
Building Codes Division

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Statewide Code Interpretation**January 21, 2005****No: 2004 OSSC 302
2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: 302**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)**Date:** January 21, 2005**Subject:** Occupancy Classifications for Fire Stations**Question:** What is the correct occupancy classification for a fire station?**Answer:** The occupancy classification(s) of a fire station and its various uses shall be determined in accordance with OSSC 302. This allows separate uses to be considered as accessory uses, incidental uses or allows each portion to be individually classified as to use and designed as separated or non-separated mixed occupancies.**Analysis:** Historically, the OSSC has determined that fire stations in their entirety were "B" occupancies. Currently, many fire stations have a shop area for doing minor repairs and also have a commercial type kitchen setup. Combined with the evolution of fire stations into centers for training, and other community activities as well as the fact that persons are sleeping in the same "non-separated" building, the determination of the "B" occupancy classification is no longer appropriate.

The design professional has several choices. Some examples are:

Fire station with full time dedicated staff.- may be considered an R2 occupancy with incidental use of the apparatus space separated as required by Table 302.1.1; or considered R2 and S1 with no separation when meeting the most restrictive construction requirements.

Fire station without dedicated staffing with apparatus bays, training room and offices – may be considered a B occupancy with incidental use of apparatus space separated by Table 302.1.1 depending upon the size of the training room, the training room may be considered either accessory use or may be considered a separated or non-separated mixed occupancy.

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