



ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention
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March 4, 2021

This correspondence is to notify owners and operators of assisted living facilities within boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage of recent changes to the International Building Code (IBC) and International Fire Code (IFC) adopted by the Municipal Assembly on October 27, 2020.

The International Fire Code as adopted by the Municipality of Anchorage requires new Assisted Living Facilities to provide fire sprinkler systems. Some existing facilities who could maintain evacuation times for residents in less than 3 minutes were allowed to operate without a fire sprinkler system. Due to recurring incidents of facilities unable to safely evacuate residents within reasonable timeframes, the Assembly adopted a change to the fire and building codes requiring existing facilities to provide fire sprinkler systems.

The Assembly provided a 3-year period in which the systems are to be installed. In addition, fire sprinkler systems must be monitored. Any systems not monitored must secure monitoring services within 2 years. Specific details about facilities are listed below.

Please note information on potential CARES Act fire sprinkler tax incentives at the following link:
<https://nfsa.org/2020/06/02/the-cares-act-delivers-new-fire-sprinkler-tax-incentives/>

Existing Facilities

- **Automatic Fire Sprinkler System.** Fire sprinkler system shall be installed throughout all existing Group I-1 facilities and Group R-3 and R-4 custodial care/assisted living facilities. (AO 2020-85 23.45.1103.12)
Compliance Date. Occupancies shall be in compliance by January 1, 2024.
- **Monitoring.** Monitoring shall be provided for all existing occupancies with fire sprinkler or fire alarm systems. Fire sprinkler system monitoring shall comply with Sections 903.4 and 903.4.1. Fire alarm monitoring shall comply with Section 907.6.6. (AO 2020-85 23.45.1103.11)
Compliance Date. Group I and R occupancies shall be in compliance by January 1, 2023.

New license for facility

- **Automatic sprinkler system.** Fire sprinkler system shall be provided with the issuance of a new license for an existing facility in accordance with section 903. (AO 2020-85 23.15.430.4.1)
- **Monitoring.** Monitoring shall be provided with the installation of a fire sprinkler system (AO 2020-85 23.45.903.4)

Change of Use

- **Automatic sprinkler system.** Fire sprinkler system shall be provided with a change of use to an existing facility in accordance with section 903. (AO 2020-85 23.15.430.5.3)
- **Monitoring.** Monitoring shall be provided with the installation of a fire sprinkler system (AO 2020-85 23.45.903.4)

Group R-4

- **Group R-4 occupancies.** Group R-4 occupancies shall be provided with Manual and Automatic Fire Alarm System. (AO 2020-85 23.45.907.2.24)

For additional information, the AFD Fire Prevention Division may be contacted at (907)267-4901.

Brian Dean
Fire Marshal
Anchorage Fire Department