

KSFM 2024-003 - KSFM Prevention Information Release

To: Facility owners

Subject: Fire Marshal Fire Safety Program for Construction

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's office (KSFM) is sharing information on new guidelines related to fire prevention and protection in construction areas and at worksites. Standards address construction, alteration, and demolition operations.

One significant change is that there must be a Fire Safety/Prevention Program established, with a designated program manager, for these work projects. Below you will find a few things that must be addressed through the program, and on the work site.

Items to be addressed for a fire safety program:

- (1) Good housekeeping
- (2) On-site security
- (3) Fire protection systems, as follows:
 - (a) For construction operations, installation of new fire protection systems as construction progresses.
 - (b) For demolition operations, preservation of existing fire protection systems during demolition.
- (4) Organization and training
- (5) Development of a pre-fire plan with the local fire department.
- (6) Rapid communication.
- (7) Consideration of special hazards resulting from previous occupancies.
- (8) Protection of existing structures and equipment from exposure fires resulting from construction, alteration, and demolition operations.

Owner's Responsibility for Fire Protection

- * The owner shall designate a person who shall be responsible for the Fire Prevention Program.
- * The fire prevention program manager shall have knowledge of the applicable fire protection standards, available fire protection systems, and fire inspection procedures.
- * Inspection records shall be available for review by the authority having jurisdiction.

Program Manager Responsibilities

- * The manager shall be responsible for ensuring that proper training in the use of protection equipment has been provided.
- * The manager shall be responsible for the presence of adequate numbers and types of fire protection devices and appliances; and for the devices' and appliances' proper maintenance.
- * The manager shall be responsible for supervising the permit system for hot work operations.
- * A weekly self-inspection program shall be implemented, with records maintained and made available.
- * Impairments to the fire protection systems or fire alarm, detection, or communications systems shall be authorized only by the fire prevention program manager.

- * Temporary protective coverings used on fire protection devices during renovations, such as painting, shall be removed promptly when work has been completed in the area.

Pre-fire Plans

- * Where there is public fire protection, the manager shall be responsible for the development of Pre-Fire Plans, in conjunction with the local authorities.
- * Pre-Fire Plans shall be updated as necessary.
- * The Pre-Fire Plan shall include provisions for onsite visits by the fire agency (local and/or KSFM).

Installation, Testing, and Maintenance

- * Where fire alarm, detection, or protection systems are required, they shall be installed, maintained, and tested in accordance with the appropriate NFPA standards.

Fire Alarm Reporting

- * There shall be a readily available public fire alarm box near the premises, telephone service to the responding fire department, or equivalent facilities.
- * Instructions shall be issued for the immediate notification of the fire department in the case of a fire.

Access for Fire Fighting

Key Box

- * Where access to, or within, a structure or an area is unduly difficult because of secured openings, or where immediate access is necessary for lifesaving or fire-fighting purposes, the authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to require a key box to be installed in an accessible location.
- * The key box shall be an approved type and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the authority having jurisdiction.

Access Roadways

- * Every building shall be accessible by fire department apparatus by means of roadways having an all-weather driving surface of not less than 20 feet of unobstructed width, having the ability to withstand the live loads of fire apparatus, and having a minimum of 13 feet, 6 inches of vertical clearance.
- * Access for fire department apparatus shall be provided to the immediate job site at the start of the project and maintained until completion.
- * Dead-end fire department access roads in excess of 150 feet in length, shall be provided with approved provisions for turning around fire department apparatus, unless otherwise permitted.
- * The required width of access roadways shall not be obstructed in any manner, including obstruction by parked vehicles.
- * "No Parking" signs or other appropriate notices, or both, prohibiting obstruction shall be permitted to be required and shall be maintained.

Stairs

- * In all buildings over one story in height, at least one stairway shall be provided that is always in usable condition and that meets the requirements of NFPA 101.
 - The stairway shall be lighted.
 - During construction, the stairway shall be enclosed where the building exterior walls are in place.
 - All exit stairs shall be provided with stair identification signs, to include the floor level, stair designation, and exit path direction as required, to provide for safe egress.

Hoists and Elevators

- * Where hoists and elevators provide the only efficient means of transporting hose and other cumbersome fire-fighting equipment to upper floors, they shall be available to the fire department whenever necessary.

Hydrants

- * Free access from the street to fire hydrants and to outside connections for standpipes, sprinklers, or other fire extinguishing equipment, whether permanent or temporary, shall be provided and maintained at all times.
- * No material or construction shall interfere with access to hydrants, Siamese connections, or fire extinguishing equipment.

Means of Egress

- * The means of egress shall be provided in accordance with 4.6.10 of NFPA 101.

Temporary Protection During Construction, Alteration, or Demolition

- * During construction, alteration, or demolition, the use of temporary fire sprinkler protection, approved by the **authorities having jurisdiction**, shall be permitted as supplemental protection.

Building Separation Walls

Fire Cutoffs

- * Fire walls and exit stairways, where required for the completed building, shall be given construction priority for installation.
- * Fire doors with approved closing devices and hardware shall be installed as soon as practical.
- * Fire doors after installation, in accordance with NFPA 8.0, shall not be obstructed from closing.

Temporary Separation Walls

- * Protection shall be provided to separate *an occupied portion* of the structure, *from* a portion of the structure undergoing alteration, construction, or demolition operations, when such operations are considered as having a higher level of hazard than the occupied portion of the building.
- * Walls shall have at least a one-hour fire resistance rating.
- * Opening protectives shall have at least a 45-minute fire protection rating.

Information provided from NFPA 241 – 2019 Edition

For questions and to assist you in complying with the requirements, the KSFM has a section on its website devoted to Prevention. Please visit www.firemarshal.ks.gov/documentcenter , and click on the Prevention tab.

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