



Gainesville Fire Rescue Department

Fire Sprinklers

Interim Assistant Chief
Stephen Hesson

City of Gainesville Public Safety Committee
January 11, 2016 Legislative # 150516.

Why are Fire Sprinklers Needed?

Fire Sprinklers Save Lives



Why are Fire Sprinklers Needed?

Fire Sprinklers Protect Property



Additional Benefits of Fire Sprinkler Protection

- Annual Fire Assessment Fee
 - Affords a 10% reduction for a fire sprinkler system
- Insurance Premium Savings
 - Depending on the Insurance Company, savings can range from 10%-50%

- Thriving and successful restaurant
 - Recently expanded their dining area
 - Resulting in an occupant load of 91 people

- Currently permitted to serve beer and wine by Florida Division of Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco
- Want to Obtain a Full Liquor License
 - Special Liquor License requires seating for 100 customers

■ Challenge/Opportunity

- Pursuant to section 903.2.1.2 of the Florida Building Code, if the expansion increases the total occupant load to 100 or more people, or the size of the fire area to more than 5,000 sq. ft., they would be required to install **fire sprinklers**.

- The Florida Fire Prevention Code and Florida Building Code contain life safety requirements
 - NFPA 101, *The Life Safety Code*, is the primary source for the requirements for nightclub and bar lounges.
 - Safety requirements are said to be written in “blood.” Most requirements were developed in response to investigation and analysis of tragedies.

- **Florida Fire Prevention Code**
 - Pursuant to NFPA 101-12.3.5 Fire Sprinklers are required when the occupant load exceeds 100 in the following
 - Dance halls
 - Discotheques
 - Nightclubs
 - Assemblies with festival seating

- **Florida Fire Prevention Code**
 - Pursuant to NFPA 101-12.3.5 Fire Sprinklers are required when the occupant load exceeds 300 in all other assembly occupancies

- **Florida Fire Prevention Code and Building Code Conflicts**
 - To protect public safety, both codes specify the most stringent that provides the greatest degree of safety must be applied.

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■ Historic Fires:

- KISS nightclub, Santa Maria, Brazil
January 27, 2013
Deaths: 242
- Lame Horse Nightclub, Perm, Russia
December 5, 2009
Deaths: 154
- The Station nightclub, W. Warwick, RI
February 20, 2003
Deaths: 100
- Disco/dance hall, Luoyang, China. (Fire began elsewhere in shopping plaza and spread to disco.)
December 25, 2000
Deaths: 309
- Happy Land Social Club, Bronx, NY
March 25, 1990
Deaths: 87
- Beverly Hills Supper Club, Southgate, KY
May 28, 1977
Deaths: 165

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- NFPA Study

- Assembly Occupancy Fires between 2006 and 2010-In eating or drinking establishments, direct property damage per reported fire was 75% lower when wet pipe sprinklers were present compared to fires with no automatic extinguishing equipment present.



La Pasadita Mexican Grille, 4126 NW 6th St

- Update:
- The restaurant owner, Mr. Osorio Moran, would like to create an outdoor café to add the number of seats necessary to provide seating for 100.
- From a fire code and building code perspective, this solution would work great. A fire sprinkler system would not be required.
- Mr. Osorio Moran is planning to confirm that zoning allows an outdoor café and contact the Building Department to discuss permitting.
- Mr. Osorio Moran advised he is going to follow-up and he will contact Interim Assistant Chief Steve Hesson with any questions or if GFR can provide additional assistance.

Conclusion

- Questions?