



# OKLAHOMA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire Marshal's Office

### Interpretation

<b>Interpretation #:</b> OKCAHJ-2017-01	<b>Subject of Interpretation:</b> Insulation Requirements for Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems	
<b>Code Reference:</b> NFPA 13-2013, 8.16.4.1.1; NFPA 13R-2016, 5.4.1; NFPA 13D-2016, 9.1.2		
<b>Reviewed By:</b> Robert Crisp	<b>Title:</b> Assistant Fire Marshal	<b>Effective Date:</b> 8/11/2017
<b>Approved By:</b> Harold Thompson	<b>Title:</b> Fire Marshal	<b>Revision Date:</b> N/A

**Purpose:**

To provide guidance and uniformity in the application of insulation for the prevention of freezing for piping of residential fire sprinkler systems. Sprinkler pipe tenting is meant to prevent the sprinkler pipe from being surrounded by insulation. The intention is to keep warm air trapped around the pipe in order to maintain a temperature of 40°F. No insulation should be placed between the sprinkler pipe and the heated space.

**Description of Code Reference:**

NFPA 13, 13R and 13D require that wet pipe sprinklers system piping is only installed in areas that can be maintained reliably above 40°F.

**Required Rough-in Inspection (50% Fire Sprinkler Inspection):**

It shall be the duty of the permit holder, or their authorized designee, to notify the Fire Marshal's Office when work is ready for inspection. Whenever any fire sprinkler piping subject to inspection is covered or concealed without having first been inspected, the fire code official shall have the authority to require that such work be exposed for inspection. The Fire Marshal's Office shall not be liable for any expenses related to the removal or replacement of any material required to allow the rough-inspection to be conducted.

**Policy based on the Interpretation of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ):**

Inspection of tenting shall be conducted and approved as part of the required inspection for residential fire sprinkler systems. This rough inspection (50% fire sprinkler inspection) must take place before the sheetrock and/or blown-in insulation is installed. Heavy 6 Mil plastic sheeting or a foil backed thermal barrier must be used to trap heat from the heated living space below. Tenting material shall be overlapped and fastened to the ceiling joist. Tenting must cover a minimum of 1 foot from any change of direction. The tenting must cover all attic space fire sprinkler piping; this includes vertical and elevation changes of the piping. The tenting of insulation will be the responsibility of the permit holder, or their authorized designee; tenting sprinkler pipe by any other methods than what has been described above must be approved by the Fire Marshal's Office.