



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
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Code/Procedural Interpretation

CFD Interpretation: Fire Sprinklers in Electrical Rooms

Date: May 27, 2014

Code Reference: NFPA 13

Subject: Are fire sprinkler heads required to be installed in electrical equipment rooms?

Interpretation:

Although NFPA 13 states that one of the most basic requirements is for fire sprinklers to be “installed throughout the premises”, there are conditions allowed in NFPA 13 that permit the omission of fire sprinklers in electrical equipment rooms. They are:

1. The room is dedicated for electrical equipment only.
2. Only dry-type electrical equipment is utilized.
3. Room has a minimum fire-rating of 2-hours, with properly sealed penetrations.
4. No combustibile storage is allowed in the room.
5. Electrical room shall contain a smoke detection system installed in accordance with NFPA 72.

All five conditions indicated above must be met. It shall be the full responsibility of the building owner or occupant in control of such room to regularly monitor the room and limit access to the room to reduce the likelihood that such storage will occur in these rooms.