

FORT MYERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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<https://fl-fortmyersfire.civicplus.com/>

FIRE PREVENTION POLICIES

In accordance with [Section 40-3](#) of the Fort Myers City Code – Paragraph (d) the following shall apply:

“All contractors, subcontractors and specialty contractors shall comply with the provisions in the current city fire prevention policies.”

GENERAL

1. Fire department access is required on three (3) sides of a building per the fire official. The requirement for fire access around the buildings will be omitted with the following exception:
 - Installation of a fire sprinkler system.
2. On site fire hydrants are to be located within a 150 feet radius measured from the center point of the front of the building it serves. Hydrants spacing shall not exceed 300 feet. Also, any private hydrant shall be painted red.
3. Fences, signs, vehicle parking spaces, and other structures are not permitted within seven- and one-half feet (7'6") in front of or to the sides of, and four feet (4') to the rear of any hydrant or other fire department connections.
4. Emergency vehicle access shall consist of a 20-foot wide stabilized LBR 40 bases. Posts shall be corrosion resistant with red reflectors on all sides and spaced a minimum of 20 feet apart with 24 inches of post exposed above ground. The property owner shall maintain the posts, signage, and emergency vehicle access area. If the area is grassed over, grass shall be maintained so not to obstruct the posts. Signs shall be posted at both ends of the access road (**FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS ONLY**).
5. Windowless restrooms shall be provided with battery backup emergency lighting.
6. The installation of radio repeaters may be required in structures where it is determined that signal strength for fire department communication is compromised.
7. Letter permits, for fire sprinkler or fire alarm systems, may be issued on work that is determined to not require a complete fire system permit. Subject to approval by fire official.
8. Flow tests completed on private fire hydrants shall be done in accordance with NFPA 291-2007 edition, Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants.
9. In accordance with NFPA 96:10.6.1 “Upon activation of an automatic fire-extinguishing system, an audible 90 decibel alarm or visual indicator shall be provided to show that the system has activated.

FIRE SPRINKLER/FIRE LINE

10. Fire department connections (FDC) shall not be located on the building it serves and shall be a minimum of 40 feet from the building unless previously approved by the fire official. A fire hydrant is required to be within 100 feet of any FDC.
11. Any ductile iron piping (DIP) used exclusively for fire sprinkler systems shall not come into contact with any masonry; piping shall be sleeved with an approved material.
12. CPVC, or similar type systems, shall be required to have a pre-pipe inspection on all drops prior to the installation of any sprinkler heads.
13. Fire sprinkler risers that pass under the foundation of a structure through the floor are required to be a one-piece stainless-steel sweep (Ames In-Building Riser or similar).
14. Any fire sprinkler pipe that is welded shall be inspected prior to installation on the job site. Welders I.D. stamps will be checked and certified. Records shall be available for review with the welders I.D. imprints, dates, and job location. NFPA 13:6.5.2.
15. Combustible/Hazardous storage shall not be permitted in any room designed for the fire sprinkler risers or equipment. Riser protection may be required where risers are subject to physical damage. A durable 8½x11 sign shall be provided on any room containing fire protection equipment that states the following: “FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT – NO STORAGE PERMITTED”.
16. All new multi-family residential buildings required to be protected with fire sprinkler protection shall include the areas of the lanais.
17. Existing multi-family residential buildings equipped with fire sprinkler protection where lanais are to be enclosed by means of glass, acrylic windows or other construction shall require fire sprinkler protection be installed. Separate permits shall be obtained through the Fire Prevention Bureau.

GATES/FENCES

18. All fence and gate permits shall be reviewed by the Fire Prevention Bureau and approved prior to the initiation of any construction.
19. When in fully opened position, gates shall allow not less than sixteen (16) feet horizontal clear space including the roadway surface, as measured from inside curb to curb. A vertical clear space not less than thirteen (13) feet six (6) inches shall also be required.

KNOX BOX/EVAC SYSTEMS

When a structure is equipped with a fire alarm system, sprinkler, or standpipe system, a Knox-Box 3200 series shall be required. The Fire Prevention Bureau shall approve the location of the key box. Keys shall be provided to gain access to the fire alarm panels, electric rooms, fire sprinkler rooms and any other area to which this department may

require access. Applications for the key box may be obtained from the Fire Prevention Bureau or <https://fl-fortmyersfire.civicplus.com/>

20. If owner/occupant declines the installation of the Knox Box it will be the owner/occupant's sole responsibility for any damages incurred by the Fire Department to gain access to the building in the event of an emergency.
21. All new manual gates providing access to sites with structures shall be equipped with a Knox Padlock (order forms are available from the Fire Prevention Bureau.) Locks shall be installed at the time of the final fire inspection. The Fire Marshal retains the right to require existing gate installations without Knox Padlocks to provide them if it is determined that access to a property result in repeated damage to other locking devices. (Revised 9/13/11)
22. If the gates will be operated with electric openers, and do not have an attendant on-duty 24 hours per day, they shall be provided with an electronic transmitter/receiver system approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Gate systems shall have a battery backup with a fail-safe override.
All existing gates shall comply within 12 months from the date of notification by the AHJ

FIRE ALARM REGISTRATION

23. All fire alarm systems installed in the City of Fort Myers are required to be registered with the Fire Department in accordance with Section 40-11. No fire alarm will receive a final inspection without a fire alarm registration decal.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

24. Outside weatherproof horn/strobe, with a 110 cd, required on all buildings protected with a fire alarm or fire sprinkler system. Strobe is to be located in an area visible from the roadway by responding fire department personnel.
25. Location of the fire alarm control panel and/or annunciators is to be determined by the authority having jurisdiction. A footprint indicating the location of the fire alarm control panel shall be posted above any fire alarm annunciator.
26. Visual signal appliances shall be in each of the following areas: restrooms, general usage areas, meeting rooms, conference rooms, hallways, lobbies, and any other areas occupied for common use.
 - Note: Common use areas include classrooms, cafeterias; filing rooms, photocopy rooms, employee break rooms, dressing rooms, examination rooms, treatment rooms, and similar spaces that are not used solely as employee work areas.
27. Where fire sprinkler systems are provided, water flow signals shall be identified to the monitoring agency as a water flow and not as a general alarm.
28. Per NFPA 13 a minimum of one pull station is required for sprinkler monitoring and shall be located at the front of the building or at the main entrance accessible to all occupants. If there are multiple tenants such as a strip mall it shall be centrally located on the outside of the building and shall be weatherproof. Complete coverage fire alarm systems may be required to install multiple pull stations.

29. Use of self-resetting fire alarm panels. Fire alarm panels that self-reset upon transmission of signal to dispatching station will not be approved. In accordance with NFPA 13:6.9.1 (2007 edition) these panels were found to be non-compliant.
30. Monitoring systems that are changed from conventional phone lines to other types of transmissions (e.g.: cellular or radio) will require a supplemental alarm module if additional zones are required for the type of transmission selected.
31. Burglar/Security systems are not permitted to be connected and/or shared with any fire alarm system.