



# FIRE CODE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5  
JANUARY 2010

Office of the Fire Code Official, Collier County, Florida

## Special Points of Interest:

- *Fire Sprinklers Set to Become a Standard Feature in New Homes*
- *New Low Voltage Permitting Procedures*
- *Hot Work Operations*
- *Monitoring Fire Alarm Systems with MFVN*

## Fire Sprinklers Set to Become a Standard Feature in New Homes



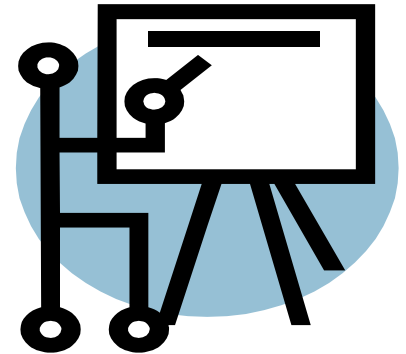
**(Press Release)** On October 28, 2009, members of the International Code Council's Residential Building Code Committee made it clear that fire sprinklers are destined to become a standard feature in all new homes. The fire sprinkler requirement was added to the International Residential Code (IRC) last year, and it is scheduled to become effective January 1, 2011 in states that adopt the latest version of this code. Currently, 48 states use the IRC as a basis of regulating residential construction; although, some states lag behind in adopting updates.

At the October 28th hearing, representatives of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) petitioned the International Code Council, which publishes the IRC, to repeal the fire sprinkler requirement. The Council's Residential Building Code Committee (RBCC) rejected that request by a vote of 7 to 4.

That vote is significant in two ways. Not only did the RBCC reject the home builders' request to repeal the sprinkler requirement, but every member of the committee, other than the four who are appointed by NAHB, voted to uphold the fire sprinkler requirement.

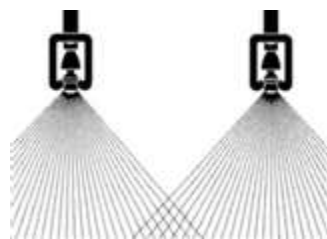
Following the committee vote, NAHB attempted to use a new procedure in the ICC process that allows members assembled at the hearing to overrule the committee decision, but the members made it clear that they were standing firm on protecting American families from fire. More than 1,000 ICC members in attendance voted overwhelmingly to affirm the RBCC's decision.

ICC's membership has now supported the home fire sprinkler requirement at both the 2008 and 2009 annual hearings, and each of those votes passed by more than a two-thirds margin. Those decisions have now been further affirmed by the RBCC, which is a balanced committee that includes home builders, building and fire safety officials, architects and engineers.



## Inside this issue:

Fire Sprinklers Set to Become a Standard Feature in New Homes	1
New Low Voltage Permitting Procedures	2
Hot Work Operations	3
Monitoring Fire Alarm Systems with MFVN	4
Upcoming Events	5



## New Low Voltage Permitting Procedures



The requirement to permit low voltage permits has been law for many years and is supported by §553.73(1)(a), Florida Statutes (2009), §553.79(1), Florida Statutes (2009) and Section 101.4.1, Florida Building Code, Building Volume (2007 as amended 10/1/09). In the past, some of these permits were processed as “walk-through” permits and never reached the Fire Code Office (FCO) for review. During non-related field inspections however, local fire districts discovered improper and/or non-existent protection of penetrations in fire barriers and/or smoke partitions, as well as the installation of inappropriate wire in plenum areas relative to low voltage work. The review of low voltage permits by the FCO is a result of the aforementioned issues.

Contractors are required to submit 3 sets of plans to the Building Department. Permits received into the Fire Code Office by 2 p.m. will be processed and approved that same day via a stipulation letter. A fire plan review fee of \$50 and fire inspection fee of \$100 will be assessed.

Although the intent of the FCO is to process and approve these low voltage permits via a stipulation letter, compliance with the protection of fire barrier penetrations is paramount to life safety, property protection, and the ability to thwart the uncontrolled migration of fire, smoke and toxic gases. As such, let it be understood that in an effort to properly enforce Code requirements and in order to promote life safety and property protection, all low voltage permit installations shall be subject to the following:

- All firestop systems or devices proposed shall demonstrate compliance with the 2007 edition of Florida Fire Prevention Code: 101, sections 8.3.5, 8.3.5.1 through 8.3.5.5.2, and 8.3.5.6.1 through 8.3.5.6.3.
- All wire used in a plenum space shall be listed for such use and installed in accordance with the applicable sections of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70: National Electric Code (NEC)

Compliance with the specific issues listed above will be subject to a final inspection and acceptance by the local fire district. For further information regarding low voltage fire plan review and fire inspection, please refer to Building Block A-117 which can be viewed at [www.colliergov.net](http://www.colliergov.net) or call this Office at 239-252-3473.

*Submitted by Linda Rutkoski  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
Fire Code Office*

*Did you know....*

*Ken Abler, Deputy Fire Code Official at the Fire Code Office is retiring Jan 25th after 45 years in the Fire Service. Farewell Ole' Guy...we will miss you. P.S. don't forget the sunblock, especially on your head.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Linda Rutkoski, has completed 10 years of service at the Fire Code Office. Congratulations go out to her.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Collier County Fire Marshals Association has newly elected Officers. Dave Raub, President; Ray Munyon, Vice President/Secretary; and Linda Rutkoski, Treasurer will serve for the next 2 years.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*A special thanks goes out to Nick Biondo, outgoing President of the Collier County Fire Marshals Association. Thank you for your many years of outstanding dedication and leadership to the Organization.*



## HOT WORK OPERATIONS

Hot Work fires are one of the leading causes of property damage. A recent FM Global study of 400 Hot Work fires and explosions revealed that over half (235), were caused by outside contractors rather than employees. In another study of 616 hot work losses, 539 losses were caused by cutting or welding torches, followed by plumbers' and painters' torches at 37 losses.

This suggests the following conclusions:

- It cannot be assumed that contractors will automatically adhere to safe practices simply because they are used to performing this type of work.
- Safe practices should be followed by everyone all of the time, including in-house personnel.

Although Collier County does not currently require a permit for hot work activities, NFPA I, Chapter 41, Hot Work Operations, outlines the responsibilities of those who perform Hot Work:

- Equipment must be in good repair.
- Flammable gasses, liquids, and dusts must be removed.
- A 10 lb ABC fire extinguisher in good working condition must be provided.
- Combustibles within 35' of the work area must be removed. If they cannot be moved they must be covered with a fire retardant welding blanket or curtain.
- A responsible person must remain onsite, in the work area during hot work procedures and for a minimum of 30 minutes after hot work has stopped to monitor for fire and unsafe conditions.
- During times of welding or torch cutting a second person must be present to perform fire watch. A third person will be necessary if there is a risk of sparks, flames or heat penetrating through floors or walls. The fire watches sole responsibility is to watch the area during hot work activity and to terminate the work if an unsafe condition arises.
- If hot work is being conducted in an area where explosive vapors could accumulate, such as a battery room, adequate ventilation shall be provided before work starts. Air monitoring may be necessary.
- Contractors must ensure their employees receive the required OSHA fire extinguisher training annually.
- Hot work operations shall be suspended when a sprinkler system is impaired. Additional precautions may be required.

Contact the District's Fire Marshal prior to any Hot Work activity if there is any question of an unsafe condition.

REF: FM Global Property Loss Prevention, FFPC 2007, NFPA I, Chapter 41.

*Submitted by Dave Raub  
Fire Marshal  
North Naples Fire District*

### MONITORING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS WITH MANAGED FACILITIES-BASED VOICE NETWORK (MFVN) TECHNOLOGY

On November 1, 2009 Florida's Division of State Fire Marshal recently amended Rule Number 69A-48.008, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Monitoring section of the FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS and now recognizes Managed Facilities-based Voice Networks (MFVNs) as a viable means to monitor and transmit fire alarm signals to an offsite monitoring facility.

The amendment now incorporates the definition of a MFVN as seen in 69A-48.008(3), F.A.C., and provides further criteria, as seen in 69A-48.008(3)(a) through (f), F.A.C., that the network must meet in order to be considered an MFVN. Additionally, the amendment, as provided in 69A-48.008(4), F.A.C., also requires the provider of fire alarm monitoring services to demonstrate the validity of the MFVN by submitting an attestation to the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) that the company's network meets the criteria in 69A-48.008(3)(a) through (f), F.A.C.

Furthermore, for those in attendance at the General Session of the FFMIA conference on November 4, 2009, it was made known and expressed verbally by the State Fire Marshal Bureau Chief that it is within the purview of the local AHJ to require a Florida licensed engineer – either employed by the MFVN or who represents the MFVN – to certify the attestation required by 69A-48.008(4), F.A.C.

As a result, the Fire Districts of Collier County have determined that a policy is needed to clarify the type of documentation required when an "attestation" is provided to the AHJ and to designate additional criteria required at the time of permit submittal when utilizing an MFVN-type company.

Currently, a Policy & Procedure has been drafted and is progressing through the various stages of acceptance. Once a final draft has been accepted, it will be made available to contractors and the public via mass email and it will also be available at [www.colliercountyfiremarshals.com](http://www.colliercountyfiremarshals.com).

*Submitted by Ricco Longo  
Deputy Fire Code Official  
Fire Code Office*

*Thought to Ponder*

*Always remember you're unique...  
Just like everyone else.*





COLLIER COUNTY

2800 North Horseshoe Dr.  
Naples, FL 34104

Phone: 239-252-3473  
Fax: 239-403-2393  
E-mail: [firecode@colliergov.net](mailto:firecode@colliergov.net)

**We're on the Web**  
**[Colliercountyfiremarshals.com](http://Colliercountyfiremarshals.com)**

*Your Comments or Suggestions are Welcome*

*Please email to*

*[Firecode@colliergov.net](mailto:Firecode@colliergov.net)*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Office of the Fire Code Official of Collier County, Florida is dedicated to the protection of life and property within the Fire Control and Rescue Districts of Collier County through preemptive and proactive prevention services including the following:

Countywide Uniform Interpretation and Application of Fire and Life Safety Codes, Standards and Ordinances

Maintenance of Contemporary Fire and Life Safety Codes, Standards and Ordinances

Liaison between County Government and Fire Districts

Fire and Life Safety Information, Education and Consultation

Project Plan Review and Permitting for New Construction

Databasing, Recordkeeping and Fee Accounting

Field visits for Project Troubleshooting

Statistical Analysis and Fire Problem Intelligence Gathering

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Collier County  
Fire Marshals Association**

**2010 Meeting Schedule**

JANUARY 28

MARCH 25

MAY 27

JULY 29

SEPTEMBER 30

NOVEMBER 18

Meeting starts at 9 am  
Terracina Grand  
6825 Davis Blvd.  
Naples, FL 34104



**CCFMA in conjunction with the  
LCFMA, BOAF and FFMIA  
Fire-Resistance  
Rated Construction  
1 Day Seminar**

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010  
Time: 8 am — 5 pm  
Place: North Collier Regional Park  
Exhibit Hall, Room A  
15000 Livingston Rd  
Naples, FL 34109  
Cost: \$75

No Charge for any member of the  
above Associations

For more information contact

Chuck Akers @ 863-467-8991 or  
Dave Raub @239-289-6949

**CCFMA in conjunction with the  
LCFMA, BOAF and FFMIA**

**Understanding the New  
Truss Law  
4 Hour Seminar**

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010  
Time: 8 am — Noon  
Place: North Collier Regional Park  
Exhibit Hall, Room A  
15000 Livingston Rd  
Naples, FL 34109  
Cost: No Charge

For more information contact

Chuck Akers @ 863-467-8991 or  
Dave Raub @239-289-6949