



**ADMINISTRATIVE RULING 20-804
RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS
IN ATTACHED GROUP U OCCUPANCIES**

APPROVED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. H. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the words "FIRE MARSHAL" are printed in a small, sans-serif font.

Subject:

2019 Ventura County Fire Code, Section 903.2.8.1.1.
Residential fire sprinkler coverage in Group R-3 Occupancies and attached Group U Occupancies.

Code Requirements:

Ventura County Fire Code (VCFC) requires fire sprinklers all new buildings. Additions to existing buildings may require fire sprinklers be retro-fitted based on the percentage of addition. Additions to existing buildings with a fire sprinkler system require the system to be extended into the new portions of the building.

Exemptions to fire sprinkler requirements are outlined within VCFC Chapter 9.

VCFC Section 903.2.8.1.1 specifically requires fire sprinklers systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13D in Group R-3 Occupancies to have fire sprinklers install in attached Group U Occupancies.

Discussion:

The requirement to provide fire sprinkler coverage in Group U Occupancies attached to a Group R-3 Occupancy was first introduced in the VCFC under Fire District Ordinance No. 26. The language of this section indicates that all attached Group U Occupancies are required to be fire sprinklered. A structure shall be considered attached when one of the following conditions is met:

1. The structure is physically attached to another structure. This shall include structures connected by a covered breezeway, or similar structure, with concealed attic space.

2. The structure is not separated from other structures in accordance with the current adopted edition of the California Building Code (CBC) and/or California Residential Code (CRC).

It is not the Fire District's intent to require fire sprinkler coverage in all attached Group U Occupancies. The requirements of this administrative ruling are intended to provide clarity as to when fire sprinkler coverage must be provided in these occupancies.

Requirements:

VCFC Section 903.2.8.1.1 Coverage - Automatic fire sprinkler systems installed in accordance with NFPA 13D in Group R-3 Occupancies shall provide sprinkler protection of attached Group U Occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. Attached carports with no habitable space above.
2. Attached open porches.