-4 fire area containing a residential hospice facility.

Exception: An automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3 shall be allowed, provided that all habitable spaces and closets are sprinklered.

Subp. 1b. **IBC [F] section 903.2.11.4.** IBC [F] section 903.2.11.4 is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

903.2.11.4 Fire protection for exhaust systems. Where required by the International Mechanical Code, automatic sprinklers shall be provided in ducts having a cross-sectional area of 75 square inches (480 cm²) or more and that convey flammable or combustible components or that have the potential for combustible residue buildup on the inside. When sprinkler protection is installed, and where the application of water constitutes a serious life or fire hazard, a means shall be provided to prevent water accumulation in the duct or the flow of water back to equipment, appliances, machinery, or any apparatus.

Subp. 2. [Repealed, 32 SR 7]

Subp. 2a. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1 is amended as follows:

903.3.1 Standards. Sprinkler systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 unless otherwise permitted by Sections 903.3.1.2 and 903.3.1.3 and other chapters of this code, as applicable.

Automatic sprinkler systems installed in state-licensed or state-registered facilities shall be installed in accordance with this code and by the appropriate licensing or registration provisions of other Minnesota state agencies.

Subp. 2b. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.1.1.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1.1.1 is amended by adding a new item 7 to the list of exempt locations to read as follows:

7. Sprinkler protection shall not be installed in elevator shafts, elevator pits, or elevator machine rooms.

Exception to #7: Health care occupancies that are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health or that participate in Title XVIII (Medicare) or Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act.

Subp. 3. [Repealed, 32 SR 7]

Subp. 3a. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.3.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1.3 is amended to read as follows:

903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. Automatic sprinkler systems installed in Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D.

Subp. 4. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.4.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1 is amended by adding a section to read as follows:

903.3.1.4 Buildings of undetermined use. When fire sprinkler systems are required in buildings of undetermined use, they shall be designed and installed to have a sprinkler density of not less than that required for an Ordinary Hazard Group 2 use with a minimum design area of 3,000 square feet (279 m²). Use is considered undetermined if not specified at the time a permit is issued. Where a subsequent occupancy requires a system with greater capability, it shall be the responsibility of the owner to upgrade the system to the required density for the new hazard, use, or occupancy.

Subp. 5. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.5.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1 is amended by adding a subsection to read as follows:

903.3.1.5 Special sprinkler design criteria. When fire sprinkler systems are required in areas containing the following uses, they shall be designed and installed to have a sprinkler density of not less than that required for an Ordinary Hazard Group 2 use:

1. Chemistry labs; or
2. Wrestling rooms or gymnastic rooms.

Subp. 5a. **IBC [F] section 903.3.1.6.** IBC [F] section 903.3.1 is amended by adding a subsection to read as follows:

903.3.1.6 Modifications to sprinkler standards. The sprinkler installation standards as referenced in Sections 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2, and 903.3.1.3 are modified as follows:

903.3.1.6.1 Hose stream requirements. When, in the opinion of the fire chief, an adequate alternate water supply for hose stream requirements is provided or available, the water supply requirements for the sprinkler system hose stream demands may be modified.

903.3.1.6.3 Swimming pools. Sprinkler protection need not be provided on the ceiling of rooms containing swimming pools when the pool area is used exclusively for swimming purposes and when sprinklers are provided around the perimeter of the pool area.

903.3.1.6.4 NFPA 13 modifications.

Sections 8.15.8.2 and 8.17.2.5 of NFPA 13 are revised to read:

8.15.8.2 Linen closets and pantries. Sprinklers are not required in linen closets and pantries within dwelling units that meet the following conditions:

1. The area of the space does not exceed 12 square feet (1.1 m²);
2. the least dimension does not exceed 3 feet (0.9 m);
3. the walls and materials are surfaced with noncombustible or limited combustible materials; and
4. the closet or pantry contains no mechanical equipment, electrical equipment, or electrical appliances.

8.17.2.5 Valves.

8.17.2.5.1 Fire department connection. A listed check valve shall be installed in each fire department connection.

8.17.2.5.1.1 Maximum pipe length. There shall be a maximum of 25 feet (7.6 m) of pipe between the check valve and the fire department connection inlet.

Exception: This maximum shall not apply to the check valve serving a free-standing fire department connection.

8.17.2.5.1.2 Check valve location. The check valve shall be located to minimize freezing potential.

903.3.1.6.5 Vestibules. Sprinkler protection is not required in vestibules that meet all of the following conditions:

1. the vestibule is 225 square feet or less in floor area;
2. the vestibule is of noncombustible or limited combustible construction;
3. the vestibule has glazing allowing vision into vestibule;
4. the vestibule's only purpose is ingress and egress; and
5. the vestibule contains no fueled equipment, flammable or combustible liquids, or furniture. Incidental combustible storage in the vestibule is limited to 5 feet³ of material.

Subp. 6. [Repealed, 32 SR 7]

Subp. 6a. **IBC [F] section 903.3.7.** IBC [F] section 903.3 is amended by adding a subsection to read as follows:

903.3.7 Sprinkler system design pressure safety margin. For new sprinkler systems or additions to existing sprinkler systems, the available water supply shall exceed the sprinkler system demand, including hose stream requirements, by 5 psi (0.34 bars) or more.

Subp. 7. **IBC [F] section 903.4.** IBC [F] section 903.4 is amended by adding an exception to read as follows:

8. For existing sprinkler systems, monitoring is required when the number of sprinklers is 100 or more.

Subp. 8. **IBC [F] section 903.4.4.** IBC [F] section 903.4 is amended by adding a section to read as follows:

903.4.4 Valve security. All valves controlling water supplies for automatic sprinklers shall be locked or secured in the open position.

Exception: Valves located in a room or space when access is limited to essential personnel only.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 16B.37; 16B.59 to 16B.76; 326B.02; 326B.101 to 326B.194*

History: *27 SR 1474; 32 SR 7; L 2007 c 140 art 4 s 61; art 13 s 4; L 2008 c 337 s 64; 36 SR 1479; 39 SR 1605*

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