



# City and Borough of Sitka

PUBLIC SERVICES

100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

PHONE (907) 747-1804 FAX (907) 747-3158

City and Borough of Sitka Building Department

## Standards for Evaluating Requests for Waiver from the Requirement to install an Automatic Fire Suppression System

Policy # 02-02

**Effective Date:** July 22, 2002

**Purpose:** To establish uniform standards for the evaluation of requests for waivers, (permitted under SGC 19.01.015), from the requirement to install an automatic fire suppression system, (as required by SGC 19.01.070).

**Background:** Sitka's sprinkler ordinance, in effect since 1977, requires most new commercial buildings and additions to include an automatic fire suppression system. This requirement is more stringent than the Uniform or International Building Codes. The Sitka General Code also allows for waivers to the requirement.

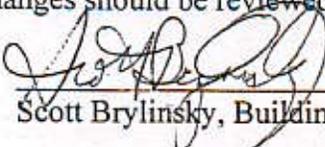
**Policy:** Applications for waiver from the requirement to install an automatic suppression system will be considered by a committee consisting of the Building Official or designee, the Fire Chief or designee, and a representative of the Police and Fire Commission. Applications for waiver from the requirement to install an automatic suppression system will be evaluated upon consideration of answers to the following questions:

1. Will anyone sleep in the proposed structure?
2. Does/will anyone sleep nearby the proposed structure?
3. Would the proposed structure, if it were on fire, present a risk to adjacent property?
4. Will the proposed structure be used for the storage of hazardous materials?
5. Will the proposed structure be used for the storage of flammable or combustible liquids, or carry an unusual fireload of combustible material?

In the absence of unusual circumstances, a *no* answer to all questions will result in support of granting a sprinkler waiver request. One or more *yes* answers will make it more likely that the committee will deny the application for waiver, depending on the specific circumstances.

Note: This policy was reviewed and approved by the Police and Fire Commission in July 2002. Significant changes should be reviewed and approved by the Commission.

Approved:

  
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Scott Brylinsky, Building Official

7-22-02  
Date