



▶ 1ST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION COOKOUT
1

▶ HOARDING TASK FORCE 2

▶ Does Your Project Need A Health Department Review?.....3

▶ Automatic Sprinkler Requirements.....4

▶ Building Safety Month.....5

o Fall/
WINTER
2012- 2013

Code connection

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CODE ADMINISTRATION



1st Annual Employee
Recognition Cookout
September 2012

Recognized

On September 22, 2012, the Department of Code Administration hosted their first annual Employee Recognition Cookout. The event was attended by approximately 30-40 employees and their families at the Armistead Booth Park in Alexandria. The event allowed employees to meet other family members and have a great time for fellowship, awards, and family fun. The time was enjoyed by all that attended and everyone is ready for next years!



Hoarding Task Force

by Philip Pugh

Maintenance Code Inspector II, Wilfredo Saavedra joins the task force with ten years of maintenance code compliance experience. He also served as a rental facilities manager in a neighboring multi-family residential community and fluently speaks and translates three languages. Over the course of his career, Inspector Saavedra has been involved in fifteen documented cases involving unsafe structures caused by hoarding with favorable outcomes.

The City of Alexandria, VA has a Hoarding Task Force that is focused on educating the public on the causes and damages of hoarding and addressing hoarding complaints from citizens. The team's objective is to offer support services for individuals and families to prevent, abate and resolve those conditions that present life safety and quality of life issues to adults engaging in hoarding behaviors and those family members and neighbors that are impacted by hoarding conditions. The group collaborates to provide adults engaging in hoarding with a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities each of the departments that may be involved in an individual referral and the services that are available from each of the departments and community.



Hoarding as a Public Safety Issue

The risk of fire; structural damage to the home; and disease or injury to the occupant.

The accumulation of combustible materials, such as newspapers, clothing and rubbish, can pose a severe fire hazard.

The amount of combustible materials, when ignited creates an extremely hot, fast spreading fire that is difficult to suppress.

Escaping the home in a fire can be impossible due to blocked hallways, doorways and windows.

Public safety personnel access to the home can be hampered or blocked.

Increased risk of structural damage: sagging floors and ceilings, cracked floor joists or roof trusses and in extreme cases, partial collapse of the structure.



The Hoarding Task Force team consists of:

- Community and Human Services, Adult Protective Services
- Community and Human Services, Mental Services
- Alexandria Code Administration
- The Office of the City Attorney
- Departments of Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services and Animal Control.

How can you help?

If you suspect a hoarding situation in your neighborhood, it is recommended that you do not attempt to solve the Person's hoarding problem. Also, do not offer to clean up the house. The best action you can take is to contact the Hoarding

Adult Protective Services at 703-746-5778. A social worker will respond to your call during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Alexandria Code Administration to file a complaint for clutter or an accumulation of items on the exterior of a property: Please call 703-746-4200 Monday through Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.

Does Your Project Need A Health Department Review?

The City of Alexandria Permit Center has been partnering with the Alexandria Health Department to ensure the safety of citizens and visitors for many years. However, many customers do not know that if they intend to pursue certain projects, their request must be approved by the Environmental Health Division of the Alexandria Health Department. Many of our customers do not know that facilities such as summer camps, wells, and even beauty parlors all require a review from the Alexandria Health Department. Take a look at the list below and see if your proposed use will require a Health Department review. If you find one of these uses pertains to you, please make sure you contact the Alexandria Health Department at 703.746.4866 or 703.746.4867.

Aquatic and Sports Facilities including:

Spas (hot tubs) (except at a single-family home or duplex that is not a child care facility or bed & breakfast)
Swimming pools (except at a single-family home or duplex that is not a child care facility or bed & breakfast)
Water parks
Interactive water features (splash pads, interactive fountains, water jet plazas, etc.)

Food Establishments including:

Adult care centers
Assisted living facilities
Bakeries
Bed and breakfasts
Carry-out restaurants
Caterers
Child care centers
Colleges and universities
Commissaries
Convenience stores
Delicatessens
Fast food restaurants
Full service restaurants
Grocery stores
Grocery store salad bars
Group homes (where the residents cook for themselves)
Group homes (where a house manager or other employee does the cooking)
Homes for adults
Hospitals
Hotel continental breakfasts
Meat Markets
Mobile food units/trucks
Jails
Nursing homes
Pushcarts and associated commissary
Schools cafeterias, public and private
Seafood markets
Vending machines selling potentially hazardous foods

NOTE: The Health Department inspects, but does not normally require plans for, food facilities at: Farmers markets and USDA summer feeding sites

Personal Grooming and Massage Facilities including:

Aestheticians
Barbershops
Beauty parlors
Electrolysis establishments
Hair salons
Laser hair removal establishments
Nail salons
Skin care salons
Tanning salons
Therapeutic massage facilities
Waxing salons
NOTE: The Health Department does not currently permit tattoo parlors or colon hydrotherapy establishments

Sewage Facilities including:

Septic systems and other onsite sewage disposal systems
Sewage holding tanks and facilities
Sewage pump out facilities at marinas

Transient Lodging Facilities including:

Bed and breakfasts
Campgrounds
Hotels
Motels
Summer camps

Wells including:

Drinking water wells
Geothermal heat pump wells
Irrigation wells

NOTE: Permit processing for all wells requires a site visit.

Automatic Sprinkler Requirements for Closets and Similar Small Enclosures

Are sprinklers required in closets?

Yes. However, there are limited exceptions specified in 2007 NFPA 13 §8.15.8.2 for certain small closets in the dwelling units of hotels and motels:

"Sprinklers are not required in clothes closets, linen closets and pantries within dwelling units of hotels and motels where the area of the space does not exceed 24 sq.ft., the least dimension does not exceed 3ft, and the walls and ceilings are surfaced with noncombustible or limited-combustible materials."

Are sprinklers required within furniture?

No. Sprinklers are required within all permanent spaces of the structure, such as closets, in accordance with 2007 NFPA 13 §4.1. Moveable furniture items, such as desks, dressers and wardrobes, do not require interior sprinkler protection even when they are affixed to the permanent structure of the building [1].

[1] The appendix note for 2007 NFPA 13 §8.15.8.2 reads; "Portable wardrobe units, such as those typically used in nursing homes and mounted to the wall, do not require sprinklers to be installed in them. Although the units are attached to the finished structure, the standard views those units as pieces of furniture rather than a part of the structure; thus, sprinklers are not required."

Are sprinklers required in built-in (not free-standing) electronic equipment "cabinets"?

No. If the electronic equipment "cabinets" meet the size and occupancy exceptions per §8.15.8.2;

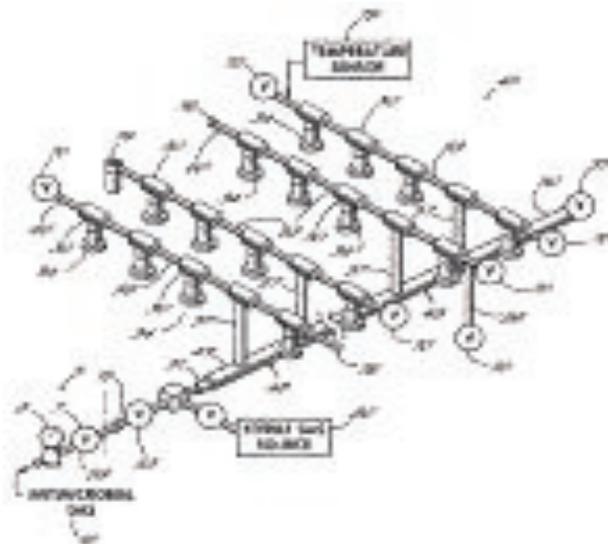
Yes. If the electronic equipment "cabinets" house heat-generating equipment similar to requirements per 2007 NFPA 13 §21.20.16.2.1:

"In buildings sprinklered in accordance with NFPA 13, closets that contain equipment such as washers, dryers, furnaces, or water heaters shall be sprinklered regardless of size."

Do walk-in type freezers, coolers, vaults, safes and film cabinets require sprinklers?

Yes. These units, once installed, become part of the building. 2007 NFPA 13 §4.1 requires sprinklers to be installed in all areas except where specific sections permit their omission. There are no exceptions or sections in NFPA 13 that allow the omission of sprinkles in these areas. Please note, 2007 NFPA 13 §21.7.2.2 addresses specific requirements for sprinkler protection of film cabinets.

* Reference standard per 2009 VCC -





UL Withdraws Listed Electrical Circuit Protective Systems

Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL) has recently withdrawn the approval of Listed Electrical Circuit Protective Systems covered under 2008 NEC §695.6 (B)(3) after it was determined, through testing, that these systems no longer consistently achieve a two hour fire resistive rating when subjected to the standard UL 2196 Fire Endurance Test.

The following types of cables are affected:

- UL Classified Fire Resistive Cable (FHJR)
- UL Listed Cable with suffix ‘CI’ (Circuit Integrity)
- ULC Listed Fire Resistant Cable-Circuit Integrity Rating (CIR), Cable (FHJRC)



These systems are typically found in the following life safety installations:

- Fire Pump-Feeder/Controls
- Elevators
- Smoke Control Equipment
- Command Center Critical Systems
- Pressurized Stairway Systems
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Emergency Generators and Standby Power Systems



Further information is available at UL | Fire Resistive, Fire Resistant and Circuit Integrity Cables - <http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offering/perspectives/regulator/fire/cables/>

Please Note: Mineral Insulated Cable (MI) is still approved as a feeder per 2008 NEC §695.6 (B)(2). Another option is to encase conductors/conduit in minimum 2” of concrete as permitted under 2008 NEC §695.6 (B) (1).



Spring time is on its way! Please plan to join us in preparation of Building Safety Month this May 1, 2013 from 11am–6pm at Market Square, 301 King Street as we celebrate our ”Kick Off” event here in Old Town Alexandria. During the month of May, the Alexandria Department of Code Administration joins national and regional efforts in promoting safe building awareness and related code requirements for builders, homeowners and property owners. COME ON DOWN and join us as we will be hosting guest speakers, vendors and meet our very own Professional Staff that will be on hand to answer questions and help you understand how

Code Officials Keep You Safe!

Code Administration Fall/ Winter Statistics

	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	2013 YTD	2012 YTD
New Construction Inspections	2268	2475	2302	2411	2716	2601	28771	27369
Maintenance Code Inspections	964	793	723	513	612	559	11294	11403
Plans Reviewed	902	963	862	649	725	702	1173	1427
Third Party Inspections	48	26	20	19	23	6	29	250
Online Permits	368	449	418	631	1207	1307	2514	233
Online <u>Payments</u>	135	169	195	204	207	246	453	108



Alexandria Department of Code Administration
 301 King Street, Room 4200
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314
alexandriava.gov/code

"One Team, One City - Our City"

Main Number	(703) 746-4200
Permit Center Division	(703) 746-4200
Permit Center Manager	(703) 746-4201
Plan Review Services Division	(703) 746-4193
Maintenance and Nuisance Code Division	(703) 746-4229
New Construction Inspections Plum., Mech., Fire Sup.	(703) 746-4238
New Construction Inspections Electrical and Fire Alarm	(703) 746-4219
New Construction Inspections Building	(703) 746-4210
Online Permit Center – Electronic Permits and Payments	permits.alexandriava.gov
Nuisance Abatement Hotline	(703) 836-0041
Permit Tracker – Track Permits In Progress http://	alexandriava.gov/city/codeenforcement/permitracker