



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT
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TO: San Antonio Fire Department and Development Services Department Associates
FROM: Carl Wedige, Deputy Fire Chief – SAFD, Fire Marshal
DATE: February 1, 2017
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2017-002

TITLE: Exceptions to Aerial Fire Apparatus Access Road Requirements, Group R Only

CODE EDITIONS: 2015 International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio

SECTION: 2015 IFC Appendix D105: AERIAL APPARATUS ACCESS ROADS, §D105.1 **Where required** (exception 2)

PURPOSE: To clarify what constitutes an approved automatic sprinkler system when applying exception 2 to the requirements for aerial apparatus access roads in Group R only buildings.

QUESTION: Exception 2 for Group R only buildings, condition “b”, reads that I can obtain an exception to the requirement for aerial apparatus access roads when “*the building is protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.*” Does this mean that I can apply any of the NFPA sprinkler installation standards (13, 13R or 13D) and get the exception?

ANSWER: No. The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) only approves NFPA 13 as the installation standard to apply the exception for Group R only buildings. NFPA 13R, or NFPA 13D, where utilized in an application already required by code does not provide any extra safeguards as the conditions for the exception intend.

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