



**DES MOINES FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

900 MULBERRY STREET, DES MOINES, IOWA 50309, (515) 283-4240

POLICY 2009-4: EXTERIOR ROOFS, CANOPIES, & PORTE-COCHERES

Created: July 20, 2009 Effective Date: September 1, 2009

This policy is promulgated in accordance with Section 104.1 of the 2006 International Fire Code and is an official interpretation of Section 8.14.7 of the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 and Section 903.3.1.2.1 of the 2006 International Fire Code.

The following shall apply to sprinkler coverage underneath exterior roofs, canopies, & porte-cocheres:

Section 8.1.4.7 of the 2002 edition of NFPA 13 allows for the omission of sprinklers under non-combustible or limited combustible, but requires sprinklers to be present if combustible materials are stored or handled. It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that the presence of combustibles underneath these structures is inevitable. Additionally, the 903.3.1.2.1 of the 2006 IFC requires sprinklers to be provided for exterior balconies, decks, and ground floor patios of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction. It is the opinion of the Fire Marshal that a properly located sidewall sprinkler, underneath a horizontal projection, will provide the exterior wall with protection even if the sprinkler would be activated through radiant heating. The following is the Des Moines Fire Prevention Bureau's policy on when sprinklers shall be provided underneath exterior roofs, canopies, and porte-cocheres as well as exterior balconies, decks, and ground floor patios:

- 1.) Due to the difficulty in enforcing combustible storage requirements under unsprinklered exterior roofs, canopies, and porte-cocheres; sprinklers **SHALL** be required underneath **ALL** exterior roofs, canopies, and porte-cocheres that are larger than 4' in both dimensions, regardless of construction type.
- 2.) In addition to sprinklers being provided for all exterior roofs, canopies, and porte-cocheres larger than 4'x4', sprinklers **SHALL** be required for **ALL** exterior balconies, decks, and ground floor patios of dwelling units where the building is of Type V construction and an overhead horizontal projection exists. This requirement does **NOT** apply to NFPA 13D systems.

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

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