



# COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT

GREG DUPUIS, FIRE CHIEF

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| CITY OF COALINGA FIRE DEPARTMENT |  |                               |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD         |  |                               |
| STANDARD TITLE:                  | <b>DISPOSITION OF WATERFLOW SIGNALS FOR FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS</b> |                               |
| STANDARD NUMBER: 405.004         | EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 2022                                     | REVISION DATE: March 15, 2022 |

## ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the Coalinga Fire Department's (CFD or Department) requirements regarding an acceptable alternative to fire sprinkler installation inside combustible concealed spaces created by wood-framed roof drainage crickets.

## ***APPLICATION***

This policy applies to all buildings equipped with a fire sprinkler system within the Department's service area. These requirements apply to both required and voluntary fire sprinkler systems.

## ***OPERATIONAL POLICY***

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## ***OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE***

Based upon the need for uniformity in application across the Department's diverse service delivery area, and after careful deliberation, the Department has determined the following:

Because of their location on top of the roof, roof drainage crickets (RDC) are not vulnerable to exposure fires. RDC's also lack sources of interior ignition since electrical equipment is not permitted to be located within them, and fire sprinkler protection is provided within the building directly under the crickets.

The requirements listed below provide an acceptable, approved alternate means to limit fire spread in these areas should an ignition occur. Installation of fire sprinklers in these spaces is often impractical due to limited working space and lack of access after installation.

In addition to the listed exceptions in currently adopted version of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFPA) 13, the following protection method may be permitted for RDC's when approved by the Fire Marshal (or designee):



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- a. RDC’s must not be taller than four feet (4’) in height. The height will be determined by being measured vertically from the underside of the roof deck to the highest point of the interior of the RDC (at the parapet).
- b. II. Fire stopping material must consist of one layer of one half-inch (1/2”) gypsum board installed as noted in Gypsum Association publication, GA600 Fire Resistance Design Manual.
- c. III. Fire stop intervals between fire stops cannot not exceed ten feet (10’) in length. The length interval will be determined by being measured from the face of one fire stop to the face of the adjacent fire stop. Additional fire stops may be required at the sole discretion of the Fire Marshal (or designee).

Note: Where a continuous RDC has varying heights that fall above and below the four foot (4’) maximum height threshold, the higher areas must have fire sprinkler system protection installed. Fire sprinkler piping must be insulated in accordance with the requirements of NFPA 13. These piping segments may be separated from the lower height RDC spaces with approved fire stops. Use of this design option must be noted on the fire sprinkler plan submittal.

It is the obligation of the applicant’s (both general contractor and fire sprinkler contractor) to note the installation of additional fire stops on the roof framing details on all building plans for use by the City of Coalinga, Planning and Development Department, Building and Safety Division (COCPDBS).

If the use of fire stopping in lieu of required fire sprinkler protection was not coordinated prior to building plan submittal, the general contractor will be required to submit addendum plans to the (COCPDBS), as needed, prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy.

## ***PROCESS***

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## ***INFORMATION***



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This policy was developed in response to fire sprinkler and building contractor requests for an CFD approved alternate method to protect these spaces. This policy does not apply to mansards; concealed spaces within the building such as composite wood joist cavities, exterior architectural features, and similar spaces (See: Fire Prevention Manual, Section 405.019, Sprinklers Under Roof Projections). These elements require protection in accordance with the currently adopted version of the NFPA 13

## ***DEFINITIONS***

For purposes of this policy, a roof drainage cricket is defined as “a roof drainage element partitioned off from the attic or adjacent mansard space, containing no electrical, plumbing, or mechanical equipment (i.e., empty space)”.

## ***CROSS REFERENCES***

Fire Prevention Manual Section 405.019, Sprinklers Under Roof Projections National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13 Currently adopted edition Gypsum Association 2016-GA-600 Fire Resistance Design Manual