QUESTION: In certain instances the Portland Fire Bureau requires sprinklers to be installed in one and two family dwellings. The One & Two Family Dwelling Specialty Code is silent on this issue. What installation standard should be used for residential fire sprinklers?

RESPONSE: Where a fire sprinkler system is required for one and two family residences by the Fire Marshal’s Office, it shall be designed to meet the requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard, 13D, “Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes”.

Optional installations are not required by either bureau but are installed by the choice of the builder or homeowner. These systems shall meet all portions of the standard, except for Sections 4-6 or 5-5, specifying sprinkler head location.

A residential plumbing permit is required for all installations.

All permit application submittals, both required and optional, shall include:

1. Calculations as required by the standard;
2. Drawings showing location of sprinkler heads; and
3. Rough plumbing layout including pipe diameter and length.
For additional information and technical assistance regarding the installation and placement of residential sprinklers, please contact the Fire Marshal’s Office at (503) 823-3700.

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