

**CHAPTER 24-11 INSTALLATION OF FIRE SPRINKLER PROTECTION
 IN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE OWNED INSTALLATIONS**

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24-11.1 PURPOSE

This Chapter establishes criteria for the installation of fire sprinkler protection in Indian Health Service (IHS) owned installations (HFAC Decision D-34 adopted by HFAC on July 1, 1998.)

24-11.2 DEFINITIONS

INSTALLATION BUILDINGS: Installation buildings are all buildings associated with a health care program regardless of the function of the building, i.e., patient care, administration, boiler plant, personnel quarters.

FULLY SPRINKLERED: Fully sprinklered means that a building is completely protected by fire sprinklers in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, "Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems." Every room is protected by at least one fire sprinkler head or an equivalent as approved by the IHS Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION: Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is defined in Chapter 24-2.5, "Authority Having Jurisdiction," page 1.

24-11.3 POLICY

Criteria for determining sprinkler requirements will be based on the requirements of NFPA 101: Life Safety Code, NFPA 13: Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and NFPA 75: Standard for the Protection of Electronic Computer/Data Processing Equipment. Currently all IHS facilities are required to meet the minimum requirements of NFPA 101 as it pertains to sprinkler protection.

Fire sprinkler protection is desirable in all IHS facilities even if an existing facility is not required to be sprinklered by earlier NFPA 101 code requirements. If funds are available, Areas and Service Units are authorized to install fire sprinklers in facilities not required to be sprinklered by the NFPA 101.

All health care, business, and residential-board-and-care building occupancies in IHS shall be provided with fire sprinkler systems in accordance with NFPA 13. Other building occupancies shall be evaluated by the AHJ on a case by case basis.

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The DES as the AHJ for the IHS shall assist Areas in interpretation of the requirements for sprinkler installation.

Any installation or alteration of a fire sprinkler system in any IHS owned installation building shall have prior written approval of the proposed alteration and/or installation design from the AHJ.

24-11.4 METHODOLOGY

A. EXISTING BUILDINGS: It may not be practicable to sprinkler all existing installations in an Area or all buildings simultaneously at the same installation due to funding constraints. Therefore, criteria in section (1) below are provided for IHS managers to make judgments regarding when the installation of sprinklers is practical.

- (1) To prioritize sprinkler installation projects for existing buildings throughout an IHS Area, use the following ranked list of building type and general situations.

Criteria for Prioritizing the
Sprinklering of Existing Buildings

1. Sites not protected by a full time fire department
2. Inpatient sites (hospital and residential board and care, including Youth Regional Treatment Centers)
3. Health Center
4. Personnel Quarters
5. Modular Dental Unit
6. Health Station
7. Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center
8. Buildings housing essential utilities (e.g., boiler plants)
9. Buildings housing other health care support functions
10. Administrative Building
11. Warehouse

This list shall be used to rank buildings within each IHS Area. Unless there is compelling justification otherwise, buildings lower on the list will not be sprinklered and will not be combined in projects with other higher ranking buildings until the need for sprinklers is addressed in all higher ranking buildings within an IHS Area.

For Example:

An existing installation consisting of five buildings; a hospital, a dental/modular, boiler plant, garage, and an administrative building, should not have all the buildings sprinklered under the same project as long as there are other higher

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priority buildings in the Area that have not been
sprinklered.

B. NEW BUILDINGS:

- (1) New inpatient health care occupancies shall be sprinklered as required by the Life Safety Code, the Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, and the Standard for the Protection of Electronic Computer/Data Processing Equipment. New health centers and all other business occupancies shall be sprinklered even if not specifically required by the Life Safety Code, unless a waiver is approved by the DES AHJ.

- (2) All new quarters units, including all single family units and all multi-family units, shall be sprinklered in accordance with the Life Safety Code, and provided with hard wired smoke detectors.