

Policy on Residential Sprinkler Protection

Policy Title	Policy on Residential Sprinkler Protection
Policy #	02.105.1
Policy Owner	Coordinator, Alarm Services
Contact Information	Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Coordinator, Fire & Life Safety at (401) 874-7994
Approved By	Senior Leadership Team
Effective Date	August 1, 2018
Next Review Date	No later than September 30, 2020
Who Needs to Know About this Policy	This policy applies to all buildings located on University property and having sleeping units. This includes all dormitories, fraternities, sororities, hotels, and specialty housing, regardless of whether or not those buildings would otherwise be required by the State Fire Code to have sprinkler systems.
Definitions	Automatic Sprinkler System. A system that consists of an integrated network of piping designed in accordance with fire protection engineering standards that includes a water supply source, a water control valve, a water flow alarm, and a drain. The portion of the sprinkler system above ground is a network of specifically sized or hydraulically designed piping installed in a building, structure, or area, generally overhead, and to which sprinklers are attached in a systematic pattern. The system operates automatically when its heat-activated element is heated to its thermal rating or above, allowing water to discharge over a specified area. (Adapted from NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.)
Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy	National Fire Protection Association, <i>NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i> (2016) University of Rhode Island, <i>Minimum Standards for Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i> (2015)
Reason for Policy/Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to provide a fire-safe environment for every person residing on the University campuses.
Forms Related to this Policy	None

Policy Statement

It shall be the policy of the University of the Rhode Island to require that every residential building, and every sleeping unit within it, is outfitted with a fully operational and approved automatic sprinkler system as defined by NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. The only exemptions shall be single family residences and those buildings having five (5) or fewer bedrooms.

The Coordinator of Fire and Life Safety will work with the Office of Student Life, the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the Fraternity Managers Association, the Office of Capital Projects, Facilities Operations, Kingston Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and any other appropriate agencies:

- To develop a schedule of installation of sprinkler systems in all buildings to which this policy is applicable in accordance with the implementation dates referenced below;
- To develop inspectional guidelines for the purpose of ensuring that each sprinkler system installation complies with State and University standards;
- To manage and document the inspection schedule;
- To ensure proper follow-up for all deficiencies reported.

Should any building to which this policy applies not have an operational sprinkler system as of the effective date below, that building may not be used for residential purposes until the building is fully compliant with this policy or as otherwise approved by the Director of Public Safety.

Implementation

This policy shall take full effect August 1, 2018. To ensure adequate time for compliance, complete plans shall be submitted no later than January 1, 2017 to the Coordinator of Fire and Life Safety for design approval.

For those buildings where a hardship can be demonstrated, the Director of Public Safety may, at their discretion, grant an extension of time not to exceed twelve (12) additional months beyond the aforementioned effective date. Any such request must be submitted by May 1, 2018, and must be accompanied by a detailed plan for compliance within the allotted timeframe.

Exceptions

Single-family residences and those buildings having five (5) or fewer bedrooms are exempt from this policy.

Exceptions to the implementation schedule noted above may be made for buildings where a hardship can be demonstrated, in which case the implementation schedule could only be extended per the terms noted above.