

**STOREY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

NUMBER: 055
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/13/2015
REVISED: 11/13/2015
AUTHORITY: Fire Chief

SUBJECT: AM&M Alternative Means and Methods

I. PURPOSE:

This policy is designed to give direction to contractors, owners and agents of residential, industrial, and commercial projects when the provisions of the international fire code cannot be met with standard approved materials, methods and workmanship approved through the international fire code.

II. POLICY:

The fire chief and or fire marshal are hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of the international fire code and shall have the authority to render interpretations of the international fire code, and to adopt policies, procedures, rules and regulations in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, procedures, rules and regulations shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of the code and shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in the international fire code or nationally recognized standards.

III. PROCEDURE:

The provisions of the code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by the international fire code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. The fire marshal is authorized to approve an alternative material or method of construction where the fire marshal finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of the international fire code and nationally recognized standards, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the international fire code or NFPA standards in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of the international fire code, the fire marshal shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the fire marshal shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of the international fire code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of the international fire code or NFPA and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the department of fire prevention.

To determine the acceptability of technologies, processes, products, facilities, materials and uses attending the design, operation or use of a building or premises subject to inspection by the fire marshal and his/her designees, the owner or agent shall provide, without charge to the jurisdiction, a technical opinion and report.

The opinion and report shall be prepared by a qualified fire protection engineer specialist, laboratory or fire safety specialty organization acceptable to the (authority having jurisdiction) fire chief or fire marshal and shall analyze the fire safety properties of the design, operation or use of the building or premises and the facilities and appurtenances situated thereon, to recommend necessary changes.

All design submittals shall be prepared by, and bear the stamp of, a registered design professional licensed in the State of Nevada that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

Supporting data shall be submitted to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in the international fire code, international building code or NFPA, shall consist of valid research reports from approved sources acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of the international fire code, international building code, NFPA, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of the code(s), or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the fire marshal shall have the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the jurisdiction.

Test methods shall be as specified in the international fire code or NFPA or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the fire marshal shall approve the testing procedures. Tests shall be performed by an approved agency acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction. Reports of such tests shall be retained by the fire marshal for the period required for retention of public records.

All individuals shall meet the following requirements prior to completing or carrying out any work within Storey County:

- 1.) Shall be licensed by the State of Nevada Contractors board and carry the applicable Nevada license pertaining to the scope of work that they are completing.
- 2.) Shall be licensed by the State of Nevada Fire Marshal's office if;
 - a) Designing or installing fire alarm systems
 - b) Designing or installing fire sprinkler systems
 - c) Working as a design professional or fire protection engineer
- 3.) Shall obtain a Storey County Business license

IV. SUMMARY

Life safety is our primary objective and this policy has been established to maintain consistency in all commercial structures within Storey County as well as Storey County Fire Protection District.

