

**Oregon  
Interpretive Ruling No. 01-1**

**ONE-AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLING FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS**

**Initiated By:** Building Codes Division  
P. O. Box 14470  
Salem, OR 97309-0404

**REQUEST FOR RULING:** Approval of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13D Standard, 1999 Edition as an alternate method for a voluntarily installed complete or partial fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings.

**APPLICABLE CODE SECTION:**

2000 Oregon One- and Two-Family Dwelling Specialty Code (*Dwelling Code*) Sections 3403 and 3404.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**"Multi-purpose Piping System"** means a piping system within dwellings intended to serve both domestic and fire protection needs.

**"Stand-alone Fire Sprinkler System"** means a piping system within a dwelling intended to serve as a fire protection system separated from the potable water system by the use of a cross-connection control device.

**"Partial System"** means an optional system, made up of one or more fire sprinklers, which may be installed as a stand-alone system or multi-purpose system.

**BACKGROUND:** The *Dwelling Code* does not contain specific provisions for fire sprinkler system installations. However, provisions for potable water cross-connection control and potable water distribution piping materials are listed in sections 3403 and 3404. The provisions for water supply sources and cross-control protection are applicable to stand-alone fire sprinkler systems.

**FINDINGS:**

- Fire sprinkler systems are not required, in whole or in part, to be installed in one- and two-family dwellings by the *Dwelling Code*. However, when voluntarily installed, a consistent standard for the installation of stand-alone, multi-purpose or partial systems of either type is necessary to ensure proper design, installation and inspection.
- Fire sprinkler systems installed as an alternate to a fire code requirement or local requirement are not considered voluntary.

- Although the provisions of the NFPA 13D mandate installation of a complete fire sprinkler system, installation of a partial system of one or more fire sprinklers shall be permitted when installed according to the applicable provisions of the NFPA 13D standard and the applicable plumbing provisions of the *Dwelling Code*. Sections 3-6, 4-6, 5-3.2, 5-5 and Chapter 6 are exempt from the mandatory requirements of NFPA 13D when a partial system is installed.
- Permits are required for all installations, whether stand-alone, multi-purpose, partial or complete.

**CONCLUSION:** The Building Codes Structures Board in concurrence with the Plumbing Board recommends the Building Codes Administrator approve this Interpretive Ruling No. 01-1.

/s/ Theodore F. Argo III  
 Theodore F. Argo III, AIA, Vice-Chairman  
 Building Codes Structures Board

July 11, 2001  
 Date

/s/ Lewis E. Seagraves  
 Lewis E. Seagraves, P.E., Chairman  
 Plumbing Board

October 19, 2001  
 Date

The recommendations and findings of the Boards are accepted and Interpretive Ruling No. 01-1 is approved.

/s/ Joseph A. Brewer III  
 Joseph A. Brewer III, Administrator  
 Building Codes Division

October 30, 2001  
 Date