

**REDDING FIRE DEPARTMENT  
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**FIRE PROTECTION WATER REQUIREMENTS  
FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

**Code Reference:**

**California Fire Code (CFC), 2001 California Edition, Section 903, 103.1.3  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards**

The following options are offered to meet the intent of this section for residential building plans as submitted for required water supply for fire protection:

1. A fire hydrant must be installed within 250 feet of the building. Required fire flow for residential homes equal to or **less than** 3,600 square feet is 1,000 GPM at 20 psi for 2 hours. Minimum acceptable water main size is 6 inches in diameter, if this will provide the required fire flow.
  - A. Should the home be provided with a residential fire sprinkler system, the distance to a fire hydrant may be extended to 500 ft (RMC Chapter 9).
  - B. Should the home be located further than 500 ft. from a fire hydrant, the situation would require evaluation as to the “practical difficulty” of not meeting California Fire Code Regulations. (See Practical Difficulty Page)
2. For residential homes in excess of 3,600 square feet, the fire flow requirements shall not be less than 1500 GPM at 20 psi for 2 hours.
  - A. The required fire flow can be reduced by 50% should the home be provided with a residential fire sprinkler system, but no less than 1000 GPM.
3. Residential fire sprinkler systems shall be designed to meet NFPA 13D standards for a residential fire sprinkler system. The system may need to be modified to provide sprinkler coverage for the garage and any other outbuildings areas, depending on distances to fire hydrants and required fire flow. The system must be designed and installed by a contractor holding a current and valid C-16 License.

**NOTE:** State Codes allow the owner/occupant of a resident to install a residential sprinkler system in their primary residence. However, a licensed C-16 contractor or pipe manufacturer representative must provide the owner/occupant with necessary training. A letter from the licensed contractor or manufacturer representative, to the Fire Department, indicating the owner/occupant has received the necessary training, will be necessary before approval is given by the Fire Department for installation of the system. Plans for any of the items must be reviewed and accepted by the Fire Department. On site inspections during installation or construction of any of the above options will be required by the Fire Department.

**FIRE PROTECTION WATER – PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY:**

The Chief is authorized to modify any of the provisions of this code upon application in writing by the owner, a lessee or a duly authorized representative where there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the provisions of the code, provided that the spirit of the code shall be complied with, public safety secured and substantial justice done. The particulars of such modification and the decision of the Chief shall be entered upon the records of the department and a signed copy shall be furnished to the applicant.  
(CFC 102.1.3)