



**SOUTHERN NEVADA
FIRE CODE COMMITTEE**



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CONSENSUS INTERPRETATION

The Southern Nevada Fire Code Committee (SNFCC) hereby issues this code interpretation due to a written request for Code Interpretation. The Specific code section that is being interpreted is within the 2010 edition of NFPA 13, Section 11.3.1.1. Interpretations issued by the SNFCC are the unanimous opinion of the committee present. These interpretations are not legally binding on any jurisdiction, however they should be considered when making a final decision regarding the above referenced code section(s).

The original interpretation request is summarized as follows:

“The justification states...This amendment eliminates the use of the 4-head calculation in NFPA-13. So is it then acceptable with the Room Design Method to have a 4-head calculation? The way that the Standard has it written is that a 4-head calculation is perfectly acceptable. NFPA-13 (2010 Edition) 11.2.3.3.4(2) Light Hazard with no opening protection – Where openings are not protected, calculations shall include the sprinklers in the room plus two sprinklers in the communicating space nearest each unprotected opening...In an apartment with the kitchen and living/dining room are open to each other, the hallway has an 8” lintel and the bedroom does not have a self-closing door, so the two sprinkler heads in the kitchen and living/dining room, then plus the head in the hallway and the one in the bedroom will make a total of four heads is this acceptable for calculation”

The Committee response is as follows:

“Code interpretation requested if the deletion of the 4-head sprinkler calculation for residential occupancies described by NFPA 13 Section 11.3.1.1 also prohibits a 4-head calculation if such calculation is in accordance with the room design method of NFPA 13 Section 11.2.3.3. The answer is that the 4-head calculation from Section 11.3.1.1 is seen as arbitrary, whereas a 4-head calculation in accordance with Section 11.2.3.3 is seen as appropriate. With the room design method of 11.2.3.3, passive protection is provided to help contain the fire, such as the wall rating requirements of NFPA 13 Section 11.2.3.3.3 and the opening protection requirements of NFPA 13 Section 11.2.3.3.5. These provisions providing passive protection are not provided for Section 11.3.1.1. As such, a 4-head calculation in accordance with the room design method is seen as a higher standard of care than the 4-head calculation from Section 11.3.1.1, and the committee feels that a 4-head calculation per the room design method is acceptable.”

Sincerely,

Stephen J. DiGiovanni

Chairman, Southern Nevada Fire Code Committee