

## **A P P E N D I X B**

### **FIRE FLOW REQUIREMENTS & FIRE HYDRANT DISTRIBUTION**

This Appendix contains Appendix B of the North Carolina Fire Code, "Fire Flow Requirements for Buildings" and Appendix C of the North Carolina Fire Code, "Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution". The guidelines contained herein shall be used to determine fire hydrant distribution and fire flows for all developments covered under Sections 3.2.6.10 and 3.3.5.3 of the Manual.

## APPENDIX B

# FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS

*The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.*

### SECTION B101 GENERAL

**B101.1 Scope.** The procedure for determining fire-flow requirements for buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be in accordance with this appendix. This appendix does not apply to structures other than buildings.

### SECTION B102 DEFINITIONS

**B102.1 Definitions.** For the purpose of this appendix, certain terms are defined as follows:

**FIRE FLOW.** The flow rate of a water supply, measured at 20 pounds per square inch (psi) (138 kPa) residual pressure, that is available for fire fighting.

■ **FIRE-FLOW CALCULATION AREA.** The floor area, in square feet (m<sup>2</sup>), used to determine the required fire flow.

### SECTION B103 MODIFICATIONS

**B103.1 Decreases.** The fire chief is authorized to reduce the fire-flow requirements for isolated buildings or a group of buildings in rural areas or small communities where the development of full fire-flow requirements is impractical.

**B103.2 Increases.** The fire chief is authorized to increase the fire-flow requirements where conditions indicate an unusual susceptibility to group fires or conflagrations. An increase shall not be more than twice that required for the building under consideration.

**B103.3 Areas without water supply systems.** For information regarding water supplies for fire-fighting purposes in rural and suburban areas in which adequate and reliable water supply systems do not exist, the fire code official is authorized to utilize NFPA 1142.

### SECTION B104 FIRE-FLOW CALCULATION AREA

■ **B104.1 General.** The fire-flow calculation area shall be the total floor area of all floor levels within the exterior walls, and under the horizontal projections of the roof of a building, except as modified in Section B104.3.

**B104.2 Area separation.** Portions of buildings which are separated by fire walls without openings, constructed in accordance with the *International Building Code*, are allowed to be considered as separate fire-flow calculation areas.

■ **B104.3 Type IA and Type IB construction.** The fire-flow calculation area of buildings constructed of Type IA and Type IB

construction shall be the area of the three largest successive floors.

■ **Exception:** Fire-flow calculation area for open parking garages shall be determined by the area of the largest floor.

### SECTION B105 FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS

**B105.1 One- and two-family dwellings.** The minimum fire-flow requirements for one- and two-family dwellings having a fire-flow calculation area which does not exceed 3,600 square feet (344.5 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be 1,000 gallons per minute (3785.4 L/min). Fire flow and flow duration for dwellings having a fire-flow calculation area in excess of 3,600 square feet (344.5 m<sup>2</sup>) shall not be less than that specified in Table B105.1.

■ **Exception:** A reduction in required fire flow of 50 percent, as approved, is allowed when the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

**B105.2 Buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings.** The minimum fire flow and flow duration for buildings other than one- and two-family dwellings shall be as specified in Table B105.1.

■ **Exception:** A reduction in required fire flow of up to 50 percent, as approved, is allowed when the building is provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 of the *International Fire Code*. Where buildings are also of Type I or II construction and are a light-hazard occupancy as defined by NFPA 13, the reduction may be up to 75 percent. The resulting fire flow shall not be less than 1,500 gallons per minute (5678 l/min) for the prescribed duration as specified in Table B 105.1.

### SECTION B106 REFERENCED STANDARDS

ICC	IBC	International Building Code	B104.2, Table B105.1
ICC	IFC	International Fire Code	B105.2
ICC	IUWIC	International Urban-Wildland Interface Code	B103.3
NFPA	1142	Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting	B103.3

FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS

TABLE B105.1  
MINIMUM REQUIRED FIRE FLOW AND FLOW DURATION FOR BUILDINGS\*

FIRE-FLOW CALCULATION AREA (square feet)					FIRE FLOW (gallons per minute) <sup>c</sup>	FLOW DURATION (hours)
Type IA and IB <sup>b</sup>	Type IIA and IIIA <sup>b</sup>	Type IV and V-A <sup>b</sup>	Type IIB and IIIB <sup>b</sup>	Type V-B <sup>b</sup>		
0-22,700	0-12,700	0-8,200	0-5,900	0-3,600	1,500	2
22,701-30,200	12,701-17,000	8,201-10,900	5,901-7,900	3,601-4,800	1,750	
30,201-38,700	17,001-21,800	10,901-12,900	7,901-9,800	4,801-6,200	2,000	
38,701-48,300	21,801-24,200	12,901-17,400	9,801-12,600	6,201-7,700	2,250	
48,301-59,000	24,201-33,200	17,401-21,300	12,601-15,400	7,701-9,400	2,500	
59,001-70,900	33,201-39,700	21,301-25,500	15,401-18,400	9,401-11,300	2,750	
70,901-83,700	39,701-47,100	25,501-30,100	18,401-21,800	11,301-13,400	3,000	3
83,701-97,700	47,101-54,900	30,101-35,200	21,801-25,900	13,401-15,600	3,250	
97,701-112,700	54,901-63,400	35,201-40,600	25,901-29,300	15,601-18,000	3,500	
112,701-128,700	63,401-72,400	40,601-46,400	29,301-33,500	18,001-20,600	3,750	
128,701-145,900	72,401-82,100	46,401-52,500	33,501-37,900	20,601-23,300	4,000	
145,901-164,200	82,101-92,400	52,501-59,100	37,901-42,700	23,301-26,300	4,250	
164,201-183,400	92,401-103,100	59,101-66,000	42,701-47,700	26,301-29,300	4,500	4
183,401-203,700	103,101-114,600	66,001-73,300	47,701-53,000	29,301-32,600	4,750	
203,701-225,200	114,601-126,700	73,301-81,100	53,001-58,600	32,601-36,000	5,000	
225,201-247,700	126,701-139,400	81,101-89,200	58,601-65,400	36,001-39,600	5,250	
247,701-271,200	139,401-152,600	89,201-97,700	65,401-70,600	39,601-43,400	5,500	
271,201-295,900	152,601-166,500	97,701-106,500	70,601-77,000	43,401-47,400	5,750	
295,901-Greater	166,501-Greater	106,501-115,800	77,001-83,700	47,401-51,500	6,000	
—	—	115,801-125,500	83,701-90,600	51,501-55,700	6,250	
—	—	125,501-135,500	90,601-97,900	55,701-60,200	6,500	
—	—	135,501-145,800	97,901-106,800	60,201-64,800	6,750	
—	—	145,801-156,700	106,801-113,200	64,801-69,600	7,000	
—	—	156,701-167,900	113,201-121,300	69,601-74,600	7,250	
—	—	167,901-179,400	121,301-129,600	74,601-79,800	7,500	
—	—	179,401-191,400	129,601-138,300	79,801-85,100	7,750	
—	—	191,401-Greater	138,301-Greater	85,101-Greater	8,000	

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>, 1 gallon per minute = 3.785 L/m, 1 pound per square inch = 6.895 kPa.

a. The minimum required fire flow shall be allowed to be reduced by 25 percent for Group R.

b. Types of construction are based on the *International Building Code*.

c. Measured at 20 psi.

## APPENDIX C

# FIRE HYDRANT LOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION

*The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.*

### SECTION C101 GENERAL

**C101.1 Scope.** Fire hydrants shall be provided in accordance with this appendix for the protection of buildings, or portions of buildings, hereafter constructed.

### SECTION C102 LOCATION

**C102.1 Fire hydrant locations.** Fire hydrants shall be provided along required fire apparatus access roads and adjacent public streets.

### SECTION C103 NUMBER OF FIRE HYDRANTS

**C103.1 Fire hydrants available.** The minimum number of fire hydrants available to a building shall not be less than that listed in Table C105.1. The number of fire hydrants available to a complex or subdivision shall not be less than that determined by spacing requirements listed in Table C105.1 when applied to fire apparatus access roads and perimeter public streets from which fire operations could be conducted.

### SECTION C104 CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING FIRE HYDRANTS

**C104.1 Existing fire hydrants.** Existing fire hydrants on public streets are allowed to be considered as available. Existing fire hydrants on adjacent properties shall not be considered available unless fire apparatus access roads extend between properties and easements are established to prevent obstruction of such roads.

### SECTION C105 DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS

**C105.1 Hydrant spacing.** The average spacing between fire hydrants shall not exceed that listed in Table C105.1.

**Exception:** The fire chief is authorized to accept a deficiency of up to 10 percent where existing fire hydrants provide all or a portion of the required fire hydrant service.

Regardless of the average spacing, fire hydrants shall be located such that all points on streets and access roads adjacent to a building are within the distances listed in Table C105.1.

**TABLE C105.1  
NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS**

FIRE-FLOW REQUIREMENT (gpm)	MINIMUM NUMBER OF HYDRANTS	AVERAGE SPACING BETWEEN HYDRANTS <sup>a, b, c</sup> (feet)	MAXIMUM DISTANCE FROM ANY POINT ON STREET OR ROAD FRONTAGE TO A HYDRANT <sup>d</sup>
1,750 or less	1	500	250
2,000-2,250	2	450	225
2,500	3	450	225
3,000	3	400	225
3,500-4,000	4	350	210
4,500-5,000	5	300	180
5,500	6	300	180
6,000	6	250	150
6,500-7,000	7	250	150
7,500 or more	8 or more <sup>e</sup>	200	120

\*Refer to GUC Manual Section 3.2.6 for  
Fire Hydrant Spacing

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 gallon per minute = 3.785 L/m.

a. Reduce by 100 feet for dead-end streets or roads.

b. Where streets are provided with median dividers which can be crossed by fire fighters pulling hose lines, or where arterial streets are provided with four or more traffic lanes and have a traffic count of more than 30,000 vehicles per day, hydrant spacing shall average 500 feet on each side of the street and be arranged on an alternating basis up to a fire-flow requirement of 7,000 gallons per minute and 400 feet for higher fire-flow requirements.

c. Where new water mains are extended along streets where hydrants are not needed for protection of structures or similar fire problems, fire hydrants shall be provided at spacing not to exceed 1,000 feet to provide for transportation hazards.

d. Reduce by 50 feet for dead-end streets or roads.

e. One hydrant for each 1,000 gallons per minute or fraction thereof.