



**BERNALILLO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
6840 SECOND ST., NW SUITE 302
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87107
505-486-1310**

To whom it may concern;

Recently there has been some confusion with the residential fire sprinkler requirement for Bernalillo County. The Bernalillo County Code Chapter 34, section 903.2.7 entitled "Fire Protection Systems; Where Required; Group R" states that an automatic sprinkler system is required all one and two family residence that are 6,000 square feet or larger. For one and two family residences that are between 3,000 and 6,000 square and can not met the fire department access requirements, or fire department water requirements then these will also be required to have a residential sprinkler system.

The Bernalillo County Fire Department adopted the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code with amendments on August 14, 2007. If you wish to receive a copy of the current Bernalillo County Fire Code you can visit the following:

- The Bernalillo County Fire Marshal's Office
- The Bernalillo County Clerk's Office
- The Bernalillo County Fire Department web page at www.bernco.gov

The Bernalillo County Fire Marshal has met with other Bernalillo County departments that deal with residential construction and we have determined that all residential plans that are 3,000 square feet or greater will be submitted to the Fire Marshal's Office. The Bernalillo County Fire Marshal's Office will review these plans and will determine based on the square footage and the other requirements listed below if residential sprinklers are required under the Bernalillo County Fire Code.

Sprinkler Requirement:

The residential fire sprinklers in one and two family dwelling shall be designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 13D. All sprinkler systems shall be reviewed and submitted bearing a review certification and signature of a minimum level III NICET Certified Engineering Technician. The following is a breakdown of the automation fire sprinkler requirement for Bernalillo County and one and two family dwellings (Group R-3)

- All one and two family dwelling units that are 6,000 square feet or greater of heated space shall have an automatic sprinkler system throughout.
- One and two family dwelling units that are between 3,000 and 6,000 square feet of heated space shall have automatic sprinkler system throughout when any of the following conditions exist:
 1. The fire department access roads do not meet the requirements of the Bernalillo County Fire Code.
 2. The building is located in a subdivision without adequate fire apparatus access roads, which provide multiple ingress and egress points from the subdivision.
 3. The building site is located on a dead-end and exceeds 1,500 feet from the nearest thoroughfare's intersection.
 4. The fire department access road has a greater than 12% grade.
 - The maximum allowable grade is 15% if sprinklers are installed.



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5. A fire hydrant is more than 1000 feet from the building site or the required fire flow is not available.
6. The most remote point of a building is located more than 150 feet from the closest point of fire apparatus access roadways as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building.

Inspections and Plan review:

All automatic sprinkler plans required by the Bernalillo County Fire Code shall be submitted to the Bernalillo County Fire Marshal's Office for review and approval. The Bernalillo County Fire Marshal's Office will conduct inspections of the systems during construction, and after the system is installed for the acceptance testing of the system prior to the structure being allowed to be occupied.

If you have any questions on these requirements or would like to discuss these requirements in greater detail please don't hesitate to call the Bernalillo County Fire Marshal Chris Gober at (505)468-1310 and we will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have, or discuss these and other requirements of the Bernalillo County Fire Code.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,

Commander Gober, Fire Marshal
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