



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

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| Date Issued | 1/11/2011 | Interpretation | 10-030 |
| Topic | Fire Sprinklers in Permanent Portable Buildings for Group "E" Occupancies | | |
| Code Section(s) | 2007 CFC 903.2.2, 903.2.2.1.2 | | |
| Requested by | J. Charles Weber Deputy Fire Marshal/Fire Captain Lakeside Fire Protection District Fire Prevention Division 12365 Parkside Street Lakeside, Ca 92040 619-390-2350 ext 307 Office 619-443-1568 cweber@lakesidefire.com | | |

If an existing permanent portable building is being moved to another existing campus within a school district, is the portable building exempt from automatic fire sprinkler requirements.

The existing portable building has approximately 3000 square feet of fire area and has been on site for ten or more years. The portable building is of Type V construction; we have no documentation whether or not it is of one hour fire resistive construction. The portable building is used for classroom instruction, assembly purposes, and distribution of off-site prepared lunches. The building is equipped with a manual fire alarm system and does not have automatic fire sprinklers.

Section 903.2.2 of the 2007 California Fire Code requires installation of automatic fire sprinklers in all Educational occupancies if the fire area is greater than 20,000 square feet, exempting the building, in its current location, from the sprinkler requirement.

Section 903.2.2.1.2 of the 2007 California Fire Code, automatic fire sprinklers are required in permanent portable buildings on new public school campuses.

While researching the above matter, I found that OSFM Code Interpretation 06-118, issued May 16, 2007, appears to exempt fire alarm system requirements for new portable buildings on existing school campuses under certain circumstances.

Questions:

1. Would the requirements of Section 903.2.2.1.2 for automatic fire sprinklers retroactively apply to an existing permanent portable building moved between existing public school campuses for modernization purposes?

No. CBC 903.2.2.1.1 and 903.2.2.1.2 would require that each time a portable building is moved from one campus to another it becomes subject to the conditions of that campus with regard to the campus being “new” or “existing”. Existing buildings moved to a “new” campus would require the installation of a fire sprinkler system.

2. Would the logic of Code Interpretation (CI) #06-118 similarly apply to fire sprinklers in a portable building moved to an existing campus?

Even though CI 06-118 applies to the 2001 code, the requirements are the same for the 2001 and 2007 codes.

Educational Buildings or portable buildings (newly built or existing and moved from another campus), built or placed on an “existing” public school campus are not required to have a fire sprinkler system per CBC 903.2.2.1.unless they are used as a vocational shop, laboratory, or as required by CBC 903 & other provisions of the code.