

WHEN CAN I USE NFPA 13R?

STANARDS OF SPRINKLER DESIGN BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | NOVEMBER 2021

SUMMARY

When can I use **NFPA 13R**?

- Locally Adopted Building Code:
 - Always review the adopted building code and NFPA 13R edition to verify when you can use an NFPA 13R system. These requirements are constantly changing.
- Limits within Applicable Building Codes:
 - Under the International Building Code, NFPA 13R systems are only allowed within **residential occupancies which are four stories or less**, the **highest floor level** is no greater than 30 feet above fire department access, and the **lowest floor level** is no more than 30 feet below the lowest level of fire department access.
 - When using an NFPA 13R system, you **cannot utilize the benefits of an NFPA 13 system** (allowable area and height increases, or any other code benefit) allowed under the building code.
- Limits within NFPA 13R:
 - NFPA 13R limits itself to **residential occupancies up to four stores in height** and **buildings that do not exceed 60 feet above grade**.
- Why Limit to low-rise, residential occupancies?
 - The goal of an NFPA 13R system is to detect and control residential fires and to improve safety by preventing flashover where the fire originates. It is not intended for hazards other than residential hazards, nor for property protection.



Residential Occupancy
Four Stories or Less

CODE/STANDARD REFERENCES



NFPA 13R – Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies
IBC – 2021: International Building Code

VIDEO LINK

www.meyerfire.com/university/when-can-i-use-nfpa-13r

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