

# FPB POLICY 2009-2: CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



Created: July 17, 2009 Revised: January 24, 2014 Effective Date: Immediately  
From the Office of the Fire Prevention Bureau – Phone (515) 283-4240

This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2012 International Fire Code and is an official interpretation of Chapter 46-1 (d) of the City of Des Moines Fire Prevention and Protection Code.

## **The following shall apply to new construction and modifications to existing sprinkler systems:**

Chapter 46-1 (d) of the City of Des Moines Fire Prevention and Protection Code reads as follows: "(d) A permit shall be required for construction, installation or modification of the following types of fire protection systems and equipment, and the fee for issuance of such permit shall be the amount established in the schedule of fees adopted by the city council by resolution:(1) Automatic fire-extinguishing systems." It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that maintenance (including replacement of existing parts) is not considered to be a modification to a system and therefore does not require a construction permit. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau's policy on when a construction permit is required:

- 1.) Any addition (sprinkler heads, control valves, backflow preventer, etc.) to an existing automatic sprinkler system SHALL require a construction permit (e.g. adding 1 sprinkler head).
- 2.) Any modification/change (sprinkler heads, control valves, backflow preventer, etc.) to an existing automatic sprinkler system SHALL require a construction permit. This would be changing something on the system (e.g. changing a dry valve to a wet valve).
- 3.) Any identical replacement (sprinkler heads, control valves, backflow preventer, etc.) of a device on an existing automatic sprinkler system shall NOT require a construction permit. This would be one for one replacement (e.g. water flow switch for new water flow switch).
- 4.) Any construction of a new automatic sprinkler system (regardless of size) SHALL require a construction permit (e.g. installation of a limited area system protecting a paint booth).

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:

Office of the Fire Protection Engineer  
City of Des Moines Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
2715 Dean Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
Office: (515) 237-1316  
Fax: (515) 283-4907  
Email: [firedept@dmgov.org](mailto:firedept@dmgov.org)