



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	July 12, 2005	Interpretation #	05-010
Topic	Smoke Detection in Psychiatric Hospitals		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Building Code Section 411A		
Requested by	Chris Uebel Moore Uebel Architecture 1049 4 th St. Santa Rosa CA 95404		

The I-3 Occupancy Classification includes acute psychiatric hospitals found within communities throughout California. In our geographic area, the I-3 occupancy is seen configured as a portion of one floor within larger multi-floor acute care I-1.1 medical/surgical hospitals, as smaller stand alone psychiatric hospitals (often serving 50 beds or fewer), or in mixed occupancy buildings with other community healthcare services such as skilled nursing or occupational health services.

1. 2001 CBC 411A: Is Section 411A applicable to such I-3 occupancy psychiatric hospitals (code defined as mental hospitals) as a part of the category “detention facilities?”

In the case that you have described the answer would be “no”. The intent of 411A is to address facilities that house a person that has been either charged or convicted of a crime.

2. Is 2001 CBC Appendix 3A, Division II, 322A intended to apply to community based psychiatric (mental) hospitals as well as correctional facilities?

No. Section 322A, Division II, is intended for facilities that house a person that is convicted of crime.

- 3. CFC 1006.2.7.2.4 states that smoke detectors shall be installed throughout resident housing areas, including sleeping areas and contiguous day rooms, group activity spaces and other common spaces normally accessible to residents. Does “throughout” as stated in the fire code include above ceilings and below floor spaces?**

No. It was not the intent of the code to require smoke detection in spaces above the ceiling or below the floor in buildings that are protected throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.