

**MINNEAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU POLICY # 4 - 1
DISPLAYS in ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES**

Original Issue 7-8-1998

Last Revision 7-25-06

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ISSUE:

Temporary covered or roofed displays in sprinkler protected buildings.

CODE REQUIREMENTS:

MSFC and MSBC require that adequate sprinkler coverage be maintained but do not have specific criteria for protection of displays.

NFPA Standard #101 has criteria for covered display booths, on which the following is based.

PROBLEM:

Some temporary or portable booths and displays have roofs or multi-levels which could prevent the building's overhead sprinkler system from providing code required protection.

ACCEPTABLE MEANS of COMPLIANCE:

Exhibits, including portable structures and trailers that meet one of the following criteria must be protected by an automatic sprinkler system:

1. Single level exhibit booths that exceed 300 square feet in area.
2. Multi-level booths, regardless of size. All levels are to be protected including the top level if covered with a ceiling.
3. Structure, house, cabin, manufactured home or industrialized modular home with roofs greater than 300 sq. ft.
4. Any trailer, including semi trailers that are open for display purposes and have a roof or covered area greater than 300 sq. ft.

A single exhibit or group of exhibits with individual ceilings that do not require sprinklers shall be separated by a minimum of 10 feet so that the aggregate grouped ceiling area does not exceed 300 sq. ft.

Explanation: Where two or more ceiling areas, each individually less than 300 sq. ft., but combined exceed 300 sq. ft. and not separated by at least 10 ft.; must be protected by sprinklers.

Exceptions:

- #1: Ceiling areas that are less than 4 feet in the least dimension.
- #2: Ceilings that are constructed of open grate design or listed drop out ceilings in accordance with NFPA #13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, are not considered ceilings within the context of this policy.

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#3: Vehicles, boats, and similar exhibited mobile products having roofed areas greater than 100 sq. ft. shall be provided with smoke detectors acceptable to the FPB.

#4: Non-expanding trailers where the exterior of the trailer is used for display purposes only and the interior is not accessible to the public and does not contain storage of combustibles.

Definitions: Travel trailers designed to be transported by car or light truck are considered vehicles for the purpose of this policy. Trailer houses, semi trailers and demonstration trailers with roof areas greater than 300 sq. ft. in area are considered stationary displays and are to be protected by sprinklers. The space under a trailer is not to be used for storage or contain electrical wiring or equipment.

The sprinkler system is to be designed, installed and tested to NFPA Std #13. All areas are to be protected by sprinklers including soffits, etc. that exceed 4 feet in the least dimension.

Plans and permit applications are to be submitted to the FPB prior to installation and the FPB is to be notified for inspection and testing prior to the “opening” of the exhibit.