



ADMINISTRATIVE RULING 23-801 PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN GROUP R-2 OCCUPANCIES

APPROVED BY: _____


FIRE MARSHAL

Subject:

2022 Ventura County Fire Code, Section 906.
Application of portable fire extinguisher requirements in Group R-2 Occupancies.

Code Requirements:

Ventura County Fire Code (VCFC) Section 906.1 requires portable fire extinguishers to be installed in all Group R-2 Occupancies. The minimum fire extinguisher size shall be a 2-A:10-B:C spaced every 75-feet of travel distance. One extinguisher shall be provided for every 11,250 square-feet of building.

Section 906.1 Exception 1 allows for the elimination of the portable fire extinguisher requirement in the common areas of the building, with some exceptions, when a single 1-A:10-B:C portable fire extinguisher is installed in each dwelling unit.

Discussion:

Portable fire extinguishers placed inside individual units have been proven to be the most effective means of defense against fires of limited size. They provide the building occupants a means to suppress a fire in its incipient stage. Having a fire extinguisher readily available, may greatly increase the protection of the occupants in Group R-2 occupancies given evacuation in these occupancies can be slowed by the density of the occupant load, the capability of the occupants to evacuate, or the overall fuel loading in the building. Based on statistical information available, VCFD will recommend utilizing the exception 1, in VCFC 906.1 as the preferred method of for compliance with fire extinguisher placement in R-2 occupancies.

The intent of the exception allowing the portable fire extinguisher to be installed in the individual dwelling units is to make the extinguisher more readily accessible to the occupants, easier to handle, and less likely to be vandalized or stolen.

Requirements:

A portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 1-A:10-B:C shall be installed in each dwelling unit of a R-2 occupancy.

Exception: Portable fire extinguishers having a minimum rating of 2-A:10-B:C may be installed on the exterior of the building and/or within interior common exits when approved by the fire code official. Fire extinguishers installed on the exterior of the building shall meet all requirements for spacing, mounting and maintenance.

Property managers shall be responsible to verify a fire extinguisher is provided in each dwelling unit. The Fire District will provide a "Notice of Required Action" or similar educational document to inform property owners of their responsibility. The Fire District does not have inspection/enforcement authority within dwelling units and will not conduct any follow-up enforcement.