

STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

BUILDING CODES DIVISION

JULY 2, 2010

To: Residential Specialty Code Review Committee

From: Chris S. Huntington
Manager Policy and Technical Services Section

Subject: Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems

As you are already aware, the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) contains model code provisions that require fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses. This committee will be considering this model code change and associated code change proposals as part of the overall recommendation to the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board. Because this issue is of particular interest to a variety of stakeholders, the division requested that the committee set aside a specified time to discuss this issue. This discussion is scheduled for the July 14, 2010 committee meeting.

In addition to the new model code provision and the associated code change proposals, the committee should also consider the attached report which details the current approach to residential fire sprinkler requirements in Oregon. It is the result of an extended period of discussion during the previous code cycle and establishes substantive guidelines for a jurisdiction wanting to request a local amendment related to fire sprinklers.

Background

During the last code change cycle for the Oregon Residential Specialty Code the division received two code change proposals for residential fire sprinklers specific to Appendix P, residential fire sprinklers.

That code review committee and the board were unable to resolve the technical and policy issues in Appendix P. The board asked the division to try to resolve these issues. The division attempted, over several months, to work through Appendix P to gain consensus on the policy issues surrounding residential fire sprinklers. Because the division was unable to gain consensus on the issues, it ended the process without adopting a statewide residential fire sprinkler requirement.

The division prepared a [report](#), which was approved by the residential structures board, summarizing the discussions surrounding residential fire sprinklers. The information in the report is intended to provide municipalities the benefit of the information provided to the division.

- Part I - Background and overview of the process.
- Part II - In depth discussion of the key issues that resurfaced throughout the process.
- Part III - Summarizes what the division's position would have been had fire sprinklers been adopted as a statewide requirement.
- Part IV - Discusses the local amendment process and issues that municipalities submitting a local amendment request for residential fire sprinklers must address.

Residential Code Review Committee

July 2, 2010

Page 2

As a result of the report, the current process for municipalities wishing to include mandatory residential fire sprinklers as part of an overall community fire protection plan may do so through the local amendment process. As part of the local amendment application, municipalities will need to address particular policy considerations.

The division wanted the committee to have this additional information in advance of the discussion at the next meeting.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Richard Rogers, Structural Program Chief, at richard.rogers@state.or.us or at 503-378-4472.