

# **RICHLAND COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**



## **Richland County Emergency Services Department** *Fire Protection Systems*

### **I. MISSION**

To provide a standardize approach for the installation, rehabilitation, modification and acceptance of fire protection systems in accordance with adopted codes, standards, and manufacturer's recommendations.

### **II. SCOPE**

This policy shall be implemented by designated employees of Richland County and in all applicable structures within the unincorporated areas of the County.

### **III. POLICY**

The Richland County Fire Marshal's Office requires all contractors and their sub-contractors to comply with the requirements of governing laws, codes, standards and this policy. A Richland County Construction/Installation permit application shall be submitted for all fire protection installation and upgrade projects prior to release of permits for installation.

#### **Sprinklers**

- A. All fire sprinkler projects-are required to be submitted to the South Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO).
- B. A letter of compliance from the SFMO must be obtained prior to approval for any installation, rehabilitation, or modification of all systems in both new and existing structures.
- C. Sprinkler contractors shall be responsible for providing the Richland County Fire Plans Examiner with at least one set of plans, approved by the SFMO, in accordance with State requirements.
- D. The reviewer is authorized to release construction permits for the scope of work indicated, contingent on the results of the SFMO's review and other conditions.
- E. A copy of the approved, sealed plans shall be left on site for reference and review during inspection.
- F. It shall be the contractor's responsibility to call for all required inspections in accordance with NFPA 13. A completed copy of the *Contractor's Material and*

*Test Certificate* shall be completed by the contractor and available on site, prior to the fire marshal conducting the final acceptance test on the system.

- G. Occupancy of a building or part of a structure prior to fire marshal approval is prohibited. The fire marshal is authorized to issue an order to that effect and issue summons to the responsible party each day in violation.
- H. Any modification, replacement, removal, and/or additions to an existing system shall require submittal to the State Fire Marshal's Office for approval prior to work beginning.
- I. <Reserved>

### **Fire Alarm**

- A. All fire alarm plans are required to be submitted to the Richland County Fire Plans Examiner for review and approval prior to installation.
- B. Fire alarm plans shall be completed and sealed by a registered architect and/or engineer, in accordance with State requirements.
- C. All information contained within plans and construction documents must be complete, in accordance with the International Fire Code and NFPA 72 standard <see fire alarm checklist>.
- D. Incomplete submittals will not be accepted into the review cycle.
- E. Reviews are completed within 17 (calendar) days, of its acceptance into the review cycle. The reviewer is responsible for issuing notices and/or orders to the applicant indicating the results of the review and any conditions or corrections needed.
- F. A minimum of 72 hrs notice is needed for contractors to request an inspection and test of a fire alarm system. A completed copy of an NFPA 72 Inspection Form shall be completed by contractor and available on site, prior to fire marshal conducting final acceptance test on the system.
- G. It is unlawful to occupy any portion of a structure protected by a fire alarm system prior to fire marshal approval. The fire marshal is authorized to issue an order to that effect and issue summons to the responsible party each day in violation.
- H. This policy applies to all required and non-required fire alarm systems as defined in chapter 9 of the IFC.
- I. <Reserved>

### **Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems**

- A. All structures and equipment required by code to contain fire suppression devices shall adhere to the requirements of IFC and applicable NFPA standards regarding installation, testing, and maintenance.

- B. An installation/construction permit is required for the installation of ALL automatic fire protection systems, prior to the system being installed. Contractors may obtain an application for install from the Richland County Fire Marshal's Office.
- C. Contractors and their installers shall be trained and licensed to install the equipment.
- D. Acceptance tests should be done in accordance with manufactory's recommendations, as well as industry guidelines and design standards. "Wet" test shall be performed on all commercial cooking systems, where appropriate.
- E. Contractors shall be responsible for providing all materials, initial records, and manuals to the owner.
- F. Systems shall be properly cleaned and restored by installer, prior to the system being placed in service.
- G. Type I hoods (with suppression) shall only be required for commercial cooking appliances and domestic cooking appliances used for "commercial use". Commercial use shall be defined as any activity taking place in a location where there is production or sale of products and services. Occupancies, other than restaurants and convenient food businesses, that have domestic cooking appliances used for limited food preparation and previously approved may continue to use such appliances in the manner installed provided there is no change to hazard, operation, or equipment. Examples: Break rooms, apartment club houses, dormitories, churches with < 300 occupant load, etc. Residential hood suppression systems shall be an acceptable option for all new, aforementioned uses as well as existing use that apply.