



CHANGES TO THE 2010 NATIONAL FIRE CODE AND THE INSPECTION OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

NS Office of the Fire Marshal

17 November 2015

Overview

- Relative changes in the 2010 Fire Code and the effect of these changes on Health facilities.
- Relaxed code requirements
- Current inspection process by OFM
- General areas of concern in Health facilities.
- Future considerations

Relevant changes to the NFC

- 1.3.1.2. Referenced Documents List updated -Note that some referenced documents may have been upgraded to a more recent version, NFPA 10, 25, ULC S536 etc.
- 2.1.3.8. Commissioning of Life Safety & Fire Protection Systems.
- 2.1.5.1. Specific standards referenced for portable extinguishers

Relevant changes to the NFC

- 2.4.1.1. Allowance for abandoned wiring in ceilings if space is sprinklered.
- 2.6.1.9. (2) Fixed pipe fire suppression systems may be permitted to be serviced annually instead of semi-annually. Individual facilities must apply to the OFM for this exemption. Determined on a case by case basis.

Relevant changes to the NFC

- 5.6.1.1. All sections of 5.6 now apply during construction, alterations or demolition.
- 5.6.1.2. Code now identifies adjacent buildings and structures require protection.
- 5.6.1.4. Access for firefighters throughout during construction required.

Relevant changes to the NFC

- 5.6.1.8. Specific requirements for ignition sources at construction, alteration or demolition sites.
- 5.6.1.9. Requirement for coordination with services providers during demolition.
- 5.6.1.13. Requirement to maintain fire protection systems when possible or shut down in accordance with NFC 6.1.1.4.

Relevant changes to the NFC

- 5.6.1.14. Fire watches to ensure warning to occupants is sounded.
- 5.6.1.17. Fire warning system for entire facility needs to be provided.

Relaxed code requirements

- 6.4.1.1. (1) Hose located in hose cabinets may be removed from service and replaced with a portable extinguisher. Standpipe connections in the cabinets must continue to be maintained in accordance with NFPA 25. Individual facilities must apply to the OFM for this exemption. Determined on a case by case basis.

Current OFM Inspection Process

- The Office of the Fire Marshal is currently moving toward conducting Hospital inspections every 3 years.
- Nursing homes and other long term care facilities are inspected annually.
- These inspections are full fire and life safety inspections (including maintenance records audits.)

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Required inspections on fire protection systems being fulfilled.
- Monthly, quarterly and semi-annual inspections of life safety systems not always in place.
- Changes or alterations to fire protection systems without proper verification and/or commissioning.

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Regular inspection, testing and maintenance of fire rated doors.
- Penetrations of wiring, piping and ducting through fire separations not being properly sealed and maintained.
- Required fire compartments either not in place or not being properly maintained.

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Decorative materials, draperies, linens, etc. not meeting the required standards.
- Storage, STORAGE, **STORAGE** !
- Storage in corridors, stairwells, other means of egress.
- Proper use and storage of dangerous goods, oxygen, gas, etc.

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Proper maintenance of access to building, fire department connection, etc. (snow)
- Clearly defined, well signed, unobstructed means of egress.
- Proper maintenance and testing of emergency power systems.

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Adequate fire safety planning
 - Proper plans in place
 - Sufficient staffing to carry out plan
 - Proper postings of floor plans and procedures
 - Adequate and effective fire exercising
 - Complete and effective maintenance plan
 - Effective review

General Fire Safety Concerns

- Plans for construction projects not being submitted to OFM for review.
- Proper fire safety processes not being carried out during construction.
 - Required fire separations in place.
 - Maintenance of fire protection systems.
 - Update of fire safety plan.
 - Adequate hot works processes.

Food for thought

- Communication is the Key. Our office is here to help with issues or projects that come up.
- It is understood that there are budgets and time lines involved in correcting deficiencies and the OFM will work in conjunction with the various Authorities to achieve minimum fire and life safety standards.



QUESTIONS?

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